

**'KEEPER WALKS THROUGH GLASS**

Liberia goalkeeper Nathaniel Sherman was forced to sit out his country's Africa Cup of Nations qualifier against Tunisia on Saturday after almost losing an eye in the team hotel just a few hours before kick-off. Sherman was fiddling with his phone when he accidentally walked directly through a glass panel at the Liberian team hotel and suffered a "serious eye injury" as a consequence. Sherman, who was wandering around the hotel talking on his phone, was so distracted that he walked straight into and through a glass panel on a door. According to All Africa, Liberia's team doctor Abu Boakai Kamara informed the press that Sherman has a "50/50 chance" of losing the



**Murray eases into last 16**

AFP, New York

Andy Murray coasted into the US Open fourth round Saturday as Canadian poster girl Eugenie Bouchard suffered a potentially tournament-ending head injury in a freak fall.

Murray, seeded three and the New York champion in 2012, brushed aside Thomaz Bellucci of Brazil 6-3, 6-2, 7-5 for his 40th career win at the US Open.

Despite falling a break down in the first set on Saturday, he eventually breezed to victory over the 30th-ranked, left-handed Bellucci.

Murray, who has advanced to the quarter-finals or better at his last 18 Grand Slams, next faces South Africa's 15th seed Kevin Anderson.

Anderson has never gone beyond the fourth round at a major and trails Murray 4-1 in career meetings.

The big South African made the last 16 with a 6-3, 7-6 (7/3), 7-6 (7/3) win over Austria's Dominic Thiem.

"It was much slower conditions today which made it tough to serve but easier to return so there were a lot of long rallies," said Murray.

"He got the early break but I got it back straightaway, used my variety and made it tough for him."

Bouchard was facing a battle to make her scheduled last-16 clash with Italy's Roberto Vinci on Sunday after injuring her head in a fall in the women's locker room on Friday.

The 21-year-old Canadian withdrew from the women's and mixed doubles tournament on medical advice.

Organisers had been due to update her status late Saturday but also scheduled Bouchard to play last on Louis Armstrong Stadium on Sunday to maximise her chances of taking part.

Two-time runner-up Victoria Azarenka, the 20th seed, triumphed over 11th-seeded German Angelique Kerber in an Arthur Ashe Stadium thriller lasting almost three hours. Azarenka won 7-5, 2-6, 6-4 on a sixth match point having trailed 2-5 in the first set.

Both players saved a combined 26 break points before the Belarusian prevailed to set-up a last-16 clash with America's Varvara Lepchenko.

Fifth seed Stan Wawrinka, the French Open champion, made the last 16 with a 6-3, 7-6 (7/5), 6-4 win over Belgian world number 107 Rubens Bemmelmans.

Czech sixth seed Tomas Berdych reached the last 16 by beating Spain's Guillermo Garcia-Lopez 6-7 (2/7), 7-6 (9/7), 6-3, 6-3.

Romanian second seed Simona Halep reached the last 16 with a 6-2, 6-3 win over Shelby Rogers, while Petra Kvitova eased past Anna Karolina Schmiedlova of Slovakia 6-2, 6-1.

**LAST 16 LINE-UP**

- Novak Djokovic (SRB x1) v Roberto Bautista Agut (ESP x23)
- Feliciano Lopez (ESP x18) v Fabio Fognini (ITA x32)
- Benoit Paire (FRA) v Jo-Wilfried Tsonga (FRA x19)
- Marin Cilic (CRO x9) v Jeremy Chardy (FRA x27)
- Stan Wawrinka (SUI x5) v Donald Young (USA)
- Kevin Anderson (RSA x15) v Andy Murray (GBR x3)
- Tomas Berdych (CZE x6) v Richard Gasquet (FRA x12)



Great Britain's Andy Murray cruised to a 6-3, 6-2, 7-5 victory at the Flushing Meadows against Thomaz Bellucci of Brazil on Saturday, securing his place in the round of 16.

PHOTO: AFP

**AFC U-19 C'SHIP QUALIFIERS**

**25 Booters Join Camp**

SPORTS REPORTER

Twenty five promising footballers joined the training camp for the AFC U-19 Championship Qualifiers, which will be held in Dhaka from October 2 to 6. The players reported to coach Mahbub Hossain Litu at the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) office, before lodging at the BFF dormitory.

Bangladesh are in Group A, where they are accompanied by Uzbekistan, Sri Lanka and Bhutan. The selected booters will start training today at the at the BFF Astro-turf in Motijheel.

**SQUAD**

- Salahuddin, Anik, Mashduddin, Ibrahim, Sabbir, Emon, Badsha, Mannaf, Rakib, Faisal, Mithu, Shahriar, Anisur, Rubel, Bishwanath, Shakil, Biplo, Rocky, Saiful, Mashuk, Mahfuz, Rohit,

**England first to qualify; Russia cling on**

AFP, Paris



Wayne Rooney equalled Bobby Charlton's England goalscoring record as Roy Hodgson's side beat San Marino 6-0 to become the first nation to secure qualification for Euro 2016 on Saturday.

Rooney opened the scoring in Serravalle from the penalty spot in the 13th minute, leaving him with an identical international record to 1966 World Cup-winner Charlton of 106 caps and 49 goals.

England added to that goal before the interval via a Cristian Broli own goal, and Ross Barkley's first goal for his country, along with late efforts from substitutes Theo Walcott, who scored twice, and Harry Kane completed a routine win.

England have won all seven games in qualifying Group E and need only draw with the Swiss at Wembley to be sure of finishing in top spot. However, Switzerland make the trip buoyed by their remarkable performance

in beating Slovenia 3-2 in Basel.

Slovenia looked set to claim a crucial win thanks to goals either side of half-time from Milivoje Novakovic and captain Bostjan Cesar. But the hosts were given hope when Borussia Moenchengladbach striker Josip Drmic came off the bench to pull a goal back in the 80th minute.

His fellow substitute Valentin Stocker equalised with six minutes to go and the stage was set for Drmic to score a dramatic winning goal four minutes into injury time.

Estonia remain right in contention too after a second-half Konstantin Vassiljev strike secured a 1-0 win at home to Lithuania.

In Group C, defending European champions Spain took a big step towards returning to the finals by defeating Slovakia 2-0 in the northern city of Oviedo.

Slovakia travelled to Spain with a perfect record in qualifying but there was to be no repeat of their 2-1 victory when the sides met last year as Jordi Alba headed home from a superb David Silva ball inside five minutes.

Andres Iniesta then scored from the

**RESULTS**

- Luxembourg 1** (Sebastien Thill 90+2) Macedonia 0
- Ukraine 3** (Kravets 7, Yarmolenko 30, Konoplyanka 40-pen) Belarus 1 (Kornilenko 62-pen)
- Spain 2** (Alba 5, Iniesta 30-pen) Slovakia 0
- Estonia 1** (Vassiljev 71) Lithuania 0
- San Marino 0** **England 6** (Rooney 13-pen, Broli 30-og, Barkley 46, Walcott 68, 78, Kane 77)
- Switzerland 3** (Drmic 80, 90+4, Stocker 84) Slovenia 2 (Novakovic 45, Cesar 48)
- Russia 1** (Dzyuba 38) Sweden 0
- Austria 1** (Junuzovic 52) Moldova 0

penalty spot on the half-hour after Slovakia goalkeeper Matus Kozacik was harshly adjudged to have brought down Diego Costa.

Ukraine remain in contention after beating Belarus 3-1 with first-half goals from Artem Kravets, Andriy Yarmolenko and Yevhen Konoplyanka, the latter a penalty.

Sergei Kornilenko scored a second-half

penalty for the visitors and Ukraine ended the game with 10 men after Denys Garmash was dismissed in stoppage time, but Mykhailo Fomenko's men are now just three points behind Spain and Slovakia.

Austria need just one more point to qualify for a European Championship outside their own country for the first time after beating Moldova 1-0 in Vienna in Group G.

They would have been assured of their finals berth already had Russia not beaten Sweden, but Artem Dzyuba scored to hand the hosts a 1-0 win in Moscow in their first qualifier since Leonid Slutsky replaced Fabio Capello as coach.

With only the top two guaranteed automatic qualification, Sweden -- who saw captain Zlatan Ibrahimovic go off injured -- remain in second place before hosting Austria on Tuesday, but Russia are just a point back in third and go to Liechtenstein next.

Montenegro beat Liechtenstein 2-0 in the night's other game with goals from Fatos

**Hulk downs Costa Rica**

AFP, Harrison



Hulk celebrated his return to the Brazil side with a 10th-minute strike to give Dunga's men a 1-0 victory over Costa Rica on Saturday in a New Jersey friendly.

In his first appearance in a Brazil squad since the World Cup debacle last year, the forward stated his case to start in their first 2018 World Cup qualifying game next month against Chile in Santiago.

He leapt on a loose ball in the box, eluding a defender and firing home for the only goal of the game at Red Bull Arena.

Despite a dearth of chances for Costa Rica -- playing under coach Oscar Ramirez for the first time -- Brazil were unable to build on the lead, with chances for Marcelo and Douglas Costa going begging after the break.

Neymar, with the squad for two North American friendlies even though he is

suspended for the first two World Cup qualifiers because of his Copa America red card, came off the bench 10 minutes from time.

But Dunga's team were unable to find a second goal.

They had put Costa Rican goalkeeper Patrick Pemberton -- in for Real Madrid's Keylor Navas -- to work quickly as he denied a free-kick from Hulk and a low close-range blast from David Luiz in the seventh minute.

Brazil's aggressive start was rewarded in the 10th, when Hulk thundered into the area and got past Giancarlo Gonzalez.

Six minutes later Pemberton saved a scorcher from Fernandinho.

Both teams were playing their first match since losing in the quarter-finals of their continental championships this year.

Brazil face the United States on Tuesday at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, Massachusetts, home of the NFL's New

**Twitter making Ronaldo richer**

AGENCIES, Madrid

One of the best-paid footballers on the planet, Cristiano Ronaldo is also a money making machine off the pitch as he's flooded with endorsement deals left, right and centre.

The most followed athlete on Twitter with 37 million followers, Ronaldo is paid an astonishing amount of money to promote products on his personal account.

Spanish newspaper AS have published figures from media brand specialists Opendorse that show Ronaldo gets paid 230,366 euros per promotional tweet.

That's nearly a quarter of a million euros for typing 140 characters or less!

Ronaldo already earns 21 million euros from his on-pitch exploits for Madrid.

Aside from that, he has multiple lucrative deals with giants such as Nike and Armani, alongside his own clothing line.

Now one of the world's most marketable footballers is rolling in the money as Twitter continues to grow everyday.

Lebron James is the next highest paid athlete for promotional tweets, earning 125,638 euros every time he promotes a brand on social media.

James Rodriguez is also in the top ten list with 40,032 euros every time he tweets and Gareth Bale is 13th, one place behind Chelsea midfielder Cesc Fabregas.



Spain's midfield maestro Andres Iniesta celebrates his goal versus Slovakia in a Euro 2016 qualifier with teammate Pedro Rodriguez.

PHOTO: AFP

**Neymar meets Bouchard**

AGENCIES, New York

Brazilian Neymar was briefly in action on Saturday night, as the FC Barcelona forward received a ten minute cameo in his side's 1-0 friendly win over Costa Rica in New Jersey.

Afterwards, the star was out and about in the US.

It's a busy time in New Jersey at the moment, as the US Open is currently taking place in Flushing Meadows.

Over the weekend, Canadian tennis star Eugenie Bouchard suffered a head injury in a locker-room accident, but before she departed, her sister became friends with Neymar.

Neymar and Beatrice Bouchard posted a couple of pictures on Instagram as they became new acquaintances, with Beatrice labelling the Brazilian as "the cutest" on her Instagram.

**Drogba off to a flyer**

AFP, Montreal

Didier Drogba launched his Major League Soccer career in style on Saturday, scoring a hat-trick on his first start Montreal Impact in a 4-3 win over Chicago Fire.

The former Chelsea striker opened his account on 21 minutes before Chicago battled back into the contest to take a 3-2 lead early in the second half.

But two typically clinical Drogba strikes just after the hour mark capped a memorable evening for the 37-year-old Ivory Coast legend.



Brazilian forward Hulk scored the only goal of his side's friendly against World Cup quarterfinalists Costa Rica in New Jersey with this shot on Saturday.

PHOTO: AFP

**Klopp won't join 'top club'**

GOAL.COM



Former Borussia Dortmund manager Jurgen Klopp has revealed that his next job in football does not necessarily have to be at one of the world's elite clubs.

Klopp, who reached the Champions League final with Dortmund in 2013 and even won the Bundesliga during his time there, stepped down at the end of the 2014-15 campaign after a terrible run of form from his side, was replaced by Thomas Tuchel, with the German set to take a year off.

The 2014-15 season was testing for Dortmund and Klopp as the side dropped down the league, ultimately finishing in 7th place in the Bundesliga table.

And though much of his work contributed to making Dortmund one of Europe's top clubs, the 48-year-old insists that his next role may not be at an elite club, despite rumours that he may one day replace Brendan Rodgers at Liverpool, or

Arsene Wenger at Arsenal.

"It [Klopp's next move] doesn't have to be an absolute top club, there are other good projects that are exciting, teams who need help," the former Dortmund boss told Germany-based daily, Bild.

"I inform, read and meet a lot of people and there are ordinary little things that are great fun. I miss nothing from football currently."

Klopp also commented on his plans for the forthcoming year, hinting that he is enjoying the freedom afforded to him.

"I don't know where I'll be heading to," he continued.

"But right now, that's not important for me because I know that if I will have the right feeling it will be a wonderful next chapter. You will see what happens and I find it exciting right now not knowing what will happen next."

"Most of the time in life, the next day is pre-planned. In my case, the next year is completely unplanned. I don't know when to continue, where to continue but I know that I will continue."