‘Superman’ al-Attiyah set to flex Dakar muscles

Qatari star will be gunning for his fourth Dakar Rally title when the event gets underway with a prologue today

AFP

Qatar’s Nasser Saleh al-Attiyah (Mini) and his co-driver Mathieu Baumel (Mini) prepare for the race’s second edition in which he will compete with a strict training regimen to build muscle adapted to coronavirus restrictions.

He set up a rally academy in Doha, the Qatari capital.

Nasser, nicknamed ‘Superman’ by his competitors for his ability to “ocean on the sand dunes”, al-Attiyah says his love of sport has transformed itself into a sporting powerhouse.

As a result of lockdown rules in Saudi Arabia with a strict training regimen to build muscle adapted to coronavirus restrictions.

Nicknamed ‘Superman’ by his competitors for his ability to “ocean on the sand dunes”, al-Attiyah says his love of sport has transformed itself into a sporting powerhouse.

Al-Attiyah is a potent sym-
**QOC BEACH GAMES**

Saeemah players celebrate after emerging as champions in the women’s beach football at the inaugural QOC Beach Games at Arad.
Guaidó confirms Man City without five players due to Covid isolation

City's training ground was temporarily closed, but reopened on Wednesday after no more new cases

Manchester City will be without five players for tomorrow's match against Chelsea due to positive tests for Covid-19, it was confirmed on Tuesday. Pep Guardiola confirmed the club's official statement in which he said the players, Ederson,,mappe, Gabriel Jesus, John Stones, and Ruben Dias were positive for the virus.

The players have been ruled out for eight weeks due to the 10-day quarantine period imposed by Premier League rules. This means that City will be unable to play in the FA Cup third round against West Ham United on Wednesday as they will be unable to provide substitutes.

Guardiola confirmed that the match being called off is just four and a half weeks away from the Cup semi-final against Manchester United. He said the decision to postpone Monday's clash with Everton was made to ensure the safety of the players, managers, and fans.

The London-born Spaniard added that he expects the players to be available for the match against the Red Devils later in the month.

The club had previously suspended training and returned to the ground on Wednesday after no new positive tests were reported. Guardiola said he was “satisfied” with the club's response to the outbreak and that he was “positive” about the players' ability to return to action shortly.

The club's official statement read: “The club can confirm that five players have tested positive for COVID-19 following tests conducted last Friday.

“Due to the current Premier League guidelines, these players are required to isolate for 10 days. This means that they will not be available for selection until the 9th of January at the earliest.

“City are currently awaiting confirmation from the league authorities as to whether we have been able to complete the fixture.

“Should the players complete their period of isolation successfully, they will be available for selection for our next fixture against Chelsea on the 31st of January.

“City would like to thank all of our fans for their understanding and support during this isolated period.”
Haaland back in action as Bundesliga returns from mini-break

Dortmund are eight points behind leaders Bayern and two behind tomorrow’s opponents Wolfsburg.

By Ewan Murray

B

onsta Dortmund striker Erling Braut Haaland’s return is timely, with his side desperate need of a win after suffering a further shock defeat last time out. The 21-year-old Norwegian has missed the last four league games and the last seven in all competitions after picking up a hamstring injury in early December. Yet the 20-year-old remains to be tuned in this week, and his return is the only positive news for manager Edin Terzic, who confirmed that he would be back to full fitness in the next “week or two.”

Haaland’s return may come too late for his side to be able to close the gap on the leaders, who have had just a week off in the shortest winter break in the league’s history. “Yet we have had a week to recover and end well,” said Haaland, who has scored 17 goals in all competitions this season. “The most important thing is that we start well and end well,” he added.

In a season squashed by the coronavirus pandemic, many Bundesliga clubs have had just a week off in the shortest winter break in the league’s history. Before their pre-Christmas cup tie was postponed, Terzic had expected fans to have an extra week to recover, while Azpilicueta and his team-mates had two full days of training at the top of the table and will be keen to make up for lost time after sitting out six games. Mainz parted ways with their coach and sporting director last month, and Haaland’s return is timely.

The German Professional Football League’s handling of this exceptional circumstance, focus switched. ‘We haven’t been the best version of ourselves but I believe we are evolving,’ he said. ‘It seems Team of the Season awards have come at just the right moment.’

First there was a changing of the guard at bitter rivals Schalke, whose legendary goalkeeper, who has been ruled out of this year’s Champions League group stage with a knee injury. Then followed a club record fee of up to £80m for the new coronavi...
Jae Crowder shook off a sluggish shooting start and took control late, leading the host Houston Rockets to a 122-119 victory over the Utah Jazz on Wednesday night.

Harden finished with 33 points and nine assists, and he had a hand in the final 16 points for the Rockets, who won for the first time this season.

John Wall added 12 points and nine assists in his debut for the Rockets. Russell Westbrook had 23 points and 12 rebounds before injuring his knee in the fourth quarter and being ruled out.

Crowder finished with 15 points, six rebounds and three steals in 29 minutes of his first start with Houston.

"We didn’t do it out of respect," Rockets forward F.J. Wright said. "We did it just to win because we were playing like we knew we could win. We’ve been shooting the ball like we know what we’re capable of doing, so we just wanted to show it tonight.

Ronnie Neves added 10 points as the Jazz were limited to a season-low 12 field goals.

Jeremy Lamb, who had nine points and nine rebounds while connecting on 5-of-11 from behind the arc (45.5%), scored 21 points and nine rebounds while making 4-of-6 from behind the arc (66.7%).

Ingram wasn’t much of a factor in the second half after scoring 17 in the opening frames, finishing with 20 points on 7-for-12 shooting.

"We had a lot of stops, a lot of steals, a lot of good defense," Nets guard Joe Harris said. "We turned the ball over late, but we still did enough to win the game."
Will Rodgers depart Packers after an MVP-calibre season? Will Belichick leave New England before it turns ugly? There’s no shortage of meaty plotsline

By David Connolly
The Guardian

T he NFL’s general attitude towards the fans who pay to watch their club on TV is: keep our facility closed for the fans to support their team; keep our facility closed for the fans; keep our facility closed for the fans to the biggest and baddest and most watched in the lockout. Some precautions were taken. Precautions that backfired. It made it all the more obvious that there was a viable solution. The NFL has now said they would instead work through the current coronavirus protocol to keep the games on the air, that the team had obviously been doing all along. They’re not going to give up. They’re not going to abandon their market. They’re not going to abandon their fans. They’re not going to abandon their season.

So far, they’ve said they would not abandon their season. But for the first time, the NFL has said they would not abandon their season. It’s a real thing that happened.

In that last yard of the draft, the Browns selected Justin Fields from Georgia. For the first time in NFL history, a team selected a quarterback with the number one pick.

That was a historic moment.

It was a moment that spoke to the future.

It was a moment that spoke to the significance.

It was a moment that spoke to the impact.

It was a moment that spoke to the importance.

It was a moment that spoke to the magnitude.

It was a moment that spoke to the potential.

It was a moment that spoke to the future.

It was a moment that spoke to the significance.

It was a moment that spoke to the impact.

It was a moment that spoke to the importance.

It was a moment that spoke to the magnitude.

It was a moment that spoke to the potential.

It was a moment that spoke to the future.

It was a moment that spoke to the significance.

It was a moment that spoke to the impact.

It was a moment that spoke to the importance.

It was a moment that spoke to the magnitude.

It was a moment that spoke to the potential.

It was a moment that spoke to the future.

It was a moment that spoke to the significance.

It was a moment that spoke to the impact.

It was a moment that spoke to the importance.

It was a moment that spoke to the magnitude.

It was a moment that spoke to the potential.

It was a moment that spoke to the future.

It was a moment that spoke to the significance.

It was a moment that spoke to the impact.

It was a moment that spoke to the importance.

It was a moment that spoke to the magnitude.

It was a moment that spoke to the potential.

It was a moment that spoke to the future.

It was a moment that spoke to the significance.

It was a moment that spoke to the impact.

It was a moment that spoke to the importance.

It was a moment that spoke to the magnitude.

It was a moment that spoke to the potential.

It was a moment that spoke to the future.

It was a moment that spoke to the significance.

It was a moment that spoke to the impact.

It was a moment that spoke to the importance.

It was a moment that spoke to the magnitude.

It was a moment that spoke to the potential.

It was a moment that spoke to the future.

It was a moment that spoke to the significance.

It was a moment that spoke to the impact.

It was a moment that spoke to the importance.

It was a moment that spoke to the magnitude.

It was a moment that spoke to the potential.

It was a moment that spoke to the future.

It was a moment that spoke to the significance.

It was a moment that spoke to the impact.

It was a moment that spoke to the importance.

It was a moment that spoke to the magnitude.

It was a moment that spoke to the potential.

It was a moment that spoke to the future.

It was a moment that spoke to the significance.

It was a moment that spoke to the impact.

It was a moment that spoke to the importance.

It was a moment that spoke to the magnitude.

It was a moment that spoke to the potential.

It was a moment that spoke to the future.

It was a moment that spoke to the significance.

It was a moment that spoke to the impact.

It was a moment that spoke to the importance.

It was a moment that spoke to the magnitude.

It was a moment that spoke to the potential.

It was a moment that spoke to the future.

It was a moment that spoke to the significance.

It was a moment that spoke to the impact.

It was a moment that spoke to the importance.

It was a moment that spoke to the magnitude.

It was a moment that spoke to the potential.

It was a moment that spoke to the future.

It was a moment that spoke to the significance.

It was a moment that spoke to the impact.

It was a moment that spoke to the importance.

It was a moment that spoke to the magnitude.

It was a moment that spoke to the potential.

It was a moment that spoke to the future.

It was a moment that spoke to the significance.

It was a moment that spoke to the impact.

It was a moment that spoke to the importance.

It was a moment that spoke to the magnitude.

It was a moment that spoke to the potential.

It was a moment that spoke to the future.

It was a moment that spoke to the significance.

It was a moment that spoke to the impact.

It was a moment that spoke to the importance.

It was a moment that spoke to the magnitude.

It was a moment that spoke to the potential.

It was a moment that spoke to the future.

It was a moment that spoke to the significance.

It was a moment that spoke to the impact.

It was a moment that spoke to the importance.

It was a moment that spoke to the magnitude.

It was a moment that spoke to the potential.

It was a moment that spoke to the future.

It was a moment that spoke to the significance.

It was a moment that spoke to the impact.

It was a moment that spoke to the importance.

It was a moment that spoke to the magnitude.

It was a moment that spoke to the potential.

It was a moment that spoke to the future.

It was a moment that spoke to the significance.

It was a moment that spoke to the impact.

It was a moment that spoke to the importance.

It was a moment that spoke to the magnitude.

It was a moment that spoke to the potential.

It was a moment that spoke to the future.

It was a moment that spoke to the significance.

It was a moment that spoke to the impact.

It was a moment that spoke to the importance.

It was a moment that spoke to the magnitude.

It was a moment that spoke to the potential.

It was a moment that spoke to the future.

It was a moment that spoke to the significance.

It was a moment that spoke to the impact.

It was a moment that spoke to the importance.

It was a moment that spoke to the magnitude.

It was a moment that spoke to the potential.

It was a moment that spoke to the future.

It was a moment that spoke to the significance.

It was a moment that spoke to the impact.

It was a moment that spoke to the importance.

It was a moment that spoke to the magnitude.

It was a moment that spoke to the potential.

It was a moment that spoke to the future.

It was a moment that spoke to the significance.

It was a moment that spoke to the impact.

It was a moment that spoke to the importance.

It was a moment that spoke to the magnitude.

It was a moment that spoke to the potential.

It was a moment that spoke to the future.

It was a moment that spoke to the significance.

It was a moment that spoke to the impact.

It was a moment that spoke to the importance.

It was a moment that spoke to the magnitude.

It was a moment that spoke to the potential.

It was a moment that spoke to the future.

It was a moment that spoke to the significance.

It was a moment that spoke to the impact.

It was a moment that spoke to the importance.

It was a moment that spoke to the magnitude.

It was a moment that spoke to the potential.

It was a moment that spoke to the future.

It was a moment that spoke to the significance.

It was a moment that spoke to the impact.

It was a moment that spoke to the importance.

It was a moment that spoke to the magnitude.

It was a moment that spoke to the potential.

It was a moment that spoke to the future.

It was a moment that spoke to the significance.

It was a moment that spoke to the impact.

It was a moment that spoke to the importance.

It was a moment that spoke to the magnitude.

It was a moment that spoke to the potential.

It was a moment that spoke to the future.

It was a moment that spoke to the significance.

It was a moment that spoke to the impact.

It was a moment that spoke to the importance.

It was a moment that spoke to the magnitude.

It was a moment that spoke to the potential.

It was a moment that spoke to the future.

It was a moment that spoke to the significance.

It was a moment that spoke to the impact.

It was a moment that spoke to the importance.

It was a moment that spoke to the magnitude.

It was a moment that spoke to the potential.

It was a moment that spoke to the future.

It was a moment that spoke to the significance.

It was a moment that spoke to the impact.

It was a moment that spoke to the importance.

It was a moment that spoke to the magnitude.

It was a moment that spoke to the potential.

It was a moment that spoke to the future.

It was a moment that spoke to the significance.

It was a moment that spoke to the impact.

It was a moment that spoke to the importance.

It was a moment that spoke to the magnitude.

It was a moment that spoke to the potential.

It was a moment that spoke to the future.

It was a moment that spoke to the significance.

It was a moment that spoke to the impact.

It was a moment that spoke to the importance.

It was a moment that spoke to the magnitude.

It was a moment that spoke to the potential.

It was a moment that spoke to the future.

It was a moment that spoke to the significance.

It was a moment that spoke to the impact.

It was a moment that spoke to the importance.

It was a moment that spoke to the magnitude.

It was a moment that spoke to the potential.

It was a moment that spoke to the future.

It was a moment that spoke to the significance.

It was a moment that spoke to the impact.

It was a moment that spoke to the importance.

It was a moment that spoke to the magnitude.

It was a moment that spoke to the potential.

It was a moment that spoke to the future.

It was a moment that spoke to the significance.

It was a moment that spoke to the impact.

It was a moment that spoke to the importance.

It was a moment that spoke to the magnitude.

It was a moment that spoke to the potential.

It was a moment that spoke to the future.

It was a moment that spoke to the significance.

It was a moment that spoke to the impact.

It was a moment that spoke to the importance.

It was a moment that spoke to the magnitude.

It was a moment that spoke to the potential.

It was a moment that spoke to the future.

It was a moment that spoke to the significance.

It was a moment that spoke to the impact.
Sharma picked as vice-captain for last two Tests

Rohit has not played a Test match since November last year when he featured in India's first pink-ball Test against Bangladesh

Rohit Sharma, who opened his second consecutive day-training at the Melbourne Cricket Ground yesterday as the rest of the Indian team relaxed following its victory over Australia, has returned to attend the birth of his child.

Rohit, who has not played any competitive cricket since leading Mumbai Indians to Indian Premier League (IPL) last month, had flown home to India on November 26, ahead of the ODI series, that he had not been kept abreast with batting's progress.

India's second-string Test against New Zealand begins today, the last of a three-match Test series.

"Rohit has returned to attend the birth of his child," India selector MSK Prasad said.

He landed in Melbourne from Sydney on Monday and had a couple of days of practice on Thursday and yesterday even as the rest of the Indian team relaxed following its victory over Australia in the Boxing Day Test which ended on the fourth day of the Test, in Melbourne.

Rohit has not played a Test match since November last year when he featured in India's first pink-ball Test against Bangladesh.

"Rohit has not played any competitive cricket since leading Mumbai Indians to Indian Premier League (IPL) last month, had flown home to India on November 26, ahead of the ODI series, that he had not been kept abreast with batting's progress."

Sharma's selection for the Australia series followed last month's announcement that he had not been kept abreast with batting's progress.

For the signature French food speciality, players to show us around the city. We would have dinner at different restaurants around the city but also sometimes have a picnic, which is a nice change of pace from different people's houses as we try and invite guests from the team," Lam said.

"My favourite thing here is the foie gras. I almost ate a whole packet. Surprisingly it was really good."

"I'm good because he has an attacking mindset. For us he's always looking for the next boundary," said ahead of this weekend's home clash with Tricolore.

"He's got a really similar hockey to how they play back home. He's still as young as he was in the first Test," said Raina.

"I am optimistic these competitions as well as the highly-im- prove, advancement and comprehensive training of these youngsters to mature and transition into top performers across all formats," said Men.

"I think they've really held the line at the back. They've made us face a lot of pressure and start speaking French and starting to feel like we need to break into the language. For us he's always wanting to help the French and be a part of their preparations for the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup Qualifier 2021."
Al-Qahtani cruises to Medium Tour win with Hidiene

For the first time this season, Hathab was held at Al Shaqab with the previous six rounds held at Qatar Equestrian Federation’s indoor arena

SPOTLIGHT

India include Natarajan in Test squad for Bangladesh tour

Sydney: India named leg-spinner Chandra Nair as the replacement for injured pacer Umesh Yadav for the two Tests against Bangladesh. Yadav, who tested positive for COVID-19 ahead of the tour, is still recovering from a side strain.

Natarajan, who was picked in the Test squad for the recently-concluded Australia series, was included as Umesh’s replacement. He has played all his previous first-class cricket in Andhra Pradesh and has Morgan, who will be a key player in the Test series with his left-arm spin bowling, and Steven Smith, who has not played a Test for Australia in almost a year, included in the squad.

India’s squad for the Test series:

- KL Rahul (captain), Rohit Sharma, Shubman Gill
- Mayank Agarwal, Cheteshwar Pujara, Ajinkya Rahane, Wriddhiman Saha (wkt)
- Rishabh Pant, Hanuma Vihari, Chetan Sakariya, Shreyas Iyer
- Jasprit Bumrah, Shami, Washington Sundar, Axar Patel
- Kuldeep Yadav, Chandra Nair, Ravindra Jadeja, Ravichandran Ashwin
- Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Deepak Chahar
- Mohammed Siraj

The tour will be a crucial one for India as they look to strengthen their Test team after a string of series losses. The series against Bangladesh will be an opportunity for young players to cement their places in the squad ahead of future challenging assignments.

Indonesia

Indonesia’s soccer team will face the Philippines in the final round of the 2022 FIFA World Cup Asian qualifier on Thursday. Indonesia has already secured the top two spots in the group, setting up a path to the World Cup for the first time in their history.

Australia

Australia’s women’s cricket team will play New Zealand in the first T20I of a three-match series at Sydney’s WACA Ground on Thursday. The game is being held in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and to ensure the health and safety of the players.

Eckhaya then added: “We were very pleased with the performance of our players. They showed great determination and played with a lot of heart.”

For Sydney: Andy Pycroft

SPORT

Fitness key for South Africa and Sri Lanka

F

Bath will not play as a name role as when Hungerford took charge of Bath in the new season. Ahead of the opening Test against Sri Lanka, Bath revealed their team selection for the match at the Recreation Ground.

England all clear to embark on Sri Lanka tour

England will fly to Sri Lanka today for their two-Test series after all the touring party tested negative for coronavirus, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) said.

The squad will immediately undertake two weeks of quarantine and training in Southampton, during which time they will attend two Tests. The county side welcomes three players from the England squad for the Test and in all-returnable-three times.

“Following the Covid-19 testing on 30 December, the touring party for the Sri Lanka Test tour have all tested negative,” an ECB spokesperson said.

The tour was originally scheduled for last March but had to be postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

ECB chief executive Tom Harrison said: “We are delighted to see the team depart for the tour of Sri Lanka. This is a great opportunity for the players to build on the momentum from the winter and to give us a great start to the domestic season in 2021.”

The ECB has been working closely with the Sri Lanka Cricket board to ensure that the tour can proceed safely during the ongoing coronavirus crisis. The tour will take place under strict biosecurity protocols.

The first Test against Sri Lanka will be played at the Pallekele International Cricket Stadium in Kandy from January 8, with the second Test at the P. Sara Oval in Colombo from January 16.

India

India’s team for the Test series against Bangladesh was announced on Monday, with Chandra Nair included as a replacement for Umesh Yadav. The team is due to depart for Bangladesh on December 26.

The uncapped Natarajan joined the Indian team as a potential replacement for Yadav, who tested positive for COVID-19 ahead of the tour. Natarajan has played all of his previous first-class cricket in Andhra Pradesh and has the potential to challenge veteran spinner Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Steven Smith, who has not played a Test for Australia in almost a year, in the upcoming series.

The tour will be a crucial one for India as they look to strengthen their Test team after a string of series losses. The series against Bangladesh will be an opportunity for young players to cement their places in the squad ahead of future challenging assignments.

For the first time this season, Hathab was held at Al Shaqab with the previous six rounds held at Qatar Equestrian Federation’s indoor arena

By Sports Reporter

F


dquo;I am aware of his determination,” he said.  “He has worked hard to develop his game and he is ready to take on new challenges. We are confident in his ability to perform well in the Tests against Sri Lanka and we look forward to seeing him发挥 his potential.”

For the first time this season, Hathab was held at Al Shaqab with the previous six rounds held at Qatar Equestrian Federation’s indoor arena.

The team competition was won by Limited Edition Cars, while Al-Qahtani combined with Naif al-Masoudi, producing the highest total in South Africa.

The team competition was won by Limited Edition Cars, which included Mohammed Khalifa Albaker, and Mohammed Saud Al-Musallam, who tied 21:14 and 24:27.

The team competition was won by Limited Edition Cars, which included Mohammed Khalifa Albaker, and Mohammed Saud Al-Musallam, who tied 21:14 and 24:27.

The team competition was won by Limited Edition Cars, which included Mohammed Khalifa Albaker, and Mohammed Saud Al-Musallam, who tied 21:14 and 24:27.

The team competition was won by Limited Edition Cars, which included Mohammed Khalifa Albaker, and Mohammed Saud Al-Musallam, who tied 21:14 and 24:27.

The team competition was won by Limited Edition Cars, which included Mohammed Khalifa Albaker, and Mohammed Saud Al-Musallam, who tied 21:14 and 24:27.

The team competition was won by Limited Edition Cars, which included Mohammed Khalifa Albaker, and Mohammed Saud Al-Musallam, who tied 21:14 and 24:27.

The team competition was won by Limited Edition Cars, which included Mohammed Khalifa Albaker, and Mohammed Saud Al-Musallam, who tied 21:14 and 24:27.

The team competition was won by Limited Edition Cars, which included Mohammed Khalifa Albaker, and Mohammed Saud Al-Musallam, who tied 21:14 and 24:27.

The team competition was won by Limited Edition Cars, which included Mohammed Khalifa Albaker, and Mohammed Saud Al-Musallam, who tied 21:14 and 24:27.

The team competition was won by Limited Edition Cars, which included Mohammed Khalifa Albaker, and Mohammed Saud Al-Musallam, who tied 21:14 and 24:27.