

Fritz wins late-night Marathon

Fritz outlasts Lehecka in a 3-hour, 39-game battle without a single break

- Fritz beats Lehecka in triple tiebreak
- Completes set of all Masters quarter-finals
- Shelton edges Cobolli for 100th ATP win
- De Minaur outlasts Tiafoe in tense battle
- Rublev advances after Fokina retires mid-match

AFP | Toronto

Taylor Fritz battled into yesterday morning before finally getting past Czech Jiri Lehecka with a 7-6 (7/4), 6-7 (5/7), 7-6 (7/5) victory in three hours to reach the quarter-finals of the ATP Toronto Masters. The US second seed finished off a complete matched set of Masters 1000 quarter-finals as the last piece of the puzzle fell into place in Canada. The late-night marathon lasted 39 games without a break of serve, with 15 aggregate break points going begging. Fritz delivered two aces in the final-set tiebreaker on his way to the narrow win, moving into the last eight as Lehecka drove long. “Making all the Masters quarters is really cool,” Fritz said. “It shows consistency. “Today I had to accept that

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The late-night marathon match between Taylor Fritz and Jiri Lehecka lasted for three hours and had no breaks of serve, with 15 aggregate break points going begging

parts of my game were just not there. I was bailed out by a lot of first serves, but I was making too many mistakes.” Fellow American Ben Shelton earned a second chance after Flavio Cobollo failed to serve out their match, with the fourth seed finally securing a somewhat contentious 6-4, 4-6, 7-6 (7/1) win. The pair had words after the match, which Shelton characterised as nothing serious. “(In the tiebreaker) he made a gesture (he said) it was not directed at me so we are cool,” Shelton said. The winner, who now plays Alex de Minaur, earned his 100th ATP-level win after nearly two and a half hours, firing an ace on his second match point to wrap up a place in the last eight for a third straight tournament after Wimbledon and Washington. “It was a difficult match, I was

down and out a break in the third set. But I gave myself a second chance. It was an absolute war -- not an easy one,” Shelton said. “I was not hitting my spots on serve that well. I would do things differently. But coming through at the end speaks to my mental toughness and being scrappy.” De Minaur pushed his ATP winning streak to seven matches as he fended off Frances Tiafoe 6-2, 4-6, 6-4. The Australian won the Washington title on Sunday before plunging into the chaotic schedule at Toronto, where play began on the weekend and will continue through Thursday. De Minaur added his voice to the growing chorus of player complaints about the new 12-day Masters calendar, which will see play start in Cincinnati this week before Canada completes its unorthodox Thursday night final. “Proud of the effort” The Australian said he wasn’t helped by a third-round walk-over -- which gave him three straight days off in the middle of the tournament. “I didn’t enjoy having so much time. The body is used to going and going (during tournaments),” he said after ousting Tiafoe in just under two and a half hours. “It was almost like it switched off, I had to focus to switch it back on. I had to tell myself I was still playing a tournament -- still competing. “I’m proud of the effort today.” De Minaur has now beaten Tiafoe in three of four meetings. He profited from nearly 50 unforced errors off the American’s racquet while overcoming a serving slump in the second set and early into the third. “It was never going to be easy. He has got the ability to switch it on whenever he wants. It was tricky to put him away,” De Minaur said, adding that the hot, windy conditions made it even trickier. “I was just happy to sneak away with this win,” he said after booking a seventh quarter-final of the season. Sixth seed Andrey Rublev, runner-up last year when the tournament was held in Montreal, reached his 14th Masters quarter-final 6-7 (3/7), 7-6 (7/2), 3-0 when Spaniard Alejandro Davidovich Fokina was forced to retire with possible cramping. Both men ended the battle with 37 unforced errors, with sixth seed Rublev to play Fritz for a semi-final spot.



Taylor Fritz

Swiatek crashes out of WTA Canadian Open, Osaka races through

- Tauson beats Swiatek 7-6(1), 6-3
- Osaka defeats Sevastova 6-1, 6-0

AFP | Montreal

Wimbledon champion Iga Swiatek became the latest seed to fall at the WTA Canadian Open on Sunday, stunned 7-6 (7/1), 6-3 by 19th-ranked Dane Clara Tauson in the fourth round. Swiatek, ranked third in the world and seeded second in Montreal, followed top-seeded Coco Gauff, third-seeded two-time defending champion Jessica Pegula and fourth-seeded Mirra Andreieva out the door. Fifth-seeded American Amanada Anisimova followed later with a straight-sets loss to Elina Svitolina. Tauson avenged a fourth-round loss to Swiatek at Wimbledon and called her second career victory over a top-five player “unreal”. “Obviously it’s really great and it shows all the hard work I’ve been doing has been the right thing,” Tauson said. “I’m getting more confidence in this kind of level and feeling like I belong here a bit more. I think that really helped me today in the important points.” Tauson booked a quarter-final berth against Australian Open champion Madison Keys, who



Iga Swiatek of Poland congratulates Clara Tauson of Denmark for her victory

saved two match points on the way to a 4-6, 6-3, 7-5 victory over Czech Karolina Muchova. It was the Swiatek’s third match win of the year in which she overcame a match point. Meanwhile, it was clear sailing for former world number one Naomi Osaka, who needed just 49 minutes to blast past Anastasija Sevastova 6-1, 6-0. The second-quickest win of Osaka’s career put her into her first quarter-final at the 1000 or Grand Slam level since Doha in 2024. Swiatek, playing her first tournament since winning her sixth Grand Slam title at the All England Club last month, looked out of sorts from the start on a breezy centre court.

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IGA SWIATEK

She fell behind a quick break and failed to convert a pair of break chances in the eighth game as Tauson took a 5-3 lead

in the first set. The Polish star appeared to be finding her rhythm as she won the next three games to get her nose in front 6-5. But Tauson, who won her third WTA title and her first since 2021 in New Zealand in January, held to force the tiebreaker and dominated, Swiatek surrendering the set with a double fault on the Dane’s first set point. Swiatek had saved a pair of break points in the eighth game of the second set when another untimely double fault gave Tauson the break and a 5-3 lead. Tauson calmly served it out, claiming the victory when Swiatek belted a backhand into the net.

Messi out indefinitely with ‘minor muscle injury’: club

AFP | Miami

Inter Miami captain Lionel Messi will be sidelined indefinitely with what the MLS team described as a “minor muscle injury in his right leg” in a statement on Sunday. The 38-year-old Argentine legend suffered an upper right leg injury early in Miami’s penalty-kicks home win over Mexico’s Necaxa on Saturday in a Leagues Cup match. Messi went out in

the 11th minute but walked off the field and into the locker room. Messi “underwent medical tests to evaluate the extent of the muscle discomfort he experienced” that forced him out of the match, Inter Miami said in its statement. “The results confirmed a minor muscle injury in his right leg. His medical clearance will depend on his clinical progress and response to treatment.” That means there



Lionel Messi

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