

SPORTS

Medvedev-led Russia win Davis Cup after 15-yr wait

MADRID, Dec 6, (AP): Russia's 15-year wait for a Davis Cup title ended after another clutch performance from Daniil Medvedev.

Medvedev capped his amazing year with a 7-6 (7), 6-2 win over Marin Cilic in the second singles match to give Russia an insurmountable 2-0 lead over Croatia and its first Davis Cup title since 2006.

"It feels amazing," Medvedev said. "But I'm more happy for the team than for myself. We have an amazing team, amazing atmosphere. I'm happy to be part of it and bring the points we need."

TENNIS

It was the fifth consecutive straight-set victory in the Davis Cup for the No. 2 Medvedev, who three months ago defeated Novak Djokovic to win the US Open for his first Grand Slam title.

"Pretty amazing two weeks," Medvedev said. "It's never easy to come here at the end of the season but they were some of the best weeks of my career."

Andrey Rublev earlier had beaten Borna Gojo in straight sets to put the Russians ahead at the Madrid Arena.

Russia's other Davis Cup title was in 2002. Croatia also was seeking its third title after triumphs in 2005 and 2018.

"I still can be proud with the effort," Cilic said. "We are just sorry we couldn't get one point to get the doubles guys in the court."

The doubles, where Croatia has the top-ranked pair, were not played.

Russia, which had four top-30 players on its team, completed a sweep of team events after the women's team won the Billie Jean King Cup Finals in Prague last month. The last nation to do the double had been the Czech Republic in 2012.

The triumph also capped a special week for Russia captain Shamil Tarpishev, the longest-serving Davis Cup captain. He first captained in 1974, and appeared in his 100th match as captain in the semifinals against Germany.

The Russian team is officially being called RTF (Russian Tennis Federation) in the competition amid its ongoing doping suspension in international sport.

After a tight first set, Medvedev broke serve twice in the second against the 30th-ranked Cilic to comfortably clinch the victory.

"It was a tough match all day long," the 25-year-old Medvedev said. "The tiebreak is a matter of a few points. I made a double-fault on the set point that was probably a big mistake, but I'm happy that today it was enough to win. It was a really tough match."

Rublev had converted on his first match point to clinch a 6-4, 7-6 (5) win over Gojo, who arrived at the Davis Cup Finals as the 279th-ranked player but had won all his three matches.

It was the third consecutive victory for the fifth-ranked Rublev after a loss against Spain's Feliciano López in the group stage.

Gojo had no break opportunities throughout the match against Rublev, who converted one of his eight to grab the first set and eventually clinch the win in the second-set tiebreaker.

Croatia got past Serbia and the top-ranked Novak Djokovic in the semifinals, while Russia ousted Germany.

The Russians won a group that included defending champion Spain and Ecuador, then advanced past Sweden in the quarterfinals. Croatia won a group with Australia and Hungary, then defeated Italy in the last eight.



The Russian Tennis Federation team celebrate with the trophy after winning the Davis Cup tennis final at the Madrid Arena in Madrid, Spain, on Dec 5. (AP)

Utah survives Cavaliers' late surge for 4th straight victory

Hornets top Hawks

CLEVELAND, Dec 6, (AP): Donovan Mitchell scored 35 points, Rudy Gobert had 20 rebounds and five blocks and the Utah Jazz survived Cleveland's late surge for their fourth straight win, 109-108 over the Cavaliers.

Bojan Bogdanovic added 16 points and Rudy Gay had 15 for Utah, which made 20 3-pointers and gave away a 15-point lead in the fourth.

The Cavs had a chance to win, but Darius Garland missed a 28-footer with 2.9 seconds to go, and Jarrett Allen couldn't get his tip to drop as Cleveland had its winning streak stopped at four.

Garland scored 31 points, Allen



Utah Jazz's Jordan Clarkson (00) drives to the basket against Cleveland Cavaliers' Evan Mobley (4) in the first half of an NBA basketball game, on Dec. 5, in Cleveland. (AP)

added 17 points and 11 rebounds and rookie Evan Mobley had 14 points and 12 rebounds for the Cavs, who were back at home after beating Dallas, Miami and Washington. It was the first time since 1975 that the Cavs won three straight on the road over teams with winning records.

Hornets 130, Hawks 127

In Atlanta, Miles Bridges scored 32 points for a short-handed Charlotte team that leaned on its best 3-point shooting game of the season to beat Atlanta/

Kelly Oubre Jr. made six 3s and scored 28 points for Charlotte. The Hornets made a season-high 17 3s.

BASKETBALL

John Collins led Atlanta with a season-best 31 points and 12 rebounds.

The four Charlotte players held out after being placed in the NBA's health and safety COVID-19 protocols were leading scorer LaMelo Ball, starting guard Terry Rozier, center Mason Plumlee and forward Jalen McDaniels. They'll be sidelined for at least 10 days.

Wizards 102, Raptors 90

In Toronto, Pascal Siakam scored 31 points, Precious Achiuwa had 10 points and 14 rebounds, and Toronto beat Washington on Sunday night.

Chris Boucher scored 14 points, Scottie Barnes had 11, and Fred VanVleet 10 to help the Raptors win back-to-back games for the first time since a five-game winning streak from Oct. 27 to Nov. 3.

Kentavious Caldwell-Pope scored a season-high 26 points and Bradley Beal had 14 for the Wizards, who couldn't dig out of a hole after shooting poorly in the first quarter.

Rockets 118, Pelicans 108

In Houston, Eric Gordon and Christian Wood both scored 23 points, and Houston beat New Orleans for its sixth straight win.

Brandon Ingram scored a season-high 40 points for the Pelicans, which was his most since dropping 40 against Brooklyn on Nov 4, 2019. Jonas Valanciunas finished with 17 points and 10 rebounds for New Orleans.

Houston's Daniel Theis netted 12 points on 4 of 6 shooting from the field, and Alperen Sengun finished with 10 points.

NBA Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, Dec 6, (AP): Results and standings from the NBA games on Sunday.

Utah	109	Cleveland	108	Toronto	102	Washington	90
Charlotte	130	Atlanta	127	Houston	118	New Orleans	108

Eastern Conference				Western Conference			
Atlantic Division				Southwest Division			
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB
Brooklyn	16	7	.696	Memphis	13	10	.565
Boston	13	11	.542	Dallas	11	11	.500
Philadelphia	12	11	.522	San Antonio	8	13	.381
New York	11	12	.478	Houston	7	16	.304
Toronto	11	13	.458	New Orleans	7	19	.269
Southeast Division				Northwest Division			
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	14	10	.583	Utah	16	7	.696
Washington	14	10	.583	Denver	11	11	.500
Charlotte	14	11	.560	Minnesota	11	12	.478
Atlanta	12	12	.500	Portland	11	13	.458
Orlando	5	19	.208	Oklahoma City	6	18	.273
Central Division				Pacific Division			
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	16	8	.667	Golden State	19	4	.826
Milwaukee	15	9	.625	Phoenix	19	4	.826
Cleveland	13	11	.542	LA Clippers	12	12	.500
Indiana	9	16	.360	LA Lakers	12	12	.500
Detroit	4	18	.182	Sacramento	10	14	.417

N. C. State routs Elon 78-46 for 8th win in row

UConn women crush Notre Dame

STORRS, Conn., Dec 6, (AP): UConn won its rivalry game against Notre Dame but may have lost last year's national player of the year to a knee injury in the process.

Paige Bueckers scored 22 points before going down with just seconds left in No. 2 UConn's 73-54 victory over No. 24 Notre Dame.

Bueckers was dribbling up the court in the final minute of this one when she stumbled, twisting her ankle and coming down awkwardly on her left leg. She went to the floor a few seconds later and had to be carried off the court.

Coach Geno Auriemma said the extent of the injury won't be known until scans are completed on Monday.

N.C. State 78, Elon 46

In Raleigh, N.C., Jada Boyd scored 17 points and North Carolina State beat Elon for its eighth straight win.

N.C. State (8-1) shot 51% from the field and hit nine 3-pointers, two off of a season high.

Maryland 74, Rutgers 59

In Piscataway, N.J., Angel Reese scored 18 points to lead Maryland over Rutgers.

Katie Benzan added 15 points, Chloe Bibby had 14 and Ashley Owusu 12 for Maryland (7-2, 1-0 Big Ten).

Louisville 80, Belmont 66

In Louisville, Ky., Hailey Van Lath scored 16 points and Louisville beat Belmont.

Louisville (7-1) shot better than 50% (54%) for the third time this season.

Nine players scored for the Cardinals, with six getting at least eight points.

Tennessee 64, Virginia Tech 58

In Blacksburg, Va., Sara Puckett scored 15 points off the bench and led a decisive scoring run in the fourth quarter as Tennessee beat Virginia Tech.

Tennessee (8-0) trailed 55-48 with six minutes remaining in the fourth

BASKETBALL

quarter before going on a 12-0 run to build a 60-55 lead with two minutes left.



Connecticut's Olivia Nelson-Ododa (20) reacts after making a basket while fouled in the first half of an NCAA college basketball game against Notre Dame on Dec 5, in Storrs, Conn. (AP)

Michigan 93, Akron 54

In Ann Arbor, Mich., Emily Kiser scored a season-high 19 points and Naz Hillmon added 18 points and five assists as Michigan steamrolled Akron.

The Wolverines (8-1) rebounded from their first loss of the season, 70-48 to No. 10 Louisville in the Big Ten/ACC challenge. Michigan opened the game on a 25-4 run.

Iowa State 94, Longwood 56

In Ames, Iowa, Aubrey Joens had career highs of 24 points and 14 rebounds and older sister Ashley Joens had 16 points and 12 rebounds as Iowa State beat Longwood.

The Cyclones (8-1) bounced back from their first loss, to LSU, as they prepare to host No. 9 Iowa.

Texas 76, Texas A&M 60

In College Station, Texas, Aliyah Matharu scored 26 points, draining five 3-pointers and leading Texas past Texas A&M in an all-Lone Star version of the Big 12/SEC Challenge.

Texas A&M's eight-game win streak ended and Longhorns coach Vic Schaefer got a win in what is likely a final meeting with former boss Gary Blair, who announced he's planning to retire after this season. Schaefer is 9-11 against his mentor.

Kentucky 90, Merrimack 56

In Lexington, Ky., Rhyne Howard had 21 points, seven assists, six rebounds and a season-high six steals, and Kentucky beat Merrimack.

Dre'Una Edwards finished with 17 points and 11 rebounds, Jazmine Masengill had 13 points and eight assists, and Robyn Benton scored 12 points for Kentucky (6-1).

Ohio State 70, Purdue 53

In west Lafayette, Ind., Taylor Mikesell and Braxtin Miller scored 16 points each and Ohio State dominated the fourth quarter to beat Purdue in the Big Ten opener for both teams.

Rebeka Mikulasikova had 13 points and eight rebounds and Jacy Sheldon scored 12 points for Ohio State (6-1). Mikesell added 10 rebounds and five assists.

Ga. Tech 55, Georgia 44

In Athens, Ga., Nerea Hermosa scored 14 points, including the winning free throws with 8.8 seconds left, and Georgia Tech upended Georgia.

After Hermosa's free throws put the Yellow Jackets up 55-51, Sarah Ashlee Barker knocked down a 3-pointer with 4.5 seconds left. Hermosa then missed two free throws, but Que Morrison missed a contested attempt at the buzzer.

Florida St 83, C. Southern 32

In Tallahassee, Fla., Morgan Jones scored 16 points with eight rebounds as Florida State thumped Charleston Southern.

Jones has scored in double figures in seven straight games for the Seminoles (6-2), who are 5-0 at home. Valencia Myers added 15 points on 7-of-10 shooting and River Baldwin scored 13.

Ohio State opens Big Ten with win

Mathurin drops 29, rallies Arizona past Oregon State

CORVALLIS, Ore., Dec 6, (AP): Benedict Mathurin scored 29 points and No. 11 Arizona beat Oregon State 90-65.

Christian Koloko added 12 points for the Wildcats (7-0, 1-0 Pac-12).

Jerod Lucas scored 17 points to lead the Beavers (1-8, 0-2), who haven't won since their opener against Portland State.



Mathurin

Arizona fell behind 13-7 early, responded with a 16-0 run and steadily pulled away, never relinquishing the lead. Oregon State got within six points early in the second half, but a layup by Azuolas Tubelis made it 52-41 with 17:13 left and the Beavers didn't get

within 10 points the rest of the way. Kerr Kriisa finished with 11 points for Arizona and Tubelis scored 10.

Ohio St 76, Penn St 64

In University Park, Pa., Kyle Young scored 16 points, E.J. Liddell added 14 points and Ohio State beat Penn State 76-64 in a Big Ten opener for both teams.

Ohio State made seven 3-pointers in the opening 10 minutes of the game.

BASKETBALL

Six different Buckeyes made a 3 during the spree for a 27-19 lead, and Ohio State led 41-30 at halftime after going 7 of 16 from distance.

Arizona St 69, Oregon 67, OT

In Eugene, Ore., DJ Horne scored 23 points, Jay Heath hit a 3-pointer in the closing seconds of overtime and Arizona State beat Oregon 69-67 to snap a five-game skid.

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