

Sport

Waterpolo BOV National League

Reds again sink Saints

Otters end Marsascala run

This was another show of force from Neptunes Grimaldi whose 'naval' guns again found no response from neighbours San Giljan Allcare yesterday.

The Reds have now made another important step towards retaining the league title and in so doing have effectively written 'finis' to their opponents' very remote chances of winning the championship.

The Saints, who had Aleksandar Nikolic leading them, only played for pride and that may have relieved their pressure in contrast to their opponents' urge to collect maximum points.

Indeed, Neptunes overcame this psychological element admirably especially in the latter sessions which they completely dominated.

It was a Hungarian rhapsody as their Magyar tandem of Peter Biros and the irrepressible Tamas Molnar shared 12 goals between them.

Neptunes inched ahead on 3-2 in the dying seconds of the first session after the Saints, yesterday again without Karl Galea and for the first time Andrea Bianchi, had twice taken an early lead.

But that is as far as they went even if they managed to trim a 6-2 deficit in the second session to 6-5 and then level the score through the

PREMIER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Neptunes	11	9	2	0	161	108	29
Sliema	10	6	3	1	113	100	21
San Giljan	11	5	0	6	128	116	15
Sirens	12	6	1	5	134	135	19
Valletta	12	3	1	8	122	139	10
Exiles	12	0	3	9	101	161	3

FIRST DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Marsascala	9	5	3	1	102	90	18
Marsaxlokk	9	4	2	3	93	87	14
Otters	9	4	2	3	96	94	14
Ta' Xbiex	9	1	1	7	82	102	4

young Ben Plumpton early in the third session.

That was the sign for the Reds to unleash their ammunition as they took a decisive 13-9 lead into the last quarter, with the Hungarians being the protagonists.

Neptunes could not be halted now. Their impetus found no response from San Giljan who at



San Giljan's Matthew Zammit (no.6) closely marked by Peter Biros. Photo: Darrin Zammit Lupi

one moment when they were four goals behind midway through that last session, had what seemed justifiable claims for a penalty turned down.

But that was of no consequence as the Reds' superiority was too much for them.

The result was sealed with a penalty scored by Timmy Agius, who complemented the other goals netted by Steve Camilleri (2), Michele Stellini and Niki Lanzon.

The five goals scored by Aleksandar Radovic only served for statistical purposes.

In the previous match a sturdy and tactically sound display from Otters Nivea laid low Marsascala Morč's colours for the first time this season.

The Gozitans' 10-9 victory enabled them to cut the leeway to

four points as they now stand in second place alongside Marsaxlokk.

Otters were without John Paris yesterday. Nevertheless, another veteran, Duncan Schembri, scorer of three goals, made up for this absence while the usual Ivan Vuk-sanovic also grabbed a hat-trick, as did Liam Grixti for the losers.

Otters should be lauded for their comeback which twice had them four goals adrift in the second session.

Marsascala, usually good finishers, this time were unable to make their final surge.

MARSASCALA9
OTTERS10
(3-1, 3-4, 2-3, 1-2)

MARSASCALA: D. Spiteri, J.C. Cutajar 2, S. Mora 1, C. Bonello 1, E. Meli 1, L. Grixti 3, M. Pace, J. Cremona, S. Micallef, K.

Rizzo Naudi, D. Cassar 1, G. Marnitz, J. Cremona.

OTTERS: J. Micallef, G. Attard, G. Zammit, A. Azzopardi, R. Bonnici, A. Borg, D. Schembri 3, A. Edward 2, S. Dimech 1, C. Martin, Vuksanovic 3, K. Grima Scott 1.

Referees: R. Spiteri, F. Ricciotti.

SAN GILJAN11
NEPTUNES17
(2-3, 3-3, 4-7, 2-4)

SAN GILJAN: D. Camilleri, C. Spiteri Debarro, A. Galea, B. Plumpton 1, K. Dowling 1, M. Zammit 2, A. Radovic 5, Darren Zammit, Keith Galea, Z. Kovacic 2, P. Fava, Dino Zammit, J. Sammut.

NEPTUNES: A. Borg Cole, N. Lanzon 1, G. Mizzi, M. Stellini 1, T. Agius 1, M. Zammit, S. Camilleri 2, J. Camilleri, A. Zarb Cousin, P. Biros 6, B. Muscat, T. Molnar 6, C. Mercieca.

Referees: M. Dalli, G. Sorgente.

Martial arts

MKF team for small states championships in Luxembourg

A group of martial artists from the Malta Karate Federation (MKF) will be representing the country at the first Karate Championships for the Small States of Europe which will be held in Luxembourg between September 19 and 21.

The other countries taking part in the tournament are Andorra, Iceland, Luxembourg and Monaco.

The Maltese federation will be fielding a team of seven martial artists whose ages range from 11 to 24 years. They were chosen by a selection commission headed by technical director James Galea. Athletes at the championships will compete in Kata (forms) and Kumite (sparring).

Audrey Zammit will lead the contingent along with Joe Tanti and coach Galea.

Kenneth Abela, the local karate federation president, reckons the Maltese team will do well next month.

"One of our priorities at the federation is that of supporting our promising athletes and give them an opportunity to further improve their skills," he said.

"We have monitored carefully their training development and we are now confident that they are well prepared for this challenge at the small states championships in Luxembourg."

Motorcycling

Buttigieg registers best time in Hockenheim series



Shawn Buttigieg... impressive quarter-mile run in Hockenheim.

Assocjazzjoni Sport Muturi-Karozzi (ASMK) rider Shawn Buttigieg did not win the FIM-Europe Super Street Bike Cup in Germany last weekend but he did enough to leave his mark on the NitrOlympX series when clocking the fastest time in his category.

Buttigieg, who rode the Kalanc Team Suzuki Hayabusa 1300cc, finished third behind Briton Bradley O'Connor and Mogens Lund, of Denmark.

The Kalanc Racing Team were also involved in the car dragster series in Hockenheim as race organisers said 70,000 spectators attended the two days of competition.

In his first heat, Buttigieg registered a time of 7.493 seconds and 306.17 kph but in his next run he clocked an impressive 7.213 with top speeds reaching 318.93 kph on the quarter-mile drag strip.

Buttigieg's progress, however, was halted in the semi-finals when a minor technical hitch prevented him from reaching the title run, only managing 8.027 seconds.

In the final, O'Connor won the challenge with Lund but both riders failed to eclipse Buttigieg's scorching time of 7.213 seconds.

O'Connor won the final in 7.409 seconds and Lund had to settle for the runner-up position after clocking 7.578 seconds.

Buttigieg is currently second in the overall standings with 141 points, only one point behind lead O'Connor.

Luke Farrugia, another ASMK-licensed rider in the FIM-Europe championship, is 12th on 62 points.

The fourth round from the series will be held at Santa Pod, England, between September 4 and 7.