

Andrescu advances, Muguruza falls as Gauff outlasts Caroline Garcia

Top-seeds Medvedev, Pliskova roll to wins at Indian Wells

INDIAN WELLS, California, Oct. 10, (AP) — Top seeds Daniil Medvedev and Karolina Pliskova rolled to straight-set victories at the BNP Paribas Open, when several lower-seeded players were knocked out.

Medvedev beat American Mackenzie McDonald 6-4, 6-2, extending his winning streak to eight matches dating to his U.S. Open championship last month. Medvedev never faced a break point against McDonald, who was broken three times.



"I'm actually really pleased because usually I haven't played well in Indian Wells and I haven't been playing that well in practices," Medvedev said. "I'm really happy with my performance. That's the most important thing no matter how I played before the tournament."

TENNIS

Pliskova advanced to the third round with a 7-5, 6-2 win over Magdalena Frech at the combined ATP and WTA event. Pliskova fired six aces, giving her a Tour-leading 387 this year, and converted five of her six break points. Bianca Andreescu, the 2019 champion, beat Alison Riske 7-6 (2), 7-5.

Fifth-seeded Garbine Muguruza was the highest-seeded woman to lose.

Muguruza, who won last week's event in Chicago, lost to Ajla Tomljanovic 3-6, 6-1, 6-3. It was Tomljanovic's first win in seven tries over a Top-10 player this year. She was a quarterfinalist at Wimbledon in July.

Anna Kalinskaya outlasted No. 28 Sara Sorribes Tormo 6-3, 4-6, 6-2 and American Amanda Anisimova defeated No. 30 Camila Giorgi 6-4, 6-1.

No. 12 seed Ons Jabeur, who lost to Muguruza in the Chicago final, advanced with a 6-2, 6-7 (5), 6-3 win over Anastasija Sevastova for her Tour-leading 45th match victory of the year.

Coco Gauff, seeded 15th, outlasted Caroline Garcia 6-3, 6-7 (2), 6-1, offsetting 12 aces with seven double faults. No. 18 Anett Kontaveit retired trailing 6-3, 5-2 against Martina Trevisan. No. 22 Danielle Collins advanced when Lauren Davis retired trailing 6-1.

On the men's side, No. 8 Hubert Hurkacz, No. 11 Diego Schwartzman, No. 16 Reilly Opelka and No. 18 Daniel Evans won.

No. 9 Denis Shapovalov was leading 3-0 when Vasek Pospisil retired.



Karolina Pliskova of the Czech Republic, returns a shot to Magdalena Frech of Poland, at the BNP Paribas Open tennis tournament on Oct 9, in Indian Wells, Calif. (AP)

Canada miss out

Uruguay 'qualify' for '23 Rugby World Cup

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay, Oct 10, (AP) — Uruguay qualified for the 2023 Rugby World Cup after downing the United States 34-15 on Saturday while Canada will miss the tournament for the first time after an historic loss to Chile.

Uruguay overturned a 19-16 loss to the US in Colorado last weekend to win comfortably in Montevideo and advance on aggregate 50-34. The Teros will appear in their fifth Rugby World Cup, joining tournament host France, New Zealand, Italy and an African side to be determined in Pool A.

The US will face Chile next year for the right to go to the World Cup as the Americas 2 qualifier in Pool D.

Chile defeated Canada for the first time 33-24 in Valparaiso, after blowing a win a week ago in Langford. There, Chile conceded a penalty with 30 seconds to go and Canada escaped as a 22-21 winner.

Santiago Videla scored a try and kicked 18 points on Saturday for Chile to progress 54-46 on aggregate, with an eye on its first World Cup appearance.

RUGBY

Uruguay started well against the US thanks to a Rodrigo Silva try set up by flyhalf Felipe Etcheberry and center Nicolás Freitas. The Eagles went ahead with a Mika Kruse try but goalkicking wing Federico Favaro had Uruguay up 13-8 at halftime.

The tension through the first half disappeared in the second in a 12-minute span when Uruguay scored three converted tries by wing Gaston Mieres, hooker Facundo Gattas and another Freitas set-up for Silva to complete Uruguay's first World Cup qualifying win over the US in 19 years.

Chile had a 13-point lead by halftime after a superb try from flyhalf Rodrigo Fernandez, who caught Ross Braude's box kick and motored through the defense.

After halftime, Chile hooker Augusto Bhome was sin-binned and opposite Eric Howard scored to close the gap to six, but 14-man Chile also scored a try to prop Matias Dittus from a tap and go.

Videla continued to punish Canada indiscipline, and though the visitors were nine behind with 13 minutes to go, another mistake at a restart gave Chile an easy foothold in the 22 and led to Videla's own converted try for 33-17.

Bottas wins Turkish GP as Verstappen reclaims lead from title rival Hamilton

Leclerc misses out 14th career podium

ISTANBUL, Oct. 10, (AP) — Mercedes driver Valtteri Bottas won the Turkish Grand Prix for his first victory of the season on Sunday, while Red Bull's Max Verstappen finished second to reclaim the overall lead from title rival Lewis Hamilton.

Sergio Perez capped a strong day for Red Bull by finishing in third place. Verstappen wiped away Hamilton's two-point lead and now leads the Mercedes driver by six points with five races left in a thrilling title battle that could go all the way to the final race in Abu Dhabi.

Defending champion Hamilton started from 11th despite finishing fastest in qualifying because of a 10-place grid penalty for an extra engine change. He lost valuable points by finishing fifth after coming

in for a late tire change - despite telling his team he wanted to stay on track when still in third.

That may have given Verstappen a bigger gap in the championship.

"It's been close the whole year. This season has been really good," Verstappen said. "It was not easy today, the track was very greasy. It just seemed like Valtteri had a bit more pace. Just happy to finish second."

Hamilton finally came in for new tires on Lap 51 but did not agree with the decision.

"Why did you give up that place?" a frustrated Hamilton barked on team radio using an expletive.

Hamilton was getting increasingly agitated after his pit stop as he lost ground to Charles Leclerc and had Pierre Gasly's AlphaTauri gaining on him.

"Just leave it alone," he snapped to his race engineer when informed of Gasly's gap.

Leclerc came in earlier than Hamilton and placed fourth, missing out on a 14th career podium, while

Gasly took sixth ahead of McLaren's Lando Norris.

Ferrari's Carlos Sainz Jr. and McLaren's Daniel Ricciardo started from the back after complete engine changes.

Sainz Jr. managed to finish a commendable eighth and was voted the day's best driver.

Bottas finally got the winning feeling again when he overtook Ferrari's Leclerc with about a dozen laps left, clinching his first victory since the Russian GP in September last year.

"It's been a while" he said. "Probably one of my best races ever in Formula One, everything was under control."

His 10th career win was a much-needed one during a frustrating last season with Mercedes before joining Alfa Romeo next year.

To cap it off he clocked the fastest lap on the 5.3-kilometer (3.3-mile) Istanbul Park circuit beneath a grey sky amid persistent drizzle.

Bottas made a better start than Verstappen, which has rarely been the case. The Finnish driver hit 100 kph (62 mph) in 3.09 seconds compared to 3.17 for Verstappen as spray kicked up from the wet track.

MOTOR RACING



Mercedes driver Valtteri Bottas of Finland leads at the start of the Turkish Formula One Grand Prix at the Intercity Istanbul Park circuit in Istanbul, Turkey, on Oct 10. (Inset): Mercedes driver Valtteri Bottas of Finland holds the trophy on the podium after winning the Turkish Formula One Grand Prix. (AP)

Tommy Paul defeated No. 28 Dusan Lajovic 6-3, 6-3 and Frances Tiafoe beat No. 32 Sebastian Korda 6-0, 6-4.

St Helens defend Super League title

MANCHESTER, England, Oct. 10, (AP) — France-based Catalans Dragons' bid to become the first overseas team to win the English Super League came up just short when they lost to St. Helens 12-10 in the grand final.

St. Helens became only the second team to win a third straight grand final since the 125-year-old English rugby league championship became the Super League in 1996.

St. Helens center Kevin Naiqama, the Fiji captain returning to Australia after three years in Super League, delivered the perfect leaving gift with a try in each half.

Trailing 6-4 at halftime, Catalans regained the lead with its only try through second-rower Mike McMeeken from Josh Drinkwater's lofted kick while Saints were down to 12 men. James Maloney, the old-

est player to score in a grand final at 35, converted for 10-6.

But Saints conceded an average of only 10-plus points per game through the regular season and the defense held up again.

The clincher by Naiqama from a Jonny Lomax grubber kick came 15 minutes from fulltime, converted by Lachlan Coote, another playing his last match for Saints.

RUGBY

Kristian Woolf's side completed the league and cup double for the second time.

Despite St. Helens' pedigree and ambition, most of the buildup was dominated by the rise of Catalans. Known as a laidback side in sunny Perpignan on the Mediterranean

coast, Catalans was transformed into winners by the arrival of former England coach Steve McNamara in 2017.

Catalans finally had an architect to match the passion of owner and meat producer Bernard Guasch.

Because of travel restrictions in the pandemic, Guasch has spent about 500,000 pounds (\$680,000) this season alone chartering flights to ensure Catalans fulfilled its fixtures in England. For the final, he laid on four more charter flights so there were about 1,000 supporters among the 44,000-strong crowd at Old Trafford.

This season, the team topped the regular season for the first time and reached its maiden grand final where it welcomed back England captain Sam Tomkins, the Man of Steel winner, from a knee injury.

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