

# Nadal Knocked Out of Italian Open by Shapovalov in last-16



Rafael Nadal of Spain reacts after losing a point during his match against Denis Shapovalov of Canada at the Italian Open tennis tournament, in Rome, May 12, 2022.

a series of unforced errors and lack of aggression from him saw the match go into the deciding third set.

World number four Nadal broke through right away at the start of the decider but later limped with an apparent foot injury, likely related to his chronic left-foot problem.

Shapovalov went won 17 of the last 20 points, completing his comeback as he handed Nadal his earliest Rome exit since 2008.

Shapovalov said he hoped Nadal would recover in time for the French Open, which starts on 22nd May.

Earlier, Novak Djokovic ended Stan Wawrinka's hopes of stringing together a hat-trick of match wins for the first time in 18 months with a 6-2 6-2 thumping.

The 37-year-old Swiss, who had not played for 12 months after undergoing two surgeries for a foot injury, battled past Reilly Opelka and Laslo Djere to set up a 26th meeting with top seed Djokovic in the Italian capital, and first since 2019.

The 361st ranked Wawrinka, who last won three successive matches

at the 2020 Paris Masters, could not cope with Djokovic's baseline intensity in the first set and was broken twice.

Wawrinka showed incredible defense to break Djokovic in the sixth game of the second set but a double break from the world number one carried him to victory.

It was Djokovic's 20th win over Wawrinka, and 998th career victory, as he bids to become the fifth player to reach the 1000-win mark.

Djokovic will face Canadian Felix Auger Aliassime in the quarter finals after the 21-year-old beat American Marcos Giron 6-3 6-2.

Alexander Zverev chalked up a century of match wins at Masters 1000 events with a 6-3 7-6(5) win over Australian Alex de Minaur, while world number five Stefanos Tsitsipas battled back from a set down to beat 4-6 6-0 6-3 Russian Karen Khachanov.

Local hope Jannik Sinner reached his first quarterfinal in Rome with a 6-2 7-6(6) victory over Filip Krajinovic, while fifth seed Casper Ruud won 6-3 6-4 against Jenson Brooksby.

## Iran, Canada Football Friendly Match to Be Held in Vancouver



TEHRAN – Iran football team will play Canada in a warm-up game on June 5 at Vancouver's BC Place.

In the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar, Iran will be in Group B with England, the U.S. and the yet-to-be-decided UEFA Path A winner. Wales is set to take on the winner of the Ukraine-Scotland playoff.

Canada is drawn in Group F along with Belgium, Serbia, and

Morocco.

Iran is playing in its third straight World Cup after featuring in the 2014 and 2018 editions. Team Melli placed atop Group A in Asia's qualification path.

Canada is making its first appearance in the tournament since 1986.

It was also announced earlier this week on Tuesday that the Iranian football team will likely play Albania in a friendly ahead of this year's World Cup.

## Kane Double Fires Tottenham to Vital Win Over Arsenal



Tottenham's Harry Kane controls the ball during the English Premier League soccer match between Tottenham Hotspur and Arsenal at Tottenham Hotspur stadium in London, England, May 12, 2022.

LONDON (Reuters) - Harry Kane struck twice as Tottenham Hotspur kept their Premier League top four hopes very much alive with a 3-0 demolition of Arsenal in a rambunctious north London derby on Thursday.

Victory for Arsenal at the home of their arch-rivals would have secured their first top-four finish since 2016 and a Champions League place, but they suffered a dismal night.

Kane opened the scoring from the penalty spot in the 22nd before Arsenal had Rob Holding sent off for a second yellow card 10 minutes later, both for clumsy fouls on Son Heung-min.

Kane's diving header made it 2-0 in the 37th minute to send Tottenham's fans into delirium.

The volume went up another notch immediately after halftime when Son fired a shot past Aaron Ramsdale for his 21st league goal of the season to kill off any hope of an Arsenal fight-back.

Tottenham could even have won by more yet despite the celebrations from the home fans they remain fifth and Arsenal are still in the driving seat in the battle for fourth place.

But the gap between them is now only one point with both sides having two games remaining and Tottenham also boast a far superior goal difference.

Arsenal face Newcastle United away and Everton at home while Tottenham host Burnley and finish at relegated Norwich City.

## Inter Lift Eighth Coppa Italia Title After Conquering Juve

ROME (Reuters) - Inter Milan won their eighth Coppa Italia title and the first since 2011, after beating Juventus 4-2 in the final in extra time at the Stadio Olimpico.

Inter have a superior head-to-head performance over Juve this season, as they managed two wins and one draw in the Serie A and Supercoppa against their archrival. The Bianconeri needed a win to avoid finishing the season without a trophy, while the Nerazzurri is still fighting for a domestic treble.

Inter took the lead just seven minutes into the game when Nicolò Barella cut inside from the left to unleash a missile



\*\*\*\*Players of Inter Milan celebrate with trophy after winning the Italian Cup final football match between Juventus and Inter Milan in Rome, Italy, on May 11, 2022.

with both power and precision.

Juve turned the game around

just two minutes after the break with Alex Sandro's equalizer and Dusan Vlahovic's follow-up.

Lautaro Martinez won a penalty for Inter in the 79th minute as Hakan Calhanoglu stepped up to convert it, dragging the game into extra time.

Inter ran riots after that as they restored the lead with Ivan Perisic's spot-kick before the Croatian smashed in a blockbuster to seal the win.

Conflicts were sparked later on the sideline between Juve's coach Massimiliano Allegri and Inter's coaching staff, which ended up with Allegri's red card.

## Démare Wins Giro d'Italia Stage 6, López Keeps Lead

ROME (Sky Sports) - France's Arnaud Démare beat Australian Caleb Ewan in a photo finish to win stage six of the Giro d'Italia.

Démare, victorious in Sicily, was pushed hard to the line in Scalea by Ewan and had to wait for confirmation he had snatched it.

Britain's Mark Cavendish, looking to claim his second stage of this year's Giro, was third.

Démare has now won more stages at the Giro - seven - than any other French rider.

"It was very tight," said Groupama-FDJ rider Démare. "I had the feeling that I had won but it was hot so I waited for the photo finish."

Spain's Juan Pedro Lopez retained the pink jersey and overall lead in the general classification.

The 192km flat stage in southern Italy, from Palmi to Scalea, was a largely sedate affair until the final few kilometers, partly due to riders reserving energy for the 196km mountainous test.

Italian Diego Rosa was the early pacer-setter, out in front on his own for much of the race before relinquishing his lead as the peloton closed the gap.

## Messi Tops Forbes' Highest-Paid Athletes List

PARIS (AFP) - Lionel Messi was the world's highest-paid athlete over the last year, according to the annual Forbes list released that had the Paris Saint-Germain forward ahead of the NBA's LeBron James and Manchester United's Cristiano Ronaldo.

Messi earned \$130 million, a figure which includes \$55 million of endorsements, during the 12-month period ended May 1, 2022, to sit atop the list of the 10 highest-paid athletes a year after finishing second to Irish MMA fighter Conor McGregor.

Los Angeles Lakers forward James was next on the list after bringing home a combined \$121 million, shattering the \$96.5 million record for an NBA player that he set last year, while Portugal captain Ronaldo earned \$115 million to sit third.

Brazilian soccer player Neymar (\$95 million) and three-time NBA champion Stephen Curry (\$92.8 million) of the Golden State Warriors rounded out the top five.



The final three spots on the list went to Mexican boxer Canelo Alvarez (\$90 million), seven-time Super Bowl champion Tom Brady (\$83.9 million)

and reigning NBA Finals Most Valuable Player Giannis Antetokounmpo (\$80.9 million).

Forbes said its on-the-field earnings figures include all prize money, salaries and bonuses earned during the 12-month period while off-field earnings are an estimate of sponsorship deals, appearance fees and licensing income.

## Report: Lewandowski Turns Down Bayern Extension

BERLIN (AP) - Robert Lewandowski has opened the door to a high-profile transfer after telling Bayern Munich that he will not be extending his contract beyond June 2023 when it expires, German media reported on Friday.

The 33-year-old Poland international forward has scored 343 goals for Bayern and twice picked up FIFA's Player of the Year Award since joining from Dortmund in 2014.

"Goal machine Robert Lewandowski will leave the club no later than the summer of 2023," claimed the daily Sport Bild.

"In recent weeks, FIFA's 2021 Player of the Year told his bosses at Bayern that he would not extend his contract, which is still valid for one year."

The Sport1 site, citing its own sources, confirmed this information.



Robert Lewandowski has scored 343 goals for Bayern Munich since joining the club in 2014.

Until now, Bayern has maintained they would not part with Lewandowski but, as the German media points out, not selling him now would mean the Pole would leave for free next summer.

According to several reports, Lewandowski has recently been in contact with Barcelona.

Barcelona coach Xavi, however, felt that this transfer would be "complicated" because of the club's financial situation.