



Gigantic John Isner punches the air in joy after winning a point against fellow American Andy Roddick in the 2nd round of the US Open at the Flushing Meadows in New York on Saturday.

Top seed MSC

Meanwhile, the organisers this time have changed the format of the tournament to keep the quarterfinals and dropped the qualifying round, which last year saw five teams join eleven automatic qualifiers in the 16-team final round.

Before finalising the groupings, last season's activities of the Bangladesh Football Federation was presented by power-point illustration that could hardly attract the guests.

BFF vice-president Kazi Nabil Ahmed sought help from all football stakeholders to make this season a success too. Another vice-president Manzur Hossain Malu, general secretary Al Musabbir Sadi, members Anwarul Haq Helal, Golam Rabbani Helal, Fazlur Rahman Babul, technical director Shahidur Rahman Shantu, national coach Edson Silva Dido and some former national players and the representatives of all participating clubs were among others present.

Mexico see

The victory gave Mexico 12 points, the same as Costa Rica but ahead on goal difference. They trail Honduras and the United States, both on 13 points.

In San Pedro Sula, Honduras pummeled Trinidad and Tobago 4-1, while the United States rallied to beat El Salvador 2-1 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Carlos Pavon in the 19th and 27th minutes, Amado Guevara in the 61st and David Sauro in the 82nd scored for Honduras, while Kerry Baptiste scored in the 85th for Trinidad and Tobago.

In Utah, Clint Dempsey and Jozy Altidore scored first-half goals to lift the United States to a 2-1 victory over El Salvador in Salt Lake City.

Christian Castillo had given El Salvador a 1-0 lead in the 32nd minute with a header over US keeper Tim Howard.

But Dempsey equalized in the 41st when he headed in a free kick from Landon Donovan.

Donovan's cross in first-half injury time also supplied Altidore, while Howard's save of William Reyes's point-blank shot in the 87th preserved the victory.

French press

he did lead the French to the 2006 World Cup final, insisted overnight that "top spot is still up for grabs. I repeat it would have been better to win but we just have to regroup and focus on Wednesday. We have to show character."

The Journal du Dimanche worried, however, that the current team will not get the chance to emulate its 2006 counterpart.

"(The team) has not found a style, cohesion... It has no soul either. Things are getting serious," the Journal du Dimanche wrote.

And Ouest-France pointed an unequivocal finger at Domenech.

"He bears heavy responsibility for this fiasco," the paper wrote.



Did U Know?

The Scottish Cup soccer tie between Falkirk and Inverness Thistle in 1979 was postponed no fewer than 29 times because of bad weather.

Mohammedan name cricket committee

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammedan Sporting Club on Saturday announced its 29-member cricket committee for the upcoming season with prominent businessman and industrialist Mohammad Lutfur Rahman Badal named as the chairman.

Hanif Bhuiyan was reappointed as the secretary of the committee while Mahbub-ul-Anam, Alhaj Zahed Ali Chowdhury, Enayet Hossain Siraz, Golam M Alamgir and Aminul Haq Moni were named as advisors.

Five vice presidents of the committee are: Mahbubur Rahman Shahin, Mizanur Rahman, Humayun Kabir, Khondokar Asadul Islam Ripon and Richard B Rosario. Members of the committee are: Saiful Islam, professor Mobasser Monaim, Rafiqul Islam, Shakil Rizvi, Mohammad Nadim, Mohammad Younus, Sufi Azhar Hossain Santu, Mahmudul Hasan Saju, Nasir Uddin, Chowdhury Nafis Sharafat, Ahsan Imam, Mokhesur Rahman, Dr Abu Saeed Titu, Dr Zahirul Islam, Ahmed Imun Iqbal, Rajesh Piari Bhoomik and Rakesh Piari Bhoomik.

Johnson

Ferguson's 58-ball innings, featuring five fours, ended when he was bowled hitting across the line by James Anderson.

That gave the Lancashire quick his first wicket in five international matches, including the last two Tests of England's Ashes triumph, Australia's lone innings of the washed-out Twenty20s and Friday's fixture at the Oval.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Australia innings in the second one-day international against England at Lord's on Sunday.

AUSTRALIA				
Watson c Wright b Bresnan	34			
Paine c Morgan b Wright	26			
White c Prior b Bopara	42			
Clarke c Prior b Wright	4			
Ferguson b Anderson	55			
Hussey b Swann	8			
Hopes lbw b Swann	11			
Johnson not out	43			
Lee c Shah b Sidebottom	0			
Hauritz not out	10			
Extras: (b-4, lb-4, w-8)	16			
Total: (For 8 wickets in 50 overs)	249			
Did not bat: Bracken				
Fall of wickets: 1-62, 2-64, 3-73, 4-142, 5-155, 6-179, 7-201, 8-208.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Anderson	9	0	57	1
Sidebottom	9	0	45	1
Bresnan	7	0	25	1
Wright	10	0	52	2
Collingwood	4	0	19	0
Swann	8	0	31	2
Bopara	3	0	12	1

England's

FROM PAGE 20 took the place of Lampard.

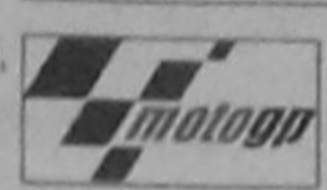
And Defoe pushed his claims for a starting berth with another bright performance

and on 63 minutes he doubled England's lead, taking Lennon's pass in his stride and lashing in a smart finish.

England took their foot off the pedal a little after that and Ljubicank made them pay when he beat the England defence to head in a goal for Slovenia five minutes from time, but the home side hung on to clinch victory.

Rossi extends lead

AFP, Misano



Rossi extended his lead in the MotoGP standings on Sunday as he easily beat teammate and championship rival Jorge Lorenzo to take the San Marino race.

The 30-year-old eight-times world champion -- who had admitted this weekend to holding talks with Ferrari about driving for them in next weekend's Formula One Italian Grand Prix before deciding against taking up the offer -- had been pinned back by Lorenzo when the Spaniard won last weekend's US MotoGp.

However, with victory on Sunday his lead is 30 points -- 237 to 207 -- while another Spaniard Dani Pedrosa, who was third here, moves into third place overall on 157 points ahead of Australian Casey Stoner, who is absent because of a mystery virus which has plagued him all season.

Andy, Lleyton ousted

FROM PAGE 17

The Australian broke Federer twice to win the first set and had several break points in the third after the Swiss star had levelled the setscores.

But he failed to take them and Federer gradually worked his way back to near his very best, taking the third set and then breaking at start of the fourth.

A consummate front-runner, Federer raced away to clinch his 38th straight win at the US Open, including one walkover, since he lost to David Nalbandian in the fourth round in 2003.

The win, which assures Federer of retaining the world No 1 status no matter who wins the title here, means he will play Robredo for a place in the quarterfinals.

"It could have gone either way," Federer said. "He had a good start and he believed maybe more today than in some of the other ones he played against me."

"The way I came through, I was very happy, because I knew that being down a set against Lleyton is always going to be a difficult situation for me to be in."

"Make one more mistake and I'm in the fifth set maybe, or I go down completely. So I was relieved coming through."

Djokovic, the 2008 Australian Open champion and 2007 US Open runner-up, took three hours and 28 minutes to subdue Witten, the longest long-shot still in the field at 276th in the world.

"Looking at that match, I don't know who was No. 4 in the world," Djokovic said. "It was a tough win. For either one it would have been well deserved."

Also through early on into the fourth round from the top half of the draw was wily Czech Radek Stepanek, who defeated Germany's Philipp Kohlschreiber 4-6, 6-2, 6-3, 6-3 to set up a clash with Djokovic.

Russian live wire Nikolay Davydenko, seeded eight, cruised past Switzerland's Marco Chiudinelli 6-4, 7-5, 7-5 and he will go up against Soderling.

Spanish 10th seed Verdasco meanwhile hit back from a break down in the final set to edge German veteran Tommy Haas 3-6, 7-5, 7-6 (10/8), 1-6, 6-4.

"So that gives me some confidence." There was no such optimism for Safina, who made 39 unforced errors and nine double faults with only 12 winners. While Kvitova had 59 unforced errors, she fired 47 winners with only five double faults.

"I just thought I must play each point very good because Safina would play every point," Kvitova said. "She didn't give up."

Critics say Safina is less worthy of the top ranking than US Open second seed Serena Williams, the 11-time Slam winner who holds the Australian Open and Wimbledon titles.

Safina, who was upset that officials moved her match off Ashe stadium due to night session time issues, spoke of wanting to ease her tension but said losing the top ranking would not bring her relief.

"How can you be relieved if you lose No. 1 spot in the world, your dream?" she said.

Safina did nothing to support her cause with a third consecutive match in which she lost the first set, roared back to win the second, then gave away an early break in the third.

This time, she could not overcome her mistakes to advance.

"Everything is in the head. It knows how to do everything and it stops me," Safina said. "I step on the court and I want to do one thing and I go on the court and I do the completely opposite thing."

Safina forced three match points on Kvitova's serve in the 12th game of the last set, but the Czech sandwiched a backhand and forehand winner around a Safina mis-hit backhand to escape the threat and reach the tie-break, which she won on her second match point when Safina sent the ball long.

Kvitova plays for a quarterfinal spot against Belgian Yanina Wickmayer, who beat Italy's Sara Errani 6-3, 6-4.

Kuznetsova, the 2004 US Open winner, plays Danish ninth seed Caroline Wozniacki -- who beat Romanian Sorana Cirstea 6-3, 6-2 -- for a last-eight spot against Oudin or Petrova, who ousted China's Zheng Jie 6-4, 6-1.

Argentina's Gisela Dulko ousted Kazak Yaroslava Shvedova 6-3, 6-4, and will next face Ukraine's Kateryna Bondarenko, who eliminated Australian qualifier Anastasia Rodionova (AUS) 7-6 (7/4), 6-4.

A giant warning

AFP, New York



satisfied just yet."

The six-foot-nine (2.03m) tower belted down 38 aces against the highly-fancied fifth seed, but more importantly he showed a deftness of touch and an agility about the court that few knew he had.

It was by far the biggest win of his career and the 24-year-old ex-college star has suddenly emerged as a potential contender with Spain's Fernando Verdasco next up in the last 16.

"It's obviously, hands down, the biggest win of my career. Nothing even compares," he said. "To do it at the stage I did it on is pretty spectacular. Maybe it will sink in a little bit more tomorrow."

"But I know I can really do some damage here."

It's all a long way from earlier in the year, when Isner was laid low for three months with a bout of mononucleosis, the same illness that troubled Roger Federer at the start of last year.

Ironically it was the example of good friend Roddick that inspired Isner to redouble his efforts at getting fully fit both physically and mentally, the better to compete at the highest level.

"I think Andy, in general, pushes every American player because he's the guy that we all look up to," he said. "I'll still continue to look up

to him. "He sets the bar real high. He's five in the world. Nobody's even close to him in America. "He's really the guy that all of us kind of aspire to be and try to be better than him, if that's possible."

"I knew I had to work on the conditioning a little bit harder. It was definitely a process." Isner started to reap the benefits with some improved performances in the buildup tournaments to Flushing Meadows with notably a run into the semifinals in Washington in early August, defeating both Jo-Wilfried Tsonga and Thomas Berdych before losing a close three-setter to Roddick in the semis.

That upped his ranking to 55 and gave him the platform and confidence he needed to make a push in New York.

A five-set first round win over Victor Hanesu was followed by a straight sets win over Turkey's Marsel Ilhan, neither result foretelling what was to happen against Roddick.

Verdasco in the fourth round is a completely different prospect.

Straight out of the crusty Spanish mould, he is a tried and trusted baseliner with a big serve and a hammer of a forehand.

Still Isner says he has no intention of changing anything in his game.

"It will be a little bit different against Verdasco," he said.

"With me, I just try to do what I want to do. I don't really worry about he has a good forehand, and I'm still going to try to hit my backhand hard cross court to his forehand because that's my game."

"I don't want to change my game too much."

Oudin aims long run

AFP, New York



out how far grit, hustle and mental toughness can take her.

The 17-year-old prodigy from suburban Atlanta ousted three-time Grand Slam winner Maria Sharapova 3-6, 6-4, 7-5 in a third-round match Saturday at Arthur Ashe Stadium to delight a sold-out crowd whose ovations drove Oudin to tears.

"I was crying. I was so happy and excited. Every kind of emotion possible. Just an unbelievable feeling," she said.

"I once again proved to myself that I can compete with these top girls," Oudin said. "If I believe in myself and my game, then I can beat them. The main thing was just believing that I could do it."

Oudin served notice at Wimbledon by ousting former world number one Jelena Jankovic, although the Serbian star said she had few weapons in her game.

"Shocking that she said that," Sharapova said. "I thought she played really well. I thought she has many weapons. She certainly held her ground. She played solid. She made me hit a lot of balls. She moved really well around the court."

Tenacity has been a trademark for Oudin, who has the word believe written on her pink and yellow shoes.

"I think the biggest weapon can be mental toughness," she said. "It doesn't have to be a

Pint-sized US teen Melanie Oudin has been a Grand Slam giant-killer this year and a Russian wrecking crew at the US Open. Now she will find

stroke or a shot or anything like that. If you're mentally tough out there, then you can beat anyone. I'm so focused and I fight super hard. So it's not going to be easy to beat me or I'm not going to back down at all."

At the US Open, Oudin dropped fourth seed Elena Dementieva in the second round and "Oudini" continued her magical run by making a believer of former number one Sharapova, her third Russian victim in a row.

"She has a great amount of potential," Sharapova said. "Considering she's really young, I certainly think she has a great future ahead of her."

"She's off to a really good start. To be able to do it in great fashion like that, really step it up when she had to, I certainly think she can go further."

Even win a Slam title?

"Yeah, why not?" Sharapova said. "With experience and playing many tournaments, playing those types of matches in big arenas and big crowds, they're going to give her the confidence."

Oudin faces Russian 13th seed Nadia Petrova next and could meet two more Russians, French Open winner Svetlana Kuznetsova and world number one Diana Safina, if she keeps working her way through the draw.

"If I keep playing like this, hopefully I can do well," she said. "I still think I can improve so hopefully I can just get better."

"I guess it's kind of surprising, but it's like I've worked so hard for this. Finally everything is just coming together."

Oudin is the third-ranked American behind Serena and Venus Williams and could meet one of them in the final. But first things first.

"We'll see how I do in the next round," she said. "Hopefully I can keep it up."

Brazil slay old enemies

FROM PAGE 17

was a new low. That signalled that Argentina, twice winners of the World Cup, might not make it to South Africa.

Maradona sent on his son-in-law, Sergio Aguero, at half-time to support Lionel Messi and Tevez but Brazil were more threatening on the break. Fabiano flashed a shot wide and only a last-ditch tackle stymied Robinho. Then as the game appeared to be trundling to a meek conclusion, Jesus Datolo dragged Argentina back into it. Gilberto Silva and Melo had swarmed over any Argentinian midfielder foolish enough to get near Brazil's area, but this time Datolo was afforded the time and space to crack in a superb 30-yard effort into the top corner.

Brazil swiftly poured cold water on any flickering hopes of a comeback however. A

minute later, Kaka, otherwise quiet directed a sumptuous pass into Fabiano's path and he cleverly dinked the ball over the advancing Andujar. Argentina at least showed some fight, Messi, whose runs constantly induced panic in opposing defenders, was denied by Luisao before he set up Diego Milito with a clear chance, only for Cesario to save.

At the final whistle Brazil celebrated in a mass huddle, while Maradona could only trudge off the pitch disconsolately, perhaps wondering just how long he has left in what was meant to be his dream job. It's all turned very sour very quickly.

Earlier, Brazil's chances of wrapping up qualification had been boosted when Colombia defeated Ecuador 2-0 in Bogota while Uruguay slumped to a 1-0 loss in Lima to bottom-side Peru.

Jackson Martinez and Teofilo Gutierrez scored for Colombia in the last 10 minutes while Hernan Renfio claimed Peru's winner four minutes from time to register just his team's second win in 15 qualifiers.

Colombia, who moved into fifth place in the table, just outside the four automatic qualifying places, had their celebrations cut short when central defender Fabian Vargas picked up a serious leg injury which will rule him out of Wednesday's game with Uruguay.

Paraguay, meanwhile, boosted their hopes of qualifying with a 1-0 win over Bolivia.

Salvador Cabanas, with a penalty on the stroke of half-time, gave Paraguay the three points which also ended Bolivia's slim hopes of qualifying for the finals.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

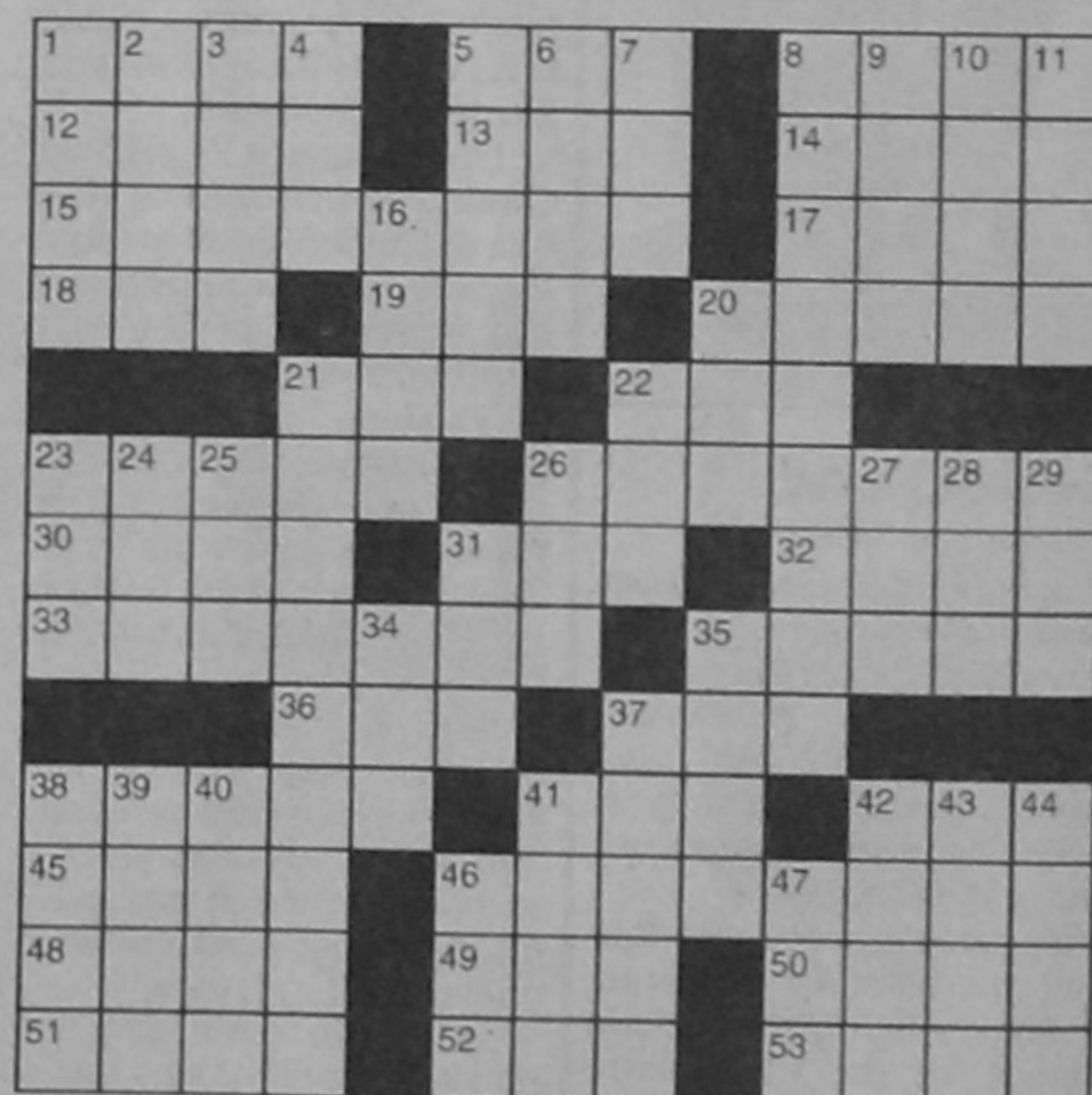
- 1 Gumbo pod
- 5 Hot tub
- 8 "War of the Worlds" world
- 12 Do some finger-painting
- 13 Embrace
- 14 Egress
- 15 Stick with a kick
- 17 Pleasant
- 18 Drunkard
- 19 Pismire
- 20 Beginning
- 21 Turn on the water-works
- 22 Greet the villain
- 23 Westminster, e.g.
- 26 Our first chief justice
- 30 Burp a Tupperware lid
- 31 "Friends" cast member
- 32 "Music Man" locale
- 33 Fit

DOWN

- 1 Probability
- 2 Deck, in the ring
- 3 Litter's littlest
- 4 Lawyers' org.
- 5 Lustrous
- 6 Green shot
- 7 Census stat
- 8 Amish, e.g.
- 9 Pivot line
- 10 Krispies
- 11 Undo a dele
- 16 Author — Higgins Clark
- 20 Reaction to fireworks
- 21 Gym-goer's target, maybe
- 22 Carton's shade
- 24 Spelldown
- 25 Sheepish remark
- 26 Cohort of
- 27 Whoopi and Elisabeth
- 27 Average guy
- 28 Shock partner
- 29 Shril bark
- 31 Actor McBride
- 34 Attempt
- 35 Antitoxins
- 37 Ambulance warning
- 38 Urban blight
- 39 Arrived
- 40 Not "fer"
- 41 Benefit
- 42 Sax-playing Simpson
- 43 Go no farther
- 44 God (Lat.)
- 46 3-Down, e.g.
- 47 Stitch

Solution time: 21 mins.

BOA	BRS	CORD
LAMS	EON	OBEY
CHUDS	TOO	LIVE
OUTRO	MOLD	
ROOF	ATOP	PAMPAS
ROOF	ATOP	COURT
UNDO	BAG	URGE
STOUT	DOWN	LOW
TORNUP	BAT	
TEAM	RAGES	
LOTA	PAW	INTO
KIWI	AGE	NANO
ELON	LID	WAN



CRYPTOQUIP

R H G D C A H X O H Z D Y F N J
V H I Y H A O D Z Z H I X N R H
J H C K Y I V G N C M K T N C A D T
X O H T F H R N X X M Y I V Y X N C X ?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN THE RULE-BREAKING HOCKEY PLAYER STARTS BANKING. I BET HE WILL OPEN A CHECKING ACCOUNT.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals R