



## The Weekend Scorecard 19 – 21 September 2025

### Description

## The Synopsis

Pressure makes diamonds and diamonds shine forever. Sunday, 21 September 2025 was an historic day for Botswana's 4 x 400m relay team of Lee Bhekempilo Eppie, Letsile Tebogo, Bayapo Ndori and Busang Collen Kebinatshipi as Kebinatshipi came from behind to edge past Nene (South Africa) and Benjamin (USA) to clinch victory at the World Athletic Championships in Tokyo. The Batswanas pioneered the way to become the first African nation to win the event, and no wonder why their victory has been well received globally. President Duma Boko quickly recognized this memorable achievement by announcing that Monday, 29 September 2025 as a public holiday ahead of their Independence Day celebrations set for the 30th.

Just last year, the country was buzzing with pride and excitement following [Tebogo Letsile's gold medal victory at the Paris 2024 Olympics](#). Tebogo zoomed clear of his competition to record a time of 19.46 seconds, an African record. Hailing this latest achievement as an "[Historic African Victory](#)," the country is well within it's rights to revel in its recent success on the athletics track. Unlike the Diamonds, Beef and Tourism for which the country is renown for, Botswana is not really known for it's sporting prowess. The most popular sport in the country is football, but this reflects a preference for the citizens more so than a signal of it's global popularity as the country is [ranked 139 in the world](#).

Be that as it may, this recent win is yet another another brick in the legacy that Botswana's athletes and in particular it's short- medium distance runners are building. Until the turn of the decade, Nijel Amos held the country's only medal from his 2nd Place finish in the Men's 800 m race at the 2012 London Olympics. In the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, the country added a Bronze medal to the cabinet in another 4 x 400m relay race, followed up by Tebogo's Gold at the 2024 Paris Olympics and a Silver medal, again in the Men's 4 x 400 m relay. This fifth medal is a sweet announcement that Botswana is steadily churning our sprinters that can compete on the global stage and to echo [President Boko's sentiments](#), it's a sure reminder that, "Botswana's diamonds are not just in the ground, they are...World Champion Athletes!"

On that note, this victory goes a long way in reminding the world not only of Africa's potential, but it's

consistent display of excellence across a multitude of disciplines. Africa has been boxed in as a continent of long distance runners, a moniker earned through the supremacy of East African athletes in international long distance running competitions. The dominance of African athletes dissects across multiple sports in the world and in history. No one has won the Rugby's Webb Ellis trophy more times than the South African 4 x Champion Springboks and with level depth in the current squad, they are in good standing to reach another final to make their claim undeniable. Zimbabwe's Kirsty Coventry, Africa's most decorated Olympian, has seven Olympic medals and holds all but one of Zimbabwe's Olympic medals. At Lords, The South African Men's Cricket team were crowned World Test Champions beating Australia in some style.

Whether it is outright dominance or scattered flashes of brilliance, African athletes are more than capable of competing on the world stage and doing so more consistently. South Africa's [Wayde van Niekerk](#), breathed a sigh of relief when his Men's 4 x 400m relay team won Bronze behind the USA and Botswana at the Tokyo championships. But he also pointed out that South Africa's potential to harvest more medals will only be achievable with more high quality support and investments. His sentiments ring true for the rest of Africa.

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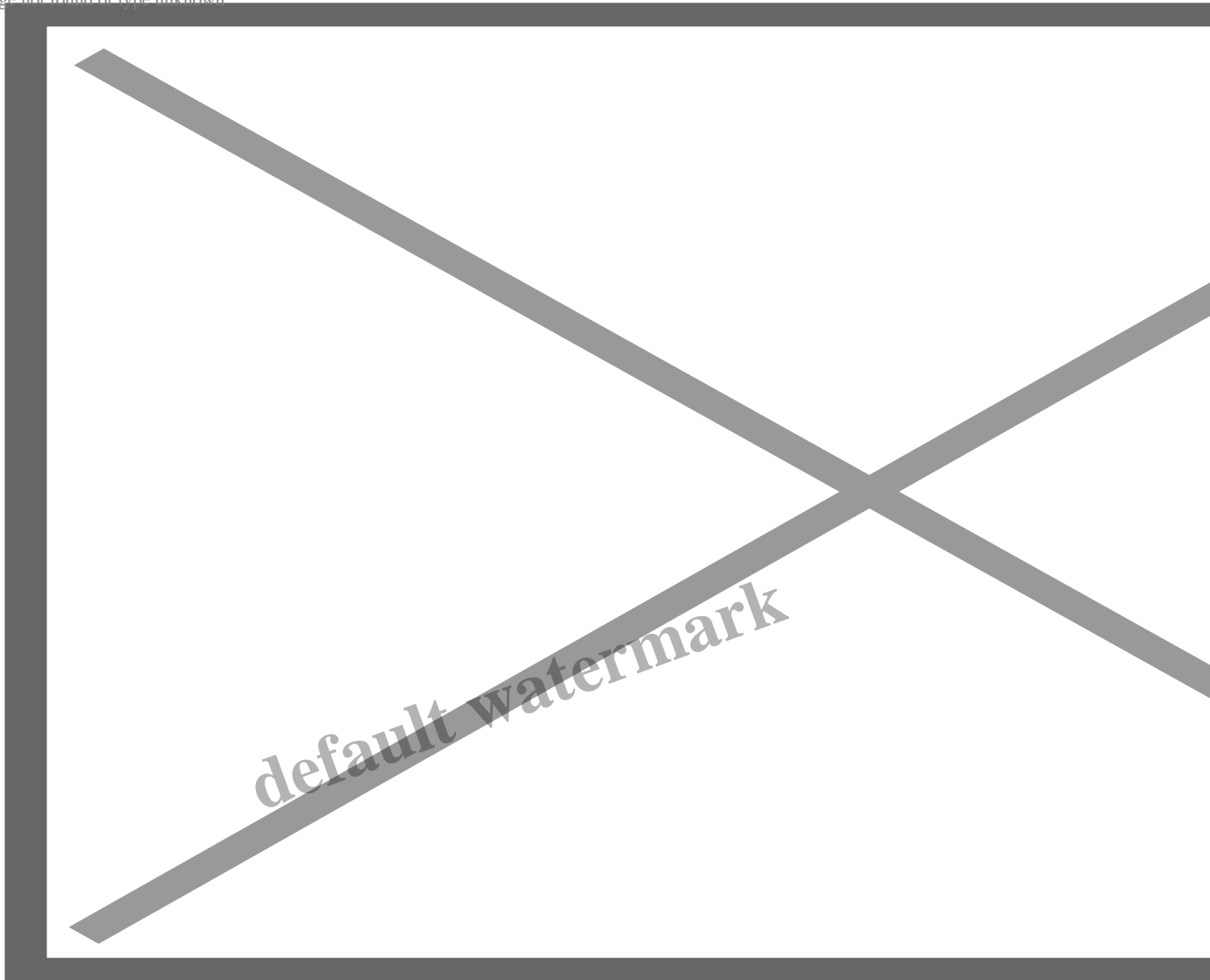
## Meanwhile in other Sports

### Rugby

- **Just too good:** Canada Women's Rugby team outclass New Zealand, securing their spot against top-ranked England before a sellout crowd of 82,000 at Twickenham's Allianz Stadium
    - **New Zealand Women (19) v Canada Women (34).**
  - **32 and counting:** England Women's Rugby team makes that 32 wins in a row to put their name in the hat for the finals next weekend.
    - France Women (17) : England Women (35)
  - **Carling Black Label Currie Cup Final Results:** Veteran George Whitehead seals Griquas victory with a calmly placed penalty kick to edge the team over victory lane from a one-point deficit in the 82nd minute.
    - **Fidelity ADT Lions (25) v Suzuki Griquas (27)**
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### Formula 1

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*Credit: Formula1.com*

## BACK IN CONTENTION

Max Verstappen's latest victory has reignited his 2025 championship ambitions in emphatic fashion. At an eventful Grand Prix, he showed precision and pace under pressure, leaving rivals trailing as he stormed across the finish line. His win underscores that he's still a formidable force in the title chase.

With that result, Verstappen is now not merely in the conversation — he's very much back in contention. He commented that "everything needs to go perfectly" to mount a real title challenge, reflecting the razor-thin margins at the top of the [standings](#). Meanwhile, he refuses to discount the possibility of outpacing younger contenders like Oscar Piastri or Lando Norris, even as they push hard this [season](#).

Verstappen's win wasn't just about the race — it's a strategic statement: he's solidifying his grip on momentum and reminding the field he's not done yet.

## AZERBAIJAN GP – Sunday 21 September 2025

### BAKU CITY RACE CIRCUIT

Race results:

1. M. Verstappen #33 – Red Bull – 1:33:26.408
2. G. Russel #63 – Mercedes – +14.609s
3. C Sainz Jnr. #55 – Williams – +19.199s
4. A.K. Antonelli #12 – Mercedes – +21.760s
5. L. Lawson #30 – Racing Bull – +33.290s
6. Y. Tsunoda #22 – Red Bull – +33.808s
7. L. Norris #4 – McLaren – +34.227s
8. L. Hamilton #44 – Ferrari – +36.310s
9. C. Leclerc #16 – Ferrari – +36.774s
10. I Hadja #6 – Racing Bull – +38.982s
11. G. Bortoletto # 5 – Kick Sauber – +67.606s
12. O. Bearman #87 – Haas – +68.262s
13. A. Albon #23 – Williams – +72.870s
14. E. Ocon #31 – Haas – +77.580s
15. F. Alonso #14 – Aston Martin – +78.707s
16. N. Hülkenberg # 27 – Kick Sauber – +80.237s
17. L Stroll # 18 – Aston Martin – +96.392s
18. P. Gasly #10 – Alpine – +1 Lap
19. F Colapinto #43 – Alpine – +1 Lap
20. O. Piastri #81 – McLaren – DNF

## Football

### Premier League Action

It was a weekend of drama, redemption, and gritty comebacks across the Premier League. At Old Trafford, **Manchester United** edged **Chelsea** 2-1 in a chaotic, rain-soaked clash where both teams finished with ten men. Chelsea's goalkeeper was sent off early, and United's Casemiro doubled the lead before also receiving a red card just before halftime. Chalobah pulled one back late, but Chelsea couldn't force an equalizer.

Elsewhere, **Brighton vs Tottenham** ended 2-2. Spurs staged a spirited fightback after trailing by two, salvaging a draw late in the game. **Fulham** rallied impressively to defeat **Brentford** 3-1, driven by an inventive performance from Alex Iwobi. **Burnley and Nottingham Forest** played out a 1-1 draw, frustrating Forest's manager Postecoglou in his early days.

At **Wolves**, their poor run continued as they fell 1-3 to **Leeds**, putting pressure on the home side. **West Ham** were beaten 1-2 at home by **Crystal Palace**, adding to their mounting troubles. **Liverpool** maintained their perfect start by edging **Everton** 2-1 in the Merseyside derby, with standout goals from Gravenberch and Ekitiké.

### La Liga Action

This La Liga round served up drama and dominance in equal measure. **Barcelona** laid waste to **Valencia** with a commanding 6-0 rout, showcasing ruthless attacking depth and precision in finishing. The Blaugrana seemed unstoppable, leaving fans and punters alike stunned.

Meanwhile, **Real Madrid** endured a gritty night - reduced to 10 men but still managing a 2-1 win over **Real Sociedad**, thanks to Mbappé's brilliance and tactical resilience under pressure. Up in Madrid, **Atlético** claimed their first win of the campaign, dispatching **Villarreal** 2-0 with disciplined defense and deadly counterattacks.

Elsewhere, **Alavés** stunned **Athletic Bilbao** with a surprising 1-0 away result, while **Sevilla** and **Elche** could only settle for a 2-2 draw. Last week's showings underscored how big clubs can't afford complacency - any slip is an invitation for the underdog to bite.

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## Upcoming Events

- **La Liga:** El Derbi Madrileño on Saturday, 27 September 2025.
- **Golf:** The Ryder Cup, 26 – 28 September 2025.
- **Women's World Cup Final:** Canada vs England on Saturday, 27 September 2025.
- **AFL Grand Final:** Geelong Cats take on the Brisbane Lions for a shot at the title on Saturday, 27 September 2025.
- **Motor GP:** Grand Prix of Japan on 26 – 28 September 2025.
- **NFL International Games:** Minnesota v Pittsburgh on Sunday, 28 September 2025.

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