

Penalty lap proves decisive as Torrente, Al Mansoori miss out

Aussies snatch world title with dramatic win in Dubai

ABU DHABI, UAE, Dec 14: Australians Tom Barry-Cotter and Ross Willaton clinched the 2019 UIM XCAT World Championship with victory in the Dubai Grand Prix today as Team Abu Dhabi's Shaun Torrente and Faleh Al Mansoori saw their hopes of a second successive title ended in dramatic style.

A penalty lap imposed on the defending champions for missing a buoy in Abu Dhabi 4 proved decisive as Barry-Cotter and Willaton swept past them in Maritimo to win the weekend's second race by 34.85 seconds from Rashed Al Tayer and Majed Al Mansoori in Abu Dhabi 5.

The Dubai Police crew of Arif Al Zaffain and Nadir Bin Hendi took third position ahead of Torrente and Al Mansoori whose fourth place in Abu Dhabi 4 following their race success 24 hours earlier gave them runners up spot in the championship.

After a spectacular start, Abu Dhabi 4 clawed out a three-second lead over Maritimo before being dropped back by the penalty lap, with the pressure from Barry-Cotter and Ross Willaton forcing a crucial misjudgement.

"They were quick and we were pushing and I think we just pushed a little harder than we could without

making mistakes," said Torrente. "We missed a buoy and the race committee was quick about it, giving us a long lap penalty."

"So we just dealt with that and we pushed as hard as we could without making any more mistakes. We still had to keep second place in the championship in mind. That was not our goal so we fell short this year, but myself, Saleh and the rest of the team won't stop until we get the title back."

The American will barely have time to catch his breath ahead of an enthralling last week of the season in the UAE which will see Team Abu Dhabi aiming to collect another four world titles to add to the UIM F2 and endurance championships already won.

Torrente heads from Dubai to Sharjah in a commanding position to retain the UIM F1H2O drivers' crown, as well as the team title with Thani Al Qemzi.

Meanwhile, Rashed Al Tayer switches from powerboats with a fighting chance to claim a first world aquabikes crown in Runabout GP1, as Rashid Al Mulla bids to clinch a second successive world freestyle title with a tenth straight Grand Prix victory.



Winners at the podium with HH Sheikh Mansour bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, President of Dubai International Marine Club.



Team Dubai's Shaun Torrente and Faleh Al Mansoori.

AD, James shine, Lakers hand Heat first home loss of season

British Soccer Results/Standings

LONDON, Dec 14, (AP): British soccer results and standings on Saturday.

England Premier League

Liverpool	2	Watford	0
Burnley	1	Newcastle	0
Chelsea	0	Bournemouth	1
Leicester	1	Norwich	1
Sheff United	2	Aston Villa	0
Southampton	0	West Ham	1

England Championship

Charlton	2	Hull	2
Birmingham	2	West Brom	3
Barnsley	5	QPR	3
Brentford	1	Fulham	0
Bristol City	0	Blackburn	2
Derby	0	Millwall	1
Leeds	3	Cardiff	3
Nott Forest	3	Sheff Wed	4
Preston	2	Luton Town	1
Stoke	0	Reading	0
Swansea	3	Middlesbrough	1
Wigan	1	Huddersfield	1

Scotland Premiership

Aberdeen	1	Hamilton	0
Harts	0	St Johnstone	1
Ross County	1	Kilmarnock	0
St Mirren	3	Livingston	3

British soccer standings

English Premier League

P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	
Liverpool	17	16	1	0	42	14	49
Leicester	17	12	3	2	40	11	39
Man City	16	10	2	4	44	19	32
Chelsea	17	9	2	6	31	25	29
Sheff United	17	6	7	4	21	16	25
Man United	16	6	6	4	25	19	24
Wolves	16	5	9	2	23	19	24
Tottenham	16	6	5	5	30	23	23
Arsenal	16	5	7	4	24	24	22
Palace	16	6	4	6	14	18	22
Newcastle	17	6	4	7	17	24	22
Burnley	17	6	3	8	22	29	21
Brighton	16	5	4	7	20	24	19
B'mouth	17	5	4	8	19	24	19
West Ham	17	5	4	8	20	28	19

England Championship

P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	
West Brom	22	14	7	1	45	23	49
Leeds	22	14	5	3	35	13	47
Preston	22	11	4	7	35	27	37
Brentford	22	11	3	8	33	17	36
Sheff Wed	22	10	6	6	33	20	36
Fulham	22	10	5	7	33	24	35
Bristol City	22	9	8	5	34	32	35
Nott Forest	21	9	7	5	27	21	34
Blackburn	22	10	4	8	30	28	34
Swansea	22	9	7	6	29	27	34
Millwall	22	8	9	5	28	28	33
Cardiff	22	8	6	3	34	32	32
QPR	22	9	4	9	35	42	31
Hull	22	6	8	3	31	30	31
Birmingham	22	8	4	10	24	31	28
Derby	22	6	8	8	21	28	26
Charlton	22	6	6	10	28	30	24
Reading	21	6	5	10	25	27	23
H'field	22	5	7	10	24	34	22
M'brough	22	4	9	9	19	31	21
Luton Town	22	2	14	28	46	20	18
Stoke	22	5	3	14	24	35	18
Wigan	22	4	6	12	20	35	18
Barnsley	22	3	7	12	29	45	16

Scotland Premiership

P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	
Celtic	15	13	1	1	46	9	40
Rangers	15	12	2	1	45	10	38
Aberdeen	18	9	5	4	26	22	32
Motherwell	17	10	1	6	29	21	31
Kilmarnock	18	6	5	7	17	21	23
Hibernian	17	5	7	5	27	29	22
Ross County	17	5	5	7	20	35	20
Livingston FC	18	4	7	7	23	27	19
St Mirren FC	18	3	3	11	15	27	15
St Johnstone	16	3	6	7	14	33	15
Harts	17	2	6	9	16	28	12
Hamilton	18	2	6	10	16	31	12

Note: Standings read as played won drawn lost goals for goals against and points.

Colorado edges Colorado State

FORT COLLINS, Colo., Dec 14, (AP): Shane Gatling scored a season-high 20 points and had a big block down the stretch to help No. 24 Colorado hold off Colorado State 56-48 on Friday night after squandering a 16-point lead.

Leading 33-17 with 16:41 remaining, the Buffaloes (8-2) couldn't close out a cold-shooting Rams team that suddenly found their touch. Colorado State tied the game at 39 with 7:18 left.

Moments later, Gatling had a bucket to put the Buffaloes ahead for good. He also blocked a shot by Nico Car-

vacho down the stretch and then sealed the win with two late free throws.

The Rams (7-6) rebounded from a sluggish start in which they shot 17.9% during the first half and scored just 12 points.

Gatling appeared to hit a big shot when he banked in a 3-pointer just as the shot clock expired with 7:30 remaining. It put the Buffaloes up 42-37. But the officials went to the monitor and ruled Gatling didn't get the shot off in time, keeping it a one-score game. Colorado State tied it up on the next possession.

MIAMI, Dec 14, (AP): Anthony Davis scored 33 points, LeBron James had 28 while coming within a rebound of a triple-double and the Los Angeles Lakers held off the Miami Heat 113-110 on Friday night.

James had 12 assists and nine rebounds and Davis grabbed 10 rebounds for the Lakers. They improved to 23-3, extended the second-longest road winning streak in franchise history to 13 games and rallied from a double-digit deficit to win for the eighth time already this season.

They also dealt Miami its first home loss of the season, after an 11-0 start.

Jimmy Butler led Miami with 23 points, Derrick Jones Jr. had 17, Kendrick Nunn added 16 and Kelly Olynyk had 15. Bam Adebayo had 12 points and 12 rebounds.

The Lakers outrebounded Miami 50-34, and the last of those was the biggest. Kentavious Caldwell-Pope missed a free throw with 8 seconds left to keep the Heat within two, but Miami couldn't get the rebound. Caldwell-Pope went back to the line with 4.2 seconds left, made one of two again and the Lakers' lead was pushed to three.

Clippers 124, Timberwolves 117

In Minneapolis, Paul George scored 46 points, Kawhi Leonard had 42 and Los Angeles held on to beat Minnesota for its fourth consecutive victory.

It was the highest combined scoring output of the season for the Clippers' new superstar duo. Leonard and George's previous high came Dec. 1 when they combined for 65 points against Washington. They became the first set of teammates in Clippers' history to each score 40 points. It was the 21st time in NBA history it has happened.

Karl-Anthony Towns had 39 points and 12 rebounds for Minnesota, which lost its seventh in a row. Towns had 14 points, including a 4-point play, in a

22-6 fourth-quarter run that trimmed a 21-point Los Angeles lead to five.

Andrew Wiggins added 34 points for the Timberwolves.

Rockets 130, Magic 107

In Orlando, Fla., James Harden scored 54 points, hitting 10 of 15 3-pointers and 19 of 31 shots overall, in Houston's win over Orlando.

Harden scored 50 or more for the fifth time this season and the fourth time in the last seven games. He also had seven assists, five rebounds and two steals in 36 minutes.

Russell Westbrook added 23 points for Houston. The Rockets were 22 of 39 from 3-point range.

The Rockets pulled away in the second quarter, with Harden scoring 18 points, including Houston's last 11 for a 59-49 lead. Evan Fournier led Orlando with 27 points. Aaron Gordon added

BASKETBALL

21. The Magic have lost three straight after winning four in a row.

76ers 116, Pelicans 109

In Philadelphia, Tobias Harris scored 31 points, Ben Simmons had 24 points and 11 assists, and Philadelphia survived a late scare and beat New Orleans.

Joel Embiid finished with 24 points and 11 rebounds in Philadelphia's fifth straight victory. It was also the 14th consecutive home victory for the 76ers, the franchise's longest streak to start a season since winning 22 straight home games in their NBA championship season in 1966-67.

Brandon Ingram scored 32 points and J.J. Redick had 19 for the Pelicans, who have lost 11 in a row.

Pacers 110, Hawks 100

In Atlanta, Malcolm Brogdon had 19 points and 12 assists, Domantas Sabonis had 12 points and 14 rebounds, and Indiana beat Atlanta.

T.J. Warren scored 18 points as all five Indiana starters finished in double figures.

The Pacers improved to 5-2 this

Clippers hold off Timberwolves



Golden State Warriors guard Alec Burks (8) defends against Utah Jazz guard Donovan Mitchell, (right), in the first half during an NBA basketball game Dec 13 in Salt Lake City. (AP)

Bucks 127, Grizzlies 114

In Memphis, Tenn., Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 17 of his 37 points in the fourth quarter to help Milwaukee pull away for its 17th straight victory.

The Bucks overcome Jaren Jackson Jr.'s career-high 43 points. He scored 26 in the third quarter to give Memphis a 95-90 lead heading into the fourth. But Milwaukee outscored Memphis 37-19 in the final period to improve its record to 23-3, keeping pace with the Los Angeles Lakers for the best in the league.

The 17-game winning streak is second-longest in franchise history, trailing only a 20-game run in the 1970-71 season.

Antetokounmpo converted 12 of 23 shots and had 11 rebounds for Milwaukee, which has not lost since Nov. 8 against Utah. Khris Middleton added 26 points for the Bucks, while Eric Bledsoe finished with 12 before leaving in the third quarter with an injury.

Dillon Brooks had 19 points for Memphis, while Jae Crowder had 15 points.

Jazz 114, Warriors 106

In Salt Lake City, Bojan Bogdanovic hit eight 3-pointers and scored 32 points and Donovan Mitchell added 28 points in Utah's win over Golden State.

Rudy Gobert added 15 points and 15 rebounds for the Jazz. Joe Ingles chipped in 13 points and eight assists, and Royce O'Neale added 14 points.

Alec Burks scored 24 points and Damion Lee added 21 for the Warriors. D'Angelo Russell added 18 points.

Golden State lost despite outscoring Utah 52-12 in bench points.

Knicks 103, Kings 101

In Sacramento, Calif., Elfrid Payton had seven of his 16 points in the fourth quarter. Marcus Morris scored off an offensive rebound with 9.1 seconds left and New York rallied from 16 down to beat Sacramento.

Julius Randle had 24 points and nine rebounds, Mitchell Robinson added 14 points and nine boards, and Damyean Dotson scored 11 points. The Knicks (6-20) won back-to-back games for the first time this season.

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