

Nadal beats Kei Nishikori 6-3, 6-2 in 93 minutes

Nadal clinches record 11th title in Monaco



Rafael Nadal celebrates with the trophy (Pic courtesy: Reuters)

Monaco
Rafael Nadal powered to a record 11th Monte-Carlo Masters title with a straight-sets victory over Kei Nishikori.

The world No 1 recovered from going a break down early in the first set to win 6-3 6-2 in 93 minutes and has now won 36 consecutive sets on clay, a run which stretches back to the first round of last

year's French Open.

None of Nadal's opponents have won more than four games in any of those sets, a statistic Nishikori looked like changing when he broke for a 2-1 lead at Monte Carlo Country Club.

However, Nadal had other ideas and broke straight back on his way to winning five of the next six games, the 31-year-old then broke Nishikori twice more in the second set to seal a 31st Masters 1000 title, one more than Novak Djokovic.

Nadal said: "I want to thank all my team and my family. We had some tough moments during

the last five months after a couple of injuries in a row. It's great to have a group of great people behind me. I can say thank you very much always for being there and supporting me when I really need it.

"It's always special for me to be back here, having this trophy. It's one of the most important events of the year for me."

After retiring with a hip injury during his Australian Open quarter-final against Marin Cilic, Nadal withdrew from the Mexican Open, Indian Wells Masters and Miami Open due to the problem. (theguardian)

Khan makes emphatic return

Liverpool

Amir Khan made a blistering return to the ring by beating Phil Lo Greco by stopping his opponent inside 39 seconds at Liverpool's Echo Arena.

The 31-year-old had not fought for two years, since being beaten by Saul 'Canelo' Alvarez in Las Vegas in May 2016, and he made up for lost time by knocking Canadian Lo Greco down twice in the early stages.

Khan, in his first bout on British soil in five years, sent Lo Greco to the canvas with a swift one-two combination inside the opening 30 seconds.

The contest was over moments later as the Briton's devastating hand speed pinned his opponent up against the ropes to ensure it was over moments after it had started.

It meant Khan delivered an emphatic statement to Kell Brook, who was watching on from ringside, ahead of a possible all-British grudge match between the two Matchroom stable mates.

Following the fight, the victorious Khan said: "I've been out of the ring for two years I've never taken a day off the gym. I've had a hand operation and the hand felt good in the fight. (PA Sport)

Madison Keys sends U.S. into Fed Cup final



Madison Keys celebrates

Stuttgart

Madison Keys battled past Pauline Parmentier of France 7-6(4) 6-4 to lead the U.S. into their second consecutive Fed Cup final in Aix-en-Provence yesterday.

Keys rallied back from 4-1 down to claim the opening set before a decisive break in the ninth game of the second ensured the victory.

Keys' victory handed the defending champions an unassailable 3-1 lead over France

in the semi-final tie before the hosts won the dead doubles rubber.

The French pair of Amandine Hesse and Kristina Mladenovic edged Vandeweghe and Bethanie Mattek-Sands 6-4 3-6 10-6.

Earlier in the day, U.S. Open champion Sloane Stephens thrashed Mladenovic 6-2 6-0 to collect her second singles victory this weekend.

Stephens was aided by 25 unforced errors from world

number 20 Mladenovic, whose touch eluded her far too often in the match.

"That was a really good one. You never anticipate a scoreline like the way it turned out but it was really solid," Stephens said.

The Americans extended their winning record to 12-2 against the French.

They will defend their title on Nov. 10-11 against the Czech Republic, who reached the final by defeating Germany 4-1 in Stuttgart. (Reuters)

GB beaten by Japan to miss out on promotion

Stuttgart

Johanna Konta and Heather Watson were beaten by Miyu Kato and Makoto Ninomiya in the deciding doubles rubber.

Great Britain narrowly missed out on qualification for Fed Cup World Group II after losing the deciding set of their tie with Japan in Miki.

Johanna Konta beat Naomi Osaka 6-3 6-3 to move GB to within one win of promotion but Heather Watson was beaten 7-6 (9/7) 6-4 by Kurumi Nara as Japan levelled the tie.

Konta and Watson then joined forces in the doubles and looked set to lead

Britain to glory when they won the first set, but Japanese pair Miyu Kato and Makoto Ninomiya rallied for a 3-6 6-3 6-3 victory to send Japan, and not Britain, up.

Watson and Konta started slowly as the Japanese duo reeled off five points in a row to break the Konta serve in the opening game and then held their own serve to love to move 2-0 ahead.

However, Konta and Watson rallied to win five games in a row and take control of the set, establishing a 5-2 lead.

Kato and Ninomiya stopped the rot to get it back to 5-3 but Konta held to 15 to close out the set. (Eurosport)



Britain's Johanna Konta returns a shot