

**STARSPORTS 1**  
**Women's World Cup**  
**England v West Indies**  
**Live from 3:30pm**  
**STARSPORTS 2**  
**England v South Africa**  
**2nd Test, Day-2**  
**Live from 4:00pm**

**TEN 1HD & TEN 3**  
**Sri Lanka v Zimbabwe**  
**1st Test, Day-2**  
**Live from 10:30am**  
**STARSPORTS SELECT 1**  
**Wimbledon**  
**Women's Final**  
**Live from 7:00pm**

## PLAYING MALOUDA COSTS FRENCH GUIANA

French Guiana have been fined and made to forfeit their CONCACAF Gold Cup match against Honduras for fielding former France international Florent Malouda. The team from the overseas French department, who have qualified for the tournament for the first time, held Honduras to a 0-0 draw on Tuesday. However, CONCACAF said in a statement on Friday that its disciplinary committee had handed Honduras a 3-0 win after it confirmed that the 37-year-old Malouda was in breach of rules over the switching national teams. "(Malouda) was confirmed by the Disciplinary Committee to be ineligible to play in the Gold Cup 2017 according to the applicable regulations," CONCACAF said. It said the French Guiana Football League had been fined an "undisclosed amount" while Malouda was suspended for "two official matches" although CONCACAF did not give details of how he would serve that ban. FIFA rules bar players from switching national teams once they have played a competitive international at senior level.



# Venus stands on the brink of history

AFP, London

Unbowed by age and illness, Venus Williams stands on the brink of a history as the American star bids to become the oldest Grand Slam champion in Saturday's Wimbledon final against Garbine Muguruza.

At an age when her contemporaries have long since retired, Williams is playing some of the best tennis of her glittering career and she can cap her remarkable renaissance on Centre Court this weekend.

Back in the All England Club final after an eight-year absence, the 37-year-old hopes to become both the oldest Wimbledon and major winner since the Open era began in 1968.

Earning a sixth Wimbledon title, nine years after she last lifted the Venus Rosewater Dish, must have seemed like an impossible dream for Williams when she battled an autoimmune disease that left her fatigued and threatened to force her out of tennis.

Yet, in the twilight of her career, Venus has hit a rich vein of form over the last 12 months.

She was Australian Open runner-up in January to sister Serena, only to have her life thrown into turmoil last month



Venus Williams (L) and Garbine Muguruza arrive to attend their respective practice sessions in Wimbledon yesterday, on the eve of their women's singles final.

PHOTOS: AFP

when she was accidentally involved in a car crash in Florida that led to the death of an elderly man.

A less strong-willed personality would have gone into hiding, but Venus, after choking back tears when asked about the incident at the start of Wimbledon, has taken solace in her tennis.

"There were definitely some issues.

There's definitely a lot of ups and downs," she said.

"I just try to hold my head up high, no matter what is happening in life. In sport especially, you have injuries. You have illnesses.

"I feel very focused still. I have one more match that I'd like to be the winner of.

"But I like to take courage in the fact

that I've been playing well this tournament and this year, and all these moments have led to this."

Having crushed Johanna Konta with a masterful semifinal victory that made her the oldest Wimbledon finalist for 23 years, Venus admitted she is relishing her return to prominence when many had written her off.

"I've played some good tennis in

different points of my life. I think it's wonderful to have the opportunity to play well and to be strong," she said.

"Experience can either work against you or for you. I like to think it's working for me.

"This year has been amazing in terms of my play, playing deep into the big events."

"I'm definitely in the position I want to be in. It's a long two weeks. Now I'm knocking on the door for a title. This is where I want to be."

Inspired by her decision to hire compatriot Conchita Martinez as her temporary coach for Wimbledon, Muguruza has enjoyed a revival of her own over the last fortnight.

Since winning her maiden Grand Slam title at the French Open last year, Muguruza had endured something of a sophomore slump as her ranking dropped out of the top 10.

Martinez became the only Spanish woman to win Wimbledon in 1994 and her soothing words of wisdom have guided Muguruza to her third Grand Slam final.

Muguruza's swaggering victories over Angelique Kerber and Magdalena Rybarikova en route to the final showcased her potent blend of power and poise.

## FINAL H2H

VENUS WILLIAMS (10) v GARBINE MUGURUZA (14)

Head to Head (Overall) Played: 4

3 1

### WIMBLEDON 2017 STATS

13 Sets Played 13

1 Sets Lost 1

18 Return Games Won 22

28 Aces 17

143 Winners 141

8h Hours on court 8h

24m 11m

Beating in-form Venus in their first meeting on grass will be her toughest test, but the Spanish 14th seed is convinced she can emulate her coach's memorable triumph.

"All the names that I read on the honours board, I know all of them. For the last years, you see a lot of Williams surname," she said.

"So I look forward to putting a Spanish name back there."

## U-16 girls score nine!

SPORTS REPORTER

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## AFC U-23 C'SHIP QUALIFIERS Ord wants a win

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