

Osaka, Zverev stunned

Serena Williams withdraws from Miami Open due to knee injury

● Ferrer topples third-ranked Zverev in Miami

● Hsieh shocks Osaka to reach fourth round

AFP | Miami

Naomi Osaka crashed out of the third round of the WTA and ATP Miami Open on Saturday as Hsieh Su-Wei exacted revenge for a painful Australian Open defeat with a 4-6, 7-6 (7/4), 6-3 victory.

World number one Osaka had looked in little danger after winning the first set and moving a break ahead in the second.

But Taiwan's Hsieh, who was a set and 4-1 up in Melbourne earlier this year before losing to the Japanese star in the third round, battled superbly.

"This was a very emotional win for me," said Hsieh, whose 39 winners were one less than her opponent. "Any time you beat one of the top players it is amazing."

It wasn't the only shocker of the day, as Spanish veteran David Ferrer rallied to beat world number three Alexander Zverev 2-6, 7-5, 6-3 to reach the third round.

Ferrer, 36 and ranked 155th in the world, received a wild card into the tournament as he



Naomi Osaka of Japan reacts in her match against Su-Wei Hsieh of Taipei

continues a limited schedule in a 2019 billed as his farewell tour.

Zverev, runner-up to John Isner here last year, coughed up 12 double faults as he suffered his second straight early exit in succession after a third-round

departure at Indian Wells.

Osaka was coming off a fourth-round exit at Indian Wells, but Hsieh's coach said her victory wasn't all that surprising.

"She has enough experience to stay strong and you saw that,"

French coach Frederic Aniere, who has worked with Hsieh for the last two years and is also her boyfriend, told AFP.

"Yes it's huge, but for her it's not a big surprise."

Osaka's second-round win

over Belgian Yanina Wickmayer on Friday saw a second set wobble from the two-time Grand Slam winning star and it was more of the same against Hsieh, who simply refused to give up the fight.

"I was kind of immature because I was thinking too much, like everything was on my racket," admitted Osaka. "I got ahead of myself."

"Of course I want to win every match and I think I have dealt with people always asking me if I am going to win because I have number one next to my name," added the Japanese star.

"I thought I was doing fine with that but I guess I am not."

Injured Serena withdraws

The 33-year-old Hsieh will play Caroline Wozniacki in the fourth round of the women's draw, which now looks wide open following Osaka's defeat and former world number one Serena Williams's surprise exit with a left knee injury.

The American has completed just seven matches this year, withdrawing in Indian Wells with illness midway through a round of 32 match with Garbine Muguruza.

There are surely doubts now that the 37-year-old can add to her tally of 23 Grand Slams, something which has so far proved beyond her since return-



Alexander Zverev, runner-up to John Isner at the ATP Miami Open last year, coughed up 12 double faults as he suffered his second straight early exit in succession after a third-round departure at Indian Wells

ing last year after taking time out following the birth of her first child.

With Williams out, Wang Qiang, the 18th seed from China, advances to the fourth round on a walkover.

In the late game, unseeded Canadian Bianca Andreescu beat Angelique Kerber for the second time in a week 6-4, 4-6, 6-1, outlasting the German eighth seed in a two hour, nine minute three setter.

The duo also met in the WTA Indian Wells final, with Andreescu winning 6-4, 3-6, 6-4.

Federer rallies to beat 46th-ranked Albot in Miami opener

AFP | Miami

Roger Federer battled back from a set down to overcome 46th-ranked Radu Albot 4-6, 7-5, 6-3 on Saturday and reach the third round of the ATP and WTA Miami Open.

Moldova's Albot superbly took hold of the match and posed plenty of problems for the 20-time Grand Slam winning legend, who took a while to get adjusted to the new surroundings at the Hard Rock Stadium.

But the Swiss star's class and experience eventually shone through as he booked a round of 32 match with Serbian Filip Krajinovic who surprised three-time Grand Slam winner Stan Wawrinka 5-7, 6-2, 7-6 (7/5) earlier in the afternoon.

"I definitely think Radu played a great match, it was really tough and I struggled early on," admitted Federer, a three time Miami Open champion.

"I am very relieved and happy to make it through. It was a great atmosphere."

Moldovan Albot, 29, is enjoying a rich vein of form and arrived in Miami at a career high ranking.

He had never played the Swiss legend before but wasted little time in breaking Federer's serve in the very first game before holding for 2-0.

He was anything but overawed by facing Federer and it was no surprise to see him wrap



Roger Federer of Switzerland in action against Radu Albot of Moldova

up the first set and leave the world number five with plenty of work to do.

Federer missed a break point opportunity at 4-3, Albot then crashing home a winner to

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ROGER FEDERER

heap the pressure back onto the 37-year-old before brilliantly sealing the first set.

The pro-Federer crowd were stunned, but the Swiss upped his game in the second, hitting 15 winners and five aces as well as saving a break point to keep carefree Albot at bay and take an entertaining tussle into a third set.

Federer managed to keep the pressure on and cracked the Moldovan who was serving at 3-4.

After a brilliant one handed backhand down the line from Federer clipped the line, Albot hit long once more and that gave Federer the break and opportunity to serve out for the match and move into the next round and a meeting with the 103rd-ranked Krajinovic.

Referees must not penalise all contact in box, says Maguire

Reuters | London

Referees should not penalise players for making contact with their opponents inside the penalty area unless it is a legitimate foul, Leicester City defender Harry Maguire has said.

Maguire, 26, believes defenders should be allowed to mark their man closely without the risk of conceding a "soft" penalty.

"It's up to the laws as to what is deemed soft, but I don't think you can outlaw all contact in the box because that's how you defend," Maguire was quoted as saying by The Guardian. "You get tight to your man and try to use your strength."

"I do believe there still has to be some contact in the game because if you are not bumping into your man at a corner you are not getting tight enough."

"A little push or a nudge should not be enough for a penalty, but being silly by grabbing someone round the neck is obviously different."

Maguire, who is currently with the England squad for their European Championship qualifiers, will miss Leicester's next game after he was sent off for fouling Johann Berg Gudmundsson in the fourth minute of their 2-1 win at Burnley last weekend.

Maguire did not complain about the decision as he was the last defender when he fouled the Iceland winger who was

through on goal.

"As soon as I heard the whistle I knew it was a red card," Maguire added. "I've heard people saying it was harsh because I didn't mean to touch him but the rules are clear."

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Harry Maguire

Give finger spinner a role at World Cup, says Harbhajan

Reuters | Mumbai

Harbhajan Singh dismissed a trio of top batsmen in the Indian Premier League's opener on Saturday before underlining the importance of a finger spinner to India's cause at the upcoming Cricket World Cup.

Playing for champions Chennai, Harbhajan sent back Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) skipper Virat Kohli, former South Africa batting mainstay AB de Villiers and England all-rounder Moeen Ali on a MA Chidambaram Stadium track that offered assistance to slow bowlers.

Wrist spinners, once considered a luxury for their penchant to bleed runs in the chase for wickets, have taken the limited-overs formats by storm and banished their finger spin cousins to the fringes.

Five of top 10 spots in International Cricket Council's rankings for one-day international bowlers are occupied by wrist spinners - Afghanistan's Rashid Khan, Imran Tahir of South Africa, Indian pair Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzvendra Chahal, and England's Adil Rashid.

Harbhajan, who played 103 tests and 236 ODIs for India, said there is a perception that wrist spinners have more chance of success as they possess more variations in their armoury.