

SPORTS

sports

Woods made to wait

Carnoustie, United Kingdom

Former world number one Tiger Woods' much-anticipated return to the Open after a two year hiatus will be a tardy one as his tee-time for Thursday's first round at Carnoustie is 1521 local time (1421GMT).

The 42-year-old -- three of whose 14 Major wins have come at the Open with his last in 2006 -- missed the previous two editions because of injury.

He will be partnered by Japan's Hideki Matsuyama and Scotland's recent Irish Open champion Russell Knox.

Sri Lanka skipper, officials banned for 2 Tests, 4 ODIs

Colombo, Sri Lanka

The International Cricket Council banned Sri Lanka skipper Dinesh Chandimal and two top officials for two Tests and four one-day internationals for breaching the spirit of the game.

Coach Chandika Hathurusingha, manager Asanka Gurusinha and Chandimal refused to take to the field for two hours during the second Test against the West Indies last month after the skipper was accused of ball-tampering.

The trio were also given six penalty points each.

Ozil to travel with Arsenal to Singapore

London, United Kingdom

Mesut Ozil will travel with Arsenal for their pre-season tour of Singapore, the Gunners' new head coach Unai Emery confirmed on Monday.

Following the shock early exit of Germany from the World Cup, playmaker Ozil has been on holiday and has yet to return to pre-season training, with Emery instead working with those Arsenal players not involved in Russia 2018.

Pacquiao wants more

● Pacquiao now has a win-loss-draw record of 60-7-2

● Relishes another bout with Mayweather

General Santos, Philippines

Manny Pacquiao said yesterday he was good for "two or three" more fights, naming Terence Crawford, Vasyl Lomachenko or Floyd Mayweather as possible opponents a day after winning a new world title.

The 39-year-old Filipino shrugged off renewed calls by friends including President Rodrigo Duterte to hang up his gloves after stopping World Boxing Association welterweight champion Lucas Matthisse, saying he would be "lonely" outside the ring.

Pacquiao flew back from Kuala Lumpur to his southern Philippine home town Monday, where a crowd of at least a thousand supporters waited for more than four hours to wave at or shake hands with him.

"I feel good for now. Boxing is my passion and I would be



Philippines' Manny Pacquiao (R) fights Argentina's Lucas Matthisse during their world welterweight boxing championship bout at Axiata Arena in Kuala Lumpur

lonely if I quit boxing," he told reporters.

"I believe I still have two or three fights left in me."

Pacquiao, already one of the greatest boxers in history with unprecedented world titles in eight weight classes, silenced some of his critics last weekend by pummeling the dangerous Argentine into submission by technical knockout in the seventh round.

It was the first knockout win in nine years for the rags-to-riches southpaw, who is now an elected Philippine senator but who lost his World Boxing Organization welterweight title to unfancied Australian Jeff Horn in Brisbane last year.

Pacquiao, now with a win-loss-draw record of 60-7-2, said he was enjoying his win and was not in negotiations at this time for his next bout. However he

said he would relish another bout with Mayweather, who beat Pacquiao on points in 2015 and later retired undefeated.

"If Mayweather comes back to boxing there is a possibility of a rematch," he said.

"But there are many other challenges, like Crawford, Lomachenko, Amir Khan and many others," he added.

The undefeated American Crawford beat Horn for the WBO

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MANNY PACQUIAO

welterweight title last month, while Lomachenko holds the WBA super world lightweight title.

Pacquiao soaked up the adulation Monday as a brass band played and a police and military honour guard staged a welcome at the airport in the city of General Santos on Mindanao island.

"I'm a diehard fan of the senator. As you can see, I brought my baby along because I wanted to see a man who had made the Philippines proud," resident Bayra Malagat told AFP as she joined the welcoming crowds while cradling her two-year-old boy.

"We're here to see Manny. Hopefully we get a glimpse of him and get a photo, hopefully," Cieran Fox, one of two southern Philippines-based Irishmen in the welcoming crowd, said.

Brave Belfast event highlights released

TDI | Manama



Cian Cowley

Brave Combat Federation has officially released the event highlights from Brave 13 hosted in Belfast, United Kingdom for the fans.

The event is the first and only major sporting event hosted in Europe by a sports organisation based in Bahrain. Bahrain also became the only nation in the GCC to host an MMA event in Europe through the global mixed martial arts organisation found by His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

The event marked the first championship defence by the youngest champion in the promotion and only fighter from Philippines to defend a championship in Europe, Ste-

phen Loman. The videos are accessible in the official youtube channel and social media of Brave Combat Federation. The event highlights were released prior to the initiation of operations to broaden the distribution channels. The promotion was swarmed by an increased demand to air the events. Currently Brave is aired live through Abu Dhabi Sports, Combate, Fite TV, StarSat and VodaCom.

Philippines top combat sport spot

● President of Brave visits Ambassador of Philippines

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Mohammed Shahid, President of Brave Combat Federation held a meeting with Alfonso Ver, Ambassador of Philippines to Bahrain.

The Bahrain based global mixed martial arts promotion has featured athletes from the Philippines in events hosted around the world including Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, Brazil, India, Mexico, Jordan, Indonesia and the UK.

The exposure received for athletes from the Philippines and the successful championship title defence by Stephen Loman prompted the fans to demand an upcoming event by



Mohammed Shahid alongside Alfonso A Ver during embassy visit

the organisation found by His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa in the Philippines.

Brave Combat Federation had hosted the first event in South East Asia in 2017 in Jakarta, Indonesia and had announced growing interests to host more events in the region.

Bahrain hosts a sizeable expatriate community from the

Philippines and shares strong relations and mutually-beneficial ties between the Philippines.

Hosting Brave Combat Federation in the Philippines will ensure the growing interests in sports and media by the Kingdom of Bahrain under His Highness Sheikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa to have a strong base in South East Asia.

Halep stays on top as Djokovic back in top 10

Pyeongchang, South Korea

Novak Djokovic's fourth Wimbledon win propelled him back into the top 10 of the latest ATP rankings released yesterday.

Djokovic beat Kevin Anderson 6-2, 6-2, 7-6 (7-3) to claim his fourth Wimbledon men's singles crown on Sunday, launching him 11 places to 10th in the rankings, ending an eight months top 10 exile. Spain's Rafael Nadal remains top of the table and has widened the gap over number two Roger Federer, who was eliminated by Anderson in a marathon quarter final. Meanwhile, Simona Halep retained the number

Men ATP rankings:

1. Rafael Nadal (ESP) 9310 pts
2. Roger Federer (SUI) 7080
3. Alexander Zverev (GER) 5665
4. Juan Martín Del Potro (ARG) 5395
5. Kevin Anderson (RSA) 4655 (+3)
6. Grigor Dimitrov (BUL) 4610
7. Marin Cilic (CRO) 3905 (-2)
8. John Isner (USA) 3720 (+2)
9. Dominic Thiem (AUT) 3665 (-2)
10. Novak Djokovic (SRB) 3355 (+11)

Women WTA standings:

1. Simona Halep (ROU) 7571 pts
2. Caroline Wozniacki (DEN) 6740
3. Sloane Stephens (USA) 5463 (+1)
4. Angelique Kerber (GER) 5305 (+6)
5. Elina Svitolina (UKR) 5020
6. Caroline Garcia (FRA) 4730
7. Garbine Muguruza (ESP) 4620 (-4)
8. Petra Kvitova (CZE) 4550 (-1)
9. Karolina Pliskova (CZE) 4485 (-1)
10. Julia Goerges (GER) 3980 (+3)

one spot in the latest women's rankings despite losing in the third round at Wimbledon, but below her the upsets at the grass-court major caused

turmoil. The biggest gainer was Serena Williams who reached the final in just the fourth tournament of her comeback.

