

# Ivanovic goes down

## Injured Sharapova pulls out

AFP, New York

Ana Ivanovic was eliminated from the US Open first round on Monday, losing 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 to Slovakia's Dominika Cibulkova and gave Serena Williams a helping hand in her Grand Slam history bid.

Serbian seventh seed Ivanovic, a quarter-finalist in 2012, was in Williams's half of the draw, a section which had already lost Maria Sharapova through injury even before the tournament started.

World number one Williams is bidding to become the first woman since Steffi Graf in 1988 to complete a calendar Grand Slam.

Russian third seed Sharapova withdrew from the US Open on Sunday with a right leg injury. US Open tournament director David Brewer announced Sharapova's exit, which allowed qualifying lucky loser Daria Kasatkina of Russia into the draw in Sharapova's place.

"Unfortunately I will not be able to compete in this years US Open," Sharapova said in a Twitter posting. "I have done everything possible to be ready but it was just not enough time."

"To all my amazing fans, I will be back in the Asian swing in a few weeks and look forward to finishing the year healthy and strong."

Cibulkova, ranked 50th in the world after sitting out three months to undergo surgery on her left foot, will face American qualifier

Jessica Pegula for a place in the last 32.

"It feels real cosy," said the 26-year-old Cibulkova of the huge superstructure which towers over the Arthur Ashe Stadium and has been built to hold a retractable roof which will be in operation next year.

The pint-sized Cibulkova made the quarter-finals in New York in 2010 but had fallen in the first round in the last two years.

Monday's win, her third in five meetings against former French Open champion Ivanovic, opened play at the 2015 tournament.

But it was not the greatest of encounters, with the fractured affair featuring 11 breaks of serve while Ivanovic required treatment on her left foot after slipping 4-1 down in the decider.

"I knew I had to bring my best tennis today. I had to stay tough as I knew she would not give me a single ball," said Cibulkova.

With Ivanovic and Sharapova no longer involved, Williams finds eighth-seeded Czech Karolina Pliskova as the highest-ranked player in her half.

Prior to pulling out of the tournament for the second time in three years, Sharapova described the injury as "just a muscle strain".

"I've done everything I could to be ready," Sharapova said. "There's nothing more that I could have done."

Sharapova did make the publicity rounds in the days before the US Open, including a photo shoot with a New York taxi and many of her rivals that noted her position at the front, well away from Williams and ex-boyfriend Grigor Dimitrov.



Atletico Madrid midfielder Koke (R) celebrates his opening goal against Sevilla during their Primera Liga encounter at the Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan Stadium on Sunday.

PHOTO: AFP

# 'Hazard must improve'

GOAL.COM



Jose Mourinho has suggested that Eden Hazard must improve his performance level after Chelsea slipped to a shock 2-1 loss to Crystal Palace at Stamford Bridge on Saturday.

Goals from Bakary Sako and Joel Ward gave the Eagles all three points on Mourinho's 100th home game in charge of the club - with Alan Pardew's men inflicting only the second defeat at Stamford Bridge of the Portuguese's Blues reign.

Mourinho has hinted that Hazard - who won the PFA Player of the Year award last season - and a number of senior players must start performing after the Blues' stuttering start to their title defence, having taken just four points from four games thus far.

"If you are the best player in the league, I think it should be a good responsibility to have a similar season than in the previous season," he said.

"I don't want to analyse individual performances. In general terms, it is difficult to have a consistent performance when some of the players are not performing at a good level."

# Sevilla thrashed at home

AFP, Madrid



Atletico Madrid maintained their perfect start to the La Liga season as goals from Koke, Gabi and Jackson Martinez handed them an impressive 3-0 win at Sevilla on Sunday.

The visitors had the better of the opening period and deservedly went in front when Koke slotted home after good work from Antoine Griezmann.

Sevilla were beaten at home only once last season and threw everything at the Atletico goal after the break but couldn't find a way through before Gabi's deflected effort 12 minutes from time made the points safe.

And substitute Martinez put the seal on a huge win for Diego Simeone's men with a fine curling effort to register his first goal for the club.

Sevilla handed a debut to Fernando Llorente after he completed his switch from Juventus on Thursday and it was the hosts who started brightest as Coke forced Jan Oblak into a smart save after just three minutes.

Atletico slowly grew into the game to take control of the first-half and were nearly handed a fortunate opener when Griezmann's free-kick struck Fernando Torres and flew inches wide with Sevilla 'keeper Beto wrong-footed.

Sevilla eventually carved out a glorious chance to equalise after the break when Diego Godin only half-cleared a cross from the left, but Llorente missed the chance to make himself an instant hero as he pulled his shot wide.

Atletico then doubled their advantage against the run of play when Gabi's hopeful shot from range took a big deflection on its way into the bottom corner.

## RESULTS

Eibar 2 (Saul Berjon 34, Adrian 61) Athletic Bilbao 0  
Sevilla 0 Atletico Madrid 3 (Koke 35, Gabi 78, Martinez 85)  
Valencia 1 (Negredo 45) Deportivo La Coruna 1 (Perez 39)  
Las Palmas 0 Levante 0  
Getafe 1 (Lafita 80) Granada 2 (El-Arabi 26-pen, Isaac 29)



India Disability cricket team (L) and Afghanistan Disability cricket team (R) are pictured upon their arrival at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport yesterday.



PHOTOS: FIROZ AHMED

# Dortmund match Bayern

AFP, Berlin

Borussia Dortmund reclaimed top spot in the Bundesliga from Bayern Munich on Sunday with a 3-1 victory over Hertha Berlin - their eighth straight win under new coach Thomas Tuchel.

As the only teams in Germany's top flight to have won their opening three matches, Dortmund are matching Bayern's impressive early form as the Bavarians bid to become the first side to win fourth straight German titles.

Dortmund are top on goal difference from Bayern, who romped to a 3-0 home win over Bayer Leverkusen on Saturday.

Borussia saw off Hertha at their Westfalenstadion with goals from captain Mats Hummels, Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang and Adrian Ramos.

Pitchside temperatures of 32 degrees Celsius (89.6 Fahrenheit) meant frequent water breaks as Dortmund continued their red-hot form when Hummels powered home a Shinji Kagawa cross on 27 minutes.

Aubameyang claimed his seventh goal in eight games after right-back Matthias Ginter combined with Kagawa to set up a simple tap-in on 51 minutes.

# Shelvey, Vardy called up

AFP, London



Jonjo Shelvey was recalled and Jamie Vardy retained his place in the England squad announced on Sunday for the forthcoming 2016 European Championship qualifiers against San Marino and Switzerland.

Central midfielder Shelvey, 23, won his only cap against San Marino three years ago and has been called up again by manager Roy Hodgson after some impressive early-season performances for Swansea City.

Vardy, 28, made his England debut in a friendly against the Republic of Ireland in June, but was recently fined by his club Leicester City after footage emerged of him appearing to use a racial slur against a man in a casino.

"On this occasion we are obviously missing some players from the June matches. However this is compensated by the fact we have players who weren't available over the summer," Hodgson said in a statement released by the Football Association.

"Jonjo Shelvey gets another chance as he has been very impressive since the start of the season, whilst Ryan Mason has been unlucky with us -- he picked up an injury the last time he was in the England squad."

Vardy has subsequently met the man he is alleged to have abused and has agreed to pay his fine to a charity of the man's choice.

He will also attend a diversity awareness course that has been set up by the FA at Leicester's request.

## SQUAD

**Goalkeepers:** Joe Hart (Manchester City), Jack Butland (Stoke City), Tom Heaton (Burnley)

**Defenders:** Nathaniel Clyne (Liverpool), Luke Shaw (Manchester United), Kieran Gibbs (Arsenal), Gary Cahill (Chelsea), Chris Smalling (Manchester United), John Stones, Phil Jagielka (both Everton)

**Midfielders:** Michael Carrick (Manchester United), James Milner (Liverpool), Ross Barkley (Everton), Jonjo Shelvey (Swansea City/WAL), Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain (Arsenal), Raheem Sterling, Fabian Delph (both Manchester City), Ryan Mason (Tottenham Hotspur)

**Forwards:** Wayne Rooney (Manchester United, capt), Harry Kane (Tottenham Hotspur), Jamie Vardy (Leicester City), Theo Walcott (Arsenal)

# Martial close to MU switch

AFP, Paris

Monaco forward Anthony Martial has been given permission by France coach Didier Deschamps "to travel to England to sign a contract with Manchester United", the French Football Federation announced on Monday.

The 19-year-old striker was given an international call-up for the first time by Deschamps for the friendly games against Portugal and Serbia.

Martial, who joined Monaco in 2013 from Lyon, has slowly risen up the French international ranks having played at all youth levels.

A statement on the French Football Federation website read: "Anthony Martial requested permission from Didier Deschamps to travel to England to sign a contract with Manchester United. "Given the exceptional circumstances, the coach has agreed to the request of the player."

Martial is due to return to the French training base at Clairefontaine, south of Paris, on Tuesday morning, the FFF added.

Reports have said that Manchester United could be willing to pay up to 50 million euros (£36 million, \$56 million) for Martial.

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