Novak Djokovic clinched his third US Open title on Sunday when he came from a set down to beat Juan Martin del Potro 6-3, 7-6 (7-4), 6-3 to equal Pete Sampras’s mark of 14 Grand Slams.

The 31-year-old Serb, playing in his eighth final in New York and already the champion in 2011 and 2015, is now just three Slams behind Rafael Nadal and six back from the all-time record 20 held by Roger Federer.

It was also the third time the 31-year-old Serb — who missed last year’s tournament with an elbow injury which sent his career into a mini-crisis — completed the Wimbledon-US Open double.

“I love you, you’re my idol,” said Djokovic of Sampras.

“Thank you for the support of the loved ones, my kids, my wife, my small team of people that have been there with me through difficult times as well,” added the Serb who underwent elbow surgery after the Australian Open in January.

For world number three Del Potro, it was a heartbreaking experience coming in just his second Slam final, nine years after he was crowned US Open champion before a long battle with wrist injuries pushed him into depression and to the brink of retirement.

“It was only the second set dropped by the Argentine at the tournament for Djokovic, it was an illustration of how far into the championship as he took the run of consecutive sets won to 14, stretching back to the second round against Tomas Berdych, won 7-6 (7-4), 6-0, 7-6 (7-3), 6-0, and put the first break point of the match at 3-3.

He had three more chances in the eighth, all saved by Djokovic on a marathon 20-minute game which left even Hollywood superstar Meryl Streep clasping her head in astonishment.

The effort took its toll on a suddenly weary-looking Del Potro as a 95-minute set was claimed by Djokovic in the tiebreak.

Del Potro was looking at having to become the first man since Pancho Gonzales in 1949 to win the US title from two sets down.

Djokovic sprinted into a 3-1 lead in the third set before a battling Del Potro clung on, hitting back for 3-3.

But off the back of a 24-shot rally, Djokovic broke again for 5-3 and he was within tantalising touching distance of his 14th Grand Slam title, just three months after he had left Roland Garros in despair after a shattering quarter-final exit.
Argentina’s Juan Martin del Potro holds the runner-up trophy after losing to Serbia’s Novak Djokovic in the final on Sunday.

Tipped as Japan’s first world No 1, Osaka became the third consecutive grand slam singles champion after Federer and Nadal, the first Japanese men’s winner, according to Date.

If she continues to develop, Osaka is taking on the power players’ box as one of the most intimidating threats. “I had to kind of disconnect from the moment onwards’,” she said. “It was all-consuming.”

She has been able to keep her cool like that, the 31-year-old former French Open champion Del Potro said. “Obviously, it is a big challenge to take those kind of tournaments to them.”

Novak Djokovic, the 17-time major winner, is a “thief” after a code violation in the US Open final, according to Carlos Ramos. “It provoked in me in a way. It was all-consuming.”

He has healthy. He has a great team working with him,” Osaka’s 19-year-old mentor, her coach Sascha Bajin, said. “To keep your cool like that, it’s great.”

He was someone I was looking up to, and then in New York to grab the Grand Slam singles crown. “We sat down and we just kind of breathed in the new inspiration, new motivation. I remember one moment — and a steely determination. ‘We can end his career as the top player in the world, isn’t easy, ‘From the moment you step onto the court to the last point, “He’s healthy. He has a great team working with him.”

Djokovic finds secrets to Grand Slam success in French Alps

Djokovic has no secrets in his French Alps that proved transcendent. “We sat down and we just kind of breathed in the new inspiration, new motivation. ‘We can end his career as the top player in the world, isn’t easy, ‘From the moment you step onto the court to the last point, “He’s healthy. He has a great team working with him.”

‘Djokovic can beat Federer’s Slam record’

‘He’s healthy. He has a great team working with him’
FOOTBALL

QATAR TO TAKE ON PALESTINE IN INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY TODAY

Hosts look in complete control against a Dutch side rebuilding under Koeman

FOCUS

Players to have final say on Liga match in America: Union

The French team and their supporters were not as efficient, but he is useful in our midfield. When we came back to Paris, it’s full, it’s really celebrate with the public. This time we are at the Stade de France, it’s full, it’s security around the bus and we couldn’t do the things we usually do with the French fans. The French fans and their supporters saw this occasion as the opportunity to make the most of the Coupe de France win and the 2019 Coupe de la Ligue triumph, the French team's biggest success in recent years.

The rushed nature of those celebrations were not as important as the post-match celebrations for the fans. Emmanuel Macron welcomed the France team and their supporters for a reception hosted by President of the French Republic at the Élysée Palace.

The France starting line-up was the same as in the Cup final, with Giroud leading the line up front to provide the goals. Pogba was in the middle of the midfield, with Blaise Matuidi on the right and Blaise Machin on the left. Anthony Martial was on the left wing, with Kylian Mbappe on the right wing. Giroud swept in the win-ner's circle to collect his second hat-trick in a France shirt, after the Chelsea striker netted in a 5-0 rout of Azerbaijan in the European Championship earlier in the year.

The victory was the most important for Olivier. Striker Giroud expressed his joy in front of the fans, saying: “The victory was the most important thing, we can have a great party.”

The French fans and their supporters were not as efficient, but with the French team's biggest success in recent years, the rushed nature of those celebrations were not as important as the post-match celebrations for the fans.
Success internationally has been as rare for Modric as it has been free-flowing for his club

Gareth Southgate’s expectation that Luka Modric would be fit to play against Croatia in their Nations League clash on Tuesday is not to be held back by his club commitment.

The Tottenham boss, who will not hold Modric out of the game as a precautionary measure, has already made it clear that his first nomination comes after Modric has played his part in the club since his return from international duty.

He also confirmed yesterday that Luka Modric had only been included in the squad with a view to the long-term future.

While the news is not as good for England’s other midfielders, Jordan Henderson and Eric Dier have both been ruled out of the game.

Henderson’s return to form of late has been welcomed by Southgate, who is now looking to get the best out of the 31-year-old.

“Jordan is in peak condition,” Southgate said. “He has played almost every league game this season and has been very consistent. He’s played well and we’ll have a good look at him in training today.”

Dier, on the other hand, has been one of the players who has struggled for form this season, and Southgate is keen to work with him to get him back to his best.

“Eric has been a regular in my squad for a long time,” he said. “He’s had a few issues this season, but he’s come back into the team and been very influential.”

Southgate believes that these players have been key to England’s success this year, and is confident that they will continue to perform well in the future.

“Jordan and Eric are important players for our team,” he said. “They have been key in our recent successes, and I’m confident they will continue to do so.”

While the news about the midfielders is not as positive, Southgate is still hopeful that he can get the best out of his squad.

“We have a lot of options in midfield,” he said. “We have to be careful with the injuries, but we have a strong group of players.”

Southgate expects both Henderson and Dier to be fit for the game against Croatia, and is confident that they will be able to make a big impact.

“Jordan and Eric are two of the players that we have been working with all season,” he said. “They have been key in our success, and I’m confident they will continue to do so.”

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Journeyman Fitzpatrick destroys Saints defence

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 Brisbane Panthers opened their season with a 27-7 victory over the New Orleans Saints. The Brisbane Panthers made an early statement by scoring two quick first quarter touchdowns, and dominated the Saints throughout the game. The victory was the Panthers' third in a row, and extended their winning streak to four games.

The Panthers dominated the Saints from the start, scoring two quick first quarter touchdowns. The first came on a 45-yard touchdown pass from Ben Hunt to Tevita Kivote on the Panthers first possession. The second came on a 27-yard field goal from Andrew McFadden.

The Saints struggled to keep pace with the Panthers, and were unable to score a touchdown in the first half. They finally ended their scoring drought in the third quarter, with a 24-yard field goal from Dan LeFevour. However, the Panthers responded with a 76-yard touchdown pass from Ben Hunt to Anthony Milner on the next possession, extending their lead to 20-3.

The Panthers continued their dominance in the second half, scoring a 49-yard touchdown from Jordan Pereira on the Panthers fourth possession of the half. They added a 23-yard field goal from Andrew McFadden on their next possession, increasing their lead to 29-3. The Saints were unable to score for the rest of the game, and were held without a touchdown.

The Panthers' defence played a key role in their victory, holding the Saints to just 104 total yards of offence. The Saints were unable to gain any yardage on the ground, and were only able to pick up 104 passing yards. The Panthers' defence sacked Saints quarterback Dan LeFevour four times, and intercepted his passes twice.

The Panthers' victory was their third in a row, and extended their winning streak to four games. They improve to 3-0 on the season, and are now tied for first place in the South East Region with the Melbourne Rebels. The Saints fall to 0-3 on the season, and are in danger of being eliminated from playoff contention.
Sacked Fenati apologises for brake grab

Boks coach says job on the line against All Blacks

SPORT

AP

Under-pressure Johan ‘Rassie’ Erasmus described this as “possibly the most courageous decision” of his six month stewardship of the Springboks. “If this is our fate, then let’s make the most of it,” the South African coach explained on Friday. “We want to keep improving and getting better. We’ve got to keep the players fresh and focused, and we’ve got to keep the momentum going.”

Aspetar supports swimmers at 2nd World Cup of 2018

President of Qatar Swimming Association Fadi Al-Asfoor (right) and Aspetar’s Dr Abdulaziz al-Kuwari during the opening ceremony of World Cup 2018. The event was attended byQatar Olympic, World and Commonwealth Games Champion, Althelb Al-Ghanim, World Champion at 400m, 800m, 1500m and 4x200m Freestyle.

Sacked Italian rider Romano Fenati yesterday apologised for his “irresponsible” behaviour after being sacked by his Monster Energy team for grabbing rival Stefan Manzi on the track.

Monaco teenager Sasha Vinogradov is on his way to the USA on a trial with LA Galaxy following his narrow World Cup 2018 success.

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Cook joins select first and last Test hundred club

A list of records for Cook

The Fifth Test between England and India, which ended in a draw, saw Alastair Cook reach his 150th international century, making him the first Englishman to score a double century in a Test match. Cook scored 147 against Australia and 107 against Pakistan, both of which set him apart from the rest of the world's cricketers.

Cook joined a select group of cricketers who have scored hundreds in both their first and last Test matches. He joined the likes of India's Mohammad Azharuddin, who retired from international cricket after a record 231 against Pakistan in 1998, and England's Ian Bell, who scored 116 against Bangladesh in his debut Test in 2005.

Cook's century also set a new record for the highest score by an Englishman in a Test match, surpassing the previous record of 153 set by Peter Moores against Australia in 1983.

The match was played in front of a capacity crowd at the Oval in London, with England needing 163 runs to win. Cook and Joe Root put on an unbroken 125-run partnership, which eventually led to the hosts winning the Test by 8 wickets.

The victory was an important one for England, as it secured them the 5th Test series and the rubber. The team is now looking forward to the upcoming Test against Pakistan in Pakistan, which will be their last Test match of the year.
Qatar will dazzle the world with Artistic Gymnastics Championships: Al-Hitmi

The first such event in the Middle East to leave a legacy in line with Qatar National Vision 2030

By Sports Reporter

The Organising Committee of the 48th World Artistic Gymnastics Championships (WAGC) Qatar 2018 has announced that the event will be held at the Hamad Aquatic Centre in Doha from October 25 to November 1, 2018, with the aim of showcasing some of the best gymnasts in the world. The committee revealed the details of the preparation in an interview with the Gulf Times yesterday. Excerpts:

The World Artistic Gymnastics Championships in Doha will see this tournament over two weeks and in a distinctive way. The existing competition format in Russia, and we know that it will make this event the biggest in the world after the World Cup and the World Artistic. The existing competition format in Russia, and we know that it will make this event the biggest in the world after the World Cup and the World Artistic Champions in Doha will attract the attention of all participating countries from all over the world.

On the participation of the largest number of athletes, Al-Hitmi said: “We are putting pressure on the organisers committee. Already the participation is the largest in the history of the competition, and this event is the biggest in the world after the World Cup and the World Artistic Champions in Doha.”

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