

Australian Open

Nadal exits true to prediction

By DENNIS PASSA
Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Rafael Nadal kept telling anyone who would listen that his fitness levels wouldn't stand up to the rigors of a two-week Grand Slam tournament. Tomas Berdych proved him right.

Nadal, who had played only eight matches since last June coming into the Australian Open because of a right wrist injury and appendix surgery in early November, was knocked out in the quarterfinals 6-2, 6-0, 7-6 (5) on Tuesday by Berdych — who had lost 17 straight matches to the Spaniard.

“It is obvious that I needed something more to be more competitive,” Nadal, a 14-time major winner, said. “As I said when I arrived here, the process always is not easy. When you have injuries, comebacks are difficult. But without being at my top level of tennis, I was able to be here in quarterfinals. Is not a bad result at all for me.”

Berdych, while thankful for the win, was reminded of a quote from the late Vitas Gerulaitis after beating Jimmy Connors for the first time in 16 matches: “Nobody beats Vitas Gerulaitis 17 times in a row.”

So no one, not even Nadal, could beat Berdych 18 times in a row?

“I’ve heard that one already,” Berdych said, smiling.

The other men’s semifinalists will be determined on Wednesday when top-seeded



AP Photo/Bernat Armangué

Rafael Nadal of Spain wipes the sweat from the face as he plays Tomas Berdych of the Czech Republic during their quarterfinal match at the Australian Open tennis championship Tuesday in Melbourne, Australia.

Novak Djokovic plays Milos Raonic and defending champion Stan Wawrinka takes on U.S. Open runner-up Kei Nishikori.

Berdych will play sixth-seeded Andy Murray in the semis after the British player beat local hope Nick Kyrgios 6-3, 7-6 (5), 6-3. Kyrgios came back from two sets down and saved a match point in the fourth round Sunday before beating Italian Andreas Seppi, the player who eliminated Roger Federer in the third round, but there was no such comeback on Tuesday.

The 19-year-old Kyrgios, who walked onto the court with his headphones on and gave two thumbs-up to the crowd, was at his crowd-pleasing best. After hitting a backhand drop shot at the net for winner in the second set, he spread out his arms for applause, and in the third set, he hit a between-the-legs shot that Murray

easily returned.

“It was a tricky match,” Murray said. “I tried to start as quick as possible because I know how dangerous Nick is. He’s a huge hitter of the ball, so I tried to keep it out of his strike zone as much as possible. Thankfully it worked.”

WOMEN

American teenager Madison Keys overcame a left thigh injury to beat Venus Williams 6-3, 4-6, 6-4 at the Australian Open on Wednesday, ensuring there would be no Williams sisters semifinal.

The 19-year-old Keys will play either Serena Williams or last year’s finalist, Dominika Cibulkova, in Thursday’s semifinal. The Williams sisters last met in a Grand Slam match at Wimbledon in 2009, when Serena won the final.

The semifinalists from the other half of the women’s draw have already been determined — No. 2 Ma-

ria Sharapova will play No. 10-seeded Ekaterina Makarova on Thursday.

Keys received treatment on her leg after dropping serve in the second set to give Venus Williams a 4-1 lead. After the medical timeout, she came back to break Williams’ serve twice to level the set at 4-all, but Williams then broke her next service game and served out the set, sending it to a decider.

Keys was also behind 3-1 in the final set before breaking Williams’ serve three times in a row to close out the match.

The match featured 12 service breaks, seven won by Keys, and 83 combined unforced errors. Williams had only 10 winners to go with her 38 unforced errors; Keys had 34 winners and 45 unforced errors.

The loss ended an encouraging 10 days for Venus Williams at Melbourne Park. She hadn’t advanced to the quarterfinals of a Grand Slam since the U.S. Open in 2010 and had struggled to recapture her earlier form after being diagnosed with Sjogren’s syndrome, an auto-immune disease that causes fatigue and joint pain.

But Williams is already 9-1 to start the new year after capturing her season-opening tournament in Auckland, New Zealand, before the Australian Open.

“It already feels like a long season already, so many matches in a row,” Williams said. “But it’s a great start. Hopefully I’ll be able to keep this level up.”

Pac-12 Basketball

Beavers’ Payton II faces former suitor

By CONNOR LETOURNEAU
The Oregonian

CORVALLIS — In an alternate universe, Gary Payton II runs Arizona State’s offense. He organizes a young team, vows maroon-and-gold crowds with monstrous dunks and, today, will host his father’s alma mater at Wells Fargo Arena.

Back in fall 2013, about six months before the Sun Devils reached their first NCAA tournament in five years, ASU offered Payton a scholarship. Head coach Herb Sendek was mining the junior college ranks to buoy the 2014-15 roster with experience. Payton, an athletic sophomore at Salt Lake Community College, seemed a solid fit.

The Sun Devils made Payton’s five finalists. He chatted with Sendek on the phone, trying to hammer down an official visit date. The scheduling didn’t work. Then Gerry Blakes, a 6-foot-4 guard at San Bernardino Valley College, committed after visiting the Tempe campus in early September.

“I knew they had their guard,” Payton said, “so I just took them off the list.”

He wasn’t frustrated. By that point, Payton had already built a strong relationship with Craig Robinson’s OSU staff. He committed to the Beavers in mid-November 2013, intent on carving out his own legacy in a coliseum that features a banner of his dad’s likeness.

On signing day, Robinson called Payton a “glue guy.” There was no way at the time for him to foresee the Las Vegas native evolving into anything more than a complementary cog on a rebuilding Beavers team.

Payton averaged 14.1 points, 7.9 rebounds, 3.8 assists and 1.4 steals per game last season. After leading SLCC to the “Sweet 16” of the NJCAA Division I Championships, he was tabbed a second-team All-American. But he hardly seemed a program-changing prospect. ASU had been the only other Pac-12 team to show interest.

These days, the 6-foot-3 Payton is a burgeoning star on perhaps the nation’s most stunning upstart. He leads a 14-5 OSU team in scoring (12.6), rebounding (8.5) and steals (57) and is second in blocks (20).

In the wake of Washington’s recent dismissal of center Robert Upshaw, Payton is a strong candidate for Pac-12 Defensive Player of the Year.

Pac-12 Men's Standings			
	Ovr.	Conf.	
Arizona	18-2	6-1	
Utah	16-3	6-1	
Oregon State	14-5	5-2	
Stanford	14-5	5-2	
Oregon	14-6	4-3	
Colorado	10-9	3-4	
UCLA	11-9	3-4	
Washington	14-5	3-4	
Washington State	9-10	3-4	
Arizona State	10-10	2-5	
California	11-9	1-6	
USC	9-10	1-6	
Today's games			
Oregon State at Arizona State, 5 p.m.			
Oregon at Arizona, 7 p.m.			
Stanford at Washington, 8 p.m.			
Thursday's games			
Colorado at USC, 6:30 p.m.			
Utah at UCLA, 7 p.m.			
California at Washington State, 8 p.m.			

College Baseball

Ellsbury, 2005 OSU team to be honored

Corvallis Gazette-Times

CORVALLIS — Oregon State typically has put a solid product on the baseball diamond each year, but 2005 was the beginning of the most impressive stretch in the program’s history.

That year’s team won 46 games and reached the College World Series for the first time since the 1952 campaign in what was dubbed “The Rose Bowl of College Baseball.”

Like the 1952 team, the 2005 squad went 0-2 on the biggest of stages.

But that team was the catalyst for a decade of unmatched success by the Beavers.

On Tuesday, the athletic department announced the 2005 team will be inducted into the OSU Athletics Hall of Fame. The team will be formally inducted this fall during a football home game weekend with additional members of the 2015 Hall of Fame Class.

Jacoby Ellsbury, Dallas Buck and Jonah Nickerson were All-Americans that season and laid the groundwork of what turned out to be a three-year run to the CWS, including winning back-to-back national titles in 2006 and 2007.

The Beavers also had six players named to the Pac-10’s first team, including Ellsbury, who was the conference’s player of the year.

Ellsbury, who was drafted in the first round of the MLB draft that season, missed out on winning titles at OSU but won two World Series titles with the Boston Red Sox (2007 and 2013).

Ellsbury, who attended and graduated from Madras High School, is married to Pendleton’s Kelsey Hawkins.

Local Slate

BOYS PREP BASKETBALL	
Thursday	Umatilla at Riverside, 7 p.m.
Friday	Pendleton at The Dalles, 7 p.m.
	Hood River Valley at Hermiston, 7 p.m.
	Baker at Mac-Hi, 7:30 p.m.
	Culver at Irrigon, 7:30 p.m.
	Pilot Rock at Heppner, 7:30 p.m.
	Stanfield at Weston-McEwen, 7:30 p.m.
	Ione at Sherman, 7:30 p.m.
	Condon/Wheeler at Horizon Christian, 7:30 p.m.
	South Wasco at Arlington, 7:30 p.m.
	Pine Eagle at Echo, 7:30 p.m.
	Helix at Wallowa, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday	Vale at Umatilla, 5:30 p.m.
	Ione at Condon/Wheeler, 5:30 p.m.
	Arlington at Mitchell/Spray, 5:30 p.m.
	Echo at Joseph, 5:30 p.m.
	Powder Valley at Nixyaawii, 5:30 p.m.
	Riverside at Nyssa, 6 p.m.
GIRLS PREP BASKETBALL	
Thursday	Umatilla at Riverside, 5:30 p.m.
Friday	Baker at Mac-Hi, 6 p.m.
	Culver at Irrigon, 6 p.m.
	Pilot Rock at Heppner, 6 p.m.
	Stanfield at Weston-McEwen, 6 p.m.
	Ione at Sherman, 6 p.m.
	Condon/Wheeler at Horizon Christian, 6 p.m.
	South Wasco at Arlington, 6 p.m.

Pine Eagle at Echo, 6 p.m.	Blue Mountain at Treasure Valley, 2 p.m.	Oklahoma City	23	22	.511	9
Helix at Wallowa, 6 p.m.	Eastern Oregon at Concordia, 7:30 p.m.	Denver	18	27	.400	14
The Dalles at Pendleton, 7 p.m.		Utah	16	29	.356	16
Hermiston at Hood River Valley, 7 p.m.		Minnesota	7	37	.159	24%
Saturday		Pacific Division				
Vale at Umatilla, 4 p.m.		Golden State	36	7	.837	—
Ione at Condon/Wheeler, 4 p.m.		L.A. Clippers	31	14	.689	6
Arlington at Mitchell/Spray, 4 p.m.		Phoenix	26	20	.565	11%
Echo at Joseph, 4 p.m.		Sacramento	16	27	.372	20
Powder Valley at Nixyaawii, 4 p.m.		L.A. Lakers	12	34	.261	25%
Riverside at Nyssa, 4:30 p.m.		Tuesday's Games				
		Toronto 104, Indiana 91				
		Milwaukee 109, Miami 102				
		Cleveland 103, Detroit 95				
		Memphis 109, Dallas 90				
		Chicago 113, Golden State 111, OTor				
		Washington 98, L.A. Lakers 92				
PREP WRESTLING		Today's Games				
Today	Hermiston at Hood River Valley, 6 p.m.	Detroit at Philadelphia, 4 p.m.				
Thursday	Pendleton at The Dalles, TBD	Portland at Cleveland, 4 p.m.				
		Sacramento at Toronto, 4:30 p.m.				
		Denver at New Orleans, 5 p.m.				
		Dallas at Houston, 5 p.m.				
		Boston at Atlanta, 5 p.m.				
		Oklahoma City at New York, 5 p.m.				
		Charlotte at San Antonio, 5:30 p.m.				
		L.A. Clippers at Utah, 6 p.m.				
		Washington at Phoenix, 7:30 p.m.				
PREP SWIMMING		NCAA				
Saturday	Pendleton, Hermiston at Baker City, noon	Top 25				
		Tuesday				
		No. 14 VCU 72, George Washington 48				
		No. 17 West Virginia 65, Kansas State 59				
		Oklahoma State 64, No. 20 Baylor 53				
		Xavier 66, No. 21 Georgetown				
COLLEGE MEN'S BASKETBALL		Today				
Today	Columbia Basin at Blue Mountain, 8 p.m.					
Friday	Eastern Oregon at Warner Pacific, 7:30 p.m.					
Saturday	Blue Mountain at Treasure Valley, 4 p.m.					
	Eastern Oregon at Concordia, 7:30 p.m.					
COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL		Today				
Today	Columbia Basin at Blue Mountain, 6 p.m.					
Friday	Eastern Oregon at Warner Pacific, 7:30 p.m.					
Saturday						

Basketball	
NBA	
EASTERN CONFERENCE	
Atlantic Division	
	W L Pct GB
Toronto	30 15 .667 —
Brooklyn	18 26 .409 11½
Boston	16 27 .372 13
New York	8 37 .178 22
Philadelphia	8 37 .178 22
Southeast Division	
	W L Pct GB
Atlanta	37 8 .822
Washington	31 15 .674 6½
Miami	20 25 .444 17
Charlotte	19 26 .422 18
Orlando	15 33 .313 23½
Central Division	
	W L Pct GB
Chicago	30 17 .638 —
Cleveland	26 20 .565 3½
Milwaukee	23 22 .511 6
Detroit	17 29 .370 12½
Indiana	16 31 .340 14
WESTERN CONFERENCE	
Southwest Division	
	W L Pct GB
Memphis	33 12 .733 —
Houston	31 14 .689 2
Dallas	30 16 .652 3½
San Antonio	29 17 .630 4½
New Orleans	24 21 .533 9
Northwest Division	
	W L Pct GB
Portland	32 13 .711 —

Hockey	
NHL	
Tuesday	Philadelphia 4, Arizona 3, SO
	N.Y. Islanders 4, N.Y. Rangers 1
	Pittsburgh 5, Winnipeg 3
	Columbus 4, Washington 3
	Carolina 4, Tampa Bay 2
	Montreal 3, Dallas 2
	Detroit 5, Florida 4
	Nashville 4, Colorado 3, OT
	Calgary 4, Buffalo 1
	Minnesota 2, Edmonton 1
	Anaheim 4, Vancouver 0
Today	Toronto at New Jersey, 7:30 p.m.
	Pittsburgh at Washington, 8 p.m.
	Chicago at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.
WHL	
Tuesday	Swift Current 3 Brandon 2 (SO)
	Kelowna 4 Red Deer 3 (SO)
	Medicine Hat 6 Lethbridge 3
Wednesday	Saskatoon at Prince Albert, 4 p.m.
	Kelowna at Edmonton, 5 p.m.

Tennis	
Australian Open	
Wednesday	At Melbourne Park
	Melbourne, Australia
	Purse: \$32.9 million (Grand Slam)
	Surface: Hard-Outdoor
Singles	
Men	
Quarterfinals	Stan Wawrinka (4), Switzerland, def. Kei Nishikori (5), Japan, 6-3, 6-4, 7-6 (6).
Women	
Quarterfinals	Madison Keys, United States, def. Venus Williams (18), United States, 6-3, 4-6, 6-4.
	Serena Williams (1), United States, def. Dominika Cibulkova (11), Slovakia, 6-2, 6-2.
Doubles	
Men	
Quarterfinals	Simone Bolelli and Fabio Fognini, Italy, def. Pablo Cuevas, Uruguay, and David Marrero, Spain, 7-6 (5), 7-6 (5).
	Jean-Julien Rojer, Netherlands, and Horia Tecau (6), Romania, def. Dominic Inglot, Britain, and Florin Mergea (14), Romania, 6-4, 7-6 (3).
Women	
Semifinals	Chan Yung-jan, Taiwan, and Zheng Jie (14), China, def. Michaella Krajick, Netherlands, and Barbora Zlahova Strycova (13), Czech Republic, 6-3, 6-2.

SCOREBOARD

Local Slate

BOYS PREP BASKETBALL

Thursday

Umatilla at Riverside, 7 p.m.

Friday

Pendleton at The Dalles, 7 p.m.

Hood River Valley at Hermiston, 7 p.m.

Baker at Mac-Hi, 7:30 p.m.

Culver at Irrigon, 7:30 p.m.

Pilot Rook at Heppner, 7:30 p.m.

Stanfield at Weston-McEwen, 7:30 p.m.

Ione at Sherman, 7:30 p.m.

Condon/Wheeler at Horizon Christian, 7:30 p.m.

South Wasco at Arlington, 7:30 p.m.

Pine Eagle at Echo, 7:30 p.m.

Helix at Wallowa, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday

Vale at Umatilla, 5:30 p.m.

Ione at Condon/Wheeler, 5:30 p.m.

Arlington at Mitchell/Spray, 5:30 p.m.

Echo at Joseph, 5:30 p.m.

Powder Valley at Nixyaawii, 5:30 p.m.

Riverside at Nyssa, 6 p.m.

GIRLS PREP BASKETBALL

Thursday

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Friday

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Culver at Irrigon, 6 p.m.

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Stanfield at Weston-McEwen, 6 p.m.

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South Wasco at Arlington, 6 p.m.

Pine Eagle at Echo, 6 p.m.

Helix at Wallowa, 6 p.m.

The Dalles at Pendleton, 7 p.m.

Hermiston at Hood River Valley, 7 p.m.

Saturday

Vale at Umatilla, 4 p.m.

Ione at Condon/Wheeler, 4 p.m.

Arlington at Mitchell/Spray, 4 p.m.

Echo at Joseph, 4 p.m.

Powder Valley at Nixyaawii, 4 p.m.

Riverside at Nyssa, 4:30 p.m.

PREP WRESTLING

Today

Hermiston at Hood River Valley, 6 p.m.

Thursday

Pendleton at The Dalles, TBD

PREP SWIMMING

Saturday

Pendleton, Hermiston at Baker City, noon

COLLEGE MEN'S BASKETBALL

Today

Columbia Basin at Blue Mountain, 8 p.m.

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Basketball

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	30	15	.667	—
Brooklyn	18	26	.409	11½
Boston	16	27	.372	13
New York	8	37	.178	22
Philadelphia	8	37	.178	22

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	37	8	.822	—
Washington	31	15	.674	6½
Miami	20	25	.444	17
Charlotte	19	26	.422	18
Orlando	15	33	.313	23½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	30	17	.638	—
Cleveland	26	20	.565	3½
Milwaukee	23	22	.511	6
Detroit	17	29	.370	12½
Indiana	16	31	.340	14

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Memphis	33	12	.733	—
Houston	31	14	.689	2
Dallas	30	16	.652	3½
San Antonio	29	17	.630	4
New Orleans	24	21	.533	9

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Portland	32	13	.711	—

Oklahoma City

23

22

.511

9

Denver

18

27

.400

14

Utah

16

29

.356

16

Minnesota

7

37

.159

24½

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	36	7	.837	—
L.A. Clippers	31	14	.689	6
Phoenix	26	20	.565	11½
Sacramento	16	27	.372	20
L.A. Lakers	12	34	.261	25½

Tuesday's Games

Toronto 104, Indiana 91

Milwaukee 109, Miami 102

Cleveland 103, Detroit 95

Memphis 109, Dallas 90

Chicago 113, Golden State 111, OTor

Washington 98, L.A. Lakers 92

Today's Games

Detroit at Philadelphia, 4 p.m.

Portland at Cleveland, 4 p.m.

Sacramento at Toronto, 4:30 p.m.

Denver at New Orleans, 5 p.m.

Dallas at Houston, 5 p.m.

Boston at Minnesota, 5 p.m.

Brooklyn at Atlanta, 5 p.m.

Oklahoma City at New York, 5 p.m.

Charlotte at San Antonio, 5:30 p.m.

L.A. Clippers at Utah, 6 p.m.

Washington at Phoenix, 7:30 p.m.

NCAA

Top 25

Tuesday

No. 14 VCU 72, George Washington 48

No. 17 West Virginia 65, Kansas State 59

Oklahoma State 64, No. 20 Baylor 53

Xavier 66, No. 21 Georgetown

Today

No. 4 Duke at No. 8 Notre Dame, 4:30 p.m.

Texas Tech at No. 24 Oklahoma, 4:30 p.m.

Loyola (IL) at No. 12 Wichita State, 5 p.m.

No. 18 Northern Iowa at S. Illinois, 5:05 p.m.

No. 9 Kansas at TCU, 6 p.m.

No. 10 Louisville at Boston College, 6 p.m.

Georgia Tech at No. 23 Miami (FL), 6 p.m.

No. 22 Indiana at Purdue, 6 p.m.

Oregon at No. 6 Arizona, 7 p.m.

Tennis

Australasian Open

Wednesday

At Melbourne Park

Melbourne, Australia

Purse: \$32.9 million (Grand Slam)

Surface: Hard-Outdoor

Singles

Men

Quarterfinals

Stan Wavrinka (4), Switzerland, def. Kei Nishikori (5), Japan, 6-3, 6-4, 7-6 (10)

Women

Quarterfinals

Madison Keys, United States, def. Venus Williams (18), United States, 6-3, 4-6, 6-4.

Serena Williams (1), United States, def. Dominika Cibulkova (11), Slovakia, 6-2, 6-2.

Doubles

Men

Quarterfinals

Simone Bolelli and Fabio Fognini, Italy, def. Pablo Cuevas, Uruguay, and David Marrero, Spain, 7-6 (5), 7-6 (5).

Jean-Julien Royer, Netherlands, and Horia Tecau (6), Romania, def. Dominic Inglot, Britain, and Florin Mergea (14), Romania, 6-4, 7-6 (3).

Women

Semifinals

Chan Yung-jan, Taiwan, and Zheng Jie (14), China, def. Michaela Krajcek, Netherlands, and Barbora Zahlavova Strycova (13), Czech Republic, 6-3, 6-2.