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Ronaldo scores as Portugal rekindle Euro 2020 hopes



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England's Casey seals one-shot win at European Open

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GULF TIMES SPORT



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TENNIS

Teen Andreescu topples Williams for US Open title

The 19-year-old is the youngest Grand Slam winner since Sharapova in 2006, handing Williams a fourth consecutive defeat in the final of a major to again deny her a record-equalling 24th Slam title



Canada's Bianca Andreescu kisses the US Open trophy after beating Serena Williams of the US in the final on Saturday.

AFP
New York

Teenager Bianca Andreescu became Canada's first Grand Slam singles champion on Saturday with a rollercoaster 6-3, 7-5 win over 23-time major champion Serena Williams in the US Open final.

The 19-year-old Andreescu became the youngest Grand Slam winner since Maria Sharapova at the 2006 US Open, handing Williams a fourth consecutive defeat in the final of a major to again deny her a record-equalling 24th Slam title.

"It's so hard to explain in words but I'm just beyond grateful and truly blessed. I've worked really, really hard for this moment," said Andreescu, who had won just two Grand Slam matches ahead of her US Open main draw debut.

"This year has been a dream come true. Being able to play on this stage against Serena, a true legend of the sport, is amazing."

"It wasn't easy at all. I tried to prepare my best like I do every match, I tried not to focus on who I'm playing. I'm really proud of how I dealt with everything."

Andreescu tied Monica Seles, who lifted the 1990 Roland Garros trophy in her fourth major, for the record as the fastest player to win her first Slam title in the Open era.

Williams, 37, suffered a second finals loss in a row at Flushing Meadows, after a 2018 defeat against Naomi Osaka best remembered for a furious tirade against chair umpire Carlos Ramos.

"Bianca played an unbelievable match, I am so proud and happy for you. It was incredible tennis out there. If anyone could win this, outside of Venus, I'm happy it's Bianca," Williams said.

Appearing in a 33rd Grand Slam final, and fourth since the last of her 23 major titles, Williams made an inauspicious start at Arthur Ashe Stadium by conceding her opening service game with successive double faults.

Andreescu, who wasn't even born when Williams won her maiden Slam at the 1999 US Open, responded

with a comfortable hold, a pattern that repeated itself until the Canadian threatened to run away with the opening set.

Serving at 2-4, Williams erased five break points with a combination of aces and booming groundstrokes but Andreescu was knocking on the door once more as the American served to stay in the set.

A forehand winner earned the youngster a set point, and Williams duly her gifted her the opener with another double fault.

Andreescu had failed to even reach the main draw at Flushing Meadows the past two years, twice falling in the first qualifying round, and her confidence continued to flow as she surged 2-0 ahead in the second - Williams again doubled-faulting on break point.

That prompted forlorn looks from the Williams box, where her close friend Meghan Markle, the Duchess of Sussex, was seated alongside sister Venus and fashion titan Anna Wintour.

'This year has been a dream come true. Being able to play on this stage against Serena, a true legend of the sport, is amazing'

The American carved out four opportunities to hit back the following game, benefiting from a huge stroke of luck when a forehand brushed the tape and trickled over to haul herself back on serve.

Undeterred, Andreescu promptly regained the initiative with another break and looked to be marching towards the title when she followed a routine hold by again breaking the Williams serve for a 5-1 lead.

Andreescu brought up championship point in the ensuing game, but Williams smacked a forehand winner to stay alive and then rattled off 14 of 17 points to peg her opponent back at 5-all.

"I was just fighting at that point, just trying to stay out there a little bit longer," said Williams, feeding off the energy of 24,000 cheering fans as she briefly sparked hopes of an incredible comeback.

"The fans started cheering so hard it made me start playing a little bit better and fighting a little bit more."

The Canadian stemmed the bleeding by holding for 6-5 and an errant Williams backhand handed Andreescu two more shots at the title. Williams saved the first with an ace but Andreescu secured victory on the next with a blistering forehand return.

Five facts and figures from the final

- 100:** The number of minutes the match lasted. Andreescu took the opening set in 42 minutes and won the second in 58, breaking Williams in the 12th game to settle issues in one hour 40 minutes.
- 33:** The number of winners and unforced errors made by Serena Williams in her fourth consecutive Grand Slam final defeat since becoming a mother.
- 19:** It's the number of winners hit by Bianca Andreescu, compared to 17 unforced errors. It's also Andreescu's age, making her the youngest US Open champion since Russian Svetlana Kuznetsova in 2004. She's also the first teen to win a Grand Slam since Russia's Maria Sharapova captured the 2006 US Open.
- 5:** That's the world ranking Andreescu will climb into next week, matching Eugenie Bouchard from 2014 for the highest ever by a Canadian woman. It's also a career-high for Andreescu, who cracks the top 10 for the first time. It's also the number of aces Andreescu had in the match and the number of aces and double faults Williams made in the second set.
- 1:** That's how many Canadians have won Grand Slam titles. It's also how many Slam wins Williams still needs to equal the all-time record of 24 won by Margaret Court. She has lost the 2018 and 2019 Wimbledon and US Open finals with a chance to match the mark in each case.

FOOTBALL

India will learn from Qatar, says coach Stimac

IANS
Doha

India lost to Oman 1-2 but their spirited display raised hopes of the sport going in the right direction under new coach Igor Stimac.

They will now take on Asian champions Qatar in Doha tomorrow and the Croatian coach is well aware of the challenge that lies ahead.

"As soon as the Oman match ended, we shifted our focus immediately to the next match. Qatar are the strongest team in the group and playing them will not be easy. However, it's a great opportunity to learn from," Stimac told www.the-aiff.com.

The Croatian added that the team has "no reason to fear" ahead of the encounter. He stated, "Obviously, we have to change 4-5 players.

"We'll see how everyone is feeling. There is no reason to fear and we shall look to score goals and play good football."

Winger Udanta Singh, who almost opened India's account against Oman after his shot early in the first half came back off the underside of the crossbar, said that the team has to keep its "chin up".

"The previous match is now history and everyone is now focusing on the match against Qatar. We have to keep our chins up. We started our preparations the very next day and are now looking forward to starting training here. We are expecting a tough encounter as Qatar are the Asian champions, but we have to stick to our plans, stay compact and play as a team. If we can do that, we can certainly pull off a favourable result," he said.

Full-back Subhasish Bose stressed that the motivation levels in the team are high as they gear up for their first away fixture of the qualifiers, saying that head coach Stimac is "pushing the players" to

learn and keep improving.

The 24-year-old said, "We played well against Oman but we could have done better towards the end. However, it is important that we learn from our mistakes and ensure that we come out fighting and stronger. The coach has been motivating us and said that he was proud of the way we played. Against Qatar, we have to be solid and make the most of our chances."

With just five days between India's first two group stage fixtures, midfielder Rowlin Borges talked about how the team is recovering after a fierce battle and "getting in shape" physically and mentally for the challenge in three days' time.

He remarked, "The first match was a tough one for sure but we started our recovery process in the gym the very next morning and everyone is getting in shape to now take on Qatar. It is a very important match for us and we will put our best foot forward."

Returning to the national team lineup for the first time since January was forward Ashique Kuruniyan, marking his first appearance under Stimac in Guwahati against Oman after recovering from an injury. The youngster, who hails from Kerala, spoke about his return to the Blue Tigers XI and the side's mindset ahead of Tuesday's game.

"I had been working really hard to return to full fitness in the last few months and I'm glad to wear the India jersey once again. We have to accept what happened against Oman and learn from it. Qatar are a strong team undoubtedly but we will push them as hard as we can and play to the best of our abilities," he said.

The match between India and Qatar will take place at the Jassim Bin Hamad Stadium.

As per the latest update of the FIFA world ranking, India are in 103rd place while the hosts - the defending Asian champions - are ranked at 62.



Qatar coach Felix Sanchez watches his players during a training session ahead of tomorrow's 2022 Qatar FIFA World Cup and 2023 China Asian Cup qualifier in Doha.

FOCUS

Williams legacy assured while number 24 remains out of reach

SINCE GIVING BIRTH TO HER DAUGHTER IN 2017, WILLIAMS HAS NOT WON A TOURNAMENT

Reuters
New York

Already regarded as the greatest women's player ever to pick up a tennis racquet, Serena Williams's legacy is already assured but the record equalling 24th Grand Slam that would help build statistical proof remains frustratingly out of reach.

Twenty years ago a 17-year-old Williams walked away from the US Open with what would be the first of her 23 Grand Slam titles.

On Saturday she had the chance to equal Margaret Court's all-time record but instead it was Canadian teenager Bianca Andreescu grabbing the trophy with a 6-3, 7-5 win.

That victory not only raised questions about whether Williams would ever get beyond 23 Grand Slam titles, many also viewed 19-year-old Andreescu's win as a changing of the guard in women's tennis.

Since giving birth to her daughter in 2017, Williams has not won a tournament.

Four times now, twice at Wimbledon (2018, 2019) and at the US Open (2018, 2019) Williams has come agonisingly close to that 24th Grand Slam only to fall at the final hurdle.

She did not just lose all four finals — she failed to win a single set.

The next time Williams can attempt to equal Court's record at the Australian Open in January she would be 38, the climb to the summit ever steeper.

But a defiant Williams refused to accept there would not be another Grand Slam in her future.

"All of it honestly, truly is super frustrating," said Williams. "I'm, like, so close, so close, so close, yet so far away."

"I don't know what to say. I guess I got to keep going if I want to be a professional tennis player."

"And I just got to just keep fighting through it."

"I'm not necessarily chasing



Bianca Andreescu (right) is congratulated by runner-up Serena Williams during the trophy presentation ceremony at the US Open on Saturday. (AFP)

a record. I'm just trying to win Grand Slams.

"It's definitely frustrating. I'm still doing what I can do."

MOVING THE NEEDLE

Like Tiger Woods and Michael Jordan, Williams is an athlete who moves the needle. What she wears, eats and says matters. In the Big Apple, where there is no shortage of distractions for A-listers on a Saturday afternoon, it was the Serena Williams show that was the hot ticket.

When the Queen of Tennis

holds court in New York it attracts sporting royalty and on occasion the real thing. Williams's good friend Meghan Markle, the Duchess of Sussex, was cheering her on from the players box.

But no amount of support, royal or otherwise, could lift Williams to the level she needed on Saturday, Andreescu breaking the former world number one to open the final and never letting her opponent get her nose in front.

Williams's power game has

never been in question. Her serve and crushing forehands can still strike fear into opponents.

But the rest of Williams's game has begun to show signs of wear of time.

She can no longer command the court the way she once did, and her coach Patrick Mouratoglou suggested Williams's greatest weapon — her unshakable confidence — had faltered under the weight of her own high expectations.

Before the US Open the air of invincibility that once sur-

rounded Williams had all but vanished.

Then she arrived at the doors to Flushing Meadows and looked unbeatable, steamrolling her way into her 10th US Open final.

This was not an old Williams. This was the Williams of old.

The ruthless 6-3, 6-1 semi-final win over fifth seed Elina Svitolina seemed to indicate that the title was there for the taking. But on Saturday she was looking across the net at a mirror image of her younger self.

A player with a big serve,

thundering forehand, all court game, intensity and a cat burglar's cool. Down a set and 5-1 the stress and frustration was written all over Williams's face.

Then the spirit of a champion took over, Williams fighting off match point and sweeping through four games to level the set and sending a jolt of electricity through a seething Arthur Ashe Stadium.

But in the end youth was served, Andreescu living up to expectations and Williams unable to live up to her own.

SPOTLIGHT

Serena wished for better showing



Duchess of Sussex Meghan Markle (right) and Serena Williams' mother Oracene Price cheer on Serena during the US Open final match on Saturday.

AFP
New York

Serena Williams took energy from 24,000 cheering fans Saturday at Arthur Ashe Stadium, but in the end it was not enough to enable her to defeat Bianca Andreescu in the US Open final.

The 19-year-old Canadian defeated Williams 6-3, 7-5 to capture her first Grand Slam title, but only after battling Williams deep into a tough second set.

"It was fantastic tennis out there," Williams said. "I wish I could have played a little bit better."

Williams was denied in her attempt to match Margaret Court's all-time record of 24 Grand Slam titles. It's the fourth Slam final in a row, this year's and last year's finals at the US Open and Wimbledon, where Williams came up short with a chance to equal the mark.

Down 5-1 in the second set, Williams faced a match point but answered with a forehand winner to foil Andreescu. She broke in the seventh game and again in the ninth at love and pulled level at 5-5 as the crowd roared with delight, hoping to see history made.

"I was just fighting at that point, just trying to stay out there a little bit longer," Williams said.

"The fans started cheering so hard it made me start playing a little bit better and fighting a little bit more."

But her fightback came up short as Andreescu held and broke on a forehand winner. Williams finished with 33 winners but also 33 unforced errors to only 17 by Andreescu.

"Bianca played a wonderful match," Williams said. "I just feel really honoured to be out here and competing at this level."

BOTTOMLINE

Fight for your dreams: Andreescu

AFP
New York

Teenager Bianca Andreescu said Saturday's US Open final triumph felt all the more rewarding after a 2018 qualifying defeat left her feeling particularly low and languishing outside the world's top 200.

This time last year a dependent Andreescu was sat at home nursing an injury and coming to terms with a second successive failed attempt at making the main draw in New York.

"It's definitely a process of life. You're never going to have ups all the time. So I think in those moments, you just have to deal with it the best that you can, which is to just keep fighting for your dreams and just stay as persistent and persevere as much as you can," Andreescu said.

"I know in those moments you feel like you can't. But if you believe that there are good times ahead, then those tough moments are definitely worth it. I think it builds you as a character. I think everyone should go through it because it just makes you stronger."

Twelve months on and the 19-year-old was hoisting aloft the US Open trophy as Canada's first Grand Slam singles champion, and the youngest major winner since Svetlana Kuznetsova at the 2004 US Open.



She stalled Serena Williams's bid for a record-tying 24th Grand Slam title with a 6-3, 7-5 win, withstanding a rousing second-set recovery from the American to become the seventh first-time major champion in the past 11 events.

"This wasn't the only time I visualised playing in the finals actually against Serena Williams. It's so crazy, man," said

an emotional Andreescu, briefly pausing to collect her thoughts.

"I've been dreaming of this moment for the longest time. Like I said after I won the Orange Bowl (in 2015), a couple months after, I really believed that I could be at this stage."

Since then, honestly I've been visualizing it almost every single day. For it to become a reality is just so crazy. I guess

these visualizations really, really work."

INSPIRATIONAL FIGURE

Andreescu will break into the top five after her remarkable breakthrough run at Flushing Meadows, where she scooped a winner's check for an eye-watering \$3.85 mn, taking her 2019 earnings to over \$6 mn. She started the year with career winnings of

just \$215,888.

Andreescu, just the second Canadian woman to play in a Grand Slam final after 2014 Wimbledon runner-up Eugenie Bouchard, reiterated her commitment to serving as an inspiration for aspiring athletes back home.

"I've said this many, many times before. I'm going to say it again. It's been a goal of mine to inspire many people, especially Canadian athletes," Andreescu said, born in the Toronto suburbs to Romanian parents.

"I think that this win will hopefully do that, not only this win but just what I've accomplished this past year because so many Canadian athletes have paved the way for me when I was young. Hopefully I can be that person to them."

Andreescu credited Carling Bassett, who had been the last Canadian woman to reach the US Open semi-finals in 1984, and basketball great Steve Nash, a two-time NBA Most Valuable Player, as motivating her as a young athlete.

"Bassett, for sure, was very inspirational. Steve Nash. I can name so many. But it's really nice for people to have that inspiration at a really young age," said Andreescu.

"So when I step on the court, I just really try to show my best character, just to have that good example for other players. Like I said many times, if I can do it, if Serena can do it, if Roger (Federer) can do it, if Steve Nash can do it, then anyone can do it."

Murray, Mattek-Sands retain mixed doubles crown



AFP
New York

Britain's Jamie Murray and Bethanie Mattek-Sands of the United States captured their second consecutive US Open mixed doubles title on Saturday, defeating top seeds Chan Hao-Ching and Michael Venus 6-2, 6-3.

They became the first mixed doubles duo to win back-to-back US Open titles since South African Kevin Curran and American Anne Smith in 1981 and 1982. Murray, who also won the 2017 US Open mixed doubles crown with Martina Hingis, became the first man to capture three US Open mixed doubles titles in a row since Australia's Neale Fraser from 1958-1960.

"We played amazing the whole two weeks, especially the semi-finals and finals," Murray said. "I've always had fun on

the court. Really happy to win again."

Mattek-Sands ended matters after 59 minutes with a backhand service return winner.

"They were all over us from the start," Venus said. "Too good."

Murray, a 33-year-old Scotsman, and Mattek-Sands combined to hit 23 winners with only 11 unforced errors in collecting the \$160,000 top prize. "Jamie, you were on fire this whole two weeks," Mattek-Sands said. "We have a lot of fun. He keeps me grounded. I'm the energetic one."

Add Murray: "She says I'm the yin to her yang."

Murray's other Grand Slam mixed doubles crowns came at Wimbledon in 2007 and 2017. Mattek-Sands also has Grand Slam mixed doubles titles at the 2012 Australian Open with Romanian Horia Tecau and the 2015 French Open with compatriot Mike Bryan.

FORMULA 1

Leclerc triggers Ferrari frenzy with Monza win

'What a race! I have never been so tired. Winning here is just a dream'



Winner Ferrari's Monegasque driver Charles Leclerc stands on his car to celebrate after the Italian Formula One Grand Prix at the Autodromo Nazionale circuit in Monza yesterday. At bottom, he poses with the trophy.

Reuters
Monza, Italy

Charles Leclerc triggered a frenzy of Ferrari celebration yesterday after holding off a race-long Mercedes challenge to take the Italian Formula One team's first home grand prix victory since 2010.

Valtteri Bottas was second for Mercedes with five-times world champion Lewis Hamilton a distant third after tyre wear took its toll in a thrilling battle with the 21-year-old Monegasque.

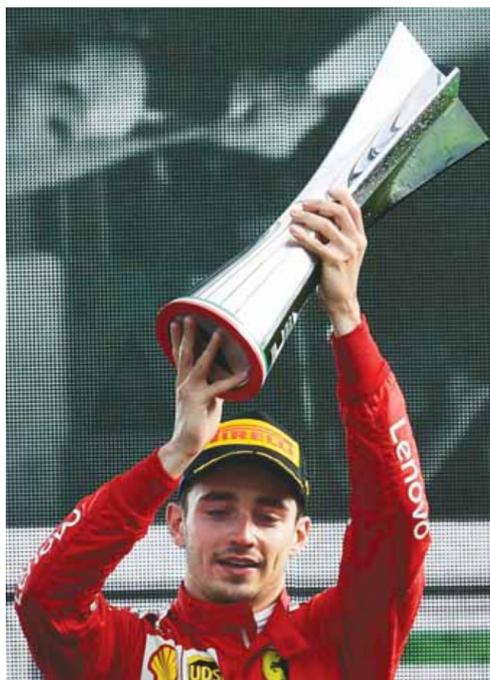
"What a race! I have never been so tired," gasped Leclerc as a sea of fans, starved of success at Monza since Fernando Alonso won in the red overalls, swept onto the pit straight to party below the overhanging podium with flags and flares.

"Winning here is just a dream," continued the winner, switching to fluent Italian to address a crowd cheering a fitting triumph on the 90th anniversary of both Monza and Formula One's most glamorous team.

"Last weekend (in Belgium) was my first victory, but the emotion of winning here is 10 times that," said Leclerc, a two-times winner – and Ferrari's sole one so far this season – in only his 14th race for Ferrari.

"Thanks to everybody. I have no words.

Hamilton's lead over closest rival Bottas was cut to 62 points



from 65, with the Briton limiting the damage by making a late pitstop for fresh tyres to set the fastest lap and gain an extra point.

"He did a great job, congratulations to Ferrari," said Hamilton,

who took the fight to Leclerc from the start but dropped behind Bottas 10 laps from the end when he cut the first chicane.

"A lot of pressure from both Valtteri and I. I did the best I could. Obviously following so

closely for such a long time, the tyres eventually just went off the cliff.

"But nevertheless they were just quicker today, quicker in a straight line, so even if we did get close we couldn't pass. So not our day but still strong points for the team," added the 34-year-old. Leclerc's German team mate Sebastian Vettel had an afternoon to forget, going from bad to worse at the one circuit where every Ferrari driver wants to impress. While Leclerc led from pole position, the four-times champion spun off, plunged to last place and served a 10 second stop/go penalty for a dangerous return to the track.

He was then lapped by his impressive team mate, who is now 13 points above him in the standings and fast becoming the main man at Maranello.

Stewards also handed Vettel three penalty points, taking his 12 month tally to nine. Three more in the next three races will trigger a one-race ban.

"I lost the rear, a mistake by me," the German, 13th at the flag, said of the incident. "A good day for the team but not good on my side. I can't be happy with my day today."

Australian Daniel Ricciardo was fourth for Renault, just ahead of team mate Nico Hulkenberg in a strong race for the French manufacturer.

Thai driver Alex Albon was sixth for Red Bull, with team mate Max Verstappen eighth and

Mexican Sergio Perez seventh for Racing Point.

Antonio Giovinazzi, the first Italian to compete in his home race for eight years, was ninth for Alfa Romeo and British teenager Lando Norris took the final point for McLaren.

Vettel's early spin drew the ire of the stewards when he steered his Ferrari back on track into the path of other cars, with Canadian Lance Stroll making a glancing contact and also going off.

Stroll, the innocent party turned offender, then almost hit Toro Rosso's Pierre Gasly when he came back on and was served with a drive through penalty.

Leclerc and Hamilton, meanwhile, went wheel-to-wheel, with the Ferrari driver shown a black and white flag – the equivalent of a yellow card in soccer – for squeezing the Mercedes off at the second chicane on lap 23.

"He didn't leave a car's width," exclaimed Hamilton on the radio. "He pushed me off."

Leclerc's response to the flag was one of puzzlement: "why?" The radio crackled back into life later on when Leclerc made an error and seemed to change line while braking, blocking Hamilton in his slipstream.

"There's some dangerous driving going on," declared Hamilton.

Bottas led briefly when Hamilton and then Leclerc pitted, with the Finn stopping later and his fresher tyres coming into play in the closing stages.

RUGBY

All Blacks head to Japan, aim to peak at right time

Reuters
Wellington

The All Blacks head to Japan today with confidence boosted by the demolition of Tonga 92-7 in their final warmup before the World Cup and mindful they will need to pace themselves despite a blockbusting opening match against South Africa.

The Springboks loom as the biggest threat to the All Blacks from winning a third successive trophy, while England, Ireland and Wales are also genuine contenders.

All Blacks coach Steve Hansen, however, will be well aware of the perils of not heeding what lies ahead of them as it can trip a side up during the tournament, like New Zealand's unsuccessful campaign in 2007.

After sweeping through pool play with some imperious performances, the All Blacks crashed out in the quarter-finals to France and admitted afterwards that they probably became too focussed on the ultimate prize rather than their next game.

The team took lessons from that campaign and applied them to successful tournaments in 2011 and 2015 and Hansen told reporters in Hamilton on Sunday they were heading to Japan mindful of all they had learned in the intervening years.

"You've got to pace yourself," he said. "You don't win the tour-

nament in the first round and once you get to the knockout round, you've got to earn the right to come back and train on Monday."

The opener against the Springboks in Yokohama is arguably the most important match of the first tranche of games, with it likely to determine the winner of Pool B and the quarter-final place against the Pool A runner-up.

The loser will likely face Ireland, who are projected to win Pool A.

After big victories in 2016 and 2017, the All Blacks have struggled against the Springboks over the last two seasons, with the sides sharing a narrow win each in 2018 and battling to a draw in this year's Rugby Championship. Hansen felt comfortable with the fact that his side would need to hit the ground running first up, before they have easier matches against Canada, Namibia and Italy and then raise their game again should they make the quarter-finals.

"If you follow horse racing you'll understand what I mean," Hansen said. "Like, you can have a horse at his first start, and it doesn't have to be in its greatest form, it just needs to be in really good form."

"But when you really want to peak, you're right at the very best, there's nothing left, you can't tinker anymore."

"The 31 people that are going, we've got massive belief in each and every one of them."



New Zealand's Kieran Read (L) and head coach Steve Hansen share a smile in this file photo.

US rally to beat Canada in warm-up

Vancouver: Martin Iosefo scored what proved to be the winning try as the USA rallied to beat Canada 20-15 in the final tuneup for both teams ahead of the 2019 Rugby World Cup.

Iosefo took a pass late in the game and accelerated quickly to the outside then powered his way past Canadian defender Shane O'Leary before diving over in the corner.

This was the third meeting of the year between the two countries with the Eagles having won the first meeting in March, 30-25, and then again in June, 47-19.

The Americans kept their six year winning streak over Canada alive but they had to come back from a 12-10 halftime deficit at Vancouver's BC Place Stadium to do it.

Cam Dolan and Dylan Fawsitt also scored tries for the Americans. Canada got tries from Gord McRorie and Peter Nelson. Canada had lengthy possession series with five minutes to go but the American defence was able to ward off the attack and preserve the win.

Canadian prop Hubert Buydens needed stitches to repair a large cut on his forehead. He returned to the field but was subbed off again with blood streaming down his face.

The Eagles World Cup tournament kicks off against England in Kobe, Japan on September 26.

Canada open against Italy on the same day in Fukuoka. Canada still lead the all-times series against the US with 38 wins, 23 losses and two draws.

Bradbury gets Scotland spot

London: Scotland back-row Magnus Bradbury has been handed a seat on the plane to the Rugby World Cup in Japan after teammate Jamie Ritchie suffered a facial injury.

Ritchie will remain in Scotland while the squad fly out to Japan today but could still make the event, which starts later this month. The Edinburgh flanker suffered a facial injury during Friday's final warm-up win over Georgia at Murrayfield.

The Scottish Rugby Union said Bradbury would travel as "precautionary injury cover".

"Ritchie sustained a facial injury in the national team's 36-9 win over Georgia," it said in a statement, adding that Bradbury would remain in Scotland for specialist assessment.

Ritchie was the most serious of five injury concerns to come from the game, with the other four players set to travel.

BOTTOMLINE

Hamilton calls for consistency

AFP
Monza, Italy

Disappointed Lewis Hamilton called for greater consistency and fairness from stewards' decisions after missing out on winning yesterday's Italian Grand Prix.

The series leader and defending five-time world champion believed he was the victim of a controversial move during the closely-fought race when triumphant Ferrari driver Charles Leclerc blocked him without



leaving a car's width of space. The incident resulted in the victorious 21-year-old Mon-

egasque driver being shown a black-and-white flag, signalling a caution but without a

penalty.

Hamilton recalled similar incidents in past seasons have resulted in time penalties and suggested the current generation of younger drivers are being allowed to race under different rules.

In 2018, Max Verstappen was handed a time penalty for blocking Valtteri Bottas at the chicane in the Italian Grand Prix, in a move almost identical to that of Leclerc yesterday.

"That's just racing, I guess," he said.

"I had to avoid colliding with him a couple of times and that's

how it is, racing, today."

Hamilton, who was within two seconds of Leclerc for most of the race, said earlier he did not want to talk about the incidents which he had said were dangerous.

"It doesn't really matter what I think," said the Briton.

"I have nothing to say about it. It is pointless to bring it up."

"I had to avoid collisions and then I tried to race hard again and get back. This new generation get away with more than we did in the past."

"I'd just like to see consistency."



UPSET

Mkhitarian scores twice as Armenia stun Bosnia

Reuters
Yerevan

Armenia captain Henrikh Mkhitarian scored twice as Armenia stunned Bosnia with a dramatic 4-2 win in their Euro 2020 qualifier yesterday.

The win lifted Armenia above Bosnia in Group J as they moved into third place with nine points, three behind Finland. Bosnia are fourth with seven. The top two qualify for next year's tournament.

The game got off to a lively start as Edin Dzeko hit the post with a low shot for Bosnia before his AS Roma team mate Mkhitarian gave the hosts a third-minute lead.

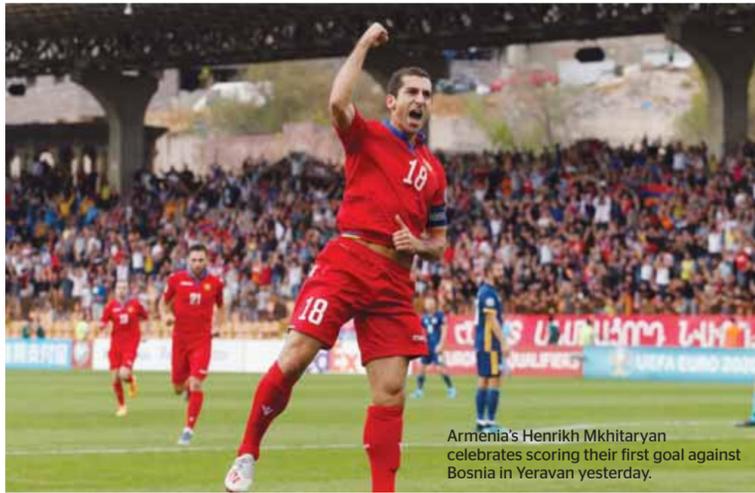
The midfielder collected Tigran Barseghyan's cross from the right before pushing it past

goalkeeper Ibrahim Sehic and thumping it into the net.

Bosnia hit back 10 minutes later as Amer Gojak's inswinging cross found Dzeko who got away from the Armenia defence to turn the ball into the net. Mkhitarian, Armenia's record scorer, put his team back in front in the 66th minute when he provided an emphatic finish to a well-worked move, his 29th goal for his country, but Gojak levelled again for Bosnia four minutes later.

Mkhitarian then turned provider as he supplied a perfect cross for Hovhannes Hambarzumyan to score at the far post in the 77th minute.

Gojak could have equalised in stoppage time but volleyed wide from a good position and then Stjepan Loncar turned Mkhitarian's cross into his own net to complete the scoring.



Armenia's Henrikh Mkhitarian celebrates scoring their first goal against Bosnia in Yerevan yesterday.

REPORT

Portugal rekindle Euro hopes with 4-2 win in Serbia

The victory lifted the Portuguese to second place in the group on five points

Reuters
Belgrade

European champions Portugal got their Euro 2020 qualifying campaign back on track with goals from William Carvalho, Goncalo Guedes, Cristiano Ronaldo and Bernardo Silva helping them to a pulsating 4-2 Group B victory in Serbia on Saturday.

The victory lifted the Portuguese to second place in the group on five points from three games, eight behind runaway leaders Ukraine who have 13 from five matches after their 3-0 win in Lithuania earlier on Saturday.

Third-placed Luxembourg and Serbia in fourth both have four points from as many games while Lithuania are bottom with one point from four matches.

Coach Fernando Santos, who steered Portugal to the Euro 2016 title in France and this year's triumph in the inaugural Nations League, was pleased with his team's performance.

"We showed a lot of creativity and attacking intent in a solid performance required to beat a very good Serbia side," Santos told reporters.

"Getting the opening goal just before halftime was vital and in the second half we controlled



Portugal's forward Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates after scoring against Serbia in Belgrade.

the game. We stifled their excellent midfield and deserved the win.

"This win should boost our confidence ahead of Tuesday's visit to Lithuania and nothing less than a win will do because it's a complicated group."

His counterpart Ljubisa Tum-

bakovic, who replaced Miladen Krstajic on July 1 three weeks after he was sacked by Montenegro, conceded he had endured a sour debut as Serbia coach.

"We lost to a majestic team full of world-class players," said the 67-year old from Belgrade.

"We lacked the final pass in

the first half and it didn't help that we fell behind just before the break. As ever in Serbian football, we were vulnerable defensively and that undermines every other department."

Portugal dominated the opening half and Carvalho fired them ahead in the 42nd minute when

he poked the ball into an empty net from three metres after Serbia keeper Marko Dmitrovic spilled a Bruno Fernandes cross from the right.

Cristiano Ronaldo, looking subdued in the opening half and given a hostile reception at Red Star stadium as Serbian fans jeered him every time he touched the ball, twice came close early in the second half.

He fired inches wide from the edge of the penalty area after cutting in from the left and then curled a free kick narrowly off target before Guedes doubled Portugal's lead with a fine individual effort.

The forward capped a flowing move as he sidestepped a defender and rifled in an unstoppable shot past Dmitrovic into the far corner from 12 metres to silence the raucous home crowd.

Centre back Nikola Milenkovic pulled one back for Serbia in the 68th minute, heading a Dusan Tadic corner past keeper Rui Patricio, who was two minutes later forced to tip a fierce Adem Ljajic shot from 20 metres over the bar.

Taunted by chants of "Messi" from Serbia's die-hard fans, Ronaldo demonstrated his class in the 80th minute when he took a Bernardo Silva pass in his stride and coolly dinked the ball over the advancing Dmitrovic.

SPOTLIGHT

Swiss hit four against Gibraltar, Georgia hold Denmark goalless

Reuters
Sion, Switzerland

Switzerland took 37 minutes to break down a stubborn Gibraltar side before easing to a 4-0 win while Denmark were frustrated by Georgia in a 0-0 draw in Group D of the Euro 2020 qualifiers yesterday.

Ireland stayed top of the five-team group with 11 points from five games, two ahead of Denmark, while Switzerland are one point behind in third and with a game in hand. Georgia have four points while Gibraltar have none and have yet to score a goal.

Edmilson Fernandes was close twice early on for Switzerland and Loris Benito rattled the woodwork before Gibraltar were forced to change goalkeepers in the 23rd minute as Dayle Coleing went off injured to be replaced by Kyle Goldwin.

The Gibraltar defence still held firm until Denis Zakaria nodded in from a corner in the 37th minute.

Admir Mehmedi added the second with another header,

from a Fabian Schaer cross, in the 43rd minute and Ricardo Rodriguez fired home the third in first-half stoppage time after the ball pinged around the Gibraltar area. mGranit Xhaka had several attempts to get on the scoresheet after the break, with one effort well saved by Goldwin.

The Swiss had to be content with one more goal three minutes for the end when Mehmedi's shot hit a defender and rebounded to Mario Gavranovic who dispatched the ball into the net.

Denmark were frustrated by Georgia goalkeeper Giorgi Loria and the woodwork in Tbilisi.

Loria twice denied Martin Braithwaite with fingertip saves as Denmark dominated the first half.

Valeri Qazaishvili had Georgia's best effort with a long-range shot which flew narrowly wide of Kasper Schmeichel's right-hand post in the 76th minute.

Denmark substitute Christian Gytkjaer cracked a shot against the crossbar with Loria beaten in the 82nd minute but, despite 59% of possession, they created few openings and had to settle for a point.



Switzerland's goalkeeper Yann Sommer (L) and defender Nico Elvedi applaud at the end of their Euro 2020 qualifying match against Gibraltar at the Tourbillon stadium in Sion yesterday.

Ecuador proposes joint bid for 2030 World Cup to Colombia and Peru

Buenos Aires: Ecuador's President Lenin Moreno has asked his Colombian and Peruvian counterparts to join forces for a combined South American bid to host the 2030 football World Cup, he said on Saturday.

Moreno said in a tweet that he asked Colombia's Ivan Duque and Peru's Martin Vizcarra to present a joint bid for 2030, "a year in which South America is favoured to host."

The bid would compete with the joint application of Argentina, Chile, Uruguay and Paraguay.

Bulgaria, Greece, Romania and Serbia are also looking into a joint bid, as are British

nations England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales. Morocco is also expected to apply to host the event, while China has expressed interest.

The first World Cup was hosted by inaugural winners Uruguay in 1930, with 48 teams due to compete at the centenary event in 2030.

Colombia had won the bid to host the 1986 World Cup but withdrew less

than four years before the event for financial issues. The tournament ended up being held in Mexico.

The 2022 World Cup will take place in Qatar while the 2026 one will be hosted by the US, Canada and Mexico.

FOCUS

Coman is the King of France again

AFP
Paris

Kingsley "King" Coman lived up to his nickname when he made the most of Kylian Mbappe's absence to lead France to a 4-1 win over Albania in a Euro 2020 qualifier on Saturday.

The Bayern Munich forward was handed a rare start by coach Didier Deschamps and he made the most of his extreme pace, terrorising the Albanian defence throughout.

Coman opened the scoring with a burst into the area and made sure there would be no comeback for the visitors by netting the hosts' third in the 68th.

It appears the 23-year-old's poor 2018 is behind him after Deschamps omitted him from the World Cup squad following an injury-marred season.

Coman made his return with Les Bleus in June for a friendly against Bolivia and a European qualifier in Turkey, his first taste of international football since

November 2017.

"It's one of my best games with the national team and from a statistical point of view, it's even the best," Coman told reporters after helping France stay top of Group H with 12 points from five games, ahead of Turkey and Iceland on goal difference.

"I've had a great night but I won't have much time to enjoy it. I'm happy but we must look ahead."

France play Andorra tomorrow and Coman should get another chance to improve his scoring record of three goals in 18 games for his country.

"He's been with us for a while. He was there before Euro 2016. His performance is in line with what he's been doing with Bayern for over a year," said Deschamps, who handed Coman his first cap in 2015.

"He is more decisive and has this capacity to unsettle his opponents. We have to make sure he does not get injured."

"When he's like this nothing can stop him. It's a pleasure to see him play at that level again."

BOTTOMLINE

'We can still improve', Southgate tells England

AFP
London

Gareth Southgate admits England cannot be deceived by their dominant start to the Euro 2020 qualifying campaign because they will face far sterner tests than Bulgaria provided in Saturday's 4-0 demolition at Wembley.

Harry Kane scored his second England hat-trick and also set up Raheem Sterling's strike as Southgate's side cemented their position on top of Group A.

With three successive victories and 14 goals to their credit, the 2018 World Cup semi-finalists already look odds-on to qualify for Euro 2020.

Their next qualifier is against second-placed Kosovo, who beat the Czech Republic 2-1 earlier in the day, at Southampton on Tuesday and Southgate claims it will provide a tougher examination than lacklustre Bulgaria could manage.

But it is next year's tournament, which features several games in England, that Southgate was looking ahead to when he conceded he learns more from training sessions than he does these routine group matches.

"We have not had the tight, tense



matches that the Nations League provided as of yet, that really we learn so much more from," Southgate said.

"So, therefore, we've got to do that in training and the challenge of training has got to be so high that we learn from those moments and we can see what the players are capable of."

"We have genuine competition for places, there are five or six guys you would expect to see on the team-sheet but outside of that it's very difficult to call."

Southgate knows if even Bulgaria can

open up the England defence — as they did twice in the first half before squandering chances — then there is plenty for his players to work on before they can dream about winning the title.

"Have we progressed? Well, I think we have. We didn't sit back after the World Cup," he said.

"I know that you said that the Nations League was a disappointment. Once you are in the semi-final, you want to go on and win the thing. But also with unique circumstances, in that seven players arrived 48 hours before the game."

"I think we're competitive with probably eight teams. I think that on our day, we can beat those teams, but equally the Dutch showed (in the Nations League) that they're capable of beating us on their day and I think it really is a tight grouping of probably eight teams."

While Southgate keeps his players on their toes, he knows he is blessed to be able to rely on the quality provided by Tottenham striker Kane and Manchester City winger Sterling.

Kane is the first player to score 25 or more goals in his first 40 appearances for England since Gary Lineker.

The England captain opened the scoring with a simple finish from Sterling's pass and netted two penalties either side

of Sterling's strike from Kane's cross.

"To be able to study him and the way he works at his game, for the youngsters he's an incredible example. In those moments he has supreme temperament and technique," Southgate said of Kane.

Sterling was by far England's most creative force and Southgate was quick to praise his contribution.

"I thought he was outstanding. In the first half in particular when it was hard to find space," he said.

"He will probably have the hump he's only got one goal today because his mindset has shifted over the last two years."

Kane has passed Geoff Hurst and Stan Mortensen on the list of England's all-time goal-scorers.

While that was a "proud moment", Kane admitted emulating 1966 World Cup winner Hurst by getting his hands on silverware is his real goal.

"That's the aim. That is what you will be judged on at the end of your career," he said.

"It's great to get goals but England haven't won a trophy for a long time. That is my goal as captain."

"We had a little taste of success at the World Cup. Obviously we didn't go all the way but we have to use that as motivation at the Euros."

NFL

Wide receiver Brown joins Patriots after Raiders release

'We did everything we could to make this work. I'm sorry it didn't'

Reuters
New York

Wide receiver Antonio Brown agreed to a contract with the New England Patriots on Saturday just hours after being released by the Oakland Raiders.

Brown and the Patriots agreed to a one-year deal worth up to \$15mn that includes a \$9mn signing bonus, according to multiple reports. Agent Drew Rosenhaus confirmed the agreement between his client and New England to ESPN.

Brown took to social media to announce the deal in his own way, posting a picture of himself with a Patriots jersey and hat.

The news came on a whirlwind day in which Brown was abruptly released by Oakland and just two days before the Raiders' season opener against the Denver Broncos. The move capped a tumultuous week in Oakland and came just hours after the receiver posted a message to Instagram on Saturday morning that ended with "Release me @raiders".

"You are gonna piss a lot of people off when you start doing what's best for you," the message begins. "And that's fine! I have worked my whole life to prove that the system is blind to see talent like mines. Now that everyone sees it, they want me to conform to that same system that failed me all those years."

"I'm not mad at anyone. I'm just asking for the freedom to prove them all wrong. Release me @raiders. #NOMore #theyputblindersonahorseforareason #NoMoreFake."

Brown also posted a video on YouTube later Saturday, showing him finding out about his release and celebrating. The video shows him yelling in happiness and running out into his yard, then calling his grandmother to deliver the news.

He became a free agent as of 4:01pm ET on Saturday and was free to sign with any team. He's eligible to play in Week 2 but cannot play last night, when the Patriots open the season against Brown's former team, the Pittsburgh Steelers. "We tried every way possible to make it work," Raiders coach Jon Gruden told reporters.

"All I'm going to say is it's disappointing. I'm really proud of our players, our coaches, our owner, our front office. We did everything we could to make this work. I'm sorry it didn't. I apologise, but I will tell you I'm very proud of what we did as an organisation to try. I wish Antonio nothing but the best."

Rosenhaus, speaking on NFL Network, said he would get to work on finding a new team, which proved to happen quickly.

"It's been well-documented that it's been a rocky road from the beginning. Unfortunately, not all relationships between players and teams work out.... Everybody had the best intentions going, in but it didn't pan out."

He continued: "We're going to have to see what the market is. When you're a free agent, it's not always what you expect. It's what the market is. Of course, my job as an agent is to always get the best contracts for my clients. That's no different here."

Brown's release came less than 24 hours after Gruden said he expected Brown to play in Monday's season opener.

Brown was fined \$215,000 on Friday for a confrontation with Raiders general manager Mike Mayock on Wednesday. The conduct fine voided the approximately \$30 million of guarantees in his contract, while the Raiders also reportedly would not be obligated to give him any termina-



In this file photo taken on August 15, 2019 wide receiver Antonio Brown of the Oakland Raiders warms up before the NFL preseason game against the Arizona Cardinals at State Farm Stadium in Glendale, Arizona. (Getty Images/AFP)

tion pay. The Raiders acquired Brown in a trade in March, sending third- and fifth-round draft picks to Pittsburgh. They then signed him to a three-year, \$50.125 million restructured contract extension.

According to multiple reports, the Raiders had yet to pay Brown any money. Spotrac, which tracks players' salaries and bonuses, points out that Brown already missed out on a \$500,000 bonus for not attending at least 85 percent of the offseason programme and would be due no money or have any salary cap impact if cut before the Week 1 game. "No way I play after they took [his guaranteed money] and made my contract week to week," Brown wrote to ESPN's Jeff Darlington in an e-mail Saturday.

There has been plenty of drama around Brown since he joined the Raiders.

In the most recent episode, Brown and Mayock had to be physically separated during a testy exchange on Wednesday,

ESPN and NFL Network reported, leading to Brown opening a team meeting on Friday morning with what was dubbed an "emotional apology."

Per ESPN's Josina Anderson, Brown confronted Mayock over being fined almost \$54,000 and called Mayock a "cracker" and addressed him with a number of "cuss words" during the altercation. Anderson reported Mayock began to walk away because he felt the situation would escalate.

Brown told ESPN's Dianna Russini that he did not call Mayock a "cracker" during their Wednesday altercation. Brown told Russini he would "never use that word."

Brown, 31, initially had been expected to be suspended by the Raiders for conduct detrimental to the team and miss at least the Week 1 game, before he apologized to the team and was temporarily on track to play. Later Friday, Brown posted a video to his YouTube channel that appeared to

contain the audio of a phone call he had with Gruden, reportedly earlier this week while Brown's status with the team was in flux. The video lasted nearly two minutes and in it, Gruden asks Brown, "What the hell is going on, man?"

"Just a villain all over the news, man," Brown replies. "You're not a villain," Gruden then says back.

"You're just, you're the most misunderstood (expletive) human being in my entire life that I've ever met."

"Do you want to be a Raider or not," Gruden later asks, to which Brown replies, "Man I've been trying to be a Raider since Day 1." Brown also missed time due to a frostbite-like condition on his feet, an incident Gruden said wasn't Brown's fault but stemmed from improper protection on his feet during cryotherapy.

Then he sat out during a dispute with the NFL over his helmet, returning only after losing two grievances.

MLB

Yelich walk-off double lifts Brewers past Cubs

Reuters
Milwaukee

Christian Yelich hit a walk-off double with two strikes and two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning, and the Milwaukee Brewers celebrated a 3-2 win over the visiting Chicago Cubs on Saturday night.

Yelich laced an opposite-field line drive that bounced on one hop off the wall in left field to score Tyler Austin from first base.

It capped a terrific night for Yelich, who finished 2-for-2 with an RBI, three walks and three stolen bases. He now has 30 stolen bases, making him the 10th player in MLB history with 40 home runs and 30 stolen bases in the same season.

Milwaukee won its second game in a row and improved to 42-31 at home. Yasmani Grandal homered for the Brewers, who trailed entering the bottom of the eighth before mounting a comeback.

"I was just trying to be ready for a mistake. Really, just stay within your zone, and that's what happened," Yelich said.

Addison Russell homered in a losing effort for Chicago, which dropped 3 1/2 games behind the St. Louis Cardinals for first place in the National League Central.

Brewers closer Josh Hader (3-5) got the victory after striking out four over two scoreless innings.

Cubs reliever Brandon Kintzler (3-3) took the loss after giving up Yelich's game-winning hit.

The Cubs bullpen spoiled a good start by Yu Darvish, who struck out seven, walked one and gave up three hits in five scoreless innings.

The Cubs grabbed a 1-0 lead on Russell's solo blast in the fifth.

He drilled a first-pitch changeup an estimated 404 feet to straightaway centre field for his ninth homer.

Milwaukee evened the score at 1-1 in the sixth.

After Yelich and Eric Thames drew a pair of two-out walks, Ben Gamel singled to right field to bring in Yelich

from second base.

The Cubs regained a 2-1 lead when Anthony Rizzo drew a bases-loaded walk in the top of the eighth off Hader, who entered with the bases loaded and none out.

The Brewers quickly pulled even at 2 in the bottom of the eighth. Grandal belted the only pitch of the evening from Cubs right-hander David Phelps out to center field.

It was his 25th homer of the season and his third in as many games.

The Cubs learned before the game that shortstop Javier Baez has a hairline fracture in his left thumb and could be out for the rest of the season. The star 26-year-old is hitting .281 with 29 homers and 85 RBIs in 133 games.

RESULTS

Brewers	3-2	Cubs
Yankees	5-1	Red Sox
Giants	1-0	Dodgers
Astros	2-1	Mariners
Twins	5-3	Indians
Braves	5-4	Nationals
Cardinals	10-1	Pirates
Phillies	5-0	Mets
Rays	5-3	Blue Jays
A's	10-2	Tigers
D'backs	2-0	Reds
Padres	3-0	Rockies
Angels	8-7	White Sox
Rangers	9-4	Orioles
Royals	7-2	Marlins

ENCARNACION POWERS
YANKEES PAST RED SOX

Edwin Encarnacion hit a two-run homer that completely exited Fenway Park in the fourth inning, and JA Happ pitched 6 1/3 outstanding innings as the New York Yankees beat the Boston Red Sox 5-1 on Saturday afternoon.

The Yankees won for the ninth time in 12 games as they work toward their first American League East title since 2012.

After the first nine Yankees were retired in order, the Yankees sent nine men to the plate and took a 4-0 lead.

With runners at second and third on hits off Ryan Weber (2-3), the Yankees took a 2-0 lead when Gary Sanchez's double off Colten Brewer fell in between second baseman Brock Holt and right fielder JD Martinez and kicked into the stands.



Milwaukee Brewers right fielder Christian Yelich reacts after hitting a double to drive in the winning run to help beat the Chicago Cubs at Miller Park. PICTURE: USA TODAY Sports

FOCUS

Jones, Falcons finalise 3-year, guaranteed \$66mn deal

Reuters
New York

The Atlanta Falcons and wide receiver Julio Jones finalised a three-year, \$66mn fully guaranteed contract extension with \$64 million due immediately, ESPN's Adam Schefter and Chris Mortensen reported Saturday afternoon.

"\$66mn guaranteed and, yes, \$64 million due at signing. That's today," Mortensen tweeted. Schefter said that his 97 percent of the deal guaranteed at signing eclipses the previous record for a non-quarterback,

which was the 74 percent that defensive end Trey Flowers received from the Detroit Lions.

Jones and the Falcons have been working toward a new contract for months. Owner Arthur Blank said in March the team wanted a deal done before training camp. General manager Thomas Dimitroff set a goal of the start of the season - which is Sunday. Jones, 30, was set to make \$21mn over the next two seasons on his existing contract.

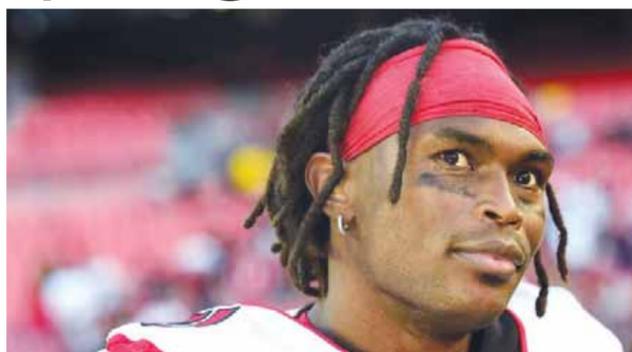
With the three-year extension tacked on, Jones and the Falcons are tied together for five years. Entering his ninth season, Jones is coming off of his sixth Pro Bowl selection - and fifth in a

row - after catching 113 passes for a league-high 1,677 yards and eight touchdowns last season. He remains the NFL's all-time leader in career receiving yards per game (96.7).

Dimitroff said the Falcons expect Jones to be the highest-paid receiver in the NFL when his contract is finalised. Saints wide receiver Michael Thomas signed for \$100 million over five years, pushing the price tag for top pass catchers to an all-time high.

Multiple outlets reported Thursday a deal between Jones and the Falcons was imminent.

The Falcons open the season against the Vikings in Minnesota yesterday.



Wide receiver Julio Jones.

Rams sign Hekker to extension

The Los Angeles Rams and punter Johnny Hekker agreed on a one-year contract extension through the 2023 season, ESPN reported Saturday. Hekker will receive \$4.25mn via the extension, including \$3mn in guaranteed money, according to ESPN.

Hekker will earn \$3.25mn in base salary this season. Hekker, a four-time Pro Bowl selection, has a 47.0 career average in 112 games over seven seasons. The average is second all-time behind Shane Lechler (47.6 from 2000-17). The 29-year-old Hekker averaged 46.3 yards on 43 punts last season. The Rams often use the former high school quarterback on fake punts. He's 11-of-19 passing for 156 yards and one touchdown during his NFL career. The Rams open the season yesterday at the Carolina Panthers.

BASKETBALL

'Stupid' Jokic ejected as Spain stun Serbia at World Cup

'I did not like the stupid reaction of my player, who should be on the floor'



Marc Gasol (left) of Spain is tackled by Nikola Jokic of Serbia as he attempts a shot during their Basketball World Cup Group J second round game in Wuhan yesterday. (AFP)

AFP
Wuhan, China

All-Star Nikola Jokic was ejected for "a stupid reaction" in the third quarter as strongly favored Serbia were stunned 81-69 by Spain to blow the Basketball World Cup wide open yesterday.

Led by Ricky Rubio of the Phoenix Suns, Spain set up a quarter-final meeting with surprise packages Poland on Tuesday while Serbia will need to pick themselves up quickly for Argentina on the same evening.

Spain and European rivals Serbia had already qualified for

the last eight in China but Group J supremacy and a supposedly easier game in the next round was at stake. Serbia, the reigning world and Olympic silver medalists behind the Americans, had looked imperious in their previous four matches, but this loss will raise questions about their title credentials.

Coach Sasha Djordjevic said Spain were the better team and refused to use the loss of Jokic - turfed out after yelling at a referee - as an excuse.

But he had harsh words for his key man, saying: "I did not like the stupid reaction of my player, who should be on the floor. We can even lose with him,

why not if the other team is better? But he should stay on the floor and be one of the leaders."

In one of the most eagerly anticipated games of the tournament so far, Spain surged back from a slow start in the first quarter to lead by eight points at half-time in Wuhan.

Serbia, who had looked the chief threat to the young roster of reigning champions the US, were rattled for the first time in China and on their way towards a first defeat.

Midway through the third quarter, their chances of making a comeback suffered a fatal blow when Denver Nuggets' Jokic - one of the World Cup's

biggest names - was thrown out. The 24-year-old was irritated initially by the close attentions of Spain's defence and made his feelings clear to the officials.

'WE NEED HIM'

The plain-speaking Djordjevic said he had already spoken to Jokic about the incident.

"We don't have time for long meetings, he knows (he was wrong)," said Djordjevic.

"He's a tough kid, one of the greatest right now, (so) we need him on the floor. I hope it won't happen again and this is a moment for him to grow."

Bogdan Bogdanovic of the Sacramento Kings was again key

for Serbia, keeping them within range of Spain with 26 points, 10 rebounds and six assists. Rubio racked up 19 points for the Spaniards while veteran Marc Gasol had six rebounds and six assists.

"They really kicked us today," said Bogdanovic, who has been in sparkling form at the World Cup and was unlucky to be on the losing side. Spain coach Sergio Scariolo was full of praise for the 27-year-old Bogdanovic, calling him "ridiculous" and "an unbelievable player".

Argentina topped Group I - and teed up a meeting with Serbia - after a dominant 91-65 victory over Poland. Both had already reached the last eight.

FOCUS

Kawhi Leonard's sister accused of murder: Report

Reuters
New York

A sister of NBA superstar Kawhi Leonard is one of two women charged with robbing and killing an 84-year-old woman at a Southern California casino, the *Riverside Press-Enterprise* reported Saturday.

Kimesha Monae Williams, 35, is being held without bail at the Indio (Calif.) Correction Facility after the incident at Pechanga Resort Casino in Temecula. Authorities say that on the morning of August 31, Williams and Candace Tai Townsel, 39, attacked Afaf Anis Assad in a bathroom, broke her skull and then stole her purse.

Assad died Wednesday at a hospital, according to the newspaper. Williams and Townsel were arrested Tuesday, according to the *Press-Enterprise*.

Townsel also is being held without bail. Arraignment is slated for Sept. 19.

A Riverside County sheriff's investigator asked a judge to hold Williams without bail, saying she might flee and that she "has family that are well-off and could post her bail," an apparent reference to Leonard, who recently signed a three-year, \$103 million with the Los

Angeles Clippers. Williams and Townsel are also accused of stealing between \$800 and \$1,200 from Assad's purse.

Jail records list Williams as 6-foot-2, 320 pounds, and Townsel as 5-4, 195 pounds.

The *Press-Enterprise* reported that a doctor at Inland Valley Medical Center in Wildomar told the investigator that the fatal injury could not have been caused by a fall. It would have required "a great amount of force, such as being pushed, thrown or punched by a 320-pound person," according to the investigator's notes.

The newspaper said Williams has prior convictions for petty theft, grand theft, misappropriating lost property, grand theft auto and attempted robbery, according to court records.

Kawhi Leonard grew up in Riverside before becoming a college star at San Diego State and blossoming into one of the top NBA players.

He led the Toronto Raptors to the NBA title this past season, winning NBA Finals MVP for the second time in his career. He also won the award with the San Antonio Spurs in 2014.

Leonard's father, Mark, was a murder victim in 2008.

Twins' pitcher Pineda banned 60 games for drug violation

Minnesota Twins pitcher Michael Pineda was suspended 60 games for Major League Baseball on Saturday after testing positive for a banned diuretic. Pineda tested positive for hydrochlorothiazide, which is banned because it can mask detection of a performance-enhancing drug. The suspension takes effect immediately, meaning Pineda's 2019 season is over and he won't be eligible for any post-season games. The *Minneapolis Star Tribune* reported Pineda was originally suspended for 80 games, but his punishment was reduced on appeal by an arbitrator. He reportedly argued the drug was included in a product he took to try to manage his weight.

The loss of Pineda, who is 11-5 this season with a 4.01 earned-run average after returning from Tommy John elbow surgery, is a blow to the Twins, who have now had three recent cases of players failing drug tests. Right-handed pitcher Ervin Santana tested positive for the anabolic steroid stanozolol during spring training in 2015, missing the first 80 regular

season games. And last year shortstop Jorge Polanco tested positive for stanozolol, also receiving an 80-game ban. "We were disappointed to learn of the suspension of Michael Pineda for violating Major League Baseball's Joint Drug Prevention and Treatment Program," the Twins said in a statement. "We fully support Major League Baseball's policy and its efforts to eliminate banned substances from our game. Per the protocol outlined in the Joint Drug Program, the Minnesota Twins will not comment further on this matter."



CRICKET

Warriors Club win Qatar Airways Premier Division title

By Sports Reporter
Doha

Tamoor Sajjad dished out a superb all-round performance and spurred Warriors Club to win the Qatar Airways Premier Division Cricket Tournament title with a thrilling three-wicket triumph against Tusker Club at the Asian Town Stadium, Industrial Area.

Tusker Club, after being asked to bat first in the 50-over-a-side final, made a modest 232 all out in 46.4 overs. Warriors Club accomplished the win with eight balls to go as Sajjad followed up his three-wicket haul with a responsible 43-run knock.

Besides Sajjad's three wickets, Mohamed Ikram bowled superbly and picked two for 13 in four overs and Imraz Rafi grabbed two for 39 in 10 overs.

Tusker Club troubled Warriors Club with regular blows. But the latter managed to keep themselves on the track and completed the fine victory in the 49th over.

Murad Khan played an attacking innings and hammered three sixes and four boundaries to get 53 in 48 balls. Sajjad, who was declared the Man of the Final, bolstered the team with an 85-ball 43, which included four hits



Winners' Warriors Club and runners-up Tusker Club players pose with Qatar Cricket Association officials and their trophies after winning the Qatar Airways Premier Division Cricket Tournament at the Asian Town Stadium.

to the fence.

Adnan Mirza cracked a six and five boundaries in his 20-ball 32 to lend the momentum and Assad contributed 22 in 47 balls with three fours. Nawaf, with three for 31, and Prem Sagar got five scalps between themselves.

Qatar Cricket Association (QCA) President Yousef Jeham al-Kuwari was the chief guest at the final, while Ali Akbar Farabi, Qatar Airways Ticketing Operations Manager (Qatar) was the Guest of Honour.

Also present at the prize dis-

tribution ceremony were QCA Assistant Secretary-General Eisa Ali al-Ghanim, QCA Public Relations Director Eisa al-Yaqoub, QCA Operations Manager Manzoor Ahmad and QCA Domestic Cricket Head Gul Khan Jadoon. Nawaf, in a patient knock, made

60 off 85 balls, hitting a six and two fours for Tusker Club. Akash displayed aggression and smashed eight fours in his 42-ball 44, while Waleed cracked run-a-ball 41, including two sixes and three boundaries.

QCA President Yousef Jeham

al-Kuwari congratulated Warriors Club on winning the title. Last season, Warriors Club had lost the final to Al Feroz Youngsters.

Al-Kuwari also thanked Qatar Airways and its Group Chief Executive Officer HE Akbar Al Bak-

er for the continued support to the QCA activities, helping raise the national team's level.

Qatar Airways Ticketing Operations Manager (Qatar) Ali Akbar Farabi commended both the teams for putting up a fighting display in the final.

He also said the relationship between Qatar Airways and the QCA is quite strong and will continue to prosper.

QCA Operations Manager Manzoor Ahmad said, "The Qatar Airways support to the QCA activities is very vital. In four different divisions, eighty clubs contested this season. We witnessed very close contests and wish to grow the game at all levels so that our national teams can bring more glory to Qatar in future."

BRIEF SCORES

Warriors Club beat Tusker Club by three wickets

Tusker Club: 232 all out in 46.4 overs (Nawaf 60, Akash 44, Waleed 41; Tamoor Sajjad 3/41, Imraz Rafi 2/39, Mohamed Ikram 2/13)

Warriors Club: 235 for seven in 48.4 overs (Murad Khan 53, Tamoor Sajjad 42, Adnan Mirza 32, Assad 22; Nawaf 3/31, Prem Sagar 2/31)

Man of the Final: Tamoor Sajjad (Warriors Club)

GOLF/EUROPEAN OPEN

England's Casey seals one-shot victory

Reuters
Hamburg

England's Paul Casey produced a bogey-free final round of six-under-par 66 to win the European Open by one stroke in Hamburg yesterday. World number 17 Casey edged past overnight leaders Bernd Ritthammer and Robert MacIntyre with three birdies on the back nine to finish 14-under for the tournament at the Green Eagle Golf Course. Ritthammer and MacIntyre had an opportunity to force a playoff but both left their birdie putts short on the final green as Casey became the third successive Englishman to win the event after Jordan Smith and Richard McEvoy. Casey, a four-time Ryder Cup player, claimed his first win in Europe since the 2014 KLM Open in the Netherlands and his 14th overall.

It was the second victory of the year for the 42-year-old Casey after lifting the trophy at the Valspar Championship on the U.S. PGA Tour. "This is an incredibly prestigious tournament," said Casey, who worked at the European Open as a 14-year-old volunteer in 1991. "I'm over the moon to be European Open champion. "It was nice to make the putts when it counted. And that really was the key. The ball-striking was excellent. I gave myself an awful lot of chances." Scottish rookie MacIntyre, who finished sixth in the British Open, continued his impressive run with a closing 68 as he secured a runner-up finish for the third time this season. The 23-year-old shared second spot with German Ritthammer and Matthias Schwab of Austria. Austrian Bernd Wiesberger finished fifth at 12-under after a superb 64, while playing partner Romain Wattel, of

France, was one shot further back in sixth. Italian Guido Migliozi and Spain's Pablo Larrazabal finished joint seventh on 10-under.

LEADING FINAL-ROUND SCORES

- 274-Paul Casey 66-73-69-66
- 275-Matthias Schwab (AUT) 67-72-70-66, Bernd Ritthammer (GER) 71-66-70-68, Robert MacIntyre 68-65-74-68
- 276-Bernd Wiesberger (AUT) 71-69-72-64
- 277-Romain Wattel (FRA) 72-74-67-64
- 278-Guido Migliozi (ITA) 71-68-72-67, Pablo Larrazabal (ESP) 70-71-68-69
- 279-Ashley Chesters 71-71-70-67, Niklas Lemke (SWE) 71-73-68-67
- 281-Jeff Winther (DEN) 72-69-70-70
- 282-Padraig Harrington 71-74-68-69, Louis de Jager (RSA) 72-69-71-70
- 283-Dominic Foss (GER) 74-67-75-67, Sam Horsfield 75-68-71-69, Ben Evans 69-73-68-73

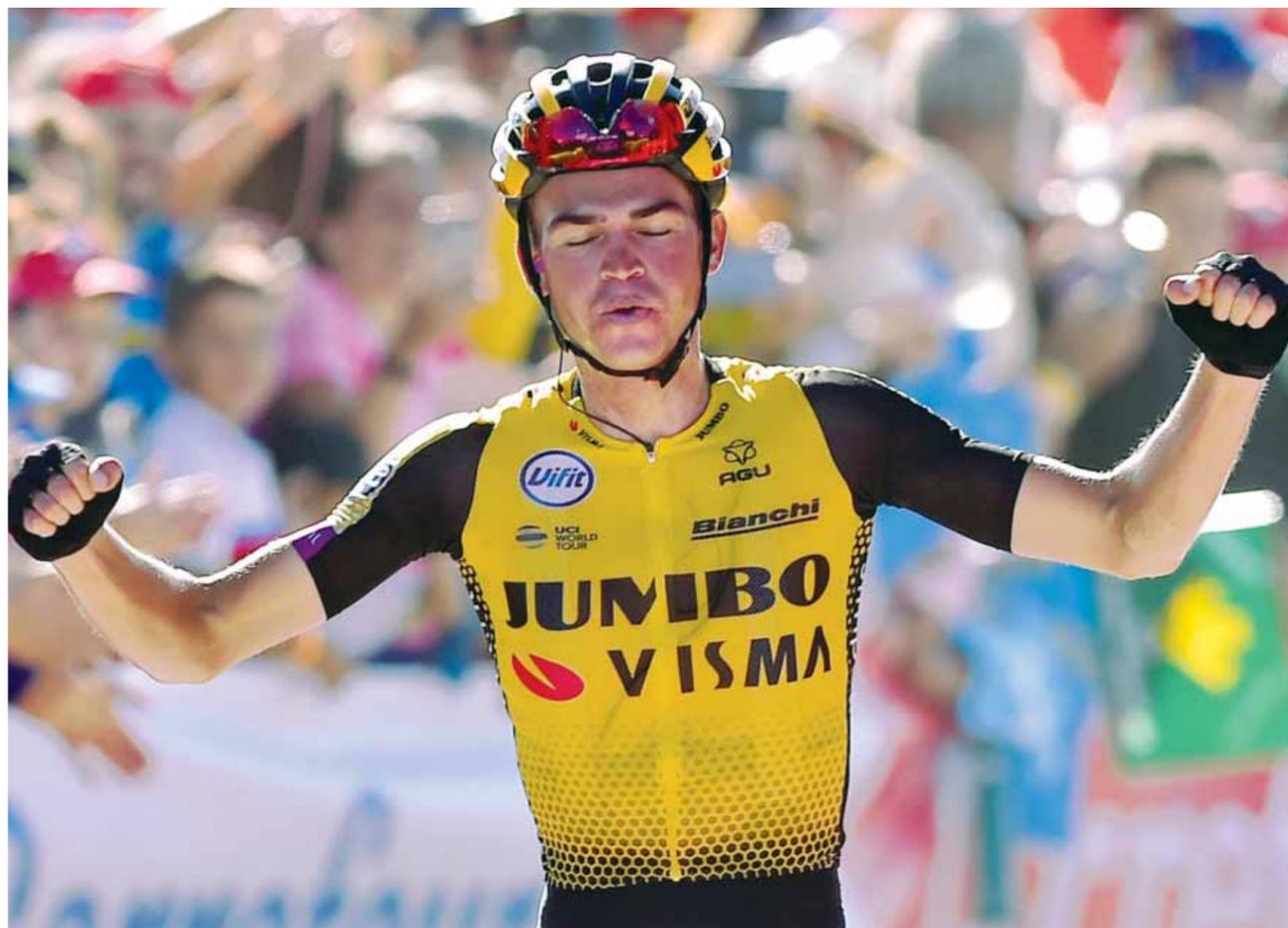


England's Paul Casey pose with the European Open trophy in Hamburg yesterday. (Getty Images)

CYCLING

Kuss triumphs on Vuelta summit, big guns exchange fire

'It was a nice day for us, but there are many hard days to come'



Team Jumbo rider US Sepp Kuss reacts after winning the 15th stage of the 2019 La Vuelta in Cangas del Narcea yesterday. (AFP)

AFP
Madrid

Little-known American Sepp Kuss powered to a landmark summit finish win for Jumbo-Visma at the Vuelta a Espana yesterday as his captain Primož Roglič battled over a series of mountains to retain the overall lead. The 15th-stage win earmarks Kuss for a strong future in Grand Tour riding. Katusha's Ruben Guerreiro came second on the day as up-and-coming Ineos star Tao Geoghegan Hart of Britain was third. In the battle for supremacy in the overall, the pretenders to the title ganged up on Roglič to test his endurance on a difficult day. But the Slovenian appeared to work with second-placed Alejandro Valverde as the pair ascended the last climb together, damaging their top-ten rivals

Trentin wins second stage of Tour of Britain to take overall lead

Former European champion Matteo Trentin won the second stage of the Tour of Britain to move into the overall race lead after sprinting to a dramatic victory yesterday. Trentin pipped Jasper de Buyst, Mike Teunissen and Davide Cimolai to the line after a reduced peloton caught solo attacker Alex Dowsett within 50

metres of the finish. Trentin, who placed third in Saturday's opening stage, gained crucial time bonuses on the line as a result of his win on the Scottish Borders stage. This, combined with the distancing of overnight leader Dylan Groenewegen, put the Italian rider into the green jersey as the overall leader. Attacking with three kilometres

and even shaking hands after the finish line. "It was a nice day for us, but there are many hard days to come," said Roglič. "He (Kuss) was waiting for me but he had the chance and we told him to take it." They put 29 seconds into Tadej Pogacar, Miguel Angel Lopez and Rafal Majka and a further 25 seconds into former champion Nairo Quintana.

Roglič emerged the big winner of the pair, however, retaining a 2min 25sec lead on Valverde with three more major climb stages from the six race days remaining on the road to Madrid. But stage 15 was also an amazing day for the fast-rising Jumbo-Visma team with the emergence of the 24-year-old Kuss, who high-fived dozens of roadside fans on an exultant final 500m after he scampered clear

to go. Dowsett looked like he was going to upset the remaining sprinters, but despite being welcomed into Kelso's main street by a wall of noise, the British time trial champion was caught, holding on to finish seventh on the stage. Trentin now leads by 11 seconds overall from Cimolai and De Buyst. The peloton embarked from the former gold mining town of Tineo on a cool morning for a fast-paced 154km slog over four mountains including the terrifyingly named Puerto del Pozo de las Mujeres Muertas (mountain of the well of dead women). Today marks the third chapter of the Vuelta's tour through the Cantabrian Mountains with two category-one climbs ahead of another 'hors-category' ascent to Alto de La Cubilla.

ATHLETICS

Farah wins Great North Run for sixth consecutive year



Agencies
London

Britain's Mo Farah made it six wins in a row while Brigid Kosgei ran the fastest half marathon in history, on a day where records tumbled at the Simplyhealth Great North Run. No runner has ever achieved six consecutive victories on the famous half marathon course until Farah's heroics. The ten-time Olympic and World champion has not been defeated in South Shields since finishing second to Kenenisa Bekele in 2013, and he did not disappoint, clocking a winning time of 59:07 - his fastest on Tyneside, ahead of Tamarit Tola in 59:13 while Abdi Nageeye finished third in 59:55. However, it was the women's race that set the pulses racing as Kenyan Kosgei set a blistering pace to lead from the gun and record a Simplyhealth Great North Run record of 64:28 - smashing the previous record set by Mary Keitany in 2014. It was a perfect day for racing in the North-East which resulted in some speedy times, as Kosgei seized the initiative from the off, building up a commanding gap over her rivals Magdalene Masai and Linette Masai - the Kenyan sisters finishing second and third in 67:36 and 67:44 respectively. Last year's winner Keitany was fourth in 67:58, while

Charlotte Purdue ran superbly to finish first British athlete in 68:10. Kosgei, who now turns her focus to the upcoming Chicago Marathon, said: "I was not expecting to run a record time. I just tried my best - that was all. Today was great preparation for Chicago." Farah, meanwhile, had settled into a lead group featuring Tola, Bashir Abdi, Callum Hawkins and Nageeye, and steadily picked off his rivals. Tola took the lead briefly but Farah reined him in and made his move with around two miles to go. "The crowd was so loud I didn't know if he was closing the gap so I kept looking behind," the 36-year-old told BBC Sport. "I've really enjoyed it but the past couple of years has been in the middle of marathon preparation. It was good to test myself. Things are looking good and I'm happy with the win. "Tokyo is definitely on the cards - as an athlete you always want to represent your country. You just have to take it one year at a time. Hopefully, come Tokyo time, we will be in the mix." David Weir won the men's wheelchair race in 43:31, ahead of Brent Lakatos in 43:36 and Simon Lawson third in 45:58. Jade Jones-Hall took her first-ever victory in the women's race in a time of 50:15, ahead of Shelly Woods in 51:41 and Mel Nicholls who finished third in 56:17.

SPOTLIGHT

Qatar excels at GCC Aquatics

QNA
Kuwait City

Qatar swimming team finished with 27 medals at the 27th GCC Aquatics which concluded in Kuwait City yesterday. On the last day of the competition, Qatar won ten medals including six gold, three silver and a bronze. Swimmer Abdullah Ahmed claimed 100m freestyle gold for the 11-12 years category, and Omar Ashraf claimed 200m breaststroke gold in the 13-14 years category. Mohamed Mahmoud won 200m individual medley gold in the 15-17 years category and Ibrahim Hilal won the 50m

backstroke gold medal for the 11-12 years category. Yousef al-Khulaifi won the gold and Yusuf Ashraf won silver medal respectively in the 50m backstroke for the 13-14 years category. Omar Ashraf won the gold medal and Abdullah al-Khaldi won the silver medal in the 200m butterfly for the 13-14 years category. Tamim Mohamed won the silver medal in the 100m freestyle for the 13-14 years category, and Ahmed Tariq captured bronze medal for the 1500m freestyle in 15-17 years category. The Qatar swimming team had won 17 medals yesterday (seven gold medals, five silver medals, and five bronze).

SPOTLIGHT

Spinners take Afghanistan close to historic win

AFP
Chittagong, Bangladesh

Spinners Rashid Khan and Zahir Khan shared five wickets between them as Afghanistan came within four wickets of a historic win over Bangladesh in the one-off Test in Chittagong yesterday.

The visitors - playing only their third Test ever - reduced Bangladesh to 136-6 before rain forced early stumps on the fourth day, with the hosts, who were set a record target of 398 runs, still needing 262.

The highest successful run chase in Bangladesh is 317-7 by New Zealand at the same ground in 2008.

"Yes, we are bit excited because we are in a good position," Afghanistan's wicketkeeper-batsman Ansar Zazai said.

"It means a lot to be honest," he added.

"The people know about us good enough in white-ball cricket. We've discussed in our dressing room that this Test match is very important for us to win because we want to show we

can play Test cricket."

Skipper Shakib Al Hasan remained unbeaten on 39 runs, giving a little hope to Bangladesh amid the gloom at the Zahur Ahmed Stadium, where rain interrupted play in all three sessions much to Afghanistan's frustration.

Shakib will resume the fifth day's play along with Soumya Sarkar, the last recognised batsman for Bangladesh, who was yet to open his account.

Shakib seemed to be preparing for a loss.

"The realistic result is we are very close to defeat. Unless there is some rain... probably we are losing," he said.

Rashid, who made his debut as youngest-ever Test captain, led Afghanistan from the front, finishing the day with 3-46 while left-arm chinaman Zahir claimed 2-36 runs.

Retiring all-rounder Mohammad Nabi claimed the other wicket.

Zahir started the victory push when he dismissed opener Liton Das, who was trapped leg before for nine two balls after a caught-behind decision against him was

overturned by the TV umpire on review.

One-down Mosaddek Hossain chased a ball from him wide outside the off-stump to give a catch to Asghar Afghan at long off after making 12 runs.

Rashid trapped Mushfiqur Rahim plumb in front after the former Bangladesh skipper started confidently to make 23 off 25 balls.

Rashid delivered another blow in his next over to dismiss Mominul Haque out lbw for three.

Nabi removed Shadman Islam, who made 41 runs, the highest for Bangladesh so far in the second innings.

Rashid then snapped the wicket of Mahmudullah Riyad for seven before rain provided the home side some respite.

Earlier, resuming at 237-8 after more than two hours' delay due to drizzle, Afghanistan added 23 runs to their overnight score before they were all out for 260, which took their lead close to the 400-run mark.

Yamin Ahmadzai was run out for nine and off-spinner Mehidy Hasan removed last man Zahir, leaving Zazai stranded on 48.

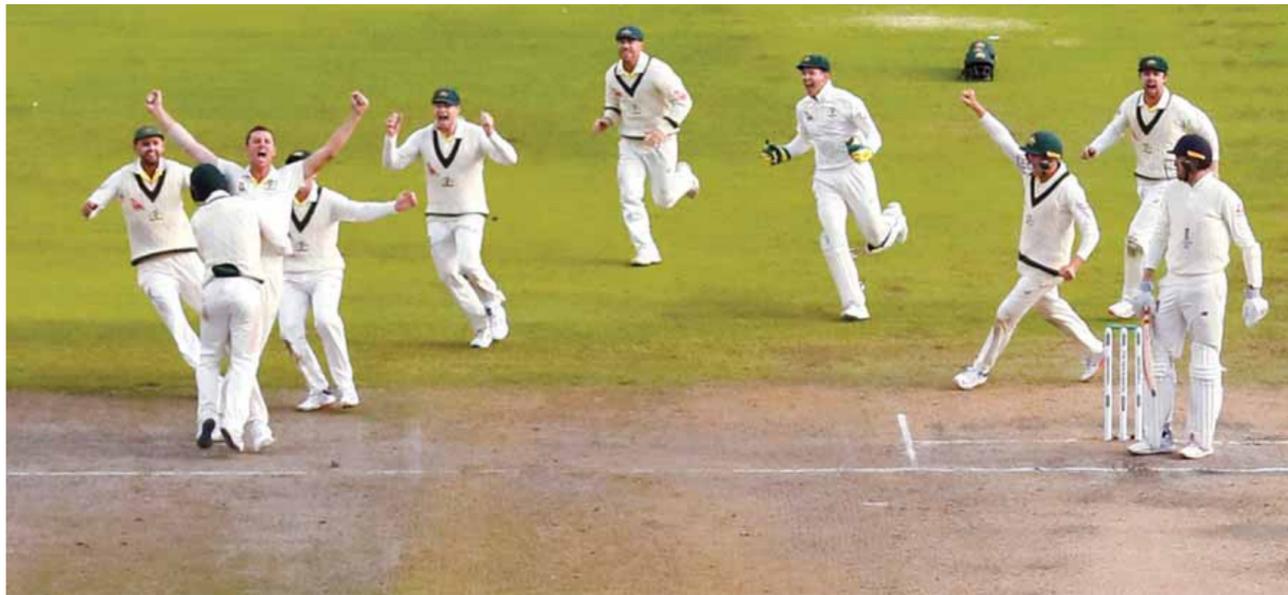


Afghanistan's Rashid Khan (left) celebrates with his teammates after dismissing Bangladesh's Musfiqur Rahim in Chittagong yesterday. (AFP)

FOCUS

Australia overcome stubborn England to retain Ashes

'It feels amazing to know the urn is coming home. I've been here a few times when things haven't gone our way. This was always one to tick off my bucket list. It's extremely satisfying'



Australia's Josh Hazlewood celebrates with teammates after taking the wicket of England's Craig Overton to win the match and retain the Ashes in Manchester yesterday. (Reuters)

Reuters
Manchester

Australia retained the Ashes after beating England by 185 runs at Old Trafford yesterday to take a 2-1 lead in the series with just one Test remaining.

England, who resumed on 18-2, were bowled out for 197 on the final day with Australia seamer Pat Cummins taking four for 43. Australia's victory, with 81 balls remaining, was a convincing one but England's spirit cannot be criticised as they fought until the final hour in their attempt to save the test and keep the series alive.

The tourists lead 2-1 going into next week's final test at The Oval where they hope to become the first Australian team to win an Ashes series in England since 2001.

Steve Smith, whose magnificent double century and then second innings 82 were the key factors in this win and whose batting throughout the series has ensured the Ashes remain in Australian hands, was delighted.

"It feels amazing to know the

urn is coming home. I've been here a few times when things haven't gone our way. This was always one to tick off my bucket list. It's extremely satisfying," he said. The main early resistance from England came from Joe Denly who made 53 from 123 balls and Jos Buttler, who lasted 111 balls for his 34.

England's hopes of an unlikely escape-act rose when Jack Leach and Craig Overton batted for over an hour giving the crowd belief over a second 'miracle' after the comeback win at Headingley.

But part-time leg spinner Marnus Labuschagne finally removed Leach, with a ball that turned sharply in the rough and was gloved to Matthew Wade at short leg. Overton batted with sense, stoicism and a strong technique, but he was trapped lbw by Josh Hazlewood to set off the Australian celebrations.

"I didn't think it would be this emotional," said Australia captain Tim Paine.

"The amount of work that's gone in to retain the Ashes has been enormous and I'm really proud of this group and how we bounced back from Headingley," he added. England captain Joe Root told the BBC: "I'm bit-

terly disappointed. I thought the way we fought today, the character we showed, every single one of them can be proud of that today. "To come so close to taking it to The Oval is hard to take. We've still got to look forward and make sure we level the series."

TURNING POINT

England will look back on the second day of this test as the turning point when they simply could find no way to remove Smith and Australia's 497-8 declared gave them an advantage that they were unable to seriously challenge.

The final day was never going to be a run-chase of Headingley vintage, given the target of 383, with England's task simply to survive until the close.

That challenge was made all the more difficult after they lost Jason Roy and Ben Stokes before lunch. Roy was well set before the impressive Cummins bowled him for 31 with a beautiful delivery that cut back off the seam to leave England at 66-3. The crowd rose to welcome Stokes, the hero of England's last day triumph at Headingley, but there was to be no repeat performance

from the all-rounder. Another fine delivery from Cummins clipped the inside edge of Stokes's bat and was well taken by wicketkeeper Paine, the England batsman not waiting for the umpire's verdict as he walked off.

Denly had been the pick of England's batsmen before he was outdone by sharp turn and bounce from spinner Nathan Lyon, the ball striking his glove and being snaffled up by Labuschagne at short leg. Jonny Bairstow (25) was lbw to Mitchell Starc before Overton came in to join Buttler, in what was probably England's last realistic chance of a big partnership.

But Buttler misjudged a delivery from Hazlewood which he left only to see it cut back sharply and clatter into his off-stump. Australia keep the Ashes, which they won on home turf last year and it is the first time they have retained the urn since the end of their long period of domination in 2002.

There is though plenty left to play for when the teams meet again at The Oval on Thursday - England could level the series while Australia will be desperate to ensure they go home as winners.

COMMENT

Rabada not losing sleep over rise of Bumrah, Archer

IAN S
Kolkata

South Africa pace spearhead Kagiso Rabada is not losing sleep over the meteorical rise of India's Jasprit Bumrah and England's Jofra Archer.

"It's never easy maintaining a career; I've learned that there are a lot of ups and downs. I want to be the best in the world, everybody does," Rabada told iol.co.za as quoted by ESPNcricinfo. "You are naturally going to compete in that fashion, I'm not too worried, I'm feeling nice and easy."

"I'm disappointed, not angry (about the World Cup). What do I do with anger? When a setback comes you want to be determined, you don't want to change a lot of things. It's about seeing where you went wrong and then putting in extra work."

Rabada will be one of South Africa's key weapons in their tour to India. The first of the

three T20s in on September 3 and that will be followed by three Tests.

"I admire those bowlers, they are good bowlers," Rabada, who will have an opportunity to better his figures in the upcoming T20I and Test series in India, said when asked about Bumrah and Archer.

"However, the media hypes certain players, and that's OK; I know I have been playing very well. Archer is such a natural talent; Bumrah is doing wonders and that can force you to lift your game. You are not always at the top, that's one thing I can tell you."

South Africa had a disappointing World Cup campaign where they crashed out of the World Cup with Rabada also failing to spark his magic. Bumrah and Archer though have done quite well in this period. While Bumrah returned with 13 wickets from the Test series in the West Indies including a hat-trick, Archer has shown his class since making his Test debut in the Ashes.



South Africa's Kagiso Rabada celebrates after taking India's Rohit Sharma's (right) wicket during day two of the first Test at the Newlands Cricket Ground in Cape Town on Jan 6, 2018. (BCCI/IANS)

Scorecard

AUSTRALIA 1st innings	497-8 dec
ENGLAND 1st innings	301
AUSTRALIA 2nd innings	186-6 dec
ENGLAND 2nd innings (overnight 18-2, target 383)	
R. Burns c Head b Cummins	0
J. Denly c Labuschagne b Lyon	53
J. Root b Cummins	0
J. Roy b Cummins	31
B. Stokes c Paine b Cummins	1
J. Bairstow lbw b Starc	25
J. Buttler b Hazlewood	34
C. Overton lbw b Hazlewood	21
J. Archer lbw b Lyon	1
J. Leach c Wade b Labuschagne	12
S. Broad not out	0
Extras (b9, lb8, nb2)	19
Total (all out, 91.3 overs, 407 mins)	197
Fall of wickets: 1-0 (Burns), 2-0 (Root), 3-66 (Roy), 4-74 (Stokes), 5-93 (Denly), 6-138 (Bairstow), 7-172 (Buttler), 8-173 (Archer), 9-196 (Leach), 10-197 (Overton)	
Bowlers: Cummins 24-9-43-4 (2nb); Hazlewood 17.3-5-31-2; Lyon 29-12-51-2; Starc 16-2-46-1; Labuschagne 4-1-9-1; Head 1-1-0-0	
Result: Australia won by 185 runs.	

West Indies' Brathwaite reported over bowling action

West Indies player Kraigg Brathwaite has been reported for a suspected illegal bowling action during the second Test against India, the International Cricket Council announced yesterday.

The match officials' report, which was handed over to the West Indies management, cited concerns about the legality of the 26-year-old's bowling action during the match, which ended last Monday.

Brathwaite, who bowls off-spin, was reported for a suspect action in August 2017 but was cleared following an independent assessment. He will be required to submit to further testing by September 14 but is permitted to continue bowling in international cricket until the results are known. India won second Test in Jamaica by 257 runs to win the two-Test series 2-0.