

# Sharapova restores order

AFP, Paris



Maria Sharapova helped restore order at the French Open on Saturday after Roland Garros had been shellshocked by the loss of its top two seeds before the fourth round stage, a 40-year low point for Paris.

The seventh seeded Russian, whose best performance here remains a 2007 semifinal place, comfortably reached the last 16 with a 6-2, 6-3 win over Taiwan qualifier Chan Yung-Jan.

Sharapova had to recover from a set and 1-4 down to defeat French 17-year-old, and world 188, Caroline Garcia in three sets to reach the last 32 on Thursday.

But there were no dramas on Saturday with the former world number one and triple Grand Slam title winner strolling to her third victory in three meetings with the 129-ranked Chan.

Sharapova will next face Agnieszka Radwanska, the 12th seed, for a place in the quarter-finals, boasting a 6-1 career record over the Pole.

Belarusian fourth seed Victoria Azarenka, a 2009 quarterfinalist, and China's Li Na, the sixth seed, also eased into the last 16.

Azarenka romped to a 6-3, 6-2 win over Italian 30th seed Roberta Vinci while Li, the first Chinese player to make a Grand Slam final at the Australian Open this year, enjoyed a comfortable 6-2, 6-2 win over Romania's Sorana Cirstea.

Saturday's results came a day after top seed Caroline Wozniacki was knocked out in the last 32 while second seeded Kim Clijsters exited the day before in the second round.

It was the first time since 1971 that the top two seeds had failed to get beyond the third round.

Li reached the fourth round for the second time by seeing off 21-year-old Cirstea, a 2009 quarterfinalist, and will next face dangerous Czech ninth seed Petra Kvitova who ended American interest with a 6-4, 6-2 win over Vania King.

Andrea Petkovic, the German 15th seed, also went into the last 16 with a 6-2, 4-6, 6-3 win over Jarmila Gajdosova, the last Australian in the event.

Petkovic, who reached her first Grand Slam quarterfinal in Australia, will face Russian 25th seed Maria Kirilenko, who put out Clijsters' conqueror Aranxta Rus.

Meanwhile, Swiss veteran Patty Schnyder called time on a 17-year career which brought 11 titles, 59 Grand Slam appearances and a family split caused by a bizarre relationship with an orange juice-obsessed guru.

The 32-year-old made her majors bow at Roland Garros in 1996 and suitably chose her 16th successive French Open to announce her retirement.



China's Li Na celebrates after her win over Romania's Sorana Cirstea during their third round French Open match at the Roland Garros in Paris yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

# No stopping Novak

AP, Paris

Novak Djokovic extended his perfect start to the season at the French Open on Saturday, beating Juan Martin del Potro 6-3, 3-6, 6-

3, 6-2 for his 40th straight victory this year.

Djokovic has not lost in 42 matches dating to last year's Davis Cup final. He and Del Potro returned to Court Suzanne Lenglen on Saturday after splitting the first two sets Friday before the match was suspended because of darkness.

The second-seeded Serb had no problems on Day 2 against Del Potro, the 2009 U.S. Open champion. He had 41 winners to Del Potro's 22 and had four of his five breaks in the final two sets.

Rafael Nadal also appeared to put his struggles behind him, advancing to the fourth round with a 6-1, 6-3, 6-0 win over Croatian qualifier Antonio Veic.

Australian Open runners-up Andy Murray and Li Na also advanced, as did three-time Grand Slam champion Maria Sharapova.

Djokovic's 40-0 start to 2011 is the second-best opening streak in the Open era, which started in 1968. The two-time Grand Slam champion's overall winning streak of 42 trails only the record of 46 set by Guillermo Vilas in 1977.

Djokovic entered the French Open after beating Nadal in two clay-court finals, making him a contender for his first French Open title. The Serb will take over the No. 1 ranking if he makes the final.

In the next round, Djokovic will face

No. 13 Richard Gasquet of France, who advanced Friday with a 6-2, 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 victory over Thomaz Bellucci of Brazil.

Nadal, who needed five sets to win his opening match at Roland Garros, had only 18 unforced errors and managed to break his opponent nine times.

The five-time French Open champion has been dominant at Roland Garros since his debut in 2005, when he won the first of four straight titles. His only loss at the clay-court Grand Slam came in 2009, when he was defeated by Robin Soderling in the fourth round, giving him a 41-1 record at the tournament.

But Nadal started off slowly this year, needing five sets to beat John Isner. In the second round, Nadal also looked shaky in second round, Nadal also looked shaky in defeating Pablo Andujar 7-5, 6-3, 7-6 (4).

Murray moved into the next round despite twisting his right ankle in the second set against Michael Berrer. The fourth-seeded Brit called for a trainer and had his ankle taped before returning to the court. He broke his German opponent on the next point and went on to a 6-2, 6-3, 6-2 victory.

Murray would play Victor Troicki of Serbia, who beat No. 21 Alexander Dolgopolov of Ukraine 6-4, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Also, No. 18 Gilles Simon eliminated 10th-seeded Mardy Fish of the United States 6-3, 6-4, 6-2, Juan Ignacio Chela of Argentina defeated Lukas Rosol of the Czech Republic 6-2, 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 (5) and Alejandro Falla of Colombia beat Lukasz Kubot of Poland 6-7 (4), 6-4, 7-5, 6-4.

## Chennai

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part of his innings, missed out on a well-deserved century when he offered a simple catch to captain Daniel Vettori off paceman Sreenath Aravind.

Aravind struck again off the very next ball to remove Dhoni, caught off a full toss by Virat Kohli after making 22 which included two sixes in one over by Gayle.

Gayle also picked up two wickets in two balls, sending back Albie Morkel and Suresh Raina in the 20th over with his wily off-breaks.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

CHENNAI SUPER KINGS: 205 for 5 in 20 overs (Vijay 95, Hussey 63, Dhoni 22; Gayle 2-34, Aravind 2-39)

ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE: 147 for 8 in 20 overs (Tiywary 42 not out, Kohli 35, Zaheer 21, De Villiers 18; Ashwin 3-16, Jakati 2-21)

Result: Chennai won by 58 runs and lift the IPL 2011 trophy.

Man-of-the-match: Murali Vijay.

Man-of-the-series: Chris Gayle.

## Eng not

FROM PAGE 17

Neither Anderson nor England had added to their score when he edged spinner

Ajantha Mendis to Mahela Jayawardene at slip.

That left England 47 for two, 353 runs adrift of a Sri Lanka total founded on a century from wicket-keeper Prasanna Jayawardene and several fifties.

England, whose attack had now been reduced to just three specialist bowlers.

## China sweep

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sports Ahad Ali Sarkar was also present on the occasion.

Also present at the closing ceremony was president of Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation (BTTF) and principal secretary to the prime minister Abdul Karim, vice president of BTTF

Jahangir Alam and BTTF's general secretary ATM Shamsul Alam.

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