

Nadal retains Montreal title

Rafael Nadal dominates Medvedev in Montreal for 35th Masters title

● Spaniard wins third tour-level title of the season

AFP | Montreal

Rafael Nadal completed a 6-3, 6-0 demolition of Russian Daniil Medvedev to win in Montreal on Sunday and extend his record haul of Masters 1000 titles.

The world number two secured his 35th Masters crown, pulling clear by two in that category from Novak Djokovic, who has won 33 of the elite tournaments.

Claycourt king Nadal successfully defended a hard court title for the first time in his career.

"It was important to start the match in a good shape," the 18-time Grand Slam winner said.

"He came in playing so well, playing a lot of matches the last weeks," Nadal added of Medvedev, who was runner-up to Nick Kyrgios in Washington last week.

Nadal, in contrast, had played just three hard court matches



Rafael Nadal of Spain hits a return against Daniil Medvedev of Russia

since starting his build up to the US Open this week -- reaching the final on a walkover when injured Gael Monfils pulled out of their scheduled semi-final. "I played a solid match, my best of the week so far without a doubt," Nadal said. "I did a lot of things well: changing direc-



For Nadal it was a third title of 2019, after clay court success at Rome and the French Open

tions, changing rhythm during the point. The slice worked well this afternoon.

"I think I played smart, I had a good feeling on the ball."

With all that going for him, Nadal needed just 70 minutes to subdue Medvedev, breaking the Russian four times.

Hours later Nadal said he would skip the Cincinnati Masters which started yesterday, where he was seeded second behind Djokovic and ahead of Roger Federer.

"No other reason than personally taking care of my body and trying to keep as healthy as I feel now," he said in a Facebook post.

'Incredible' Rafa

The top seed, who now owns five Canadian titles dating to 2005, swept the last seven games in the hardcourt blowout against his 23-year-old Russian opponent -- who had never played Nadal before.

"I've played Roger (Federer) two times, Novak (Djokovic) four times," Medvedev said.

"I knew how it was going to be, I was kind of ready for it. But I didn't manage to probably show my best tennis. Rafa was incredible today. Congrats to him."

Despite the lopsided defeat, Medvedev was pleased with his time in Toronto.

"I believe this was the best week ever," said Medvedev, who will move up to a career high of eighth in the world on Monday, making him the highest-ranked Russian. "My level during all the matches was extremely good."

"I would have liked to do better today, but it happens. I will take experience from this match and try to do better next time."

Kohli hits 42nd ton as India defeat West Indies

AFP | Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago

Indian captain Virat Kohli ended a run of 10 matches without a century Sunday, setting the platform for his team's 59-run (DLS) victory over the West Indies in a rain-hit second One-Day International at Queen's Park Oval.

Kohli went a long way towards justifying his decision to bat first with a typically assertive innings of 120 off 125 deliveries, with 14 fours and four sixes adorning his 42nd ODI hundred as India totalled 279 for seven.

Set a revised target of 270 off 46 overs when rain interrupted play during their chase, West Indies were on course at 179 for four in the 35th over but then crashed to 210 all out with four overs to spare as seamer Bhuvneshwar Kumar triggered the slide with figures of four for 31.

Kumar's first wicket was near the start of the innings when he removed Chris Gayle, the hard-hitting opener falling for just 11 although it was enough to take him past Brian Lara for the most runs in ODI cricket by a West Indian, a record which now stands at 10,409.

It was also Gayle's 300th ODI, making him the first West Indian to reach that landmark.

Following a no-result from the rain-ruined first ODI in Guyana three days earlier,



Virat Kohli of India runs the wickets

India will defend an unassailable 1-0 lead going into the final match, also at Queen's Park Oval, on Wednesday.

Man of the Match Kohli received excellent support from Shreyas Iyer who contributed 71 and featured in a 125-run fourth-wicket stand with his skipper.

As their partnership progressed through the middle overs of the innings a total closer to the 300-run mark seemed inevitable.

However Kohli's dismissal to Carlos Brathwaite in the 42nd over triggered a mini-collapse and the West Indies

retained their discipline through the final overs in conceding 67 runs over the last 10.

Brathwaite was the most successful of the bowlers, finishing with figures of three for 53 off 10 overs.

"It was a good outing with the bat," was Kohli's understated reaction to his chanceless innings. "You saw exactly why we wanted to bat first given the way the West Indies struggled in the latter half of their innings. It would have been even worse but for the rain during their innings."

Sheldon Cottrell got the West Indies off to an excellent start when he trapped Sharma's opening partner, Shikhar Dhawan, leg-before in his first over, a decision determined by the television official after on-field umpire Nigel Llong turned down the initial appeal.

Kohli's eighth ODI hundred against the West Indies and second in succession in the Caribbean underlined both his supreme class and ravenous appetite for runs.

At no time in his innings was he troubled and it was only with his demise, followed closely by Iyer being bowled round his legs by West Indies captain Jason Holder, which eased the mounting pressure on the home side.

Decisive slide

With the early loss of Gayle and then Shai Hope, West Indies relied on Evin Lewis to keep them in the hunt for the challenging target.

Despite wrenching an ankle and needing treatment on the field, the opening batsman kept his team up with the required rate in topscoring with 65.

However left-arm wrist-spinner Kuldeep Yadav dismissed the aggressive Shimron Hetmyer and then Lewis to tilt the balance in favour of India.

Perisic on verge of Bayern loan move

AFP | Berlin

Inter Milan and Croatia winger Ivan Perisic has confirmed that he is on the verge of a move to Bundesliga champions Bayern Munich, according to reports in German media.

Perisic was spotted in Munich yesterday morning, and reportedly told Bild newspaper that he had undergone a medical check.

According to Bild, Bayern will pay a loan fee of five million Euros (\$5.6m) for the 2018 World Cup finalist, with the option to buy him outright for around 20 million Euros at the end of the season.

Perisic's current contract at Inter runs until 2022, but he is reportedly set to play less of a role under new coach Antonio Conte.

At Bayern, he will provide much-needed reinforcement on the wing following the departure of club icons Arjen Robben and Franck Ribery at the end of last season.

The German giants had initially targeted Leroy Sane, but turned their attentions to Perisic after the Manchester City winger was confirmed to have torn his anterior cruciate ligament last week, potentially ruling him out until early 2020.

Emery impressed by Arsenal's gritty win over Newcastle

AFP | Newcastle

Unai Emery saluted Arsenal's gritty 1-0 win at Newcastle on Sunday as the Gunners erased the painful memories of last season's away-day woes.

Emery's side did not record their first Premier League clean sheet on their travels until April last term and managed only one in the top flight all season.

That wretched run played a key role in Arsenal's failure to finish in the top four.

But Emery has worked hard to overhaul Arsenal at the start

of his second season in charge, with a host of new signings and a more determined mentality fuelling the north Londoners' solid effort at St James' Park on Sunday.

While they were only sporadically effective in attack, they remained organised enough at the back to keep Newcastle at bay until Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang fired the second-half winner.

New boys Dani Ceballos, Nicolas Pepe and Gabriel Martinelli were introduced from the bench to add more optimism for



Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang celebrates his winning goal in typically acrobatic fashion

Arsenal fans.

Defensive lapse

Meanwhile, Newcastle manager Steve Bruce was left to rue a key defensive lapse in his first match in charge of the club he supported as a boy.

The 58-year-old could only look on as full-back Ainsley Maitland-Niles intercepted Paul Dummett's attempted pass to substitute Jetro Willems before feeding Aubameyang.

"That's big disappointment for us all, to lose it in the way we did," Bruce said.



Ivan Perisic