

Federer wins on Rome return

Rome
Roger Federer joined Novak Djokovic and Andy Murray in reaching the third round of the Rome Masters yesterday with the Swiss admitting that he was fully expecting to lose against Alexander Zverev.

"I'm cautious but extremely happy - I was expecting to lose in straight sets today," admitted the 17-time Grand Slam champion.

"That was the mindset going in. To win in straights is actually a really big surprise to me.

"I only decided after the warm-up that I was actually going to play. For me it was a big match on many levels."

The 89-minute match was the first for the 34-year-old Swiss since losing a Monte Carlo quarter-final to Jo-Wilfried Tsonga nearly a month ago.

Even in victory Federer said that he would decide at the last minute whether he can take to the court on Wednesday against 13th seed Dominic Thiem, a 6-3, 6-2 winner over Joao Sousa.

"I don't know how I'm going to feel tomorrow. I hope (I can play). I'm literally going practice after practices. It's baby steps right now.

"So to even think of tomorrow is already a big ask."

Top seed Djokovic and



Roger Federer

number two Murray produced no-drama victories, with the Serb beating Stephane Robert 7-5, 7-5 while Murray put out

Kazakh Mikhail Kukushkin 6-3, 6-3.

Federer is playing here for the 16th time as he seeks his

first Rome title. The Swiss has finished runner-up four times, most recently last year against Djokovic.

Rome marks only the fourth tournament of the season for Federer, who underwent knee surgery in early February, the first operation of his career.

Victory over Zverev sent Federer's record in 2016 to 11-3.

Zverev, aged 19 and ranked 44th, could not have asked for a more challenging Rome debut as he faced off against his tennis idol. His loss left him 0-8 against top 10 opponents.

Federer broke for 4-2 on his way to collecting the opening set in 28 minutes.

The Swiss then earned a break in the third game of the second set but then lost serve for 2-all. The veteran broke back on his fourth opportunity in the 11th game for a 6-5 lead and finished off the welcome win a game later, a drop shot setting up two match points with Zverev driving wide on the first.

Kerber dumped out

In women's second-round play, Eugenie Bouchard handed second-seeded Australian Open champion Angelique Kerber a 6-1, 5-7, 7-5 defeat, her second straight in an opening match after losing last week in Madrid. (AFP)

Sports in Shorts

BIC to host eight rounds of Burnout

Manama

Motorsport fans are in for a wild ride as Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) is scheduled to host eight adrenaline-pumping rounds of Burnout over the weekends during the next couple of months in Sakhir.

Burnout is one of the most popular events held annually during the holy month of Ramadan at the circuit, but this year there will be twice the action in response to the huge public demand. The first Burnout will be tomorrow with further action on May 20, May 27 and June 3.

Bahrain Polytechnic hosts Football Tournament

Manama

Bahrain Polytechnic hosted an internal football tournament at the campus for its students and staff at the weekend featuring eight teams, who were divided into two groups of four.

The final was between Game Over and Mean Machine and after two 12-minute goalless halves, Game Over prevailed after winning a penalty shoot-out 4-3.

Dr Mohammed Al Aseeri, Acting CEO of Bahrain Polytechnic thanked the Student Services Department, including the Health and Wellness Centre, for organising the tournament, adding that more sports-related activities should be hosted for the students and staff of the Polytechnic, not only for entertainment but health benefits as well.

Daij, Al Merisi bag Monday Madness Golf

DT News Network Manama

Khalifa Daij and playing partner Khalifa Al Merisi (25 points) won the penultimate competition of the six-week Porsche Monday Madness Night Golf Series at the Royal Golf Club, ahead of duo of Steve Foster and Eric Jansson (24) who came a close second, while youngsters Eid Adel Meftah and Saud Al

Sharif (23) came in third with 23 points.

The win puts Daij and Al Merisi (9 points) in third place in the overall order of merit. Rob Lane and Nils Berge (9.5) in second spot with Ali Al Kowari and Yusuf Janahi (11) topping the leader board with just one more competition to go, all three pairings are in with a chance of winning the series.

Nearest the pin side contests

on holes 12 and 16 were won by Sanjay Lal and Ali Al Kowari respectively.

Over 40 players took part in the better ball stableford tournament which was played under floodlights on the back nine holes of the Club's Montgomerie championship course. Porsche branded flags and the latest models of the Porsche Cayenne and Porsche 911 were displayed on the golf course for the duration of the competition.

Results: 1) Khalifa Daij/Khalifa Al Merisi (25 points), 2) Steve Foster/Eric Jansson (24), 3) Eid Adel Meftah/Saud Al Sharif (23), 4) Samantha and Steven Hill (22 on count back), 5) Ebrahim Al Harshel/Abdulla Al Hajji (22 on count back).

Nearest the Pins: Sanjay Lal (hole 12) and Ali Al Kowari (hole 16).



(From left) Sohail Singh with winners Daij and Al Merisi

Kudos Bahrain beat Kudos by five wickets

DT News Network Manama

Kudos Bahrain defeated Kudos by five wickets in the latest matches of the First Kudos Travels T20 Veteran's Cricket 2016 at the Oval Ground in Busaiteen, Muharraq.

Batting first, Kudos scored 110 for nine in its 20 overs with the bulk of the runs scored by Babar Wasim (29 off 23), Mujtaba Nazir (23 off 21) and Mohammed Ebrahim (22 off

21), with Stanley and Lloyd picking up a couple of wickets each.

Kudos Bahrain in reply reached the target scoring 111 for five in 15.1 overs with a fine knock coming from man of the match Deepak Nair (56 off 41, 1x6, 6x4) with support from Rajesh (10 off 8), while Zaheer Ahmed and Abbas picked up a wicket each.

In another match, Kudos Canada defeated Kudos Turkey by seven wickets after notching up 101 for nine in 20 overs with Garish (44 off 43) and Sunil (12 off 18) the main scorers and Irfan Ghani taking a couple of wickets.

Kudos Canada in reply reached the target scoring 106 for three in 14 overs thanks to great knocks by man of the match Furqan Baig (48 off 38) and Intzaar (22 off 21) with both Sanjiv and Girish sharing taking a wicket each.



Deepak Nair

Mumbai bowlers topple Royal Challengers

Mumbai

There was a lot of work to do for Mumbai Indians, and the sanest way to go about it is to chase. 'Forget about the Sunrisers game,' was the message from their camp but that's easier said than done after you have been knocked out for 92 and then lose by 85 runs. Rohit Sharma and his bowlers did the next best thing - they drew a rage from it, the rage to win and show they were better.

Mumbai allowed Royal Challengers Bangalore to score only 151 and chased it with six wickets to spare.

The pitch yesterday was the one that had been used in Bangalore's first IPL game

this season, when the hosts had amassed 227 for 4. But it behaved rather unnaturally. It was dry and offered grip even to a brand new ball, which contributed to Kohli's first single-digit score in this IPL.

Then Chris Gayle was dismissed for his fourth single-digit score in four innings. Mitchell McClenaghan and

Tim Southee were responsible for those blows and put their sore feet up for the entire second innings.

That doesn't mean Mumbai's chase was clinical. They needed 73 off the final seven overs when Kieron Pollard came to the crease at No. 5. He may not have imagined the finisher's job to be tough considering the asking rate at the start of the chase had been a modest 7.6. The complications arose due to Royal Challengers legspinner Yuzvendra Chahal, who took 1 for 16 in four overs. Chahal also found assistance from left-arm seamer S Aravind, who was brought in for Iqbal Abdulla and who took a wicket off his first ball, to keep things



Rohit Sharma celebrates with teammates

in check for the first 10 overs. But Shane Watson and Chris Jordan, the back-end bowling specialists for the home team, were not quite as good as the back-end batting

specialists for Mumbai. Pollard, with 35 off 19, and Jos Buttler, with 29 off 11, secured the team's sixth win of the season. (espnricinfo.com)

BRIEF SCORE

Mumbai Indians 153 for 4 (Rayudu 44, Pollard 35*)
beat Royal Challengers Bangalore 151 for 4 (Rahul 68) by six wickets