

SPORTS

Hamilton denied Brit GP pole by Bottas, takes on negativity



Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton, of Britain, steers his car followed by Mercedes driver Valtteri Bottas, of Finland, during the third free practice at the Silverstone racetrack in Silverstone, England on July 13. (AP)

Leclerc third for Ferrari

SILVERSTONE, England, July 13, (AP): By only six milliseconds – 0.006 – Lewis Hamilton was left in an unusual position on Saturday: Missing out on pole for the British Grand Prix.

The pause was a lot longer when the Formula One leader was later surprised to be asked why “people question your Britishness” in the post-qualifying news conference.

Look around Silverstone at the flags and banners and there is little doubt who the home crowd of more than 100,000 wants to win on Sunday. But after being outpaced by Mercedes teammate Valtteri Bottas, Hamilton will not start from the front of the grid at the British GP for the first time since 2014.

“It wasn’t the best of qualifying sessions,” Hamilton said, “but it is a long race tomorrow.”

It is a race Hamilton is trying to win for a record sixth time, further cementing the racing excellence of Britain’s five-time world champion.

But Hamilton still has to shake off some negativity.

Hamilton was quizzed by a reporter from Britain’s Guardian newspaper on why there is a “contention because people say you live in Monaco and

MOTOR RACING

your accent isn’t maybe as British as others because you spend a lot of time in the US.”

“I don’t have a good answer for that,” Hamilton replied. “It is crazy because I remember growing up and watching Jenson Button and all the youngsters coming through and everyone migrated to Monaco. Nobody ever said anything about it. But, of course, when I did, they had something to say.”

“No matter how often that you go abroad or elsewhere in the world you come back to the UK, see the countryside, and this great history of Formula One and motorsport and I see all my family who are also here and this feels where my heart is. I am fully British.”

The Silverstone circuit is also bedecked with Hamilton banners and Union Jack flags featuring his name.

“Whilst there will be negative views, I feel every day there is an opportunity to turn those who have a negative view,” Hamilton said. “I guess over time I will do more and more positive things for the country. I go to all these races and I lift the British flag proudly,



Mercedes driver Valtteri Bottas of Finland (right), speaks with second-placed Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton of Britain after he clocked the fastest time during the qualifying session at the Silverstone racetrack in Silverstone, England on July 13. (AP)

and there is no one else in this sport that has raised it so high. At the moment it is not enough. I will keep looking for what else I can do.”

Having a 31-point lead in the drivers’ standings shows Hamilton is on the right track.

Escaping the F1 bubble by heading to California last week helped Hamilton.

But Nico Rosberg, who had a four-year rivalry with Hamilton as Mercedes teammates, said such an approach wouldn’t have worked for him.

“Lewis is partying in Los Angeles and is the best driver in the world,” Rosberg said at the central England circuit. “If I had been travelling the way he does, I would be 10th on the grid for Mercedes.”

But the German won the world championship only once, in 2016, before retiring.

“I do have five world titles and they didn’t come on their own,” Hamilton said. “Valtteri parties way more than me. When I started doing the travel and focusing on these other things there was always the issue and comments and the pressure of having to arrive and deliver the same.”

“It took time to break that mold and I have done it time and time and time again. My preparation comes first and I have felt fantastic all weekend. The pressure is high being that it is a home grand prix and I don’t look at that lightly. I prepare the best way I can ... and that is what led me to five world titles.”

And also victories in six of the nine races this season after shaking off the challenge from Bottas, who won two of the first four events.

Bottas is back on pole for the first time since the fifth grand prix in Spain in May.

New Zealand’s nice guys get 2nd shot at WC title

NZ, England seek redemption, glory in World Cup final

LONDON, July 13, (AP): New Zealand and England have waited four years for this moment, for this life-changing shot at redemption.

For the Kiwis, the Cricket World Cup final at Lord’s on Sunday is a chance to avenge their drubbing at the hands of Australia in the 2015 showpiece. It was their first World Cup final and they didn’t do themselves justice in Melbourne.

“A little bit overawed,” recalled batsman Ross Taylor, who will be one of five New Zealand survivors from that seven-wicket loss.

For the English, it’s a very different opportunity for atonement from 2015, when a group-stage exit proved to be an all-time ODI low for the country that invented cricket. What has happened since – an overhaul of domestic white-ball cricket, a new team and mindset, and a rise to the top of the ODI rankings – has been both surprising and stunning to watch.

“They have been the benchmark in one-day cricket for a fair while now,” Australia captain Aaron Finch said after his team’s semifinal loss to England.

So, a new name – the sixth – will be etched on the World Cup trophy at the home of cricket after Australia, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and West Indies.

That it is New Zealand and England vying for the trophy is perhaps validation of the approach both countries have taken to the one-

CRICKET

day game in recent years. Indeed, England captain Eoin Morgan has openly acknowledged that his team have copied the New Zealand model in this format, playing with fun and a smile on your face.

“Express yourself,” Morgan tells his players.

England – in its fourth final, the first since 1992 – is the favorite, with potential match-winners everywhere.

There are the openers, Jason Roy and Jonny Bairstow, brimming with belief and stroke-play. They are on a run of four straight century partnerships and if they provide another such platform, England will be hard to stop.

There’s the middle order, blessed

with dependability (Joe Root), experience (Eoin Morgan), exuberance (Jos Buttler) and a mix of all those qualities (Ben Stokes).

And then there’s the bowling department. Jofra Archer, fast-tracked into the team just before the World Cup following a change in residency rules, mixes sheer pace with accuracy (he has more dot balls, 338, than anyone this tournament) and has struck up a great new-ball partnership with all-rounder Chris Woakes; Liam Plunkett and Mark Wood are solid first-change options; and leg-spinner Adil Rashid can be a partnership breaker in the middle over.

New Zealand remain the unassuming underdogs. With openers Martin Guptill, Henry Nicholls and Colin Munro en-

Earthquakes beat Galaxy

DC United rally to tie 10-man New England Revolution 2-2

WASHINGTON, July 13, (AP): Quincy Amarikwa volleyed home Wayne Rooney’s free kick in the 86th minute, helping D.C. United tie the 10-man New England Revolution 2-2.

D.C. United (8-5-8) pulled to 2-1 in the 43rd minute when Leonardo Jara knocked in Paul Arriola’s cross for his first MLS goal. Am-

SOCCER

arikwa’s goal was the 16th allowed by New England this season in the final 15 minutes of a match.

Teal Bunbury scored the fourth goal in his last five games in the fourth minute to give New England a 1-0 lead. Carles Gil scored his fifth goal of the season in the 32nd after a rebound fell to his feet at the penalty spot for an easy finish.

New England (6-8-6) extended its undefeated streak to eight games since coach Bruce Arena took over. Wilfried Zahibo picked up his second yellow card in the 63rd minute.

LAF3 3, Dynamo 1

In Houston, Adama Diomande scored twice off assists from Lee Nguyen and Los Angeles FC handed Houston its home loss of the season.

Los Angeles (14-2-4) has won five of its last six games. Houston (8-8-3) has just one win in its last eight matches.

Diomande tied it at 1 in first-half stoppage time on a towering header of Nguyen’s cross to the far post. Nguyen drew the defense on a fake shot near the penalty spot and found Diomande open at the corner of the 6-yard box in the 49th.

Diego Rossi scored his 11th goal of the season on a breakaway in the 88th. Romell Quioto opened the scoring in the



Amarikwa

third minute.

Earthquakes 3, Galaxy 1

In Carson, California, Jackson Yueill and Valeri Qazaishvili each had a goal and an assist, and Danny Hoesen also scored for San Jose.

Qazaishvili beat a defender a he cut toward the end line and rolled it to Hoesen in the center of the area where he side-footed the finish to give San Jose (9-7-4) a 2-1 lead in the 64th minute.

LA’s Rolf Feltscher put away a corner kick by Jonathan dos Santos to open the scoring in the second minute and the Galaxy (11-8-1) led until Qazaishvili cut back to evade a defender and blasted low ball just inside the post from 25 yards out to tie it in the 61st.



England captain Eoin Morgan plays a shot during the Cricket World Cup semifinal match between Australia and England at Edgbaston in Birmingham, England on July 11. (AP)

using the slope from the Pavilion End. Fellow strike bowler Matt Henry is a danger at the top of the innings, not so much at the death, while Lockie Ferguson at first change is New Zealand’s leading wicket-taker this tournament with 17.

If this World Cup is anything to go by, England’s batters will look to bludgeon New Zealand out of the game if they bat first. The Blacks Caps, alternatively, would likely be satisfied putting 250 runs on the board and letting their bowlers and outstanding fielders defend it with their lives.

If the past six weeks is anything to go by, much will hinge on the toss (even if the team winning it has lost four of the last five World Cup finals).

Yet both teams have such self-belief that there’s a sense little will faze them.

England is looking to complete the set of men’s World Cup wins in the country’s top team sports, after the footballers in 1966 and the rugby players in 2003. If England does win, the trophy will be lifted by an Irishman, Dublin-born Morgan, while there is a multi-cultural make-up to the side through Barbados-born Archer, South Africa-born Roy and both Rashid and Moeen Ali, with their Asian ancestry. There’s also the formidable Stokes, born in Christchurch, New Zealand, no less.

A win Sunday would also complete the cricket double for England, with the women’s team winning the World Cup in 2017.

A victory for Williamson’s side would kick off what could be a memorable year for New Zealand, which is favorite to win the Rugby World Cup in Japan, starting in September.

Both teams have been in jeopardy this World Cup, with England playing knockout cricket for nearly three weeks after back-to-back group losses to Sri Lanka and Australia, and New Zealand squeezing through to the playoffs on net run-rate after defeats in their last three group matches.

Yet England is in a better place now, buoyed by successive wins over India, New Zealand, and then Australia in the semis. Every facet of the team is firing.

New Zealand, playing on the other side of the world from home, has it all to do.

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