

US OPEN Nadal made top seed

AP, New York
Seeking to complete the career Grand Slam, Rafael Nadal will be the top-seeded man when the US Open starts next week, while Roger Federer will come to Flushing Meadows seeded second.

Nadal, who won the French Open and Wimbledon this year, is seeded first at the US Open for the second time in three years. He has never made it past the semifinals.

The women's seedings have been delayed one day because of a rainout of Sunday's final at the Rogers Cup in Montreal. On Monday, world No. 2 Carolina Wozniacki defeated Vera Zvonareva to win that tournament. It appears Wozniacki, who lost to Kim Clijsters in last year's final, will get the top seed at the US Open because Serena Williams, the world's top-ranked player, has withdrawn while recovering from surgery to repair cuts on her right foot.

Also missing from New York will be defending men's champion Juan Martin del Potro, who remains sidelined with a lingering wrist injury. Del Potro defeated Federer in last year's final, ending his string of five straight US Open titles. Federer, who won the Australian Open this year, is seeking his 17th Grand Slam tournament title.

Del Potro, meanwhile, is only the third US Open men's champion in the 42-year Open era who won't be on hand to defend his title.

Seeded third for the men is Novak Djokovic, followed by Andy Murray at No. 4. Robin Soderling, Nikolay Davydenko, Tomas Berdych and Fernando Verdasco round out the top eight.

At No. 9, Andy Roddick is the highest seeded American man. With a trip to the semifinals in Cincinnati last weekend, Roddick jumped back into the world's top 10. Earlier this month, Roddick fell to No. 12 and it marked the first time since the rankings began in 1973 that no American man was in the top 10.

The draws for the tournament come out Thursday.

Virtual

FROM PAGE 17
found the conditions in Dambulla helpful to his steady bowling, finishing with 2 for 36 in ten overs in the previous match.

Dhoni is the top-ranked one-day batsman in the world, but has been part of two sham-bolic Indian collapses. With some of the youngsters in the middle order finding it hard to adjust to the seaming pitches in the tournament, the team is looking to their captain to deliver.

New Zealand welcome Martin Guptill back at the top of the order after missing a game due to injury. Their only fitness concern is Kane Williamson, who has a bicep injury and couldn't bowl or throw on Monday. If Williamson is missing, Nathan McCullum's place is likely to be secure.

India had no injury worries on the eve of the match. Despite the pummeling against Sri Lanka, it's unlikely there will be too many changes to the side. Again, the decision will be on whether to bring in Virat Kohli at the expense of either Dinesh Karthik or Rohit Sharma.

TEAMS

NEW ZEALAND (probable): Martin Guptill, BJ Watling, Ross Taylor (captain), Kane Williamson or Peter Ingram, Scott Styris, Grant Elliott, Gareth Hopkins, Jacob Oram, Daryl Tuffey, Kyle Mills, Andy McKay or Nathan McCullum.
INDIA (probable): Virender Sehwag, Dinesh Karthik, Rohit Sharma or Virat Kohli, Yuvraj Singh, Mahendra Singh Dhoni (captain), Suresh Raina, Ravindra Jadeja, Praveen Kumar, Pragnan Ojha, Ishant Sharma, Ashish Nehra.

Tamim

FROM PAGE 17
The problem has been solved. Tamim agreed to go as per the board's arrangement. Tamim is one of our key players and board will do everything needed but there is some criterion which we have to follow," said Yunus.

"I think there was some misunderstanding and Tamim was not clear about all the procedure but everything is now clear to him. Only the captain enjoys the business class in such cases and as well we also consider for some special case," he added.



Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark kisses the winner's trophy after beating Vera Zvonareva of Russia in the Rogers Cup final at Stade Uniprix in Montreal on Monday.

Rogers Cup Wozniacki's

Tennis

AP, Montreal

Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark won the rain-delayed Rogers Cup on Monday, beating Vera Zvonareva 6-3, 6-2.

Wozniacki is ranked second in the world and, with No. 1 Serena Williams out with an injury, likely will be the top seed when the US Open starts August 31. The 20-year-old is seeking her first Grand Slam title.

"I never think about that -- I just try to win every match," she said. "We'll have to see what happens. Right now, I want to enjoy winning this tournament. It gives me a lot of confidence to win a tournament like this -- it's a huge tournament."

The Rogers Cup final was held a day late after a weekend of relentless rain.

Zvonareva, a Wimbledon finalist, was clearly off her game. The eighth-seeded Russian at times let out shrieks after misfiring on routine shots. Wozniacki's groundstrokes, meanwhile, were hitting the lines with their usual sharpness.

She picked up her third title of the year, after wins at Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla., and at her home tournament in Copenhagen.

"I did what I had to do," said Wozniacki, a first-time Rogers Cup champion.

Leading 5-3 in the first set, Wozniacki fell behind 0-40. But she responded with five straight points to close the set.

After breaking serve for a 5-2 lead in the second, Wozniacki wrapped it up with four

straight points on her serve, gave a little fist pump and walked up to shake hands with her opponent.

Wozniacki took the 350,000-dollar winner's prize while Zvonareva got 175,000 dollars.

The semifinals were played in the morning. Wozniacki beat Svetlana Kuznetsova 6-2, 6-3, and Zvonareva advanced when her opponent, 10th-seeded Victoria Azarenka of Belarus, retired with a blister on her left foot. Zvonareva led 7-6, 1-0.

Trainers worked on Azarenka's foot for several minutes. She got up and tried to walk, but immediately sat back down.

She said the injury was not severe enough to keep her out of the US Open.

"I don't see how I got a blister after sitting on my [rear end] for two days," said Azarenka, who was in tears as she spoke to reporters after the match. "I tried to deal with it, but I couldn't continue."

Wozniacki and the 11th-seeded Kuznetsova completed a semifinal that began Saturday and was stopped due to rain with Wozniacki leading 2-0, 0-15.

Zvonareva played her semifinal on the National Bank Court, a smaller venue adjacent to Centre Court, contributing to her problems in the final.

"It was a different court, different conditions," she said. "It was difficult to keep my concentration. I was preparing to play Victoria for two days and they have absolutely different styles. In the final, I was still playing shots I would use in the semifinals. My head was not in the final."

Sangakkara calls for consistency

Cricket

CRICINFO

After reaching the final of the Micromax Cup tri-series with one of Sri Lanka's biggest wins over India, Kumar Sangakkara has said the team must aim at winning consistently, irrespective of the margin of victory. In front of a raucous Sunday crowd, Sri Lanka rolled MS Dhoni's side over for 103, inflicting the largest defeat in India's history in terms of balls remaining.

"It's a good preparation for the final, but that is a new game six days away," Sangakkara said. "The key is to win matches consistently, wins like this [or] close matches, it doesn't matter if we win matches consistently."

The likes of Muttiah Muralidaran, Sanath Jayasuriya and Chaminda Vaas aren't a part of the current squad, but all of them played their part in Sri Lanka's 245-run walloping of India in the finals of the Coca-Cola Champions Trophy in 2000, a victory which Sangakkara termed as their best against India. "The best win against India I guess was in Sharjah, very early in my career, we got 299 and India were 54 all out I think," he said. "That was a great

win and that was a great side, with this particular side, with some of our greats who have retired, it's great for our confidence that we can still do things like this."

One of the minor surprises during Sri Lanka's chase on Sunday was the promotion of Mahela Jayawardene to the top of the order, pushing the specialist opener, Upul Tharanga, down to No. 3. Jayawardene didn't open the innings for a decade after his debut in one-dayers, but has two hundreds in the five times he has opened, and has also recently taken to opening for Sri Lanka in Twenty20s.

"We've got to understand that players evolve, MJ is the best batsman we have without a doubt, to me he's been ideal for us in the middle order," Sangakkara said. "But Mahela over the last year and a half has shown a liking to open, if his mindset is more free to go up top of the order, then guys like me, other players must back that decision, we've got to move down the order and take responsibility."

Sangakkara said the move was a one-off, and that Jayawardene wasn't yet pencilled in for the opener's slot for the final. Sri Lanka have five days to plan their strategy for the final, and the team decided to take Monday off, heading to the beaches of Trincomalee, two-and-a-half hours away from Dambulla.

Zim comes to Pak aid

Cricket

CRICINFO

Zimbabwe continue to offer the likeliest possibility of international cricket returning to Pakistan, with the board indicating its willingness to help victims of the floods that have ravaged Pakistan.

After New Zealand cricket embarrassed the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) by denying a claim from officials that they were willing to play in Pakistan to help raise funds for flood victims, Peter Chingoka, chairman of Zimbabwe Cricket, said his players were ready and willing to play in a country where no international cricket has taken place since March 2009, following the terror attacks on the touring Sri Lanka side.

The PCB revealed two days ago that talks were on with Zimbabwe even before the floods to arrange a series to mark the return of international cricket to Pakistan but the natural disaster now means that matches are likely to be played to raise funds. "At this point in time we just have one thing in mind and that is to help people and minimise their suffering for which we are ready to play in Pakistan," Chingoka told Express Tribune. "We sent the

offer following approval from all the players who also want to play a role in helping millions of people in Pakistan."

Pakistan's packed schedule, however, means that no dates have yet been set. The side is due to play a full Test and ODI series against South Africa in Abu Dhabi and Dubai in October-November, soon after the end of the current tour to England in late September. Then they travel to New Zealand for the second time in two years -- this time for the away series as opposed to 2009's 'home' series arrangement -- for a series of two Tests, six ODIs and three T20s. That tour ends on February 5 and the World Cup begins exactly two weeks later.

"Both boards are working on a plan to finalise the schedule but so far it is undecided," Chingoka said. "Both boards are trying to hold a series soon and it may take place before the World Cup 2011."

Meanwhile, the Pakistan board didn't react to denials from NZC about the alleged offer to play a flood relief game in Pakistan. PCB officials continue to maintain privately that such an offer was hinted at in an email from Justin Vaughan, chief executive NZC, though they are unwilling to take it any further now. There was supposed to be an official PCB response on Monday to Vaughan's comments, but none came eventually.

ODIs Kiwis' top priority

AFP, Wellington

Pakistan's cricket tour of New Zealand will feature fewer Tests and more one-day matches to help the teams prepare for next year's World Cup, according to the itinerary released Tuesday.

The number of Tests has been cut from three to two with the one-day schedule expanded to six games in addition to three Twenty20 matches.

The 2011 Cricket World Cup, to be co-hosted by India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, runs from February 19 to April 2.

Pakistan's tour of New Zealand will start in December with the Twenty20 internationals to be followed by the Tests and then the one-day series.

CA extends deal with Nielsen

AFP, Sydney

Australia Tuesday reappointed coach Tim Nielsen until the end of the 2013 Ashes series in England, backing him to reverse a recent slump in fortunes.

Cricket Australia (CA) said Nielsen had been in charge during a "challenging" time since 2007 after a number of greats, including Shane Warne and Glenn McGrath, retired, and the team lost its top Test ranking.

"Tim has been at the helm through a significant and challenging period of transition which has seen a number of once-in-a-generation global champions retire from the Australian team," chief executive James Sutherland said.

"Working closely with [captain] Ricky Ponting, team leadership, national players and team management, he has played an important role leading Australia through that transition."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

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- 9 Publicity
- 12 Milky stone
- 13 Ticklish Muppet
- 14 Born
- 15 Long story
- 16 Earring location
- 17 Rotating part
- 18 Stylish
- 19 Mainlander's memento
- 20 21-Across, e.g.
- 21 Japanese pond fish
- 23 "Humbug!"
- 25 It may wind up on your head
- 28 Oozed
- 32 Type of trap-shooting
- 33 Less
- 34 "Stormy" seabird

DOWN

- 1 Pear type
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- 3 Creche trio
- 4 Smartphone brand
- 5 Aligned, as troops
- 6 Shaving cream additive
- 7 Drink
- 8 Shad
- 9 Pizarro foe
- 10 Approach
- 11 Dole's 1996 running mate
- 12 Like granola or porridge
- 14 Self-evident truth
- 15 Recipe meas.
- 16 Guitar's kin
- 17 On pens.
- 18 Bite the dust
- 19 Always, in verse
- 20 Hosp. VIPs
- 21 Mourn
- 22 Nonsense talk
- 23 Calm before the storm
- 24 Canal zone
- 25 Passport endorsement
- 26 Killer whale
- 27 Stead
- 28 "Flanders"
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- 30 "Mayday!"

Solution time: 27 mins.

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Younus still in the cold

Cricket

AFP, Lahore

Selectors Tuesday ignored former Pakistani captain Younus Khan for the limited-over matches series against England despite lifting a ban this year on him playing for his country.

Mohsin Khan, chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board's selection committee, said Younus's name had not been cleared by the PCB despite an indefinite ban on him being overturned by an appellate tribunal in June.

"At the moment Younus's name was not cleared by the PCB chairman (Ijaz Butt), so he was not considered for selection," Khan told reporters while announcing the squad.

Younus, 32, has not been part of the Pakistan team since February after being sent to Australia for the one-day series.

He had withdrawn from the team for the preceding tour of New Zealand and Tests against Australia, citing personal reasons.

Soon after the Australia tour Younus and six other players were either banned or fined for indiscipline and infighting.

A one-man appellate tribunal lifted the ban on Younus but the PCB said he still had to resolve some legal matters before he could be cleared to play for Pakistan.

Pakistan are currently playing a four-match Test series against England, with the final Test starting at Lord's from Thursday.

After the Tests, they play back-to-back Twenty20 matches at Cardiff, on September 5

and 7 before their five-match one-day series starts at Chester-le-Street three days later.

Among the Test squad, Shoaib Malik, Imran Farhat, Yasir Hameed, Umar Amin and Tanveer Ahmed will return to Pakistan and their places will be taken by Shahzaib Hasan, Abdul Razaq, Mohammad Hafeez, Shoaib Akhtar and Fawad Alam.

Injury-prone paceman Akhtar, 35, was part of Pakistan team which featured in the Asia Cup in Sri Lanka last month but was not selected for Tests due to lack of fitness.

Another paceman Umar Gul, ruled out of the final two Tests against England due to injury, was passed fit to play in the limited over series.

All-rounder Shahid Afridi retained captaincy after he resigned from Test cricket following Pakistan's defeat against Australia in the Lord's Test last month.

Afridi said the series against England will give him a chance to reassess the players before the 2011 World Cup.

"The next World Cup is just six months away, so we have to keep a pool of 20-22 players and series against England will give us a good chance to prepare for the World Cup," said Afridi.

SQUAD

Shahid Afridi (captain), Salman Butt, Shahzaib Hasan, Mohammad Hafeez, Mohammad Yousof, Azhar Ali, Umar Akmal, Kamran Akmal, Fawad Alam, Abdul Razaq, Mohammad Asif, Mohammad Aamir, Umar Gul, Saeed Ajmal, Shoaib Akhtar and Wahab Riaz.

Elin parts with Tiger

Golf

AFP, Washington

Tiger Woods and Swedish model wife Elin Nordegren have officially divorced, their marriage "irretrievably broken" by a blistering sex scandal that has left the world number one golfer's life in disarray.

Woods, 34, and Nordegren, 30, issued a joint statement Monday saying they were sad to be ending their six-year marriage, wishing each other the best and promising to work together for their children's happiness.

"We are sad that our marriage is over and we wish each other the very best for the future," it said.

"While we are no longer married, we are the parents of two wonderful children and their happiness has been, and will always be, of paramount importance to both of us."

In Nordegren's petition for divorce, filed in early July, she claimed the marriage was "irretrievably broken" and asked for her maiden name to be restored.

Woods and Nordegren attended Monday's execution of the divorce at a court in Panama City, Florida, where they agreed to "share parenting" of their children. Both had attended four-hour parenting classes, court documents showed.

The documents also reveal that Nordegren moved out of the Orlando-area family home in November and into another

residence nearby. Woods wed Nordegren, a former model, in October 2004 in Barbados and the couple have a three-year-old daughter, Sam, and a 19-month-old son, Charlie.

"Once we came to the decision that our marriage was at an end, the primary focus of our amicable discussions has been to ensure their future well-being," their joint statement said.

"The weeks and months ahead will not be easy for them as we adjust to a new family situation, which is why our privacy must be a principal concern."

The divorce was finalized by a Florida judge during a 10-minute hearing Monday in a conference room in Bay County Circuit Court.

Nordegren's lawyer, contacted by AFP, would provide no information about the terms of her divorce settlement, valued in media reports at anywhere between 100 million and 500 million dollars.

Woods has been skewered in the media since late last year, but Tuesday's divorce headlines appeared tame compared with the free-for-all that marked each sordid new revelation about the golfer's affairs.

Woods's spectacular fall from grace began on November 27 last year when he crashed his car into a tree and a fire hydrant near his Orlando home.

The incident touched off shocking revelations which led to his admission of adultery and subsequent decision to put his golf career on hold while he tried to rescue his marriage.

"It may not be possible to repair the damage I've done, but I want to do my best to try," Woods wrote on his website. "I am deeply aware of the disappointment and hurt that my infidelity has caused to so many people, most of all my wife and children."



An AFP file photo shows US golfer Tiger Woods (L) and wife Elin Nordegren leaving the opening ceremonies of the Ryder Cup at Oakland Hills Country Club in Bloomfield Township, Michigan.

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CRYPTOQUIP

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Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN CERTAIN POLITICAL PARTY MEMBERS WEAR HAIRPIECES, I SUPPOSE THEY MIGHT BE WHIGS' WIGS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals T