

Teen sensation Andreescu overpowers Serena

The Canadian proves too good for the 37-year-old American who suffers her fourth straight defeat in a Slam final

US OPEN

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
NEW YORK

Teenager Bianca Andreescu became Canada's first Grand Slam singles champion on Saturday with a rollercoaster 6-3, 7-5 win over 23-time Major champion Serena Williams in the US Open final.

The 19-year-old Andreescu became the youngest Grand Slam winner since Svetlana Kuznetsova at the 2004 US Open, handing Williams a fourth consecutive defeat in the final of a Major to again deny her a record-equalling 24th Slam title.

"It's so hard to explain in words but I'm just beyond grateful and truly blessed. I've worked really, really hard for this moment," said Andreescu, who had won just two Grand Slam matches ahead of her US Open main draw debut.

It's 8-0

She improved her record over top-10 opponents this season to 8-0 and will rise to a career-high ranking of fifth on Monday.

Andreescu tied Monica Seles, who lifted the 1990 Roland Garros trophy in her fourth Major, for the record as the fastest player to win her first Slam title in the Open era. Williams, 37, suffered a second finals loss in a row at Flushing Meadows, after a 2018 defeat to Naomi Osaka best remembered for a furious tirade against chair umpire Carlos Ramos.

"Bianca played an unbelievable match, I am so proud and happy for you. It was incredible tennis out there. If anyone could win this, outside of Venus, I'm happy it's Bianca," Williams said.

Appearing in a 33rd Grand



The 19-year-old Queen

Andreescu is the first Canadian to win a singles Major. She has tied Monica Seles for the fastest path from Slam debutant to Slam Champion. Seles won 1990 Roland Garros in her fourth Major appearance. Andreescu won 2019 US Open, her fourth Major appearance.

I honestly don't think Serena showed up. I have to kind of figure out how to get her to show up in Grand Slam finals

SERENA WILLIAMS

This year has been a dream come true. Being able to play on this stage against Serena, a true legend of the sport, is amazing. I tried not to focus on who I'm playing

BIANCA ANDREESCU

Match stats

Andreescu	Aces	Serena
5	9	
3	Double Faults	8
66	First Serve (%)	44
63	Net Points Won (%)	82
6/13	Break Points Won	3/8
19	Winners	33
17	Unforced Errors	33
77	Total Points Won	68
10.2	Distance Covered/pt (m)	9.3

SHE THE CHAMP!
Congrats, @Bandreescu_ on an amazing performance and your first grand slam! Romania is very proud of you

CONGRATS GIRL! Canadian history!

CONGRATS GIRL! Canadian history!

Congratulations @Bandreescu!
You've made history and made a whole country very proud. #SheTheNorth

Congratulations @Bandreescu_ on an amazing performance and your first grand slam! Romania is very proud of you

CONGRATS GIRL! Canadian history!

CONGRATS GIRL! Canadian history!

Andreescu is the youngest US Open champion since Svetlana Kuznetsova in 2004 (19 years)

In 2018, Andreescu lost in the first round of qualifying at Flushing Meadows.

The last teenager (woman) to win a Major was Maria Sharapova at the 2006 US Open (19 years)

Andreescu is the first player born in the 2000s, man or woman, to have won a Slam. The men's Tour is yet to see a Major winner born even in the 1990s!

Andreescu is the first woman in the Open Era to win the US Open on main draw debut

Serena has now lost six of her last eight Slam finals, including her last four. Prior to that, she had lost just four of her 25 Major finals

Serena has failed to win a set in any of her last four Slam finals



Slam final, and fourth since the last of her 23 Major titles, Williams made an inauspicious start by conceding her opening service game with successive double faults.

Andreescu, who wasn't even born when Williams won her maiden Slam at the 1999 US Open, responded with a comfortable hold, a pattern that repeated itself until the Canadian threatened to run away with the

opening set. Serving at 2-4, Williams erased five break-points with a combination of aces and booming groundstrokes.

Sensational turnaround
Andreescu had failed to even reach the main draw at Flushing Meadows the past two years, twice falling in the first qualifying round, and her confidence continued to flow as she surged 2-0 ahead

in the second – Williams again doubled-faulting on break-point.

The American carved out four opportunities to hit back, benefiting from a huge stroke of luck when a forehand brushed the tape and trickled over to haul herself back on serve.

Undeterred, Andreescu promptly regained the initiative with another break and looked to be marching to-

wards the title when she followed a routine hold by again breaking serve for a 5-1 lead. Andreescu brought up championship point in the ensuing game, but Williams smacked a forehand winner to stay alive and then rattled off 14 of 17 points to peg her opponent back at 5-all.

Remarkable composure
The Canadian stemmed the bleeding by holding for 6-5

and an errant Williams backhanded Andreescu two more shots at the title.

Williams saved the first with an ace but Andreescu secured victory on the next with a blistering forehand return.

THE RESULTS

Women: Final: 15-Bianca Andreescu (Can) bt 8-Serena Williams (USA) 6-3, 7-5.

A mock cheque that turned real!

When she was 16, Bianca Andreescu, after winning the Orange Bowl, a prestigious junior tennis tournament in the United States, wrote herself a mock cheque equal to the US Open prize money to act as motivation. "I just felt like I could do really big things in this sport," said Andreescu after her

triumph on Saturday. "So, I just grabbed a cheque and wrote the prize money of that year.

"But every year I kept increasing it because it kept changing. But I just kept visualising that moment since that day. Now being the actual champion is just so crazy." The Canadian is now richer by \$3.85 million.

Serena didn't show up today, says Williams

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
NEW YORK

Serena Williams is wondering when she will start playing like a 23-time Grand Slam champion again in a Major final, calling her poor showing in Saturday's US Open final loss "inexcusable".

Williams fell to 19-year-old Canadian Bianca Andreescu 6-3, 7-5 at Arthur Ashe Stadium on the same court where she won her first Grand Slam title 20 years ago, nine months before Andreescu was born.

"I love Bianca. I think she's a great girl. But I think this was the worst match I've played all tournament. It's hard to know that you could do better," Williams said.

"Bianca obviously played well. I think her returns make me play better and put pressure on my serve. At the same time it's inexcusable for me to play at that level," she said.

"I believe I could have just been more Serena today," Williams said. "I honestly don't think Serena showed up. I have to kind of figure out how to get her to show up in Grand Slam finals."

"I love Bianca. I think she's a great girl. But I think this was the worst match I've played all tournament. It's hard to know that you could do better," Williams said.



How much longer? Serena Williams is struggling to find answers for bad performances in the biggest matches. • AFP

Australia registers emphatic win, keeps the urn

Cummins takes four as the bowlers rule the day at Old Trafford

THE ASHES

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MANCHESTER

Pat Cummins led the way before Josh Hazlewood struck as Australia retained the Ashes with a 185-run win over England in the fourth Test at Old Trafford on Sunday.

England, set a huge target of 383 to win, was bowled out for 197 following some spirited lower-order defiance.

Cummins, the world's top-ranked Test bowler, took four for 43 in 24 overs.

The match ended when Craig Overton, who faced 105 balls, was lbw to Hazlewood for 21 after the tailender's review failed to overturn umpire Kumar Dharmasena's decision.

Victory ensured Australia kept hold of the Ashes at 2-1 up with one to play in the five-Test campaign.

If Australia avoids defeat at the Oval next week, it will have won its first Test series in England for 18 years.

Jos Buttler, England's last recognised batsman, faced 111 balls either side of tea making 34 when crease occupation was the order of the day.

But Buttler's patient vigil



On top of the world: The Australians are cock-a-hoop after their Ashes triumph. • AP

ended with a misjudgement that saw him play no shot to a Hazlewood ball that cut back and hit off-stump.

Smith the star

This match was a triumph for Australia's Steve Smith, the world's leading Test batsman, who scored 211 and 82.

That took his tally for the series to 671 runs at 134.2, including three hundreds, despite Smith missing the third Test with concussion.

STAT SPHERE

It was a memorable victory for Australia as it retained the Ashes in England after 18 years when it had won 4-1 (2001)

Since then, England's five visits down under saw it lose the series four times and win once (3-1 in 2010-11)

On the other hand, the Aussies lost all the four away series prior to this tour. However, after routing the Englishmen 4-0 in the previous home series in 2017-18, the Australians have secured an unassailable 2-1 lead now and ensured that they will return home with the urn

Smith has been the prime architect of the success story, with 671 runs in five innings (Ave: 134.20, 3x100s, 2x50s)



SCOREBOARD

Australia – 1st innings: 497 for eight decl.

England – 1st innings: 301.

Australia – 2nd innings: 186 for six decl.

England – 2nd innings: Rory Burns c Head b Cummins 0, Joe Denly c Labuschagne b Lyon 53, Joe Root b Cummins 0, Jason Roy b Cummins 31, Ben Stokes c Paine b Cummins 1, Jonny Bairstow lbw b Starc 25, Jos Buttler b Hazlewood 34, Craig Overton lbw b Hazlewood 21, Jofra Archer lbw b Lyon 1, Jack Leach c Wade b Labuschagne 12, Stuart Broad (not out); Extras (b-9, lb-8, nb-2): 19; Total (in 91.3 overs): 197.

Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-0, 3-66, 4-74, 5-93, 6-138, 7-172, 8-173, 9-196.

Australia bowling: Cummins 24-9-43-4, Hazlewood 17.3-5-31-2, Lyon 29-12-51-2, Starc 16-2-46-1, Labuschagne 4-1-9-1, Head 1-1-0-0.

Australia won by 185 runs to take 2-1 lead in five-match series.

Fifth and final Test: Sept. 12 to 16, The Oval.

I've been here a few times when things haven't gone our way. This was always one to tick off my bucket list. It's extremely satisfying

STEVE SMITH

SA-A IN INDIA

M.R. PRAVEEN CHANDRAN
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

India-A will look to continue its domination when the first four-day "Test" against South Africa-A begins at the Sports Hub here on Monday.

The rain-curtailed ODI series was one-sided, with India-A showcasing its depth and skill to blow away the visitors. A fact which was admitted by losing captain Temba Bavuma, who said his team struggled to meet the demands of the shorter version.



Getting battle-ready: India-A skipper Shubman Gill hones his skills at Thiruvananthapuram on Sunday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

However, Bavuma is not part of the "Test" squad which will be led by Aiden Markram. The South Africa-A skipper has spent some time getting acclimatised.

After attending a spin camp in Bengaluru, Markram will be better prepared to neutralise the threat from Shahbaz Nadeem and K. Gowtham.

Apart from Markram, the squad comprises five others – Theunis de Bruyn, Lungi Ngidi, Senuran Muthusamy, Dane Piedt and Heinrich Klaasen – who are part of the senior Test squad.

A few of the players from India-A squad like wicket-keeper K.S. Bharat, Shubman Gill, Shivam Dube and Vijay Shankar will be in focus during the series.

Vijay Shankar will be keen to prove his fitness.

The trio of medium-pacers Shardul Thakur, Mohammed Siraj and Tushar Deshpande will provide different challenges to the visiting batsmen.

With rain giving way to bright sunshine over the last three days, it could well turn out to be an interesting match.

Jalaj Saxena has been added to the squad as cover for K. Gowtham, who is unwell and being monitored by the BCCI medical team.

The teams (from):
India-A: Shubman Gill (Capt.), Rituraj Gaikwad, Anmolpreet Singh, Ricky Bhui, Ankeet Bavane, K.S. Bharat, K. Gowtham, Shahbaz Nadeem, Shardul Thakur, Mohammed Siraj, Tushar Deshpande, Shivam Dube, Vijay Shankar and Jalaj Saxena.

South Africa-A: Aiden Markram (Capt.), Theunis de Bruyn, Zubayr Hamza, Lungi Ngidi, George Linde, Pieter Malan, Eddie Moore, Senuran Muthusamy, Marco Jansen, Dane Piedt, Wiaan Mulder, Heinrich Klaasen, Lutho Sipamla, and Khaya Zondo.

Karthik apologises to BCCI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Dinesh Karthik has tendered an "unconditional apology" for violating BCCI's Central clause by watching a Caribbean Premier League game from the Shah Rukh Khan co-owned Trinbago Knight Riders' dressing room.

Karthik is the captain of Kolkata Knight Riders but being seen in a Trinbago jersey while watching the match from the dressing room brought a show cause notice from the BCCI asking why his contract should not be cancelled.

Naveen and Meraj power Dabang past Thalaivas



No escape: Manjit Chillar of Tamil Thalaivas is caught by Dabang Delhi defenders. • RAJEEV BHATT

Score points at will for the Delhi side; Warriors pip Paltan

PKL

Y.B. SARANGI
KOLKATA

Naveen 'Express' Kumar and Iranian import Meraj Sheyk's exceptional raiding enabled table-topper Dabang Delhi to bounce back from its loss to Haryana Steelers and record an emphatic 50-34 win over Tamil Thalaivas in the ProKabaddi League at the Netaji Indoor Stadium here on Sunday.

The alert Naveen and the athletic Meraj stole 17 and 12 points respectively as Dabang posted its 11th win to bolster its position atop the table. Dabang gained the upper

hand, having Thalaivas all out within eight minutes. It tightened the grip further when Thalaivas was all out for a second time two minutes from half-time.

The change of sides did not help the southern outfit, which suffered its third all out within three minutes of resumption.

Naveen and Meraj steered their team to a 20-point lead with nine minutes left. While Naveen depended on his speed, Meraj used his acrobatic skills to fetch spectacular points through kicks and touches.

The Iranian impressed by slipping out of opponents'

tackles to score valuable points, including a three-pointer when he ousted Ajeet, Yashwant Bishnoi and Sagar.

Thalaivas' chief raider Rahul Chaudhuri and V. Ajith Kumar were left frustrated without enough support from teammates.

Bengal Warriors beat Purneri Paltan 42-39 in a thriller to secure its seventh victory.

The results: Dabang Delhi 50 (Naveen 17, Meraj 12, Vijay 5) bt Tamil Thalaivas 34 (Rahul 4, Ajith 9); Bengal Warriors 42 (Maninder Singh 10, Mohd. Nabibaksh 6, Sukesh Hegde 6) bt Purneri Paltan 39 (Pankaj Mohite 11, Manjeet 10).

Showcause notice to Amitabh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Committee of Administrators (CoA) on Sunday issued a showcause notice to BCCI acting-secretary Amitabh Choudhary for not attending recent meetings of the ICC and Asian Cricket Council (ACC).

"It has come to the notice of the CoA that in the last meeting of the ICC and ACC, not only did you not attend the meetings, but also kept the BCCI in dark about your unavailability either until it was too late or altogether," wrote the CoA.