

Wawrinka knocks out Murray, Nadal still unbeaten

BY MARTYN HERMAN
REUTERS

LONDON — Britain's Andy Murray can focus fully on next week's Davis Cup assignment in Belgium after Stanislas Wawrinka sent him packing from the ATP World Tour Finals at the O2 Arena on Friday.

The final round-robin match at the year-ender had become a straight knockout between the two players after Rafael Nadal had already sealed top spot in Ilie Nastase Group, and Wawrinka looked the sharper as he won 7-6(4), 6-4.

Earlier, Nadal spent two hours and 36 minutes beating fellow Spaniard David Ferrer 6-7(2), 6-3, 6-4 to make sure he went into Saturday's semifinal against world number one Novak Djokovic with a 100 percent record so far this week.

Wawrinka will face Stan Smith Group winner Roger Federer, who like Nadal was unbeaten in group play.

With Nadal already in the semifinals and Ferrer going home after two defeats, their match could have turned into a mere exhibition, but the packed arena was treat-

ed to the longest match of the tournament so far.

It looked as though the Spaniard might be in for an easy ride when he won 10 of the first 11 points, breaking Ferrer twice, but his 33-year-old opponent is renowned as one of the sport's best bat-tlers and he hit back to win a tiebreak.

World number five Nadal, who had already beaten fourth-ranked Wawrinka and number two Murray, buckled down though and levelled the match before breaking the Ferrer serve in the final game of the contest.

"It should be like this," Nadal, who has been transformed since a modest summer, told reporters.

"Doesn't matter if I was qualified. For me the main goal is to try to arrive in good shape next year. Today was an opportunity to play against another of the top eight players of the world.

"I think I competed well. I won a very tough match. I think a very good match in terms of quality moments."

In the doubles, Ivan Dodig and world number one Marcelo Melo beat Marcin Matkowski and Nenad Zimonjic to set up a semi-final against



SUZANNE PLUNKETT | REUTERS

Switzerland's Stanislas Wawrinka celebrates victory against Great Britain's Andy Murray on Friday.

Rohan Bopanna and Florin Mergea.

Second seeds Jean-Julien Rojer and Horia Tecau will

face the Bryan twins after beating French duo Pierre-

Hugues Herbert and Nicolas Mahut.

Colby lacrosse coach dies unexpectedly

BY RYAN MCLAUGHLIN
BDN STAFF

WATERVILLE — Jack Sandler, who has coached the Colby College men's lacrosse team since 2013, has died, the school announced Friday.

Sandler, who was 35, apparently collapsed while on a treadmill in a hotel, according to a statement from the school.

Colby President David Greene said Sandler's death is a tragic loss for the institution. The coach was on a recruiting trip out of state, Greene said.

"I have had the privilege of knowing Jack since I arrived on campus and have

been so impressed with his warmth, vitality, deep integrity and genuine concern for his students," Greene said in a letter sent to the Colby community. "It was clear he loved the game of lacrosse and coaching, but his real passion was teaching and helping students develop their full potential physically, intellectually and personally."

According to Greene, grief counselors were expected to be available after 4 p.m. Friday in the school's Rose Chapel.

Sandler coached at Skidmore College prior to arriving at Colby and was a native of Long Island.



JERRY LAI | USA TODAY

NASCAR Sprint Cup Series driver Kyle Busch heads to the track during practice for the Ford EcoBoost 400 at Homestead-Miami Speedway.

NASCAR

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Nah. Although he missed 11 races, Busch was granted a waiver from NASCAR, making him eligible for a postseason berth as long as he won a race and finished the regular season within the top 30 in points. He did a tad better than that, winning four races — starting in June at Sonoma Raceway — before moving on and advancing to each round in the Chase elimination series.

"I wouldn't said that I could have [imagined the moment]," Busch said during the Chase Media Day Thursday afternoon. "I was trying to figure out whether or not I was going to be eligible once I returned and whether I could make up enough points to get myself in contention to be Chase-eligible come Richmond."

All that accomplished, Busch turns to the task

ahead on Sunday. Harvick is the favorite, but Busch — nickname "Rowdy" — is not one to back down from a fight. Contentious? Perhaps.

Busch and Harvick have a blood feud history from the 2011 season when Harvick threw a punch at Busch through his car window after a race in Darlington. Busch responded by ramming into Harvick's car and spinning it on pit road.

All seems fine now, but white flags rarely get waved in competitive fire. Busch has a lot to gain on Sunday — Toyota's first Cup driver's championship and, most importantly, his first title as a Cup driver.

"We've done what we've needed to do within the Chase to keep moving on," Busch said. "We have been the last guy moving on each time but it doesn't matter if you're first or last. I'm talking against Ricky Bobby right there. It only matters in the last round that you're the No. 1 guy."

REUTERS

LPGA rookie Jang Ha-na took advantage of a late wobble by world number one Lydia Ko to

PRO GOLF

grab a two-shot lead after the second round of the season-ending CME Group Tour Championship in Naples, Florida on Friday.

South Korean Jang, hunting her first title on the U.S. circuit after ending up second three times this year, birdied four of her first six holes before finishing birdie-birdie for a seven-under-par 65 in the \$2 million event at Tiburon Golf Club.

That left Jang at 10-under 134, two ahead of New Zealand teenager Ko who carded a 67 that was highlighted by eight birdies but damaged by a double-bogey at the par-four 15th and a bogey at the par-three 16th.

Two-time major winner Cristie Kerr and fellow American Jennifer Song were a further stroke back at seven under after posting matching 69s.

Though Ko stumbled over

the closing stretch, she maintained her grip in the race with Korean Park In-bee for 2015 LPGA Tour honours as she seeks her sixth victory of the season.

Ko is in pole position to clinch the LPGA Player of the Year award, the money list title and retain her number one ranking while Park has a slight edge in the chase for the coveted Vare Trophy for best scoring average this season.

Park, a winner of two major championships this year, returned a 69 at Tiburon to end the second round six strokes off the pace.

American Austin Ernst, who held a one-shot lead overnight after opening with a 66, triple-bogeyed the par-five first on the way to a roller-coaster 73 and a five-under total of 139.

Chappell seizes lead at Sea Island

American Kevin Chappell holed out from a greenside bunker to eagle the par-five 15th on the way to claiming a one-stroke lead after the second round of the RSM

Classic in St. Simons Island, Georgia on Friday.

One off the pace overnight, Chappell coped well with strengthening winds as he fired a five-under-par 65 on the Seaside Course at Sea Island Golf Club in pursuit of his first PGA Tour title.

The 29-year-old Californian also recorded four birdies and a lone bogey to post an 11-under total of 131, to stand one ahead of Swede Freddie Jacobson and American Kevin Kisner.

Chappell carded a five-under 67 on the Plantation Course while Kisner, the overnight leader who is also bidding for a first victory on the PGA Tour, returned a three-under 67 on the Seaside layout.

American Kyle Stanley was alone in fourth at nine under after shooting a four-birdie 67 on the Seaside Course.

Chappell, who has twice been a runner-up on the PGA Tour, was elated with his eagle at the 15th after not benefiting from what he had viewed as a well-struck approach from the right rough.

"I thought I hit a pretty good second shot there," Chappell told Golf Channel. "The wind obviously knocked it down and I just told myself, 'Hit the bunker shot harder than you want to.'"

"Obviously I hit it hard enough," he said with a grin about his hole-out from 45 yards. "The wind blew a lot harder today and we are very fortunate the course is in great shape."

"It's soft so it makes some of the fairways play wider than they are, so you can get away with some missed shots as long as you are playing the wind properly."

British Open champion Zach Johnson, the American world number 10 who is the highest-ranked player in the field, posted a second successive 70 to end the day right on the cut line, a distant nine strokes off the pace.

Also advancing to the weekend after carding consecutive 70s was tournament host and next year's United States Ryder Cup captain Davis Love III.

UMaine faces emotional battle against NH

BY PETE WARNER
BDN STAFF

The University of Maine football team may have long since been eliminated from post-season contention, but the Black Bears will have plenty of motivation in their Colonial Athletic Association season finale on Saturday.

Coach Jack Cosgrove's team looks to send its seniors out on a winning note in their traditional rivalry game against New Hampshire.

Maine Black Bears (3-7) at New Hampshire Wildcats (6-4), 1 p.m., Cowell Stadium, Durham, New Hampshire: UMaine hopes to bring home the Brice-Cowell Musket, the firearm that is the trophy going to the winner of the rivalry. The Black Bears have lost three straight, including last week's 27-22 setback against Elon.

UNH has dominated the series of late, winning five in a row and 12 of the last 13 meetings. UMaine's last win came in 2010.

The Wildcats lead the rivalry with a 52-43-8 record.

Despite having won three straight overall, including a 24-14 victory last Saturday at Albany, the Wildcats appear to be a longshot to earn



BDN FILE

University of Maine football player Sherron Baltimore (right) runs through a drill during practice in August at Alford Stadium in Orono. The UMaine football team faces an emotional battle against New Hampshire in its game on Saturday.

an NCAA Football Championship Subdivision postseason berth. UNH has made a nation-leading 11 consecutive playoff appearances and has won its last 10 contests in the month of November.

It will be the last collegiate appearance for UMaine's seniors, including center Bruce Johnson, wide receivers John Hardy and Justin Flores, defensive ends Trevor Bates and Mike Kozlakowski, linebackers

Randy Samuels, Cabrinni Goncalves and John McCabe, and cornerback Sherron Baltimore.

UNH, which reached the FCS national semifinals each of the last two seasons, ranks fourth in the CAA in scoring (24.5 points per game) and fifth in total offense (352.7 yards per game). Quarterback Sean Goldrich (131-for-226 passing, 1,272 yards, seven touchdowns), tailback Dalton Crossan

(83.9 yards per game) and tight end Jordan Powell (42 receptions, 412 yards, five touchdowns) are the leading threats.

UMaine counters with a strong defense that ranks third in CAA total defense (311 ypg), including second against the run (113 ypg). The Black Bears' game-changers are Samuels (67 tackles, two interceptions), Goncalves (52 tackles) and Bates (52 tackles).

Hale

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friends suggested he look for a TV/radio gig in another town.

"I found that they had a new TV station in Bangor," he said.

That was 1956. He began as the morning newsman on radio with one day a week on television.

He remained a morning disc jockey and eventually became the TV sports anchor. He also added play-by-play man to his resume.

His broadcast highlights include doing play-by-play

for the University of Maine's seven College World Series Appearance, the 1965 Tangerine Bowl football game, the UMaine men's basketball team's games during their heyday and the Black Bears' NCAA football playoff games in recent years.

Hale has never let fame

swell his ego.

"The people out there listening to the news as much about sports and news as I do. The only difference is I have a microphone," said Hale.

He enjoys working with Tyler on the early morning show and said he has no plans to retire.