

Nadal to take nothing for granted as he meets a 'solid' Medvedev

The Spaniard, seeking his 19th Grand Slam, runs into the in-form Russian in the summit clash

US OPEN

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
NEW YORK

Rafael Nadal will play for his 19th Grand Slam title, one shy of Roger Federer's all-time men's record, after battling past Italy's Matteo Berrettini on Friday and into his fifth US Open final.

The 33-year-old Spaniard dispatched Berrettini 7-6(6), 6-4, 6-1 at Arthur Ashe Stadium to reach a Sunday showdown against Russian fifth seed Daniil Medvedev, who ousted Bulgarian Grigor Dimitrov 7-6(5), 6-4, 6-3.

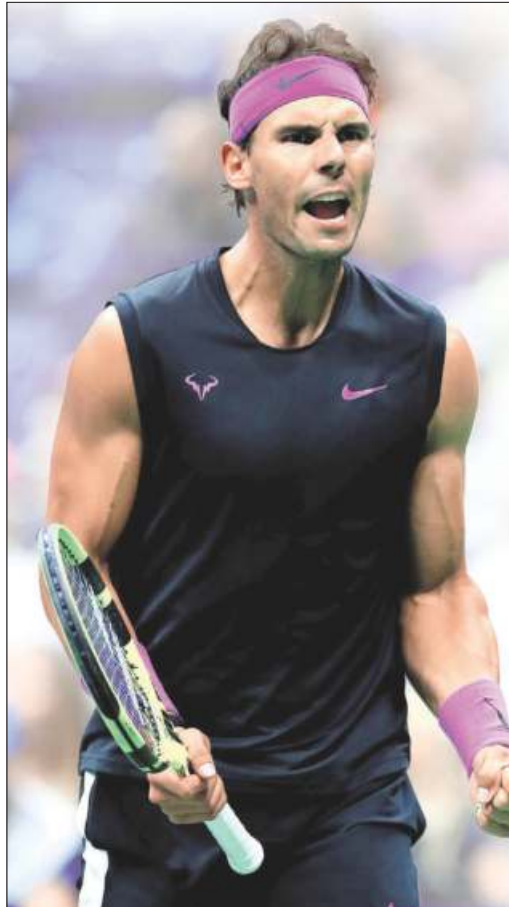
Nadal, who shook off an early season right hip injury to win a 12th French Open title, seeks his fourth US Open crown — one shy of the Open-era record of five shared by Federer, Pete Sampras and Jimmy Connors — to reach the brink of Federer's mark.

'Just another chance'

"It's just another chance on Sunday," Nadal said. "I want to enjoy a day off, have a good practice and Sunday is the day to play my best."

Nadal, into his 27th Grand Slam final, beat Medvedev in last month's Montreal final in their only prior meeting. But the World No. 2 skipped Cincinnati, where Medvedev was champion the following week.

"He's one of the more solid players on tour," Nadal



Who will rule Flushing Meadows?

When Nadal takes on Medvedev, 10 years his junior, he will hope to pull closer to Roger Federer's record of 20 Majors. The Spaniard, who has won 18 Slams, will look to clinch his fourth title at New York

Nadal		Medvedev
33	Age	23
83	Titles	5
\$111,328,858	Prize money	\$6,068,073
6'1" (185 cm)	Height	6'6" (198 cm)
2001	Turned pro	2014

HZH: In their only meeting in Montreal 2019, Nadal won 6-3, 6-0

■ US Open 2019 will be Rafael Nadal's 27th Major final. Only Roger Federer has played more (31)

■ Daniil Medvedev is only the second Russian man to reach the US Open final after Marat Safin (2000)

■ The last Russian to reach a Major final before Medvedev was Safin (2005 Australian Open)

■ Medvedev is the youngest US Open men's singles finalist since Novak Djokovic, who was 23 in 2010 (vs. Nadal)

Road to the final

Rafael Nadal (Esp)		Daniil Medvedev (Rus)
bt Matteo Berrettini (Ita) 7-6(6), 6-4, 6-1	Semifinals	bt Grigor Dimitrov (Bul) 7-6(5), 6-4, 6-3
bt Diego Schwartzman (Arg) 6-4, 7-5, 6-2	Quarterfinals	bt Stan Wawrinka (Svi) 7-6(6), 6-3, 3-6, 6-1
bt Marin Cilic (Cro) 6-3, 3-6, 6-1, 6-2	Round 4	bt Dominik Koepfer (Ger) 3-6, 6-3, 6-2, 7-6(2)
bt Hyeon Chung (Kor) 6-3, 6-4, 6-2	Round 3	bt Feliciano Lopez (Esp) 7-6(1), 4-6, 7-6(7), 6-4
w/o Thanasi Kokkinakis (Aus)	Round 2	bt Hugo Dellien (Bol) 6-3, 7-5, 5-7, 6-3
bt John Millman (Aus) 6-3, 6-2, 6-2	Round 1	bt Prajnesh Gunneswaran (Ind) 6-4, 6-1, 6-2

Of course, I would love to be the one who achieves more Grand Slams, but I still sleep very well without being the one who has more Grand Slams

I will not say that I'm a kind person or a good person. I can only say I'm a really calm person in life. I actually have no idea why the demons go out when I play tennis



THE RESULTS

Men: Semifinals: 5-Daniil Medvedev (Rus) bt Grigor Dimitrov (Bul) 7-6(5), 6-4, 6-3; 2-Rafael Nadal (Esp) bt 24-Matteo Berrettini (Ita) 7-6(6), 6-4, 6-1.

Doubles:
Men: Final: 1-Juan Sebastian Cabal & Robert Farah (Col) bt 8-Marcel Granollers (Esp) & Horacio Zeballos (Arg) 6-4, 7-5.

Women: Semifinals: 4-Elise Mertens (Bel) & Aryna Sabalenka (Blr) bt Caroline Dolehide & Vania King (USA) 4-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Mixed doubles:
Final: Jamie Murray (GBR) & Bethanie Mattek-Sands (USA) bt 1-Michael Venus-Chan Hao (Nzl) & Ching (Tpe) 6-2, 6-3.

backhand and then hit a forehand long to hand Nadal the set.

Nadal, who never faced a break point, took his first break for a 4-3 lead in the second set, held twice to take the set, then rolled to victory in two hours, 35 minutes.

Meanwhile in the men's doubles, Colombian top seeds Juan Sebastian Cabal and Robert Farah won their second consecutive Grand Slam title, beating Spain's Marcel Granollers and Argentina's Horacio Zeballos 6-4, 7-5.

"It has been unreal," Farah said. "Is this a dream? What's going on here?"

Cabal and Farah became the first duo from South America in the Open Era to claim the US title.

England faces a daunting task

THE ASHES

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MANCHESTER

England was 18 for two, chasing a target of 383, in the fourth Test of the Ashes at Old Trafford on Saturday.

Paceman Pat Cummins sent back Rory Burns and skipper Joe Root off successive balls in the first over of the host's second innings. Both fell for ducks.

Smith on song

Australia had declared its second-innings at 186 for six, with Steve Smith making 82 — his lowest score in a series where he has made 671 runs at an average of 134.2 with three hundreds, including 211 in the first innings here.

The most England has made in the fourth innings to win a Test is 362 for nine, chasing a target of 359 in the series-leveiling win in the third Test at Headingley a fortnight ago.

Warner, Broad's bunny

The sixth ball of Australia's second innings saw opener David Warner out for his third straight Test duck

when Broad had him lbw. It was the sixth time Warner, like Smith appearing in his first Test series after completing a 12-month ban, had fallen to Broad in this Ashes.

Marnus Labuschagne failed to reach fifty for the first time in four Test innings when he was trapped in front by Archer for 11.

Earlier, England, which had resumed at 200 for five, avoided following-on, thanks to Jos Buttler's cover-driven four off Mitchell Starc. Buttler was last man out, bowled for 41.



Taking a walk! Broad is done in by a Starc beauty. •GETTY IMAGES

SCOREBOARD

Australia — 1st innings: 497 for eight decl.

England — 1st innings: Rory Burns c Smith b Hazlewood 81, Joe Denly c Wade b Cummins 4, Craig Overton c Smith b Hazlewood 5, Joe Root lbw b Hazlewood 71, Jason Roy b Hazlewood 22, Ben Stokes c Smith b Starc 26, Jonny Bairstow b Starc 17, Jos Buttler b Cummins 41, Jofra Archer c Paine b Cummins 1, Stuart Broad b Starc 5, Jack Leach (not out) 4; Extras (b-4, lb-11, nb-4, w-5); 24; Total (in 107 overs): 301.

Fall of wickets: 1-10, 2-25, 3-

166, 4-175, 5-196, 6-228, 7-243, 8-256, 9-283.

Australia bowling: Starc 22-7-80-3, Hazlewood 25-6-57-4, Cummins 24-6-60-3, Lyon 36-4-89-0.

Australia — 2nd innings: David Warner lbw b Broad 0, Marcus Harris lbw b Broad 6, Marnus Labuschagne lbw b Archer 11, Steve Smith c Stokes b Leach 82, Travis Head b Archer 12, Matthew Wade c Bairstow b Archer 34, Tim Paine (not out) 23, Mitchell Starc (not out) 3; Extras (b-5, lb-2, w-7, nb-1); 15; Total (for six wkts. decl. in 42.5 overs): 186.

Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-16, 3-24, 4-44, 5-149, 6-158.

England bowling: Broad 14-4-54-2, Archer 14-2-45-3, Overton 5-5-22-0, Leach 9-0-58-1.

England — 2nd innings: Rory Burns c Head b Cummins 0, Joe Denly (batting) 10, Joe Root b Cummins 0, Jason Roy (batting) 8; Total (for two wkts. in seven overs): 18.

Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-0.

Australia bowling: Cummins 3-1-8-2, Hazlewood 2-1-2-0, Lyon 1-0-5-0, Starc 1-0-3-0.

Qadir: an epitome of buoyancy

S. DINAKAR
CHENNAI

The icy winter winds brought several layers of woollens out. It was early January and Lahore was bitterly cold.

The year was 2006 and India was touring Pakistan. Ahead of the first Test, we were on a visit to the National Cricket Academy of Pakistan for a glimpse of the country's emerging cricketers.

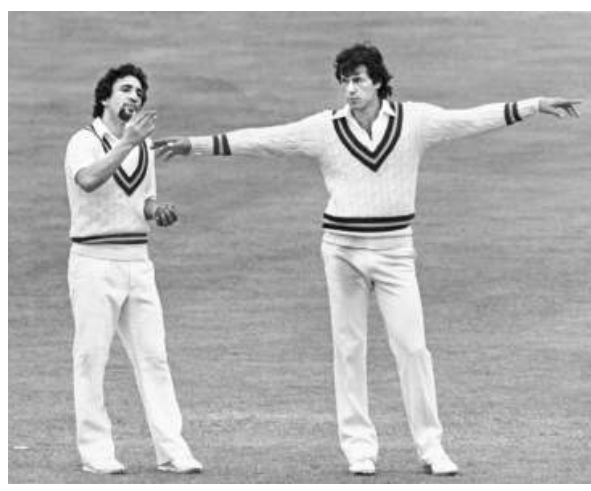
Even as we were following a net session, we heard some excited voices that signalled the arrival of someone special.

The man was a cricketer great and brought with him sunshine and warmth even if the temperatures were down.

Yes, Abdul Qadir, still bubbly, buoyant and so full of life, was paying a visit to the NCA.

Then, he walked up, extended an arm and followed it up with a hug. "Welcome to Pakistan," he said and then insisted that we should have lunch together.

The flexible man with dexterous wrists sent down



Two of a kind: Qadir and Imran were like chalk and cheese in bowling parlance, but genius was the common thread.

a few deliveries at the nets too and he could still impart serious revolutions on the ball. You could hear the sound of the ball hissing through the air. No wonder he destroyed line-ups with his drift, dip, two-way spin, and bounce.

Then wading through the bustling streets of Lahore, we travelled to a restaurant of his choice. The food was great but it was Qadir's innate charm and hospitality that was even more sumptu-

ous. "I loved playing in India. The people were friendly. The bonds between us is strong," he said. The ambience was one of love, not hate. "People to people contact and cricket would bring us closer," he said.

Another Pakistan great Majid Khan also invited us to his home for lunch, picked us up and drove us back in his car. What we saw was love, affection and genuine warmth that cut across barriers.

Tributes to a wizard

Remember playing against Abdul Qadir, one of the best spinners of his times. My heartfelt condolences to his family - TENDULKAR

Extremely saddened by the demise of Abdul Qadir, the spin bowling stalwart from Pakistan. My heart goes out to his family and friends - R. ASHWIN

Shocked to hear Abdul Qadir has passed away. Met him two years back, he was full of energy as always... a champion bowler, great human being, you will be missed forever... condolences to the family - HARBAJAN SINGH

He was a terrific bowler who bamboozled a lot of batsmen - SHANE WARNE

He was a dear friend will miss him. I would like to extend my heartfelt condolences to his family - MADAN LAL

South Africa's T20 team arrives in India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Quinton de Kock-led South Africa team set foot on India on Saturday for the upcoming three-match T20 series.

"Excited to be back in India and looking forward to playing cricket again," pace spearhead Kagiso Rabada tweeted.

South Africa will start the tour with the T20 matches, the first of which is in Dharamsala on September 15, followed by Mohali (September 18) and Bengaluru (September 22).

That will be followed by Tests in Visakhapatnam (Oct. 2-6), Pune (Oct. 10-14) and Ranchi (Oct 19-23) as the Proteas open their campaign in the ICC World Test Championship.

The team is scheduled to meet South Africa's High Commissioner in the capital on Monday and is expected to touch down at Dharamsala on September 9, six days before the first T20 International.

The squad will be led by interim team director Enoch Nkwe.

India Red outshines Green, emerges champion

Wakhare's five-for sends the latter tumbling to an innings defeat

DULEEP TROPHY

ASHWIN ACHAL
BENGALURU

A disappointing batting performance by India Green allowed India Red register an innings and 38-run victory and lift the Duleep Trophy, on the fourth day at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Saturday.

Green showed little fight in the second essay, and was bowled out for 119. Red off-spinner Akshay Wakhare was the most successful bowler, with five for 13. Pacer Avesh Khan sparked the collapse with three top-order scalps.

Collapse begins

Green skipper Faiz Fazal did not set the right trend for his teammates, playing well away from his body and nicking an out-swinging from Jaydev Unadkat.

Dhruv Shorey fell in similarly careless fashion, giving Avesh his first wicket. Akshath Reddy was bowled by an unplayable delivery from Avesh, the ball moving in and then straightening.



Mission accomplished: The India Red players with the Duleep Trophy. •SUDHAKARA JAIN

ground. Wakhare then entered the attack and wreaked the damage. In only 5.5 overs, he recorded his 19th First Class five-wicket haul, and his second fiver in as many matches.

Two-drop Siddesh Lad (42, 80b, 6x4) was the only one to show patience, but it began to wear thin as his partners seemed to be in a hurry to get out. Lad was most annoyed when Ankit Rajpoot charged out to Wak-

here on his very first delivery, only to be stumped.

With Mayank Markande not available to bat due to an injury, Lad's was the ninth and final wicket to fall.

The Hirwani effect

Wakhare credited former India leg-spinner Narendra Hirwani for his success. "I've been working closely with Hirwani sir for 10 years now. He has made me the bowler I am," the Vidarbha player

Maninder comes to Warriors' rescue



Back home! Skipper Maninder Singh escapes the clutches of the Fortunegiants defenders. •RAJEEV BHATT

PKL

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA
KOLKATA

Bengal Warriors captain Maninder Singh made a super raid in the final minute to help the hosts share honours with Gujarat Fortunegiants 25-25 in the opening match of the Kolkata leg of the ProKabaddi League (PKL) on Saturday.

Warriors managed to nose ahead in the first half, thanks to successful raids by Maninder (five points) and K. Prapanjan (four). Warriors enjoyed a slender 15-13 advantage at the break.

After the break, Fortunegiants found another solid

raider in Sachin Tanwar who took the team to 19-16.

Warriors' defence made a couple of successful tackles to make it 20-20, but the Gujarat side, in no mood to let the advantage slip, took a 25-23 lead with less than a minute remaining.

Maninder, however, caught two Fortunegiants defenders and forced a tie. He was the most successful raider, with nine points.

The results: Warriors 25 (Maninder Singh 9, K. Prapanjan 4) drew with Fortunegiants 25 (Sonu Jaglan 6, Sachin Tanwar 6); Haryana Steelers 47 (Vikas Kandola 10, Prashanth Kumar 10) bt Dabang Delhi 25 (Naveen Kumar 11).