

Phil Bauhaus sprints to first stage victory in Slovenia tour



Team Bahrain Victorious' Phil Bauhaus celebrates after crossing the first stage's finish line in first place

TDT | Manama

Team Bahrain Victorious rider Phil Bauhaus sprinted to a fine victory yesterday in the first stage of the 27th Tour of Slovenia cycling race.

The event is part of the 2021 UCI Europe Tour and it is being held across five stages.

On the opening 151.5km stage yesterday, Bauhaus and his teammates showed Team Bahrain Victorious' strength.

The race started in Ptuj and it took riders through the hilly land of Stajerska to Rogaska Slatina. Team Bahrain Victorious controlled the race from the start, managing the day's breakaway of seven riders, who were caught with the help of Jan Tratnik a few kilometers before the technical sprint in the final.

Bauhaus was delighted with the win. He said: "The finish was extremely fast with a slight downhill in the last km. It was key to be in front at the roundabout 700m to go, and the team did a great job today. We were in the forefront all the time, we controlled the events all the time, I came to the finish in an excellent position, and as a sprinter, I couldn't be more satisfied."

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- PHIL BAUHAUS

super strong. We took control from the beginning. My teammates did a perfect lead-out for me, and I am very proud. And I also take a win for them today. In the following days, there are still more opportunities to win the races, and as you have seen how our team is strong, we expect more wins".

Bauhaus along with Bauhaus, the team in Slovenia consists of Heinrich Haussler, Kevin Inkelaar, Jonathan Milan, Marcel Sieberg, Matej Mohoric and Jan Tratnik.

The race is the biggest cycling event in Slovenia. The fight for the green jersey will end in Novo Mesto. Riders will race across 803.7 km over the five days.

Nadal drops set but reaches 14th French Open semi-final

Rafael Nadal overcomes tough Diego Schwartzman test to reach last four

● Nadal is now 105-2 for his career at Roland Garros

AFP | Paris

Rafael Nadal's French Open set streak is over. His pursuit of a record-breaking 21st Grand Slam title — including 14 at Roland Garros — remains very much intact.

Nadal shrugged off dropping a set in Paris for the first time in two years and regained control yesterday, whipping violent forehands punctuated with first pumps and yells of "Vamos!" en route to a 6-3, 4-6, 6-4, 6-0 victory over 10th-seeded Diego Schwartzman to reach the semi-finals at the clay-court major tournament.

After taking the last nine games against Schwartzman, No. 3 seed Nadal will play in Friday's semifinals against either No. 1 Novak Djokovic, in what would be a rematch of last year's final and their 58th meeting anywhere, or No. 9 Matteo Berrettini. The Djokovic-Berrettini quarterfinal was scheduled for late yesterday night.

The other men's semifinal will be No. 5 Stefanos Tsitsipas vs. No. 6 Alexander Zverev.

Nadal, who turned 35 last



Spain's Rafael Nadal returns the ball to Argentina's Diego Schwartzman

week, is now 105-2 for his career at Roland Garros.

He is just two wins from eclipsing the men's mark for most total Grand Slam singles championships that he currently shares with Roger Federer.

In addition to his 13 trophies at Roland Garros — four in a row from 2005-08, five in a row from 2010-14 and another four in a row so far since 2017 — the Spanish left-hander won four titles at the US Open, two at Wimbledon and one at the Australian Open.

There are four first-time Grand Slam semifinalists left in the women's bracket, something that last happened at the 1978 Australian Open.

In yesterday's quarterfinals,

No. 17 seed Maria Sakkari ended Iga Swiatek's title defense by beating her 6-4, 6-4, and unseeded Barbora Krejckova stopped the run of 17-year-old Coco Gauff 7-6 (6), 6-3. So Sakkari faces Krejckova on Thursday, when the other semifinal will be No. 31 Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova against unseeded Tamara Zidansek.

Nadal entered his quarterfinal with a 35-set run at Roland Garros that began during the 2019 final. That grew to 36 yesterday, before Schwartzman outplayed him for a stretch, surprisingly winning more of their exchanges that lasted at least nine strokes.

Ah, but what matters is who wins the match, and Nadal as-

BETTER YOU KNOW

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serted himself quickly after Schwartzman was ahead 4-3 in the third.

Nadal would not drop another game, breaking to go up 5-4, before holding at love to take the third set. Then he broke again to open the fourth and really remove any remaining sense of suspense.

Schwartzman — now 1-11 against Nadal, including a loss in the 2020 French Open semifinals — started muttering to himself and bounced his racket off the clay a moment before getting broken again to trail 3-0 in fourth.

Al Ahli add veteran Manny Harris to bolster GBA bid

● Manny Harris replaces fellow-American Chris McCullough on the Ahli roster

● Bahraini club to feature Manny Harris and Mike Harris as professionals for competition

TDT | Manama

Bahrain champions Al Ahli have tweaked their roster ahead of their participation in the 40th edition of the Gulf Basketball Association (GBA) Championship with the signing of veteran American guard Manny Harris.

Harris replaces countryman Chris McCullough for the competition, a team member has confirmed.

The tournament is scheduled to take place later this month in Dubai, and it also acts as the GBA qualifier for this year's FIBA Asia Cup.



Manny Harris...new addition to Bahrain's Al Ahli

Harris will be teaming up with fellow-American Mike Harris to bolster the Ahli roster. They are the Bahraini club's two imports for the event.

Manny Harris is a six-foot, five-inch guard who played most recently in China. He had also suited up in his career with teams in Israel, Greece, Lithuania, Turkey, Ukraine and the Philippines, among others.

The 31-year-old had short stints in the NBA as well as in

the NBA G League.

Mike Harris, meanwhile, already has experience with Ahli, having helped them secure this past season's titles in both the national league as well as the prestigious Khalifa bin Salman Cup.

They boost an already formidable Ahli squad that features top Bahraini talents Mohammed Qurban, Maitham Jameel, Hesham Sarhan, Ahmed Aldurazi, Subah Hussain, and others.

Sakkari, Krejckova into French Open last four

AFP | Paris

Maria Sakkari stunned defending champion Iga Swiatek to become the first Greek woman to reach a Grand Slam semi-final at the French Open yesterday.

World number 18 Sakkari triumphed 6-4, 6-4 over Polish eighth seed Swiatek and will face 33rd-ranked Barbora Krejckova of the Czech Republic for a place in the final.

Thursday's other semi-final sees Russian 31st seed Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova tackle unseeded Tamara Zidansek of Slovenia.

For the first time in the Open era, the French Open semi-finals will feature four women who have never previously got this far at the Slams.

"I am speechless. It is a dream coming true. It's a very nice feeling and I could not have done it without my team and their support," said the 25-year-old Sakkari.

"We have a long way to go but we made a huge step today."

Swiatek had gone into the match on the back of 22 consecutive sets won at the French Open but her challenge was hobbled by a right thigh injury which needed taping during a medical timeout early in the second set.

Her defeat means that Jus-



Maria Sakkari of Greece hits a return to Poland's Iga Swiatek

I never really imagined I'd be standing here one day on this court, especially in singles, and being able to win

BARBORA KREJCKOVA

tine Henin remains the last player to defend the women's title in Paris in 2007.

Greece will have two players in the semi-finals this year after Stefanos Tsitsipas made it to the last four on Tuesday.

Krejckova knocked out American 17-year-old Coco Gauff 7-6 (8/6), 6-3 after saving five set points in the opener and

then needing six match points to finish the job.

Gauff, the 24th seed and the youngest quarter-finalist at a major in 15 years, was undone by seven double faults and 41 unforced errors.

"I never really imagined I'd be standing here one day on this court, especially in singles, and being able to win," said Krejckova, who had been so paralysed by fear before her last 16 victory over Sloane Stephens that she locked herself in a stadium of force and wept.

Krejckova, now on a 10-match winning streak, is having a busy week. She is also in the semi-finals of the women's doubles.