

Federer clinches Sports Personality Of The Year award



London
Tennis star Roger Federer has won the BBC Overseas Sports Personality of the Year for a record fourth time after a public vote.

The 36-year-old Swiss topped the poll ahead of five other shortlisted nominees. Federer became the first man to win Wimbledon eight times and extended his record to 19 Grand Slam titles in 2017.

Boxer Muhammad Ali and athlete Usain Bolt are the only other people to have won the BBC award three times.

Federer said: "It makes me incredibly proud that the UK public have chosen me as the BBC Overseas Sports Personality of the Year."

"The support that the UK crowds give me whenever I'm here

is amazing, and to be recognised on the shortlist alongside some of the greatest sportspeople of all time is extremely humbling."

He was shortlisted by an expert panel this year alongside Tom Brady (American football), Katie Ledecky (swimming), Tatyana McFadden (Para-athletics), Sally Pearson (athletics) and Michael van Gerwen (darts).

The vote was carried out on the BBC Sport website.

At 35, victory over Croatia's Marin Cilic made Federer the oldest man in the Open era to claim the Wimbledon singles title.

Earlier in the year, he returned from six months off to recover from a knee injury and won the Australian Open with a five-sets victory in the Melbourne final over old rival Rafael Nadal.

The overseas award will be part of the BBC Sports Personality of the Year ceremony which takes place at the Echo Arena in Liverpool on Sunday. (BBC)

Bedene to play for Slovenia

London
Aljaz Bedene has cited the opportunity to play Davis Cup and Olympic tennis as his reasons for switching allegiance back to Slovenia in 2018.

The 28-year-old world number 49 represented Great Britain from March 2015, having moved to live in Welwyn Garden City and become a British citizen, but will now revert to representing Slovenia.

Bedene had attempted to play in the Davis Cup for Great Britain, which would have

allowed him to qualify for the Olympic Games.

However, a decision by the ITF prevented him from doing so, having already represented Slovenia, meaning his home country is now his only hope of playing in the event – and subsequently the Olympics.

"I have proudly called Britain my home for the last nine years and so many people there have made me feel welcome both in the UK and abroad," said the British number two.

"I am also particularly grateful for the support the LTA have shown me in that time and in fighting my case for the GB Davis Cup eligibility."

"It was a dream of mine to be able to compete for a country

that has given me so much in the Davis Cup."

"One of my main goals for my career going forward will be to play for the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo." (Sportsbeat)

Aljaz Bedene (file pic)

Williams's driver path is financial, says Felipe Massa

London

Ex-Formula 1 driver Felipe Massa says his former team Williams is on a 'financial path' with the decision over its 2018 driver line-up.

Massa announced his retirement for the second year in a row towards the end of the 2017 season, leaving a vacant seat alongside Lance Stroll at Williams.

Robert Kubica appeared to be the leading contender for the drive, but following the post-Abu Dhabi Grand Prix test, Russian Formula 2 racer Sergey Sirotkin emerged as the favourite to secure the position.

Asked if he was

surprised that Kubica appeared to be out of the running, Massa said: "The path of the team is financial, including Kubica, so it does not surprise me."

"But I don't know what will happen, I'm not following the team now."

"My thoughts are in other things and what I'm doing from now, and it's not F1 anymore."

Massa has regularly been linked to a move to Formula E at some point after his F1 career, but he said any talks along those lines are still in the early stages.

"I have some talks with some teams, with some people, but everything is in the very beginning," he said.

"There is nothing that I can say that is close, but it will appear quickly." (autosport)



Felipe Massa

Massa (file pic)

F1 set for two-second speed boost in 2018

London

Formula 1 cars are predicted to be over two seconds per lap faster in the 2018 season, according to the latest simulation data Pirelli has been given by teams.

The revamp of technical regulations this year to make cars faster, more spectacular and harder to drive achieved its aim of cutting lap times by around five seconds over 2015 levels. The pace was faster at every track this year.

The peak was Sepang, where Lewis Hamilton's Malaysian Grand Prix pole position time was nine seconds faster than two years ago – although factors including weather, time of year and track resurfacing also played a part.

But teams' understanding of the regulations is still relatively immature, which means there are more big gains to come in 2018. (autosport)