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Barca will be in my heart

LaLiga champions Barcelona claimed a 1-0 win over Real Sociedad and it was a fitting finale for the Andres Iniesta, who lifted the trophy for a ninth time

● Addressing supporters on the pitch after the final whistle, Iniesta said he “leaves as a man”

PA Sport | Barcelona

Andres Iniesta praised the club and fans as he bid an emotional farewell to Barcelona after 22 years at the Nou Camp.

LaLiga champions Barca claimed a 1-0 win over Real Sociedad and it was a fitting finale for the 34-year-old, who lifted the trophy for a ninth time.

Addressing supporters on the pitch after the final whistle, Iniesta said he “leaves as a man”, having spent so long playing for the Catalan giants.



Andres Iniesta

“It’s been a wonderful 22 years, full of pride, and it’s been a pleasure to represent this club. I thank you for all the love and respect that you’ve given me since I arrived as a child.”

ANDREAS INIESTA

“I will move on and carry you all in my heart forever,” he said in quotes published on Marca.

“It’s been a wonderful 22 years, full of pride, and it’s been a pleasure to represent this club.”

“I thank you for all the love and respect that you’ve given me since I arrived as a child, I now leave as a man.”

Barcelona boss Ernesto Valverde felt it was only right to give the midfielder the send-off he deserved by replacing him late in the game with Paco Alcacer.

“We wanted to compete and win, but today was Andres’ day and the crowd made it special,” Valverde told Barca TV.

“I wanted to change things at the end of the game, to coincide with Leo (Messi) on the field. It was the right moment. “These types of players will be talked about long into the future.”

Jos Buttler says recall ‘feels like another debut’



Jos Buttler

BBC | London

England batsman Jos Buttler says his recall for this week’s first Test against Pakistan at Lord’s “feels like another debut”.

Buttler has kept wicket before but has been picked as a specialist batsman.

“It’s a fantastic surprise and an incredible opportunity,” he said.

“Any time you turn up here at Lord’s it’s special, and all of those emotions are arriving today.”

Buttler has struggled for a place in England’s side for the longer format of the game but has been a key part of their limited overs set-up.



Milos Raonic

Raonic pulls out of Roland Garros

Reuters | London

Milos Raonic has withdrawn from next week’s French Open with a knee injury and is targeting a return during the grasscourt season, the former world number three said on Sunday.

The Canadian has not played since losing to Denis Shapovalov in the round of 16 at the Madrid Open earlier this month and the world number 28 has seen his young compatriot rise two spots above him in the world rankings.

“It is with a heavy heart that I am withdrawing from Roland Garros. I have many great memories there, but I know I need to continue working hard to put myself in the best position when I step out on the court,” Raonic posted on Twitter.

“Thank you all for your support and see you soon on the grass,” the 27-year-old added.

Raonic, a French Open quarter-finalist in 2014, missed the back end of last season with the knee injury and made a

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first round exit at the Australian Open on his return in January.

He pulled out in the round of 16 at the Monte Carlo Masters in April after a recurrence of the problem, which has hampered his efforts to replicate the form that saw him finish runner-up at Wimbledon in 2016.

I don’t have to be best friends: Paul Pogba

Eurosport | London

Paul Pogba has addressed his relationship with Jose Mourinho by saying he ‘doesn’t have to be best friends’ with his manager at Manchester United.

The 25-year-old midfielder spoke to Canal+ after United’s dismal FA Cup final loss to Chelsea on Saturday.

Pogba dismissed the rumours of a falling out with boss Mourinho by admitting the manager’s methods have helped him develop as a footballer.

“There were times when I wasn’t playing. I was on the bench. Much has been spoken about.

“One is not forced to go to the restaurant together. I had some problems – it’s mental. He put me on the bench, I answered on the pitch, I give my maximum every time. It made me grow in leadership.

“I had the armband with Mourinho, it was the first time



Paul Pogba with Manchester United Manager Jose Mourinho

in a club. It’s important to me, it makes me grow up to be as a leader in the France team.”

However, the £89 million man refused to rule out a Manchester United summer exit after he was asked if he would remain at the club.

“You’re never sure of anything. Contractually, it’s on, yes.”

The French international distanced himself from the rumours of a return to his hometown of Paris to join footballing superstars like Neymar and Ky-

lian Mbappe.

“Walking on the Parc des Princes? With a club, no for sure. “Honestly, it doesn’t appeal to me. I grew up here, my father supported Marseille and so did my mum. Paris wasn’t really in my daily life.”



Paul Pogba distanced himself from the rumours of a return to his hometown of Paris to join footballing superstars like Neymar and Kylian Mbappe.

Kei Nishikori needs French Open success

Reuters | Tokyo

It has been a long and frustrating road back to fitness for Japan’s Kei Nishikori, who will arrive at Roland Garros without an ATP title for more than two years and desperate to prove that his career has not already peaked.

For much of the last decade Nishikori has been the player most likely to bring a first men’s grand slam singles title back to Asia but the 28-year-old now risks being overtaken by South Korean young gun Chung Hyeon.

Reaching the 2014 U.S. Open



Kei Nishikori

final remains his best result at a major and his highest career ranking of world number four came the following year.

Since winning Memphis Open for the fourth time in February 2016, Nishikori has lost seven finals in a row, most recently at last month’s Monte Carlo Masters. The Japanese sustained a wrist injury in August that ended his 2017 season and kept him out of the first grand slam of the season in Australia.

He was also forced to pull out of Indian Wells in March due to illness, further hampering his progress to full fitness.

“I am fit again,” the world

number 24 said at the Madrid Open earlier this month.

“Well, my wrist is not 100 per cent yet, but close to playing enough tennis. I think I need couple more weeks to get used to playing on clay, as more damage to my wrist, play more spin.

“But it’s not too bad.” Perhaps as a result, Nishikori’s claycourt season has been hit so far despite the impressive showing at the Monte Carlo Masters, which saw him lose to 11-times champion Rafael Nadal in the final.

Days after that loss to Nadal, Nishikori retired hurt during his first match in Barcelona.