

Gauff survives epic Montreal battle

Gauff, Ito produce drama-filled victories as Andreescu withdraws and Joint shocks Fernandez

● **Gauff outlasts Collins 7-5, 4-6, 7-6 (7/2)**

● **Qualifier Ito stuns Paolini**

● **Andreescu withdraws injured**

AFP | Montreal

World number two Coco Gauff battled into the third round of the WTA Canadian Open on Tuesday by outlasting US compatriot Danielle Collins 7-5, 4-6, 7-6 (7/2).

Gauff won the last six points of the match to capture her opener in her first hardcourt tune-up event on the road to the US Open, which starts on August 24.

Top seed Gauff, the reigning French Open champion who also won the 2023 US Open, advanced to a third-round Montreal match against fifth-ranked Veronika Kudermetova, who eliminated Serbian Olga Danilovic 6-4, 6-2.

“It was a frustrating match for me just because I felt like I was practicing well

and then I don’t think I transferred it,” Gauff said.

“But hopefully I got my bad match of the tournament out of the way and I can come back stronger in the next round.”

The 21-year-old Gauff, seeking her 11th career WTA title, fired 23 double faults against

three aces, but closed out the match with an ace after two hours and 55 minutes.

“It was a tough battle out there,” Gauff said. “Making serves in the court was the

toughest challenge. Maybe if I cut that in half it could be a quicker match for me. I thought I was playing well, except for that part of my game.”

Gauff converted nine of 16 break chances in her first victory since capturing the title at Roland Garros.

“For me to break her as many times as I did, there are some positives to take from today,” Gauff said.

Collins and Gauff exchanged breaks in the first four games before Gauff held and then broke again for a 4-2 lead then held again.

But serving for the set, Gauff swatted a cross-court forehand wide to surrender a break and Collins held to 5-5, only for Gauff to hold then break at love to take the first set in 53 minutes on



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COCO GAUFF

Coco Gauff



Gauff hit 23 double faults—her career most—yet still managed to close out an almost three-hour rollercoaster with an ace, escaping from two points from defeat to reach Round 3

Redemption route to Baghdad

After a rocky run in Kyrgyzstan, Bahrain’s Olympic squad hits reset with camp in Iraq

● **Bahrain eyes Baghdad for crucial prep**

● **Two U-23 Iraq friendlies booked**

TDT | Manama

Bahrain’s Olympic football team (U-23) are heading to Baghdad today, entering a week-long training camp that could define their road to the AFC U-23 Asian Cup qualifiers this September. The camp, running from July 31 to August 6, offers a chance to regroup after a mixed bag of performances in their recent outing in Kyrgyzstan.

Squad on a Mission
Leading the charge is national coach Ali Majid, flanked by



Bahrain's Olympic team lines up before kickoff

assistant Hassan Al Mousawi. While it’s technically a training camp, Bahrain are to play two friendlies against Iraq’s U-23 team, on August 2 and 5.

The full list of players heading to Iraq includes: Abdullah Farah, Mohammed Khalifa, Ashraf Mubarak, Bader AlAsum, Salman Younis, Mohammed Al-Sheehani, Abdullah Al Qassab, Ahmed Dhiyaa, Isa Abdullah,

Abdulrahman Al Khayyat, Rashid Mujiran, Abdulrahman Aboud, Mahmoud Al Bannai, Sayed Ahmed Al Wadaei, Abdullah Al Obaidli, Hassan Sameer, Ali Taradah, Saud Mohsen, Saad Al Attar, Ali Sahwan, Salem Al Doseri, Khalid Khalaf, Mubarak Mohammed, Abdullah Al Subaie.

Lessons from Bishkek
Their previous camp in Kyrgyzstan ended with more questions than answers. A 1-0 loss to Oman, a 1-1 draw with Syria, and another 1-0 defeat to the hosts didn’t exactly scream confidence. But the team showed sparks, particularly in midfield transitions and defensive shape. The Baghdad camp is where Bahrain hopes to transform those sparks into something resembling momentum.

Wirtz opens Liverpool account in friendly win in Japan



Liverpool's Florian Wirtz (C) advances the ball

AFP | Yokohama

Florian Wirtz scored his first Liverpool goal as the Premier League champions beat Yokohama F. Marinos 3-1 in a pre-season friendly in Japan yesterday.

French forward Hugo Ekitti made his debut for Liverpool, one week after joining from Eintracht Frankfurt for a reported 69 million pounds (\$92 million).

Wirtz equalised after Yokohama opened the scoring early in the second half, the German slamming home a right-foot shot from inside the box in front of over 65,000 fans.

“I am really happy that I could score my first goal. I hope there are more to come,”

said Wirtz, who joined Liverpool from Bayer Leverkusen in a blockbuster deal.

Trey Nyoni and Rio Ngumoha also scored for Liverpool, who announced the sale of Colombian forward Luis Diaz to Bayern Munich yesterday.

Liverpool manager Arne Slot said he was happy to see his team come from behind to win but was not pleased with their missed chances.

“It could be with a tough training camp and it could be with the heat circumstances,” said the Dutchman.

“But that’s something that we definitely have to improve.”

Goalkeeper Alisson Becker missed the match after travelling home to Brazil “for private reasons”, Liverpool said.



Despite the setbacks in Kyrgyzstan, Bahrain conceded only three goals in three games