Tsitsipas marches on

20-year-old beats Spain's Roberto Bautista Agut in four sets to set up last-4 clash with Nadal; becomes youngest Grand Slam semifinalist since 2007



Tsitsipas plays a return against Bautista Agut of Spain on Tuesday. The 20-year-old Greek won 7-5, 4-6, 6-4, 7-6 (2). Reuters

ASSOCIATED PRESS MELBOURNE, JANUARY 22

A POST-MILLENNIAL through and through, Stefanos Tsitsipas sounded as excited about doubling his YouTube channel's followers to more than 30,000 within a few hours -"Oh, my God. Really?!" - as he was about

becoming the youngest Grand Slam semi-

finalist since 2007. Ah, to be 20, emerging as possibly the Next Big Thing in tennis and getting the opportunity to promote your travel vlogs. "Guys," he urged folks watching the

Australian Open on Tuesday in person or on TV, "if you haven't subscribed, please subscribe."

Lest anyone get the idea that Tsitsipas' stunning victory over Roger Federer at Melbourne Park was a fluke, he followed it up by beating No. 22-seeded Roberto Bautista Agut of Spain 7-5, 4-6, 6-4, 7-6 (2) to become the first player from Greece to reach the final four at a major tournament. "I knew that win against Federer was important, played a huge role in my image - like, who I am," said Tsitsipas, who eliminated the two-time defending champion in the fourth round Sunday. "But I knew that the biggest challenge was today's match, that I can prove myself once again."

Sure did. Next for Tsitsipas will be 17time major champion Rafael Nadal, who beat another up-and-coming member of the sport's new generation, 21-year-old American Frances Tiafoe. Nadal won in straight sets, 6-3, 6-4, 6-2.

In women's action, unseeded 25-yearold Danielle Collins of the U.S. reached her first Slam semifinal with a 2-6, 7-5, 6-1 victory against Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova of Russia. Collins was an NCAA champion at the University of Virginia who began this tournament with an 0-5 record at majors and now has strung together five victories in a row, including over 2016 champion Angelique Kerber.

Collins put aside a poor start Tuesday, including dropping a 16-minute, 28-point, 11-deuce second game to completely dominate the final set, which she opened by

TRAMLINES

RESULTS: QUARTERFINALS

Men's singles: 14-Stefanos Tsitsipas (GRE) beat 22-Roberto Bautista Agut (ESP) 7-5, 4-6, 6-4, 7-6(2); 2-Rafael Nadal (ESP) beat Frances Tiafoe (USA) 6-3, 6-4, 6-2

Women's singles: 8-Petra Kvitova (CZE) beat 15-Ashleigh Barty (AUS) 6-1, 6-4; Danielle Collins (USA) beat Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova 2-6, 7-5, 6-1

ORDER OF PLAY

4-Naomi Osaka (JPN) v 6-Elina Svitolina (UKR); 16-Serena Williams (USA) v 7-Karolina Pliskova (CZE); 16-Milos Raonic (CAN) v 28-Lucas Pouille (FRA); 1-Novak Djokovic (SRB) v 8-Kei Nishikori (JPN)

Live on Sony Six & Sony Ten 2, 5.30am onwards

grabbing 20 of 23 points. She'll now face two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova of the Czech Republic or No. 15seeded Ash Barty of Australia. Cheered on by a loud, flag-waving contingent of Greek fans inside and outside Rod Laver Arena, Tsitsipas displayed his varied toolbox, producing 22 aces, 30 more winners than unforced errors (68-38) and a nose for getting to the net.

It was a terrific encore to what he did against his idol, the 37-year-old Federer, a result that left Tsitsipas unable to sleep. Tsitsipas was down a break in the first and third sets before turning both around against Bautista Agut, whose own thrill-ride to the quarterfinals included victories over Andy Murray, a three-time major champion, and Marin Cilic, the 2014 U.S. Open champion and the runner-up to Federer at Melbourne Park a year ago.

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"Well, he's a good player, no? He's very complete. He has a good forehand and backhand. He's serving well," Bautista Agut said about Tsitsipas. "I think he knows the game. He knows how to play."

'Most improved player'

That's why his peers voted him the 2018 Most Improved Player. And why he's already in the Top 20, seeded 14th in Australia. Tsitsipas recently was asked what his goal was for this season. The reply: reaching the semifinals at a major. Well, we're all of three weeks into 2019 and that box is checked. So is he satisfied? "That's like the starting point to go deeper," Tsitsipas replied. "That's like the minimum, I would call it."

No man as young as Tsitsipas had been this far at any Grand Slam tournament since Novak Djokovic at the 2007 U.S. Open or at the Australian Open since Andy Roddick in 2003. "It all feels like a fairy tale, almost. I'm just living the dream, living what I've been working hard for," said Tsitsipas, who dropped his racket, fell on his back and covered his face with his hands at match's end. "I mean, I feel a bit emotional but not too much because I know I worked hard to get here."

Seated in his courtside guest box were his parents - his father is his coach; his mother was a tennis player in the Soviet Union - and two siblings, along with Patrick Mouratoglou, who coaches Serena Williams and serves as a mentor to Tsitsipas. Before introducing them, and other members of his entourage, to the audience during his post-match interview, Tsitsipas discussed his love of "cinematography, filmmaking, photography" and the way the YouTube videos he began making last year serve as a creative outlet.

Nadal, Kvitova enter last four

Rafael Nadal inched closer to winning an event he has only claimed once before when he trounced unseeded American Frances Tiafoe 6-3, 6-4, 6-2. Czech Petra Kvitova had not gone past the last eight at a major since a burglar slashed her left hand in December 2016, forcing her out of the game for six months. She beat Ashleigh Barty, crushing the local hope 6-1, 6-4.

Ronaldo accepts fine for tax evasion, avoids jail

REUTERS

MADRID, JANUARY 22

PORTUGUESE SOCCER star Cristiano Ronaldo was fined almost 19 million euros (\$21.6 million) for tax fraud on Tuesday but will avoid serving a 23-month prison sentence after agreeing a deal. Ronaldo, holding hands with his Spanish fiancee Georgina Rodriguez, came out of the court room smiling, pausing to sign autographs before leaving in a black van.

The 33-year-old Juventus forward, who played for Real Madrid from 2009-18, agreed

to settle the case by paying an 18.8 million euro fine and accepting a suspended jail sentence. Under Spanish law, a first offender can serve anything less than a two-year sentence under probation and Ronaldo will not have to go to prison. His court appearance lasted about 15 minutes as the five-times world footballer of the year only needed to sign off on the previously settled agreement. The trial of Ronaldo's former Real Madrid team mate Xabi Alonso, also in court on Tuesday over accusations of tax fraud, was suspended, a court magistrate said.

Prosecutors were seeking a five-year jail sentence and a fine of 4 million euros for Spaniard Alonso, who retired as a player in 2017, accusing him of defrauding the Spanish state of some 2 million euros between 2010 and 2012. Alonso said he was confident he had not committed a crime and would have to wait while the magistrates evaluated his case. "I'd be worried if I thought I had something to hide or something I didn't do right but as that isn't the case I am carrying on," Alonso told reporters outside the court.

Ronaldo had to enter the courtroom through the front door after his request for special security measures to avoid the spotlight was denied on Monday.





When government moves for data localisation, where does that put businesses?

In this edition of IE Thinc, we bring in a panel of experts to discuss and analyse how the government's move to shift data storage sites from international to national will impact different businesses operating in the country.

Panelists Include:

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Ashish Aggarwal Senior Director and Head - Public Policy

Nasscom

Shweta Rajpal Kohli Country Director - Government Affairs & Public Policy, Salesforce

Shagufta Kamran Associate Director-TMT USISPF

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Bedavyasa Mohanty Associate Fellow- Cyber Initiative ORF

Moderated by

Shruti Dhapola, Assistant Editor, The Indian Express

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Plane carrying Cardiff's new signing disappears

ASSOCIATED PRESS PARIS. JANUARY 22

ARGENTINE SOCCER player Emiliano Sala was aboard a small passenger plane that disappeared off the coast of Guernsey as he was flying to Wales to join Premier League club Cardiff, authorities said Tuesday.

An official involved in the air search in the Channels Islands said no survivors are expected to be found. The search, which was halted overnight because of strong winds and rough conditions at sea, resumed Tuesday morning with help from maritime authorities in Britain and France. The light aircraft disappeared from radar Monday night over the English Channel as it made the journey from Nantes. The 28-year-old Sala had spent the previous hours saying farewell to teammates at the French city's soccer team after Cardiff signed him for a club-record fee last week.

"After all this time the weather's quite cold, the water is very cold out there ... I am not expecting anyone to be alive," Channel Islands Air Search chief officer John Fitzgerald told The Associated Press. "I don't think the coastguard are either. We iust don't know how it disappeared at the end of vesterday."

Britain's Coastguard received an alert at 8:23 p.m. on Monday from air traffic control in Jersey, the largest of the Channel Islands, after it failed to make contact with the Piper PA-46 plane with two people on board, Guernsey police said. The French civil aviation authority confirmed Sala was one of people. "The search was terminated at 2:00, with all search and rescue assets being stood down, due to strengthening winds, worsening sea conditions and reducing visibility," Guernsey police said. "So far over 1,000 square miles have been searched by a total of five aircraft and two lifeboats. There has been no trace of the aircraft. The search is continuing."

Sala's last post on Instagram was a picture on Monday with Nantes players with the message. Cardiff signed Sala for a reported 15 million pounds (\$19 million) through 2022. He was in Cardiff last week to finalize the transfer, which was awaiting international clearance. "I can't wait to start training, meet my new teammates and get down to work," Sala said in a video posted on the club's website.

A powerful and direct player, Sala equaled his career-best total of 12 goals - achieved in the past two seasons with Nantes - in 19 league games this season.



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