

SPORTS



Sri Lankan team members pose with the winners trophy after defeating Australia by 3-2 in their five-match one-day international cricket match series in Colombo, Sri Lanka. (AP)

Tourists beat Sri Lanka by 4 wkts

Consolation win for Australia in 5th ODI

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka, June 25, (AP) — Australia took a consolation win in the fifth one-day international against Sri Lanka with a four-wicket victory.

Sri Lanka won the series 3-2. Chasing a target of 161 in the dead rubber at Colombo's R. Premadasa Stadium, Australia made life difficult for themselves before reaching 164-6 with 63 deliveries to spare.

Sri Lanka had reduced Australia to 50-4 but wicketkeeper-batter Alex Carey led his team home with an unbeaten 45.

Carey added 51 runs for the fifth wicket with Marnus Labuschagne and then finished the game off by adding a further 43 runs for the unbroken seventh wicket with Cameron Green, who was unbeaten on 25.

Sri Lanka's spinners kept striking at regular intervals on a spin-friendly wicket but knew they were playing catchup in defending a low total.

"I thought the series was very hard fought... They played conditions better and they deserved to win the series," Australia captain Aaron Finch said. "Most of us got starts but we couldn't get partnerships going. We saw that from Sri Lanka. We had 40 and 50 partnerships while they managed big ones. That was the difference."

After winning the toss and choosing to bat first, the hosts were out for 160 in 43.1 overs. It could have been a lot

worse for Sri Lanka without the ninth-wicket partnership between Chamika Karunaratne and debutant Pramod Madushan which was worth 58 runs.

The pair came together on 85-8 and Sri Lanka were in danger of being bowled out for their lowest total against Australia (91) and the lowest total at the venue (98). However, Karunaratne and Madushan helped the team to rebuild and gave the capacity crowd something to cheer. Some fans wore yellow jerseys to thank the Australian team who toured the island amid uncertainty owing to the economic crisis and political instability. The visitors did a lap of honor after the game as the crowd chanted, "Australia, Australia, Australia."



Karunaratne

CRICKET

Karunaratne posted his first half-century in international cricket and was the last man dismissed for a run-a-ball 75 with eight fours and two sixes. The sixes were off successive deliveries from part-time legspinner Labuschagne.

Apart from Karunaratne, none of the Sri Lanka batters posted a decent score. At one stage Sri Lanka lost four wickets in the space of seven deliveries for the addition of just six runs. That sealed their fate.

Sri Lanka missed the services of Dhananjaya de Silva, the hero of the series-clinching game four, as he was unwell.

The tour is all square heading into the two-match test series, with Australia winning the Twenty20 format 2-1 and Sri Lanka taking the ODI portion.

Kvitova grabs Eastbourne title

Tsitsipas holds off Bautista Agut in Mallorca final

EASTBOURNE, England, June 25, (AP): Two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova tuned up for the Grand Slam tournament by overpowering Jelena Ostapenko 6-3, 6-2 to win the Eastbourne title on Saturday.

The 14th-seeded Kvitova earned her first grass-court title in four years - and 29th trophy of her singles career overall - after breaking Ostapenko, the defending champion, early in both sets and feasting on the Latvian's second serve.

Kvitova saved five break points in the fourth game of the second set to stay in control of the match at 3-1.

"Playing on the grass is very special for me every time," the 32-year-old Czech player said in her on-court interview. "It's the best preparation for Wimbledon, as well."

Kvitova, the Wimbledon champion in 2011 and 2014, plays Tuesday at the All England Club in a first-round

match against Jasmine Paolini of Italy. She is now 5-1 in grass-court finals in her career. Her most recent title on grass had been Birmingham in 2018.

The eighth-seeded Ostapenko, a Wimbledon semifinalist four years ago, won the 2017 French Open.

After the match, Ostapenko withdrew from the women's doubles final alongside partner Lyudmyla Kichenok because of a toe problem on her right foot. The walkover handed the title to Aleksandra Krunic and Magda Linette.

Ostapenko is the No. 12 seed at Wimbledon and has a first-round match scheduled Monday against Oceane Dodin of France.

TENNIS

Stefanos Tsitsipas won the Mallorca Championships after beating Roberto Bautista Agut in three sets on Saturday as they prepared to play on the grass courts of the All England Club.

Tsitsipas' first grass-court title on the ATP Tour comes before Wimbledon starts on Monday.

The second-seeded Greek held off a late rally in the decisive set to beat

Bautista Agut 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 (2) for his tour-leading 40th win of the season.

His ninth career title was also Tsitsipas' second of the season after he retained his Monte Carlo title in April.

Tsitsipas, sixth in the rankings, has drawn Alexander Ritschard of Switzerland in the opening round of Wimbledon.

Bautista Agut was trying for his second title of 2022, as well, and to add to his 10 career titles.

Tsitsipas appeared to be cruising in the third set after getting an early break to open up a 4-1 lead. But 20th-ranked Bautista Agut, who upset top-ranked Daniil Medvedev in the quarterfinals, broke Tsitsipas when he was serving for the win and forced the tiebreaker.

Serena Williams walked out on Centre Court under a closed retractable roof, taking advantage of Wimbledon's new policy of allowing players to practice there and at No. 1 Court before the tournament begins next week.

Accompanied by coach Eric Hechtman - who has worked with her older sister, Venus, and replaces longtime coach Patrick Moratoglou, now with Simona Halep - and hitting partner Jarmere Jenkins, Williams returned to the site of her last official singles match anywhere, nearly a full year ago at the All England Club. That ended after less than a set, when Williams slipped on the slick turf and injured her right leg.

Wearing an all-white outfit and visor, Williams followed No. 1-ranked Iga Swiatek into the main stadium and went through about 45 minutes of training, from groundstrokes to volleys and overheads to her best-in-the-game serve. The court-side "mph" monitors were switched off, so there was no way to tell just how fast her serves were zipping, but the echoes produced by her hard-hit shots reverberated off the arena's thousands of empty green seats and the white cover overhead as a light rain fell outside.

The scene played out a few hours after the draw determined that Williams will begin her Wimbledon comeback by facing Harmony Tan, a 24-year-old from France who is ranked 113th and owns a 2-6 career record in Grand Slam matches.



Czech Republic's Petra Kvitova celebrates with the trophy after winning the women's singles final match against Latvia's Jelena Ostapenko on day eight of the Rothesay International Eastbourne at Devonshire Park, Eastbourne, Britain. (AP)

Jefferson edges Hobbs for women's 100m national title

Kerley shines at US outdoor champ'ships

EUGENE, Ore., June 25, (AP) — Olympic silver medalist Fred Kerley flashed a peace sign at the crowd after winning the 100 meters at the U.S. outdoor track and field championships.

Kerley crossed the line in 9.77 seconds, followed by Marvin Bracy-Williams and Trayvon Bromell. All three earned spots on the U.S. team for the world outdoor championships in Eugene next month.

"It's all about patience and training, and doing what I've got to do," Kerley said after taking selfies with fans.

Melissa Jefferson of Coastal Carolina, who finished eighth in the 100 at this year's NCAA outdoor championships, edged Aleia Hobbs for the national title in the women's event.

ATHLETICS

Ryan Crouser, the world-record holder and two-time Olympic gold medalist, won the shot put at 75 feet, 10 1/4 inches (23.12 meters). Joe Kovacs, already guaranteed a spot at worlds as the defending champion, was second.

Allyson Felix, the most decorated woman in track history, surged the final 40 meters of her semifinal in the 400, but did not finish among the top three and had to wait to see how her time held up. In the end, she made it to the final Sunday.

"I just appreciate all the support and all the love," she said.

Athletes were greeted by tempera-

tures in the low 80s and breezy conditions at Hayward Field on the University of Oregon campus. The top three finishers in each event will be part of the U.S. team at worlds, track and field's most prestigious international event outside of the Olympics.

Earlier in the evening, Kerley ran the 100 semifinals in a world-leading and personal-best 9.76 seconds. It also was a meet record. Bromell had the second-best time in the semis, at 9.81.

Bromell won the 100 at the U.S. Olympic trials at Hayward last summer. He was widely expected to do well in Tokyo but failed to advance to the Olympic final.

Christian Coleman was a late scratch in the race but he already has a spot at worlds as the defending champion at Doha in 2019.

Hobbs, who won the 2018 NCAA outdoor 100 title as well as that year's national championship, had the fastest time in the semifinals earlier in the day with a personal-best 10.81.

But Jefferson, who just wrapped up her junior year at Coastal Carolina, pushed at the finish to win the final in 10.69 (2.9 wind), in front of Hobbs in 10.72. Twanisha Terry finished third to round out the world team.



Kerley

Japan rout Uruguay for 2nd straight win

KITAKYUSHU, Japan, June 25, (AP) — Captain Atsushi Sakate began a six-try performance for the home side in the fifth minute and Japan went on to beat Uruguay 43-7 in a rugby union international on Saturday.

It was the second win in a row by Japan over the South American side following their 34-15 win last weekend in Tokyo.

RUGBY

After Japan led 14-0 at half-time, Dylan Riley added a try in the 38th minute and Ben Gunter in the 50th before Japan ran away with the match. Flyhalf Takuya Yamasawa kicked three penalty goals.

A strong first-half performance set up New Zealand's 26-6 win over Tonga on Saturday in the home side's first rugby league test in almost three years.

New Zealand led 20-6 at half-time in the match at Auckland's Mt. Smart Stadium which was turned by Tonga supporters into a sea of red clothing and flags.



Australia's Alex Carey plays a shot as Kusal Mendis watches during the fifth one-day international cricket match between Australia and Sri Lanka in Colombo, Sri Lanka. (AP)

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