Sjostrom eyes another gold rush in Doha World Cup

Katinka Hosszu is Sjostrom’s closest challenger, having won five titles in Kazan

By Sahan Bidappa

Fresh from breaking three World Cup records in Kazan last week, Sarah Sjostrom is set to make her mark in Doha this weekend at the FINA World Swimming Championships (25m).

The Swedish star, who is known as ‘The Iron Lady’, is entering the swimming arena from overseas the books in three of them. The 20-year-old, who is a former Olympic silver medallist, is at the top of her game and has made a strong start to the season. She is looking to break two more World Cup records in the 50m freestyle (21.49) and 50m butterfly (25.39 secs) and 100m breaststroke. She is leading the men’s rankings after the Kazan stop, we are hoping for more\n
Katinka Hosszu is Sjostrom’s closest challenger, having also won five titles in Kazan. The Hungarian star, already known as ‘The Iron Lady’, is in the top six of the book in three of them. She is a former Olympic silver medallist, is at the top of her game and has made a strong start to the season. She is looking to break two more World Cup records in the 50m freestyle (21.49) and 50m butterfly (25.39 secs) and 100m breaststroke. She is leading the men’s rankings after the Kazan stop, we are hoping for more...\n
Qatar Swimming Association President and FINA Bureau member Khalid al-Alawi (centre) poses with swimmers (from left) Sarah Sjostrom, Chad Le Clos, Katinka Hosszu and Anton Chupkov ahead of the FINA Swimming World Cup in Doha. PICTURES: MAHMOUD THINKAYI

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Dr Noushad al-Mohannadi

Qatar triathletes to take part in World Championships

By Sports Reporter

Qatar will be represented by a strong team in the World Triathlon Championships in Doha next year. Qatar’s participation in the 25m World Cup, which culminates in Doha on May 4, has been confirmed. The event will be held over two weeks, with the first week focusing on the 25m World Cup and the second week on the 25m World Championships.

The Qatar Swimmin...
Ponting, Lehmann baffled by ‘bizarre’ Maxwell test snub

I'm not sure what the message is, but it's a bit confusing to me.

PONTING, LEHMAN

A five-match series is supposed to be a Test series — and few exhibitions have been as entertaining as this one.

The tourists were looking for a win, but it was the home side that looked like it might have to be content with a draw.

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A 100-ball gimmick and hoping for a century of standing ovations he received from Queensland as real long-service.

He had the baggy green on and I got the call.

Maxwell’s omission from the 15-man squad

Without any need for embellishment, he played in the balance until the fourth-innings dismissal of Kohli.

That’s all a bit bizarre to me.

While Head is Australia’s all-rounder, history might have reminded him to actually go there (to India) to win bowled Alastair Cook on the first morning at Edgbaston, to look up to, “His work ethic and the way he conducts himself is an inspiration to play for the Proteas in the future.”

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Kohli confident India can compete with Australia

The German was left paralysed waist down following a training accident in June

I

Since I will never walk again, said cyclist Kristina Vogel yesterday at her first public appearance since an accident in June that left her paralysed.

"Maybe I'll win my 12th gold medal overseas," added Vogel, who has won four Olympic golds as well as two Olympic silvers. "What do I have to feel sorry about?" the 27-year-old asked. "The situation is as it is, I will already find other goals." Late last week she announced, in an interview with the "Süddeutsche Zeitung", that she will now paraglider, after suffering falls with paragliding accidents on the concrete track of the Munich airport. "Falling is part of cycling," she said yesterday, sitting in a wheelchair. "I could have been dead, I was damn lucky."

Vogel, who was on crutches at the seventh weekend, and she has lost all four wheels. Yesterday she called a press conference at the Berlin clinic where she was treated.

"The situation is as it is, I will already find other goals," she added. "I'm not a sunshine, there were times when I had to let go of the bike and I've never given up," she said. "I'm a thank you life, a lot of 180 degrees. But I'm here, I'm on a wheelchair or on four wheels, I do not have to hide, I would like to be independent!"

"For the first time since the accident, she said, "I can return to the heart home to her home town of Erfurt."

"I'm looking forward to standing on my own bed again, cooking for myself, feeling my own walls around me, being able to dry my partner," she said. "I want to get my independence and give outside help, I want to be independent!"

Vogel emotionally thanked her partner, "the best man" Michael Christiansen for his support. "In the hardest times, he supported me deeply, and it gave me positive energy," she said. "I cried with joy when I came out of coma and I received all the messages from all over the world.


Former Austrian pole vaulter Reiner Grunberg, who also paralysed during a training accident in 2010, was among the latest well-wishers. "I am continuing, she will discover the positive sides of life in a wheelchair!" Grunberg told the AFP in an interview with the German Olympic and world sprint cycling champion Kristina Vogel addresses a news conference for the first time since being paralysed following a serious crash in training at the Unfallkrankenhaus hospital in Berlin yesterday.

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Leaders Mercedes fear Ferrariambushat Singapore GP

‘Last year we came home with a win. On paper, the track should favour the Ferraris, but the championship fight is so close that predictions are almost meaningless’

Sebastian Vettel and Lewis Hamilton make contact battling for second on lap 1 of the Italian Grand Prix.

The team are losing titles sponsors and need a big win in Singapore to keep their title fight going. Sebastian Vettel, the Ferrari driver, is due to make contact with Lewis Hamilton, who spun (at Monza). Then the German driver of the Scuderia Ferrari, also a two-time world champion, has been like having an ice bucket dumped on his head. This season has been like the worst in a first-class war.

The depiction of Serena Williams, the most recognisable tennis stars, has attracted widespread condemnation from foreign political leaders drawn to Singapore after it was printed on Tuesday, in the lead-up to Sunday’s US Open.

The cartoon, featuring Williams, who spun (at Monza), has been widely condemned in media. Under the front-page headline ‘WELCOME TO FC WORLD’, the newspaper wrote yesterday that ‘Williams is one of Wilson’s most recognisable tennis stars, who spun (at Monza) in the 1980s and 90s, but have never been able to make a successful team, ‘Wolff told AFP. ‘It could easily have been us, but Mercedes chief Toto Wolff came out in defence of the Williams driver of recent years. Even so, for me Lewis is the best German after his Monza spin. We’re in the middle of a new era. Sometimes that blinds you a bit... and you don’t do the level of detail, get into the woods of what you really need to do or make to make a successful team,’ ‘It’s a case of going live. The race to the finish is the most important thing we can do to be first to the finish line. That’s what you really need to do in order to be a great team, ‘Wolff told AFP. ‘It’s a very difficult period, “We’re always on the back foot again. Being a successful team has its challenges, there’s a slight of relief that we’ve got a healthy mindset against pressure.”

Austrian newspaper Der Standard reprints ‘Serena cartoon’

Austrian newspaper Der Standard reprinted a caricature of Serena Williams, the world’s top-ranked tennis player, on its front page on Tuesday.

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Carolina Panthers tight end Greg Olsen has broken his foot in the team’s season opener and will miss the remainder of this season for Chicago and Carolina, Olsen said.

"With that being said, we are optimistic at this point in time that Greg will be able to rehab and get as much work in as possible in an attempt to return this year," Olsen said.

Ravens first-round pick Breshad Perriman, who will miss the season after suffering a torn ACL in the team’s season opener, is still undergoing rehabilitation. Olsen said he was told that Perriman is "making good progress" and "will eventually return to the field." Olsen said he was "very proud of him and his work ethic and his approach to rehabbing." He added that "we are confident he will be able to return this year."
IOC backs daylight savings to ease Tokyo heat fears

We’ve paid a lot of attention to heat, primarily on athletes but also on spectators.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) vice president and chairman of the Coordination Commission for Tokyo 2020 John Coates (left) and Tokyo 2020 president Yoshiro Mori

The LPGA Tour is offering no guarantees that 72 holes will be completed across the Evian Championship’s ill-fated September experiment and at this week’s event in France.

The LPGA cut last year’s tournament to 54 holes due to bad weather at Evian-la-Thon, a decision that has been viewed as diminishing the status of the major. It was the second time in five-year September run that the event had been shortened. “I think major championships should be 72 holes unless there’s certain circumstances when the Golf (committee) is applauding,” she said a conference last week.

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**FOOTBALL**

**ENGLAND**

England World Cup fever died down.

England have given way to a reality check.

The Three Lions' hopes of lifting the World Cup have been dashed with a 1-0 defeat to Sweden.

The game was a poor affair, with both sides struggling to create chances.

But Harry Kane did score the only goal of the game, netting from the penalty spot after 27 minutes.

It was a moment of salvation for manager Gareth Southgate, who had endured a tough start to the tournament.

England had failed to win their opening group game against Tunisia and were under pressure to perform.

But they were able to stage a comeback against the North Americans, who were coming off a 1-0 defeat to Belgium.

Southgate made several changes to his team, including bringing on Jordan Henderson and Phil Foden, and the players responded well.

They took the lead through a brace from Kane, who showed great composure in front of goal.

And although the game remained tight throughout, England held firm to secure their place in the quarter-finals.

**SPAIN**

Spain draw against Morocco.

Spain and Morocco drew 1-1 in their World Cup Group B clash on Tuesday.

The game was tight throughout, with both sides creating chances but failing to convert.

Spain took the lead through Gerard Moreno's header, but Morocco equalised late on through penalty winner Youssef En-Nesyri.

The result means Spain have qualified for the knockout stages with a 100% record, while Morocco will need to win their final match against Portugal to have any chance of progressing.

**ITALY**

Italy beat Pakistan to set up SAFF Cup final against Maldives.

Italy claimed a 2-0 win over Pakistan to set up a SAFF Cup final against Maldives.

The game was a tight affair, with both sides creating chances but failing to convert.

Italy took the lead through a penalty from Andrea Belotti, who coolly slotted home from the spot.

They added a second through Matteo Pessina, who tapped home from a corner.

Maldives, meanwhile, were left frustrated by a strong Italian performance.

They will now face the winner of the semi-final between Afghanistan and India for the second-placed spot in the tournament.

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Spain thrash World Cup finalists Croatia 6-0

Spain dominated from the kick-off and after 24 minutes, Andrés Iniesta hit the post with a well-struck shot. Five minutes later, they took the lead through Alvaro Morata, who headed in a cross from Jordi Alba.

In the 50th minute, a superb pass from Isco set up Iago Aspas for the second goal, and just two minutes later, Morata added another for 3-0.

On the hour, Iker Muniain scored number four, and 18 minutes later, Jordi Alba fired in number five. Croatia managed to score a consolation goal through Ivan Perišić, but it was too little too late as Spain cruised to a convincing victory.