

# Murray: From brink of retirement to first ATP title since 2017

AP/REUTERS  
OCTOBER 20

ANDY MURRAY has won his first ATP tour final since having hip surgery in January for an injury that left him contemplating retirement at one point.

Murray rallied to beat fellow three-time Grand Slam champion Stan Wawrinka 3-6, 6-4, 6-4 in the European Open final on Sunday.

"This is one of the biggest wins that I've had after everything so I'm very proud," Murray said in an on-court interview broadcast by Amazon Prime.

It was the 32-year-old Murray's first ATP tour final since March 2017.

After undergoing hip resurfacing surgery, the British player returned to the court in June playing doubles — including at Wimbledon — before moving back to singles in August.

The 34-year-old Wawrinka was looking for his first ATP title since the 2017 Geneva Open.

The crucial break of serve in the first set came in the second game, with Murray saving two break points but not a third, and his Swiss opponent served it out 6-3.

Murray looked in deep trouble when Wawrinka broke again in the third game of the second set, and the Scot had to save more break points to avoid losing a fourth game in a row.

But, having dug in, he got his reward as Wawrinka's serve went off the boil and his level dipped, with Murray breaking back to 3-3.

Wawrinka had two more chances at 4-4 but again Murray fought off the danger and it was Murray who then took his first set point to clinch it 6-4 and level the match.

Wawrinka stepped up again early in the third set and was twice a break ahead but once more Murray dug in, hitting back immediately both times.

Murray saved two more break points at 4-4 to leave Wawrinka serving to stay in the match. When Wawrinka blazed a forehand well off target on Murray's first match point, it was the former top-ranked Murray celebrating a remarkable comeback.

**Shapovalov wins first ATP title**

Canada's Denis Shapovalov captured his maiden ATP Tour title at the Stockholm Open on Sunday, easing past Filip Krajinovic 6-4 6-4 in the final.

Despite two victories over top-10 opponents in his career, a first trophy had proved elusive for the 20-year-old but Shapovalov was not to be denied by his Serbian opponent who was on a similar quest.

Shapovalov triumphed in style, sending down 16 aces and losing two points on his first serve while saving the only breakpoint he faced in the one-sided, 84-minute contest.

The world number 34 follows in the footsteps of Greek Stefanos Tsitsipas, who lifted the Stockholm trophy for his first tour-level title as a 20-year-old last year.

Tsitsipas was Shapovalov's second top-10 victim, at the Miami Open earlier this year, following a stunning three-sets victory over Rafa Nadal at the Rogers Cup two years ago to announce himself on the big stage.

Shapovalov will look to carry his good form into the 21-and-under Next Gen ATP Finals starting on Nov. 5 in Milan.

**Ostapenko wins in Luxembourg**

Former French Open champion Jelena Ostapenko proved too strong for defending champion Julia Goerges in the Luxembourg Open final as she cruised past the German 6-4 6-1 on Sunday.

The 22-year-old Latvian, who captured her first Grand Slam title at Roland Garros in 2017, won the third WTA crown of her career with a solid display in her second final of the year.

Just when she looked like she was shedding the inconsistency that has dogged her game in recent months, Ostapenko was beaten by 15-year-old Coco Gauff of the United States in the Linz Open final last week.

But the Luxembourg wild card was in no

**COMEBACK 2017**

**JUNE 9:** Murray loses French Open semifinal to Stan Wawrinka after a long-standing hip issue flares up.

**JULY 12:** A limping Murray fails to defend Wimbledon title with a quarter-final defeat.

**AUGUST 26:** After pulling out of two Masters events and losing his world No 1 ranking, Murray withdraws from the US Open.

**2018**

**JAN 2:** Murray's second attempt at a comeback fails after he pull out on the eve of his first match at Brisbane Open. Six days later, he announces he has undergone a hip surgery.

**MAY 8:** Murray fails to make a return at a Glasgow Challenger after a setback in recovery.

**JUNE 19:** After 342 days away from court, Murray loses a first-round match at Fever-Tree Championships.

**JULY 1:** He withdraws from Wimbledon with a "heavy heart" after saying his right hip was still not ready. He loses in the second round of the US Open.

**2019**

**JAN 11:** A week after a second-round loss at Brisbane international, Murray breaks down in tears and reveals plans to end career at Wimbledon. He suffers a five-set defeat in the Australian Open first round and looks set to retire.

**JAN 29:** He confirms he has undergone hip resurfacing surgery, hoping it will be the "end of his pain".

**JUNE 3:** Announces plans to return by competing in doubles at the Queen's Club. "Pain-free for a few months now", Murray wins Queen's doubles with Feliciano Lopez.

**JULY 10:** Murray competes in the men's and mixed doubles at Wimbledon, partnering Serena Williams for the latter.

**AUGUST 18:** Murray returns to singles action at Winston-Salem Open, losing in the first round. He later returns to Challenger tour for the first time since 2005.

**OCT 20:** After competing at Zhuhai, China and Shanghai Opens, Murray wins his first ATP title since 2017 in Antwerp.

mood to let another opportunity slip by in her final tournament of the year, sealing the decider on the back of her superb serve.

"Of course it's great to finish the season with winning a title, especially in the last tournament," said Ostapenko, who fired six aces and won 83% of points off her first serve.

"I enjoyed this week so much. I think I played really well today. I just like to finish the year this way. Especially after making the final last week, I was much more confident in coming to this tournament."

**Moscow title for Bencic, Rublev**

Switzerland's Belinda Bencic recovered from a set down to outclass local favourite Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova 3-6 6-1 6-1 in the Kremlin Cup final on Sunday to win her second title of the season and fourth overall.

The world number 10 switched gears after losing the opening set, dropping only two of the last 14 games in a stunning show to swat aside the 2014 champion.

"It feels unbelievable right now. I still can't imagine it," said Bencic, who on Saturday became the eighth and final player to qualify for the season-ending WTA Finals in Shenzhen.

"I had no pressure going into this match. We were so happy yesterday, celebrating (Shenzhen). This is the cherry on top."



## BRAVEHEART FIGHTS ON

Andy Murray beat fellow three-time Grand Slam champion Stan Wawrinka 3-6, 6-4, 6-4 in the European Open final on Sunday. *AP*

# United drop points, make one

Touted to lose, Red Devils surprise league leaders Liverpool by holding them to a 1-1 draw

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
MANCHESTER, OCTOBER 20

ADAM LALLANA scored his first goal in more than two years to rescue a 1-1 draw for Liverpool at Manchester United on Sunday, preserving the Premier League leader's unbeaten start. Although Liverpool dropped points for the first time since last season in March, Jurgen Klopp's side still went six points clear after nine games.

It's 17 consecutive wins and out in the league for Liverpool but the bigger mission is winning the English title for the first time since 1990. United sits only two points above the drop zone but the heat should ease on Ole Gunnar Solskjaer after avoiding defeat against what is currently the strongest side in England — and managing to take the lead through Marcus Rashford in the first half.

"The result is good," Klopp said after failing to win in the league for the first time since a draw with Everton in March. "It's not what we wanted before the game. But the way it developed I feel we have to be happy. We take the point because for a long time they were 1-0 up.

"We had good moments in the second half but I didn't like the first half, because we gave Manchester United opportunities to do what they wanted."

This was a day when Liverpool struggled to impose itself on a United side low in confidence. But Klopp's second-half changes paid off. Lallana, who replaced Jordan Henderson around the hour, ghosted in at the far post in the 85th minute to meet Andy Robertson's cross with a tap-in for his first goal since May 2017.

Liverpool fans were already in party mood before kickoff at the home of its greatest rival.

They weren't just goading United about "going down." They'd brought balloons in the shape of sixes. Where better to celebrate their sixth European Cup triumph in June than at the club with only three successes?

Especially on a day when some United fans turned on their leadership in a very public way. A banner calling for the departure of executive vice chairman Ed Woodward was flown over Old Trafford before kickoff with fans protesting against the owning Glazer family outside.



Marcus Rashford scored in the 36th minute after turning home a superb low cross from Dan James. *Reuters*

# Mallorca end Madrid's unbeaten Liga run

REUTERS  
PALMA, OCTOBER 20

REAL MADRID'S unbeaten start to the La Liga season came to an abrupt and surprising end as Real Mallorca claimed a stunning 1-0 victory at a rocking Son Moix on Saturday to climb out of the relegation zone.

The Balearic Islanders had only managed six goals in their opening eight games of their first season back in the big time, but one was enough to down their illustrious visitors.

It was a cracker too, thrashed home in the seventh minute by Ivorian Lago Junior who with one swing of his right foot wrote his name into Mallorca sporting folklore alongside tennis great Rafa Nadal who celebrated his wedding earlier. Local boy Nadal is a Real Madrid fan but surely would have raised a glass in honour of Lago Junior and the fighting spirit of a team written off a relegation

fodder before the season.

Real Madrid, 5-0 winners on their most recent trip to the island in 2012, were without several big names including Luka Modric, Gareth Bale, Toni Kroos and Eden Hazard, but could have no complaints as they failed to function.

Defeat cost them the chance of reclaiming top spot from Barcelona who won earlier in the day and they will have to bounce back quickly with a crucial Champions League clash against Galatasaray on Tuesday having picked up only one point in their opening two matches.

A disgruntled Zidane refused to use the absentees as a reason for the loss.

"These players are injured, and we have others who are good too. But they must show that every time they play, that they have the level to play for Madrid. Today we didn't," he said. "We must be more consistent if we are to do anything good this year, have more life

in our play. Today we didn't have that. "Our start to the game was very bad.

"In second half we did not create many clear chances, we lacked a bit of everything today."

**Modric and Bale to miss Real's trip to Galatasaray**

It was no smash and grab raid by Vicente Moreno's Mallorca who produced a tenacious display full of energy to beat Real for the first time since 2006, sparking wild celebrations. Moreno led Mallorca back to La Liga via the playoffs in June and after an opening day win they have found it tough.

But they backed up their win over Espanyol before the international break with a performance that will fuel belief they can survive. "We have achieved in the two previous years more important things than winning one game," Moreno said. "Three points was vital, regardless of the opponent."

# Belihu, Gemechu defend titles at Delhi half marathon

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 20

DEFENDING CHAMPIONS Andamlak Belihu and Tsehay Gemechu produced their personal best to retain the men's and women's titles respectively at the 15th Airtel Delhi Half Marathon here on Sunday.

Belihu's timing of 59:10 was better than the 59.18 that he had clocked to win the title last year but it was four seconds short of the course record set by Guye Adola (59.06) in 2014. Gemechu, on the other hand, smashed the course record by producing a personal best of 66:00.

Belihu finished ahead of compatriot Solomon Berihu, who came up with a time of 59:17 on debut, while Kenya's Kibiwott Kandie signed off third with a timing of 59:33. Belihu and Berihu had a thrilling head-to-head battle over the final few kilometres.

At 18km, Belihu looked in trouble for several minutes but recovered his poise and reeled

in his rival with little more than a kilometre remaining before pulling away for victory.

"At about 18km I started to suffer some back pain, that possibly cost me the course record. I'm a bit disappointed that I missed out on the course record again but I got a personal best so I cannot complain too much," said Belihu.

"This race has put the frustration of finishing fifth at the world championships (in the 10,000m in Doha two weeks ago) behind me," added the 20-year-old, who wants to come back in 2020 to attack the course record and try to become the first to win a hattrick of ADHM title.

Ethiopia also dominated the women's race with their long-distance runners grabbing the top three spots at the prestigious IAAF Gold Label Race here.

The 21-year-old Gemechu not only pocketed a cheque of USD 27,000 for the top position but also grabbed a course record bonus of \$10,000.

Yelamzerf Yehualaw (66:01) finished just

**Belihu's timing of 59:10 was better than the 59.18 that he had clocked to win the title last year but it was four seconds short of the course record set by Guye Adola (59.06) in 2014.**

one second behind Gemeche for the second place, while Zeineba Yimer clocked 66:57 to take the third spot, the same position as she had finished in 2018.

Gemechu, who had scored a personal best of 66:50 to set a course record last year, said: "I broke the course record and I am happy that I could achieve it. I was tired after Doha. But I wanted to come here and fight for the course record. I knew I was mentally strong."

It was a thrilling head-to-head duel over the final five kilometres between Gemechu and Yehualaw that kept the crowd excited.

A large pack went through 5km in 15:43 before a sharp increase in pace by the male pacemakers brought the leading group of six past 10km in 31:22, indicating that the course record was very much under threat.

One-by-one runners became detached until only Gemechu and Yehualaw remained as they went through 15km in 47:05.

Coming into the final kilometre, Yehualaw — who won the African Games half marathon title in August — edged in front and briefly looked like she was going to cause an upset. But with the finish line approaching Gemechu managed to get past her rival to become just the second woman to defend in Delhi.

Among Indian men, Srinu Bugatha claimed the first position with a timing of 1:4:33, while Suresh Patel and Harshad Mhatre bagged the second and third place with timings of 1:04:57 and 1:05:12 respectively.

Among the Indian women, L Suriya came up at the top with a timing of 1:12:49, while Parul Chaudhary and Chinta Yadav clocked 1:13:55 and 1:15:28 to finish second and third.

# ‘Racially abused and spat at’, players walk off in FA Cup tie

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
LONDON, OCTOBER 20

AN FA Cup qualifying match between Haringey Borough and Yeovil Town was abandoned after allegations that players were racially abused and spat on.

The players of seventh-tier outfit Haringey walked off the field on Saturday with about 25 minutes to go, shortly after Yeovil had scored a penalty.

The incident during the match in the fourth qualifying round came just five days after England players endured racist abuse during their Euro 2020 qualifier against Bulgaria in Sofia.

Haringey manager Tom Loizou said defender Coby Rowe suffered racial abuse while Cameroonian goalkeeper Douglas Pajetat was also spat at, prompting him to take his players off the pitch.

"Early into the second half, we got a corner and a couple of the players said to me there was monkey chants," Loizou told Sky News.

"We got over that, we carried on playing. They got a penalty and my goalkeeper was spat at and had missiles thrown at him.

"The referee halted the game briefly, they scored the penalty, one of players went to pick the ball out of the back of the net and Coby Rowe was racially abused."

Loizou said he had to take his players off. "I looked at a couple of our players' faces and I was distraught myself, just to see their faces. I gave it a couple of minutes and I went on the pitch and pulled my players off," he said.

"There was no way that two or three of those players could have continued playing. What they heard was disgusting, they looked frightened.

"I can't sit down and watch young players being abused by a minority."

