

Indian Wells

Simona Halep survives

California
Top seed Simona Halep narrowly avoided an upset in the BNP Paribas Open third round on Sunday, digging deep for a 1-6 7-6(3) 6-2 win over world No. 165 Caroline Dolehide, while 16-year-old Amanda Anisimova also advanced to the fourth round.

Romanian Halep was outplayed by American Dolehide in the first set at Indian Wells but slowly exerted her authority and, after surviving a second-set tiebreak, gradually wore down the tiring teen to secure victory.

Wild card Anisimova, meanwhile, took out ninth seed Petra Kvitova 6-2 6-4, ending the Czech's win streak at 14 matches

following tournament titles in St. Petersburg and Doha.

It was another highly impressive performance by junior US Open champion Anisimova, who became the first 16-year-old to reach the fourth round since Viktoriya Kutuzova in 2005.

"I'm still in shock," Anisimova, who is ranked 149th in the world, told reporters.

"She's the best player I have ever played, and it was the biggest court I have ever played on."

Anisimova has not dropped a set in three matches. She defeated 23rd seed Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova in the second round.

"I was enjoying the moment, but

at the same time, I was trying not to make myself nervous because of the huge crowd, and everything, and the big stage," she said.

French Open champion Jelena Ostapenko was beaten 6-3 6-3 by Croat Petra Martic. (Reuters)

Results:

Third round:
Simona Halep bt Caroline Dolehide 1-6, 7-6(3), 6-2
Wang Qiang bt Kristina Mladenovic 6-1, 6-2
Marketa Vondrousova bt Aryna Sabalenka 6-2, 6-2
Petra Martic bt Jelena Ostapenko 6-3, 6-3
Maria Sakkari bt Coco Vandeweghe 6-2, 6-4
Amanda Anisimova bt Petra Kvitova 6-2, 6-4
Karolina Pliskova bt Zhang Shuai 7-5, 5-7, 6-3

Second round:
Angelique Kerber bt Ekaterina Makarova 3-6, 6-4, 6-2
Sloane Stephens bt Victoria Azarenka 6-1, 7-5. (Xinhua)



Simona Halep plays a shot

Djokovic beaten by Taro Daniel



Taro Daniel hits a return

California
Novak Djokovic suffered a shock defeat by world number 109 Taro Daniel of Japan as he was knocked out of the BNP Paribas Open at Indian Wells. The 30-year-old lost 7-6 (7-3) 4-6 6-1 in the second-round tie on his first appearance since an injury ended his Australian Open challenge in January.

Djokovic had further surgery on a persistent elbow injury in February.

"It felt like first match I ever played on the tour. Very weird. I completely lost rhythm," said the Serb.

"I was grateful to be out on the court after surgery that quickly but at the same time I just didn't feel good at all."

"I was not even supposed to be here because of the surgery that was only five, six weeks ago." (BBC)

Results:

Second round
Roger Federer bt Federico Delbonis 6-3, 7-6(6)
Feliciano Lopez bt Ernesto Escobedo 6-4, 6-3
Sam Querrey bt Mischa Zverev 6-4, 7-5
Yuki Bhambri bt Lucas Pouille 6-4, 6-4
Dudi Sela bt Kyle Edmund 6-4, 6-4
Milos Raonic bt Felix Auger-Aliassime 6-4, 6-4
David Ferrer bt Tennys Sandgren 6-2, 7-6(3)
Gael Monfils bt John Isner 6-7(5), 7-6(3), 7-5
Philipp Kohlschreiber bt Tim Smyczek 1-6, 6-4, 6-4
Marin Cilic bt Marton Fucsovics 7-5, 6-3 (Xinhua)



Novak Djokovic reacts

Carrick to retire at end of season

London
Manchester United midfielder Michael Carrick has announced he will retire at the end of the season.

Carrick, 36, has played 463 times for United since joining from Tottenham for £18m in 2006 and won 34 England caps.

"There comes a time when your body tells you it is time to stop. That is where I am at," he said.

Carrick added it was "looking likely" that he will take up the club's offer of a first-team coaching role at the end of the season.

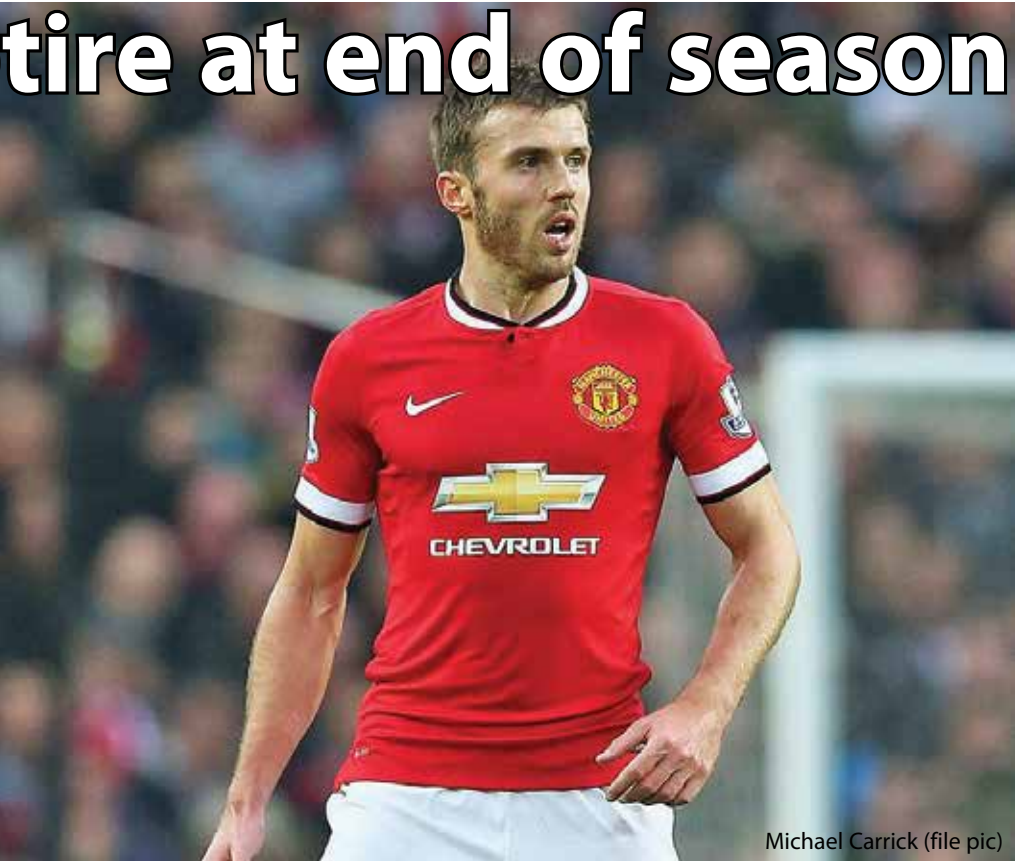
In January, manager Jose Mourinho said he would be "very happy" if Carrick decided to stay at the club in a non-playing capacity.

He has been restricted to only four appearances this season because of an irregular heart rhythm.

Carrick said: "After the heart issue, I had two or three days thinking 'am I going to carry on?' I got back fit and wanted to finish on my own terms.

"I need to keep myself fit and ready. Hopefully I can get some game time and I am still enjoying training. I am trying to help a lot more because I understand where I am at."

Carrick joined West Ham as a youth player and made more than 150 appearances for the Hammers before moving to Spurs in 2004. (BBC)



Michael Carrick (file pic)

Martial fit for Sevilla clash

London
Anthony Martial is fit and available for Manchester United's Champions League round of 16, second-leg game at home to Sevilla, manager Jose Mourinho said yesterday.

The French forward missed last week's Premier League victories over Crystal Palace and Liverpool but trained on Monday ahead of the visit of the Spanish club on Tuesday.

Midfielder Paul Pogba remains a doubt, however, as United try to capitalise on the 0-0 draw in the first leg in Spain.

"I don't know if (Pogba) is fit but he trained after you left," Mourinho told a news conference after a training session that was open to the media. "Martial is fit yes."

Zlatan Ibrahimovic also trained with the squad although Mourinho did not offer any clues as to whether the Swedish striker might be involved against Sevilla. (Reuters)