

Kremlin Cup



Daria Kasatkina (file pic)

Kasatkina strides past Sasnovich

Moscow

Daria Kasatkina beat Aliaksandra Sasnovich in straight sets, 6-4, 6-3, to make her way into the semifinals of the Kremlin Cup.

It was a match in which neither player held very often, struggling to make their first serves count.

"I am glad I managed to close out the first set and closed out that match," Kasatkina said via a translator on court afterwards.

The Russian made a brilliant start, securing a double break to race to a 4-0 lead, but Sasnovich was dogged and got herself on the board with a break of her own.

Kasatkina looked unstoppable on her opponent's serve, breaking once more to give herself the opportunity to serve out the first set.

But the Belarusian took the third of three break points and then held

serve to close the gap – and broke once more to keep herself in it.

Kasatkina clung on, though, as she used her forehand brilliantly and benefited from a Sasnovich double fault to break to love and take the set 6-4.

The pair exchanged breaks at the start of the second set, but after that the Russian took command, using her brilliant forehand to force her opponent into errors.

Kasatkina will next face Irina-Camelia Begu, who beat qualifier Vera Lapko, 6-3, 4-6, 7-5 – but she did not know her opponent until later in the day, and immediately after the match she said whoever she faced she would need to improve her game.

"I need to be playing more aggressively because these are very powerful girls," admitted Kasatkina. (*wtatennis*)

Tsonga opens Antwerp campaign



Jo-Wilfried Tsonga (file pic)

Antwerp

Second seed Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, who is bidding to capture his 16th ATP World Tour title this week, moved into his eighth quarter-final this year by beating fellow Frenchman and qualifier Kenny De Schepper 6-4, 6-3 in 88 minutes at the European Open.

Tsonga, who is 30-13 on the season, will next face another compatriot, 35-year-old Julien Benneteau. Tsonga has already lifted silverware in 2017 at the ABM AMRO World Tennis Tournament in Rotterdam, the Open 13 in Marseille and the Open Parc Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Lyon in Lyon.

Fourth seed and last year's finalist Diego Schwartzman needed one hour and 41 minutes to beat #NextGenATP American Ernesto Escobedo 6-3, 7-6(5) for a place in the quarter-finals against fifth-seeded Spaniard David Ferrer or Steve Darcis of Belgium. Escobedo is No. 11 in the Emirates ATP Race To Milan with 497 points, attempting to qualify for next month's Next Gen ATP Finals.

Greek qualifier Stefanos Tsitsipas booked a spot in his first ATP World Tour quarter-final on Thursday when leading Ivo Karlovic of Croatia 7-6(4), 5-6. Karlovic retired after injuring his left ankle while serving.

Tsitsipas will now challenge top-seeded Belgian and Nitto ATP Finals contender Goffin or American Frances Tiafoe, who is bidding to qualify for the Next Gen ATP Finals. (*atpworldtour*)

Kevin Anderson enters Stockholm Open quarter-finals

Stockholm

South African Kevin Anderson stepped up his bid yesterday for one of the four remaining places at the Nitto ATP Finals when he knocked out South Korean Hyeon Chung 6-3, 6-2 for a place in the Intrum Stockholm Open quarter-finals. The second seed struck 18 aces and won 28 of his 32 first-service points to improve to a 32-18 mark on the season.

"In the beginning I felt I was hitting the ball great and I was creating opportunities," said Anderson. "He was hanging in there and it took me quite a few attempts to break serve. He defends so well and is a great athlete, so for me to come off the court with that scoreline feels good."

He will next face Spaniard Fernando Verdasco.

Anderson is at No. 12 in the Emirates ATP Race To London with 2,450 points – 155 points behind ninth-placed Pablo Carreno Busta of Spain, who sits in the final qualification berth for the



Kevin Anderson (file pic)

season finale, to be held at The O2 in London from 12-19 November. Chung is No. 8 in Emirates ATP Race To Milan for a spot at next month's inaugural 21-and-under Next Gen ATP Finals with 760 points, having been overtaken by Russian Daniil Medvedev (772 points) who won

today at the VTB Kremlin Cup. Medvedev knocked out Carreno Busta in Moscow.

Fifth-seeded German wild card Mischa Zverev will take on top seed and 2013 champion Grigor Dimitrov of Bulgaria or Polish qualifier Jerzy Janowicz after he moved past Viktor

Troicki 6-2, 6-3.

Elsewhere, seventh-seeded Japanese Yuichi Sugita recorded his 22nd match win of a career-best season by knocking out 2009 champion Marcos Baghdatis of Cyprus 6-3, 3-6, 6-2 in one hour and 49 minutes. (*atpworldtour*)

Nick Kyrgios ends 2017 season

London

Australian Nick Kyrgios will not play again this season because of a recurring hip injury.

The 22-year-old world number 20 originally suffered the problem at Queen's in June.

"I am shutting down my season to make sure I can rehab and prepare as best as I can for the Australian summer," Kyrgios said in a statement on *Twitter*.

"Unless I want this to escalate into an injury that requires surgery, I need to listen to my body and my team."

The injury prematurely ends a season that been blighted by indiscretions.

Earlier in October, Kyrgios was fined \$10,000 (£7,573) for unsportsmanlike conduct after he quit his first-round match at the Shanghai Masters because he lost the first set on a tie-break against Steve Johnson.

That incident came two days after he lost to Rafael Nadal in the final of the China Open after becoming frustrated by a line call in the first set.

"This year hasn't been as successful as I would have liked, especially at the Slams," he said.

"It's no secret that I have had some sad moments to deal with away from the court which have added to my disappointments throughout the year." (*BBC*)



Nick Kyrgios (file pic)