

## Jackson triumphs for Bahrain1 Racing while teammate Bond comes second

● **HH Shaikh Abdulla bin Hamad praises Bahrain1 Racing team for victory in NHRA event in North Carolina**

TDI | Manama

His Majesty the King's personal representative His Highness Shaikh Abdulla bin Hamad Al Khalifa praised the Bahrain1 Racing team's one-two victory in the Pro Mod category of the 2022 NHRA Carolina Nationals event, held at zMAX Dragway in North Carolina, the US.

HH Shaikh Abdulla affirmed



HH Shaikh Abdulla bin Hamad Al Khalifa

that the honourable results achieved by the team are thanks to the support of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa as well as the backing of His

Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

HH Shaikh Abdulla explained that these successes will motivate the team to continue confirming the high capabilities that its members possess during the upcoming championships, praising the great abilities of the drivers.

Bahrain1 accomplished a one-two win in the round's final. Jackson won ahead of his teammate Justin Bond.

Their teammate Khaled Al Balooshi was knocked out of the first elimination following stiff competition. He was beaten by just 0.024 seconds.

"It's a great win and I am happy to triumph in this strong race



Bahrain1 Racing team members celebrate their one-two

at the zMAX Dragway in North Carolina," said Jackson.

"This win was made possi-

ble thanks to the support of HH Shaikh Abdulla bin Hamad Al Khalifa. This also cannot go

without mentioning the efforts of the team to get the cars ready for the race."

# World Series of Darts to debut in Bahrain

The world's best darts players to compete at inaugural Bahrain Darts Masters Championship on January 12 and 13 at Bahrain International Circuit

● **Event to feature eight leading darts players, including the current world champion, combined with the best of local darts talent**

● **BIC signs multi-year deal to bring the World Series of Darts to Bahrain on an annual basis**

TDI | Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC), together with sports promoter CBX, has teamed up with the Professional Darts Corporation (PDC) to bring the World Series of Darts to Bahrain for the first time ever.

On January 12 and 13, 2023, BIC will host the Bahrain Darts Masters, part of the global tour of the world's best darts players. Bahrain will play host to the first event of the 2023 World Series, as part of a global calendar which was announced today by the PDC. BIC and CBX have

signed a multi-year deal with the PDC, which will bring the World Series of Darts to Bahrain on an annual basis.

PDC darts events are broadcast in over 185 countries, reaching a global audience of over 200 million people and darts is the second most watched sport in the UK after football. The sport is best known for the hosting of the World Darts Championship, which attracts a crowd of over 90,000 people to Alexandra Palace in the UK every year across the Christmas and New Year period.

The 2023 Bahrain Darts Masters will comprise two days of competition, with eight top players— set to include reigning World

Champion Peter Wright and world number one Gerwyn Price—taking on eight regional representatives, including Bahrain's best players, across two days. The event will be played out to a live audience in a specially designed format at BIC's entertainment dome and will also be broadcast live to a global audience.

Tickets for this limited capacity event will go on sale later in the year and fans are encouraged to register now at bahraingp.com for all the latest information on tickets and the event.

BIC chief executive Shaikh Salman bin Isa Al Khalifa said: "With our partners at CBX, we can't wait to welcome the best darts players in

the world to the inaugural Bahrain Darts Masters early next year.

"The sport is a spectacle that has to be seen to be believed and the atmosphere at PDC events is something that we expect will be a unique experience for fans in Bahrain.

"I welcome the PDC as a new member of the BIC family, and with our friends at CBX we look forward to putting on a stellar event for fans around the world."

Carlo Boutagy, Founder and CEO of CBX, said: "We are proud to partner with BIC and the PDC to bring the World Series of Darts to Bahrain for the first time. While we at CBX are best known for motorsport, we work in a variety of sporting disciplines and it is fantastic to now venture into the world of darts. As a sport, it has a huge global following and we are excited to welcome fans to the Kingdom as part of our ever-growing sporting portfolio, and add to the expanding list of new sports being showcased in the region.

We are looking forward to working together to put on an unforgettable event."

Professional Darts Corporation chief executive Matt Porter said: "Our global growth through the World Series of Darts in the past decade has been incredible and it's

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- SHAIKH SALMAN BIN ISA AL KHALIFA

another big step for us to stage the Bahrain Darts Masters in January. We're delighted to be working with Bahrain International Circuit and CBX on this exciting event, which will showcase PDC darts to a new audience and also be an opportunity for players from the region to test themselves against the world's best. This is an exciting new event and will be a great way to begin our 2023 World Series of Darts."

The Professional Darts Corporation operates a global £15 million circuit

of events, which includes the World Darts Championship, four-month Premier League tour and World Series of Darts, which will also visit Denmark, America, Australia, New Zealand and the Netherlands in 2023.

Star players have become household names through their playing achievements and entertaining styles, from Peter "Snakebite" Wright's colourful Mohawks and unique outfits to the flamboyant Gerwyn "The Iceman" Price and generational talent of "Mighty" Michael van Gerwen.

Winners on the 2022 World Series of Darts circuit included Michael Smith, Belgium's Dimitri Van den Bergh and Wales' Jonny Clayton, as well as Van Gerwen and Price, who also won the season-ending World Series of Darts Finals.

For more information on the Bahrain Darts Masters Championship or other BIC events and activities, visit bahraingp.com or call the BIC Hotline on +973-17450000.



Peter Wright



Michael van Gerwen

## 'We have to focus on winning' against Spain, says Portugal's Santos

AFP | Lisbon

Portugal coach Fernando Santos said his team would not settle for the draw they need to reach the Nations League finals when they host Spain in Braga on Tuesday.

Portugal, who won the inaugural edition of the tournament in 2019, moved top of Group A2 on Saturday with a 4-0 victory over the Czech Republic as Spain lost at home to Switzerland.



Fernando Santos

Santos' side now hold a two-point lead over their neighbours ahead of the final group match.

## Rohit backs Kumar as India look to fix T20 bowling

AFP | New Delhi

Improving India's bowling remains the team's focus ahead of the Twenty20 World Cup next month, skipper Rohit Sharma has said, adding that he backs seamer Bhuvneshwar Kumar to come out of a recent slump.

India went past Aaron Finch's Australia by six wickets to clinch the three-match T20 series 2-1, and now host South Africa for a white-ball series



India's Bhuvneshwar Kumar (R) celebrates with team captain Rohit Sharma during a match (file photo) starting Wednesday.

The team's batsmen, including Virat Kohli and Suryakumar Yadav, have been in good form

and shared a 104-run partnership to secure victory on Sunday, but the final-overs bowling has been a cause of worry.

Kumar, once a champion of choking runs in the final overs of a T20 match, has been expensive lately. He leaked 21 runs in the 18th over in the series-decider, with Tim David hitting him for two sixes and a four.

"We know that he has had more good days than the bad days in the last so many years," Rohit said of the veteran fast

bowler in a post-match press conference.

"Yes, of late it has not been the kind of performance that he wants but that can happen to any of the bowlers. You can see the opposition as well, it's not easy to bowl in the death."

The 32-year-old Kumar, who remains a key member of the team's plans for T20's showpiece event in Australia, had just two wickets from two matches and an expensive economy rate of 13.00.