

**ROONEY DIDN'T KNOW MARTIAL**

Morgan Schneiderlin has revealed Wayne Rooney had no idea who Anthony Martial was before the French striker was linked with a move to Old Trafford. "On the plane [from Wales], Wayne Rooney came to speak to me and asked me who Martial was, because the English press had started to speak about him. I told him he's a great player with great potential, who has played some good matches with Monaco. I said he is technical and powerful. A little like Thierry Henry," Schneiderlin said. --INTERNET



**Safarova sent packing**  
*Nadal survives a scare*

Lucie Safarova joined the US Open seeds casualty list on Tuesday when the Czech left-hander became the fourth top-10 player to lose in the first round. Sixth-seeded Safarova slipped to a 6-4, 6-1 defeat to Ukraine's Lesia Tsurenko, the woman she defeated in the semifinals in New Haven just last week. With world number three Maria Sharapova having pulled out of the tournament through injury, Safarova's defeat also served to ease Serena Williams's path to a calendar Grand Slam. World number two Simona Halep avoided the upsets when she reached the second round thanks to New Zealand opponent Marina Erakovic retiring with a knee injury. Halep was leading 6-2, 3-0 when her 99th-ranked rival called it quits, having received a medical timeout for treatment on her right knee at the end of the first set. Romanian 23-year-old Halep goes on to

face either Kateryna Bondarenko of Ukraine or Yulia Putintseva of Kazakhstan for a place in the last 32. Another winner on Tuesday was German 11th seed Angelique Kerber, a 2011 semi-finalist, who saw off Romania's Alexandra Dulgheru 6-3, 6-1. Earlier, two-time champion Rafael Nadal survived a scare at the hands of Croatian teenager Borna Coric to reach second round. Nadal prevailed 6-3, 6-2, 4-6, 6-4 against his 18-year-old opponent. Three-time defending champion Serena Williams launched her quest for a historic title Monday by overwhelming 86th-ranked Russian Vitalia Diatchenko and advancing to the second round. The world number one was a 6-0, 2-0 winner after only 30 minutes. Top-ranked Novak Djokovic also cruised into the second round on the men's side but Japanese fourth seed Kei Nishikori crashed out after his US Open runner-up effort last year. Djokovic needed only one hour and 11 minutes to capture a 6-1, 6-1, 6-1 victory over Brazil's Joao Souza.



Rafael Nadal of Spain is ecstatic after his win over Borna Coric of Croatia during their US Open men's singles first round match at Flushing Meadows in New York on Monday. PHOTO: AFP

**Everton snap up Funes**

Argentine centre-back Ramiro Funes Mori has joined Everton from River Plate for a fee of £9.5 million (\$14.6 million, 12.9 million euros), the Premier League club announced on Tuesday. The 24-year-old defender, capped once by Argentina, has signed a five-year contract. "When I heard about Everton's interest, I didn't think twice," Funes told the Everton website. "My agent told me about this opportunity and Everton did everything to bring me over and I wanted to come. I feel happy because the people here have shown me a lot of love and I'm very happy and comfortable here already. I saw the people at Goodison Park and I saw they were a family and all cheering the players and obviously I liked that atmosphere. Hopefully I can fit straight into the group, we can get along and do big things here."

**Juve boost midfield**

Juventus have bolstered their depleted midfield following the departure of Andrea Pirlo and Arturo Vidal by signing Hernanes from Inter Milan and upcoming Frenchman Mario Lemina from Marseille. Hernanes, known for his great ball control and play-making skills, signed a three-year deal worth 11m euros (\$12.4million, £8million) to become Juve's second signing on the final day of the summer transfer period after France under-21 midfielder Lemina, who joins on a season-long loan deal. A statement on Hernanes said: "Juventus Football Club can confirm that an agreement has been reached with Inter Milan for the purchase of Anderson Hernanes for a fee of EUR11 million, payable in three financial years."

**Third knee op for Strootman**

Dutch international Kevin Strootman's long-running battle with injury continued on Tuesday as the Roma player bowed to advice to undergo a third knee operation in a bid to get his career back on track. Strootman was told by specialists last week he may require a third operation on his troublesome left knee, which flared up during a pre-season tour of Australia with his club. And the Roma midfielder -- who originally tore his anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) in March 2014 -- has reluctantly accepted the advice in a bid to kickstart his stuttering career. "Unfortunately due to a lack of power in my left leg I cannot compete at the highest level right now," Strootman said on his Twitter account. "The last few weeks we have consulted many top professors all over the world and they and the medical staff of AS Roma have advised me to reconstruct the existing ACL into another position in order for me to have less problems with my knee in the future and to regain my power again. I will undergo surgery this morning (Tuesday)." Strootman joined the Giallorossi from PSV Eindhoven in 2013 but has made only 31 appearances for Roma in two seasons. After initially damaging his knee in March 2014 in a 1-0 defeat to Napoli, he returned to action eight months later, in November, only to hit a stumbling block in January this year when he was stretched off against Fiorentina after sustaining further damage to his ACL. Days later, he underwent his second operation.

**Gibson given 20-month driving ban**

Everton midfielder Darron Gibson was banned from driving for 20 months and sentenced to a 12-month community order on Tuesday after he collided with three cyclists and drove off. Republic of Ireland international Gibson was over the legal drink-drive limit when his vehicle mounted a pavement and struck the men who had stopped to fix a broken bicycle chain. The former Manchester United player sped off in his black Nissan Skyline GT-R Nismo before he pulled into a nearby petrol station on the morning of August 16. Police were eventually called by a garage attendant after Gibson hit a petrol pump and began filling his vehicle with fuel while wearing no shoes.

**Real angry at MU for De Gea deal collapse**

Real Madrid have blamed Manchester United for the collapse of goalkeeper David de Gea's move to the Spanish giants, claiming the English side sent the documents needed to complete the deal after the Spanish transfer deadline had passed. Madrid seemed set to conclude the long-running transfer saga with a deal that would see the Spanish giants pay a significant transfer fee for De Gea and send Costa Rican international goalkeeper Keylor Navas to United as part of the deal. However, Spanish league sources confirmed that the player hadn't been registered and Madrid admitted they had sent the required documentation to the league after the window closed at midnight local time (2200GMT) on Monday. "Manchester United introduced into the Transfer Matching System (TMS) the details for the transfer of David de Gea, not those for Keylor Navas, at 00:00 Spanish time, sending simultaneously to Real Madrid the signed transfer contracts. Real Madrid received the complete documentation at 00:02 and tried to access the TMS but this

**Januzaj joins Dortmund**

Manchester United's Belgium forward Adnan Januzaj has joined Borussia Dortmund on loan for a season, the German club confirmed on Monday. The 20-year-old attacking midfielder, who was in the Belgium squad for the 2014 World Cup and has made 47 appearances for United in the Premier League, has signed until next June. "Borussia Dortmund is a big club and the fans here are unbelievable. I want to have a lot of success with this team," said Januzaj. Dortmund are top of the Bundesliga table on goal difference from defending champions Bayern Munich with both sides having won their first three games of the season.

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