

Alcaraz clinches Japan Open title

Spaniard overcomes ankle worries to beat Fritz and capture eighth title of 2025

● Alcaraz beats Fritz 6-4, 6-4

● Played entire tournament with ankle injury

AFP | Tokyo

World number one Carlos Alcaraz won his eighth title of a sensational season after beating American Taylor Fritz 6-4, 6-4 in the Japan Open final yesterday.

The Spaniard has struggled with an ankle injury this week in Tokyo but he was still too hot for the rest of the competition to handle, including world number five Fritz.

The US Open champion gave another breathtaking display of power and athleticism to lift the trophy in his first appearance in Japan.

He clinched victory with a cleverly disguised drop shot before strolling to the net to give Fritz a warm embrace.

“First time in Tokyo, first title here, hopefully not the last one,” said the 22-year-old.

Alcaraz injured his ankle in his opening match in Tokyo as he



Spain's Carlos Alcaraz celebrates during the award ceremony

ran for a shot, crumpling to the ground and sitting on the court for about five minutes.

He returned to play with heavy strapping on his ankle and admitted that the injury had been on his mind throughout the tournament.

“The start of the week was not really good with the ankle, and the way that I came back from that, playing a great tournament and great matches, I’m just really happy about it,” he said.

It was the Spaniard’s ninth straight final and his 10th of the

season overall.

No man since his legendary countryman Rafael Nadal in 2017 had reached 10 finals in a season.

The win gave Alcaraz a measure of revenge after losing to Fritz for the first time at the La-

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Alcaraz sealed his championship victory with a cleverly disguised drop shot, immediately followed by a warm embrace with his defeated opponent, Taylor Fritz

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CARLOS ALCARAZ

ish Fritz with a series of brutal forehands.

Fritz hit back for his first break of the match but it was too little, too late as Alcaraz clinched the championship on his next service game.

“It’s been a pleasure to be able to play here in Tokyo in front of the Japanese fans,” said Alcaraz.

“I enjoyed every single second from when I stepped on the court, less the five minutes that I was on the floor with my ankle.

“The rest of the tournament, I enjoyed every single second.”

Fritz was looking to capture his third title of the season after wins at Stuttgart and Eastbourne.

The American won the Japan Open title in 2022.

Both Alcaraz and Fritz are in the draw for the Shanghai Masters this week.

ver Cup in San Francisco two weeks ago.

Alcaraz was not happy with the umpire in the final, telling him “you’ve never played tennis in your life” during a rant between games.

He squandered several chances to break Fritz in the first set but he made the breakthrough in the ninth game.

That left the Spaniard serving for the set, and he sealed the deal when Fritz dumped a return into the net.

Alcaraz kept his foot on the gas and broke his opponent to start the second set.

He broke him again to take a 4-1 lead and continued to pun-

BIC to bring fun and excitement on track with back-to-back experiences this weekend



Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC), ‘The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East’, hosts back-to-back days of its most popular public activities this weekend as the 2025/2026 season in Sakhir continues to hot up.

Set to take place on Friday is Batelco Fitness on Track – a fun physical activity that can be enjoyed individually or with family and friends. Then, on Saturday, BIC stages its high-adrenaline Track Experiences, featuring a series of ultra-quick race cars for ultimate thrills as a driver or passenger.

To make a booking for either activity or to get more information, visit BIC’s official website bahraingp.com or call the BIC Hotline on +973-17450000.

Batelco Fitness on Track will be held from 6am to 10am on Friday morning, making for a bright and early start to the weekend. The activity can be done either on foot or on a bicycle, giving participants the opportunity to select their

preferred workout programme.

Runners and walkers will be utilising BIC’s 2.550-kilometre Inner Circuit, while cyclists will get to ride their bikes along the 3.543-kilometre Outer Circuit, with another dedicated area for children’s cycling.

The cost to take part is BD2 for cyclists and BD1 for runners. Payment must be made upon booking. Children under the age of 12 can participate for free if accompanied by a paying adult.

BIC’s Batelco Fitness on Track Season Pass is also available – ideal for regular participants as it grants access to all Batelco Fitness on Track events throughout the season. At the affordable price of just BD15, the pass is a great way to save money over the course of the year, with Batelco Fitness on Track being held multiple times each month, all the way through to April of 2026.

Season Passes can be purchased by contacting the BIC Hotline.

Track Experiences on Sat-



urday will then bring the action at BIC up a notch. This widely sought-after offering gives race fans a pure adrenaline rush, while navigating the challenging turns of a globally renowned Formula 1 circuit.

Saturday’s Track Experiences is scheduled to be held from 8am to 3pm. Fans will get to choose between a Renault Clio Cup and either a Radical SR1 or SR3 race car.

Those opting for the Clio Cup Experiences will get an awesome introduction into the high-octane world of motorsports, behind the wheel of a Clio Cup sports car that boasts a 1.6-litre, Turbocharged engine. The Driving Experience takes the participant onto the track behind a professional instructor in a lead-follow manner, while the Passenger Experience requires those taking part to simply buckle up and enjoy the ride!

Meanwhile, fans won’t go wrong when choosing from the SR1 and SR3 Experiences. The Radical SR1 Driving Expe-

rience is ideal for amateurs and expert racers alike, as the car’s 185bhp engine roars like no other. Interested participants must complete a Clio Cup Drive in order to take part in this activity. The Radical SR3 Passenger Experience takes fans from zero to 100kph in about 3.4 seconds, making for a memorable number of laps around BIC alongside the circuit’s expert instructors.

The cost to get behind the wheel for the Clio Cup Driver Experience is BD121, while the Clio Cup Passenger Experience is BD27,500. For the Radical SR1 Driver Experience, the cost is BD132, while the Radical SR3 Passenger Experience is BD38,500.

All these plus so much more are available at BIC all throughout the 2025/2026 campaign, which continues until April of next year.

For more information on all events and activities at BIC, visit bahraingp.com, call the BIC Hotline, or follow the circuit’s official accounts on social media.

Benefit Company announced bronze sponsors of 3rd AYG



Manama

The Executive Committee of the 3rd Asian Youth Games (AYG) has signed a sponsorship agreement with Benefit Company, securing its position as a bronze sponsor for the event scheduled to take place from October 22 to 31, 2025, under the gracious patronage of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

The agreement was signed by Mr. Yusuf Duaij, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Games, and Mr. Nezar Maroof, Chief Marketing and Corporate Communication Officer at Benefit.

On this occasion, Mr. Duaij emphasized that this agreement with a leading national company like Benefit reflects a shared commitment to supporting the sports and youth movement in the Kingdom. He noted that the bronze sponsorship will play a vital role in providing the necessary support to ensure an exceptional edition of the Games.

“We are very pleased to welcome Benefit as a key partner in the bronze sponsorship category,” said Duaij. “The support of national institutions for the Asian

Youth Games 2025 is a cornerstone for the success of this continental event and demonstrates a strong sense of national pride in supporting youth and sports. We look forward to fruitful collaboration that serves the objectives of the Games in showcasing Bahrain’s organizational capabilities.”

For his part, Mr. Maroof expressed Benefit’s pride in this partnership, affirming that supporting the Asian Youth Games aligns with the company’s corporate social responsibility to contribute to the national vision of hosting major sporting events.

“Our bronze sponsorship of the 3rd Asian Youth Games stems from our deep belief in the importance of supporting youth and sports as fundamental values for community development,” he added. “This event is not just a sports competition; it’s a platform for cultural exchange and enhancing Bahrain’s regional and global standing. We are committed to providing everything necessary to ensure the success of this event, which takes place under the gracious patronage of His Majesty the King,” Maroof concluded.