

Britain's Evans to return in Glasgow after doping ban

Djokovic reaches 2nd round at Monte Carlo Masters

MONACO, April 16, (Agencies): Novak Djokovic reached the second round of the Monte Carlo Masters with a 6-0, 6-1 win over Dusan Lajovic on Monday.

The ninth-seeded Serb won in only 57 minutes despite having to save break points in three consecutive service games in the second set, including two when serving for the match.

Djokovic, a two-time champion in Monte Carlo, won on his first match point when Lajovic swiped a forehand wide. He then whipped off his hat, tilted his head back and raised his hands in triumph.

The former-top ranked Djokovic has been troubled by a persistent right elbow injury and his ranking has tumbled to No. 13. Earlier this month, he stopped working with Andre Agassi and Radek Stepanek the latest in a series of coaching changes for the 12-time major champion. He has not won a Grand Slam tournament since the 2016 French Open.

"I've had a very difficult time in the last 12 months with the injury and everything else that's happened," Djokovic said. "I'm lacking matches and a bit of confidence on court. But 'I'm looking ahead.'"

Djokovic will next face Borna

Coric of Croatia, who beat French veteran Julien Benneteau 6-2, 6-3.

Kei Nishikori reached the second round by beating Tomas Berdych 4-6, 6-2, 6-1. He broke the 12th-seeded Czechs serve six times and dropped his own twice.

Nishikori, like Djokovic, needs time on court after only recently returning from a torn tendon in his right wrist. That injury had ruled him out of last year's US Open and this

TENNIS

year's Australian Open.

The Japanese player, ranked 36th, came back in late February when he lost to Denis Shapovalov in the first round of the Mexico Open. He then reached the third round of the Miami Masters last month, losing to Juan Martin del Potro.

"It's not great but first match on clay, I'm expecting (a) little soreness," Nishikori said. "Hope I get more confidence and do well (at) these five tournaments on clay."

Other winners included Roberto Bautista Agut of Spain, Milos Raonic of Canada, Andrey Rublev of Russia,



Serbia's Novak Djokovic returns a ball to compatriot Dusan Lajovic during their round of 64 tennis match at the Monte Carlo ATP Masters Series Tournament on April 16, in Monaco. (AFP)

and Albert Ramos-Vinolas of Spain.

Ramos-Vinolas, who lost in last year's final, beat Jared Donaldson 6-3, 6-3. Donaldson ranted at the chair umpire over a line call and then squared up to him as he continued to argue. The 21-year-old American received a code violation.

Also:

LONDON: Briton **Dan Evans** is set to return from a one-year doping ban as a wildcard entrant at this month's ATP Challenger Tour event in Glasgow, the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) said on Monday.

The 27-year-old, who tested posi-

Canadian figure skating star Chan announces retirement

TORONTO, April 16, (AP): Canadian figure skater Patrick Chan, who won his long-awaited Olympic gold as part of the team event at the Pyeongchang Olympics, is retiring after more than a decade on the world stage.

Chan made his decision official Monday after alluding to it during the Winter Games.

The 27-year-old Chan steps away from professional competition as the most decorated figure skater in Canadian history. Along with

team gold in February he won a pair of silver medals at the Sochi Games, captured three world titles and was the national champion a record 10 times.

With a brilliant smile, natural charisma and the athleticism to hit the quadruple jumps that are now a staple of world-class skating, Chan has been a fan-favorite for years.

He plans to continue in the sport by conducting seminars and performing in shows.

itive for cocaine during the Barcelona Open last year, is eligible to return for the tournament starting April 28.

"I want to thank everyone who has supported me throughout this difficult period," Evans, the former world number 41, said in a statement.

"I have learned a lot about myself in my time away from the game, a sport that I love very dearly. I am now committed to training hard, resuming

my career and getting back to where I was, although appreciate this will take time."

Evans was handed a wildcard by the LTA after he passed the "agreed checks" over the last six weeks.

"(Dan) has begun to support the development of the LTA's anti-doping education materials to help emerging young players avoid similar mistakes," LTA performance director Simon Timson said.

Punjab survive Dhoni's charge, Rajasthan beat Bangalore by 19 runs

Kolkata record emphatic 71-run over Delhi in IPL

KOLKATA, India, April 16, (AP): Nitish Rana hit an aggressive 59 and Andre Russell smashed 41 off 12 balls as Kolkata Knight Riders thrashed Delhi Daredevils by 71 runs in the Indian Premier League on Monday.

Thanks to Rana and Russell, Kolkata posted 200-8.

Delhi lost wickets in clusters and was bowled out for 129 in 14.2 overs. Spinners Sunil Narine (3-18) and Kuldeep Yadav (3-32) finished off the rout.

"The wrist spinners are picked in the IPL for a purpose. They're doing a good job for us," Kolkata captain Dinesh Karthik said.

Kolkata earned its second win,

CRICKET

while Delhi suffered its third loss in four games.

After losing the toss and being put in to bat, Kolkata was given a platform by Robin Uthappa (35) and Chris Lynn (31) at the top of the order.

Delhi seemed to be in control at 117-4 after Kolkata lost Karthik on 19 in the 14th over. Then Russell was dropped on 7 by Jason Roy and Russell took full advantage. He smashed six sixes off Mohammad Shami's two overs that cost the seamer 42 runs, and Rana completed his half-century off 30 balls.

Trent Boult, who bowled a first-over maiden to Lynn, returned and clean bowled Russell with a yorker.

Rana hauled out to Gautam Gambhir when he was deceived by Chris Morris' slower delivery. Rana's 59 off 35 deliveries included five fours and four sixes.

Delhi legspinner Rahul Tewatia



Kings XI Punjab cricketer Chris Gayle plays a shot during the 2018 Indian Premier League (IPL) Twenty20 cricket match between Kings XI Punjab and Chennai Super Kings at the Punjab Cricket Association Stadium in Mohali. (AFP)

took 3-18, all of his wickets in the last over. Delhi's chase stuttered at 24-3.

Glenn Maxwell (47) and Rishabh Pant (43) gave Delhi a glimmer of hope with a 62-run fourth wicket stand off 33 balls.

But Kolkata came back hard and

Delhi lost its last seven wickets for 43 runs in 5.5 overs.

Yadav hurried the collapse when Pant and Maxwell both were caught in the deep while going for big shots off the left-arm spinner, and Narine ran through the tail-enders.

Earlier, Kings XI Punjab survived Mahendra Singh Dhoni's onslaught to beat Chennai Super Kings by four runs in the Indian Premier League on Sunday.

Earlier, Sanju Samson bludgeoned 92 off 45 balls and spearheaded Rajasthan Royals to a 19-run victory over Royal Challengers Bangalore.

Chennai nearly pulled off its third successive last-over victory before finishing on 193-5 with Dhoni, braving back pain, unbeaten on 79 off 44 balls with six fours and five sixes.

After being put into bat, Chris Gayle made a resounding debut for Punjab by smashing 63 off 33 balls, including seven fours and four sixes in Punjab's total of 197-7.

"It was a close one, which is important, because it shows you're competing," Dhoni said.

Gayle was picked by Punjab at the last minute at his base price of only \$312,000 after the hard-hitting West Indies opener was ignored in early IPL auction rounds this year.

Gayle and Lokesh Rahul (37) gave Punjab a lightning start of 96 off just 48 balls, against both pace and experienced spinners Harbhajan Singh (1-41) and Imran Tahir (2-34).

Gayle finally fell in the 12th over when Shane Watson's short delivery found the edge as the left-hander tried to get away but was caught at fine leg.

Chennai pulled back Punjab from racking up a big total after Gayle's dismissal and conceded only 43 in the last five overs.

Tahir conceded 17 in his first over against Gayle's early blitz but took two wickets for 17 more runs in his next three overs.

Sanchez finishes 2nd, Sosa 3rd

Bilbao wins, Froome fifth in Tour of the Alps first stage

MILAN, April 16, (AFP): Spaniard Pello Bilbao won the first stage of the Tour of the Alps on Monday with Britain's Chris Froome in fifth as he competes despite an ongoing doping probe.

Bilbao clocked 3hr 26min 41sec over the 134km stage, attacking with five kilometres to go on the final climb, to hold off his Astana teammate Luis Leon Sanchez and 20-year-old Colombian Ivan Sosa third, both six seconds behind.

Four-time Tour de France winner Froome accelerated on the final Serrada climb but could not match the powerful Astana team effort finishing 10sec off the pace.

CYCLING

"I'm on the right path, the feeling is good," said Team Sky rider Froome as he continues his preparations for next month's Giro d'Italia.

"Astana had the advantage of numbers in the final and used it in their favour."

The 32-year-old has been allowed to continue competing despite his case pending with cycling's anti-doping unit after an adverse analytical finding

for the asthma drug salbutamol at the Vuelta a Espana last September.

Froome has already finished 10th in the Ruta del Sol and 34th in the Tirreno-Adriatico this year and is using the Tour of the Alps — formerly the Giro del Trentino — as his last warm-up for the Giro d'Italia starting on May 4.

Bilbao, 28, pulled on the leader's jersey ahead of the most difficult in the five-stage race on Tuesday over 145km between Lavarone and l'Alpe di Pampego, with a final climb already used several times during the Giro.

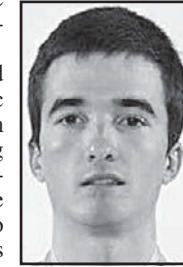
Results

Stage

Pello Bilbao (ESP/AST) 3hr 26min 41sec, 2. Luis Leon Sanchez (ESP/AST) at 06sec, 3. Ivan Sosa (COL/ANS) 06, 4. Thibaut Pinot (FRA/FDJ) 10, 5. Chris Froome (GBR/SKY) 10, 6. Domenico Pozzovivo (ITA/BAH) 10, 7. George Bennett (NZL/LNL) 10, 8. Giulio Ciccone (ITA/BRD) 10, 9. Ben Hermans (BEL/ICA) 10, 10. Fabio Aru (ITA/EAU) 14

Overall standings

Pello Bilbao (ESP/AST) 3hr 26min 41sec, 2. Luis Leon Sanchez (ESP/AST) at 10sec, 3. Ivan Sosa (COL/ANS) 12, 4. Thibaut Pinot (FRA/FDJ) 20, 5. Chris Froome (GBR/SKY) 20, 6. Domenico Pozzovivo (ITA/BAH) 20, 7. George Bennett (NZL/LNL) 20, 8. Giulio Ciccone (ITA/BRD) 20, 9. Ben Hermans (BEL/ICA) 20, 10. Fabio Aru (ITA/EAU) 24



Bilbao

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