

Osaka retires, Raducanu exits, Andreescu upsets in Toronto

Naomi Osaka retires in opening match at Toronto with back injury

● Emma Raducanu loses to defending champion Camila Giorgi

● Bianca Andreescu beats Daria Kasatkina

AFP | Toronto

A tearful Naomi Osaka retired injured and U.S. Open champion Emma Raducanu fell at the first hurdle as the top women's players continued their preparations for Flushing Meadows at the Toronto Open on Tuesday.

News of the pending retirement of Serena Williams overshadowed proceedings at the tune-up for the year's final Grand Slam but there were no shortage of first-round upsets for fans to enjoy, including one by local Bianca Andreescu.

Twice U.S. Open champion Osaka, in only her second tournament back from an Achilles injury, battled on gamely before retiring while trailing Kaia Kanepi 7-6(4) 3-0.

"I felt my back from the start



Naomi Osaka is tended to by a trainer during a match against Kaia Kanepi

of the match, and despite trying my best to push through it, I just wasn't able to today," said Osaka.

Toronto-born Raducanu conceded a tight first set to Camila Giorgi but looked on course to level up the contest when she took a 2-0 lead in the second.

The Italian defending champion stormed back to rattle off the last six games with a mix of solid returns, net play and movement, however, easing into the second round 7-6(0) 6-2.

"I think it was a really good match, to be honest," said ninth

seed Raducanu. "I just need to get better at dealing with players who play as quick as she does."

Andreescu later delighted a packed house with a 7-6(5) 6-4 victory over Daria Kasatkina in an evening match that left the Russian world number nine, fresh off a title win in San Jose, clearly disgruntled.

The Canadian, who took the Toronto title in 2019 before winning the US Open, twice called out the trainer, including during the first-set tiebreak, before prevailing in a topsy-turvy match on



Osaka has played only six matches with a 2-4 record since losing the Miami final in early April to world number one Iga Swiatek

centre court.

"I was honestly a mess," said the 53rd ranked Andreescu. "I'm so sorry for my attitude, I really do not feel well, I don't know what it was ... maybe I ate too much before the match."

There were also first-round wins for 10th seed Coco Gauff, China's Zheng Qinwen, Belgian Elise Mertens, Spain's Sara Sorribes Tormo and Australia's Ajla Tomljanovic.

Greek third seed Maria Sakkari stamped out any chance of another upset in the final match of the day, fighting off a comeback from 2017 US Open champion

"I felt my back from the start of the match, and despite trying to push through it, I just wasn't able to today. I'd like to pay credit to Kaia for playing well and want to wish her all the best for the rest of the tournament

NAOMI OSAKA

Sloane Stephens to take a 6-2 4-6 6-2 victory in a second round tie.

The news that six-times US Open champion Williams would soon be hanging up her racket dominated talk among players and fans around the complex.

"She changed the sport and she did a lot and now she can bow down," spectator Natalie Chapusette said of the 40-year-old.

"It is good news for her, but not for the fans. But if you see the human behind the sportsperson, she deserves it."

Kanepi, however, was unmoved by the news.

Germany coach Flick delighted with Werner's Leipzig return



Timo Werner
Reuters | Berlin

Timo Werner's return to his former club RB Leipzig is good news both for the league and for the player, who will continue competing at the highest level, Germany coach Hansi Flick said, with the year-ending World Cup just around the corner.

Werner, whose form over the past two years raised questions about whether he was the right striker for this year's World Cup in Qatar, signed a four-year contract on Tuesday to return to Leipzig from Chelsea.

The 26-year-old spent the largest part of his senior career at RB Leipzig between 2016-20 and is the club's all-time top scorer with 95 goals.

"I am very happy for the Bundesliga that Timo Werner is coming back," Flick said in a statement. "With his qualities he is an enrichment for every league."

Bahrain youth conduct camp at Rafa Nadal Academy Kuwait



Bahrain's national youth tennis team players at Rafa Nadal Academy Kuwait

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's national youth tennis team completed a three-week training camp in Kuwait City, hosted by the Rafa Nadal Academy Kuwait and held upon the invitation of the Kuwait Tennis Federation (KTF).

The Kingdom's delegation included Bahrain Tennis Federation (BTF) board member Mohammed Salman and players Abdulrahman Al Dosari, Salman Mohammed, Nasser Mohammed, Ahmed Moham-

med, Redha Hassan, Abdulla Al Dosari and Hashem Tubli.

At the end of the camp, certificates of participation were presented to the players from the academy.

BTF president Shaikh Abdulaziz bin Mubarak Al Khalifa expressed his sincere thanks and appreciation to the KTF for hosting the national team. He stressed that the camp was successful by all standards, and that it has contributed to the further development of the players technically, physically and mentally.

Sanchez joins Marseille after leaving Inter

Reuters | Marseille

Marseille have signed former Arsenal and Barcelona star Alexis Sanchez on a free transfer following his departure from Inter Milan, the French club announced yesterday.

Marseille said the forward, with 143 caps for Chile, had signed a deal at the Velodrome after passing a medical. A club official told AFP he had agreed



Alexis Sanchez

a one-year contract.

Sanchez, 33, recently terminated his contract with Inter and arrived at Marseille airport late on Tuesday to be met by several hundred adoring supporters.

Zain Bahrain announces Esports summer tournament

TDT | Manama

Zain Bahrain, a telecommunications industry innovator in the Kingdom, announced the first-ranked Esports summer tournament in the Kingdom in partnership with Bahrain Esports Federation and PLAYHERA.

The Esports tournament will support the development of the Esports ecosystem in an authentic and meaningful way through professional to grassroots-level events and extend the visibility of local esports talents, which comes as part of Zain Bahrain's future roadmap to grow the gaming community in the Kingdom.

The 3-week tournament has started, and it is open for all gamers aged 13 years old and above. It will feature three popular game titles - Rocket League, a vehicular football game; Valorant, one of the most talked-about first-person shooter games and all-time fan favorite FIFA. This tournament will be divided into three parts, one part for each game, and the registration for each part will be announced on Zain Bahrain's social media. The top-ranked players will battle each other and win cash prizes that reach up to \$2500.



With this tournament, Zain Bahrain hopes to provide gamers with a platform to hone their digital skills, promote sportsmanship and teamwork, and enhance their STEM education as they connect over their shared passion.

Abdulla Bin Khalid Al Khalifa, Zain Bahrain Director of Communications and Investor Relations, commented, "As a leader in telecommunication and digital services, Zain Bahrain is determined to support the Esports ecosystem in the Kingdom through collaboration with its partners. As a telco,

"As a telco, we are well suited to host the first-ranked Esports summer tournament since Esport tournaments rely on fast network speeds, connectivity, and local market knowledge

ABDULLA BIN KHALID AL KHALIFA

we are well suited to host the first-ranked Esports summer tournament since Esport tournaments rely on fast network speeds, connectivity, and local market knowledge. The tournament is for all Esports enthusiasts and gamers 13 years old and above in the Kingdom. We hope the tournament will inspire them and pave the way for them to become a professional player in the future representing the Kingdom of Bahrain."

Zain Bahrain will continue to work closely with its partners to enable the growth of Esports in the Kingdom and give gamers and esports enthusiasts the support, recognition, and opportunities they deserve.

Registration is open, for more information visit <https://playhera.com/tournaments/>

BTC seniors tournament set for September

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Tennis Club (BTC) will host the first BTC Seniors Tournament, sponsored by Royal Bahrain Hospital, from September 1 to 15, the club announced yesterday.

The BTC's sports committee is organising the tournament. They discussed details of the event in a meeting, headed by BTC tournament committee head Salah Al Najjar, and attended by sports committee members Khaled Janahi and Abdullatif Mohammed, BTC de-



The BTC sports committee during their meeting

velopment committee member Khaled Abdulqayoom, BTC as-

stant manager Ali Sabry and

BTC coaches Janji Soquifio and

Ric Jayson Apostol Alforque. The competition is open for all eligible players. There are nine competition categories, including Men's Singles over-35, Men's Singles over-45, Ladies' Singles over-30, Men's Doubles over-35, Men's Doubles over-45, Men's Doubles over-55, Men's Doubles over-65, Ladies' Doubles over-30 and Mixed Doubles over-35.

Registration will be held from August 15 to 27. Visit BTC's social media accounts for more information or contact the BTC on +973-17729561.