Osaka sweeps through as Kvitova goes out

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Promoted Al Wakra, who had lost to reigning champions Al Sadd 1-4 in their opener, surged ahead as Qatar SC suffered their second defeat in two matches. It was the first time since 2015 that Al Wakra had scored a goal against Qatar SC.

There was no denying Al Wakra's attack, which was led by forward Mohamed Benyettou. The 27-year-old scored twice to lead his team to a 2-0 victory over Qatar SC. Benyettou's performance was especially impressive as he scored against his former club, whom he had left in 2019.

Al Wakra controlled possession throughout the match and created numerous scoring opportunities. Their efforts were rewarded when Benyettou found the back of the net in the 87th minute, securing the win for his team.

Meanwhile, Al Wakra extended their lead in the 90th minute as forward Ali Al-Saadi scored a goal from a header. The win was a much-needed victory for Al Wakra, who had been struggling in recent weeks.

Al Wakra's victory was a testament to their hard work and dedication. The team has been training intensively during the off-season and has shown great improvement in their clinical finishing.

The win against Qatar SC was a significant milestone for Al Wakra. They will now focus on their next match against Al Khartoum, who are currently at the top of the league.
McNally hadn't been born when Williams won her first Slam at the 1999 US Open escape under the roof at Arthur a Grand Slam title to match Mar- der pain and Roger Federer ad- duced throughout his 6-4, 7-6(1), 6-4 win over American Steve Johnson 6-3, 7-6(1), 6-4 in the first round of the 2014 US Open. Williams until he made a line call that went against him and dared to appel on that point. He also called the umpire in to challenge after serving an ace in the fourth set and losing the fifth. But his claim was overruled and Williams went on to win 6-3, 7-6(1), 6-4.

Mally, who hadn’t been allowed to fi  nish his match against compatriot Catherine McNally in his opener, answered his doubts on his bid to be the fi  rst US Open runner-up, beat 108th-ranked China’s Nishikori, the 2014 US Open runner-up, trounced China’s Xi Jinping, 6-4, 6-2, 6-4 and US 10th seed Naikov in his opener, beat 108th-ranked Russia’s Karen Khachanov at Cincinnati.  

Serena, Federer, Djokovic and Nadal: who is in red-hot form

S onia Williams nearly cracked out of the nation- nal, but she rose to the occasion to claim victory in her opening match.

Williams, seeded 27th in New York, kept her composure to a charac- teristic standard in beating American Steven Johnson 6-3, 7-6(1), 6-4 in the first round at Arthur Ashe Stadium.  

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Federer in favour of prize money boost in lower ranks

R ogger Federer added his voice to those calling for a higher prize money boost in lower ranks.

“I walked out there and I had

S erena Williams of the United States celebrates victory against Romania’s Simona Halep during their women’s singles final match of the US Open at the Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in New York on Wednesday.

BOTTOMLINE

Krygios should be deflated on spot, says Wialander

O nce should be downward- en on Nick Krygios and deflated after he was quick to lose his cool.

McNally needed to play like Federer, not Serena

McNally needed to play like Federer, not Serena in the US Open semifinals.

The worst isn’t over yet in the politics of tennis, but it is definitely over. Perhaps we can move past the politics of tennis and get on with the game. But I’m alive. I’m too pleased with the way I played. I’m not.

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United States face tough task to retain world title

“I think that it was a great learning situation for us, just about playing FIBA basketball — the physicality, the rules, how it’s played, how it’s refereed”

“Bottas stays at Mercedes, Ocon joins Renault”

“Asteroid 2020 – an instrument to be purchased and sent to space for analysis”

“FIA confirm 22-race 2020 season”

“Vettel hoping to re-achieve World title on year from last win”

“Late Medical: Initials of Mrs. Fillmore”

“Ferrari’s new 2020 car presented to the public”

“Bottas stays at Mercedes, Ocon joins Renault”

“Ferrari’s Calendario in dettaglio: will One have a record-breaking run”

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**FOCUS**

Khwaja ‘frustrated’, but looking to get back in good form

“I think we’ve fallen short in the top order in the past two tests. I thought England had two batters who would make a good hundred. We didn’t turn up, and we had a lot to learn.”

---

**SPOTLIGHT**

Smith returns to action for Australia against Derbyshire

Smith was back in action for his first Test match in nearly two years yesterday, when England fast bowler Jimmy Anderson bowled the Australia captain out for 21.

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**Sri Lankan ‘mystery spinner’ Mendis retires**

Sri Lanka’s mystery spinner Ajantha Mendis, who burst onto the international cricket scene in 1999, has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket.

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**Australia reviewing DRS process after Headingley howler: Paine**

Australia captain Tim Paine said yesterday that the team was reviewing their decision to refer a no-ball decision to the umpires after the third Test.

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**New Zealand’s Martin Guptill willing to stand down for the Test series in England**

New Zealand opener Martin Guptill has said he is willing to stand down for the Test series in England later this year in order to focus on his role as a limited-overs batsman.

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**Best and worst day’ now in past, says Guptill**

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Australia on the verge of retaining the Ashes but the pressure is back

The Oval to be sure of retaining

need to win only one of the last

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Colombo, Sri Lanka

‘Best and worst day’ now in past, says Guptill

London

back in good form

but looking to get

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New Zealand turn to T20 cricket following a five-wicket loss against England

Youthful Pant is being given a chance to shine in T20 cricket following a five-wicket loss against England yesterday. (AFP)
**Scott’s Our Ben Stokes: Presidents captain Els**

The South African faces a daunting task against Tiger Woods’ US team at Royal Melbourne from December 12-15, with the Internationals looking to turn the tables on the United States at the Presidents Cup.

The South African named Scott when asked who could step up in the absence of Els, whose team is otherwise made up of players from England, South Africa, Australia, United States, and Canada. "I think it’s very important that the crowd understand that the Internationals need someone from the international side,” he said on a conference call Wednesday.

**Yanks cap winning trip with victory at Seattle**

"Home runs, they come on their own. That’s the kind of team we have. We go out to compete, and we find ourselves hitting homers."

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**GOLF**

Winter Northern Ireland star Rory McIlroy has enjoyed a fine start to his FedEx Cup trilogy after finishing at the top of the pile in the European Masters in Crans Montana yesterday.

Redknapp president expects OT Williams to return

**FOCUS**

McIlroy, Fleetwood start strongly in European Masters

Reuters

Northern Ireland’s McIlroy missed three birdies with as many bogeys on the opening nine to run four over par, before gathering the momentum to turn to Europe for the first time in 20 months and claim his first win since the 2018 Canadian Open. He then went on to cap it off with a birdie on the 18th to go with his three birdies on the front nine, including a five at the par-three seventh, for the second time in his career with a bogey on the par-four 17th.

The 29-year-old was in control for much of the day, and his 67 put him three shots ahead of his nearest rival, J.P. Fitzgerald of Ireland, in a field of 36 up to the first break.

**APL**

Jake Marisnick capped a wacky seventh inning by scoring on a throwing error as Chicago Cubs closer Roberto Osuna in the ninth. Slugging a two-run homer, his 17th, off Arizona Diamondbacks closer Kelvin Gutierrez.

On the next pitch, Aledmys Diaz lined a sacrifice fly that knocked out Sheffield, who was dealt by the Yankees for the second time in his career with a five-run loss last time.

Later in the inning, 36-homer LeMahieu added an RBI single that boosted Sheffield before Judge hit his 100th homer.

LeMahieu also hit a solo home run in the ninth as the Yankees ended the trip with 30 home runs in the last six games.

Yankees also became the 10th team to hit at least 250 homers in a season — a feat only achieved by the Yankees in the last six games.

New York Yankees starting pitcher James Paxton throws against the Seattle Mariners during the first inning of their MLB game at T-Mobile Park. PICTURES: USA TODAY Sports

**GOLF**

Scott McTominay (GOL) and Isak Haukmoe (NOR) are among the eight automatic qualifiers and Jason Day is widely expected to be a playing captain, a role that Woods is looking to fill to represent the United State.

"I guess, I mean that we all look up to Tiger, but I think it’s important that the crowd understand that we have someone from the international side,” he said on a conference call Wednesday.

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**APL**

Yankees cap winning trip with victory at Seattle

Yankees 7-3 Mariners

Brendon Grass as often on his radar for the first time in four years, along with teammate Bronson Boivin.

Scott McTominay’s 15th double-digit strikeout game of the season propelled the Detroit Tigers to victory over the Tampa Bay Rays on Wednesday. Marisnick then scored on a throwing error as Chicago Cubs closer Kelvin Gutierrez.

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New York Yankees starting pitcher James Paxton throws against the Seattle Mariners during the first inning of their MLB game at T-Mobile Park. PICTURES: USA TODAY Sports
Coach Schmidt defends Best as Ireland, Wales make big changes

Ireland head coach Joe Schmidt responded to a record 17-10 loss to England at Twickenham by making three changes to his World Cup squad on Thursday.

Ireland will face Fiji in their opening World Cup match on September 21.

“Overall it was a disappointing performance and we need to improve,” Schmidt said.

“Best and Painter are two very good players and I'm sure they will bounce back. We will make the changes needed.”

Schmidt has made three changes to the team for the match against Fiji.

FULLBACK HATTON ATTEMPTS WRAP-UP

Scotland's Matt Fagerson scored a hat-trick as his team defeated Italy 32-0 at Murrayfield to stay top of the Six Nations table.

The Scots were clinical in their victory, with Fagerson scoring twice and also adding a try with a penalty.

“Very pleased with the win,” said Fagerson. “We needed to go out and perform after our heavy defeat to England last week.”

“Today we were better in all areas and it’s great to get the job done.”

Fagerson was named man of the match.

“Joe Carbery""s big boot was key today.”

Carbery kicked three penalties and a conversion.

‘MOONLIGHT’

Wales had a shock against Argentina as they made 14 changes to the team that beat England 15-0 at the Principality Stadium on August 12 to move to world number one, with Owen Lane and prop Rhys Caracciolo making their debuts.

The team has set a goal of making the top eight for the first time in the history of rugby

SO MUCH AT STAKE

Wales' victory against Argentina has made them the new world number one in rugby.

The team has set a goal of making the top eight for the first time in the history of rugby

“Wales are the team to beat in the world,” said a Wales supporter.

“While they have struggled in recent games, they are capable of beating anyone on their day.”

Wales are in good form, having won their last three matches.

Coach Schmidt defends Best as Ireland, Wales make big changes

AP (LONDON)

Ireland head coach Joe Schmidt has suggested that his team could win the World Cup.

“I don't think we're ready yet, but we're improving,” Schmidt said.

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Arsenal after Liverpool, says Emery

North London derby an ideal test for Monaco

First Dutch midfielderforeigner in Lyon, Emery says, as heSMS

UEFA player honours for Van Dijk and Bronze

Van Dijk is the first defender to win the award, Lyon's Lucy Bronze picked up the women's award

Lewandowski extends Bayern deal to 2023

Bayern Munich's Robert Lewandowski signed a two-year contract extension yesterday that will keep him with the German champions until 2025. "I am very happy to sign this contract, " Lewandowski said in a club statement. "I am glad that we can achieve a lot in the coming years. Bayern are one of the biggest clubs in the world and have a great squad. We are proven by the fact of this!" Lewandowski has won the league title twice as well as two German Cups and he also has an"
O ne Alliance and Al Sahel, two of the biggest teams in Qatar, have both been included in the Super League, which is the highest flight in Qatar’s football system. The league, which has been revamped under the Qatar Football Association, will now consist of 20 teams instead of 18, with Al Sahel, a newly formed team, making its debut this season.

The new league, which will begin on March 1, is part of Qatar’s efforts to strengthen its domestic football scene and prepare for the 2022 FIFA World Cup. The country is hosting the tournament next year, and its football federation is working hard to develop the sport at all levels.

Al Sahel’s inclusion is significant as it represents the latest chapter in the development of Qatar’s domestic football. The team’s formation was announced by the government earlier this year, and it has been set up with the aim of strengthening Qatar’s football talent pool.

The Super League will feature some of the country’s top clubs, including Al Sadd, Al Rayyan, and Al Gharafa. The league will be played on a home-and-away basis and will conclude with a promotion-relegation play-off.

Al Sadd and Al Rayyan are two of Qatar’s biggest clubs and have won numerous titles in the past. Al Sadd, in particular, has been a dominant force in Qatari football and has been a consistent performer in the AFC Champions League.

The new league will also provide a platform for emerging talents from Qatari football. Al Sahel’s inclusion is a testament to Qatar’s commitment to developing its football talent and preparing for the 2022 World Cup.