

BIC crowns champions of Bahrain Rotax MAX Challenge at BIKC

TDT | Manama

The champions of the 2022/2023 Bahrain Rotax MAX Challenge (BRMC) were crowned over the weekend following the series' season-finale at Bahrain International Karting Circuit (BIKC), the world-class grassroots motorsport facility at Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) in Sakhr.

Ali Almoayed, Nasser Nass, Luca Houghton, Fahad Alkhaled and Omar Alderayan all emerged as winners of their respective classes at the end of a hotly-contested campaign that featured eight exciting rounds.

Ali and Alderayan headed into the curtain-closer having already secured their titles in the Micro MAX and DD2 MAX categories, respectively. Joining them on the list of 2022/2023 champions were Nasser in the Mini MAX, Luca in the Junior MAX and Alkhaled in the Senior MAX class.

In the weekend's final round of action at BIKC, Adam Awan was the winner in the Micro MAX final, finishing the nine-lap race in a time of nine minutes 45.815 seconds. He was well ahead of runner-up Rayyan Najjar, with the pair also classified in the same order during their pre-final.

Following the result, Adam finished just a single point be-



Winners celebrate on the podium

hind Micro MAX champion Ali on the standings. Ali, who did not compete in the finale, had 213 points in first place, followed closely by Adam, while Tariq Soofi was a distant third on 57 points.

In Mini MAX action, Shaikh Rashid bin Salman Al Khalifa took first place on the provisional classification of the nine-lap final. Shaikh Rashid triumphed in 9:17.591, with Aaryan Singh in second and Shaikh Ahmed bin Saqer Al Khalifa third.

The pre-final saw Nasser claim first place ahead of Shaikh Rashid, which earned him crucial points towards his Mini MAX championship. He thus completed the season with 215 points provisionally on the table,

followed by Shaikh Ahmed on 197 and Shonal Kunimal in third with 175 points.

Luca wrapped up his Junior MAX title-winning campaign in style, taking the chequered flag in both the pre-final and final. His victory in the final came after 15 laps in a time of 13:43.235. Luca was 3.127s ahead of Mohammed Alhasan, while Sager Almousherji came third 6.070s behind.

Luca's victories helped him improve to 218 points to end the season—17 ahead of Gracie Grantham, who was fifth in the final. Alhasan came third on the table with 200 points.

The Senior MAX saw Jasper Sjoberg take the final after ending the race narrowly ahead of Lewis Smith. Sjoberg won in



Nearly 50 of the Kingdom's top karting talents battled it out in the five Rotax MAX classes in the BRMC's eighth and last meeting. All the racing took place along BIKC's 1.414-kilometre CIK-FIA track



Action from the round

13:55.328 after 15 laps—3.766s in front of Smith, while Tijl Josep Huisman completed the podium placers 4.352s back in third.

Alkhaled, who was classified fourth in the final, earned enough points to take the class title with 183 on the standings. Muhammad Wally came second on 172 and Leen Alarifi third with 165 points. Alarifi had earlier claimed the pre-final in the round.

In the DD2 MAX championship standings, Alderayan finished with 213 points in first place, followed by Abdulla Jaweed with 174 and Talal Al Attas and Ahmed Alsaleh tied on 54 markers.

Amongst the winning entrants in the 2022/2023 BRMC season,

Praga Middle East Racing and Forza Bahrain Racing won two titles apiece, with NorthStar Racing taking the other. Praga triumphed in the Mini MAX and Junior MAX classes, whereas Forza won the Senior MAX and DD2 categories. NorthStar were first in the Micro MAX class.

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Following the action, the podium ceremonies wrapped up the proceedings attended by officials from BIC, BIKC, the Bahrain Motor Federation and the Bahrain Karting Commission.

Alcaraz routs Medvedev for Indian Wells title, return to No. 1

AFP | Indian Wells

Spain's Carlos Alcaraz swept past Daniil Medvedev 6-3, 6-2 on Sunday to win the Indian Wells ATP Masters 1000 and secure his return to number one in the world.

US Open champion Alcaraz ended Medvedev's 19-match winning streak, denying him a fourth title in as many tournaments to ensure he will supplant Australian Open champion Novak Djokovic atop the rankings.

"It feels amazing to lift the trophy here, to recover the No. 1," Alcaraz said. "I would say this has been the perfect tournament."



Carlos Alcaraz of Spain poses with the trophy

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CARLOS ALCARAZ

Serbia's Djokovic, barred from entering the United States because he hasn't been vaccinated against Covid-19, sat out Indian Wells and will miss the Miami Open starting this week, where Alcaraz is the defending champion.

Alcaraz, 19, who became the

youngest world number one ever after his triumph at Flushing Meadows last year, claimed his third Masters 1000 title and joined compatriot Rafael Nadal as the only players to win at least three as a teenager. Nadal won six before turning 20.

He was unstoppable on Stadium Court, breaking through what he'd called the "wall" of Medvedev's formidable defenses.

Medvedev, coming off titles in Rotterdam, Doha and Dubai, could find no answer as Alcaraz fired winners from all over the court, defying the windy conditions.

Rybakina beats Sabalenka to win Indian Wells WTA title

AFP | Indian Wells

Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina edged Aryna Sabalenka 7-6 (13/11), 6-4 on Sunday to win the Indian Wells WTA title and avenge her loss to the Belarusian in the Australian Open final.

Kazakhstan's Rybakina, the world number 10 who ousted top-ranked defending champion Iga Swiatek in the semi-finals, followed up with her first victory over second-ranked Sabalenka in five career meetings.

Rybakina, projected to rise to seventh in the world, handed Sabalenka just her second defeat of the year, denying her a third title to go with a win in Adelaide that presaged her first Grand Slam triumph at Melbourne.

"It's actually the first time it goes my way," Rybakina said as she accepted the trophy, a smiling Sabalenka leaning to the



Elena Rybakina of Kazakhstan poses with the winner's trophy

microphone to interject, "I will make sure it was the last one."

"We'll see next time," Rybakina laughed. The banter belied another tense battle between the two, who had gone to three sets in all four prior encounters.

Sabalenka had the edge from the base-

"It was a rollercoaster. With all these double faults, I think we were both so tight, because we both knew that it's not easy with our serves to hold it but also to try to break"

ELENA RYBAKINA

line, but, in the face of fierce pressure from Rybakina, the serve demons that beset the Belarusian last year resurfaced and her 10 double faults in the opening frame ultimately proved too much to overcome.

After fending off three break points in a marathon fourth game, she broke Rybakina to gain the first advantage.

But Sabalenka handed back the break with a double fault as Rybakina leveled the set at 4-4.

Richarlison, Marquinhos out with injuries for Brazil-Morocco

AFP | Rio De Janeiro

Tottenham forward Richarlison and Paris Saint-Germain defender Marquinhos will both miss Brazil's friendly against Morocco on March 25 due to injury, joining star Neymar on the absent list, the team said.

The new injuries leave the five-time world champions without a string of top players as they prepare to take on surprise World Cup semi-finalists Morocco in Tangier in their first match since Qatar.

Richarlison, 25, left the pitch in tears Saturday after suffering an injury early in Tottenham's 3-3 draw at Southampton.



Brazil's Richarlison (R) celebrates scoring a goal with teammate Marquinhos (file photo)

"National team doctor Rodrigo Lasmar contacted Richarlison's club, and established that the athlete will not be fit to play for the friendly," the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) said in a statement late Saturday.

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