

Alcaraz claims Cincinnati title

Spaniard secures 22nd career title as Sinner retires ill in sweltering heat

● **Sinner retires at 5-0 down**

● **Match lasted just 22 minutes**

● **Alcaraz won 17th consecutive Masters 1000 match**

● **Sinner focuses on US Open recovery**

AFP | Cincinnati

Carlos Alcaraz won the ATP Cincinnati Open title on Monday after defending champion Jannik Sinner retired due to illness in the first set.

World number one Sinner came into the final feeling unwell and lost the first seven points of the match before throwing in the towel at 5-0 down in a game played in 30-degree Celsius heat.

Sinner will now focus on recovery with the US Open starting on Sunday. The Italian was due to take part in the US Open's revamped mixed doubles yesterday, but his participation

“I'm super-super sorry to disappoint you. I was not feeling great yesterday but I thought it would go away overnight. I tried to make it at least a small match but I could not handle more

JANNIK SINNER

pation in that draw is now in serious doubt.

“I'm disappointed, I didn't feel great from yesterday,” Sinner said afterwards. “During the night, I thought I would recover a bit better, but it was not the case.

“I just tried to go out for the fans, trying to give (them) a match - that's the reason why I went on the court.

“But it was not meant to be for me today. But I don't want to take anything away from Carlos. He had a great week, great tournament again.”

Sinner said he is now pointing to the final Grand Slam of the season. “The main focus, obviously, is for the US Open. Recovery is the most important. And then we see,” he said.

Despite the temporary health setback, Sinner is pleased with his showings in 2025.

“I feel like it's an incredible season,” he said. “We'll keep going, keep pushing. I have some points to improve if I want to go far in US Open.

“It was a good test this week, trying to understand where my level is.”

Sinner lasted for just 22 minutes, calling for the doctor after losing the fifth game and shortly after going to shake hands with Alcaraz.

Alcaraz eyes New York

It was the second match in a row Alcaraz had won over an ailing opponent, following his win over Alexander Zverev in the semi-finals.

Alcaraz won his 22nd career title as he claimed his 17th victory in a row at the Masters 1000 level.

YOU KNOW WHAT

Alcaraz's win marked the second straight match he advanced after an ailing opponent retired, echoing his semifinal against Alexander

Carlos Alcaraz

He now leads Sinner 9-5 and lost to the Italian in their last match, the Wimbledon final last month.

“Obviously it's not the way that I wanted to win the final,” the Spaniard said.

“First of all, I just want to wish Jannik a speedy recovery. Hopefully in a few days he's going to be okay to prepare and practice well to the US Open.

“For myself, I'm just really, really happy to be able to leave the trophy,

since I just lost that final in 2023 (to Novak Djokovic) I just wanted really, really badly this, this trophy, so I just really proud and happy to be able to lift it.”

Former Open winner Alcaraz, who was upset in the second round a year ago, is looking forward to a more respectable showing in New York.

“I'm feeling a lot of confidence. New York is a place that I love playing...it is where I got my first Grand Slam.

“I appreciate the love and the support that I received there every every year... last year it was disappointing, the level that I played there.

“So this year, I really want to show my really good tennis, my best tennis, try to go as far as I can, enjoy as much as I can.”



Jannik Sinner



Gill returns to India's T20 squad for Asia Cup

● **Shubman Gill named as vice-captain to Suryakumar Yadav**

● **Bumrah also makes T20 comeback**

● **Asia Cup starts September 9**

AFP | New Delhi

Test skipper Shubman Gill was yesterday named in India's T20 squad for next month's Asia Cup cricket tournament after being left out of three previous series in the shortest format.

Gill, 25, returned to the 15-man squad as deputy to skipper Suryakumar Yadav, thanks to the stellar role he played with the bat in the recent Test series against England.

The top-order batsman scored 754 runs as India's relatively young squad fought from behind to square the five-match series 2-2.

The eight-nation Asia Cup will be the first major event in the build-up to next year's T20 World Cup in India in February and March.

“We obviously see some leadership qualities in him (Gill),” chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar said in Mumbai.



India's Suryakumar Yadav (L) and Shubman Gill bump their fists during a match (file photo)

Squad

Suryakumar Yadav (capt), Shubman Gill (vice-capt), Abhishek Sharma, Tilak Varma, Hardik Pandya, Shivam Dube, Axar Patel, Jitesh Sharma (wk), Jasprit Bumrah, Arshdeep Singh, Varun Chakravarthy, Kuldeep Yadav, Sanju Samson (wk), Harshit Rana, Rinku Singh

“His form in England... exceeded our expectations which is a great sign when there's so much pressure as captain.”

Suryakumar said he was happy to have Gill in the squad as he did not get too many opportunities in the past.

The Asia Cup will begin on September 9 with defending champions India set to face hosts United Arab Emirates a day later in Dubai in the eight-nation tournament.

India and arch-rivals Pakistan have been clubbed in Group A and clash on September 14.

“We obviously see some leadership qualities in him (Gill). His form in England... exceeded our expectations which is a great sign when there's so much pressure as captain

CHAIRMAN OF SELECTORS AJIT AGARKAR

Gill, who was named Test skipper after the retirement of veterans Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli earlier this year, last played a T20 international in July 2024.

Pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah also made a comeback to the T20 ranks after opting out of two matches in England to manage his workload.

Bumrah's last T20 outing was India's World Cup title win over South Africa at Barbados in June 2024.

Kohli and Rohit quit T20 internationals after the triumph.

Bumrah will be part of the pace attack alongside left-arm quick Arshdeep Singh and Harshit Rana.

Axar Patel, Varun Chakravarthy and Kuldeep Yadav lead the spin charge.

Carapaz to skip Spanish Vuelta as he recovers from bug

AFP | Madrid

Former Olympic champion Richard Carapaz, who withdrew from the Tour de France with a stomach bug, is not fit to race in the Spanish Vuelta, his team said yesterday.

The Ecuadorian has had a difficult recovery and he not ready for the Vuelta which starts on Saturday.

“I couldn't train for more than two or three days at a time,” he was quoted as saying in a statement by the EF Education team.

Carapaz said he was training in Ecuador and would concentrate on the late-season one-day classics and the world championships in September.

“I'm almost fully recovered now,” he said. “The next goals we've set are the Italian classics, especially Il Lombardia, and also the World Championships in Rwanda.”

Carapaz, a former Italian Giro winner, last summer became the first Ecuadorian to wear the yellow leader's jersey on the Tour de France, where he led for a day. Yet he was not selected by his country to defend his Olympic title in Paris.

“It's a very special World



Richard Carapaz

“I'm almost fully recovered now. The next goals we've set are the Italian classics, especially Il Lombardia, and also the World Championships in Rwanda

RICHARD CARAPAZ

Championship,” he wrote. “That's why I came to Ecuador: to do some altitude training, regain motivation, and focus 100 per cent. Certain factors play in our favour, and we want to make the most of them.”