

Djokovic reaches **record** **14th Wimbledon** semi

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Novak Djokovic won a testing battle against Flavio Cobolli on Wednesday to reach a record 14th men's Wimbledon semi-final, which will be a blockbuster clash against world number one Jannik Sinner.

The Serb, chasing a historic 25th Grand Slam singles crown, was given the royal seal of approval by Britain's Queen Camilla before his 6-7 (6/8), 6-2, 7-5, 6-4 win on Centre Court.

The seven-time champion was pushed hard by the Italian 22nd seed but ultimately had too much for the 23-year-old, who had never previously been beyond the third round of a major.

Djokovic said Wimbledon was the "most special tournament" in the sport as he was cheered by the crowd.

"And of course, it means the world to me that I'm still able at 38 to play the final stages of Wimbledon," he said.

"Thank you for cheering for my age. I really appreciate it. It's beautiful. Makes me feel very young.

"And I guess another thing that makes me feel very young is competing with youngsters, you know, like Cobolli today -- he's who knows how many years younger than me."

The sixth seed pre-



Serbia's Novak Djokovic celebrates after victory

pared for the contest by meeting Camilla, the wife of King Charles III, who said she was keeping her "fingers crossed" for his match.

She watched Djokovic from the Royal Box, along with British actor Hugh Grant.

Cobolli showed early intent, mixing up his play with drop shots and heavy groundstrokes from his flashing orange racquet and unsettling his illustrious

ponent.

Djokovic, who has reached every Wimbledon final since 2018, served for the first set at 5-3 but the Italian broke back and won the ensuing tie-break.

Cobolli, who has claimed titles in Bucharest and Hamburg this year, next had to answer the question of whether he could sustain his level against the 24-time Grand Slam champion.

But it was a different story in the second set as Djokovic broke twice to level the match in the evening sunshine.

The pair swapped service breaks early in the third set but Djokovic pounced again in the 11th game and thundered an ace as he took control of the

match.

The fourth set was tight but Cobolli failed to put away a simple winner at the net in the ninth game.

Slip

Djokovic slipped and fell awkwardly when serving for the match, grimacing in pain, but got up to finish the job.

He played down the incident in his on-court interview.

"I had a nasty slip, but that's what happens when you play on the grass," he said.

"It did come at an awkward moment, but somehow I managed to find a good serve and close it out. Obviously, I'm going to visit this subject now with my physio and hopefully I'll be well in two days."



Novak Djokovic is the only player in tennis history to have won all nine ATP Masters 1000 titles – and he has done it at least twice. This rare achievement is known as the “Double Career Golden Masters”, and no other male player has accomplished it even once.

Bahrain chase sweep in **GBA Qualifiers**; UAE last stop

● Bahrain eyeing 4-0 record in GBA Qualifiers

● – UAE still looking for first win

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's U16 basketball team returns to the floor tonight at Umm Alhassam Sports Hall, already qualified for the FIBA U16 Asia Championship this September, but still chasing something more: a perfect record in the GBA Qualifiers.

Their next test is the United Arab Emirates, a team that's yet to win a game this week. Tip-off is set for 7:30 p.m. Entry is free.

Grit Over Glamour
Bahrain have swept their first three games. It started with a statement win – 96-44 over Oman – followed by a dominant 93-52 showing against Kuwait. Then came Wednesday's 82-62 win over Saudi Arabia.

Despite a tough shooting night from three (just 4-of-28), Bahrain made up for it with effort. They out-rebounded Saudi 72-53, forced 18 turnovers, and piled on 34 fast-break points. The game wasn't always polished, but it was all Bahrain.

Even when the shots aren't falling, this team finds a way to grind out wins. That resilience



Tip-off between Bahrain and Saudi Arabia during Wednesday night's win

has defined their tournament so far.

Frontcourt Holding It Down

Hassan Oshobuge Abdulkadir once again set the tone in the paint – 18 points, 22 rebounds. Somto Patrick Onoduanyi added 11 points, 17 boards, and 6 assists, including several fast outlet passes that led to easy

buckets in transition.

Mohamed Adel Abdulla played all 40 minutes and dropped 19 points. His ability to shift gears and take defenders off the dribble has been key to Bahrain's rhythm offensively.

UAE Still Searching

UAE, meanwhile, are 0-2. They dropped their opener

63-44 to Kuwait and followed it up with a 73-30 loss to Saudi Arabia. Both games exposed struggles with ball-handling under pressure and defensive transition.

They've shown flashes of talent but haven't been able to put together a full game. Still, they'll be eager to spoil Bahrain's unbeaten streak.

What's Left to Play For

The final day of the GBA Championship is set for Saturday, when Kuwait face Saudi Arabia and Oman take on the UAE. But tonight, all eyes will be on whether Bahrain can stay perfect.



UAE in action during their 73-30 loss to Saudi Arabia on Tuesday

Grand return to the pool

The 29th GCC Championships begin



Swimmers in action in Bahrain

● Gulf swimmers race in all strokes

● The championship runs all day with free entry for fans

TDT | Manama

It's been over a decade since Bahrain last hosted the GCC Swimming Championships – but this weekend, the kingdom makes a grand return. The 29th edition of the regional tournament kicks off today at Khalifa Sports City's indoor pool, bringing together swimmers from across the Gulf for two days of competition.

Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, and host nation Bahrain will all be represented by male and female swimmers aged 14 and up. They'll race across all four traditional strokes (freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke, and butterfly), as well as individual medleys and relays.

New Era

Now, in 2025, the newly elected Bahrain Aquatics board is organizing its very first swimming event – and starting strong with a full-scale regional championship.

"Tomorrow is the start of something truly special," said Abdulla Attiya, President of the Bahrain Aquatic Association, who famously completed a 70-kilometre relay swim around the island in April. "We're building a culture that makes swimming accessible, exciting, and inspiring for everyone. We're here to make

swimming fun again."

Attiya emphasized that the success of this event reflects years of grassroots support – from sponsors, national sports leaders, volunteers, and local fans. And for him, it's also a statement to the athletes themselves. "Believe in yourselves and face challenges with passion and confidence," he said. "You are the strength of the homeland and the hope of tomorrow."

Tournament director Abdullah Matar echoed that energy from behind the scenes, highlighting the tireless effort to bring the championship to life. "The team of the tournament continues to work hard and diligently, focusing on the joint efforts of the youth to ensure that preparations for the championship are raised," he said.

For Matar, the aim isn't just to run a smooth event – it's to raise the bar. "We work hand in hand as a young, enthusiastic, and dedicated team, committed to achieving success that befits the size of the championship and the position of Bahrain. We are confident that these efforts will result in a distinctive sporting event that will leave a positive footprint on Gulf sports."

Timings

Morning sessions start at 9 a.m. and runs until just past 11. Evening heats begin at 5 p.m., wrapping up around 7 p.m. tonight and 8 p.m. tomorrow. Entry is free, and the atmosphere is expected to build as friends, families, and fans fill the stands throughout the weekend.

AC Milan's Theo Hernandez joins Saudi side Al-Hilal

AFP | Paris, France

Saudi club Al-Hilal yesterday signed AC Milan's French full-back Theo Hernandez on a three-year contract.

The 27-year-old leaves the Serie A side in a deal worth 25 million euros (\$29.2 million), Italian media report.

Hernandez has played 38 times for France with two goals,

and figured in the last World Cup, including the defeat by Argentina on penalties in the 2022 final in Qatar.

Moving to the Saudi Pro League a year before the next World Cup could be considered a risk for his chances of getting called up again by coach Didier Deschamps.

