

Rosberg ends F1 season with third win in a row

BY ALAN BALDWIN
REUTERS

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates — Nico Rosberg wrapped up the Formula One season on a winning high in Abu Dhabi on Sunday with teammate and triple world champion Lewis Hamilton second in a record 12th one-two finish of the year for dominant Mercedes.

AUTO RACING

The German's third win in a row, from a sixth successive pole position, dashed Hamilton's hopes of a 44th career victory in car 44 on the 44th anniversary of the founding of the United Arab Emirates.

The Briton, who clinched the title in Texas last month with three races to spare, finished 8.2 seconds behind after an attempt at a different strategy failed to produce the desired result.

The win was the 16th in 19 races for Mercedes.

"Austin (in Texas) was a tough weekend and since then I've just come back a lot stronger," said Rosberg from the podium after spraying the sparkling rosewater used

instead of the usual champagne.

"I'm excited about how the end of the season went and next year — it can come any moment, it could start tomorrow if it were up to me, no problem. I don't need any holidays."

Hamilton had asked over the team radio with 15 laps to go whether he could go to the end having made only one pit stop to Rosberg's two but was left in no doubt that such a move would not work.

He then pitted on the next lap, any hopes of a wheel-to-wheel battle over the final laps effectively disappearing into the night as he did so.

"In hindsight, once Nico had pitted I probably would have backed off a little bit and gone a bit longer...As that didn't work out, the stop, going too long was probably not the right thing to do, but we gave it a try," he said.

Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen took third place ahead of teammate Sebastian Vettel, who started 15th, for only the Finn's third podium appearance of the season.

Rosberg's win was his sixth of the season, 14th of his career, and a hat-trick first for the German who had



HAMAD I MOHAMMED | REUTERS

Mercedes Formula One driver Nico Rosberg of Germany celebrates after winning the Abu Dhabi F1 Grand Prix at the Yas Marina circuit in Abu Dhabi on Sunday.

never before managed to win three races in a row.

Hamilton ended the championship with 10 victories, one fewer than in 2014, but he took more poles and fastest laps than anyone else.

"It's always tough to race Lewis, he's doing an awesome job," said Rosberg. "So it's an even better feeling to win. It's a great battle internally all the time, that's what I race for and I

look forward to more next year."

Mexican Sergio Perez finished fifth, with Australian Daniel Ricciardo sixth for Red Bull and splitting the Force India cars with Ger-

many's Nico Hulkenberg seventh.

Brazilian Felipe Massa took eighth place for Williams, ahead of Frenchman Romain Grosjean in ninth in his final race for Lotus before moving to 2016 newcomers Haas.

Russian Daniil Kvyat secured the final point for Red Bull.

Rosberg, who made a clean start and was never threatened, was only the second driver to win the day-to-night floodlit race from pole position since Abu Dhabi first appeared on the calendar in 2009.

Hamilton was comparatively slow off the mark on an opening lap that saw McLaren's Fernando Alonso collide with Lotus's Pastor Maldonado.

The Venezuelan retired while Alonso, who cannot end McLaren's worst-ever season fast enough, was given a drive-through penalty.

Finland's Valtteri Bottas also fell foul of the stewards when Williams released him into the path of Alonso's teammate Jenson Button at the first pit stops, with the Finn losing half his front wing in the impact.



LEE SMITH | REUTERS

Tyson Fury (left) and defending champ Wladimir Klitschko exchange punches during heavyweight title fight Saturday at Espirt Arena in Dusseldorf, Germany.

Fury crowned world heavyweight champ

REUTERS

DUESSELDORF, Germany — Underdog Tyson Fury recorded a huge boxing upset on Saturday, stunning Wladimir Klitschko with a points victory to snatch the champion's four titles and become the first Briton to hold a world heavyweight crown since 2011.

BOXING

Undefeated Fury, who improved his record to 25-0 and now has the WBA, WBO, IBF and IBO belts, was never troubled by the 39-year-old Ukrainian who suffered his first loss in 11 years and has already demanded a rematch.

"He's been a great champion, but every good dog has its day," challenger Fury told a 50,000 crowd at Dusseldorf's Esprit Arena.

"Tonight is that start of a new era. I will be the most charismatic champion since Muhammad Ali," he said before serenading his wife in the crowd with a song by American band Aerosmith.

"I worked for six months for this in the gym, it's a dream come true," Fury said while draped in his new world title belts and unable to hold back the tears.

The fight, postponed once due to a Klitschko injury, almost did not take place with Fury's team complaining earlier on Saturday over the thick ring canvas that they claimed limited his movement.

Modifications were made

and Fury, quick, despite his height, was better from the start, showing no problems with the new canvas.

He kept landing left-right combinations with Klitschko, not used to fighting taller men than him, struggling with Fury's reach.

Klitschko managed to get close with a few good left jabs in the second round but Fury landed a powerful right, pushing the Ukrainian back.

Fury, constantly changing between southpaw and orthodox stance, kept chipping away at Klitschko's defenses with his combinations and by the eighth round the champion was bleeding from a cheek wound.

Fury, who shed 32 kilos in five months to get in shape for the fight, landed a bruising left uppercut in the ninth that wounded Klitschko's right eye.

Sensing the titles slipping away, Klitschko threw everything he had in the final round in search for a knockout but ended up losing on all three of the judges' scorecards, putting an end to his winning run that stretched back to 2004.

"Tyson really stepped on the gas," said a disappointed Klitschko, fighting in front of a home crowd with his base in Germany.

"I was missing my speed today and I struggled with his reach.

"I knew I was behind and had to land the punches. I tried but it did not work."

Lakers' Bryant plans to retire at end of season

BY FRANK PINGUE
REUTERS

Los Angeles Lakers great Kobe Bryant, arguably the best player of his generation, announced on Sunday he will retire after the 2015-16 National Basketball Association season.

Bryant, who is struggling through the worst season of his illustrious 20-year career with the Los Angeles Lakers, said in a piece posted on the Players' Tribune website that "I'm ready to let go."

The decision was not totally unexpected as the 37-year-old Lakers guard has been plagued by injuries

in recent seasons and had recently said he was considering retirement.

"I can't love you obsessively for much longer. This season is all I have left to give," wrote Bryant. "My heart can take the pounding, my mind can handle the grind, but my body knows it's time to say goodbye."

Bryant, a surefire first-ballot Hall of Famer who is third on the NBA's all-time scoring list, has a career-worst 31.5 shooting percentage through his first 12 games of the season on a Lakers team that has the second worst record in the league.

Bryant was drafted out of

Oklahoma moves to No. 3 in AP poll

THE SPORTS XCHANGE

No. 1 Clemson and No. 2 Alabama stayed atop the Associated Press top 25 college football rankings released Sunday, but Oklahoma moved up from No. 5 to No. 3 after its 58-23 victory over Oklahoma State on Saturday.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL ROUNDUP

The Sooners (11-1) jumped ahead of unbeaten Iowa, which was No. 4 this week after getting by Nebraska 28-20. Iowa will face No. 5 Michigan State in the Big Ten championship game.

Ohio State moved up from No. 8 to No. 6 after beating Michigan 42-13 in its final regular-season game.

Stanford advanced five spots to No. 7 after beating Notre Dame 38-36, and North Carolina jumped three spots to No. 8.

Notre Dame dropped to No. 9 and Oklahoma State fell to No. 14.

This week's College Football Playoff rankings will be released Tuesday night. The final CFP rankings, which will be released Dec. 6, will be used to determine the four teams that will participate in the national championship playoff.

Stanford 38, Notre Dame 36

STANFORD, California — Conrad Ukropina kicked a 45-yard field goal on the game's final play to give No. 9 Stanford a riveting 38-36 victory over No. 6 Notre Dame on Saturday night at Stanford Stadium.

The loss ended Notre Dame's bid for a berth in the College Football Playoff and kept Stanford's slim hopes alive.

Notre Dame (10-2) seemed to have the game won when DeShone Kizer scored on a 2-yard run with 30 seconds left, giving the Irish a 36-35 lead. But a facemask penalty against Notre Dame and a 27-yard pass from Kevin Hogan to Devon

Cajuste set up Ukropina for the winning kick, which represented the eighth lead change of the game.

Hogan was 17 of 21 for 269 yards, four touchdowns and no interceptions, and Christian McCaffrey rushed for 94 yards.

Stanford will play Southern California next Saturday in the Pac-12 championship game in Santa Clara, Calif.

No. 1 Clemson 37, South Carolina 22

COLUMBIA, South Carolina — Deshaun Watson rushed for 114 yards and three touchdowns and threw for 279 yards and another score as Clemson held off rival South Carolina.

Clemson extended the nation's longest winning streak to 15 games with its first victory at South Carolina since 2007.

The Tigers, who are 12-0 for the first time since winning their first and only national title in 1981, will face North Carolina in the Atlantic Coast Conference Championship Game next Saturday in Charlotte, N.C.

South Carolina finished 3-9, ending its season with five consecutive losses under interim head coach Shawn Elliott, who took over when Steve Spurrier resigned on Oct. 13. It was the Gamecocks' first losing season since 2003.

No. 2 Alabama 29, Auburn 13

Derrick Henry rushed for a career-high 271 yards on a school-record 46 carries and scored a touchdown while perhaps wrapping up the Heisman Trophy as Alabama defeated Auburn to win the SEC West Division title in the Iron Bowl.

Henry tied Herschel Walker and Bo Jackson for the most 200-yard games in a season in SEC history after his fourth in his last five conference games.

The Crimson Tide face No. 12 Florida in the SEC title game next Saturday.

Adam Griffith kicked an Iron Bowl-record and career-

high five field goals, including four in a touchdown-free first half as the Crimson Tide led 12-6 at the break.

No. 5 Michigan State 55, Penn State 16

EAST LANSING, Michigan — Connor Cook returned from a one-game absence to throw three touchdown passes and Michigan State advanced the Big Ten championship game after routing Penn State.

The Spartans, who upset Ohio State 17-14 a week earlier and won East Division's head-to-head tiebreaker, will face No. 4 Iowa in Indianapolis on Saturday night. The victor will almost assuredly be selected for the College Football Playoff.

Cook, who missed the win over the Buckeyes with a shoulder injury, passed for 248 yards and broke Kirk Cousins' school record of 9,004 yards of total offense. Aaron Burbridge caught six passes for 75 yards and a score. Demetrius Cox returned a fumble 77 yards for a touchdown and Malik McDowell scored on a 13-yard interception return.

No. 3 Oklahoma 58, No. 11 Oklahoma State 23

STILLWATER, Oklahoma — Oklahoma made its final case for a berth in the College Football Playoff, beating Oklahoma State in front of 58,231 at Boone Pickens Stadium.

With their regular season over, the Sooners must wait to see whether or not they're included in the field. Oklahoma looked to be in good shape with a Bedlam win. With Notre Dame's loss to Stanford, the Sooners seem virtually assured of a spot.

Oklahoma made its final case with a huge offensive night, with Samaje Perine and Joe Mixon combining to rush for 267

yards and four touchdowns, a solid performance by Baker Mayfield and 10 catches — one for a touchdown — by Sterling Shepard.

No. 8 Ohio State 42, No. 10 Michigan 13

ANN ARBOR, Michigan — One week after struggling against Michigan State, the Buckeyes dominated archrival Michigan to spoil Jim Harbaugh's debut in one of college football's most storied rivalries.

Ezekiel Elliott rushed for 214 yards and two touchdowns, and quarterback J.T. Barrett added 139 yards on the ground, 113 yards passing and four total touchdowns. The Buckeyes have won 11 of the past 12 games in the series.

Harbaugh, a former Michigan quarterback who tormented Ohio State in the 1980s, was attempting to continue an odd trend — seven of the previous eight Wolverines coaches won their first meeting against the Buckeyes. Instead, Michigan had no answer for Ohio State's rushing attack. The Buckeyes piled up 371 yards rushing and five touchdowns on the ground.

No. 13 Florida State 27, No. 12 Florida 2

GAINESVILLE, Florida — Florida State used a stifling defense that kept Florida off the scoreboard other than a safety and the Seminoles broke loose for a big fourth quarter before a record crowd of 90,916.

The first half was a defensive struggle, with neither team having much success moving the ball.

Florida State's Dalvin Cook exploded in the fourth quarter after he was held to 33 yards through three quarters. He rushed for 150 yards in the final 15 minutes to finish with 183.

Georgia, Richt mutually agree to part ways

THE SPORTS XCHANGE

Mark Richt is out after 15 seasons as head football coach of the Georgia Bulldogs.

Athletic director Greg McGarity announced Sunday that the university and Richt had mutually agreed to part ways.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL NOTEBOOK

Richt is 145-51 at Georgia and has two SEC titles but failed to win the weak East division three years in a row. The Bulldogs finished 9-3 this season but lost the three games that mattered to fans: Alabama, Tennessee and Florida.

"Coach Richt and I met Sunday morning to discuss the status of our football program," McGarity said in a statement, "and we mutually agreed that he would step down as head coach and would have the opportunity to accept other duties and responsibilities at UGA following the bowl game."

Georgia will owe Richt a buyout of \$4.1 million, according to the contract extension he signed in January. He has yet to sign the contract, but McGarity said the school would honor the deal.

Richt, 55, led the Bulldogs to a 13-7 victory over rival Georgia Tech on Saturday.

"I appreciate the opportunity of serving the University as well as considering any other options that may present themselves in the future," Richt said Sunday in the school statement.

Rutgers fires coach, AD

One day after a 46-41 loss to Maryland ended a controversial 4-8 season for Rutgers, the Scarlet Knights made sweeping changes, firing coach Kyle Flood and athletic director Julie Hermann.

University president Robert Barchi said in a letter to the Rutgers community that former Seton Hall athletic director Patrick Hobbs would serve as interim athletic director.

Norries Wilson was named interim head coach to lead "the off-season program," Barchi said, noting a search would be conducted to find a full-time replacement.

Flood had a record of 27-24 in four seasons at Rutgers, but the team was just 4-12 in two years of Big Ten conference play, including 1-7 this season.

Hermann was reportedly forced to resign.

Campbell to coach Iowa State

Matt Campbell is leaving Toledo to become Iowa State's next football coach.

Campbell will replace Paul Rhoads, who posted a 32-55 record in seven seasons with the Cyclones. Iowa State finished with a 3-9 record this season after a 30-6 loss to West Virginia on Saturday.

"I couldn't be more excited to receive the opportunity to coach at Iowa State," Campbell said in a statement released by Iowa State. "Two years ago after we played the Cyclones in Ames, I called my

wife (Erica) and said you simply would not believe this place. Their fans, the game-day environment and facilities are all incredible. I could see us living in Ames and me coaching the Cyclones some day. My family and I are truly humbled."

The 36-year-old Campbell wrapped up his fourth year at Toledo, where he had a 35-15 record and his teams finished 24-8 in the Mid-American Conference.

Cavs' London resigns

Mike London resigned as head coach of the Virginia Cavaliers, athletic director Craig Littlepage announced.

London went 27-46 in five seasons at Virginia. He will receive \$2.7 million after reaching a financial agreement with the university. His contract was set to expire after the 2016 season.

The Cavaliers finished 4-8 this season after a 23-20 loss to Virginia Tech on Saturday.