



German Ferrari driver Michael Schumacher celebrates on the podium of the Nevers Magny-Cours racetrack after the Grand Prix of France, 16 July 2006 in Magny-Cours, center of France. He won the race ahead of Renault Spanish driver Fernando Alonso and Ferrari Brazilian driver Felipe Massa.

FORMULA 1

Schumacher crashes record

REUTERS, Magny-Cours, France

Ferrari's Michael Schumacher made Formula One history in France on Sunday, becoming the first driver to win the same grand prix eight times.

Schumacher's commanding victory, from pole position on a sweltering afternoon at Magny-Cours, left the seven-times champion 17 points adrift of Renault's Fernando Alonso with seven races remaining.

Spaniard Alonso, the runaway winner in France last year on his way to becoming the sport's youngest world champion, took second place.

Schumacher crossed the line 10.131 seconds clear of the field, lapping all but the top seven, for his 150th appearance on the podium.

"Looking at this race...we clearly have made up ground," said Schumacher. "It (the championship) is far from being over.

"Obviously it's going to be a

battle in development but it's a great result when you see this weekend and how difficult it has been at times."

Brazilian Felipe Massa was third for Ferrari, with both Ferraris making three pit stops -- one more than Alonso -- in a race without major incident.

It was the 88th win in Schumacher's career, his fourth of the season and eighth at Magny-Cours.

"We had a great start and we drove our race from there," said Schumacher. "We were not sure how the race would go because we didn't do any long runs (in practice).

"So it was a little bit of a guess how the race would go but I have to say that the car, the tyres, the whole package really worked perfectly."

The German thanked his mechanics for a great job after his car caught fire in Saturday's free practice, an incident that the team played down at the time as they

raced to make repairs before qualifying.

Schumacher's history-making achievement was not the sort that the yellow-and-blue-shirted fans crowding the grandstands had hoped to see, 100 years after Renault won the first French Grand Prix at Le Mans.

After Italy's World Cup final success over France in Schumacher's native Germany last Sunday, an Italian team had once again dashed French hopes with Ferrari dominant in Renault's home race.

Alonso put the result into perspective, however.

"To be second, on a difficult weekend for us, is a perfect result," said the Spaniard, who pushed Massa hard into the first corner but then had to wait until the pitstops to go past.

"It was close, I was nearly on the grass at one point so I had to back off," he said.

Schumacher, already far and away the most successful driver in Formula One history, punched the air with his fists as he crossed the line for his second win in a row after Indianapolis on July 2.

Out of the car, the 37-year-old hugged French team boss Jean Todt with the Italian flag in his hands.

Schumacher's younger brother Ralf was fourth for Toyota, after leading for two laps at the first stops, ahead of McLaren's Kimi Raikkonen.

Italian Giancarlo Fisichella was sixth for Renault, with Spaniard Pedro de la Rosa seventh and back on the scoresheet for McLaren after a year's absence.

Test driver de la Rosa was replacing Colombian Juan Pablo Montoya, who announced last weekend that he was leaving Formula One for the U.S. NASCAR series next year.

Germany's Nick Heidfeld took the final point for BMW Sauber.

Sabatini, Rafter in Hall of Fame

AFP, Newport

Patrick Rafter, Gabriela Sabatini were inducted as players Saturday to the International Tennis Hall of Fame.

Ceremonies were held on Bill Talbert Stadium Court before the semifinals of the Hall of Fame Tennis Championships.

The 24th Australian to be inducted, Rafter won consecutive U.S. Opens in 1997-98 and held the top ranking in the world. In a 12-year career, he was 358-191 with 11 singles titles.

As a doubles player, Rafter won 12 titles, including the 1999 Australian Open with partner Jonas Bjorkman. He also was 21-11 in Davis Cup play from 1994-2001.

Sabatini is the first Argentine woman in the Hall of Fame, following compatriot Guillermo Vilas, who was inducted in 1991.

Sabatini made an immediate splash, being named WTA Tour Newcomer of the Year in 1985. She was ranked in the top 10 from 1986-1995 and finished her 13-year career with a 632-189 mark in singles, winning 27 titles.

Germany owe Argentina one

AFP, Amsterdam

Argentina came to Germany's rescue by defeating the Netherlands 3-2 in the women's Champions Trophy field hockey tournament here Saturday.

Argentina's win puts Germany into the final ahead of the Dutch.

"We played for Germany today," said Gabriel Minadeo, Argentina's coach with a smile.

China defeated New Zealand 4-0 in the first game to go to 10 points and earn its spot in the final while Australia defeated Germany 2-1 with the result seemingly putting Germany out of the finals until Argentina beat the Netherlands.

Argentina jumped out to a 2-0 lead after 12 minutes through a penalty corner rebounded in by Maria de La Paz Hernandez and Alejandra Gulla's field goal.

The Dutch bounced back in the last 10 minutes of the first half to equalise through Janneke Schopman's penalty corner deflection at the left post and Kim Lammers' field goal rebound over goalkeeper Paola Vukojicic.

Lara faces probe



AFP, Barbados

West Indies skipper Brian Lara faces an investigation after he bitterly hit out at cricket authorities following India's first series win in the Caribbean in 35 years.

Lara, in charge of the team for an unprecedented third time, threatened to quit after he claimed there was a month delay in informing him that he had been made a member of the West Indies selection committee.

The 37-year-old batting superstar had been at loggerheads with the West Indies board (WICB) over selection policy and believed he was rebuffed in his efforts to get the players he wanted in the team.

But the WICB said Saturday they will form a committee to investigate Lara's comments.

"The Board considered at length the recent statements and actions of

Brian Lara during and after the conclusion of the fourth Test match



BRIAN LARA

against India at Sabina Park," said a statement.

"It was agreed to appoint a committee headed by the president of the WICB, together with Sir Alister McIntyre, Clive Lloyd and Gregory

Shillingford to investigate all matters relating to Mr. Lara's statements and to take such action as they may consider appropriate after these matters are discussed with him.

"Mr. Lara is currently away from the Caribbean, but it is expected that the committee will meet with him within the next two weeks."

After India had won the last Test by 49 runs inside three days at Sabina Park two weeks ago, Lara said he might have to reconsider his position as captain.

"I got an endorsement letter (from the West Indies Cricket Board) a couple days ago saying that I was a selector since May 28," he told reporters at the post match news conference on July 3.

"I'll revisit my decision to captain the West Indies team."

Lara said his reputation was at stake in light of his calls for certain players to be selected.

"I was never given the team that I wanted," he insisted.

McGrath eyes Champs Trophy



CRICINFO, undated

Glenn McGrath is eyeing the Champions Trophy in India in September to make his return to international cricket. McGrath has not played since January when his wife Jane again fell ill to cancer but now with Jane continuing to make a strong recovery, he is all set to comeback at the highest level.

"Things are going really well at home and Jane continues to improve each day," McGrath told the Sunday Telegraph. "She is more than happy for me to get back into some serious work. I've been doing plenty of indoor work and everything has been feeling great. Now it's time to build up with some extra sessions outdoors."

McGrath is set to visit Brisbane next week for a rigorous workout at the Australian Cricket Academy. "A few of the guys, including Michael Clarke, have indicated they want to travel up there with me and 'Pup'

[Clarke] is pretty keen to face me," said McGrath. "I can't wait to get to Brisbane for the outdoor stuff."

He believes the flat batting tracks in India will provide the ideal prepa-



GLENN MCGRATH

ration for the Ashes campaign. "I can think of no better preparation for the Ashes than a six-week build-up on the flat sub-continent wickets. That will be all the workout I need leading into the summer."

He has received support and

encouragement from former legends -- Dennis Lillee, Richard Hadlee and Alan Donald. While Lillee felt McGrath should be handed the new ball by captain Ricky Ponting in the first Ashes Test and told to pick an end, Hadlee said: "What you lose in pace you make up for in experience, skill and variation. There's no reason that Glenn can't come back as strong as ever."

"It's great to hear positive things from people who know what the game is all about, as opposed to the opinions of a few who are less informed," McGrath said. "They are all quality fast bowlers -- three of the greatest ever -- and that level of support has given me a lift."

McGrath revealed that if everything goes according to plans then he will feature in the World Cup 2007. "I've always said the next World Cup is a realistic goal -- and the way I'm feeling, there is no reason why I can't go beyond that. As the guys have said, it's all about experience and I still have some good years, maybe even my best years, ahead of me."

Stage 14 Fedrigo's



AFP, Gap

Pierrick Fedrigo of the Bouygues Telecom team handed the hosts their third stage victory on the Tour de France when he won the 14th stage here Sunday.

Fedrigo, a former national champion, outspurred breakaway companion Salvatore Comnesso of Lampre at the finish line of a difficult, 180.5km stage that was marred by three crashes.

Spaniard Oscar Pereiro of the Caisse d'Epargne team, retained the race leader's yellow jersey with his 1min 29sec lead over American Floyd Landis ahead of Monday's rest day.

As of Tuesday, three days of tough climbing -- and an anticipated battle for the yellow jersey - will begin in the Alps.

Fedrigo follows Sylvain Calzati and Cyril Dessel, both of whom ride for AG2R, in handing the hosts welcome stage wins on a race they have not won since Bernard Hinault's victory in 1985.

He and Comnesso left Belgian Mario Aerts of the Davitamon team in their wake on the fourth and last of the day's climbs, having seen three of their breakaway companions falling victim to crashes.

David Canada, who rides for Saunier Duval, came crashing down on the road around 40km from the finish as he tried to negotiate one of the many treacherous bends.

Moments later Germany's Matthias Kessler crashed when he tried to avoid the Spaniard, and flew spectacularly over the barrier along with his bike.

A moment later, Belgian Rik Verbrugghe of Cofidis, who had been leading the six-man breakaway with nearly a four-minute lead on the peloton, also misjudged his trajectory and fell over the barrier and into the same ditch.

Canada was unable to continue. It was later confirmed that he suffered a broken collarbone.

Verbrugghe also pulled out, and was taken to hospital for treatment.

Kessler, who won a stage in the first week of the Tour, was the only rider to get back on his bike and continue although the German did not look comfortable and was soon overtaken by the chasing peloton.

That gave Fedrigo and Comnesso the chance to pull

ahead, but they rode down into Gap at the foot of the Alps with the slimmest of margins and with Yaroslav Popovych of the Discovery Channel team trying to close the deficit.

His efforts came to nothing, and in the last kilometre American Christian Vandeveld of CSC attacked the chasing peloton in a bid to chase the two leaders.

It was too late, however, and in

the final 100 metres Fedrigo emerged from Comnesso's slipstream to come over the finish in triumph and hand his team their first ever stage win on the race.



PHOTO: AFP

France's Pierrick Fedrigo celebrates his triumph ahead of Italy's Salvatore Comnesso after their sprint towards the finish line of the 180.5-km 14th stage of the 93rd Tour de France from Montelimar to Gap on Sunday.

Youngsters

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cement a place in the national side.

"I think the scenario has changed in last one year. It is not an easy task to cement a place in the senior side because one has to perform in regular basis to keep his place intact. That's why there is no scope to be over excited with the national call-up," observed Sakib.

"I know my domestic performance was considered for the selection but there is a gulf of gap between domestic and international cricket. We both know that we have been chosen as all-rounders, so we have to be successful in both departments," said Forhad, a BBA student.

Venables not

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Venables confirmed McClaren has approached him about a possible role, adding: "My potential role with Steve is very exciting. He is offering me the freedom to take on as much as I want.

"I will obviously be involved around the matches and checking on players and he has already given me areas of the team he thinks need looking at."

Revenge

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home conditions. We definitely have an edge over India and South Africa." The off-spinner is also looking forward to renew his on-field rivalry with Sachin Tendulkar, who he hoped would be fit in time for the contest.

"Sachin is a great player. He knows how to recover fast from an injury. I hope he would be fit to play the tri-series." On his chances of breaking Shane Warne's record of taking highest number of Test wickets, Muralidaran said, "ultimately, one who plays more Test matches will be the world record holder".

Advantage England

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Yousuf, known as Yousuf Youhana before his conversion last year from Christianity to Islam, had also matched the 2003 achievement of South Africa's Graeme Smith (277 at Edgbaston and 259 at Lord's) in making double centuries in successive Tests against England.

However, Yousuf was still six short of the landmark when last man Kaneria came to the crease.

But after Kaneria had been dropped on nought by a diving Liam Plunkett at square leg after fending at a Matthew Hoggard bouncer, Yousuf's edged four off the Yorkshireman saw him to 200.

Yousuf then kissed the pitch, just as he'd done upon reaching his hundred.

But five balls later his innings ended when he edged Stephen Harmison to Geraint Jones for the wicketkeeper's fifth catch of the innings.

In all Yousuf batted for 10 minutes short of eight hours, facing 330 balls with one six and 26 fours after arriving at the crease with Pakistan in trouble at 28 for two.

Harmison, in the absence of injured fellow Ashes-winning quicks Simon Jones (knee) and Flintoff

(ankle) had been an anonymous figure Saturday while Yousuf and Inzamam (69) shared an elegant fifth-wicket stand of 173.

He did though show more venom Sunday, hitting Afridi a painful blow on the right thumb, and finished with four for 94 from 23.3 overs.

Afridi's injury was a fresh worry for a Pakistan side missing injured pacemen Shoaib Akhtar (ankle), Rana Navedul Hasan (groin) and Mohammad Asif (elbow) as well as batsmen Shoaib Malik (elbow) and Younis Khan (knee).

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at tea on the fourth day of the first Test between England and Pakistan at Lord's on Sunday:

ENGLAND: First innings 528-9 dec (Collingwood 186, Cook 105, Bell 100 no; Kaneria 3-119)

PAKISTAN: First innings (over-night 409-7)

Butt c Strauss b Harmison 10

Farhat b Plunkett 33

Iqbal c Collingwood b Harmison 0

Yousuf c Jones b Harmison 202

Sami c Jones b Hoggard 0

Inzamam b Plunkett 69

Razaq c Jones b Harmison 22

Akmal c Jones b Pietersen 58

Afridi c Bell b Hoggard 17

Gul c Jones b Hoggard 0

Kaneria not out 1

Extras: (b-7, lb-14, w-7, nb-5) 33

Total: (All out in 119.3 overs) 445

Fall of wickets: 1-28, 2-28, 3-65, 4-68, 5-241, 6-300, 7-399, 8-435, 9-436, 10-445

Bowler

Hoggard 33 3 117 3

Harmison 29.3 6 94 4

Panesar 27 3 93 0

Plunkett 21 3 78 2

Collingwood 7 1 31 0

Pietersen 2 0 11 1

ENGLAND: Second innings

Trescothick b Gul 18

Strauss not out 74

Cook c Yousuf b Gul 4

Pietersen st Akmal b Afridi 41

Collingwood c Butt b Kaneria 3

Bell not out 4

Extras: (b-1, lb-4, nb-5) 10

Total: (For 4 wkts in 42 overs) 154

Fall of wickets: 1-38, 2-64, 3-141, 4-146

To bat: Jones, Plunkett, Hoggard, Harmison, Panesar.

Bowler

Sami 6 1 23 0

Gul 10 2 38 2

Kaneria 12 2 34 1

Razaq 7 0 31 0

Afridi 7 0 23 1

Disgraced clubs

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that the procedure will be radically modified by appeal."

Former Milan vice-president Adriano Galliani was one of several individuals also punished as a result of the investigation.

Galliani was handed a one-year suspension from all football activities while Lazio president Claudio Lotito was banned for three years and his Fiorentina counterpart, Andrea Della Valle, was given a four-year punishment.

Former Juve general manager Luciano Moggi, who was at the centre of the investigation after his telephone conversations with a referee supremo in charge of the appointments of officials during the

2004/05 season were tapped, was suspended for five years.

"I'm not saddened for myself but for the teams involved and for their fans," Moggi said.

Referee Massimo De Santis, who had been due to officiate at the World Cup before becoming embroiled in the investigation, has been suspended from football for four-and-a-half years and former FIGC president Franco Carraro was also handed a four-year suspension.

The decision to strip Juve of their title means the Turin club will not be allowed to play in the Champions League next season, while Lazio are also barred from taking part in the UEFA Cup.

Lotito was fuming following the verdict.

"I think this sentence is provisional as it's based on a theorem which is completely ridiculous," he said. "I will not make any decisions until a final sentence is given."

Subject to any appeals, the rulings mean that Internazionale and Roma will gain automatic qualification to the Champions League, with Chievo and Palermo going into the qualifiers for the tournament.

Livorno, Parma and Empoli will be entered into the UEFA Cup.

In addition, Lecce, Messina, and Treviso will avoid relegation to Serie B and keep their places in the top-flight as a result of the verdict.