

Croatia Beat U.S. to Set Up Davis Cup Final With France

ZADAR, Croatia (AFP) - Croatia will meet France in the Davis Cup final after defeating the United States 3-2 as Borna Coric triumphed in the decisive match in Zadar.

Coric defeated Davis Cup debutant Frances Tiafoe 6-7 (0/7), 6-1, 6-7 (11/13), 6-1, 6-3 to end a thrilling fightback by the Americans over the weekend.

Croatia will play in their third final in November, after winning the 2005 title and losing in 2016 to Argentina.

They also faced France in the final of this summer's football World Cup, with Les Bleus winning 4-2.

Looking ahead to the final against France, Krajan said that the "goal is that everyone remains healthy".

Croatia have now beaten the U.S. in all five of their Davis Cup meetings.

"I'm very proud of my boys," U.S. coach Jim Courier said.

"It was really an exciting day, with a lot of fight."

Coric's victory followed Sam Querrey's surprise 6-7 (2/7), 7-6 (7/6), 6-3, 6-4 win over world number six Marin Cilic in the first match which hauled the visitors level at 2-2.



Cilic was warned by chair umpire Carlos Ramos, the same official who issued three code violations to Serena Williams during the U.S. Open final, after slamming his racket to the ground. He received only a warning as it was the

first violation of the match. Both Cilic and Coric had won their singles matches on Friday, before the U.S. cut Croatia's lead to 2-1 as Mike Bryan and Ryan Harrison beat Ivan Dodig and Mate Pavic in a dramatic doubles rubber on Saturday.

AFC Praises Iran's U-16 Soccer Team

MALAYSIA (Dispatches) - AFC official website has acclaimed the Iranian team and its opponents in the 'C' group of Asian Under-16 Championship and named the country as the most successful team in the tournament.

AFC said with 16 teams looking to gain pride in Asia's continent

and seizing four quotas in the Under-17 World Cup in 2019 in Peru, there will be promising tournament. The future stars of Asia will showcase their booming skills in the Malaysian-backed host tournament scheduled for September 29th.

Ronaldo Scores First Two Goals for Juve in Win



Juventus' Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates after scoring during a Serie A soccer match between Juventus and Sassuolo, at the Allianz Stadium in Turin, Italy, Sunday, Sept. 16, 2018.

MILAN (AP) - When the first goal finally came, it couldn't have been any easier for Cristiano Ronaldo.

It took the former Real Madrid forward nearly 320 minutes to score his first league goal for Juventus and he did it with the simplest of tap-ins. Ronaldo doubled his tally shortly after as the Bianconeri beat Sassuolo 2-1 in Serie A.

It was Ronaldo's fourth league match for Juventus since his Serie A record 112 million euro (then \$131.5 million) move from Madrid and the relief on his face

was obvious as he tore away in celebration after breaking his duck in the 50th minute. Ronaldo ran to the corner flag with his arms outstretched and displaying a huge grin. He then jumped in the air as he turned back to the field and waited to be embraced by almost all his teammates, who ran over to celebrate with him.

His first goal came after Sassuolo defender Gian Marco Ferrari could only head a Juventus corner onto the left post and Ronaldo was waiting to volley in a rebound from less than two yards out.

Hazard Inspires Chelsea Recovery, Shows What Team Could Miss



Chelsea's Eden Hazard celebrates scoring his side's first goal during their English Premier League soccer match between Chelsea and Cardiff City at Stamford Bridge stadium in London Saturday, Sept. 15, 2018.

Chelsea should be savoring Eden Hazard's talents while he is still with the team.

As the winger's contract winds down, his future at Stamford Bridge appears more uncertain. Even as manager Maurizio Sarri talks up the contribution of a player, in his prime at 27, who has shown no public indication that he will commit to Chelsea beyond 2020.

"When I arrived I thought that Hazard was one of the best players in Europe," Sarri said. "Now I have changed my mind. Maybe he is the best. But I also think he can still

improve more."

Despite his pace, flair and artistry on the ball, the Belgium international just doesn't score enough.

Sarri lauded Hazard's importance to the team after tearing apart Cardiff with three goals in a 4-1 victory on Saturday that made it five wins from five matches. But it was only Hazard's second hat trick in six years at Chelsea.

Sarri has publicly mused in his first two months in charge how Hazard should be aiming to reach the feats of Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo, who are accustomed to scoring buckets of goals every year.

Hamilton Pushing Toward 5th F1 Title After Imperious Drive

SINGAPORE (AP) -- Lewis Hamilton sounds unsure of just one thing: whether Ferrari can bounce back after he dealt another crushing blow to Sebastian Vettel's title hopes.

Hamilton was imperious at the Singapore Grand Prix, securing one of the best pole positions of his Formula One career with an astonishing drive in qualifying and then controlling Sunday's race perfectly.

It all went so smoothly for



Mercedes as Hamilton moved 40 points ahead of Vettel with six races left in the season. But for Ferrari, it was yet another weekend on the back foot.

These are big "Ifs" for a Ferrari team lurching into crisis after a strong start - as Vettel won the first two races and four of the first 10. They were neck and neck heading into the summer, but Hamilton has won four of the past five races despite acknowledging his car is not as quick.

Mayweather Announces Second Fight With Pacquiao

WASHINGTON (USA TODAY) - On the day of the much-anticipated rematch between Canelo Alvarez and Gennady Golovkin, Floyd Mayweather stole the headlines once again to announce a fight year's in the making.

In a video on his Instagram account, Mayweather claims that he will come out of retirement again, this time to fight Manny Pacquiao, "another nine figure pay day on the way."

Mayweather defeated Pacquiao in a 12-round unanimous decision at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas in May of 2015, and talks of a rematch have swirled ever since. After the fight, it was revealed that Pacquiao fought through a torn rotator cuff in his right shoulder.

Mayweather last fought on Aug. 26, 2017, against Conor McGregor in the Money Fight. Mayweather defeated McGregor with a 10th round TKO to move to 50-0 in professional boxing matches, surpassing Hall of Famer Rocky Marciano who previously held the record at 49-0.

Pacquiao's last fight was a win against Lucas Matthyse in July. After the fight, Pacquiao, who is also currently serving as a Senator of the Philippines, called out Mayweather for a rematch.



Floyd Mayweather Jr. and Manny Pacquiao are finally ready for their rematch.

Grand Tour Sweep for Britain as Yates Wins Spanish Vuelta



British rider Simon Yates of the Mitchelton-Scott team celebrates on the podium after winning the La Vuelta cycling race in Madrid, Spain, Sunday, Sept. 16, 2018.

MADRID (Dispatches) - Simon Yates has won his first Grand Tour title after a largely ceremonial ride into Madrid in the final stage of the

Spanish Vuelta, giving British riders a sweep of the season's three biggest races.

The 26-year-old Englishman was dominant throughout the three-week race across Spain, thriving on the toughest climbs and the flattest routes to secure the victory after a last stage in which riders didn't attack the leaders under cycling tradition.

Yates' Vuelta title means Britain has swept the three Grand Tours. Geraint Thomas of Wales won the Tour de France in July and Kenyan-born British rider Chris Froome the Giro d'Italia in May.

Froome was the defending Vuelta champion and also won the Tour de France last year, meaning Britain has five straight Grand Tour victories.

Thomas and Froome skipped the race in Spain this year.

Italian rider Elia Viviani won the final sprint for his third stage win in this year's Vuelta, with Peter Sagan close behind him.