

## Another Kiwi to replace Gatland as Wales coach after RWC

## Waratahs target conference sweep with Brumbies win



Juan Martin Del Potro of Argentina plays a return to Gilles Simon of France during their men's singles match at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London on July 10. (AP)

# Del Potro edges past Simon to reach Wimbledon quarters

Djokovic relegates Federer in quarterfinal line-up

**LONDON, July 10, (Agencies):** Argentina's Juan Martin del Potro returned to see off Frenchman Gilles Simon on Tuesday and reach the Wimbledon quarter-finals for the second time, but it was desperately hard work.

The fifth seed had led by two sets on Monday but Simon grabbed the third set before fading light ended play.

With world number one Rafael Nadal waiting for the winner, Tuesday's fourth set, played in much cooler conditions than the first three the day before, turned into a mini-epic before Del Potro eventually prevailed 7-6(1), 7-6(5), 5-7, 7-6(5).

Del Potro looked flat as he was broken to trail 3-1 but he clawed his way back to lead 5-4 with his serve to come.

He looked on the brink of victory when he moved 40-15 ahead but both match points vanished, the second with a double-fault.

Simon failed to convert a break point, then a third match point for Del Potro ended with him netting a forehand. The 33-year-old Simon saved a fourth match point when he threw the kitchen sink at a forehand return and the world number 53 eventually took his fourth break point to level at 5-5.

The next two games went with serve and the match was well into its fifth hour when the tiebreak began.

Del Potro trailed 1-3 but at 5-5 he fired down a swinging ace to reach match point number five and this time Simon cracked, netting a backhand to the relief of the Argentine who roared his approval.

Meanwhile, Novak Djokovic won his battle to be promoted to Centre Court billing for Wednesday's quarter-finals, forcing eight-time champion Roger Federer off the sport's most famous arena for the first time in three years.

Three-time champion Djokovic will open the Centre Court programme against Kei Nishikori followed by two-time winner and world number one Rafael Nadal facing Juan Martin del Potro.

Defending champion Federer, who

has played all of his Wimbledon matches since the 2015 semi-finals on Centre Court, will instead open proceedings on Court One against Kevin Anderson.

The other last-eight tie, between Milos Raonic and John Isner, finishes off the Court One schedule.

Djokovic has featured just once on Centre Court — against British home favourite Kyle Edmund in the last 32 — in the opening four rounds.

By contrast, Federer and Na-

## TENNIS

dal have played exclusively on the 15,000-seater Centre Court.

Djokovic had told reporters that he had been hopeful of playing his quarter-final match on Centre Court before telling Serbian media that he "deserved" the honour and intended to lobby the All England Club.

Djokovic has played twice on the 11,000-capacity Court One this year but was shunted off to the 4,000-seater Court Two for his second round clash against Horacio Zeballos.

Three times he has been scheduled last on court, putting him at risk of falling victim to fading light with the burden of having to return the following day.

He managed to finish off Russia's Karen Khachanov in straight sets in the gathering gloom on Monday.

Twelve months ago, his last-16



Spain's Rafael Nadal returns to Czech Republic's Jiri Vesely in their men's singles fourth round match on the seventh day of the 2018 Wimbledon Championships at The All England Lawn Tennis Club in Wimbledon, southwest London on July 9. (AFP)



Serbia's Novak Djokovic celebrates winning the point before match point during his men's singles match against Kyle Edmund of Great Britain, on the sixth day of the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London on July 7. (AP)



Switzerland's Roger Federer practices on the training courts on the eighth day of the 2018 Wimbledon Championships at The All England Lawn Tennis Club in Wimbledon, southwest London, on July 10. (AFP)

match with Adrian Mannarino, also scheduled for Court One, was cancelled despite Centre Court with its retractable roof being available.

Djokovic had to play that fourth round match on the Tuesday and quarter-final on the Wednesday, when he was forced to retire against Tomas Berdych with an elbow injury.

Djokovic, the 2011, 2014 and 2015 champion, will be favourite to see off Nishikori for a 14th time in 16 meetings.

Nishikori is playing in his first Wimbledon quarter-final.

He is also the first Japanese man to reach the quarter-finals since Shuzo Matsuoka in 1995.

"It's always like a big war for me," said Nishikori on facing Djokovic.

Federer, who last went to Court One in 2015 for his quarter-final win over Gilles Simon, will be playing in his 16th Wimbledon quarter-final and 53rd at all Grand Slams.

His opponent on Wednesday is eighth-seeded Anderson, the first South African since Wayne Ferreira in 1994 to get to the last eight.

Top seed Federer, 36, has now won 32 consecutive sets at Wimbledon, just two behind his record run from

the third round in 2005 to his title triumph in 2006.

He also holds a 4-0 career lead over 2017 US Open runner-up Anderson who has yet to take a set off the Swiss.

Federer hasn't dropped serve at Wimbledon so far but is wary of the challenge posed by Anderson whose big serving style is flourishing on courts cooked by last week's heat-wave.

"It's definitely helped a certain style of player, maybe the big servers," said 20-time major winner Federer.

Nadal has made the quarter-finals for the first time since finishing runner-up to Djokovic in 2011.

The world number one, chasing an 18th major, will now take on Del Potro boasting a 10-5 career lead.

Del Potro is in his first quarter-final at the tournament since 2013 when he reached the semi-final.

Nadal demolished the giant Argentine for the loss of just seven games in the French Open semi-finals last month.

He has also won both their meetings on grass, including at Wimbledon in 2011.

Many are already anticipating a Sunday final between Federer and Nadal, 10 years after their 2008 epic championship showdown widely regarded as the greatest final ever played.

"Facing Roger again will be something fantastic," said Nadal.

"But if you ask me if I prefer another one, I say yes. It's about being smart, no?"

Wednesday's other quarter-final sees 2016 runner-up Raonic tackle US ninth seed Isner, making his Wimbledon last-eight debut at 33.

It won't be pretty.

Isner, 33, has not been broken in 74 service games while Raonic has dropped serve just three times in 72 games.

Isner has unleashed a tournament-leading 135 aces while Canadian 13th seed Raonic is in second place, having fired 117.

Raonic has the fastest serve of this year's Wimbledon at 147 miles (236.5 kilometres) per hour, while Isner is just behind on 144mph (231.7kph).

SYDNEY, July 10, (Agencies): The New South Wales Waratahs are targeting a perfect 2018 Australian conference record of eight wins in as many matches when they host the ACT Brumbies in the final round of Super Rugby fixtures on Saturday.

The Waratahs secured a record-breaking 77-25 win over the Sunwolves last weekend to clinch the Australian conference title and extend their winning streak in the section to seven matches.

The victory also helped the Waratahs climb to second in the overall standings behind the Canterbury Cru-

## RUGBY

saders, a spot they can confirm if defeat the Brumbies.

"We know that rivalry against the Brumbies has been a big part of the history of Super Rugby for NSW and NSW people," Waratahs attack coach Chris Malone told reporters.

"Also there's the opportunity that this game is the last game we play against Australian conference rivals and so far this year we've got an unblemished record, and we want to maintain that."

A second-placed finish in the overall ladder could prove vital for the Waratahs as it guarantees them a home qualifier in the first week of the play-offs and a semifinal in Sydney should they win that.

Malone is expecting a tight contest against the resurgent Brumbies, who are third in the conference and have won three of their last four matches.

"We had a game last weekend where we could run a lot, we were in open space a lot," he added.

"I expect this game will be a lot tighter, there's going to be a greater contest for possession at every ruck

and it's going to be about the physical contest as opposed to the running and the getting back on feet that we had last week."

Meanwhile, the fourth New Zealander to become Wales rugby coach says he's been immersed in the principality so long that, "I feel as if I am a Welsh coach."

Wayne Pivac was appointed on Monday as the successor to Warren Gatland when the latter steps down as

Wales coach in December 2019 after the Rugby World Cup in Japan.

Pivac moved to Wales to take over the Scarlets in 2014. He led the regional team to the Pro12 title last year and to the Champions Cup semifinals this year, all the while playing an exciting brand of rugby and filling Gatland's national side.

"I don't feel like an outsider," Pivac said. "The biggest thing about putting myself through this process was that I have been living in Wales for four years. It is an advantage to know regional rugby the way I do, what goes on in the regional game, and working with the WRU. I felt more comfortable putting my name forward and I feel as if I am a Welsh coach."

**Also:** JOHANNESBURG: Former South African winger Ashwin Willemse who stormed off a live TV show alleging he was a victim of racism from fellow pundits said Tuesday he was taking his complaint to the country's human rights commission.



Pivac

## NFL Roundup

### Ex-Lions TE Pettigrew arrested

#### Sale of Carolina Panthers from Richardson to Tepper complete

NEW YORK, July 10, (RTRS): The sale of the Carolina Panthers from founder Jerry Richardson to new owner David Tepper is complete, the team announced on Monday.

Tepper, 60, was approved unanimously as the team's new owner at the league's meetings in May. The founder of hedge fund Appaloosa Management LP, he has a net worth estimated by Forbes at \$11 billion and bought the Panthers for \$2.275 billion, the largest sum ever paid for an NFL franchise.

"I am thrilled to begin this new era of Carolina Panthers football and am humbled by the overwhelming excitement and support for the team," Tepper said in a statement.

"On behalf of the fans and myself, I thank Jerry Richardson for bringing the team to the Carolinas and for entrusting me with its future. Winning is the most important thing both on the field and in the community, and I am committed to winning a Super Bowl championship together. I look forward to being part of the Panthers' family and to supporting this flourishing region."

A former Pittsburgh Steelers minority owner, Tepper was required to sell the 5 percent stake that he owned in the Steelers, per NFL rules. He emphasized his desire to win and his plan to keep the team in Charlotte when he was introduced after his approval in May.

The team also announced Monday the resignation of chief operating officer Tina Becker, who worked for the Panthers for 19 seasons and ran the club since December, after Richardson stepped away.

Former first-round pick and ex-Detroit Lions tight end Brandon Pettigrew reportedly was ar-

rested early Monday morning in Pittsburgh, with police alleging he punched a police officer three times in the chest.

According to the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, the 33-year-old Pettigrew was charged with two counts of aggravated assault and theft of services and public drunkenness.

Pettigrew, who last played in the NFL in 2015, was booked after an alleged dispute with a limousine driver upon being dropped off at approximately 3 am at the DoubleTree Hotel in downtown Pittsburgh. After he reportedly refused to pay a \$97 fare, the driver called police from the hotel lobby. Pettigrew apparently did not identify himself to authorities when asked, finally acquiescing after being threatened with a Taser.

Pettigrew was transported to the Allegheny County Jail, per the report.

The former Oklahoma State tight end was picked in the first round (No. 20 overall) in the 2009 NFL Draft. Pettigrew played seven seasons with Detroit, catching 301 passes for 2,965 yards and 17 touchdowns in 93 games (85 starts). He never officially declared his NFL retirement, but he has not played since sustaining a torn anterior cruciate ligament during his final season.

**Dallas Cowboys** cornerback Marquez White has been charged with second-degree aggravated assault with a deadly weapon stemming from an alleged road-rage incident that occurred in October, according to multiple reports.

An indictment against White was handed up on June 7, and White was arrested June 15. He is free on \$7,500 bond.

In a statement on his Instagram account, White, 23, said he was driving on the Dallas North Tollway in Plano, Texas, on Oct 20. An "aggressive driver" was following him closely, then began driving next to him, White said. At that point, the man yelled racial slurs and threats, the player said.



Tepper

## KIB renews sponsorship of equestrian team for upcoming season

KUWAIT CITY, July 10: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) has renewed its annual sponsorship of the showjumping team, who compete under the Bank's name.

The KIB showjumping team, which features jockeys Ghazi Al-Juraei, Ahmad Al-Mudaheka, Abdullah Hamadah and Ahmad Al-Ansari, is preparing for the upcoming season set to take part in several local and international competitions. Over the past seasons, the team has garnered a slew of accolades, raising Kuwait's name high.

In its statement, KIB noted that it had decided to renew its sponsorship of the showjumping team, as the team continues to deliver a solid performance time and time again. The Bank's sponsorship of these athletes comes as part of KIB's ongoing efforts to support youth. It also comes in line with KIB's numerous initiatives geared towards supporting the local sports culture, as the Bank is especially focused on sponsoring talented



Photo of KIB sponsored equestrian team.

local athletes to enable them to participate in various competitions; thereby establishing KIB as partners in every aspect of their lives; a true 'Bank for Life'.

Additionally, KIB lauded the ef-

forts of the showjumping team and their unwavering dedication to their training, which has led the team to remarkable success and paved the way for even greater successes in the future of this sport. During

the upcoming season, the team is expected to continue its winning streak and raise Kuwait's name high in the realm of equestrian sports, both regionally and internationally.

### Italy to 'bid' for 2026 Olympics

MILAN, July 10, (AP): Italy will bid for the 2026 Winter Olympics despite having withdrawn two bids to host the Summer Games in Rome.

The Italian Olympic Committee said on Tuesday that Cortina, Milan, and Turin have put themselves forward and the bid city will be decided on at its next meeting, on Aug 1 or Sept 10.

An evaluation committee of 11 people, including the president of the Italian ski federation and a CONI vice president, will carry out feasibility studies and draw up a report for the board.

Two years ago, Italy was forced to suspend Rome's bid for the 2024 Olympics because of the staunch opposition of the city's mayor.