

Sinner wins first Indian Wells crown

Sinner rallies from 4-0 down in second-set tiebreaker to beat Medvedev

● **Jannik Sinner beats Daniil Medvedev 7-6, 7-6.**

● **No service breaks in entire match**

AFP | Indian Wells

World number two Jannik Sinner surged home to beat Daniil Medvedev 7-6 (8/6), 7-6 (7/4) on Sunday to capture his first Indian Wells ATP Masters 1000 crown.

Four-time Grand Slam champion Sinner won his first title of 2026, rallying from 0-4 down in the second-set tiebreaker to seal the win against a resurgent Medvedev, winner of the title in Dubai last month who was riding a nine-match ATP winning streak.

That included an upset semi-final triumph over Carlos Alcaraz that ended the top-ranked Spaniard's 16-match winning streak to start the season.

But Sinner, who didn't drop a set in the tournament, proved just that bit better in a match where both sets went to the tiebreakers without a break of serve.

"I kept believing and kept pushing," Sinner said of his closing burst. "I went for my shots a little more. A third set, we would



Jannik Sinner of Italy hoists the championship trophy after defeating Daniil Medvedev

have started even, so I tried my best to close it out and I am very happy.

"It was an incredible ending," added Sinner, who said he wasn't troubled by the hot afternoon temperatures thanks to the lack of humidity and some extra days of pre-tournament preparation.

Sinner didn't face a break point in the one-hour 55-minute contest, winning 43 of the 47 points on which he put his first

serve in play.

Medvedev saved the only two break points he faced in the seventh game of the opening set, but Sinner's tiebreaker prowess proved too much.

Medvedev was up 5-4 in the first-set tiebreaker when he let a ball sail by him and it landed in.

He'd go on to save one set point, but Sinner gave himself another with a blistering forehand that the Russian couldn't

handle and pocketed the set with a thundering service winner.

Medvedev looked on track to level the match when he raced to a 4-0 lead in the second-set decider -- aided by Sinner's second double-fault of the match.

But Sinner roared home to join Novak Djokovic and Roger Federer as the only players to win all six of the ATP's hardcourt Masters 1000 tournaments.

"It feels amazing, great

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JANNIK SINNER

achievement," said Sinner, who was already turning his gaze to the Miami Open, the second leg of the "Sunshine Double" where men's first-round play begins on Wednesday.

"I have couple of days to relax (but) there is not so much time in between here and Miami ... we try to play the best tennis possible there, too."

Bittersweet feeling

Medvedev said the outcome was "bittersweet" after a semi-final victory over Alcaraz -- who beat him in the Indian Wells finals in 2023 and 2024 -- that felt like winning the tournament.

"But that's not the reality," he said. "There is a final to play. I had my opportunity, small opportunity in the first set. A bit bigger opportunity in the tie-break in the second.

"But at the same time, I was hanging by not big margins in

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With this victory, Jannik Sinner joins the elite company of Novak Djokovic and Roger Federer as the only players in tennis history to have won all six of the ATP's hard-court Masters 1000 tournaments

the whole set.

"It's a bittersweet feeling where it feels good to do what I did this week. But of course I wanted to try to push him even more. He was serving phenomenal. (It) was super tough to be on the return position today."

While Medvedev missed a chance to become just the second player to beat both Alcaraz and Sinner in the same tournament, the former world number one underscored his return to form after a disappointing 2025 campaign and will return to the top 10 on Monday.

"It's great to see Daniil back playing this level," Sinner said. "I do believe that tennis needs him."

Manama's Sabah Hussain Suffers ACL Injury

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Sabah Hussain, star of the Bahrain national basketball team and Al Manama Club, has been ruled out for the remainder of the season after suffering a serious knee injury.

The injury occurred during Game 2 of Manama's semi-final match against Al Najma Club in the Khalifa bin Salman Basketball Cup last Saturday, where his team secured a 77-75 victory. During the contest, Hussain received possession and, upon landing on the court, became involved in a mid-play collision with Najma's Mohamed Kowaid. Their legs tangled, causing Hussain's left knee to twist awkwardly.

Medical examinations, including an MRI scan conducted after the match, confirmed that the Bahraini had sustained a torn anterior cruciate ligament (ACL).

Hussain, a key figure for both club and country, is widely recognized for his strong performances on both ends of the



Sabah Hussain

court. His absence is expected to be a significant setback for Manama as the team prepares for the final of the Khalifa bin Salman Basketball Cup and the semi-finals of the Zain Basket-

ball League.

As a result of the injury, the player will be sidelined for at least six months, ruling him out for the remainder of the current basketball season.

Sitra Level Relegation Play-Off with Game 2 Win



Top scorer Austin Ajukwa drives Sitra forward

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Sitra kept their hopes alive for a spot in next season's Zain Bahrain Basketball League premier division by defeating Al Hala 104-92 last night in game two of the best-of-three relegation play-off. The win evens the series at 1-1, setting up a winner-takes-all third game tonight at 8:30pm at Khalifa Sports City.

Al Hala had taken the first leg

on Friday 107-102, with Austin Ajukwa producing a 52-point masterclass. Despite the loss in the second game, Ajukwa was once again the standout performer for Sitra, posting 44 points, 10 rebounds, and 7 assists to earn man of the match honours. He was supported by Ali Mohsen, who added 26 points.

Sitra set the tone early, outscoring Al Hala 28-17 in the first quarter, and managed to keep their lead throughout the game. Quarter-by-quarter scores were

28-17, 27-26, 20-25, and 29-24, as Sitra combined strong defense with timely scoring to maintain control. For Al Hala, Abdelkader scored 25 points while Ahmed Bindaheh contributed 20, but they were unable to match Sitra's overall efficiency and cohesion on both ends of the court.

With the series tied, everything now comes down to the decisive third game, where the winner will secure a place in next season's premier division.

Chelsea's Neto avoids ban for pushing PSG ball boy

AFP | London

Chelsea winger Pedro Neto is free to play in this week's Champions League last-16 second leg against Paris Saint-Germain after being given a retrospective yellow card for pushing a ball boy last week, UEFA said

yesterday.

The Portuguese forward apologised for the incident which happened in PSG's 5-2 first-leg win at the Parc des Princes.

A UEFA investigation found Neto was guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct and added a booking to his disciplinary

record.

He will be available for Tuesday's second leg at Stamford Bridge.

"We were losing and in the emotion of the game I wanted to get the ball fast and I gave him a little push," Neto told broadcaster TNT Sports after the game