

Barcelona Open

Djokovic beaten by Klizan



Martin Klizan plays a shot (Pic courtesy: AFP)

Top seed Rafael Nadal and Grigor Dimitrov advance

Barcelona

Former world number one Novak Djokovic has suffered another early defeat as Slovakia's Martin Klizan won their second round match at the Barcelona Open.

Djokovic has now won just two of five matches since the Australian Open, where he was beaten by Chung Hyeon, after a 6-2 1-6 6-3 loss at Sabadell yesterday. Klizan converted all three of his break-point opportunities to prevail.

After losing to Dominic Thiem of Austria at the Monte Carlo Masters last week, the 30-year-old Serb experienced another defeat ahead of the French Open at Roland Garros, which begins on May 22.

Djokovic suffered early exits at the Miami Open,



Novak Djokovic reacts

losing to Frenchman Benoit Paire earlier this month, and last month at Indian Wells, where Japan's Daniel Taro was the victor. He has not reached the last eight of a tournament since Wimbledon 2017 and has struggled with a long-

term elbow injury.

Klizan, a qualifier and world number 140, will meet Feliciano Lopez in the quarter-finals after the Spaniard's win over Serbia's Dusan Lajovic on Tuesday.

Top seed Rafael Nadal and

second seed Grigor Dimitrov of Bulgaria experienced no such problems, but Japan's Kei Nishikori retired after losing the first set to Guillermo Garcia-Lopez. Nishikori had an issue with his right wrist.

Nadal beat fellow Spaniard Roberto Carballes Baena 6-4 6-4 to win his 37th and 38th consecutive sets on clay, breaking a record he had jointly held with Ilie Nastase of Romania.

Nadal has now won 15 successive matches on the surface and next plays Garcia-Lopez.

Dimitrov defeated France's Gilles Simon 6-2 6-1, while Thiem, the third seed, defeated wildcard Jaume Munar of Spain 7-6 (8/6) 6-1.

Dimitrov will next play Malek Jaziri of Tunisia. (PA Sport)

Omar Fraile clinches stage

Bahrain-Merida's Sonny Colbrelli finishes second place in Stage 1



Omar Fraile celebrates

Delemont

Omar Fraile took Astana's 14th victory of the 2018 season after he beat Bahrain-Merida's Sonny Colbrelli on stage 1 of the Tour de Romandie. Fraile went long on the run-in to the line Delémont and held off the Italian with Rui Costa taking third.

Astana have enjoyed a strong start to the season and dominated last week's Tour of the Alps. The Kazakh team looked determined to do something today and Dario Cataldo launched a brief attack near the top of the final climb with 11 kilometres remaining.

They had a second bite of the cherry after bringing back a number of late attackers in the final two kilometres with Fraile opting to kick out as they rounded the final corner.

The Spaniard's surge of pace caught Colbrelli by surprise, who might have assumed he was the fastest rider remaining in the dramatically reduced peloton, and he quickly nudged in front of the Bahrain-Merida rider.

Colbrelli did his utmost to overhaul Fraile, but the frenetic finish had taken its toll and he had to settle for second place. He fared better than race leader Michael Matthews (Team Sunweb), who was distanced on the final climb, leaving Primoz Roglic (LottoNL-Jumbo) in perfect position to take control of the general classification.

He is equal on time with Rohan Dennis (BMC Racing) while Geraint Thomas (Team Sky) sits in third place at four seconds. (Cyclingnews)

Murray to sit out new Glasgow event



Andy Murray (file pic)

London

Andy Murray has decided not to launch his comeback to tennis following injury at the Glasgow Trophy this week. He was considering playing in the new ATP Challenger event in Scotstoun, which gets under way on Saturday.

But the former world number one has opted to continue his recovery from hip surgery away from the match court.

The next confirmed tournament in Murray's schedule is the Rosmalen grass-court event, the Libema Open, in Netherlands in May.

That comes before the tournament at Queen's Club that immediately precedes Wimbledon.

Murray does, however, also have an option to play a Challenger event in Loughborough next month.

Although the 30-year-old's name is among the entries for the French Open, it is understood the former Roland Garros finalist will not be playing in Paris or at any other tournament in the current clay-court swing.

Murray last played competitively at Wimbledon, the scene of two tournament triumphs, in July.

Meanwhile, the Lawn Tennis Association has announced that fellow Scotsman Aidan McHugh, a Murray protege, is among four wildcards for the new £72,000 event, which runs until 6 May. (BBC)

Tour de Romandie, stage one: Fribourg to Delémont, 166.6km

1. Omar Fraile (Esp) Astana, in 4 hrs 03 min 42 secs
2. Sonny Colbrelli (Ita) Bahrain-Merida
3. Rui Costa (Por) UAE Team Emirates
4. Rudy Molard (Fra) Groupama-FDJ
5. Gorka Izagirre (Esp) Bahrain-Merida
6. Egan Bernal (Col) Team Sky
7. Pierre Latour (Fra) Ag2r La Mondiale
8. Xandro Meurisse (Bel) Wanty-Groupe Gobert
9. Merhawi Kudus (Eri) Dimension Data
10. Eros Capecchi (Ita) Quick-Step Floors, all at same time

General classification :

1. Primoz Roglic (Slo) LottoNL-Jumbo, in 4 hrs 09 min 16 secs
2. Rohan Dennis (Aus) BMC Racing, at same time
3. Geraint Thomas (GBr) Team Sky, at 4 secs
4. Diego Rosa (Ita) Team Sky, at 5 secs
5. Pierre Latour (Fra) Ag2r La Mondiale, at same time
6. Gorka Izagirre (Esp) Bahrain-Merida, at 8 secs
7. Egan Bernal (Col) Team Sky, at 10 secs
8. Jonathan Castroviejo (Esp) Team Sky, at same time

(Cyclingweekly)