

Wawrinka KO Federer



AFP, Monte Carlo

Roger Federer was free to enjoy the rest of his honeymoon Thursday after being knocked out of the rain-lashed Monte Carlo Masters by compatriot, and Olympic gold medal-winning partner, Stanislas Wawrinka.

World number two Federer, without a title in 2009 and desperately short of form and confidence, went down 6-4, 7-5 to the 13th seed in the third round.

Novak Djokovic will line up against Swiss Stan Wawrinka in a Monte Carlo Open semifinal after both advanced Friday on a day of catch-up following a rain-delay crisis left over from Thursday.

Wawrinka maintained his level after stunning Davis Cup teammate and good friend Roger Federer in the third round, advancing on his second match point over Beck, ranked 89th.

Third seed Djokovic, fighting to maintain his place in the ATP rankings under heavy pressure from hard-charging Scot Andy Murray, advanced over Spanish seventh seed Fernando Verdasco 6-2, 4-6, 6-3.

"The courts were really wet, even today you could feel it," said the winner. "The balls were getting bald and really fast. It was tough to control, but overall I played really well."

"Today was a really good test, a really good match for me. I hung in there and just waited for my chances."

Wawrinka, the number 13, beat German qualifier Andreas Beck 6-2, 6-4 and will be aiming for revenge against Djokovic after losing to the Serb three times in 2008.

Their last meeting came in the final of Rome 11 months ago, Wawrinka's finest week on court.

Top seed Rafael Nadal and number four Murray were facing a double workload on the day after wrapping up rain-halted matches from overnight.

King of clay Nadal won his 24th straight match on the Monte Carlo clay with a 6-3, 6-0 rout of Ecuadorian Nicolas Lapentti. Nadal is seeking his fifth straight title at the Country Club overlooking the Mediterranean.

Nadal was next up against Croatian Ivan Ljubicic, a winner over Italy's Simone Bolelli 7-5, 7-6 (7/2).

Murray finished his own job to reach his first career quarterfinal on clay as he defeated Italian Fabio Fognini 7-6 (13-11), 6-4. The Scot aims for even further improvement on his

weakest surface with a quarterfinal date with Nikolay Davydenko, who put out David Nalbandian 6-4, 5-7, 6-3.

Djokovic has earned his place against Spaniards this week, with Verdasco having been his third Iberian opponent in succession.

The Serb will be playing in his second consecutive Monte Carlo semifinal after retiring with illness against Roger Federer last year.

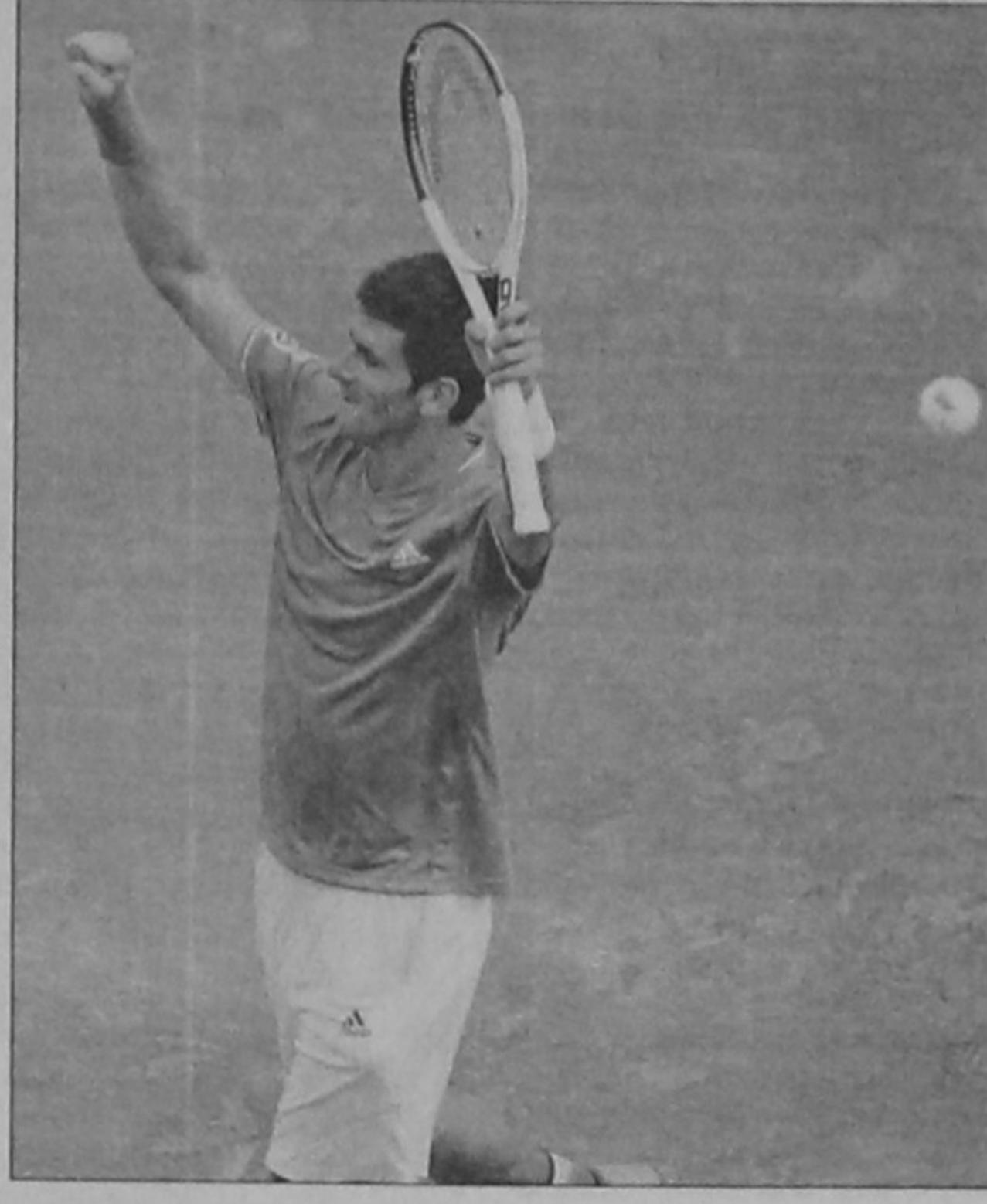


PHOTO: AFP

Serbia star Novak Djokovic celebrates his victory over Fernando Verdasco of Spain during their Monte Carlo Masters Series in Monaco on Friday. Djokovic won 6-2, 4-6, 6-3.

No World Cup

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However, the Lahore attack seemed to have sealed their fate on hosting the World Cup.

The attack itself also came up for discussion at the meeting, with match referee Chris Broad, who was on duty for the Test, and Sri Lanka's Mahela Jayawardene (via telephone) giving their version of what happened.

It was decided that Lord Condon, chairman of the ICC's Anti-Corruption and Security Unit, would lead a task team - including ICC chief executive Haroon Lorgat and directors Jack Clarke and Shashank Manohar - would conduct a review of security arrangements for all international cricket.

The review, Lorgat said, would include an assessment of whether current security protocols employed by ICC Members were adequate and, if not, how they could be improved. It would also, if necessary, approach other sports to see if there was scope for information-sharing in the way security is conducted across major events around the world.

Parade wakes

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drawn from fans attending matches.

The idea came from IPL commissioner Lalit Modi, who has employed the help of the three Bollywood idols associated with the tournament.

"We're looking for someone who has the star quality to stand out in a crowd, probably without even trying that hard," Modi explained at the launch of the concept in Cape Town.

"It's that special, almost indefinable, quality that makes someone a star more than a beauty queen that we are looking for."

"IPL matches with their mix of fun and excitement are an excellent environment to identify the kind of person who is a natural stand-out in a big crowd."

One Miss Bollywood of the Day will be found at each of the 56 round-robin matches and stands a chance of winning a trip to India, a role in a Bollywood film and 5,500 dollars.

"Star searches like this are a really great way to find people who may never even have thought that they have what it takes to really make it big," said Khan, the so-called 'King of Bollywood'.

"The heart of our idea is to search the crowd at IPL matches for someone who has the attitude and appearance that automatically draws the eye."

"It will be the kind of person who is not necessarily showing off for the camera, but who can mesmerise even total strangers."

"The announcement of the winner will be shown during a 'strategy break' and will be declared Miss Bollywood of the Day."

Meet the IPL teams

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Kolkata Knight Riders

Owners: Shah Rukh Khan and Juhi Chawla (Bollywood stars)

Coach: John Buchanan (AUS)

Captain: Not named

Foreign players: Ajantha Mendis (SRI), Angelo Mathews (SRI), Brad Hodge (AUS), Brendan McCullum (NZL), Chris Gayle (WIS), David Hussey (AUS), Mark Cameron (AUS), Mashrafe Mortaza (BAN), Moises Henriques (AUS).

India stars: Sourav Ganguly, Akash Chopra, Ishant Sharma, Murali Kartik, Sanjay Bangar.

Kings XI Punjab

Owners: Ness Wadia (businessman), Preity Zinta (Bollywood star), Mohit Burman (businessman), Karan Paul (businessman)

Coach: Tom Moody (IND)

Captain: Yuvraj Singh (IND)

Foreign players: Brett Lee (AUS), Burt Cockley (AUS), James Hopes (AUS), Kumar Sangakkara (SRI), Luke Pomersbach (AUS), Mahela Jayawardene (SRI), Ravi Bopara (ENG), Shaun Marsh (AUS), Simon Katich (AUS), Jerome Taylor (WIS).

India stars: Yuvraj Singh, Irfan Pathan, Piyush Chawla, R. a m e s h P o w a r , Shanthakumaran Sreesanth.

Chennai Super Kings

Owner: N. Srinivasan (businessman and Indian cricket board secretary)

Coach-player: Stephen

Fleming (NZL)

Captain: Mahendra Singh Dhoni (IND)

Foreign players: Albie Morkel (RSA), Andrew Flintoff (ENG), George Bailey (AUS), Makhaya Ntini (RSA), Matthew Hayden (AUS), Muttiah Muralitharan (SRI), Stephen Fleming (NZL), Thilan Thushara (SRI).

India stars: Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Joginder Sharma, Lakshmi Path Balaji, Murali Vijay, Parthiv Patel, Suresh Raina.

Delhi Daredevils

Owners: GMR Holdings (Indian business house)

Coach: Greg Shippard (AUS)

Captain: Virender Sehwag (IND)

Foreign players: AB de Villiers (RSA), Andrew McDonald (AUS), Daniel Vettori (NZL), David Warner (AUS), Dirk Nannes (AUS), Farveez Maharoof (SRI), Glenn McGrath (AUS), Owais Shah (ENG), Paul Collingwood (ENG), Tillakaratne Dilshan (SRI).

India stars: Virender Sehwag, Amit Mishra, Ashish Nehra, Dinesh Karthik, Gautam Gambhir.

Rajasthan Royals

Owners: Emerging Media group (Lachlan Murdoch, A.R. Jha and Suresh Chellaram), Shilpa Shetty (Bollywood star), Raj Kundra (Businessman)

Coach/captain: Shane Warne (AUS)

Foreign players: Shane Warne (AUS), Dimitri Mascarenhas (ENG), Graeme Smith (RSA), Lee Carseldine (AUS), Morne

Morkel (RSA), Robert Quiney (AUS), Shane Harwood (AUS), Shane Watson (AUS), Shaun Tait (AUS), Tyron Henderson (RSA).

India stars: Mohammad Kaif, Munaf Patel, Ravindra Jadeja, Yusuf Pathan.

Mumbai Indians

Owner: Mukesh Ambani (industrialist)

Coach/mentor: Shaun Pollock (RSA)

Captain: Sachin Tendulkar (IND)

Foreign players: Dilhar Fernando (SRI), Dwayne Bravo (WIS), Graham Napier (ENG), Jean-Paul Duminy (RSA), Kyle Mills (NZL), Lasith Malinga (SRI), Luke Ronchi (AUS), Mohammad Ashraful (BAN), Ryan McLaren (RSA), Sanath Jayasuriya (SRI).

India stars: Sachin Tendulkar, Harbhajan Singh, Zaheer Khan.

Deccan Chargers

Owners: Deccan Chronicle (newspaper group)

Coach: Darren Lehmann (AUS)

Captain: Adam Gilchrist (AUS)

Foreign players: Adam Gilchrist (AUS), Andrew Symonds (AUS), Chamara Silva (SRI), Dwayne Smith (WIS), Fidel Edwards (WIS), Herschelle Gibbs (RSA), Nuwan Zoysa (SRI), Ryan Harris (AUS), Scott Styris (NZL).

India stars: Venkatsai Laxman, Pragyan Ojha, Rohit Sharma, Rudra Pratap Singh.

Royals' tough opener

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spinner Shane Warne, will

hope that Indian fast bowler Munaf Patel and South Africa's Morkel can compensate for the loss of the two stars.

In contrast to the Royals, the Challengers spent big but achieved little in the first IPL, finishing seventh of the eight teams.

They are likely to be an improved side, however, with star English signing Kevin Pietersen leading the team in the only stages of the tournament and tough South African Ray Jennings cracking the whip as coach.

The Bangalore team will be boosted by the signing of Indian batsman Robin Uthappa, while South African fast bowler Dale Steyn is likely to be more effective on his

home country pitches than he was in India.

South African all-rounder Jacques Kallis and leading Indian batsman Rahul Dravid will be expected to improve on mediocre performances last time.

The battle between the Mumbai and Chennai franchises should get the tournament off to a cracking start.

Mumbai Indians will be led by Indian icon Sachin Tendulkar, who missed most of the first series because of injury.

Their squad had a pre-season training camp in South Africa under the direction of Shaun Pollock, appointed as team mentor, and fielding ace Jonty Rhodes.

With teams only able to field four non-Indian players, what looks a powerful squad.

Kaif given the boot

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style of play and what he is

capable of, unlike the new recruits who are yet to prove themselves. Hence he was

surprised that in spite of knowing his game, the Royals dumped him at the last moment.

Kaif is believed to have sounded out the league's commissioner Lalit Modi to check if there is a possibility of him being able to play for any another team. However, unless an exception is made in Kaif's case it is an unlikely scenario. Kaif is still in Cape Town and is likely to return to India over the next couple of days.

he added.

Apart from this, Warne said the other major challenge has been to make his side's young Indian players, who have never travelled abroad, comfortable in South Africa which has been nothing short of a "cultural shock" for them.

"...The younger Indian guys in our squad are finding South Africa a bit of a culture shock. They've certainly been dragged out of their comfort zones. Some of them hadn't stepped out of their own country before, let alone played overseas."

Heavy fines await late teams

PTI, Cape Town

Heavy fines ranging from USD 20,000 to USD 360,000 await captains and teams which fail to bowl their 20 overs inside stipulated time during the Indian Premier League starting on Saturday.

Each team will get 80 minutes to bowl its 20 overs with breaks of seven and a half minutes each after every 10 overs in the matches that will last for three hours and 15 minutes.

Failure to complete the overs in time at first would invite a USD 20,000 fine for the captain, the 'Beeld' newspaper reported, quoting IPL chairman Lalit Modi.

A second transgression would lead to a USD 220,000 fine for the entire team, while a third offence will mean a USD 360,000 fine and a one-match suspension for the captain.

The IPL starts at Newlands on Saturday with Chennai Super Kings taking on Mumbai Indians, followed by a clash between Bangalore Royal Challengers and defending champions Rajasthan Royals.

Australia 303/7

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Australia

Haddin c Duminy b Morkel 62

Clarke c Duminy b Van der Merwe 66

Ponting c Van der Merwe b Duminy 40

Ferguson c De Villiers b

Van der Merwe 41

Hussey not out 49

Hussey st Boucher b Duminy 3

Hopes run out 3

Hazlewood not out 24

Extras: (b-1, lb-3, w-9) 13

Total: (For 7 wkt in 50 overs) 303

To bat: Laughlin, Bracken.

Fall of wickets: 1-127, 2-138, 3-

192, 4-223, 5-231, 6-238, 7-

246.

Bowler O M R W

Steyn 10 0 73 0

Ntini 6 0 48 0

Morkel 8 1