

Burnley's New Zealand striker Chris Wood celebrates goal (Picture courtesy: theguardian)



Wood seals victory for Burnley

Burnley Chris Wood's dream home debut for Burnley pushed Frank De Boer to the brink of the sack as Crystal Palace crashed to a 1-0 defeat yesterday.

New Zealand international Wood marked his maiden appearance for Burnley at Turf Moor following his club record £15 million (\$19 million, 16 million euros) move by firing the winner early in the first half.

The former Leeds striker punished a woeful backpass by Palace's South Korean winger Lee Chung-Yong.

For Palace manager De Boer, his side's fourth successive defeat could bring an abrupt end to his first season at Selhurst Park.

Palace have yet to score a league goal since Ajax and Inter Milan coach De Boer took charge and reports ahead of this fixture claimed Eagles chairman Steve Parish was already considering sacking the Dutchman.

With Parish watching from the stands, De Boer saw second bottom Palace waste a string of chances to at

least snatch a point and he will head back to south London with his future in doubt.

"I am just focusing on what I can control and so are my staff and my players," De Boer said.

"The future is for other people to decide but while I'm the manager of Crystal Palace I will give 100 per cent.

"We have to look in the mirror and be responsible that you have to take the chances, and you get punished when you don't.

"But if you look all over at how we showed spirit, I think we were quite dynamic. What we showed today gives us a lot of hope for the future."

Desperate to spark Palace into life, De Boer had made three changes and reluctantly switched to a 4-4-2 formation in a bid to kick-start his season.

But it took just three minutes for his plans to go horribly wrong.

Lee, making his 100th Premier League appearance, turned and played the ball back in the direction of the non-existent Palace defence.

Wood reacted superbly, intercepting the pass and slotting past Palace goalkeeper Wayne Hennessey first time from the edge of the area.

Palace were almost level within a minute when Scott Dann took aim from the right side of the box and his deflected shot was booted off the line by Matthew Lowton.

Two minutes later Palace came close again when Andros Townsend lofted a pass to Christian Benteke, who steered his header inches wide of the far post with keeper Tom Heaton beaten.

Burnley suffered a setback just past the half-hour mark when Heaton was forced off with a shoulder injury after landing awkwardly, giving a Premier League debut for 25-year-old Nick Pope.

Jeffrey Schlupp blazed over as Palace applied late pressure.

But Benteke was denied by Pope in the 78th minute, then Dann headed wide from no more than four yards out to ensure another dismal afternoon for De Boer. (AFP)

Salman Abdulla clinches title

DT News Network Manama

Salman Abdulla made history on Friday by winning the title of King of Drift for the sixth year in a row after a heated battle between some of the best drifting talents in the Kingdom at the Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) in Sakhir. Thamer Alissa and Salah Salahaldeen were placed second and third respectively. Salman will represent Bahrain at the regional final in Kuwait on December 8.

Spectators witnessed first hand exceptional drifting skills and exhilarating performances on display during the Red Bull Car Park Drift Bahrain Qualifier 2017.

The event which returned to the BIC for the sixth consecutive year is sponsored by Shop & Ship, Falken and Total and is locally supported by Arabia Motors and Orange Media.

Jiu Jitsu squad set for Asian Indoor

DT News Network Manama

Bahrain's national jiu jitsu team are set for their next challenge as the Fifth Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games gets underway next week in Ashgabat, the Turkmenistan capital.

The team is coached by Reza Monfaradi and is presently putting their final touches to the training programme ahead of the games.

Their most recent training session was witnessed by Bahrain chef de mission Fawaz Shamsan and Bahrain Olympic Committee projects director Lounes Madene, who were briefed on the team preparations by coach Monfaradi.

The team will engage with some of the continent's best jiu jitsu fighters, which allows competitors to combine striking, grappling and submissions under rules that emphasise safety.

There will be three events in jiu jitsu - Ne-Waza, Duo Show and Full Ju Jitsu, with 21 medal events to be won over three days at the Martial Arts Arena on the 16 and 18-19 September.

Men's Ne-Waza weight categories include -56kg, -62kg, -69kg, -77kg, -85kg, -94kg, +94kg and Open Weight, while four contests will be featured in the Full Contact Ju Jitsu (-62kg, -69kg, -77kg, -85kg).

In the women's events, Ne-Waza will include six weight categories, namely -49kg, -55kg, -62kg, -70kg, +70kg and Open Weight.



Javier Gomez of Spain celebrates after winning the IRONMAN 70.3 Men's World Championship yesterday in Chattanooga, Tennessee. (AFP)

Asian Indoor: Bahrain's Taekwondo team eyes glory

DT News Network Manama

Bahrain's national Taekwondo team has stepped up their preparations ahead of the Fifth Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games, to be held in Ashgabat, in Turkmenistan.

Three athletes will be spearheading Bahrain taekwondo team at the games - Wala'a Al Dossary (under-57kg), Juana Mohammed (under-62kg) and her younger sister Jomana Mohammed (under-73kg).

The trio have been training regularly under their coach Tawfeeq Nuwaiser. Their most recent practice session was witnessed by Bahrain Martial Arts Federation (BMAF) president Ahmed Al Khayyat, Bahrain chef de mission Fawaz Shamsan and Bahrain Olympic Committee projects director, Lounes Madene.

The games take place from



Bahrain's Taekwondo team with BMAF members and other delegation officials

September 17 to 27 and hosted at the Ashgabat Olympic Complex in the Turkmenistan capital.

Unique in the Central Asian region, the complex boasts of over 30 structures, which also

includes 15 competition venues, an Athletes Village and a Paralympic Rehabilitation Medical Centre.

Taekwondo will host two events at Ashgabat 2017, the Kyorugi with seven weight categories for both men

and women from September 18-21, and Poomsae, which will include an individual and team event for men and women on 22 September.

There will be 18 medal events with all the action taking place inside the

Taekwondo DanceSport Arena.

The men's section in the Kyorugi competition will feature seven weight categories in total (54kg, -58kg, -63kg, -68k, -74kg, -80kg, and -87kg).

In the women's events, there are categories in -46kg, -49kg, -53kg, -57kg, -62kg, -67kg and -73kg.

Kyorugi will use a direct elimination system to produce two finalists. All athletes who lose against either of the finalists will have the opportunity to contest for a bronze medal in the repechage. The competition will include elimination rounds, repechage rounds and finals.

The poomsae championship will see competitions in the men's Individual under-30 years old, men's team under-30, women's individual under-30 and women's team under-30.