

Swiatek, Ruud romp into US Open mixed doubles semis, Alcaraz, Djokovic out

Swiatek defeats jet lag and quick turnaround to team up with Ruud for semifinal berth

● Swiatek, Ruud win two matches

● Semifinal against Pegula and Draper

● Alcaraz, Raducanu pairing knocked out early

● Venus Williams falls with Opelka

● Sinner withdraws from competition due to illness

AFP | New York

Iga Swiatek shrugged off lingering weariness to partner Casper Ruud to back-to-back victories in the revamped mixed doubles competition at the US Open on Tuesday.

Swiatek -- who on Monday had battled through a two-hour tussle with Jasmine Paolini to win the Cincinnati Open -- looked full of energy as she and Ruud powered into Wednesday's semi-finals.

Swiatek and Ruud needed just 39 minutes to dispatch the US pairing of Madison Keys and Frances Tiafoe 4-1, 4-2 in their opening game at Arthur Ashe Stadium, and then reappeared roughly 20 minutes later to defeat Caty McNally and Lorenzo Musetti 5-3, 4-2 in their quar-



Norway's Casper Ruud (R) and Poland's Iga Swiatek react after a point against Madison Keys and Frances Tiafoe

ter-final clash.

The victories capped a grueling 24 hours for Polish star Swiatek, who hot-footed it to the airport after Monday's win in Cincinnati and only arrived at her hotel in New York in the early hours of Tuesday.

"Honestly the last two days have felt like one day, but I'm super happy to be here," Swiatek said, adding that her tight turnaround had helped her unwind after her exertions in Cincinnati.

"Honestly I think actually it's

kind of nice for the recovery," Swiatek said. "To have another task and to not let yourself be lazy but also focused on the next exciting thing."

Ruud and Swiatek had just enough time to fit in a quick practice before taking to the court in their first match as a doubles pairing.

"I was happy to team up with Iga," Ruud said afterwards. "She's on the winning train these days so I'm just jumping on the train and let's see if we can win some more before the mixed

doubles is over.

"I think everyone should show some appreciation to Iga today. She only got to her hotel 12 hours ago at 2.30am, and she's here playing."

Alcaraz, Djokovic out

Swiatek and Ruud will meet top seeds Jessica Pegula of the United States and Britain's Jack Draper in Wednesday's semi-finals.

Pegula and Draper clicked smoothly to eliminate the glamorous pairing of Carlos Alcaraz and



Swiatek landed in New York at 2:30am after her Cincinnati triumph, yet was back on court less than 12 hours later -- still sweeping aside two opponents in under an hour each



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IGA SWIATEK

in the first set of his Cincinnati Open final with Alcaraz on Monday, was due to partner Katerina Siniakova in the doubles.

Sinner and Siniakova were replaced in the draw by the American duo of Danielle Collins and Christian Harrison.

This year's US Open mixed doubles competition is being held over Tuesday and Wednesday in the week before the main singles draws get under way.

The tournament is using a modified scoring system, with short sets to four games, no-advantage scoring, tiebreakers at four-all and a 10-point match tiebreak in lieu of a third set.

The final will be a best-of-three set match to six games, featuring no-advantage scoring, with tiebreakers at six-all and a 10-point match tiebreaker instead of a third set, with the winning pairing pocketing \$1 million.

Salah makes history with third PFA player of the year award

● Salah scored 29 goals, 18 assists last season

● Fired Liverpool to 20th league crown

● Rogers named young men's player of year

● Five Liverpool players in Team of the Year

AFP | London

Mohamed Salah became the first player to win the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) men's player of the year for a third time on Tuesday after guiding Liverpool to Premier League glory.

The Egyptian scored 29 goals and provided 18 assists to propel the Reds to a record-equalling 20th English top-flight title with four games to spare last season.

Salah also scooped the award in the 2017/18 and 2021/22 seasons.

The 33-year-old picked up the Football Writers' Association and Premier League player of the year awards in recent months.

Aston Villa's Morgan Rogers won young player of the year



Liverpool's Egyptian striker #11 Mohamed Salah celebrates with the Premier League trophy (file photo)

lowing a breakthrough campaign that saw the attacking midfielder make his senior international debut for England.

Salah is joined in the 2024/25 PFA Premier League team of the year by Liverpool team-mates Virgil van Dijk, Ryan Graven-

berch and Alexis Mac Allister. Milos Kerkez, who moved to Anfield from Bournemouth in June, is also selected, as are the Arsenal trio of William Saliba, Gabriel Magalhaes and Declan Rice.

Matz Sels and Chris Wood



Mohamed Salah, now 33, is the first player to be named PFA men's player of the year three times, having previously won in 2018 and 2022

are recognised for their fine campaigns at Nottingham Forest, while wantaway Newcastle striker Alexander Isak is included after finishing second to Salah in the Golden Boot race.

Arsenal's Mariona Caldentey won the women's player of the year accolade after her role in helping the Gunners win the Champions League.

The Spanish midfielder scored 19 goals in all competitions, including eight in the Champions League, in her first season in England.

Olivia Smith recently joined Caldentey at Arsenal in a world-record £1 million (\$1.4 million) deal and won the women's young player of the year prize following her superb season at Liverpool.

BIC to host Women in Engineering programme in collaboration with Supreme Council for Women



Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC), 'The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East', will be launching later this year a Women in Engineering programme, held in collaboration with the Supreme Council for Women.

The initiative will offer valuable, first-hand experience in the professional setting of a world-class motorsport facility and help open new horizons for the selected participants.

The Women in Engineering initiative is entitled 'Diverse Drive 2', and it continues on the success of the inaugural programme held last year, also in collaboration with the Supreme Council for Women. This second edition has been extended to a duration of six months instead of three,

and it is scheduled to start in September of this year and conclude in February.

The programme targets Bahraini women who are fresh university graduates in engineering fields. It will provide them with the opportunity to work closely with seasoned professionals at BIC, learn from these industry experts, and contribute to cutting-edge projects in the motorsport domain.

Fresh graduates in mechanical, automotive, electrical, civil, or related fields in engineering are invited to apply.

All those ready to shift their careers into high gear and are eager to be a part of the programme can register their interest by visiting <https://www.bahraingp.com/careers-in-bic/> or by visiting <https://www.bahraingp.com/>