

SPORTS

Dimitrov stuns Medvedev at Indian Wells



Victoria Azarenka of Belarus, returns a shot to Jessica Pegula at the BNP Paribas Open tennis tournament on Oct 13, in Indian Wells, Calif. (AP)

Azarenka wins

INDIAN WELLS, Calif., Oct 14, (AP): Grigor Dimitrov outlasted top-seeded Daniil Medvedev 4-6, 6-4, 6-3 in the fourth round of the BNP Paribas Open, extending the parade of upsets that has knocked out several top players.

Medvedev's loss left the combined ATP and WTA tournament without its top two men's and women's seeds. Karolina Pliskova lost in the third round. No. 2 Iga Swiatek went out in the fourth round.

Dimitrov rallied from a set and double-break down to upset Medvedev, the US Open champion who was chasing his fifth title of the year. Dimitrov, seeded 23rd, earned his first win over a Top-2 player since 2016, when he beat Andy Murray in Miami.

No. 2 Stefanos Tsitsipas defeated Alex de Minaur 6-7 (3), 7-6 (3), 6-2, and No. 3 Alexander Zverev routed No. 14 Gael Monfils 6-1, 6-3.

TENNIS

Dimitrov reached the quarterfinals at Indian Wells for the first time. He'll meet No. 8 Hubert Hurkacz, who beat 19th-seeded Asian Karatsev 6-1, 6-3.

"I always wanted to do well out here," Dimitrov said. "I felt like I had so many chances throughout the years. I've lost very close matches, matches from match points and everything. I was very determined."

Medvedev took control from the start, connecting on 80% of his first serves in the opening set. The Russian built a 4-1 lead in the second set before Dimitrov began turning the match around in front of a sparse crowd.

"He definitely flipped the switch," Medvedev said. "If he plays like this, like he did starting from 4-1, he's going to win the tournament."

Dimitrov ran off five straight games to take the second set and even the match. The Bulgarian charged the net and closed out the match on Medvedev's forehand that sailed long.

"He's been the guy that has been playing the best out of everyone and always finding a way," Dimitrov said. "It was a great, great match for me to win. But that's not the end. That's just another match at the same time. I got to stay focused and I got to look what's ahead of me and move forward."

Medvedev fell to 18-2 in North America over his last five events. He won in Toronto, reached the semifinals in Cincinnati, won the US Open and then helped Team Europe beat



Grigor Dimitrov of Bulgaria, returns a shot to Daniil Medvedev, of Russia, at the BNP Paribas Open tennis tournament, on Oct 13, in Indian Wells, Calif. (AP)

Diggins-Smith seals Game 2 victory

Mercury even WNBA Finals with Sky



Phoenix Mercury guard Skylar Diggins-Smith (4) drives past Chicago Sky guard Lexie Brown during the first half of Game 2 of basketball's WNBA Finals, on Oct 13, in Phoenix. (AP)

France to boost sport practice ahead of Paris 2024 Olympics

PARIS, Oct. 14, (AP): French President Emmanuel Macron said Thursday that the government will help fund 5,000 local facilities to allow more people to practice sports, especially in the country's poorest areas, ahead of the Paris 2024 Olympics.

The announcement came hours before Macron was scheduled to play in a charity soccer match to raise money for the Hospitals' Foundation, alongside former Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger.

OLYMPICS

The government will provide more than 200 million euros (\$232 million) to help local authorities finance about 1,000 judo dojos, 1,000 city parks, some basketball courts and handball fields, small mobile swimming pools and other facilities by 2024, Macron said.

The move aims at remedying an "injustice," he said. "It is often in the poorest ... areas that these facilities are missing."

Team World in the Laver Cup in Boston. He is 50-11 in matches this year, and is re-considering his plans to play in his hometown of Moscow next week.

"I really want to do, but yeah, I need to take care of my body," Medvedev said. "I did feel exhausted this tournament."

In women's quarterfinals, former world No. 1 Victoria Azarenka beat

The package will focus on funding sport practice in working-class suburbs and rural areas.

Also Thursday, Macron visited a sports center along with French former NBA player Tony Parker, and the construction site of the future Olympic Village in Paris' northern suburbs.

In a speech at the headquarters of the Paris 2024 Organizing Committee, Macron said the budget and schedule have so far been respected in the preparations for the Games.

He called for the Paris Olympics to be "inclusive" and environment-friendly, and voiced hope that they will bring France "lots of medals, show our social and environmental excellence, create lots of jobs and housing."

Macron has strongly supported the Olympic project since being elected in 2017, weeks before Paris was confirmed as the future host. The city's first Olympics since 1924 are set to have a budget of 6.8 billion euros (\$7.9 billion).

American Jessica Pegula 6-4, 6-2. Azarenka, the 2016 tournament champion, next plays 24th-seeded Jelena Ostapenko.

Ostapenko, the 2017 French Open champion, beat Shelby Rogers 6-4, 4-6, 6-3 on the American's 29th birthday.

"I feel like my tennis is getting better, more consistent," Ostapenko said.

Attendance is limited to 60% capacity at Indian Wells Tennis Garden because of the coronavirus pandemic, which forced the tournament to fall from its usual March date on the calendar.

Also reaching the quarterfinals were No. 11 Diego Schwartzman, No. 21 Cameron Norrie, No. 29 Nikoloz Basilashvili and American Taylor Fritz.

Schwartzman beat sixth-seeded Casper Ruud 6-3, 6-3. Norrie ended the hopes of American Tommy Paul with a 6-4, 4-6, 6-2 victory. Basilashvili beat Karen Khachanov 6-4, 7-6 (6). Fritz, who grew up in the Los Angeles area and frequently attended the tournament as a youngster, beat No. 10 Jannik Sinner 6-4, 6-3.

"It's nice to kind of put it together this week," Fritz said.

PHOENIX, Oct 14, (AP): Diana Taurasi spent most of the night being hounded by Chicago's Allie Quigley, an exhausting exercise in an already-tough game, particularly for a 39-year-old.

As Game 2 of the WNBA Finals wound toward a tight finish, the Phoenix Mercury looked to the player recently named the greatest in the WNBA's 25-year history.

Anyone who knows anything about Taurasi knows what happened next.

BASKETBALL

Summoning the will that's made her great for so long, Taurasi scored eight of her 20 points in overtime to help the Mercury evened the WNBA Finals at 1-all with a 91-86 win over the Sky.

"That's the GOAT right there," said Mercury center Brittney Griner, who dunked and had 29 points. "We know time is going down, it's crunch time, we have all the faith in the world she's going to make big shots for us."

Griner carried the Mercury early and brought the Phoenix Suns players sitting courtside to their feet with her second career playoff dunk in the first quarter. She scored on a turnaround jump to help give Phoenix a late four-point lead in regulation, but just missed blocking Courtney Vandersloot's tying layup with 4.4 seconds left.

Overtime is Taurasi time and the league's all-time leading scorer did what she does best.

Held to six points through three quarters, she opened overtime with a four-point play and added a 3-pointer that put Phoenix up 89-86 with 1:24 left. Taurasi then came up with a huge defensive play, getting a steal with 36 seconds left, and Skylar Diggins-Smith sealed it on a layup with 12.8 seconds left.

"When you're in that moment, the gravity of what's going on, you can feel it and you try to just laser in on each possession, each timeout, really communicating with each other," Taurasi said.

Chicago backed up its Game 1 win with another strong offensive performance, yet couldn't finish it off. Vandersloot hit some big shots while scoring 20 points and finished with 14 assists. Allie Quigley added 19 points.

Game 3 is Friday in Chicago. "We have a lot of weapons and when they take one away, we have to be confident and move it (the ball)," said Chicago's Candace Parker, who had 13 points and nine rebounds. "We did that early, but we need a consistent 40 or 45 minutes of moving it."

Chicago overcame some early jitters and took advantage of the short-handed and fatigued to win Game 1 91-77. Parker was a calming influence while scoring 16 points and Kahleah Copper scored 21 points.

US pairs skater Calalang cleared of drug violation

WASHINGTON, Oct. 14, (AP): In elite figure skating, makeup can be as important a tool as a boot and blade.

It also can sideline an Olympic contender.

Jessica Calalang, a U.S. pairs skater and potential member of the team for next February's Winter Games in Beijing, recently had a suspension from the sport overturned. Calalang had tested positive for a banned substance in January at the national championships, and it took eight months for her name to be cleared.

Those eight months were fraught with uncertainty, marked by extensive searches for what could have caused her to test positive for 4-chlorophenoxyacetic acid (4-CPA), a known metabolite of meclizolone, a USA-DA-prohibited stimulant.

PHOENIX, Oct 14, (AP): Devin Booker showed in his preseason debut he's ready to lead the Phoenix Suns to another run at an NBA championship.

Booker scored 17 points in 18 minutes in the first half of the Suns' 119-74 victory over the Portland Trail Blazers.

Booker missed the beginning of training camp and the Suns' first three preseason games after testing positive for COVID-19, despite being vaccinated. Suns coach Monty Williams said Booker's conditioning had improved enough to play in the game.

With Booker on the court, the Suns looked ready for a repeat trip to the NBA Finals after losing to the Milwaukee Bucks last season. Booker shot 6 of 10 from the field, including 3 of 6 on 3-pointers, as Phoenix led 59-38 at halftime. He sat out the second half.

Booker, a two-time All-Star, averaged 25.6 points last season.

Damian Lillard led Portland with 12 points. Robert Covington and CJ McCollum had 10 points while Jusuf Nurkic added eight points and 13 rebounds.

The Trail Blazers were only 6 of 39 on 3s. The Suns made 16 of 41, including three by Landry Shamet, who had 12 points, and three by Cameron Johnson, who had 11.

BASKETBALL

Trail Blazers coach Chauncey Billups said his team's travel plans back to Portland were adjusted so players would be able to attend Wednesday night's WNBA Finals game between the Chicago Sky and Phoenix Mercury at Footprint Center.

Mavericks 127, Hornets 59

In Charlotte, N.C., Tim Hardaway Jr. scored 20 points to lead six Dallas scorers in double figures and the Mavericks beat Charlotte by 68 points.

The Hornets rested some top players and limited LeMelo Ball to only 11 minutes. He scored only four points while making only 2 of 10 shots from the field.

Some other top players were held out by Charlotte, including Terry Rozier, Gordon Hayward and Kelly Oubre Jr. The Hornets were held to no more than 18 points in any period.

Kristaps Porzingis had 17 points and nine rebounds for Dallas. After leading 61-30 at halftime, the Mavericks outscored Charlotte 30-11 in the third period.

Charlotte made only 3 of 19 3-pointers and overall made 27.4% of its shots from the field (23 of 84).

James Bouknight led the Hornets with 12 points. Cody Martin had 11.

Magic 103, Celtics 102

In Orlando, Fla., R.J. Hampton had 20 points and nine rebounds before Jeff Dowtin made a 16-foot jumper with 0.2 seconds to play for Orlando.

Wendell Carter Jr. had 13 points and nine rebounds, and Cole Anthony scored 11 points for Orlando (1-3). Dowtin, E'Twaun Moore and Mo Bamba - who also blocked five shots - added 10 points apiece.

Hassani Gravett made two free throws to give the Magic a 101-100 lead with 1:04 to play. Theo Pinson answered with two foul shots to put Boston (2-1) back in front about 20 seconds later. After an empty possession by each team, Dowtin dribbled toward the right block, picked up his dribble and then hit a hit a fade-away jumper to win it.

Aaron Nesmith hit four 3-pointers and scored 23 points to lead the Celtics. Several Boston players, including All-Stars Jayson Tatum and Jaylen Brown, did not play for various reasons.

Jalen Suggs, taken No. 5 overall by



Charlotte Hornets forward Cody Martin (11) is defended by Dallas Mavericks' Luka Doncic during the first half of an NBA preseason basketball game on Oct 13, in Charlotte, N.C. (AP)

FIGURE SKATING

She received an email on Feb. 12 about the violation, and entries for the world championships were due on March 1.

"I only had two weeks or so to figure out where this came from, and for those two weeks I was scrambling, trying to rack my brain where it could come from," she recalls. "We were in



Phoenix Suns center JaVale McGee (00) shoots over Portland Trail Blazers guard Damian Lillard (0) during the second half of a preseason NBA basketball game, on Oct 13, in Phoenix. (AP)

the Magic in July's draft, did not play due to a non-COVID illness.

Pacers 109, Grizzlies 107

In Indianapolis, Jeremy Lamb scored 15 of his 20 points in the fourth quarter, including a jumper with 4.9 seconds to play for Indiana.

Domantas Sabonis had 24 points and 13 rebounds, while Chris Duarte added 21 points for the Pacers.

Lamb, isolated with Memphis' Zaire Williams, hit a pull-up jumper near the top of the key to seal it for Indiana (2-1). He finished 6 of 10 from the field - despite going 0 for 5 from 3-point range - and made 8 of 8 from the free throw line.

Sam Merrill hit eight 3-pointers and led Memphis (3-2) with 30 points on 11-of-17 shooting. Williams scored 19 points, John Konchar had 16 points, eight rebounds and six assists, and Brandon Clarke added 11 points, nine rebounds, two steals and two blocks.

Nicks 108, Pistons 100

In New York, Julius Randle had 29 points, 11 rebounds and five assists, while Taj Gibson added 21 points, nine rebounds and two blocks to lead New York.

Derrick Rose had 14 points, five assists and two steals. R.J. Barrett added 12 points, seven rebounds and six assists for the Knicks (3-0). Randle scored 12 points in a 16-5 run that made it 82-77 going into the fourth quarter and gave New York the lead for good. He added five points, and Gibson scored four, in a 10-0 spurt midway through the period that put the game out of reach.

Jerami Grant scored 18 points, Frank Jackson added 15 and Saben Lee 14 for Detroit (1-2). Kelly Olynyk and Josh Jackson each scored 10 points.

Cade Cunningham, the No. 1 overall selection in this summer's draft, did not play (ankle) for the Pistons.

Thunder 108, Nuggets 99

In Oklahoma City, Darius Bazley scored 16 points, and the Oklahoma City Thunder notched their first preseason win.

Josh Giddey, the No. 6 overall pick in the 2021 draft, scored 14 points for the Thunder. Lu Dort and Isaiah Roby scored 14 points and Tre Mann added 12 for Oklahoma City, which had been blown out in its first two preseason games.

Derrick Favors scored 10 points on 5-for-7 shooting in 14 minutes in his first preseason action with the Thunder. Oklahoma City acquired the veteran center in a trade this summer.

Reigning league MVP Nikola Jokic had 22 points, 12 rebounds and five assists for Denver. Michael Porter Jr. and Jeff Green each scored 15 points for the Nuggets, who fell to 0-4 in the preseason.

The teams will play again on Thursday night in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Jazz 124, Bucks 120

In Salt Lake City, Jordan Clarkson had 18 points and eight rebounds, rookie Jared Butler added 16 points, seven assists and two steals, and Utah scored 18 of the final 24 points.

Bojan Bogdanovic scored 14 points, Mike Conley Jr. added 13 and Donovan Mitchell and Elijah Hughes 12 apiece for the Jazz (2-2). Conley and Clarkson each hit four of Utah's 20 3-pointers.

Khris Middleton scored 25 points, six rebounds, five assist and two steals for Milwaukee (1-3). Jrue Holiday and Jordan Nwora scored 13 points apiece.

Nwora, a second-round pick in 2020, is averaging 18.5 points and has scored in double figures each game this preseason.

a bubble for nationals, which did help narrow it down eventually. We had sent in a few products to get tested. We were putting a rush on everything."

Still, Calalang, 26, and partner Brian Johnson, 25, had to withdraw from worlds, where they could have further established their credentials on the international skating scene.

"Initially we thought it would go away pretty quickly," says Jenni Meno, who with husband Todd Sand was a three-time national pairs champion and now coaches Calalang-Johnson with Sand. "We knew it was an odd situation and were confident Jessica had not taken anything she shouldn't."

"We knew it was a big deal, but did not think it would affect the rest of the season. We soon learned that was not the case."