



ATP Montreal Masters

DJOKER TRUMPS BELLUCCI

Montreal, Canada

Top-ranked Novak Djokovic began his preparation for the US Open by defeating Thomaz Bellucci 6-3, 7-6 (7/4) late day before yesterday, advancing to the third round of the ATP Montreal Masters.

But there was no luck with the weather for Andy Murray, with the British second seed forced off court at 4-4 against Spain's Tommy Robredo when rain struck less than an hour before midnight, postponing the finish of the contest until later in the morning.

Serbian top seed Djokovic made his first appearance since winning Wimbledon

more than a month ago. He also created a bit of personal history with his 250th win at the Masters 1000 level.

Djokovic is riding a win streak in the elite series, winning the last five he has contested dating to Paris Bercy last November. He remains undefeated in his last 27 matches at the Masters.

Djokovic will now wait for a winner from American Jack Sock and 14th seed Grigor Dimitrov. Sock beat Adrian Mannarino 6-2, 2-6, 7-6 (7/5) while Dimitrov eliminated Alexandr Dolgoplov 6-4, 7-5.

"It was a very intense match for both players," Djokovic said of his fourth win over Bellucci

and his first on hardcourt in the series. "There was a lot of tension and a very high quality."

"I managed to stay cool and mentally tough in the right moment. That's what I take out of this match - the ability to play my best and stay calm in the right moments and overcome this tough challenge."

Ivo Karlovic beat eighth seed Milos Raonic 7-6 (7/1), 7-6 (7/1), after the Canadian saved three match points before losing for his earliest exit in Montreal since 2010. The winner's 22 aces sent him past 10,000 for his career.

In the first round, holder Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, the French 10th seed, opened his campaign

with a defeat of Borna Coric 6-4, 6-4 while Czech Lukas Rosol upset South African 12th seed Kevin Anderson 7-6 (7/2), 7-6 (7-4).

Belgian 13th seed David Goffin put out American Steve Johnson 6-2, 6-2. John Isner, the number 16 and a finalist last week in Washington, struggled past Germany's Benjamin Becker 6-4, 6-7 (6/8), 6-3.

Australian Nick Kyrgios began his hardcourt run with a 6-3, 4-6, 6-4 victory over Fernando Verdasco under the watchful eye of new mentor Lleyton Hewitt.

Kyrgios, the world number 41, is working alongside Australia's

double grand slam winner in an informal capacity, with the 34-year-old elder statesman of

the current Aussie game happy to help out the 20-year-old youngster.



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