

Kyrgios poised for major breakthrough at Wimbledon: Evert



Nick Kyrgios
Reuters | London

Nick Kyrgios could finally be ready to deliver on the promise he has flashed throughout his turbulent career when he brings his powerful game to the grass courts of Wimbledon next week, tennis great Chris Evert said.

While the hugely talented Australian often bamboozles opponents with an array of incredible shots, his antics on the court and run-ins with umpires have often dominated the headlines and he has yet to win a Grand Slam singles title.

Evert, who last month finished chemotherapy for stage one ovarian cancer, said she has been impressed by what she has seen from the 27-year-old.

"I've been watching him a lot since I've been bedridden with COVID," Evert told reporters on a video call on Wednesday.

Najma make strong start in Asian clubs handball

Bahrain champions defeat Mes Kerman of Iran 31-25 in opening Group B match at 24th Asian Men's Club League Handball Championship in Hyderabad, India

● Ali Eid leads all Najma scorers with eight goals while Mahdi Saad adds seven

● Najma goalkeeper Mohammed Abdulhussain has eight saves in game

TDT | Manama

Bahrain champions Al Najma enjoyed a winning start yesterday to their gold medal bid at the 24th Asian Men's Club League Handball Championship, defeating Mes Kerman of Iran 31-25 at GMC Balayogi Indoor Stadium in Hyderabad, India.

The game was their first in Group B of the competition's first round, where they will also face Al Kuwait of Kuwait and Al Wakra of Qatar.

The Bahrainis enjoyed a 14-10 lead at the end of the first half and maintained their strong showing over the concluding 30 minutes.

In yesterday's other Group B game, Kuwait outclassed Wakra 33-22.



Al Najma's Ali Eid looks to score in their match yesterday against Mes Kerman

In Group A, Al Qadsia of Kuwait beat hosts T-Sports of India 37-24 while Al Arabi of Qatar defeated Al Noor of Saudi Arabia 29-24. Both games were played on

Al Najma return to the court tomorrow when they take on Al Kuwait of Kuwait, and then play their final group game against Al Wakra of Qatar on Monday

Wednesday night on the tournament's first day.

Today, Noor faces off with Qadsia while T-Sports play Arabi.

In Najma's win yesterday, Ali Eid finished as the Bahrainis' top scorer with eight goals. Mahdi Saad added seven, while Bilal Askani and Fadhul Ahmed each scored four.

Mohammed Habib Naser and Oliver Nyokas had two goals apiece, while Mohammed Mirza, Bakary Diallo, Komail Mahfoodh, and Hasan Al Fardan finished with a goal each.

Najma goalkeeper Mohammed Abdulhussain had eight saves in the game while Hamad Shamlan had four.

The Asian clubs league championship is scheduled to continue until June 30.

Najma return to the court tomorrow when they take on Kuwait, and then play

their final group game against Wakra on Monday.

The top two teams from both groups move on to the semi-finals on June 29, while the next two play in the consolation round for their final classification.

The concluding placement fixtures as well as the bronze and gold medal games are scheduled to be played on June 30.

Najma have won the tournament title once in the past, in the 2017 edition which was also held in Hyderabad. They also claimed the silver medals in 2015 and the bronze in 2001.

In the previous edition of the competition last year, Najma placed fourth after losing in the bronze medal game to Arabi by a single goal.

Aside from being an Asian championship, the competition also acts as a qualifying event for the International Handball Federation (IHF) Men's Super Globe. Only the champions will book a ticket to the event, which is contested between champion clubs from continental confederations.

Najma participated just once in the 2018 edition. This year's Men's Super Globe is scheduled for October in Saudi Arabia.

Bahrain rise four places on FIFA World Ranking

● Bahrainis move up to 85th on latest edition of global classification for senior men's national football teams

● New ranking is Bahrain's best in over a decade—with their previous top classification being 60th in 2010

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's senior men's national football team rose four places on the latest edition of the FIFA World Ranking.

The new classification was released yesterday by global football's governing body.

The Bahrainis are now ranked 85th in the world after improving to 1,289.25 ranking points,



Bahrain's national football team

up 26.70 points from their previous total of 1,262.55.

The nationals' new ranking is their best since 2010, when their top classification for that year was 60th. Bahrain have been ranked as low as 133rd since, in 2017.

The Bahrainis are 12th

amongst all national teams in the Asian Football Confederation, where Iran are top in 23rd in the world followed by Japan in 24th, South Korea in 28th and Australia in 39th.

Amongst all the GCC teams, Bahrain are fifth. Qatar are the best-ranked side in 49th, while

Saudi Arabia are 53rd, the UAE 69th and Oman 75th.

Brazil are the top-ranked team in the world, followed by Belgium, Argentina, France and England in the top five. The leading 10 nations are rounded out by Spain, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal and Denmark.

Fifteen-year-old Ayah sets new national record at swimming worlds



Bahrain's Ayah Bin Rajab gives a thumbs-up after her national record yesterday

● Ayah Bin Rajab clocks a mark of 30.69 seconds for new Bahraini best in women's 50 metres butterfly at the 19th FINA World Championships 2022

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's up-and-coming swimmer Ayah Bin Rajab yesterday set a new national record in the women's 50 metres butterfly at the 19th FINA World Championships 2022, being held in Budapest, Hungary.

The 15-year-old posted a time of 30.69 seconds in the second of seven heats in the event's opening stage. She finished third overall amongst

the race's eight competing athletes.

Ayah had a reaction time of 0.67 seconds, and was just 01.69s behind winner Mikaili Charlemagne of Saint Lucia, who finished first in 29.00s. Enkhkhuslen Batbayar of Mongolia was the runner-up in 29.08s.

Only the top 16 swimmers from all the heats advanced to the semi-finals. Yufei Zhang of China was the leading qualifier with a time of 25.39s, while Katerine Savard of Canada was the last to make it through in 26.47s.

Bahrain's participation at the global competition continues. There are three other national team swimmers taking part, including Omar Al Rowaila, Saud Ghali and Noor Taha. The young nationals are being guided in Budapest by national team head coach Alex Karpalev.

Serena Williams' comeback cut short by Jabeur injury

AFP | London

Serena Williams' return to tennis action has been cut short after doubles partner Ons Jabeur withdrew from the Eastbourne tournament because of a knee injury.

The WTA event had seen tennis great Williams, 40, play her first two competitive matches since she limped out of last year's Wimbledon in tears with a hamstring problem.

The American and Tunisian partner



Serena Williams and Ons Jabeur during a match

Jabeur made it through to the semi-finals with a narrow last 16 win over Maria Bouzkova and Sara Sorribes Tormo, before a more convincing quarter-final victory in straight sets against Shuko Aoyama and Chan Hao-ching.

Williams will now focus on Wimbledon where she has accepted a wild card into the women's singles in a bid to win a record-equalling 24th Grand Slam title.

She will find out who she faces in the first round when the draw is made on Friday.