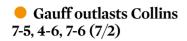
Gauff survives epic Montreal battle

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

hours and 55

minutes.



Qualifier Ito stuns Paolini

Andreescu withdraws injured

AFP | Montreal

orld 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,

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.

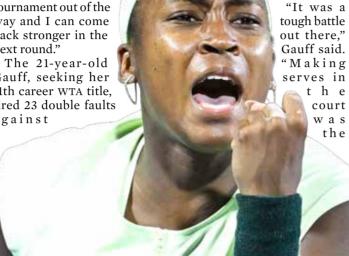
Top seed Gauff, the reigning French Open champion who also won the 2023 US Open, advanced to a thirdround Montreal match against fifth-ranked Veronika Kudermetova, who eliminated Serbian Olga Danilovic 6-4, 6-2.

"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

"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



first set in 53 minutes on 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. But hopefully I got

COCO GAUFF

out the match with I cut that in half it could be a faults. an ace after two quicker match for me. I thought I was playing well, except for that part of my game."

Gauff converted nine of 16 force a third set. tough battle break chances in her first victory since capturing the title at Gauff said. Roland Garros.

"For me to break her as many serves in times as I did, there are some positives to take from today," court 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

> But serving for the set, Gauff swatted a crosscourt forehand wide to surrender a break and Collins held to 5-5, only for Gauff to hold then break at love to take the

my bad match of the tournament out of the way and I can come back stronger in the next round

three aces, but closed toughest challenge. Maybe if the fifth of 13 Collins double

After trading four breaks in the first six games, Collins broke at love to 4-3 and held twice to

Collins served for the match leading 6-5 in the final set only for Gauff to break with a backhand crosscourt winner to force a tiebreaker.

Gauff fell behind 2-1 but landed an mis-hit lob winner and never dropped another point, Collins hitting a forehand long, double faulting and netting a backhand to 5-2 before Gauff blasted a service winner and ace to end matters.

Ito ousts Paolini

The day's biggest shocker saw 6-4. Japanese qualifier Aoi Ito stun Italian seventh seed Jasmine Paolini 2-6, 7-5, 7-6 (7/5).

The 21-year-old beat American Katie Volynets in the first until this week had not won a round for her first WTA 1000 level triumph then followed with her first victory over a top-10 opponent by rallying from a set and break down to advance after two hours and 27 minutes.

World number 110 Ito saved of the second set and outlast- 7-6 (8/6), 0-6, 6-3. ed sixth-ranked Paolini to book American Ashlyn Krueger 6-4, left ankle injury.

YOU

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

Ito reached the semi-finals last October at Osaka in her WTA debut and claimed a 125-level title at Canberra in January, but tour-level match this year.

In other matches, DC Open champion Leylah Fernandez dropped her opener on home soil, falling to Australian Maya Joint 6-4, 6-1.

Washington runner-up Anna Kalinskaya advances, the Rusa match point in the 10th game sian beating American Ann Li

Russian fourth seed Mirra Ana third-round match against dreeva advanced to the third Spain's 51st-ranked Jessica round in a walkover past Cana-Bouzas Maneiro, who defeated da's Bianca Andreescu due to a

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

Coco Gauff

Two U-23 Iraq friendlies booked

TDT | Manama

 $B^{
m ahrain's\ Olympic\ football}_{
m team\ (U-23)}$ are heading to Baghdad today, entering a weeklong 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



in Kyrgyzstan, Bahrain

conceded only three

goals in three games



team, on August 2 and 5.



Bahrain's Olympic team lines up before kickoff

assistant Hassan Al Mousawi. Abdulrahman Al Khayyat, gyzstan ended with more ques-While it's technically a training Rashid Mujiran, Abdulrahman tions than answers. A 1-0 loss camp, Bahrain are to play two Aboud, Mahmoud Al Bannai, to Oman, a 1-1 draw with Syria, friendlies against Irag's U-23 The full list of players heading Ali Taradah, Saud Mohsen, Saad

man Younis, Mohammed Al- baie. Sheehani, Abdullah Al Qassab, Ahmed Dhiyaa, Isa Abdullah,

Saved Ahmed Al Wadaei, Abdulto Iraq includes: Abdullah Far- Al Attar, Ali Sahwan, Salem Al Mubarak, Bader AlAsum, Sal- Mohammed, Abdullah Al Su-

> Lessons from Bishkek Their previous camp in Kyr-

and another 1-0 defeat to the lah Al Obaidli, Hassan Sameer, hosts didn't exactly scream confidence. But the team showed sparks, particularly in midfield ih, Mohammed Khalifa, Ashraf Doseri, Khalid Khalaf, Mubarak 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

Nlorian Wirtz scored his first Liverpool goal as the Pre- ha also scored for Liverpool, mier League champions beat who announced the sale of pre-season friendly in Japan yesterday.

French forward Hugo Ekfrom Eintracht Frankfurt for their missed chances. a reported 69 million pounds (\$92 million).

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

hope there are more to come," said.

said Wirtz, who joined Liverpool from Bayer Leverkusen in a blockbuster deal. Trey Nyoni and Rio Ngumo-

Yokohama F. Marinos 3-1 in a Colombian forward Luis Diaz to Bayern Munich yesterday. Liverpool manager Arne

Slot said he was happy to see itike made his debut for Liv- his team come from behind to erpool, one week after joining win but was not pleased with

"It could be with a tough training camp and it could be with the heat circumstances,"

"But that's something that we definitely have to improve."

Goalkeeper Alisson Becker missed the match after "I am really happy that I travelling home to Brazil "for could score my first goal. I private reasons", Liverpool