Bautista Agut fights back to outlast Djokovic in semi

By Damian Scolding

T here was no coming back from this one for Novi-

kovic. It was his first defeat in 2019. Agut had the

right approach to his game and took advantage of the

Djokovic's weaknesses to win in three sets.

"I had to outplay him and I did that today," Agut

said. "I took the early points and he lost his cool.

Djokovic's serve crumbled in the last set and he

lost momentum. He was never able to find his

groove.

Djokovic's coach, Boris Becker, said: "I never

thought Novak would lose a set. The Spaniard did

what he does best and was in control of the match.

It was a great victory for me and for Novak's career.

For Agut, it was his biggest win over Djokovic.

"I was very happy and I am excited about this

result," he said. "I wanted to play my best and

I did."
Tsonga’s comeback gathers pace with win over de Minaur

Tsonga will play fourth seeded Russian Medvedev for a place in tomorrow’s final.

Brisbane, Australia

E fter former world number one Caroline Wozniacki lost her opening match against Maria Sharapova, who won the Australian Open to become world number eight, 6-3, 6-2, in her singles win over the new season, veteran David Ferrer was still looking for his first victory in the Australian Open.

After overpowering a stubborn 15th-ranked Alexander Zverev of Germany with a 6-4, 6-3, 6-2 win yesterday, Zverev is through to the semi-finals and will face fourth seeded Russian Medvedev for a place in tomorrow’s final.

Tsonga will play fourth seeded Russian Medvedev for a place in tomorrow’s final.

After being the defending champions from 2016, this year’s champion was going to be Australia’s Alex de Minaur in a tie for the Germans with a 6-4, 6-3, 6-2 win over the rising Australian star.

Tsonga’s comeback gathered pace with a win over de Minaur yesterday.

The aggressive Tsonga had too much experience for the rising star.

“I expected something like this before the match — I’ll soon have a couple of games and I’d like to tough it out,” Tsonga said.

The Frenchman was in super form and was unable to be stopped but was unable to make any break in Tsonga’s game.

Tsonga looked like he’d never been away.

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Du Plessis century gives South Africa advantage

CRICKET

Du Plessis century gives South Africa advantage

Scorecard

INDIA 2nd inn 495-9 dec (R. Pant 175, D. Pujara 156, M. Agarwal 81, M. Srinivasan 70, H. Amla 24)

AUSTRALIA 1st inn 247 (W. Paine 77, K. Sciver 39, R. Lloyd 37, C. Pujara 24, M. Srinivasan 24, H. Amla 18)

AUSTRALIA 2nd inn 251 (W. Paine 77, K. Sciver 39, R. Lloyd 37, C. Pujara 24, M. Srinivasan 24, H. Amla 18)

SOUTH AFRICA 2nd inn 148 (1-7, 6-18, 14-37, 20-58, 51-9, 91-0)

Paine keeps sense of humour despite long day

REACTION

Australia need a bit of help to deal with Pujara: Paine

New Zealand have been given a far better chance than they expected against Pakistan, and wicketkeeper-batsman Ross Taylor has been a driving force for them.

Tim Paine said Australia could easily have won the Sheffield Shield last season against Victoria, but they still lost by 99 runs.

Paine, who has now started his 11th Test at the Gabba, said: "I think the wicket was a lot better. We have a lot more quality in the side and we are playing much better."

"It's just a matter of putting some wickets on the board and we did that."
BPL spends big to bash rival T20s

They are not just here to meet me, but I also wanted to be here and be a part of it,” said Warner.

Most players tell me that this is definitely one of the biggest options for them. They have to choose between me and another aspect of their lives, and the BPL enables them to return to Australia if needed. The BPL has also been a source of income for many players, allowing them to continue their careers in cricket.

BPL has made the BPL a leading Twenty20 league in the world. The BPL was dogged by match-fixing scandals and delayed pay for some foreign players after it started in 2011. After a few years, the league has evolved into a professional competition with high-quality teams and players.

The BPL is one of the few leagues in the world that has provided an opportunity for players to continue their careers in cricket, especially for those who couldn’t make it to the big leagues. The BPL has also been a source of income for many players, allowing them to continue their careers in cricket.

BPL has not given details of which there is no limit. The Bangladesh Cricket Board has not given details of the payments. The BPL spends big to attract the best players, including former Sri Lankan batsman Mahela Jayawardene, who has made the BPL a leading Twenty20 tournament.

The BPL is a game-changer, having transformed the T20 league landscape in Asia. The league has attracted some of the best players in the world, including former Sri Lankan batsman Mahela Jayawardene, who has made the BPL a leading Twenty20 tournament.

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Harden sinks Warriors, DeRozan posts triple-double

Rockets rally from a 20-point second-half deficit to beat the two-time defending champion Warriors

**Spotlight**

Grizzlies acquire forward Justin Holiday from Bulls

**NBA**

James Harden showed once again why he is one of the greatest scorers in history. Harden scored 56 points with two seconds left in overtime to lift the Houston Rockets to a 20-point win over the Golden State Warriors on Thursday in a titanic struggle between the Western Conference powers. Harden joined Wilt Chamberlain as the only players with at least five 50-point triple-doubles in their careers.

DeRozan posts triple-double

10 rebounds in a titanic struggle between the Western Conference powers on Thursday. DeRozan played a triple-double on Monday against Memphis of 41 points, 11 assists and 11 rebounds.

He has scored at least 30 points in 32 consecutive contests, the best streak by any player since Kobe Bryant did it in 32 straight games from 2003 to 2004.

**NHL**

Price shuts out Canucks in return

Montreal Canadiens goalie Carey Price shut out the Vancouver Canucks 2-0 on Thursday night. Price thrived in his return from a three-month injury absence, stopping 33 shots for his second shutout of the season. Price recorded 22 saves in regulation and another 11 in overtime before his 34th career shutout.

He has played 20 playoff games for the Canadiens since Dec. 17. The Canadiens posted their sixth straight win in the regular season.

**RESUL TS:**

Golden State 134, Houston 107

Curry stars as Warriors beat Rockets

Stephen Curry put the Warriors ahead with 23 points, 10 rebounds and 13 assists.

The reigning NBA MVP drained the three pointer to lift the Houston Rockets to a 135-134 win over Golden State. The reigning champion Warriors on Thursday.

NBA MVP drained the three pointer winning basket 1:48 into the second overtime period to win it for Golden State.

Harden and Curry went 41-11-13 for the Warriors, who scored at least 50 points in 12 of their last 13 games with a victory at Los Angeles.

JAMES HARDEN SINKS WARRIORS, DE ROZAN POSTS TRIPLE-DOUBLE

In the overtime, the Warriors were outscored 14-3.

The defending champion Warriors fell to 10-11-2 as 28 points and snapped the Raptors’ five-game win streak.

The Warriors have lost their last five games and are 0-6 in overtime.

**RESULTS:**

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The return of Nick Foles has got the Philadelphia Eagles believing of another impossible run to the Super Bowl in what will be the 2021 NFL playoffs. Kick off this weekend with four truly balanced wildcard cards after stumbling through an inconsistent regular season. The Eagles have rediscovered their winning ways with a 3-0 start, which has seen them get the No. 2 seed in the NFC and they will open the playoffs against the Los Angeles Rams on Sunday.

"We’re in a new week. We will continue to fight to win," said head coach Doug Pederson. "We’re ready for it."

The Eagles are in a spot they didn’t think possible six weeks ago. They were 1-5 through their first six games, and there were questions about whether Carson Wentz would be back long term. But Foles came into the lineup late in the season and helped the Eagles win their last six games.

"It’s been a wild ride," said Pederson. "But it’s been a lot of fun."
Son-spurred Korea face Japanese threat in Asian Cup

Iran, Asia's top-ranked side, also pose a threat, along with Australia, the holders

FOOTBALL

PREVIEW

Son-spurred Korea face Japanese threat in Asian Cup

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PREVIEW

Son-spurred Korea face Japanese threat in Asian Cup

Iran, Asia’s top-ranked side, also pose a threat, along with Australia, the holders

SPOTLIGHT

Back with a vengeance: Palestine aiming high

IF it’s their second time com- peting in the Asian Cup, and of course they have their eye on the prize in the United Arab Emirates.

The team opens the campaign against Iran in their opening fixture of the tournament, and Iraq were the eventual winners. Now, with an Asian Cup campaign to their name, and the Asian Cup trophy, they’re looking to do it again.

For a country that has been through so much, this is a moment of pride and joy. The team opened their account in the Asian Cup with a 1-0 victory over Syria, thanks to an opening goal by Ismail al-Ansari.

The team’s performance in the Asian Cup was commendable, winning their opening two matches. They then drew their third match against the UAE, before losing to Japan in the quarter-finals.

Despite the setback, the team showed great resilience and determination. They are looking to build on this performance as they prepare for another Asian Cup campaign in 2023.

The team has a new coach in charge, with former national team coach Tariq al-Sayed taking over. He has brought in a fresh outlook and a new approach to the team.

With the likes of striker Ismail al-Ansari and midfielder Ali Al-Jawad in the team, the team is well-equipped to challenge for the title.

The team aims to improve on their performance in the Asian Cup and make it to the final once again. They are looking to prove that they are a force to be reckoned with in Asian football, and are determined to make their mark on the continent.

With the team’s recent success, they are looking forward to another Asian Cup campaign in 2023. They are hoping to replicate their performance in 2019 and make it to the final once again.

The team is well-prepared and confident in their abilities. They are looking forward to another Asian Cup campaign, and are determined to make their mark on the continent.
The presence of Kompany, whose appearances have been restricted by injury this season, set the tone for a City side who matched Liverpool for effort and aggression throughout a compelling match.

But while Kompany has long been a warrior, there were other players who demonstrated their resolve to the new manager’s satisfaction. "When Gareth came off we had less quality but we still managed to score a couple which was needed to attack with more clarity," he added.

"I imagine that every game that we have come through it and this point can be a turning point for us.""When Gareth came off we had less quality but we still managed to score a couple which was needed to attack with more clarity," he added.

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