

SPORTS



Czech Republic's Petra Kvitová wins a point against Kristina Mladenovic of France in a Women's singles match during day four of the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London on July 4. (AP)

Rafa fends off Kyrgios as Federer & Serena 'move' on, Kerber goes out

Barty, Kvitova and Stephens advance to third round

WIMBLEDON, England, July 4, (Agencies): Nick Kyrgios did just about everything against Rafael Nadal at Wimbledon, except win.

The Australian hit some underhand serves, including one that landed in for an ace. He tried a few 'tweeners. And he even ran in early on a serve from Nadal, and argued loudly with the chair umpire.

The antics were entertaining, but not enough to eliminate the two-time champion from Spain, who won 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (5), 7-6 (3) on Centre Court to reach the third round.

Nadal and Kyrgios don't have the best relationship on the court or off it. In 2014, a 19-year-old Kyrgios beat Nadal at Wimbledon to become the youngest man to eliminate the No. 1 player at a major tournament since 2005. Add to that a public spat involving Nadal, his uncle and Kyrgios in recent months.

After his second-round victory, Kyrgios said he wouldn't expect to "have a beer together" with Nadal. The Spaniard responded in a separate interview by saying he was "too old for all this stuff."

Eight-time men's champion Roger

TENNIS

Federer and seven-time women's champion Serena Williams moved into the third round at Wimbledon.

Defending women's champion Angelique Kerber went out in the second.

Federer advanced as expected on Thursday, beating wild-card entry Jay Clarke 6-1, 7-6 (3), 6-2 on No. 1 Court. Williams had a bit of a tougher time at the same stadium, needing to come back to beat Slovenian qualifier Kaja Juvan 2-6, 6-2, 6-4.

But unseeded American Lauren Davis pulled off the unexpected, defeating Kerber 2-6, 6-2, 6-1 on No. 2 Court.

"I told myself you're strong, you can do it, you belong here," said Davis, who only entered the tournament as a lucky loser.

Kerber beat Williams in last year's final. Federer won his eighth title at the All England Club in 2017 and was eliminated in the quarterfinals last year.

Despite his pedigree at Wimbledon, Federer played his British opponent on the second biggest court on the grounds instead of his usual spot on Centre Court.

"I really enjoyed myself on Court 1 today with the roof," Federer said. "I couldn't really tell if it was Centre Court or Court 1, actually."

Williams played her match with good friend Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, watching from the stands. She had a chance to serve out the match at 5-2 in the third but was broken. She made no mistakes on her second attempt, converting her first match point with an ace.

"I play best when I'm down sometimes," Williams said. "I'm just a fighter and never give up."

If the pressure is getting to Ash Barty at Wimbledon, she's doing a great job of hiding it.



United States' Steve Johnson returns to Australia's Alex De Minaur in a men's singles match during day four of the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London on July 4. (AP)

The top-ranked Australian came into the grass-court Grand Slam tournament after winning the French Open and a Wimbledon warm-up event in Birmingham. And she's now won two in a row at the All England Club to reach the third round and stretch her winning streak to 14 straight.

Barty beat Alison Van Uytvanck 6-1, 6-3, needing only 55 minutes on No. 2 Court to advance. And it could have been even quicker but she failed to serve out the match at 5-2 in the second set - the only time she was broken.

"Pretty sharp right from the start," the top-seeded Barty said. "I was able to implement what I wanted to right away and put the pressure straight back on her."

Barty is playing her first tournament as No. 1 but has never been past the third round at Wimbledon. She will next face Harriet Dart, a British wild-card entry making her second appearance at Wimbledon.

Two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitová, No. 9 Sloane Stephens and No. 15 Wang Qiang also advanced to third round. Kvitová beat Kristina Mladenovic 7-5, 6-2, Stephens defeated Wang Yafan 6-0, 6-2, and Wang ousted Tamara Zidansek 6-1, 6-2.

Sam Querrey, a Wimbledon semifinalist in 2017, reached the third round in the men's draw. The unseeded American defeated Andrey Rublev 6-3, 6-2, 6-3.

Meanwhile Australia's Bernard Tomic was fined 45,000 pounds (\$57,000) for not playing to "required



Kazakhstan's Mikhail Kukushkin serves to United States' John Isner in a men's singles match during day four of the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London on July 4. (AP)

professional standards" after he put in minimal effort during a 58-minute, first-round thrashing by Jo-Wilfried Tsonga at Wimbledon, organisers said on Thursday.

Fans looked bemused as the 26-year-old world number 96 lost Tuesday's match 6-2 6-1 6-4, a performance described as "appalling" and

Robben announces retirement

AMSTERDAM, July 4, (AP): Former Bayern Munich and Netherlands forward Arjen Robben has announced his retirement from soccer.

The 35-year-old Robben, who was thought to be looking for a new club after playing his last game for Bayern in May, says in a statement, "I have decided to put an end to my career as a professional football player. It is without a doubt the most difficult decision I have had to make in my career."

Robben, who joined Bayern in

2009 from Real Madrid, played 309 competitive games for the Bavarian powerhouse, contributing 144 goals and setting up 81 more. His crowning moment came in 2013, when he helped Bayern win the treble with the winning goal in the Champions League final against Borussia Dortmund.

Robben signed off with a domestic double despite missing most of last season because of injury. Altogether he helped Bayern to eight Bundesliga wins and five German Cup titles.

"embarrassing" on social media.

"It is the opinion of the referee that the performance of Bernard Tomic in his first round match against Jo-Wilfried Tsonga did not meet the required professional standards, and therefore he has been fined the maximum amount of 45,000 pounds which will be deducted from prize money," organisers said in a statement.

With first-round losers at Wimbledon receiving 45,000 pounds, Tomic exited the tournament empty-handed following his latest run-in with the All England Club's authorities.

The Australian was fined \$15,000 in 2017 after admitting faking an injury during a first-round loss to Mischa

Zverev, saying later he was "bored" with Wimbledon.

When asked to sum up his performance on Tuesday, Tomic said: "I played pretty bad." Asked to elaborate, he said: "I just played terrible."

He found a surprising ally, however, in Tsonga, who said after his second-round win over Ricardas Berankis on Thursday that he sympathised with the Australian.

"That's touchy. Because you never - they will do that with him and not with others? And I think it's a little bit too much," Tsonga told reporters.

"In the third set he played and it was tight. And I played well to win this set. So I don't know."

Perez to Leicester

City complete Rodri 'signing'

LONDON, July 4, (AP): Manchester City completed the signing of Spain midfielder Rodri from Atletico Madrid for \$79 million, while Leicester spent a reported \$37 million to bring in Ayoze Perez from Newcastle on Thursday.

The fee for the 23-year-old Rodri, who is viewed as the long-term replacement for midfielder anchorman Fernandinho, is close to the club's record fee of 60 million pounds (then \$80 million) that City paid Leicester for winger Riyad Mahrez last off-season.



Rodri

Rodri has played six games for Spain.

"He works hard defensively, makes himself available to

SOCCER

receive the ball and uses it well when in possession," City director of football Txiki Begiristain said. "He is a perfect fit for Pep Guardiola's team and we are confident he will be a success."

It is City's second signing of the off-season, after left back Angelino from PSV Eindhoven on Wednesday, as it looks to construct a squad to win the Premier League for a third straight year.

"It's not just the titles they have won, but the way they have managed it, playing attacking football at all times," said Rodri, who has signed a five-year deal.

"It's a style that excites me, as do the club's ambitions."

Losing Perez is a further blow to Newcastle, after Rafael Benitez left as manager of the club following the end of his contract on Sunday.

The Spanish forward was Newcastle's top scorer with 13 goals last season.

Like City with Rodri, Leicester triggered Perez's release clause.

Fan favorite Lampard returns to Chelsea as coach

LONDON, July 4, (RTRS): Chelsea appointed Frank Lampard as their manager on Thursday, as owner Roman Abramovich turned to a fan favourite rather than an experienced hand to replace Maurizio Sarri and lead the club into a new era.

Lampard, adored by Chelsea fans as the heart and soul of the club's midfield during a trophy-laden 13 years at Stamford Bridge, was handed a three-year contract having left second tier Derby County.

"I am immensely proud to be returning to Chelsea as head coach," Lampard told the club website.

"Everyone knows my love for this club and the history we have shared, however, my sole focus is on the job in hand and preparing for the season ahead.

"I am here to work hard, bring further success to the club and I cannot wait to get started." A relative rookie as a manager, the 41-year-old Lampard earned plaudits for taking Derby into the Championship playoff final in his first year in the dugout - even if they just missed out on promotion to the Premier League.

Derby said an undisclosed compensation package had been agreed with Chelsea and wished Lampard well.

SOCCER

Lampard's assistant and former Chelsea midfielder Jody Morris is returning with him to Stamford Bridge along with first team coach Chris Jones.

Lampard faces no small task in returning Chelsea to the status of Premier League title contenders following Sarri's departure to Juventus and Eden Hazard's move to Real Madrid.

His rebuilding efforts at Chelsea will also be hampered by a FIFA transfer ban.

Lampard's cousin Jamie Redknapp, a former England midfielder, said patience would be the key factor.

"The fans adore Frank, but he's going to need time," he told Sky Sports television. "You'll have to be patient and I think everyone will be, because it is Frank Lampard."

"The players will respect him, but patience will be the key because Chelsea are a hiring and firing club, no matter what you say...it almost feels like they may have to change that process and say from the outset Frank's going to be given time." "The fans I have no doubt will give him time."

But to say this year he's got to get in the top four and things like that, I think that's unfair. You have to be realistic." Sarri, who departed after one season at Stamford

Bridge, guided Chelsea to the Europa League title and third place in the Premier League but was never loved by Chelsea fans.

"Lamps" will have no such problems.

The former England midfielder played a key role in Chelsea's golden era, making 648 appearances and scoring a club record 211 goals between 2001-2014. In that time, he won three Premier League titles as well as the Champions League.

"After 13 years with us as a player, where he became a club legend and our record goalscorer, we believe this is the perfect time for him to return and are delighted he has done so," Chelsea director Marina Granovskaia said.

"We will do everything we can to ensure he has all the support required to be a huge success." Lampard's former Chelsea team mate Petr Cech joined the club as a technical and performance advisor last month, and the pair will play a key role in the overhaul of the playing squad.



The new Chelsea manager, former Chelsea player Frank Lampard, poses for photographers with a club shirt by the pitch at Stamford Bridge stadium in London on July 4. Lampard has returned to Chelsea as the club's 12th manager in 16 years under Roman Abramovich's ownership. The former Chelsea midfielder has left second-tier club Derby, where he came close to securing promotion to the Premier League in his first season in management. Lampard, who is Chelsea's record scorer with 211 goals and one of its all-time greats, replaces Maurizio Sarri. (AP)

Local derbies add spice to last-16 ties

CAIRO, July 4, (RTRS): Two derbies will add spice to the Africa Cup of Nations round of 16 as Nigeria and Cameroon renew their often bitter rivalry while Ivory Coast face a Mali side who have done a lot of catching up on their neighbours recently.

Hosts Egypt need to get over their first-round jitters as they meet South Africa while rank outsiders Madagascar and Uganda will look to cause further upsets against Democratic Republic of Congo and Senegal respectively.

Nigeria and Cameroon do not meet that often - Saturday's match in Alexandria will be their 23rd clash - but the sparks tend to fly when they do especially as three of those matches have been in AFCON finals with Cameroon winning all of them.

The Super Eagles were furious in the 1988 final when Henry Nwosu had a goal disallowed in a match Cameroon won 1-0.

Twelve years later, the two played an epic final in Lagos when Nigeria hit back from two goals behind to draw 2-2, only to lose 4-3 on penalties.

However, replays showed that Victor Ikpeba's missed spot kick for Nigeria should have been allowed because the ball crossed the line after hitting the bar.

Overall, Cameroon have won 11 of the 22 matches to Nigeria's four although the Super Eagles qualified for last year's World Cup at their rivals' expense after a 4-0 win at home and 1-1 draw away.

Both teams are under pressure after finishing second in their groups, Nigeria after losing 2-0 to Madagascar and Cameroon after playing out two 0-0 draws Mali have not beaten Ivory Coast since 1983, and have won only



Kenya's Eric Ouma (left), duels for the ball with Senegal's Idrissa Gana Gueye during the African Cup of Nations Group D soccer match between Kenya and Senegal at 30 June Stadium in Cairo, Egypt on July 1. (AP)

three out of 18 meetings, but the two sides, who meet in Suez on Monday, seem to be heading in opposite directions.

Ivory Coast's golden generation, including striker Didier Drogba, have retired while Mali have one of the most exciting squads at the tournament, with nearly all their players based in Europe's top five leagues, particularly France.

They won their group in style with seven points out of nine and their shooting from distance has been outstanding, producing four of their six goals.

Egypt, who meet South Africa on Saturday, won all their group games without conceding a goal but it didn't

satisfy the home audience.

"The pressure is a lot...people want us to win, win, win, win," said their Mexican coach Javier Aguirre. "We lack confidence in our game and on the ball. Maybe it's the pressure of 70,000 people." Uganda go into

Nigeria vs Cameroon beIN SPORTS MAX 1HD, MAX 2HD

19:00 local (Saturday)

Egypt vs South Africa beIN SPORTS MAX 1HD, MAX 2HD

22:00 local (Saturday)

Friday's match against Senegal after the federation (FUSA) said it had settled a pay dispute with the players by offering an additional \$6,000 each.

"Considering the magnitude and importance of the event (and) the interests of the Nation, Government, the Sponsors and the gallant fans, FUSA has agreed to pay \$6,000 to each player over and above the agreed terms in the Code of Conduct," it said.

Benin, who have reached the knockout stages for the first time at the fourth attempt, face a solid Morocco team, who won all their group games 1-0, in Friday's other game.

Newcomers Madagascar, still unbeaten at the finals, meet Democratic Republic of Congo in Alexandria on Sunday, while Algeria, arguably the most impressive team of the tournament, face Guinea the same day.

The match between Ghana against Tunisia on Monday could go to penalties if the group stage is anything to go by as Ghana drew two of their matches and Tunisia all three.