

Medvedev makes triumphant return in Mexico with landmark 250th win



Daniil Medvedev in action during his match

AFP | Los Cabos

World number one Daniil Medvedev, playing his first match in six weeks, beat Australian qualifier Rinky Hijikata 6-4, 6-3 on Wednesday at the ATP hard court tournament in Los Cabos, Mexico.

It was a milestone 250th match win of the reigning US Open champion's career.

"Someone told me this a few days ago," Medvedev said after the match. "Otherwise I would not have known. That's nice, a milestone in a way."

"I want more victories, but that's nice to have 250. We'll try to get more."

Medvedev is playing his first tournament since bowing out of the quarter-finals at Mallorca on June 23. He missed Wimbledon because of its ban of Russian and Belarusian players in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Medvedev gained the first break of the match to claim the opening set.

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DANIIL MEDVEDEV

He saved the first break point he faced in the opening game of the second, and gained the break he needed for a 4-2 lead against Hijikata.

The 21-year-old Australian world number 224 put up a fight, fending off a stream of break points before Medvedev closed it out after 90 minutes.

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Badosa, Jabeur reach San Jose WTA quarters

Paula Badosa wins tight 3-setter in San Jose as she halts Elizabeth Mandlik

● **Ons Jabeur eased past Madison Keys**

AFP | San Jose

Second-seeded Paula Badosa survived a scare on the way to a 6-2, 5-7, 7-6 (7/5) victory over US qualifier Elizabeth Mandlik on Wednesday in the WTA hardcourt tournament in San Jose, California.

After comfortably pocketing the first set with two breaks of serve, Spain's Badosa went down an early break in the second against her 240th-ranked opponent, who is the daughter of four-time Grand Slam champion Hana Mandlikova.

She broke back, but was broken again in the 11th game to give Mandlik a chance to serve out the set and extend the match.

After breaking for a 4-3 lead in the third, Mandlik twice had a chance to serve for the set, but they traded service breaks in the final three games to send it to the tiebreaker, in which world number four Badosa won the last five points to seal the victory.



Paula Badosa hits a forehand to Elizabeth Mandlik

Badosa will next face the winner of yesterday night's marquee clash between four-time Grand Slam champion Naomi Osaka and sixth-seeded American Coco Gauff.

Japanese superstar Osaka is unseeded as she plays her first tournament since falling in the first round of the French Open, where she was battling a left Achilles tendon injury.

Gauff, the French Open runner-up, is seeded sixth.

Third-seeded Tunisian star Ons Jabeur, playing her first match since her historic run-

ner-up finish at Wimbledon, pulled away late to beat American Madison Keys 7-5, 6-1.

Jabeur will face either Veronika Kudermetova or Claire Liu in Friday's quarter-finals.

Jabeur got off to a strong start with an early break for a 2-0 lead before Keys surged to a 5-3 lead.

Jabeur responded by winning 10 of the next 11 games.

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American Amanda Anisimova beat Czech Karolina Pliskova for the first time in five attempts to reach the quarter-finals.

Anisimova trailed by a set and a break on the way to a 3-6, 7-5, 6-1 victory.

Seventh-seeded Daria Kasatkina also advanced, beating American Taylor Townsend 6-4, 6-0.

Haaland embracing life out his 'comfort zone' in Premier League

AFP | London

Erling Haaland has warned the contenders to Manchester City's title that he will only improve in the competitive environment of English football as the Norwegian prepares for his Premier League debut away to West Ham on Sunday.

Haaland is the marquee arrival to the Premier League from over £1 billion (\$1.2 billion) spent by the 20 top-flight English clubs so far this summer.

The 22-year-old had his pick of top clubs after scoring 86 goals in 89 games for Borussia Dortmund, but said the demands of playing under Pep Guardiola was behind his reason for choosing City.

"As a young player, playing for Pep Guardiola, playing for the best club in England, I have to keep developing and get better at a lot of things," Haaland told Sky Sports.

"That's what I like a lot about football, you can always develop, you can always get better at the game."



Manchester City's Erling Braut Haaland applauds fans after the match

The English champions are already Haaland's fifth club after spells at Bryne, Molde and Red Bull Salzburg before joining Dortmund.

"Part of the game is to get out of your comfort zone which is something I've been doing and something I like because then you develop more as a human being as well," he added.

"I'm a player that's hungry for goals, that gives 100 per

cent, that wants to win every single game. They are simple things but also really important things."

After the hype around his arrival, Haaland had a debut to forget, missing a glorious chance towards the end of City's 3-1 defeat to Liverpool in the Community Shield on Saturday.

However, he said he will not let that affect him as he prepares to make his first Premier League

appearance this weekend.

"You are a kind of entertainer. You get judged every single week for what you do on the pitch and you have to deliver and do your best," he said.

"For me as a striker, this is something I cannot stress about because if you think too much, you might end up doing things you don't want to do.

"It's going to be tough and this is the charming thing about the Premier League. It's a beautiful, hard competition, that's why it's the most popular league in the world."

ments before the end of August.

"I want a certain number of players in my squad, players who are very similar in level, to perform well throughout the season and to create healthy competition," he said at a news conference.

"But are these three players going to arrive quickly, later or not at all? I don't know. I know the club is doing all it can to have a very competitive squad."

Sanches is set to be reunited with Galtier having worked with him at Lille

Sanches, 24, is set to be reunited with Galtier having worked with him at Lille.

But ahead of PSG's first game of the new league season away to Clermont on Saturday, Galtier called for further reinforce-



Christophe Galtier, Paris Saint-Germain coach

Paris Saint-Germain coach Christophe Galtier said yesterday he hopes for three more signings before the end of the transfer window, on top of the expected arrival of Portugal midfielder Renato Sanches.

Galtier, appointed last month to replace Mauricio Pochettino, has seen the Ligue 1 champions bring in Portuguese interna-

Jesus' winning mentality contagious for Arsenal players, says Arteta



Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta with new signing Gabriel Jesus

AFP | London

Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta hopes that Gabriel Jesus' experience of regularly winning trophies at Manchester City will rub off on his new teammates.

Jesus makes his competitive debut for the Gunners at Crystal Palace on Friday night after a summer move from City, where he won four Premier League titles among eight major trophies.

The Brazilian forward joined the Gunners for more game time as he aims to make the World Cup in Qatar later this year.

He has whetted Arsenal fans' appetite by scoring seven times in pre-season.

"When you bring top players from top clubs and they've been extremely successful over the years, there is expectation," said Arteta at his pre-match press conference yesterday.

"The role that Gabi has here

is going to be very different to the role that Gabi had in his previous club.

"He's a tremendous talent with a mentality that is so contagious and he's going to give us a lot, but it's a team at the end of the day."

Arteta has also recruited Olexandr Zinchenko from City, while the additions of Fabio Vieira, Marquinhos, Matt Turner and the return of William Saliba from a loan spell at Marseille have bulked up the Arsenal squad.

Galtier expects more signings as PSG near Sanches deal

AFP | Paris

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