

Khachanov Stuns Djokovic to Win 1st Paris Masters Title



Russia's Karen Khachanov in action during the final against Serbia's Novak Djokovic

sets by Marin Cilic in Friday's quarterfinals, Djokovic's semifinal finished at around 8 p.m. local time and he felt he was unable to recover sufficiently from that draining encounter.

"I didn't unfortunately. But I don't want to talk about that," Djokovic said. "I want to talk about how well (Khachanov) played all week and absolutely deserved to win today."

Asked again whether it was a case of emotional fatigue, after such an intense tussle with Federer, Djokovic repeated his praise for Khachanov.

"Karen played really well and he deserved to win," Djokovic said. "All the credit to him."

Although Djokovic broke in the fourth game to move 3-1 up and then led 30-0 on serve, the unseeded Khachanov broke him straight back and the momentum abruptly shifted away from Djokovic.

Djokovic seemed agitated at times and twice turned to his box to remonstrate about an unspecified issue during the first set.

Khachanov broke for 6-5 when he hit a powerful shot down the line that Djokovic could only scoop back into the net. The Russian won the first set with a big first serve that Djokovic could not return, stretching out his racket in vain as the fizzing ball clipped the frame.

Djokovic struggled to handle

Khachanov's brutal two-handed, cross-court backhands from the baseline, which often landed near his ankles, and dropped his serve again to trail 2-1 in the second set. He had to save three more break points in the seventh game to hold for 4-3 down.

After both players held to love, Khachanov showed no nerves - even though he was in his first Masters final - and served out the match.

He secured victory on his first match point when Djokovic chopped a backhand return wide. The imposing Khachanov thrust both his arms in the air and, moments later, knelt down to kiss the court.

Djokovic will return to No. 1 in the rankings for the first time in two years on Monday, but the Serb will be disappointed at missing out on a 73rd career title, having withstood the best of Federer on Saturday.

Still, the Wimbledon and U.S. Open champion has plenty to feel good about after a 22-match winning streak, and he remains favorite for the season-ending ATP Finals in London, beginning Nov. 11.

The 22-year-old Khachanov, ranked 18th, is the first Russian to win here since Nikolay Davydenko in 2006. Marat Safin won it three times before that.

James Scores 28 Points, Lakers Defeat Blazers 114-110



PORTLAND, OR - November 3: Kentavious Caldwell-Pope #1 and LeBron James #23 of the Los Angeles Lakers celebrate during a game against the Portland Trail Blazers on November 3, 2018 at Moda Center in Portland, Oregon.

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) -- **It took LeBron James to help the Los Angeles Lakers snap a lengthy losing streak against Portland.**

James had 28 points and seven assists and the Lakers defeated the Trail Blazers 114-110 night.

The Lakers snapped the franchise's 16-game losing streak against the Blazers. In addition to the streak, Saturday was the Lakers' first road win this season against a team with a winning record.

"Great to snap that," James said of the Lakers' streak of futility against Portland. "They're a very good team, obviously. To beat Portland, you can't just come in and win without playing really hard and really well."

Rajon Rondo gave the Lakers a huge lift off the bench, finishing with 17 points and 10 assists in 25 minutes.

Damian Lillard and CJ McCollum each scored 30 points for Portland.

The Lakers used a 16-0 run in the third quarter to take a 17-point lead. Josh Hart hit a 3-pointer with 9:44 left that gave the Lakers their biggest lead at 95-75, forcing a Portland timeout.

And the timeout might have been just what Portland needed to get back into the game.

The Blazers went on a 22-8 run, cutting the Lakers' lead to six points with 3:34 left after a layup by Jusuf Nurkic.

Sloppy play once again came back to hurt the Lakers in the fourth quarter, but the Blazers

couldn't get much closer as James and JaVale McGee made crucial baskets in the final two minutes.

"LeBron closed them out over the final three minutes," Lakers head coach Luke Walton said of James.

McGee, who James said is a candidate for Defensive Player of the Year, also had six blocks to add to his league-leading total.

"He's doing a little bit of everything," James said of McGee. "He's leading the league in blocks. And tonight he saved us and covered our defensive mistakes with blocks at the rim."

Portland shot a 6 for 35 (17 percent) from beyond the arc and shot just 42 percent from the field overall.

"Our defense won us the game tonight," Walton said. "They missed some 3s, but we were contesting, chasing over the top and defending."

The Lakers had seven turnovers in the fourth quarter and finished with 20 overall, but they survived their mistakes.

The Lakers sped to a good start, but the Blazers quickly regained control. Turnovers and second chances fueled a 17-2 run by Portland in the first quarter.

The Lakers bench helped get Los Angeles back into the game in the first half and outscored the Blazers subs 51-26.

"Our second unit was outstanding tonight," Walton said. "Rondo led it and then the lift that (Ivica) Zubac gave us off the bench was incredible."

Mayweather to Fight Japanese Kickboxer Nasukawa

TOKYO (AP) - **Floyd Mayweather is planning on fighting Japanese kickboxer Tenshin Nasukawa on Dec. 31 in Saitama, north of Tokyo.**

Mayweather is 50-0 in his boxing career but has never fought professionally under MMA rules. Although he did have a lucrative win over MMA fighter Conor McGregor last year.

Japanese promoter the RIZIN Fighting Federation on Monday said rules and the weight class for the bout have not been set.

"We still have some work to do," said Nobuyuki Sakakibara, the RIZIN chairman.

The 20-year-old Nasukawa, speaking at a news conference



Floyd Mayweather, left, of the U.S. shakes hands with Japanese kickboxer Tenshin Nasukawa during a press conference in Tokyo, Monday, Nov. 5, 2018.

alongside Mayweather, called it "probably the biggest even of my life so far."

He also vowed to end Mayweather's long string of victories.

"Nobody has defeated my opponent in the past, and I would like to be the man who makes history," Nasukawa said, speaking through an interpreter. "My punch can change history. And I will show that to you. So please stay tuned."

Mayweather sat calmly and then praised his young opponent.

"I think he's young, very strong and very fast and he undefeated so it's obvious he's doing something right."

Salah Sculpture Raises Eyebrows in Egypt

LONDON (Dispatches) - **A sculpture of Liverpool and Egypt football star Mohamed Salah unveiled in his home country is raising eyebrows on social media.**

The artwork was put on display on Sunday at the World Youth Forum (WYF) being held in Sharm al-Sheikh.

It depicts the striker with his arms out wide in the goalscoring celebration he is known for.

But people have suggested it looks more like singer Leo Sayer or Marv the burglar from the film Home Alone.

The sculpture of Salah joins a long list of other sculptures in the football world that have left fans scratching their heads about likeness.

It has drawn comparisons to a bust of Cristiano Ronaldo which was widely mocked after it was unveiled at Madeira airport last year.

Emanuel Jorge da Silva Santos, who sculpted the bust, spoke of his sadness about the online criticism of his effort afterwards. He was later given a second chance at it by website The Bleacher Report.

The youth forum, where the statue of Salah was unveiled, was attended by thousands, including



Image of a statue of Mohamed Salah taken from social media.

Egypt's President Abdul Fattah al-Sisi.

The event, which is in its second year, was created by young people in Egypt to help promote peace and prosperity.

Sculptor Mai Abdallah told Egyptian media that she created the statue because Salah stood as a symbol of excellence for Egyptian youth, describing the artwork as "distinguished and executable".

After Record Serie A Start, Juventus Set for Man U Visit

MILAN (China Daily) - **Juventus is enjoying its best start to a Serie A season and shows no sign of letting up ahead of an important week for the Italian champion.**

Juventus hosts Manchester United in the Champions League on Wednesday before playing AC Milan at San Siro in Serie A on Sunday.

Cristiano Ronaldo may not have found the net for Juventus in Saturday's 3-1 win over Cagliari, but the Portugal international has helped his new club win 10 of its opening 11 league games.

The Bianconeri have 31 points from a possible 33, surpassing their previous record of 30 points from the first 11 games in the 2005-06 season.

Juventus equaled the record set by Roma in the 2013-14 season and Napoli in 2017-18, and it has only dropped points in a 1-1 draw at home to Genoa.



Juventus' Paulo Dybala (center) celebrates with his teammates after scoring his team's first goal during the Italian Serie A soccer match between Juventus and Cagliari at the Allianz Stadium in Turin, Italy, Nov 3, 2018.

"The teams behind us - Napoli, Inter and AC Milan - aren't slowing down at

all so we can't afford to let up ourselves," defender Medhi Benatia said Saturday.