Ageless Nadal clinches his 19th Major in a thriller

Medvedev

14

4

64

68

5/15

75

57

164

18.4

THE BIG 3

won 51 of the last 59 Majors dating

back to the 2005 French Open

This is the 12th consecutive

Major won by a Big 3, the

econd longest streak after

the 18 in a row from

2009

Aces

Double Faults

First Serve (%)

Net Points Won (%)

Break Points Won

Winners

Unforced Errors

Total Points Won

Distance Covered/pt (m)

longest in the US Open (since 1980) after Andy Murray vs Djokovic in 2012 and Mats Wilander vs Ivan Lendl in 1988 (4 hours 54 minutes)

NADAL'S

Australian Open 1

French Open 12

■ US Open 4

Congratulations @RafaelNadal, a

gutsy victory. Stand tall friend, you

are closing in, it was a privilege to

present this trophy to you

Nadal

5

5

58

77

6/21

62

46

177

19.6

Medvedev gives the champion a run for his money, stretching the final into one of the longest in tournament history

his 19th Grand

Slam, is a step

Roger Federer's

away from

record of 20

US OPEN

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE NEW YORK

Rafael Nadal captured his 19th career Grand Slam title in thrilling fashion on Sunday by winning the US Open final, outlasting Russia's Daniil Medvedev 7-5, 6-3, 5-7, 4-6, 6-4 to seize his fourth crown in New York.

The 33-year-old Spanish left-hander, who moved one shy of Roger Federer's alltime men's record of 20 Grand Slam triumphs, became the second-oldest New York champion in the Open era after Ken Rosewall in 1970 at age 35.

The World No. 2 took the top prize of \$3.85 million at Arthur Ashe Stadium and added to his US Open trophy haul from 2010, 2013 and

Supreme effort

It took a supreme effort from the Spanish maestro, who nearly became the first player to drop the final after leading by two sets since Ted Schroeder in 1949.

Nadal, who rose to 22-12 in five-set matches, had lost only once at a Slam when up two sets, to Italy's Fabio Fognini in the 2015 US Open third round. It was the second Slam title of the year for Nadal after taking his 12th French Open crown in June.

Nadal also moved one shy of the Open era record of five US Open titles won by Federer, Jimmy Connors and Pete Sampras.

Medvedev, 23, who saw his career-best 12-match win streak snapped, would have been the first Russian to win a Grand Slam title since Marat Safin at the 2005 Australian Open and the first Russian to win the US Open since Safin in 2000.

On a knife's edge at 5-5 in the third set, Medvedev Relentless

tally of US Open crowns in the Open Era. Only Jimmy Connors, Federer and Pete Sampras have won more (5 each)

The number of US Open trophies he has won this decade – the most by a player. Djokovic has three

The number of times in his career Nadal has won two or more Slams in a year 2019 (2: French & US) 2017 (2: French & US) 2013 (2: French & US) 2010 (3: French, Wimbledon & US) 2008 (2: French & Wimbledon)

The number of Majors the Spaniard has won since turning 30 — the most by a male player. Federer and Djokovic have won four each

Nadal is the 2nd oldest US Open champion after Ken Rosewall, who was 35 when he won in 1970 Medvedev is now ranked a

career-high World No. 4, up from No. 35 at the end of the 2018 US Open ■ The Russian has won 50 matches this season, the

most on the men's Tour-

Nadal is next with 47

reeled off eight of the last

nine points to force a fourth,

breaking Nadal in the 12th

game with a backhand

Nadal was broken in the

10th game of the fourth set to

force a fifth when Medvedev

blasted a sterling backhand

return winner. Nadal saved

Congrats to Rafa for creating more history in our sport and showcasing amazing fighting spirit. And congrats to Daniil for an incredible summer on hardcourt in USA

> three break chances to hold in the second game of the fifth set, fired a backhand volley winner to break Medvedev in the fifth game and

Serving for the match, Na-

seized a 5-2 edge when Med-

vedev hit an overhead smash

Ali Nili issued him a time violation for his first serve and the Spaniard sent his second long, the crowd booing Nili for his call.

High drama

Nadal squandered two break and match-points in the ninth game as the drama intensified. Again serving for the match, Nadal saved a break-point then hit a forehand drop volley for his third match-point chance and Medvedev sent a forehand return long to end matters.

Nadal screamed and fell to the court on his back in joy

THE RESULTS

One for the ages! Absolutely incredible #USOpen

Men's Singles Final with the indomitable @

Congratulations, Rafa! #USOpenFinals

RafaelNadal winning his fourth US Open title.

Men: 2-Rafael Nadal (Esp) bt 5-Daniil Medvedev (Rus) 7-5, 6-3, 5-7, 4-6, 6-4.

FINALS

GRAPHIC: A. GANESHAN

To be honest, in

already thinking,

in 20 minutes

'What do I say in the

speech, it's going to be

I feel comfortable

here, I like the

atmosphere, I like the

playing in this Arthur

crowd. I feel a big

energy when I am

Ashe Stadium

Women: Doubles: 4-Elise Mertens (Bel) & Aryna Sabalenka (Blr) bt 8-Victoria Azarenka (Blr) & Ashleigh Barty (Aus) 7-5, 7-5.

Unbelievable and outrageous: Medvedev

Thanks crowd for fuelling fightback

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE NEW YORK

Daniil Medvedev said the energy of the New York crowd helped instigate his stunning fightback that saw him fall just short against Rafael Nadal in Sunday's US Open final.

The Russian fifth seed dropped the first two sets in his first Grand Slam final but charged back to force a decider, almost erasing a double-break deficit in the fifth set before going down 7-5, 6-3, 5-7, 4-6, 6-4.

"First of all I just want to congratulate Rafa, 19th Grand Slam title is something unbelievable, outrageous," Medvedev said. "What you've done for tennis in general, it's amazing for our sport. Thank you and congrats again."

Love-hate relationship Medvedev has experienced

a love-hate relationship with fans at Flushing Meadows after an obscene gesture in a third-round match prompted loud boos, to which the Russian later responded with a taunt of his own.

But the 23-year-old won the crowd over during his run to the final, where he was attempting to become the youngest Grand Slam champion since Juan Martin del Potro won the US Open in 2009.

"To be honest, in my mind, I was already thinking, 'What do I say in the speech, it's going to be in 20 minutes," Medvedev recalled, having fallen two sets behind to Nadal.

"I was like I have to fight for every ball, and it went further but it didn't go my way. I know earlier in the tournament I said a bad thing, and now it's a good

"It's because of your



Let's hear it! Daniil Medvedev won over the New York crowd

Tonight is going to always be in my mind because I played in the biggest court in the tennis world

energy that I'm here in the final. I mean, tonight is going to always be in my mind because I played in the big-

world. **Electric**

"You guys were pushing me to prolong this match because you want to see more tennis. Because of you guys, I was fighting like hell. It's electric. You were booing me for a reason.

gest court in the tennis

I can also change because I am a human being and I can make mistakes. Thank you very much from the bottom of my heart," he said.

+ Rashid spins it Afghanistan's way

Rain almost comes to Bangladesh's rescue

winner.

Afghanistan's remarkable journey

FEWEST TESTS TO A DOUBLE (50 and 10-wicket match haul) **1** John Lever **53 & 10-70** (Eng vs Ind, Delhi, 1976-77)

5 Dion Nash 56 & 11-169 (NZ vs Eng, Lord's, 1994) **CAPTAINS WITH A FIFTY AND 10 WICKETS IN A TEST**

Imran Khan **117 & 11-180**, vs Ind, Faisalabad, 1982-83 Allan Border **75 & 11-96**, vs WI, Sydney, 1988-89

Rashid Khan **51 & 11-104**, *v Ban, Chittagong*, *2019*

Afghanistan is the only Test side after Australia to win two of its first three Tests

resumed at 136 for six.

the visitors bowled just 2.1

overs without being able to

inflict any damage on the

4:20 p.m. and Afghanistan

was given 18.3 overs to bowl

out Bangladesh, which was

Left-arm chinaman bow-

ler Zahir Khan dismissed

overnight batsman Shakib Al

Hasan caught behind off the

chasing a target of 398.

ball

Play resumed again at

Interruptions

home side.



W L W (1877 to 1879)

W (2018 to 2019)

Bangladesh has lost its first Test against all opponents, the latest being Afghanistan

Rashid is the second leg-spinner after Abdul Qadir (vs Eng, 1987) to have six lbw victims

Afghanistan attained Test status in 2017 and played its first match against India at Bengaluru in 2018 COMPILED BY P. SATISH KUMAR

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE CHITTAGONG Rashid Khan claimed six for Hasan in front and dismis-49 and completed his maiden 10-wicket haul as Afghanistan defied rain and fading light to beat Bangladesh by a massive 224 runs survive 7.3 overs. Soumya was the last man in the one-off Test here on

Monday. Rashid grabbed three of the remaining four wickets as Afghanistan took 17.2 overs on the fifth day to bowl out Bangladesh for 173 in the second innings after the host

Play started on the fifth day at 1 p.m. local time after rain wiped out the first session. It returned in abundance after

Man-of-the-Match.

Credit to coaching staff

plans," said Rashid. ghanistan.

resumption. Rashid trapped Mehidy

to claim a

10-wicket

Bangladesh, too,

played against India

in its inaugural Test

Rahmat Shah is

the first Afghanistan

Test century, achiev-

batsman to score a

ing the feat in the

against Ireland in

Chittagong Test. He

had missed a century

the previous Test by

two runs. His scores

were: 98 and 76

in 2000

and also hit a

sed Taijul Islam in the next over for a duck to leave the last-wicket pair of Soumya Sarkar and Nayeem Hasan to

dismissed when he flicked Rashid to Ibrahim Zadran at short-leg with 20 balls left in the game as Afghanistan completed its second win after playing just three Tests.

Rashid, who made his debut as the youngest-ever Test captain in this match, finished the game with 11 wickets which included a first innings haul of five for

The Afghan skipper, who also made 51 and 24 runs in two innings, was named

"We are new to this format, so credit goes to the coaching staff for their support. Everyone applied themselves and stuck to their

Bangladesh skipper Shakib was full of praise for Af-

"They deserve this victory. After playing for 20 years, we can't say it's a build-up process," he said.

"It's been a while since we played our last Test match, but Afghanistan kept the pressure on us, credit goes to their hard work."

SCOREBOARD

Afghanistan – 1st innings: 342. Bangladesh - 1st innings: 205. Afghanistan - 2nd innings:

Bangladesh - 2nd innings: Li-

ton Das lbw b Zahir 9. Shadman Islam lbw b Nabi 41. Mosaddek Hossain c Asghar b Zahir 12, Mushfigur Rahim lbw b Rashid 23, Mominul Haque lbw b Rashid 3, Shakib Al Hasan c Zazai b Zahir 44, Mahmudullah c Zadran b Rashid 7, Soumya Sarkar c Zadran b Rashid 15, Mehidy Hasan lbw b Rashid 12, Taijul Islam lbw b Rashid O, Nayeem Hasan (not out) 1; Extras (b-4, lb-2): 6. Total (in 61.4 overs):

Fall of wickets: 1-30, 2-52, 3-78, 4-82, 5-106, 6-125, 7-143, 8-166, 9-166

Afghanistan bowling: Yamin 4-1-14-0, Nabi 20-5-39-1, Rashid 21.4-6-49-6, Zahir 15-0-59-3,

Oais 1-0-6-0. Afghanistan won by 224 runs.

Shardul and Gill put India-A in command

SA-A IN INDIA

M.R. PRAVEEN CHANDRAN THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

It will be hard to say if Shubman Gill could have enjoyed a better day as captain as he had on the opening day of the four-day unofficial Test match against South Africa-A at Sports Hub on Monday.

In the morning, Gill won

an important toss and invit-

ed the opposition to bat on a wicket which had sufficient grass on it. His bowlers obliged and dismissed the visitors for 164 runs and at stumps, Gill was

unbeaten on 66 (108b, 9x4, 1x6) that saw India-A in commanding position at 129 for Shardul Thakur and Mohammed Siraj made the ball

to zip around and within an hour, half of the South African batting line-up was back in the dressing room (22 for five). Thakur, in the first over, prised out skipper Aiden Markram with a perfect delivery that pitched and

seamed away to take the edge which was snapped up by 'keeper K.S. Bharat. Siraj accounted for the other opener Pieter Malan in similar fashion to leave South Africa zero for two.

Thakur (three for joyed the conditions and bowled with aggression and persistence. Only Dane Piedt, who played fluently for his 33 until he was bowled by Goutham, showed the necessary temperament on a rack which eased out as the sun came on.

The left-handed Marco Jansen, who top-scored with an unbeaten 45, attacked India-A spinners Gowtham and Shahbaz Nadeem to add useful runs with the tail.

Wayward

Lungi Ngidi and Lutho Sipamla were wayward with the new ball. Openers Ruturaj Gaikwad and Gill were presented enough scoring opportunities early in their innings. Gaikwad and Gill quickly added 48 runs for



A handful: Shardul Thakur made full use of the conditions.

the first wicket before Jansen bowled the former through the gate. Gill, who survived a chance on 39, added 58 runs for the second wicket with Ricky Bhui. But Ngidi in his second spell dismissed Bhui who played on. Gill crossed his 50 and played a few audacious strokes before the close to send an ominous signal to the visitors.

In the morning, Goutham passed the fitness test. Jalaj Saxena, who was a last minute inclusion in the squad as a cover for K. Gowtham. played as Anmolpreet Singh pulled out due to back spasm. Vijay Shankar who injured his thumb again during practice didn't play as a Bharat b Shardul O, Zubayr

precautionary measure.

The scores: South Africa-A -

1st innings: Aiden Markram c

Bharat b Siraj O, Pieter Malan c

Hamza b Nadeem 13, Khayelihle Zondo c Bharat b Shardul 6. Senuran Muthuswamy run out 12. Heinrich Klaasen c Nadeem b Shardul O, Wiaan Mulder c Dube b Gowtham 21, Dane Piedt b Gowtham 33. Marco Jansen (not out) 45, Lutho Sipamla b Gowtham 9, Lungi Ngidi b Nadeem 15. Extras (b-4, lb-5, nb-1): 10; Total (in 51.5 ov-

Fall of wickets: 0-1, 0-2, 3-18, 4-20, 5-22, 6-52, 7-70, 8-101, India-A bowling: Siraj 9-4-20-1,

Shardul 12-4-29-3, Nadeem 12.5-4-37-2, Gowtham 14-2-64-3, Dube 4-2-5-0.

India-A - 1st innings: Ruturaj Gaikwad b Jansen 30, Shubman Gill (batting) 66, Ricky Bhui b Ngidi 26, Ankeet Bawane (batting) 6; Extras (lb-1): 1. Total (for two wkts. in 38 overs): 129. **Fall of wickets:** 1-48, 2-106.

South Africa-A bowling: Ngidi 6-2-18-1, Sipamla 6-1-23-0, Jansen 8-1-31-1, Piedt 10-1-39-0, Mulder 5-1-13-0, Muthus-

ICA invites applications

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Indian Cricketers' Association (ICA) has invited membership applications from retired cricketers.

The BCCI announced on Monday that retired cricketers - men, women and differently-abled – may submit applications through its website on or before September 21.

Men's and women's

players who have featured in an international match in any format are eligible to become direct members. Men who have played at least 10 First Class (FC) matches (three ODIs and five T20 appearances to be counted as one FC) and female cricketers with five FC appearances will also qualify. But, there is ambiguity over the eligibility of the differently-abled.

Muzumdar hopes to make it count

Former Mumbai captain named South Africa's interim batting coach

AMOL KARHADKAR

Despite being among the most prolific batsmen on the domestic circuit for almost two decades, the India dressing room eluded Amol Muzumdar. But his second innings, as a coach, has presented him with the biggest assignment at the right time.

The former Mumbai captain was announced as South Africa's interim batting coach on Monday for its three-Test series in India, to be played in October. "It means a lot. It's an in-

ternational assignment, a huge opportunity and am looking forward to it. Obviously India in India is a big challenge but that's the name of the game," an excited Muzumdar told The Hindu after Cricket South Africa announced his appoint-



ment. The series will be South Africa's maiden assignment in the World Test Championship.

Impressive CV Muzumdar was among the

shortlisted candidates for the post of India's batting coach - before Vikram Rathour replaced Sanjay Bangar – and the NCA batting coach. with him last week, Muzumdar, who has an impressive CV as coach both in terms of qualification and exposure, grabbed the opportunity. "It seemed that (NCA bat-

But once CSA got in touch

ting coach) was not happening. And this is an international assignment, so I didn't think twice before accepting it," said Muzumdar.

Being a certified high-performance coach by the BCCI, Cricket Australia and the England and Wales Cricket Board, Muzumdar has in the last five years worked with the Netherlands national team, the India Under-19 and India Under-23 outfits. But he stressed that his two seasons with Rajasthan Royals as batting coach have helped

"Of course doing the IPL with Rajasthan Royals has gi-

him immensely.

ven a platform and the exposure to coaching. I hope I can translate it at the highest level," said Muzumdar, a winner of eight Ranji Trophy titles, besides being the second-highest run-getter in India's premier domestic tournament.

Timing critical

Timing is said to be critical for a batsman, with the willow as well as for an opportunity at the highest level. Despite scoring heavily for almost two decades, an international call-up eluded Muzumdar during his play-

As he prepares to join South Africa's squad on September 20, the 44-year-old hopes he can make the new opportunity count, considering it "has come at the right time".

after

the