



Marin Cilic of Croatia plays a backhand return to Andrey Rublev of Russia during their third round match at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia. (AP)

# Sports

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Halep into Week 2 at Australian Open for 5th straight year

## Medvedev wins over Aussie crowd

MELBOURNE, Australia, Jan 22, (AP) — As Daniil Medvedev sat court-side trying to re-hydrate during a changeover, an image of nine-time Australian Open champion Novak Djokovic flashed up in the stadium behind him.

It was in the third set Saturday, and it was like the absent No. 1 was looking over the shoulder of the player who is effectively the No. 1 seed at the year's first Grand Slam tournament.

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Medvedev, who lost last year's Australian Open final to Djokovic but avenged that with a victory over the Serb for the U.S. Open title, reached the fourth round for the fourth straight year at Melbourne Park with a 6-4, 6-4, 6-2 win over Botic van de Zandschulp.

The 25-year-old Russian was a conspicuous fan favorite on Margaret Court Arena, too, two days after being unsettled by the boos and jeers of a parochial crowd on Rod Laver Arena

when he ended the run of mercurial Aussie Nick Kyrgios.

He was critical of a lack of respect in that match - mostly about the noise between first and second serves - and this time offered some relationship advice to the crowd.

Medvedev later clarified he didn't have a problem with the Australian crowds and had been fully expecting to have them against him when he played Kyrgios - just not while he was in his service motion.

Medvedev avoided a showdown with Djokovic after the world's top-ranked player had his visa canceled and was deported on the eve of the tournament for failing to meet Australia's strict COVID-19 vaccination criteria.

He also avoided another match against an Australian in the fourth round when wildcard entry Chris O'Connell lost to Maxime Cressy 6-2, 6-7 (6), 6-3, 6-2. Cressy's win means there's two 24-year-old Americans who'll be in the fourth round of a major for their first time.

No. 70-ranked Cressy is in his fourth Grand Slam tournament. No. 20-ranked

Taylor Fritz finally made it in his 22nd attempt, with a 6-0, 3-6, 3-6, 6-4, 6-3 win over No. 15 Roberto Bautista Agut, and said it "means a ton." Fritz will next play fourth-seeded Stefanos Tsitsipas, a runner-up at the French Open and semifinalist in Australia last year, who fended off Benoit Paire 6-3, 7-5, 6-7 (2), 6-4.

No. 9 Felix Auger-Aliassime progressed with a 6-4, 6-1, 6-1 win over No. 24 Dan Evans, winning 14 of the last 16 games.

On the women's side, two-time Grand Slam champion Simona Halep is into Week 2 at Melbourne Park for the fifth consecutive year after a 6-2, 6-1 victory over Danka Kovinic.

She'll be joined by second-seeded Aryna Sabalenka, who advanced with a 4-6, 6-3, 6-1 win over No. 31 Marketa Vondrousova.

A contender for the No. 1 ranking - Sabalenka can potentially overtake Ash Barty depending on results here - the 23-year-old from Belarus admits her serve is still a work in progress.

The match started ominously, when Sabalenka had two double-faults and was broken in the first game.

But unlike the previous round, when she had nine double-faults in her first two service games and 19 in the match, the semifinalist last year at Wimbledon and the US Open managed to almost halve that glaring statistic.

It's something she'll be working on ahead of her next match against No. 115-ranked Kaia Kanepi, who has reached the quarter-finals six times at Grand Slam events - but only once since 2013 and never in Australia.

In other third-round matches, 27th-seeded Danielle Collins of the US rallied from a set and a break down to beat 19-year-old Clara Tauson 4-6, 6-4, 7-5. She'll next meet No. 19 Elise Mertens, who advanced 6-2, 6-2 over Zhang Shuai. No. 7 Iga Swiatek, the 2020 French Open champion, beat No. 25 Daria Kasatkina 6-2, 6-3.

None of the other players remaining the women's draw has won as many four-level titles as Halep's 23.

Halep's next opponent will be Alize Cornet, who celebrated her 32nd birthday with a 4-6, 6-4, 6-2 victory over No. 29 Tamara Zidansek, a 2021 French Open semifinalist.



Stuttgart's Wataru Endo (left), in action against Freiburg's Lucas Hoeler during the Bundesliga soccer match between SC Freiburg and VfB Stuttgart in Freiburg, Germany. (AP)

# Man Utd go 4th, Newcastle claim second win of season



Brentford's Bryan Mbeumo (right), is challenged by Wolverhampton Wanderers' Ruben Neves during the English Premier League soccer match between Brentford and Wolverhampton Wanderers at the Brentford Community Stadium in Brentford, England. (AP)

Digne sets up Villa winner, hit by bottle on Everton return

MANCHESTER, England, Jan 22, (AP) — Marcus Rashford scored in the third and final minute of stoppage time to earn Manchester United a 1-0 win over West Ham that lifted the team above their opponents into fourth place in the Premier League on Saturday.

Rashford, on as a second-half substitute, tapped in a cross from fellow replacement Edinson Cavani in one of the few clear-cut chances created in a lackluster match at Old Trafford.

It completed a good week for United, which also won 3-1 at Brentford on Wednesday, as the league heads into a two-week winter break.

Cristiano Ronaldo, who overcame a neck problem to start, was kept on for the full match this time but didn't come close to scoring.

### Newcastle 1, Leeds 0

Newcastle claimed just their second Premier League win of the season by beating Leeds 1-0 in a big boost to their ambitions of avoiding relegation.

Jonjo Shelvey's low free kick flew past a slew of outstretched legs in the area and squeezed into the far corner of the net in the 75th minute at Elland Road.

The victory wasn't enough to lift Newcastle out of the relegation zone but the Saudi-owned team is only one point from safety with a game in hand on fourth-to-last Norwich, which won at Watford on Friday.

Eddie Howe's side was under pressure for long spells against Leeds, which was seeking a third straight win to move further clear of the bottom three. Marcelo Bielsa's team are now

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looking back over their shoulder after being punished for failing to cash in on their dominance.

### Everton 1, Villa 0

Lucas Digne marked his swift return to Goodison Park by setting up Aston Villa's goal in a 1-0 victory over former club Everton in the Premier League and getting struck on the head by a bottle thrown from the crowd in the ensuing celebrations.

The France left back, who was sold by Everton last week after falling out

with their then-manager Rafa Benitez, whipped in the corner which was met by a near-post header from Emi Buendia that looped into the far corner in first-half stoppage time.

As Digne celebrated with his Villa teammates in front of a section of Everton fans, he appeared to be hit by a bottle and fell to the ground, clutching his head.



Wolverhampton Wanderers' Conor Coady celebrates at the end of the English Premier League soccer match between Brentford and Wolverhampton Wanderers at the Brentford Community Stadium in Brentford, England. (AP)

Another Villa player, Matty Cash, also motioned that he had been struck.

Digne's return to the club he said he never wanted to leave was one of the many intriguing subplots to a match that saw Duncan Ferguson take charge of the first match in his second spell as Everton's caretaker manager, following Benitez's firing last weekend.

### Norwich 3, Watford 0

American forward Josh Sargent scored his first two Premier League goals to help lift Norwich out of the relegation zone with a 3-0 win over 10-man Watford.

The 21-year-old Sargent had not found the net in 18 previous games in the English top flight since his off-season move from Werder Bremen until his improvised backheel flick broke the deadlock in the 51st minute. Sargent then headed home from a well-weighted cross by Milot Rashica for his and Norwich's second of the game.

Emmanuel Dennis was shown a second yellow card soon after for a high foot on Max Aarons, to leave the Hornets to see out the final 12 minutes with 10 men.

### Wolverhampton 2, Brentford 1

Ruben Neves scored a late goal to give Wolverhampton a 2-1 victory over

Brentford in a Premier League game interrupted for almost 20 minutes because of a drone that hovered above the field.

Ivan Toney's volley in the 71st minute offset João Moutinho's goal for Wolves three minutes into the second half. Moutinho then laid a pass off to Neves, who fired a shot from just outside the box into the bottom right corner in the 78th.

Wolves' third consecutive league win keeps them in contention for a European spot. The club are in eighth place with an attack coming to life after a 3-1 win over Southampton a week ago. They've scored 19 goals - third worst in the league - but are second-best in goals conceded, with 16.

Adama Traore's goal for Wolves in second-half stoppage time was ruled out for offside after a VAR review.

Frustration is showing for 14th-place Brentford, which lost their fourth consecutive league game. Manager Thomas Frank was shown a red card after the final whistle after he exchanged words with Wolves players and the referee.

In the 34th minute, the players were instructed to return to their locker rooms because of a drone hovering above the field at Brentford Community Stadium in west London.

Dortmund win

### Gladbach in 'crisis' after loss to Union

BERLIN, Jan 22, (AP) — Max Kruse scored twice for Union Berlin to leave Borussia Mönchengladbach in crisis on Saturday after a 2-1 defeat in the Bundesliga.

It was Gladbach's fourth straight loss at home, just days after their German Cup exit to second-division Hannover. The latest defeats pile the pressure on coach Adi Hütter, who was already under scrutiny after losing six of the last eight games across all competitions.

Gladbach are only three points above the relegation zone and Hütter said the team will be "several weeks" without captain Lars Stindl, who injured his knee in training on Friday.

Union, which were only promoted to the Bundesliga in 2019,

moved fourth, the last qualification place for the Champions League.

Donyell Malen set up three goals as second-place Borussia Dortmund

held on to edge Hoffenheim 3-2 and cut the gap on Bayern Munich to three points. Bayern visit struggling Hertha Berlin on Sunday.

Erling Haaland, who scored the opening goal for Dortmund, went off in the second half with an apparent groin injury.

The 18-year-old Florian Wirtz

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starred, and Moussa Diaby scored a hat trick, as Bayer Leverkusen routed Augsburg 5-1 to consolidate third place.

Freiburg moved fifth with a 2-0 win over relegation candidate Augsburg, and last-place Greuther Fürth claimed their second win of the season with a 2-1 victory over Mainz.

Patrick Wimmer scored one goal and set up another as Arminia Bielefeld surprisingly beat Eintracht Frankfurt 2-0 Friday to boost its hopes of avoiding relegation from the Bundesliga.

Frankfurt were slow to close down Bielefeld's players on the edge of the box for the opening goal, scored in the fifth minute when a deflection found Wimmer in position to score past goalkeeper Kevin Trapp, who was playing on his return after a positive test for the coronavirus.

Wimmer produced another moment of skill in the 27th with a flicked cross to the near post which Alessandro Schöpf knocked into the goal using his chest for his first league goal since 2018.

Frankfurt created plenty of chances to score but its finishing was generally wayward.

The win lifts Bielefeld up two places to 14th in the 18-team Bundesliga and away from the relegation zone as they aim for a third consecutive season in the top tier on one of the league's smallest budgets.