

Medvedev races into Los Cabos semi-finals



Daniil Medvedev in action during his match

AFP | Los Cabos

World number one Daniil Medvedev powered into the semi-finals of the ATP hardcourt tournament in Los Cabos, Mexico, on Thursday with a 6-2, 6-2 victory over Ricardas Berankis.

Medvedev, playing his first tournament since bowing out of the quarter-finals at Mallorca in June, had launched his return with his 250th career match win over Australian qualifier Rinky Hijikata on Wednesday.

He said the victory over Lithuania's Berankis felt "very different" but the outcome was the same and never looked in doubt as Medvedev reeled off eight straight games to go from 2-2 in the opening set to 6-2, 4-0 and fully in control.

"My opponent played very different, much more aggressive," Medvedev said, adding that it actually worked to his advantage.

"To be honest, against that type of player sometimes you



don't have much to do. Just try to serve well, bringing the balls back in the court.

"That's what I managed to do. He missed a little but too much today and that was enough."

Medvedev, who last year ended Novak Djokovic's bid for a calendar Grand Slam with his triumph over the Serb in the US Open final, dropped just three points on first serve, despite putting less than half in play.

Gauff thwarts Osaka fight-back in San Jose

Coco Gauff stays calm to stave off Osaka fight-back to reach quarter-finals

Osaka was originally down 6-4, 5-1 and fought off seven match points before Gauff ultimately closed it out, 6-4, 6-4

AFP | San Jose

American teenager Coco Gauff built a big lead early then had to dig deep late for a 6-4, 6-4 victory over four-time Grand Slam champion Naomi Osaka Thursday at the WTA hardcourt tournament in San Jose, California.

The 18-year-old, who reached her first Grand Slam final at the French Open in June, needed just one break of serve to seize the first set 6-4 in the blockbuster encounter.

With booming serves and matching ground strokes, she then roared to a 5-1 lead in the second set.

But the Japanese superstar, unseeded in her first tournament since an opening-round exit at Roland Garros, didn't go down without a fight.

She saved match points -- all on her own serve, before Gauff was finally able to serve it out.

Down 5-1 and 0-40, Osaka uncorked a string of big serves that kept Gauff at bay. Gauff

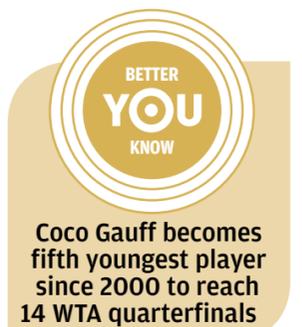


Coco Gauff (L) and Naomi Osaka meet at the net after the match

When you play Naomi she can play lights out tennis. I wasn't too mad. I was just like, eventually it'll calm down and if it doesn't calm down then it's probably not my day

COCO GAUFF

would get one more chance in that game but hit a backhand service return into the net before Osaka fired her first ace of the match for a game point on the way to a hold of serve.



"Other than that, ace, ace, unreturnable, winner," Gauff said with a laugh.

"So, I wasn't, like, too mad," Gauff said. "I was just like, eventually it will calm down and if it doesn't calm down then it's probably not my day."

It was, and sixth-seeded Gauff advanced to a quarter-final clash with second-seed Paula Badosa of Spain.

In other second-round action, unseeded American Shelby Rogers toppled top-seed Maria Sakkari of Greece 6-1, 6-3.

Fourth-seeded Aryna Sabalenka and ninth-seed Veronika Kudermetova made it through to the quarters. Sabalenka beat American Caroline Dolehide 4-7, 6-1, 7-5 and Kudermetova topped American Claire Liu 6-2, 7-5.

Raducanu wins marathon to reach Washington quarter-finals

AFP | Washington

Reigning US Open champion Emma Raducanu of Britain advanced to the quarter-finals of the ATP and WTA Washington Open, refusing to wilt Thursday after a marathon match in sweltering heat.

The English 19-year-old outlasted Colombia's Camila Osorio 7-6 (7/5), 7-6 (7/4) after two hours and 50 minutes for a gritty victory in the WTA's longest two-set main draw match of the year.

"It has got to be one of the most physical matches I've ever played," Raducanu said. "It was a pretty monumental effort to really get through that."

"I'm just really pleased and proud of how I dug in when it really mattered. It just gives you a lot of confidence coming through a match like that."

"Physically, I'm pretty pleased with how I held up in that match. Looking forward to going again."

Raducanu advanced to quarter-final against Liudmila Samsonova, who rallied past Australian Ajla Tomljanovic 4-6, 6-3, 6-2 at the US Open tuneup.

It will be only Raducanu's third quarter-final since her amazing Grand Slam title run last year at New York, having reached the last eight at Cluj-Napoca last October and Stuttgart in April.

She has yet to reach a semi-final since taking the trophy last September at Flushing Meadows.

"Sometimes in your career you feel like everything is automatic, you can go for whatever shot you want and it's going to land," Raducanu said.



Emma Raducanu returns during a match against Camila Osorio

"Those weeks don't come by very often. I've just accepted I'm not going to feel like that every week."

Osorio trailed Raducanu 3-0

I'm just really pleased and proud of how I dug in when it really mattered. It just gives you a lot of confidence coming through a match like that

EMMA RADUCANU

but broke back in a 13-minute seventh game and broke again to lead 5-4, then had three double faults serving for the first set, one on set point, and Raducanu broke back.

In the first tie-breaker, Osorio won five of six points, the last when Raducanu double faulted, to seize a 5-3 edge. But Raducanu won the next four points, the last three on forehand winners, to capture the set.

Liverpool manager Klopp wary of short-term solutions to injury problems

AFP | Liverpool

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp said yesterday he was reluctant to dip into the transfer market in order to solve "four-week" injury problems.

Reds centre-back Ibrahima Konate suffered a knee injury in the friendly against Strasbourg on Sunday which Klopp said will see the defender out "for a while".

Konate has joined a list of sidelined Liverpool players that already includes Kostas Tsimi-



Jurgen Klopp

kas, Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain, Diogo Jota Curtis Jones and reserve goalkeeper Caoimhin Kelleher, with Naby Keita set to resume training yesterday after nearly a week out with illness.

In a few weeks' time they will be back, but they've missed pre-season and that's not cool

JURGEN KLOPP

None of the absentees are understood to be suffering with long-term injuries, however.

Liverpool have made three major pre-season signings in Darwin Nunez, a £63 million

(£77 million) from Benfica, with Fulham teenager Fabio Carvalho (£5 million) and Aberdeen defender Calvin Ramsey (£6.5 million) also arriving at Anfield.

"We have too many injuries, that's true," said Klopp speaking yesterday on the eve of Liverpool's Premier League opener away to Fulham.

"But in the moment nothing has changed (in terms of new signings). A lot of unlucky situations. Started with Caoimh and Diogo, pretty much one was injured and one had a re-injury.

Ten Hag happy to have unsettled Ronaldo at Man Utd

AFP | London

Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag reiterated his stance that Cristiano Ronaldo will remain at Old Trafford despite the five-time Ballon d'Or winner's desire to leave for Champions League football.

Ronaldo missed the majority of United's pre-season preparations with the club excusing him from a tour of Asia and Australia for family reasons.

The 37-year-old did return for a 1-1 friendly draw against Rayo Vallecano last weekend. However, he made headlines again for leaving Old Trafford before the end of the game.



Ten Hag

Ten Hag described that act as "unacceptable", but also rounded on the media for focusing on Ronaldo when other players also left the stadium before full-time.

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