

Norrie beaten by Simon in semi-final



Gilles Simon hits a return

● Gilles Simon will face Serbia's Dusan Lajovic or top seed Dominic Thiem in the final

● Cameron Norrie had never played a professional match on red clay until he faced in the Davis Cup

● James Ward enters semi-finals of the ATP Challenger Tour in Loughborough

BBC | Lyon

Britain's Cameron Norrie failed to make the final of the Lyon Open after a 6-1 7-6 (8-6) defeat by experienced

75

is the ATP World Tour official ranking of Gilles Simon

Frenchman Gilles Simon.

Norrie, 22, had claimed the biggest win of his career by beating world number 10 John Isner in the quarter-finals.

But the world number 102 was beaten in straight sets on the clay-court by 75th-ranked Simon.

Norrie struggled with his serve in the first, but took the second to a tie-break before blowing two set points.

Simon will face Serbia's Dusan Lajovic or top seed Dominic Thiem in the final.

British number three Norrie is expected to rise up the rankings after a positive week in France, reach a ranking of 85 as he enters the French Open next week. He had never played a professional match on red clay until he featured in the Davis Cup in February.

But after a first set in which he lost his serve three times, the left-hander fought his way back into the semi-final.

The second set played out without a single break of serve as Norrie matched home favourite Simon, before the match slipped away in the tie-break.

Elsewhere, James Ward is through to the semi-finals of the ATP Challenger Tour in Loughborough after Russia's Teymuraz Gabashvili retired.

Froome takes Giro overall lead from Simon Yates

Simon Yates finished almost 39 minutes behind Team Sky's Chris Froome

BBC | Bardonecchia

Chris Froome launched a devastating attack to win stage 19 of the Giro d'Italia and take the leader's pink jersey from fellow Briton Simon Yates.

Yates finished almost 39 minutes behind Team Sky's Froome, who attacked 80km from the finish in Bardonecchia.

Froome, 33, was fourth prior to Friday's 184km run from Venaria Reale.

But, with two days remaining, he now has a 40-second lead over Tom Dumoulin as he attempts to become the first British man to win the Giro d'Italia.

The four-time Tour de France champion is also attempting to become only the seventh man to win all three Grand Tours, and just the third to win three in succession.

"I don't think I've ever attacked like that before on my own," he said.



Chris Froome celebrates on the podium

"The team did such a fantastic job to set it up for me.

"It was going to take something really special to get rid of Simon and get away from Dumoulin. It was now or never. I just had to try."

Froome is involved in an ongoing anti-doping case after

being found to have double the allowed level of a legal asthma drug in his urine after a test at last year's Vuelta a Espana.

Had it slipped to the back of his mind, he was reminded during Friday's stage as a spectator ran alongside him holding a giant inhaler.



The four-time Tour de France champion Chris Froome is also attempting to become only the seventh man to win all three Grand Tours, and just the third to win three in succession

Mitchelton-Scott's Yates had his lead halved on Thursday, losing 28 seconds to Team Sunweb's Dumoulin. It was the first time he had struggled since first taking the race lead in stage six.

The Giro finishes on Sunday with a flat 115km route into Rome.

Al-Hidd wins Elite Football Cup

TDT | Manama

The Al-Hidd Football Club has clinched the first edition of the Elite Football Cup.

Al-Hidd beat Al-Malkiya 2-1 in the final match which was held at the Bahrain National Stadium to clinch the 2017-2018 trophy.

Al-Malkiya opened the scoring in the title clash at Bahrain National Stadium in Isa Town when Isra Amer struck just one minute from the start.

Mohammed Al Tayyeb scored two goals as Al Hidd beat Malkiya 2-1 in the final last night to claim the first Elite Football Cup.

Bahrain Football Association vice-president Shaikh Khalid bin Salman Al Khalifa presented the silver medals to Malkiya team members and the cup, along with the gold medals, to Al Hidd players.

Petra Kvitova 'happy' to see knife attack suspect

AFP | London

Petra Kvitova admitted yesterday that she was happy that the knife-wielding burglar who slashed her hands in a terrifying home attack was finally behind bars.

The 28-year-old two-time Wimbledon champion missed six months of the tour last year to recover from her injuries and only returned to action at the 2017 French Open.

Now, almost 18 months after the violent break-in, Czech police have arrested a man, described as a 54-year-old drug addict, in connection with the attack.

"It's great news for me to hear that. It's great that they have him in custody. But probably the happiest I will be is when the story will end, when everything will be done and finished."



”

"It's great news for me to hear that. It's great that they have him in custody. But probably the happiest I will be is when the story will end, when everything will be done and finished"

PETRA KVITOVA

ished," Kvitova told reporters at Roland Garros on Friday.

Kvitova, the world number eight, suffered career-threatening injuries to her playing left hand as she fought off the intruder at her home in the eastern Czech town of Prostejov in December 2016.

Despite grim forecasts by doctors, who even warned she might lose her fingers, the 2011 and 2014 Wimbledon champion returned to the sport in time for last year's French Open.

Kvitova sank from 11th in the world when the crime occurred to 29th at the turn of 2017 and 2018, but she has since climbed back into the top ten, also owing to back-to-back wins at Prague and Madrid this spring.

"I was focusing on the hand and I was really trying hard to be back or focusing on the rehab," she added.



Two-time finalist seeking elusive first Slam title after emotional third major final defeat in Australia

2016 winner has endured frustrating year with streak of early exits and injury

Defending champion at career-high rank, aged 20 – poor clay court season to date

Back in top ten after resurgent season, including clay court wins in Prague and Madrid

PLAYER RECORD*	Halep	Muguruza	Ostapenko	Kvitova
2018 win-loss	28-6	15-9	12-11	30-6
2018 titles	1	1	0	4
Career titles (total)	16	6	2	24
Career titles (clay)	6	1	1	4
Grand Slams	0	2	1	2

RECENT FINALS: With six different champions in previous nine Grand Slam tournaments – and five maiden winners – expectation is high for another first-time champion to be crowned in Roland Garros

2017	Jelena Ostapenko LAT	4-6, 6-4, 6-3
	Simona Halep ROM	
2016	Garbine Muguruza ESP	7-5, 6-4
	Serena Williams USA	
2015	Serena Williams USA	6-3, 6-7, 6-2
	Lucie Safarova CZE	
2014	Maria Sharapova RUS	6-4, 6-7, 6-4
	Simona Halep ROM	
2013	Serena Williams USA	6-4, 6-4
	Maria Sharapova RUS	

Source: WTA *Data correct as of May 21 © GRAPHIC NEWS



Serena return will keep us on our toes

AFP | London

Australian Open champion Caroline Wozniacki says that Serena Williams' comeback will force the current top-ranked players to raise their games at the French Open.

The former world number one will be looking to build on her long-awaited maiden Grand Slam triumph in Melbourne, but she has never reached the semi-finals at Roland Garros.

Despite being in the opposite half of the draw to three-time champion Williams, Wozniacki knows that Serena's presence as an unseeded player will put pressure on her rivals.

"I think it's always great to have the best players play, and it

"You have to play your best level, and I think having someone like Serena back, it's keeping us all on our toes and we have to keep improving all the time"

CAROLINE WOZNIACKI

raises your level," said the Dane. "You have to play your best level, and I think having someone like Serena back, it's keep-



Caroline Wozniacki

ing us all on our toes and we have to keep improving all the time."

Wozniacki finally claimed her first major title this year, and admitted that it has lifted a weight off her shoulders.

"I think the biggest difference is really when I'm in here in the press conferences," she said.

"I think that's the biggest difference, because I'm not getting asked anymore, you know, what it takes to be a Grand Slam champion, why I haven't gotten there yet. "It feels amazing to have that with me now, and hopefully I can build on that.

"We have three more Grand Slams left this year, and this is the first one after Australia and I'm going to try and do my best."