

TOOTHLESS TIGER

Tiger Woods showed up in Italy on Monday to surprise his girlfriend Lindsey Vonn on the occasion of her record-setting World Cup performance. And while Woods sported a skull facemask for a fair portion of his time on the slopes, closeups revealed that Woods is apparently missing a tooth. Woods was a victim of an overly aggressive media corps, at least according to his agent. "A media member with a shoulder-mounted video camera pushed and surged toward the stage, and hit Tiger Woods in the mouth while turning," Steinberg said in a statement to the AP. "Woods' tooth was knocked out by the



Enrique backs Suarez

AFP, Madrid



Barcelona coach Luis Enrique has backed Luis Suarez to come good in front of goal despite the Uruguayan's paltry record of two league goals since becoming the most expensive signing in the club's history.

Suarez has only made 15 appearances in all competitions since his reported £75 million (\$114 million, 98 million euros) move from Liverpool in July after serving a four-month ban for biting Italian defender Giorgio Chiellini at the World Cup.

However, since his return he has failed to show the same form that saw him register 31 Premier League goals last season.

Suarez missed two glorious chances as Lionel Messi stole the headlines with his 30th hat-trick for the club as Barca eased past Deportivo la Coruna 4-0 on Sunday, but Enrique praised Suarez's work rate and insisted his class will ensure a return to goalscoring form sooner rather than later.

"Luis Suarez looks fine to me," Enrique said ahead of his side's Copa del Rey quarterfinal, first leg against Atletico Madrid on Wednesday.

"He is working incredibly hard and helping us a lot both in attack and defence.

"The goals will come for sure because he is a goalscorer and has shown that throughout his career."

One of Suarez's two La Liga goals came against Atletico just over a week ago when Barca turned in arguably their best performance of the campaign to beat the Spanish champions 3-1.



World number one Novak Djokovic of Serbia plays a backhand during his Australian Open men's singles match against Aljaz Bedene of Slovenia in Melbourne yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Feni complete registration

SPORTS REPORTER

Feni Soccer Club pulled no surprises as they completed players' registration formalities for the upcoming football season yesterday.

Feni Soccer, who survived the drop from the Bangladesh Premier League by finishing second from bottom, six points above relegated Uttar Baridhara Club last season, retained the services of its 15 of its guns and recruited 11 players from other clubs. They are also trying to sign up four players from Gambia.

"Coach Omar K Sise has been given responsibility to choose the foreign players and he is likely to bring those players from Gambia soon," said Feni Soccer Club's joint secretary Shakhawat Hossain Shahin, adding that they are target finishing within sixth position in the 11-team Bangladesh Premier League.

Stallone on big screens at Everton

AFP, Liverpool

Hollywood icon Sylvester Stallone made an unlikely appearance on the big screens at Goodison Park during half-time of Everton's Premier League clash with West Bromwich Albion on Monday.

As one of the world's most famous actors, Stallone is more used to starring on the silver screen, but the 68-year-old's image appeared on the Merseyside club's video boards in a bid to whip up the crowd to provide some background colour for cameras filming a scene in his forthcoming movie 'Creed', in which he reprises his role as boxer Rocky Balboa.

Stallone, who was pictured wearing an Everton shirt, is working on the film with the professional boxer, and Everton supporter, Tony Bellew, who helped arrange the actor's message. Stallone first visited Goodison eight years ago when he came onto the pitch to wave at supporters before Everton played Reading.

On that occasion he was greeted with a warm reception, but his recorded video message on Monday failed to produce such an enthusiastic response from the Goodison faithful, who were perhaps still miffed that their team's forward Kevin Mirallas had missed a penalty moments earlier.

'Mind your language'

AFP, London

International Cricket Council chief executive David Richardson said Tuesday the global governing body would come down hard on players who 'sledged' or verbally abused their opponents at the upcoming World Cup.

During the course of an extensive interview on the ICC website, former South Africa wicketkeeper Richardson also said officials were determined to continue their campaign against illegal bowling actions and added he was confident the World Cup would not be blighted by match or spot-fixing.

Several high-profile incidents in recent months have led former Australia captain Ian Chappell to say the fears it can only be a matter of time before things get so heated that a physical clash ensues.

Meanwhile New Zealand great Martin Crowe has called for the introduction of a yellow and red card system common to many other sports in a bid to punish poor on-field behaviour in cricket, which has traditionally prided itself on being a "gentlemen's game".

Japan, Iraq storm into quarters

AFP, Melbourne



Golden boys Keisuke Honda and Shinji Kagawa fired holders Japan into the Asian Cup quarterfinals on Tuesday as Iraq again owed a debt of gratitude to evergreen striker Younis Mahmoud.

AC Milan's Honda ran riot in the 2-0 win over Jordan, scoring the opener and hitting the post late on, while Kagawa got his first of the tournament late in the game.

Japan, who have won four of the last six Asian Cup titles, reached the last eight without conceding a goal and they will face Mahdi Ali's stylish UAE side in Sydney on Friday.

Iraq, meanwhile, found Palestine a tough nut to crack but Mahmoud revived memories of his famous winner in the 2007 final when he climbed to nod the opener from a corner.

The clubless veteran disappointingly missed a second-half spot-kick but Ahmeed Yaseen sealed a 2-0 victory with a powerful low drive two minutes from time.

Iraq next take on neighbours and three-time champions Iran in Canberra in a quarter-final which pitches together two of Asian football's fiercest rivals.

In Melbourne, Japan dominated the first half and Takashi Inui seemed to have blasted them ahead early on, but the ball was ruled to have gone into touch moments earlier.

But the Blue Samurai went ahead on 24 minutes when Shinji Okazaki's venomous shot was parried to Honda and the blond talisman snapped up the rebound for his third in three games.

Okazaki blasted into the side-netting as Aguirre's men pressed, but Jordan came out a side refreshed after the break, pushing Japan back in their best spell of the game.

However, the reigning champions soon regained the upper hand and Yasuhiro Endo nearly marked his 151st cap with a goal, but his fierce drive fizzed over.

Toronto sign Giovinco

AFP, Rome

Diminutive Italy international forward Sebastian Giovinco is to leave champions Juventus in June after agreeing a five year deal with MLS side FC Toronto, the Canadian club said on Monday.

Giovinco -- who according to Italian press reports is set to earn 8.5million euros (\$9.8million) a season -- will form an attacking partnership with American international Jozy Altidore who was part of the swap deal for former England striker Jermain Defoe when he signed for English Premier League strugglers Sunderland last week.

"I am excited to sign for Toronto FC today and look forward to joining the club this summer," Giovinco told FC Toronto's site. "I have heard so many great things about them over the years and I know that it will be a city that I feel right at home in."

Known as the 'Atomic Ant' (5ft 4in - 1m62) for his short stature coupled with a relentless work-rate the 27-year-old -- capped 21 times -- has lost his starting place at Juventus and has failed to score in seven appearances this season.

Merciless No. 1s

AFP, Melbourne



World number ones Novak Djokovic and Serena Williams showed no mercy in powering through to the Australian Open second round Tuesday as unseeded dark horse Victoria Azarenka won her grudge match.

Defending men's champion Stan Wawrinka, Japanese fifth seed Kei Nishikori and women's fourth seed Petra Kvitova also stayed on course.

Eighteen-time Grand Slam winner Williams opened her Melbourne Park account with a decisive 6-0, 6-4 display against Belgium's Alison Van Uytvanck, laying down the marker to her challengers.

A sixth Australian Open title would take her to clear second on the Grand Slam Open Era winners list behind Steffi Graf's 22, having joined Chris Evert and Martina Navratilova on 18 with her win at the US Open last year.

"If I could get to 19 in Australia that would be beyond amazing, so we'll see. I have a lot of work to do but I'm just going to enjoy myself," said the American.

Serbian top seed Djokovic, gunning for a fifth Australian title, also found his groove early against Slovenia's Aljaz Bedene to post a commanding 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 win.

"For a first round performance it was pretty good, obviously I still need to work on a few things, I'm still developing my game," said Djokovic, who lost to Wawrinka in the quarter-finals last year.

The Swiss fourth seed went on to stun Rafael Nadal and win his maiden Grand Slam, and he is keen to repeat the heroics again this year.

He got his title defence off to a solid start with a 6-1, 6-4, 6-2 mauling of Turkey's Marsel Ilhan, encountering few problems.

"It was great to be back on Rod Laver Arena again, it brings back so many memo-

ries from last year," he said.

"It was such an amazing two weeks last year so it was great to come back here and I am pleased with my game in general and I'm excited to start again."

Roger Federer, Nadal and Maria Sharapova all played Monday and easily progressed.

Nishikori, who lost to Marin Cilic in last year's US Open final and is touted as a future major champion, showed his mettle to beat Nicolas Almagro 6-4, 7-6 (7/1), 6-2.

The Spaniard is a former world number nine and the Japanese star said it was a good workout.

"Obviously, it was a really tough, tough first match. He could be seeded player, and I know he was injured, but still it was a tough match," he said.

Azarenka is a two-time Australian Open champion but came into the tournament ranked just 44 after an injury-marred 2014 and a battle with depression.

But she showed why she is regarded as the most dangerous unseeded player as she downed American Sloane Stephens 6-3, 6-2 to set up an enticing second round encounter with eighth seed Caroline Wozniacki. Azarenka and Stephens have history, with the Belarussian former world number one controversially defeating her in the 2013 semi-final with the help of a lengthy medical timeout, which angered the fans.

She needed no such tactics on Tuesday, leaving little doubt that she wants a third Grand Slam title in Melbourne after triumphing in 2012 and 2013.

"You've got to win seven matches to win a title and this was a great first round for me to really test my game," the 25-year-old said.

Denmark's Wozniacki, another former world number one and a close friend of Azarenka's, had a tougher assignment against American teenager Taylor Townsend, who made her work hard for a 7-6 (7-1), 6-2 win.

Kevin misses penalty as Everton held

AFP, Liverpool



Everton forward Kevin Mirallas was involved in a penalty row as the Belgian's missed spot-kick condemned his struggling side to a frustrating 0-0 draw against West Bromwich Albion on Monday.

Mirallas appeared to ignore his teammates when he picked up the ball to take a penalty instead of spot-kick expert Leighton Baines just before half-time at Goodison Park.

And the winger's risky decision backfired as his penalty hit a post and he was then taken off by Everton manager Roberto Martinez moments later at half-time.

Mirallas's actions, which came just days after he was linked with a potential move to Tottenham or German side Borussia Dortmund, will be interpreted as a selfish attempt to seize the spotlight.

But more significantly, his miss means Martinez's troubled team are now without a win in their last eight matches in all competitions and sit only four points above the Premier League relegation zone.

With a scene from Sylvester Stallone's new Rocky movie being filmed at half-time, both Everton and Albion were sorely lacking a knockout punch in a dull encounter.

Unsurprisingly given their recent struggles, Martinez's men looked short of confidence and when Baines had their first shot, the left-back was unable to get enough

power behind it to trouble Albion goalkeeper Ben Foster.

A foul on Baines gave Mirallas the chance to try his luck with a free-kick in a dangerous position, but the Belgian international's effort was easily saved by Foster.

Even when Everton were handed a golden opportunity to open the scoring in the 43rd minute, they still couldn't take advantage.

Albion's former Everton defender Joleon Lescott conceded a clear penalty when he handled after Romelu Lukaku tried to bring the ball down inside the area with his chest.

Baines had scored 15 of his last 16 penalties, but it was Mirallas who snatched the ball and ignored his team-mates' protests before driving his spot-kick against a post.

It was a huge blunder by the Belgian and Martinez appeared to waste little time laying down the law to his rebellious star as he hauled off Mirallas at half-time and sent on Bryan Oviedo in his place.

The controversy could have destabilised Everton, but they pushed hard in the second half and Lukaku's shot was blocked when the burly striker tried to bulldoze his way through.

After scoring six goals in his previous three appearances, Albion striker Saido Berahino was completely anonymous and he was replaced by midfielder Graham Dorrans as boss Tony Pulis tried to spark his side into life.

Instead, it was Everton who nearly won it when Ross Barkley and Steven Naismith combined to tee up Lukaku, but the striker shot wide from 12 yards.

ISO 15189:2012 Accreditation Awarded to United Hospital's Pathology Laboratory



Prof. Dr. Altaf Hussain, Chairman, Bangladesh Accreditation Board (BAB) is handing over the ISO 15189:2012 Accreditation Certificate to Brig Gen (Retd) Prof. Zahid Mahmud, Consultant, United Hospital Limited



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