



Serbia's Novak Djokovic plays a return to Italy's Lorenzo Musetti during their fourth round match on day 9, of the French Open tennis tournament at Roland Garros in Paris, France. (AP)

Sports

Latest sports scores at — <http://sports.arabtimesonline.com>

Nadal into quarterfinals as Gauff overwhelms Jabeur

Djokovic recovers from 2-set French Open hole against teen

PARIS June 7 (AP) — For two sets and more than two hours at the French Open on Monday, Novak Djokovic found himself being outplayed by a 19-year-old opponent making his Grand Slam debut.

And yet, to hear Djokovic tell it afterward, he had the kid right where he wanted him.

After dropping a pair of tiebreakers to begin the fourth-round match, Djokovic suddenly went from a big deficit to his best tennis. He grabbed 13 games in a row in a dominant display before Lorenzo Musetti stopped playing because of lower back pain and cramps while trailing in the fifth set.

The result officially goes into the books as a retirement. The score when Musetti quit showed Djokovic ahead 6-7 (7), 6-7 (2), 6-1, 6-0, 4-0.

How shocking was it just to see Musetti take the opening pair of sets against Djokovic, who is seeking his second French Open championship and 19th Grand Slam trophy overall? The top-seeded Djokovic never had been beaten at Roland Garros by someone ranked as low as the No. 76 Musetti. Djokovic's only previous loss against a teen at the French Open came back in 2006 against a guy named Rafael Nadal. And Djokovic entered the day 14-0 in the fourth round at the place.

Plus, consider Djokovic's recent form: He was 10-0 in Grand Slam matches in 2021 and hadn't ceded more than four games in any set in Paris — let alone an entire set — while dropping a total of just 23 games until Monday.

Eventually, Djokovic earned his fifth career comeback from two sets down by limiting his mistakes and making Musetti look like what he is: Someone with plenty of promise but not much experience.



Gauff

Djokovic reached his record 15th quarterfinal in Paris and 49th major quarterfinal in all. It will come against another Italian, No. 9 seed Matteo Berrettini, who advanced without needing to swing his racket once Monday.

That's because the man Berrettini was supposed to face in the fourth round, 20-time Grand Slam champion Roger Federer, withdrew in order to let his surgically repaired right knee and the rest of his 39-year-old body rest with an eye on Wimbledon this month.

TENNIS

In other fourth-round men's action on the top half of the draw, No. 10 seed Diego Schwartzman saved seven set points in the opening set on the way to eliminating Jan-Lennard Struff 7-6 (9), 6-4, 7-5. Schwartzman, a semifinalist at Roland Garros in 2020, next will face 13-time champion Nadal.

Nadal beat Jannik Sinner 7-5, 6-3, 6-0 to reach the quarterfinals and extend his streak of sets won at Roland

Nmecha scores, Germany win U-21 European Championship

LJUBLJANA, Slovenia, June 7, (AP) — Germany won the first men's European Championship soccer title of this summer, with a former England youth international scoring the goal that beat Portugal 1-0 in the under-21 final.

Lukas Nmecha neatly rounded Portugal goalkeeper Diogo Costa to score in the 49th minute after running on to an angled pass into the goalmouth by Wolfsburg midfielder Ridle Baku.

Germany-born Nmecha played only a handful of games at his parent club Manchester City before impressing this season on loan at Anderlecht. The

Belgian club are coached by former City captain Vincent Kompany.

Germany's third under-21 Euros title followed wins in 2009 and 2017, and left Portugal a beaten finalist for a third time, after 1994 and 2015.

Portugal's team in 2015 included three players who were in the senior national team that won the 2016 European Championship final.

Portugal defends their title in the postponed Euro 2020 tournament that starts Friday, and will play Germany in a Group F match in Munich on June 19.



The Germany team celebrate as Germany's Amos Pieper holds the trophy aloft after the Euro U-21 final soccer match between Germany and Portugal at the Stozice stadium in Ljubljana, Slovenia. Germany won the match 1-0. (AP)

SAN FRANCISCO, June 7, (AP) — Yuka Saso modeled her golf game after Rory McIlroy, spending hours watching videos of his swing before going to bed each night in order to perfect her own.

All that work paid off and now Saso is a U.S. Open champion just like her idol thanks to a clutch playoff putt after a back-nine collapse by Lexi Thompson.

Saso's 10-foot putt for birdie on the third playoff hole Sunday helped her edge out Nasa Hataoka and become the second teenager to win the U.S. Women's Open.

Saso overcame back-to-back double bogeys early in the round to make the playoff and then became the first player from the Philippines to win a golf major.

GOLF

"I was actually a little upset," Saso said about her poor start. "But my caddie talked to me and said, 'Just keep on going; there's many more holes to go.' That's what I did."

Both players made pars at Nos. 9 and 18 in the two-hole aggregate playoff, sending the tournament to sudden death back at the ninth hole. That set the stage for Saso to win it just up the road from Daly City, dubbed "Little Manila" for its large population of Filipinos.

There were many on hand for the final round, including several with Filipino flags for the occasion.

"I don't know what's happening in the Philippines right now, but I'm just thankful that there's so many people in the Philippines cheering for me," she said. "I don't know how to thank them. They gave me so much energy. I want to say thank you to everyone."

Garros to 35.

The 18th-seeded Sinner had a chance to become the first player since Dominic Thiem in the 2019 final to take a set off Nadal here. But when serving for the first set at 5-4, the Italian was broken at love. He then lost the next six games to trail 4-0 in the second set.



Yuka Saso, of the Philippines, celebrates her victory during the final round of the U.S. Women's Open golf tournament at The Olympic Club in San Francisco. Saso defeated Nasa Hataoka, of Japan, in a three-hole playoff. (AP)

Saso matched 2008 winner Inbee Park as the youngest U.S. Women's Open champion at 19 years, 11 months, 17 days.

Thiem took the second set 7-5 to level the 2019 final.

Nadal won the next two sets to clinch his 12th title here, won all 21 sets last year as he added No. 13 and has yet to drop a set this year.

In women's play, 17-year-old American Coco Gauff became the youngest player since 2006 to reach the women's quarterfinals at any Grand Slam tournament by overwhelming No. 25 seed Ons Jabeur 6-3, 6-1 in under an hour.

Gauff now meets Barbora Krejčíková, who reached her first major quarterfinal with a 6-2, 6-0 victory over Sloane Stephens, the 2017 U.S. Open champion and 2018 French Open runner-up.

Maria Sakkari, who is seeded 17th, beat No. 4 Sofia Kenin, last year's runner-up, 6-1, 6-3. Sakkari's quarterfinal opponent will be 2020 champion Iga Świątek or Marta Kostyuk.

Gauff, Krejčíková and Sakkari are three of the six first-time Grand Slam quarterfinalists left in the women's bracket.

On an afternoon that began with the sun shining, before clouds intervened, Djokovic's two-handed backhand, his best shot, was off. Way off.

Hawks shock 76ers in series opener

LA Clippers finish off Mavs in Game 7

LOS ANGELES, June 7, (AP) — No chest-thumping, shouting or theatrics. With very little change of expression, Kawhi Leonard altered the Los Angeles Clippers' playoff fortunes.

Leonard narrowly missed a triple-double, finishing with 28 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists, to help the Clippers finish off the Dallas Mavericks 126-111 on Sunday in Game 7 of the first-round series.

Playing in front of a noisy mix of 7,342 masked fans and cardboard cutouts, the Clippers did what neither team had been able to pull off in the first six games — win at home. It was the first time in NBA history the road team won the first six games of a playoff series.

The fourth-seeded Clippers advanced to the Western Conference semifinals for the second straight year. They'll play the top-seeded Utah Jazz starting Tuesday night in Salt Lake City.

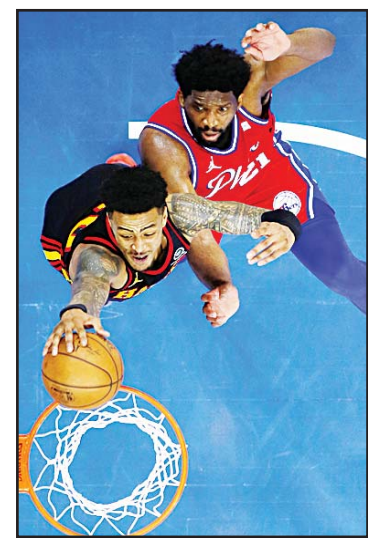
Luka Doncic had 46 points, 14 assists and seven rebounds to lead the fifth-seeded Mavs, who have yet to win a playoff series since capturing the NBA championship in 2011. He finished the series with 250 points, 55 rebounds and 72 assists.

BASKETBALL

Paul George added 22 points, 10 assists and six rebounds for the Clippers. Their backups outscored Dallas' reserves, 27-6, getting crucial contributions from Terance Mann (13 points) and Luke Kennard (11 points). Kennard had played just four minutes earlier in the series.

The Clippers were the league's top 3-point shooting team during the regular season, but struggled at times in the series. They regained their touch in Game 7, making 20 3s, led by Morris' seven. The Mavs hit 10, with Doncic having five.

Trailing by eight at halftime, the Mavs outscored the Clippers 19-6 to open the third and take an 81-76 lead. Doncic had just two points in the run, with Dorian Finney-Smith hitting two 3-pointers and Tim Hardaway Jr. adding another. Finney-Smith finished with 18 points and 10 rebounds.



Atlanta Hawks' John Collins (left) goes up for a dunk past Philadelphia 76ers' Joel Embiid during the second half of Game 1 of a second-round NBA basketball playoff series, in Philadelphia. (AP)

The Mavs won the first two games at Staples Center before the Clippers tied it up with two wins in Dallas. The Mavs won Game 5 in LA and Leonard powered the Clippers to a road win in Game 6 with a huge fourth quarter.

The Clippers took control with a 24-4 spurt — including 12 in a row — to lead 100-85 going into the fourth. Morris made three 3-pointers and Kennard hit a pair. Leonard scored seven points, highlighted by a dunk off George's pass. Defensively, Leonard came up with a big block and Mann helped contain Doncic, who had the Mavs' only points over the end of the third.

Dallas cut its 19-point deficit early in the fourth to seven points on Doncic's fifth 3-point shot of the game with just under 3 minutes remaining. But the Clippers' own long-range prowess carried them, with Jackson and Morris connecting on back-to-back 3s for a 120-107 lead.

Doncic matched his points total on Game 6 with 29 points in the first half on 10 of 14 shooting.

Leonard is the fourth player in post-season history to have at least 200 total points while shooting at least 60% from

Japan continue their 'good' run

SEOUL, June 7, (AP) — Kyrgyzstan were forced to play a World Cup qualifying match with a defender in goal on Monday because all three of the national team's keepers were self-isolating following a COVID-19 outbreak.

SOCCER

Defender Aizur Akmatov instead played between the posts, allowing one goal in a 1-0 loss to Mongolia in Group F. Oyunbaatary Mijiddorj scored in the 34th minute for the visitors.

Mongolia are ranked 192nd of FIFA's 211 teams. Kyrgyzstan are ranked 99th.

Also in Group F, Japan beat Tajikistan 4-1 for their seventh victory in seven matches in the second round of Asian qualifying.

Japan had secured a place in the third round of qualifying. Kyogo Furuhashi, Takumi Minamino, Kento Hashimoto and Hayao Kawabe all scored for Japan, while Ehsani Panshanbe scored for Tajikistan — the first goal Japan have conceded in 549 minutes.

the floor in a single series. The last player to do so was Shaquille O'Neal of the Lakers in the 2000 NBA Finals.

Doncic said he and George exchanged jerseys in the locker room afterward. The Mavs lost to the Clippers in six games of the first round in last year's bubble in Florida.

Hawks 128, 76ers 124

In Philadelphia, Trae Young scored 25 of his 35 points in the first half and the Atlanta Hawks shook off Joel Embiid and a hostile crowd to beat Philadelphia in Game 1 of the second-round series.

Embiid raised a sledgehammer as he returned from a one-game absence with a cartilage tear in his right knee. He walked out with WWE star Triple H to a roaring ovation.