

# Ricciardo takes tense Monaco GP victory

● Daniel Ricciardo nursed a wounded Red Bull to victory in the team's 250th race

● Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel finished second to cut Lewis Hamilton's overall lead to 14 points after six of 21 rounds

Reuters | Monaco

Daniel Ricciardo brought back memories of Formula One great Michael Schumacher in his prime yesterday as the Australian nursed a wounded Red Bull to Monaco Grand Prix victory in the team's 250th race.

Winning from pole position for the first time in his career, Ricciardo drove for nearly two thirds of the race — some 50 laps — with a car down on power due to problems that emerged on lap 28.

Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel, last year's race winner, finished second — easing off towards the finish to save the tyres — to cut



Daniel Ricciardo's only previous pole had been in Monaco two years ago, when he lost out to Hamilton on strategy and finished runner-up

Lewis Hamilton's overall lead to 14 points after six of 21 rounds.

Hamilton, the reigning world champion, was third for Mercedes.

"You have done an amazing job today," team boss Christian Horner said after Ricciardo took the chequered flag 7.3 seconds clear of Vettel for his second win of the season and seventh of his career.

"That is right up there with what Schumacher did in 1995 and this is payback for 2016."



Red Bull's Daniel Ricciardo celebrates winning the race

Ricciardo's only previous pole had been in Monaco two years ago, when he lost out to Hamilton on strategy and finished runner-up. Schumacher won in Belgium in 1995 with a famously defensive drive on dry tyres in the wet.

"I had half the power it seemed and I felt like it was going to come to a stop," said Ricciardo. "For a few seconds I just wanted to close my eyes and start crying."

Ricciardo had made a clean

start and, controlling the race, looked as much of a nailed-on certainty for victory as ever exists on Monaco's treacherous metal-fenced streets.

And then he reported a loss of power.

"OK mate, we can see what's going on," his race engineer replied after a pause. "You just need to keep it smooth, keep focused."

"Will it get better?" enquired the Australian. "Negative," came the reply.

## PGA Championship: Italy's Molinari wins by two from Rory McIlroy

● Rory McIlroy carded a two-under-par 70 on Sunday to finish second at the European Tour's flagship event

BBC | Wentworth



Francesco Molinari

Sam Horsfield.

The 2017 Race to Dubai champion, Tommy Fleetwood, finished on seven under, tied with Ian Poulter and Paul Casey, while Lee Westwood ended at six under after a final-round 74.

Molinari, who only hit two bogeys in his four rounds this week, was barely tested by McIlroy during the final round.

Denmark's Lucas Bjerregaard and defending champion Alex Noren from Sweden tied third, a shot further back.

Bjerregaard, who bogeyed the first, carded the round of the day with a seven-under 65.

England's Matthew Fitzpatrick finishing with an eagle on the 18th to move to 10 under in a tie for eighth alongside compatriot Ross Fisher.

Northern Ireland's Graeme McDowell was a shot further back, one ahead of Ireland's Shane Lowry and 21-year-old McIlroy was level through nine, struggling to attack the leader. He missed fairways and greens, and failed to set up birdie chances.

## Alize Cornet overpowers Sara Errani

● France's Alize Cornet enters second round of the French Open

Reuters | Paris

France's Alize Cornet dug deep to recover from a set down to defeat Italian Sara Errani 2-6 6-2 6-3 in a show of powerful baseline hitting yesterday to progress to the second round of the French Open.

The 32-seed struggled to find her forehand range early on and Errani tested her heavily-strapped left thigh with a series of delicious drop shots that left Cornet rooted to the spot.

At one point in the first set, Cornet vented her frustration at a ball boy and drawing boos from the crowd, before she slowly began to dictate the match from the back of the court in the second set with her powerful backhand.

"I finally got going, but almost too late," said Cornet, who two weeks ago was cleared of an anti-doping violation after a charge against her for missing three out-of-competition drug tests was dismissed.

Rediscovering her range from the baseline, Cornet started to pump her fist rather than mutter to herself as the groundstrokes flowed



France's Alize Cornet celebrates victory over Sara Errani

with growing confidence. She roused the crowd from its post-lunch slumber, driving the ball low and hard to Errani and forcing her into defensive strokes.

Errani, who was making her 11th consecutive main draw appearance at Roland Garros, surrendered the second set 6-1, losing it in a game to love and the tide had turned. It was now the Italian talking to herself as she increasingly found the net from the back of the court.

## Nick Kyrgios out of Roland Garros with elbow injury

● Nick Kyrgios had looked untroubled when sauntering into the grounds of the Roland Garros stadium

Reuters | Paris

Australian dynamo Nick Kyrgios pulled out of the French Open yesterday after failing to shake off a persistent elbow injury that has troubled him in recent weeks.

The burly 23-year-old had looked untroubled when sauntering into the grounds of the Roland Garros stadium at around 11am local time on a bright and sunny Parisian morning, but just a handful of hours later his tournament was over.

"Sorry guys, I tried everything I could to be ready... but I came



Nick Kyrgios

up short," Kyrgios wrote in a message on Twitter, adorned with tearful emojis.

He attached a picture of a more formal note.

"Unfortunately I have to withdraw from this year's French Open," Kyrgios's note said. "Having consulted with my team and medical experts it is

deemed too risky for me to step out and potentially play five sets on clay especially as I have not played a singles match in nearly two months. "I've worked hard to be ready and desperately wanted to play Roland Garros, which is very special to me but I literally ran out of time."

The world number 23 had been scheduled to take on compatriot Bernard Tomic in the opening round on Monday.

Kyrgios said a dramatic increase in load on his elbow

could potentially put him back to square one, and that he was not prepared to take the risk with the grasscourt season

looming.



Australia's Nick Kyrgios had been scheduled to take on compatriot Bernard Tomic in the opening round today

## No. 1 Nadal begins his title defence

Reuters | Paris

World number one Rafa Nadal begins his French Open title defence today with a clash against Italy's Simone Bolelli on Court Philippe-Chatrier.

Former world number one Novak Djokovic, looking to get back to winning ways on the biggest stage following elbow surgery, takes on unseeded Brazilian Rogerio Dutra Silva.

Dominic Thiem of Australia, one of the players capable of denying Spaniard Rafael Nadal a record-extending 11th title at Roland Garros, opens his campaign on Court One against Ilya Ivashka of Belarus.

Five-times grand slam champion Russia's Maria Sharapova is also in action, with the Russian taking on Richel Hogenkamp of the Netherlands on Court Suzanne-Lenglen in Paris, France.



Rafa Nadal