

Rock-solid De Minaur beats British wildcard Broady to reach last 16



Australia's Alex de Minaur in action

Reuters | London

Alex De Minaur proved rock solid as he ended British wildcard Liam Broady's Wimbledon run in the third round yesterday, winning 6-3 6-4 7-5 to reach the last 16 for the first time.

For the second match in succession, the 23-year-old was up against a British left-hander, and as against Jack Draper the 19th seed gave a masterclass of precision hitting.

Broady, playing in the third round of a Grand Slam for the first time after knocking out seeded Argentine Diego Schwartzman in five sets, threw everything in his arsenal at De Minaur.

But finding a way past one of the quickest players in men's tennis was exhausting with De Minaur picking up balls that

he had no right to get back.

De Minaur, whose British girlfriend Katie Boulter had earlier lost her third-round match, dominated the first set, striking 12 winners to Broady's one as he subdued the Court One crowd, most of whom were cheering the home favourite.

World number 132 Broady played more aggressively after that but dropped serve at 2-2 and De Minaur grabbed a two-set lead.

To his credit, Broady refused to go quietly and cupped his ear to the crowd after winning one point, and they responded to try to roar him back into contention.

De Minaur served for the match at 5-4 in the third but Broady broke for the first time as the Australian wavered for the first time in an increasingly nerve-jangling contest.

Gauff suffers earliest Wimbledon exit after defeat by Anisimova

Reuters | London

Coco Gauff's Wimbledon challenge came unstuck in the third round yesterday when she was beaten by familiar foe Amanda Anisimova 6-7(4) 6-2 6-1 in an all-American showdown.

The two Florida-based players had made their way through the junior ranks at the same time, with Anisimova thrashing Gauff to win the U.S. Open junior title in 2017.

Hence when the duo walked on to Centre Court on the sixth day of these championships, they were already all too familiar with each other's strengths and weaknesses.

Yet during the opening exchanges, 11th seed Gauff threatened to wallop Anisimova as she had two break points to go 4-0 up. An error from the 18-year-old Gauff and a smash from her opponent



Coco Gauff

kept 20th seed Anisimova alive in that game.

From then on, Anisimova began to work her way back into the contest, winning the next four games to nudge 4-3 ahead in what turned out to be a tight, yet topsy-turvy, first set.

When Anisimova smacked a forehand into the net to surrender the opening set, Gauff shook Centre Court with a roar of "Come on".

At that stage, only one point separated the two players with Gauff having bagged 51 of the 101 points contested.

Swiatek's 37-match winning streak ends at Wimbledon

AFP | London

Iga Swiatek was dumped out of Wimbledon in straight sets yesterday by French veteran Alize Cornet, ending the world number one's 37-match winning streak.

Cornet, ranked 37, took advantage of an error-strewn performance from her Polish opponent to win 6-4, 6-2 on Court 1 in their third-round tie.

The top seed was on the back foot right from the start of the match, broken in her first two service games, and could not get back on level terms.

The 20-year-old broke at her first opportunity in the second set but Cornet broke back immediately, repeating the feat twice more as Swiatek's game



Iga Swiatek returns the ball to Alize Cornet

fell apart.

Swiatek made a total of 33 unforced errors in an uncharacteristically sloppy display.

She had not lost a match since her defeat to Jelena Ostapenko

in February at Dubai, winning her past six tournaments, including the French Open.

Cornet is contesting her 62nd consecutive Slam, matching Ai Sugiyama's record.

Sainz takes first pole at soggy Silverstone

Carlos Sainz takes maiden pole for 150th start at British Grand Prix

● Verstappen alongside on front row

● Leclerc third for Ferrari

● Hamilton fifth on the grid

AFP | London

Carlos Sainz grabbed his maiden pole position yesterday when he outpaced world champion Max Verstappen, who survived a spin in an exciting rain-hit qualifying for the British Grand Prix.

The 27-year-old Spaniard clocked a best lap of one minute and 40.983 seconds to beat the Red Bull driver by 0.072 seconds in the closing minute of a tense session run in treacherous wet conditions.

His first pole came ahead of what will be his 150th Grand Prix start in Sunday's race, just two weeks after he was a very close second to the Dutchman in a thrilling finish at the Canadian Grand Prix.

In a topsy-turvy session that saw positions shuffled rapidly in the changing conditions, Charles Leclerc was third in the second Ferrari ahead of Sergio Perez of Red Bull and home hero seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes.

After promising to fight for the front row, it was a disappointment for the local fans as Hamilton failed to extend his run of eight British front row starts.

Lando Norris was sixth for McLaren ahead of two-time champion Fernando Alonso of Alpine, George Russell in the second Mercedes, Zhou Guanyu of Alfa Romeo and Williams' Nicholas Latifi.

"I put together a lap that I thought was nothing special, but it was on the board to see how it was -- and it was pole position which came as a bit of a surprise!" said Sainz.

"I was struggling a lot with



Ferrari driver Carlos Sainz of Spain steers his car during the qualifying session

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attempts were needed for Carlos Sainz to earn his first Formula One pole

the standing water. There was a lot more standing water on the racing line and it was very easy to have snaps and lose the lap."

He added, as a joke, that as a Spaniard he was unaccustomed to racing in the wet British conditions.

Verstappen, who was briefly booed by a section of the crowd, said: "It was tricky -- raining and drying, so you had to be on the track at the right time. The car was working well, but it was a bit of a lottery."

Leclerc, winner of six poles this year, said: "I'm happy for Carlos. He did a great job. I spun on the last lap, the lap when you need to put everything together -- and I didn't. So I didn't deserve to be on pole."

Wet and windy

The session began in wet and windy conditions with sufficient rain to persuade the teams to run on intermediate wet tyres, Leclerc swiftly setting

the pace for Ferrari.

An early spin by Valtteri Bottas briefly brought out the yellow flags before the steady rain began to ease off and the circuit began to dry rapidly.

To the delight of the massed ranks of British fans, Russell was on top, before Verstappen emerged to demonstrate his current supremacy in all conditions.

The opening session ended with another nightmare for the Silverstone-based Aston Martin team, whose headquarters are within a short walk of the circuit.

Both four-time champion Sebastian Vettel, in 18th, and Lance Stroll, 20th, were eliminated along with the two Haas drivers Kevin Magnussen, 17th, and Mick Schumacher 19th, and 16th-placed Alex Albon in his heavily-revised Williams.

At the top, Verstappen led the way ahead of Leclerc and Russell.

The rain continued in Q2 with high plumes of spray making vision difficult as Hamilton struggled.

Briefly, Chinese driver Zhou went top for Alfa Romeo for a few early seconds before Alonso, Perez and the Red Bulls established the normal order and Hamilton slotted into second.

This left Nicholas Latifi clinging on in 10th place and a possible appearance in the top-ten

“First pole position, it's always special, and especially to do it in Silverstone in the wet. Keep it cool through the session and toward the end I decided to push

CARLOS SAINZ

shootout for Williams, equalling his previous best at last year's wet Belgian Grand Prix where he was classified ninth.

It was then Verstappen again ahead of Leclerc, Russell, Sainz and Hamilton, who was seeking to add to his haul of seven Silverstone poles and five in the last eight years.

As Q3 began, the rain eased with a warning that it would return, but the track remained slippery -- proved when Verstappen spun and recovered on Hangar Straight, to gasps from the crowd.

With six minutes remaining, Alonso went top to be usurped swiftly by Leclerc and then Verstappen while Hamilton rose to second as the track began to dry with three minutes remaining.

It set up a thrilling finale as the drivers delayed to exploit the conditions with an 'as late-as-possible' lap -- a scenario in which Sainz revelled with a pole-grabbing finale.

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