

# Alcaraz battles heat to advance

Cincinnati washout leaves Zverev, Pegula stranded mid-match

● Alcaraz defeats Medjedovic 6-4, 6-4

● Records 50th win of season

● Shelton-Bautista Agut postponed

● Gauff advances after Yastremska withdrawal

AFP | Cincinnati

Carlos Alcaraz beat the heat and humidity of a Midwest summer as the world number two advanced to the fourth round of the ATP and WTA Cincinnati Open on Tuesday.

The Spaniard moved through hours before an evening rainstorm and lightning spoiled the night-time scenario, leaving men's and women's third seeds stranded in third round matches.

Alexander Zverev was set to serve for the match against Brandon Nakashima, leading the American 6-4, 5-4 when the match was forced off court by the threat of lightning.

It was a similar situation for American Jessica Pegula, fighting back against Pole Magda Linette who won the first set 7-6 (7/5), before last year's finalist claimed the second 6-3.

Toronto champion Ben Shelton never got on court against Roberto Bautista Agut due to rainstorm conditions that forced officials to call it a night early.

Second seed Alcaraz kept his exposure to a minimum in 32 Celsius conditions, taking an efficient 95 minutes to dispatch Serb Hamad Medjedovic 6-4, 6-4, for his 50th match win of the year.

"Medjedovic doesn't like to run that much, so I tried to move



A general view of a lightning strike near the stadium during a weather delay



Alcaraz is now the first player in 2025 to notch 50 match wins, achieving the feat before the US Open even begins

him around as much as possible," Alcaraz said. "But it was difficult with the ball flying so much and his shots coming so fast. I tried to defend in a good way."

Alcaraz has been on a tear in 2025 as he chases Jannik Sinner in the ATP rankings, and now owns 13 straight victories at the Masters 1000 level.

He will play for the quarter-finals against Luca Nardi after the

Italian defeated Jakob Mensik 6-2, 2-1 with the Czech retiring after 42 minutes.

Five-time Grand Slam winner Alcaraz, who is preparing for the approaching US Open start, added: "I was really happy to get the win in a very difficult match."

"The season is very long and in at least half of your matches you don't feel that good (physically).

"But you have to stay positive and play your best tennis on the day. I'm proud about that. It's a goal of the season."

Toronto finalist Karen Khachanov, earned a 6-3, 6-3 win over Jensen Brooksby.

Francisco Comesano and Reilly Opelka both felt the heat of their mid-day match, which was interrupted for 45 minutes by rain, as the Argentine limped to a 6-7 (4/7), 6-4, 7-5 win while saving three match points.

Comesano needed a medical time out midway through the second set, but came back out to continue what turned into



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CARLOS ALCARAZ

a fight of nearly three hours against the American.

Opelka called for the doctor just moments from his eventual loss, complaining of dizziness and high blood pressure after being broken for 5-6 in the final set.

After a quick consultation at his chair, Opelka was back on court to weakly scoop a return into the net on his opponent's

second match point.

The 71st-ranked South American will face ninth seed Andrey Rublev, who beat Australian Alexei Popyrin 6-7 (5/7), 7-6 (7/5), 7-5.

Opelka, noted for his big serve, fired 27 aces but also committed nearly 60 unforced errors. Comesano broke on four of his 13 chances.

He is the first Argentine into the Cincy round of 16 since Diego Schwartzman in 2022.

Gauff wins by walkover

In the WTA draw, second seed Coco Gauff eased into the fourth round when opponent Dayana Yastremska withdrew before their Tuesday match.

The American, who won the 2023 Cincinnati title and followed up with a US Open crown, will await an opponent from former Roland Garros champion Jelena Ostapenko and Italian Lucia Bronzetti.

Yastremska was unable to play due to illness, the WTA said.

Seventh seed Jasmine Paolini, last season's Roland Garros and Wimbledon finalist, defeated American Ashlyn Krueger 7-6, (7/2), 6-1 while German qualifier Ella Seidel continued her strong showing with a 6-4, 2-6, 7-6 (8/6) defeat of McCartney Kessler.

Two-time Grand Slam champion Barbora Krejickova outlasted American Iva Jovic 6-4, 3-6, 6-2.



Carlos Alcaraz of Spain plays a forehand

# Seales leads West Indies to ODI series victory over Pakistan

● Windies beat Pakistan by 202 runs

● Seales took 6-18

● Hope scored 120 not out

AFP | Tarouba

An inspired Jayden Seales led the West Indies to a crushing 202-run victory over Pakistan in the third and deciding one-day international in Trinidad on Tuesday.

The fast bowler blew away the Pakistan top order en route to figures of 6-18 as the tourists were bundled out for just 92 in a chase of 295 to win.

The Windies had reached 294-6 in their 50 overs batting first, powered by captain Shai Hope's brilliant unbeaten hundred.

The Caribbean side sealed a much-needed first ODI series win against Pakistan since 1991, after being swept aside 3-0 and 5-0 in Test and T20 series respectively by Australia earlier in the summer.

"We stress on negatives a lot in West Indies," said Hope. "So many positives



Jayden Seales of West Indies celebrates the dismissal of Mohammad Rizwan of Pakistan

to shout about. Great to see the guys pulling off history.

"Seales is a quality bowler... He's a class act. Anything you ask him to do, he puts his hands up."

Pakistan's reply got off to a horrendous start as Seales removed Saim Ayub, Abdullah Shafique and Mohammad Rizwan inside the first three overs to reduce them to 8-3.

Seales then trapped Babar Azam lbw for just nine to leave Pakistan's hopes of a 2-1 series win in tatters.

"Seales made it difficult for us. Done so throughout the series. But we lost three early wickets, that's what cost us," said Pakistan skipper Rizwan.

Left-arm spinner Gudakesh Motie took two wickets through the middle overs, before Seales returned to remove



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SHAI HOPE

tailenders Hasan Ali and Naseem Shah and complete a six-fer.

The hosts, who lost the opening game of the series, wrapped up the win when Pakistan number 11 Abrar Ahmed was run out by Roston Chase.

Pakistan had started strongly with the ball after winning the toss and electing to field, as the West Indies struggled to find the boundary.

The home side were 68-3 when Keacy Carty was dismissed lbw by Abrar for a 45-ball 17.

The usually big-hitting Sherfane Rutherford also never got going and crawled to 15 from 40 deliveries before falling to Ayub.

But Chase helped revive the innings with a quickfire 36, giving Hope some much-needed assistance.



Shai Hope's unbeaten 120-run century marked his 18th ODI ton, placing him third on the all-time West Indies list, behind only Brian Lara and Chris Gayle

Chase was bowled by Naseem and Motie was caught and bowled by Mohammad Nawaz as the West Indies' batting effort threatened to peter out.

But Hope and Justin Greaves plundered 110 runs from the final 8.1 overs in a blistering assault to get their team close to 300.

Hope finished on 120 not out, with 10 fours and five sixes, completing his 18th one-day international century.

He now sits behind only Brian Lara and Chris Gayle on the all-time list for most ODI tons for the Windies.

Greaves more than played his part, clubbing an unbeaten 43 from just 24 balls.