

Past US Open Champs Djokovic, Federer Seeded 1-2



Novak Djokovic, from Serbia, serves against Tommy Robredo, from Spain.

NEW YORK (AFP) - Top-ranked Novak Djokovic is seeded No. 1 for the U.S. Open, and five-time champion Roger Federer is No. 2, meaning they could meet only in the final.

Djokovic beat Federer for the title at Wimbledon last month.

The U.S. Tennis Association followed this week's ATP rankings in announcing the seedings.

Federer moved up one spot from his No. 3 ranking because 2013 champion Rafael Nadal withdrew from the year's last Grand Slam tournament with an injured right wrist. The 33-year-old Federer is seeded at the U.S. Open for the 14th consecutive year, tied with Ivan Lendl for the longest streak, trailing only Jimmy Connors' record of 18.

Federer won the hard-court tournament every year from 2004-08, part of his record 17 Grand Slam titles.

Djokovic has played in the last four finals at Flushing Meadows, winning the title in 2011. He lost to Nadal in 2010 and last year, and to Andy Murray in 2012.

Murray is seeded eighth this year. Australian Open champion Stan Wawrinka is No. 3, followed by David Ferrer, Milos Raonic, Tomas Berdych and Grigor Dimitrov.

The women's seedings will be announced Wednesday, and the draw is Thursday.

The tournament starts Monday.

Real Madrid 1-1 Atletico in Super Cup

MADRID (Goal) - James Rodriguez scored in his Spanish debut as Real Madrid earned a 1-1 draw against Atletico Madrid in the first leg of the Super Cup.

Rodriguez came on for Cristiano Ronaldo in the second half at the Santiago Bernabeu and found the back of the net in the 80th minute after he pounced on a loose ball in the penalty area following an attempt by Benzema.

Raul Garcia equalized for Atletico in the 87th from a corner.

Throughout the first half, Atletico held Madrid in check by dominating the midfield with disciplined tackling and ensuring at least two players shadowed forwards Gareth Bale and Ronaldo every time a pass was made to them.

Rodriguez joined Xabi Alonso, Toni Kroos and Angel Di Maria in Madrid's midfield and was brought on by coach Carlo Ancelotti after Ronaldo had been seen holding and rubbing his left leg late in the first half. Di Maria

had come on in the second half for Luka Modric.

"He did well," Ancelotti said of James. "All the second half the team played with greater speed and intensity, looking for chances from the wings. He scored and that'll give him more confidence."

The match was preceded by a tribute to Madrid great Alfredo Di Stefano, who died in July. A string quartet played as the club displayed large photographs of the forward and the silverware he helped win to the crowd.

Tennis player Rafael Nadal, who this week said he will not be defending his US Open title, watched the match from the VIP stand.

"Kroos is an important player and a great signing for Real Madrid," Nadal said at half time.

Madrid began with captain Iker Casillas in goal. He was tested twice in the first 15 minutes by shots from Saul Niguez and Mario Mandzukic.

Atletico played a physical game throughout and defender Guil-



Real Madrid's coach Carlo Ancelotti from Italy speaks to Real Madrid Cristiano Ronaldo during a Spanish Super Cup soccer match against Atletico de Madrid.

helmo Siqueira was the first to be shown a yellow card after fouling

Bale on the right touchline in the 13th minute

Dunga Rings Changes in Brazil Squad



Brazil's 1994 World-Cup winning skipper Carlos Verri, better known as "Dunga", is presented as the new coach of the Brazilian team.

Rio de Janeiro (AFP) - New Brazil coach Dunga announced the first squad of his second spell in charge of the Seleccion, with only 10 of those who featured at the World Cup making the cut.

After the traumatic semi-final exit from the World Cup at the semi-final stage to Germany last month, Brazil parted company with Luiz Felipe Scolari and brought back Dunga, the coach of the team at the 2010 World Cup.

He named a squad of 22 players for the friendlies against Colombia in Miami on September 5 and Ecuador in New Jersey four days later. Neymar, who suffered a fractured

vertebrae in the World Cup quarter-final defeat of Colombia but made his comeback for Barcelona this week, is in the squad.

Only six of those who started the 7-1 mauling against Germany, David Luiz, Fernandinho, Hulk, Oscar, Luiz Gustavo and Maicon, feature.

Chelsea duo Ramires and Willian and back-up goalkeeper Jefferson are also maintained, but Marcelo, Dani Alves and Paulinho are among those dropped.

Captain Thiago Silva is missing after suffering a hamstring injury while playing for Paris Saint-Germain earlier this month.

Arsenal's Europe Hopes Intact After Istanbul Cauldron



Besiktas' Demba Ba (R) vies with Arsenal's Laurent Koscielny (L) during the UEFA Champions League play-off football match Besiktas vs Arsenal.

Istanbul (Eurosport) - Arsenal head for the home leg of their Champions League play-off against Besiktas with their hopes intact after surviving the test of a raucous Istanbul crowd and hugely-energised opponents to leave Turkey with a goalless draw.

In the first leg of the play-off, Arsenal failed to score the all-important away goal but were relieved to have escaped from Istanbul with a 0-0 scoreline and still every hope they will qualify in the home leg for the group stages.

However, the only sour note was they ended the match with 10 men as key Welsh midfielder Aaron Ramsey was sent off 10 minutes from time.

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger acknowledged that his side's goalless draw was a fair result for a "difficult" game but blasted the performance of the referee.

"I think not the first not the sec-

ond yellow card was deserved for Ramsey," Wenger told reporters.

"When you see some of the fouls committed and you go home with a red card for Ramsey it is somewhat unbelievable."

Wenger -- whose 100 percent win record in Champions League play-off matches came to an end after 12 wins in 12 -- described the game as a "difficult match played at a high pace" and praised the opposition for playing at "100 percent".

"Maybe a draw is a fair result as both teams had chances to win the game."

On the return leg in London, he said: "We know that Besiktas is a good team, we know the game will be tight, but the task is clear."

The prospect of entry into the lucrative group stages of the Champions League dynamised Besiktas, who came third in the Turkish league last season under Croatian manager Slaven Bilic.

As Durant Steps Back, US Moves Forward



Kevin Durant #52 of the USA White Team shoots during the USA Basketball Showcase.

NEW YORK (AP) - While Kevin Durant takes a step back, the U.S. national team is moving forward.

Durant stunned the Americans when he decided to withdraw after practicing with the team during its first week of training camp. Now that they've had time to get over the surprise, they aren't dwelling on it.

"I'm through talking about Kevin," U.S. coach Mike Krzyzewski said Tuesday after the Americans practiced for the upcoming Basketball World Cup.

"We're done with that. We're on to this group. What a coach does, a coach coaches who he has, not who he doesn't have. You're married, you're with that woman, you're not thinking about who you dated."

Durant pulled out Aug. 7, shortly after the Americans finished working out in Las Vegas, where a year earlier he announced his plans to play for the team this summer.

But the NBA's MVP and leading scorer instead decided he needed a

break more than he needed to chase another gold medal.

"I think for myself, I just needed to take a step back," Durant said.

So he wasn't in East Rutherford, New Jersey, where the Americans practiced at the Nets' training center. He did catch up with a few teammates though, joining James Harden, Stephen Curry and Anthony Davis on a panel promoting the video game "NBA 2K15," of which Durant appears on the cover.

Durant said his decision to pull out was "definitely tough," adding that playing alongside Curry in the 2010 world championship was "one of the best experiences of my life."

He was the MVP of that tournament, averaging 22.8 points as the Americans won the event for the first time since 1994. He was their leading scorer again two years ago in the London Olympics, scoring 19.5 points per game.

But the Americans insist they will move on without him.

Middleweight Champ Golovkin Fights Rubio

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) - Gennady Golovkin will defend his WBA middleweight title against Marco Antonio Rubio in Carson, California, on Oct. 18.

Golovkin promoter Tom Loeffler announced the HBO matchup on Tuesday.

The 32-year-old Golovkin (30-0, 27 KOs) will make his long-anticipated West Coast debut at the outdoor StubHub Center south of Los Angeles against Rubio, a Mexican veteran who has won 16 of his last 17 bouts.

The Kazakh-born Golovkin lives in Germany, but trains in Big Bear, California, with Abel Sanchez. His five previous U.S. fights were on the East Coast, including his American debut in September 2012.

"His growing popularity across the country compels us to bring this highly anticipated fight to the StubHub Center, which has hosted so many exciting boxing events in recent years," said Loeffler, the managing director of K2 Promotions.

Although Golovkin has never fought in California, he is already popular among the West Coast's savvy fight fans. He has been mobbed by autograph-seekers and well-wishers while attending fights at the outdoor ring or the nearby Forum in recent months.

Golovkin has won 17 straight bouts by stoppage while moving atop the 160-pound division. He stopped Daniel Geale last month in the third round at Madison Square Garden for his 11th consecutive title defense.