

sunday — (all times are kuwait local)

12:45 swimming bein sports 10hd
 14:20 water polo bein sports 7hd
 14:35 diving bein sports 8hd
 16:15 soccer bein sports 7hd
 16:55 soccer bein sports 2hd
 18:00 soccer bein sports 3hd
 19:00 senegal vs tunisia .. bein sports max 1hd
 22:00 algeria vs nigeria.... bein sports max 1hd

Sports

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Wait goes on for Williams, inspired Halep wins maiden Wimbledon title

Remarkable display of defence mixed with clinical counter-punching

LONDON, July 13, (RTRS): Serena Williams remained tantalisingly one short of a record-equaling 24 Grand Slam singles titles as Simona Halep thrashed the off-key American in a one-sided Wimbledon final on Saturday.

Halep began the week halting American 15-year-old Coco Gauff's dream run and will end it at the Champions Ball after dismantling seven-times winner Williams 6-2, 6-2 with an inspired display on Centre Court.

She is Romania's first Wimbledon singles champion.

The 27-year-old set the tone by breaking the Williams serve in the opening game and raced into a 4-0 lead in front of 15,000 incredulous fans.

She remained rock solid throughout, making only three unforced errors in a remarkable display of defence mixed with clinical counter-punching. Williams simply could not respond.

Even when Williams fired herself up at the start of the second set and began thumping the ball with her customary power, sev-

Djokovic vs Federer beIN SPORTS 9HD
16:00 local

ent seed Halep refused to back off. Halep weathered the squall, then reeled off the last five games of what she described as the match of her life.

Williams has now lost three Grand Slam finals without winning a set since returning to action last March, following the birth of daughter Olympia in September 2017.

But this was the most chastening as she lasted only 56 minutes before biffing a forehand into the net — her 26th unforced error — to end the contest.

It was the second shortest Wimbledon final since Martina Navratilova thrashed Andrea Jaeger in 1983, one minute longer than Petra Kvitova's trouncing of Eugenie Bouchard five years ago.

"She played out of her mind," Williams, who had won nine of her previous 10 matches against Halep, said on court after picking up the runners-up salver for the second straight year, having ran into a similarly inspired Angelique Kerber last year.

"It was a little bit a deer in headlights for me. Whenever a player plays like that you just have to take your hat off." Until Saturday the only other Romanian to reach a Wimbledon final was Ilie Nastase who finished runner-up in 1972 and 1976. Halep went one better as she added the Wimbledon crown to the French Open she won in 2018.

Halep said it had been her "mother's dream" for her to hold aloft the Venus Rosewater Dish.



Romania's Simona Halep returns the ball to United States' Serena Williams during the women's singles final match on day twelve of the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London on July 13. (Inset): Halep holds the trophy. (AP)

Victory means she becomes a lifetime Wimbledon member.

"I wanted this badly," she said. "When I started the tournament, I talked to the people from the locker room that my dream is to become a member here. So today it's real."

"I'm very sure that was the best match of my life." After losing to Kerber a year ago, then to Naomi Osaka in a stormy US Open final, Williams, 37, hoped it would be third time lucky to finally move level with Australian Margaret Court on the all-time list of Grand Slam title collectors.

Despite having only five tournaments under her belt this year, Williams, who won her first Wimbledon title in 2002, had looked calm and composed en route to her 11th Wimbledon final. If she thought she could put down an early marker she was mistaken as three unforced errors in the opening game handed Halep an unexpected gift of an early break.

Halep grew in stature and could not miss. Williams, on the other hand, looked tight and lacked feel. There was strong support for Williams, including of the royal variety with friend Meghan Markle joining the Duchess of Cambridge in a crammed Royal Box.



United States' Serena Williams is dejected after losing a point to Romania's Simona Halep during the women's singles final match on day twelve of the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London on July 13. (AP)

SIPG keep pace with leaders Beijing

HONG KONG, July 13, (RTRS): Shanghai SIPG kept Chinese Super League (CSL) leaders Beijing Guoan within touching distance on Saturday as Vitor Pereira's defending champions beat nine-man Jiangsu Suning 3-0.

New signing Marko Arnautovic, acquired from West Ham United this week, missed the game due to injury but the Austrian's absence mattered little as SIPG comfortably took all three points to stay two points behind

the leaders.

Hulk opened the scoring for last year's title winners with two minutes on the clock and Jiangsu's hopes suffered a fatal blow seven minutes later when Ye Chongqiu was sent off for a dangerous challenge on Yang Shiyuan right under the nose of referee Mark Clattenburg. Zhang Wei added a second goal for Shanghai in the 17th minute while Oscar rifled home from the edge of the area 11 minutes into the second half.

Tour de France beIN SPORTS 1HD
13:50 local

It was breakaway specialist De Gendt's second stage victory on the Tour after the Lotto Soudal rider prevailed at the top of the iconic Mont Ventoux in 2016.

"I was ready for Julian's attack since last night and all day I was waiting for it because I had great legs," said Pinot, who like Milan-San Remo champion Alaphilippe holds a 'Monument' classic title as he won the Giro Di Lombardia last October.

"It was a fantastic finale, it was beautiful to go together like this and we showed that we can work together even if we're in different teams," said Alaphilippe, whose move was highly expected as bonus seconds were up for grabs in the ascent to the Cote de la Jaillere and at the finish.

Alaphilippe now leads Italian Giulio Ciccone, who started the day in yellow with a six-second advantage, by 23 seconds and Pinot by 53 seconds. Deceuninck Quick Step's Alaphilippe gained a total of nine bonus seconds and Pinot (Groupama-FDJ) picked up eight at the top of the final ascent and on the finish line.

Thomas is fifth, 1:12 off the pace with his Ineos team mate Egan Bernal a further four seconds adrift. Vincenzo Nibali, the 2014 cham-

De Gendt rules eighth stage

Alaphilippe reclaims yellow as Pinot impresses

Tour de France Results/Standings

SAINT-ÉTIENNE, France, July 13, (AP): Eighth Stage, a 200-kilometer (124-mile) hilly ride from Mâcon to Saint-Étienne, with five Category 2 climbs and a pair of Category 3s.

1. Thomas De Gendt, Belgium, Lotto Soudal, 5:00:17.
2. Thibaut Pinot, France, Groupama - FDJ, :06 behind.
3. Julian Alaphilippe, France, Deceuninck Quick-Step, same time.
4. Michael Matthews, Australia, Sunweb, :26.
5. Peter Sagan, Slovakia, Bora-Hansgrohe, same time.
6. Matteo Trentin, Italy, Mitchelton-Scott, same time.
7. Xandro Meurisse, Belgium, Wanty-Gobert, same time.
8. Greg Van Avermaet, Belgium, CCC, same time.
9. Egan Bernal, Colombia, Ineos, same time.
10. Geraint Thomas, Britain, Ineos, same time.
11. Patrick Konrad, Austria, Bora-Hansgrohe, same time.
12. Alexey Lutsenko, Kazakhstan, Astana, same time.
13. Nairo Quintana, Colombia, Movistar, same time.
14. Rigoberto Urán, Colombia, EF Education First, same time.
15. David Gaudu, France, Groupama - FDJ, same time.
16. Adam Yates, Britain, Mitchelton-Scott, same time.
17. Warren Barguil, France, Arkéa Samsic, same time.
18. Emanuel Buchmann, Germany, Bora-Hans-

grohe, same time.
 19. Bauke Mollema, Netherlands, Trek-Segafredo, same time.
 20. Fabio Aru, Italy, UAE Team Emirates, same time.

Overall Standings

1. Julian Alaphilippe, France, Deceuninck Quick-Step, 34:17:59.
2. Giulio Ciccone, Italy, Trek-Segafredo, :23.
3. Thibaut Pinot, France, Groupama - FDJ, :53.
4. George Bennett, New Zealand, Jumbo Visma, 1:10.
5. Geraint Thomas, Britain, Ineos, 1:12.
6. Egan Bernal, Colombia, Ineos, 1:16.
7. Steven Kruijswijk, Netherlands, Jumbo Visma, 1:27.
8. Rigoberto Urán, Colombia, EF Education First, 1:38.
9. Jakob Fuglsang, Denmark, Astana, 1:42.
10. Emanuel Buchmann, Germany, Bora-Hansgrohe, 1:45.
11. Enric Mas, Spain, Deceuninck Quick-Step, 1:46.
12. Adam Yates, Britain, Mitchelton-Scott, 1:47.
13. Xandro Meurisse, Belgium, Wanty-Gobert, 2:02.
14. Nairo Quintana, Colombia, Movistar, 2:04.
15. Mikel Landa, Spain, Movistar, 2:06.
16. Daniel Martin, Ireland, UAE Team Emirates, 2:09.
17. David Gaudu, France, Groupama - FDJ, 2:15.
18. Richie Porte, Australia, Trek-Segafredo, 2:19.
19. Bauke Mollema, Netherlands, Trek-Segafredo, 2:45.
20. Patrick Konrad, Austria, Bora-Hansgrohe, 2:46.

pion, dropped out of contention when he cracked on the Cote de la Jaillere and reached the line 4:25 off the pace. Thomas was frustrated that



Belgium's Thomas De Gendt celebrates as he crosses the finish line to win the eighth stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 200 kilometers (125 miles) with start in Macon and finish in Saint Etienne, France on July 13. (AP)

Alaphilippe's move came shortly after he had made his way back into the peloton.

"I'm fine but it was just frustrating," he said. "It was a key moment in the race. (Michael) Woods crashed and took out Gianni (Moscon) and me and I just got tangled in Gianni's bike." Moscon's bike was snapped in half in the crash.

"By the time I got up to the group I was gassed for a bit and obviously that's when they started to sprint away," said Thomas. "It's annoying and frustrating but to come back like I did is good."

"If I hadn't crashed I could have followed (Pinot and Alaphilippe) and it's a totally different story then. Still a lot of racing to go though." Sunday's hilly ninth stage is a potentially treacherous ride from St Etienne to Brioude over 170.5 kilometres.