

Bahrain1 claim superb win in US!

Kris Thorne powers to fantastic holeshot victory against Justin Bond in all-Bahrain1 Racing final in Indianapolis

● **Kris Throne claims second Wally trophy of this Pro Mod season, sixth of his career**

● **Bahrain1 ace moves to top of championship standings ahead of teammate Bond**

TDI | Manama

Bahrain1 Racing, owned by His Majesty the King's Personal Representative His Highness Shaikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al Khalifa, returned to the top of the podium in the FuelTech NHRA Pro Mod Drag Racing Series in the US.

Bahrain1's Kris Thorne powered to a fantastic holeshot victory at Lucas Oil Indianapolis Raceway Park, as part of this past weekend's 69th annual Dodge Power Brokers NHRA US Nationals.

It was an all-Bahrain1 affair in the final, where Thorne defeated teammate Justin Bond in thrilling fashion.

With the result, Thorne moved into the points lead on the championship standings

for the first time this season. He also claimed his maiden career victory in the US Nationals, his second Wally trophy of this campaign and sixth of his career.

"There is no other race in the world I'd rather turn it around [than Indy]," Thorne was quoted as saying.

"I'm super excited we were finally able to conquer this one. I've been upside down here, I've been on fire here, I've torn everything up I've owned here.

"This was emotional and great. If I went out today, this is the last race I would ever want to win—the US Nationals, the biggest one."

The meeting marked the eighth of 10 races in the 2023 season of the FuelTech NHRA Pro Mod Drag Racing Series.

Thorne delivered an epic performance in his Bahrain1 Chevrolet Camaro, going 5.827seconds at 248.07mph in the final against Bond. Last year's world champion had a 0.017s reaction time, which made all the difference for a holeshot win, in holding off Bond's 5.777s at 246.89mph (with a 0.073s reaction time).

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KRIS THORNE

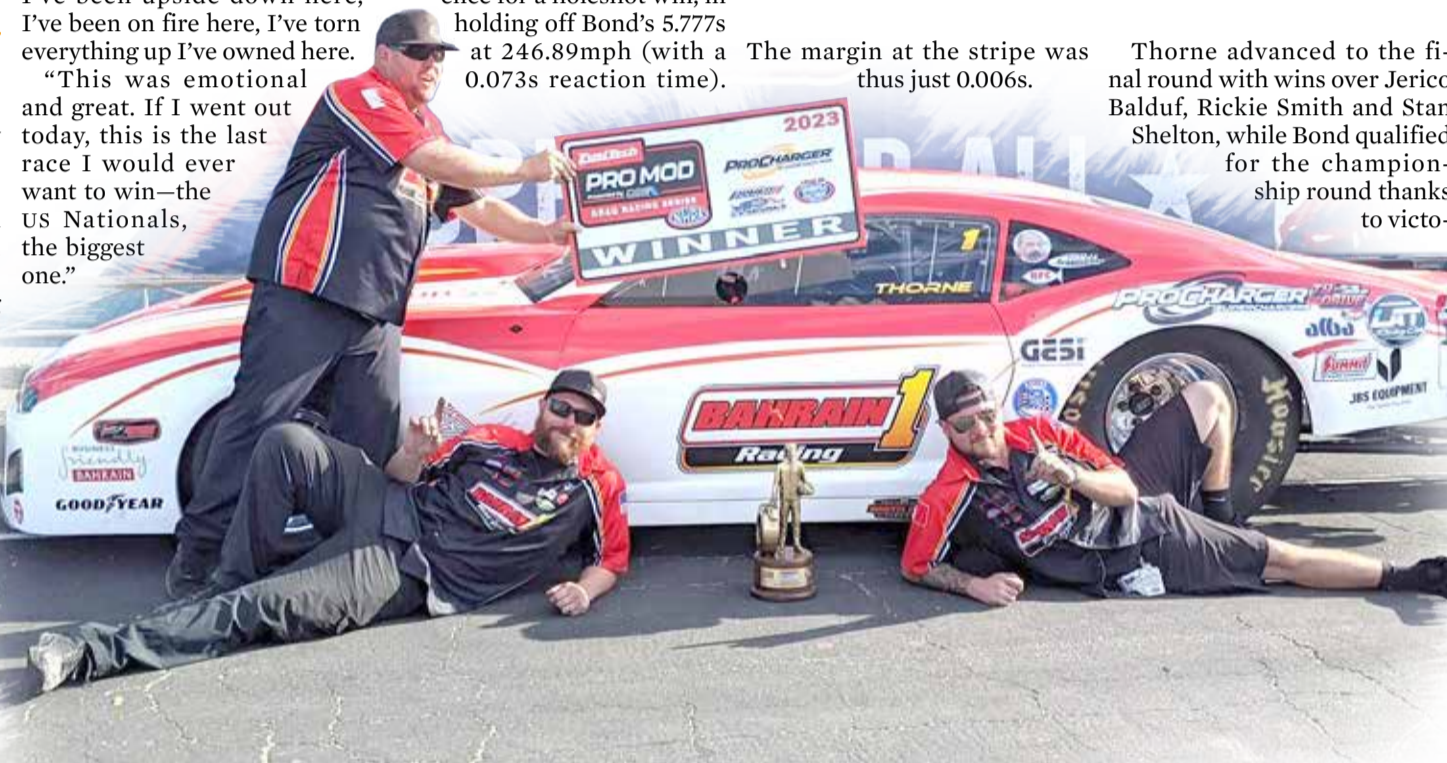
The margin at the stripe was thus just 0.006s.

Thorne advanced to the final round with wins over Jerico Balduf, Rickie Smith and Stan Shelton, while Bond qualified for the championship round thanks to victory

ries against Mason Wright, Billy Banaka and Mike Castellana.

With only two races remaining in the season, Thorne holds a 12-point lead over Bond. Jason Lee is 49 points back in third place.

The FuelTech NHRA Pro Mod Drag Racing Series returns to action at the end of the month as part of the NHRA Midwest Nationals at World Wide Technology Raceway in St Louis, Missouri, in the US.



Thorne, standing, celebrates his victory with Bahrain1 crew members alongside his Chevrolet Camaro



Kris Thorne had a slower elapsed time of 5.827seconds in the final against Justin Bond, who had a 5.777s. But thanks to his 0.017s reaction time, Thorne was able to claim the holeshot win, holding off Bond's 0.073s reaction time, for a 0.006s gap at the finish line

Bahrain open U23 qualifiers bid tonight against Palestine

● **Match kicks off 6.30pm at Shaikh Ali bin Mohammed Al Khalifa Stadium in Arad**

● **Late fixture at 9.30pm to see Group D favourites Japan go up against Pakistan**

TDI | Manama

Bahrain's under-23 Olympic football team take on Palestine tonight in their opening match of the Group D qualifiers for the AFC U23 Asian Cup 2024.

The match is scheduled for a 6.30pm kick-off at Shaikh Ali bin Mohammed Al Khalifa Stadium at Muharraq Club in Arad.

Speaking in his pre-game Press conference, Bahrain's Olympic team head coach Dario Basic highlighted the importance of this opening fixture, and said that the home side will be facing a formidable opponent



Basic speaks yesterday during his pre-match Press conference

in the Palestinians.

Basic also expressed his satisfaction with the level of the under-23 squad and called on them to take advantage of this opportunity to stand out in the competition.

Bahrain's match tonight will be followed by a late fixture between Japan and Pakistan, scheduled for a 9.30pm kick-off at the same venue.

Following today's matches,

the four teams will return to the pitch on Saturday, with the Bahrainis playing the Pakistanis followed by the Palestinians taking on the Japanese.

The last matchday will be on Tuesday next week, when Bahrain and Japan face off, and Palestine and Pakistan lock horns.

There are 11 groups in all in the AFC U23 Asian Cup 2024 qualifiers, with each group being held at a centralised venue.

Following a single round-robin, the 11 group winners and four best second-placed teams qualify for the AFC U23 Asian Cup, which will be held in Doha. They join hosts Qatar, who have received automatic qualification, to form a cast of 16. The tournament is scheduled to be played between 15 April and 3 May, 2024.

Bahrain have qualified just once in the previous five editions of the AFC U-23 Asian Cup. That was in the 2020 event held in Thailand, where they did not make it past the group stage.

Meanwhile, the Olympic team welcomed BFA vice-president His Highness Shaikh Khalifa bin Ali bin Isa Al Khalifa during one of their final training sessions, held at Al Ahli Club Stadium in Mahooz.

HH Shaikh Khalifa spoke with the team's coaching staff and players, and highlighted the importance of this qualifying competition. He wished the team all the success in their upcoming games.

KL Rahul named in India's World Cup squad after injury



Lucknow Super Giants' KL Rahul (C) is being helped by a medic during the Indian Premier League

AFP | New Delhi

Wicketkeeper KL Rahul was named in India's squad Tuesday for the one-day World Cup but skipper Rohit Sharma was coy about his place in the XI after months sidelined by injury.

Rahul will be in contention along with fellow gloveman Ishan Kishan, a left-hander who hit a defiant 82 against Pakistan at the ongoing Asia Cup.

"We have said earlier that problems like these are good, that boys are fighting for spots," Rohit told reporters in Kandy as World Cup hosts India named their squad.

"We will have to see who is in form and who is the opposition to face. All this will be calculated and the best XI will be picked."

The 31-year-old Rahul has not played any competitive

cricket since he was injured during the Indian Premier League in May.

He was picked in the Asia Cup squad for Sri Lanka but missed the opening two matches with a niggle unrelated to his original thigh injury.

The World Cup starts on October 5 and Rohit did not rule out the possibility of Rahul and Ishan -- who have both topped the batting order -- playing together.

"As long as everyone's available and fit to play, the selection depends on the opposition we play, current form, players who have done well under pressure, those things do matter," said Rohit.

"For Ishan's confidence the last match he played was brilliant -- under pressure, batting at number five for the first time, (being a) left-hander gives us another dimension."

Sri Lanka overcome Mohammad Nabi blitz to qualify for Super Fours

PTI

Sri Lanka defeated Afghanistan by two runs to end their hopes of qualifying for the Asia Cup Super 4 stage here on Tuesday.

Afghanistan, who needed to chase a target of 292 in 37.1 overs, fought hard but were bowled out for 289 in 37.4 overs despite fifties from Mohammad Nabi (65) and Hashmatullah Shahidi (59).

Kasun Rajitha took four wickets for Sri



Sri Lanka's Kusal Mendis plays a shot

Lanka.

Earlier in the first innings, Sri Lanka posted a total of 291 for eight after Kusal Mendis top scored with 92.

The other Sri Lanka batters in Pathum Nissanka (41), Dimuth Karunaratne (32), Charith Asalanka (36) and Dunith Wellalage (33 not out) made vital contributions.

For Afghanistan, Gulbadin Naib returned figures of 4/60 while Rashid Khan picked up two wickets.