

Sinner, Sabalenka march on in Miami as more seeds crash out

Medvedev joins Alcaraz, De Minaur as early Miami casualties



Jannik Sinner of Italy serves to Corentin Moutet of France



Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus returns a shot against Qinwen Zheng of China

● **Sabalenka beats Zheng Qinwen 6-3, 6-4.**

● **Sinner defeats Corentin Moutet 6-1, 6-4**

● **Defending champion Mensik loses to Tiafoe in three sets**

● **Gauff, Pegula advance to quarters**

AFP | Miami

Jannik Sinner and Aryna Sabalenka kept their "Sunshine Double" dreams alive with emphatic victories at the ATP/WTA Miami Open on Monday as defending men's champion Jakub Mensik joined a slew of seeds who crashed out.

Sinner and Sabalenka are bidding to join an elite band of players who have won Indian Wells and the Miami Open back-to-back, and arrived in Florida

brimming with confidence after their respective victories in the California desert earlier this month.

Women's world number one Sabalenka, defending the Miami title she won for the first time last year, cruised into the quarter-finals with a 6-3, 6-4 demolition of China's 2024 Olympic champion Zheng Qinwen.

Sinner, who is chasing a second victory in Miami after lifting the title in 2024, was similarly comfortable in his third-round clash with French 30th seed Corentin Moutet, winning 6-1, 6-4 to advance to the last 16.

Sabalenka is aiming to become only the fifth woman to complete the Indian Wells-Miami double after Steffi Graf, Kim Clijsters, Victoria Azarenka and Iga Swiatek.

On Monday's form, few would bet against the big-hitting four-time Grand Slam champion from Belarus, who comfortably disposed of 23rd seed Zheng in 1hr 25min.

"She's a tough opponent and

YOU KNOW WHAT

Mensik saved six match points in a marathon 13/11 third-set tiebreak before Tiafoe converted his seventh to end the Czech's title defense after nearly three hours

"I'm super happy with the level I played at today," Sabalenka said in her on-court interview. "I can definitely say that it felt like home."

"I feel like I'm getting better, serving better, getting used to these conditions, which are tricky. But I'm getting more and more comfortable with every match," added Sabalenka, who faces unseeded American Hailey

Baptiste in the quarter-finals.

Baptiste was one of three American women to advance to the last eight on Monday.

Fourth seed Coco Gauff downed Romanian veteran Sorana Cirstea 6-4, 3-6, 6-2, while fifth seed Jessica Pegula beat another Romanian, Jacqueline Cristian 6-4, 6-1.

Canada's Victoria Mboko, seeded 10, upset Russian eighth seed Mirra Andreeva 7-6 (7/4), 4-6, 6-0 to set up a quarter-final with Czech 13th seed Karolina Muchova, who strolled past Alexandra Eala of the Philippines 6-0, 6-2.

Sinner stroll, Mensik falls

In the men's draw, Italian second seed Sinner was always in control against France's Moutet on the Hard Rock Stadium's main court.

Sinner will face unseeded American Alex Michelsen in the last 16. Michelsen defeated Chile's Alejandro Tabilo 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 earlier Monday.

But while Sinner sailed through, defending champion

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ARYNA SABALENKA

Jakub Mensik was among the latest crop of seeds to tumble out, losing a gruelling three-setter against 19th seed Frances Tiafoe 7-6 (7/4), 4-6, 7-6 (13/11).

A 2hr 55min slug-fest was decided by a marathon third set tiebreak when Czech 20-year-old Mensik saved six match points before finally succumbing.

US hope Tiafoe, who himself saved two match points in the

final tiebreak, sealed victory after converting his seventh match point when a Mensik return of serve drifted wide.

Tiafoe will face France's Terence Atmane in the last 16. Atmane powered into the fourth round with a 6-3, 1-6, 6-3 upset of Canadian seventh seed Felix Auger-Aliassime on Monday.

Auger-Aliassime joined a lengthening list of seeds who have stumbled in the early rounds in Miami that includes Indian Wells runner-up Daniil Medvedev, who was shown the door earlier Monday in a 6-0, 4-6, 7-5 loss to Argentina's Francisco Cerundolo.

Medvedev's exit followed the departures of world number one Carlos Alcaraz, Australian fifth seed Alex De Minaur and eighth seed Ben Shelton.

Another French player, 31st seed Ugo Humbert, beat Kazakhstan's Alexander Shevchenko 6-4, 7-6 (7/2).

Third seed Alexander Zverev got past Croatian veteran Marin Cilic 6-2, 5-7, 6-4.

Pistons halt Lakers streak while Spurs, Thunder win

AFP | London

Daniss Jenkins scored a career-high 30 points as the Detroit Pistons halted the Los Angeles Lakers' nine-game winning streak with a 113-110 victory on Monday.

A heavyweight showdown between Eastern Conference leaders Detroit and the in-form Lakers did not disappoint, with Los Angeles recovering from a 16-point deficit in the second half to take the game to the wire.

Austin Reaves put the Lakers 110-109 ahead with 30 seconds remaining with a floating jump shot but Jenkins scored Detroit's final four points for a hard-earned win.

Luka Doncic, who finished with 32 points, launched a last-

gasp three-point attempt that could have forced overtime, but his effort fell short.

Detroit lined up again without star point guard Cade Cunningham, absent indefinitely after suffering a collapsed lung.

In Cunningham's absence, Jenkins stepped up to lead the Pistons, while Jalen Duren added 20 points with 11 rebounds and Duncan Robinson 12 points.

"I'm no longer surprised," Pistons coach JB Bickerstaff said of Jenkins.

"When he's gotten the opportunity he's delivered for us."

"Whether it's throughout the game or in clutch moments, he finds a way to impact winning. He deserves a lot of credit tonight."



Daniss Jenkins takes applause from Detroit fans after leading the Pistons to a 113-110 defeat of the in-form Los Angeles Lakers

The Lakers will wrap up a six-game road trip against the lowly Indiana Pacers on Wednesday before returning to California.

Doncic's 32 points were complemented by 24 from Reaves.

LeBron James narrowly missed out on a triple-double, scoring of 12 points, 10 assists and nine rebounds.

Detroit improved to 52-19 to extend their lead at the top of the Eastern Conference to five games clear of the Boston Celtics (47-24).

The Lakers fell to 46-26 and remain third in the Western Conference with a two-game cushion over fourth-placed Houston.

Elsewhere, the Oklahoma City Thunder made it 12 wins in a row with a 123-103 blowout over the Philadelphia 76ers on the road.

The depleted Sixers were

never in contention against the Western Conference leaders, who led by double-digits from early in the second quarter.

Reigning NBA Most Valuable Player Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 22 points on a night when six Thunder players finished in double figures.

The win kept Oklahoma City three games clear of the chasing San Antonio Spurs with a 57-19 record. San Antonio stayed in touch at the top of the West with a 136-111 drubbing of the Miami Heat in Florida.

Victor Wembanyama's 26 points led the Spurs scoring, with Dylan Harper and Keldon Johnson each scoring 21 points off the bench.