

Tennis

Serena survives at Wimbledon, racket doesn't

Djokovic down in suspended match

By HOWARD FENDRICH
Associated Press

LONDON — Dismayed at dropping the first set after being a single point from taking it, Serena Williams sat in her Centre Court sideline chair and cracked her racket against the turf once, twice, three times, four.

Then she casually flung the racket, hurling it so far behind her that it landed in the lap of a TV cameraman filming her second-round match against 65th-ranked American Christina McHale.

Williams recovered to force a third set, only to fall behind yet again Friday, perilously close to what would have been the six-time champion's earliest exit in 17 Wimbledon appearances.

But as she herself declared afterward: "Mentally, no one can break me."

Eventually, the top-ranked Williams did indeed come through, edging McHale 6-7 (7), 6-2, 6-4 for a thrill-a-minute victory at a tournament so rain drenched this week that matches will be scheduled on the middle Sunday for only the fourth time in 139 years.

The dramatics of Williams' match, which concluded with the main stadium's retractable roof closed, were equaled by those of her older sister Venus: She had to wait out three rain delays, including one of more than an hour



Serena Williams of the U.S smashes her racket after losing her first set to Christina McHale of the U.S during their women's singles match on day five of the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London, Friday, July 1, 2016.

that arrived, of all times, right as she held a match point. But Venus, owner of five titles at the All England Club, persevered, too, barely getting past 29th-seeded Daria Kasatkina 7-5, 4-6, 10-8 to become one of only two women already into the fourth round.

"You see a winner go by you, and a lob go in, and you're like, 'My god, what's next?'" said Venus, who at 36 is the oldest woman in the field and has played about 6 1/2 hours of tennis in the past two days, including singles and doubles.

Of the way things went for her Friday, including the interruption at match point while she led 5-4 in the third and Kasatkina served at 30-40, Venus said: "It was like a Hollywood script."

Serena's mood soured when she had a set point in the first and appeared to have converted it, until McHale — who's never been past the third round at a major — successfully challenged the call that her shot landed out. From there, McHale played aggressively, and when she grabbed that set, 21-time Grand Slam

champion Serena took out her frustration on her racket.

"I was just really, really, really angry. I had a lot of chances," said Serena, who acknowledged she faces a fine for her display and joked that she needed to reach her racket-smashing quota for the season. "She got really lucky on some shots."

Despite all that went on in the siblings' matches — they overlapped, so their mother, Oracene Price, hustled from No. 1 Court, where she saw Venus win, across the way to catch the end of Serena's victory — the most shocking

development Friday was what was going on in Novak Djokovic's third-rounder against 28th-seeded Sam Querrey of the U.S. before it was suspended because of showers in the evening.

Djokovic, owner of a 30-match Grand Slam winning streak that includes the past four major titles, allowed Querrey to seize the first two sets 7-6 (6), 6-1 during their 72 minutes of action. Given the way things were going for the No. 1-seeded Djokovic, he had to be thrilled that the match was halted, giving him a

night to rest and regroup.

Only one man managed to move his way into the fourth round: Roger Federer. He got to play in the main stadium, with the roof overhead, and easily beat Britain's Daniel Evans 6-4, 6-2, 6-2.

Four other third-round men's matches were suspended in progress. Worst of all, from a scheduling standpoint, one second-round men's match is still not finished, with No. 24 Alexander Zverev locked in a fifth set against Mikhail Youzhny. And three second-round women's matches are also pending.

That is why officials decided to scrap the traditional rest day on the first Sunday, something that was done only in 1991, 1997 and 2004.

"I might take a day off tomorrow, just because I can," the 34-year-old Federer said with a smile. "Yeah, I can. I'm sorry, I can. I have to take them when I can. I'm an old guy."

Among the other winners Friday was 2009 U.S. Open champion Juan Martin del Potro, who has had three operations on his left wrist since he last participated at Wimbledon in 2013. He eliminated fourth-seeded Stan Wawrinka, a two-time major champion, 3-6, 6-3, 7-6 (2), 6-3 to reach the third round.

"My hands (are) shaking," del Potro said after being regaled with a lengthy ovation at Centre Court. "It's a great sensation for me, because I'm playing tennis again — and I feel alive."

MORRISON: Strong performances at camps helped build confidence

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"I remember going into high school I was still trying to figure out if I liked basketball or softball more," she said recently while taking a break between summer league road trips. "I was kind of divided."

Morrison had yet to realize her immense talent on the diamond, which isn't that surprising considering her first experience with the sport.

She was 10, and had just gone undrafted for the Little League All-Star season. But a roster extension got her on the squad, and she remembers feeling like the extra wheel at times.

"They kind of had me in the outfield, at first base, kind

of sitting a little," which was all right with her, she said. "I was first starting playing, not really sure of what all I can and can't do, still tripping over my feet and everything. It was just a lot of figuring out what I wanted to do with the sport, how hard I wanted to play, and finding my spot on the team."

Needless to say, she eventually found it. But it wasn't until a softball camp at University of Oregon four years later that her eyes opened to the possibility of making the sport something more than a hobby.

"I hit a home run when we were doing hitting practice," she said. "Just hearing all the parents cheering for me, and then I was like, 'Oh! I just hit a

home run on a college field."

"That kind of just was one of those moments where I was like, 'Hey, maybe I'm not too bad at this sport.'"

More followed, and between the high school team, summer league and winter camps, softball soon became a year-round passion.

"I went from being the girl that was like, 'Oh, that's so cool that she made that play,' all of a sudden it was like, 'I'm the girl that's making the cool plays and everyone is cheering for me,'" she said. "I think going to college camps just opened my eyes up to what my skill set was compared to other people."

Part of the reason Morrison needed to leave the region to notice her blooming talents may have

been due to the shadow being cast by a naturally gifted teammate.

When Morrison was placed on her first all-star team, she found herself on a roster with 2015 Pendleton graduate Darian Lindsey. Though much smaller in stature, Lindsey was a player Morrison looked up to because of the things she was able to do on the field.

If she could just imitate Lindsey, Morrison figured, she'd probably have a chance to be halfway decent.

"I don't think I'd be even half the player I was without having her influence, and just kind of growing up with her and playing with her, and knowing 'Hey, if she can do that, I can do that,'" Morrison said.

Lindsey and Morrison went on to win two OSAA state championships together at Pendleton before Lindsey headed off to start her collegiate career at Mt. Hood Community College. Morrison will attend and play softball at Portland State University in the fall, and said she's hoping to reunite with her on-field mentor one day.

Lindsey's older sister, Shae, is also a member of the softball team at Portland State, so it's always a possibility that's out there.

"I'm hoping she goes in that direction, but she'll excel wherever she goes," Morrison said.

With her high school career now over, Morrison said there a lot of things

she's going to remember fondly. Her stats aren't really one of them, though.

"I think I accomplished more than I probably expected," she said. "I remember going into my sophomore year I made a list of things I wanted to accomplish — I wanted to steal this many bases, or have this many walks. But I think at the end of it when you look back on it, the things that you accomplish that really matter to you isn't getting a certain number on a certain statistic."

"(It's) just the memories you make and the bonds you create, and the people you become friends with, and the stuff that happens on the bus and in the hotels. And I think all of that goes to help what happens on the field too."

ALL-EO Softball First Team

Pitcher Jessica Lambert, Weston-McEwen, SR	Pitcher Lauren Richards, Pendleton, SO	Pitcher Mallory Copeland, Mac-Hi, JR	Catcher Jamie Hinkley, Hermiston, SR	First Base Kenzie Blankenship, Echo/Stanfield, SR	Infield Ellie Richards, Pendleton, SR	Infield Micha Fortune, Mac-Hi, SR	Infield Bekah Roe, Pilot Rock, JR	Outfield Alexis Morrison, Pendleton, SR	Outfield Jenny Field, Mac-Hi, SR	Outfield Brooke Kralman, Mac-Hi, SR	Designated Player Abi Biggs, Mac-Hi, SR	Utility Mikayla Kopacz, Hermiston, SR
2nd Team 3A All-State; EOL Player of the Year; EOL Pitcher of the Year; .449 avg; .495 OBP; .775 SLG; 11 doubles; 6 HR; 43 RBI; 17 runs; .982 FLG; 105 IP; 15-4 W-L; 1.37 ERA; 167 K; 18 BB	1st Team 5A All-State; CRC Pitcher of the Year; All-League 1st Team; .363 avg; .452 OBP; .425 SLG; 5 doubles; 17 RBI; 28 runs; 81.1 IP; 12-2 W-L; 1.81 ERA; 116 K; 26 BB; .975 FLG	2nd Team 4A All-State; GOL Player of the Year; All-League 1st Team; .495 avg; .539 OBP; .886 SLG; 18 doubles; 7 HR; 56 RBI; 28 runs; 158.1 IP; 2.60 ERA; 113 K; 28 BB; .933 FLG; 10 steals	2nd Team 5A All-State; All-League 1st Team; .362 avg; .375 OBP; .404 SLG; 2 RBI; 8 runs; .929 FLG	HM 3A All-State; All-League 1st Team; .402 avg; .505 OBP; .782 SLG; 10 doubles; 7 HR; 32 RBI; 38 runs; 1.000 FLG; 14 steals	1st Team 5A All-State; All-League 1st Team; .506 avg; .507 OBP; .547 SLG; 10 doubles; 27 RBI; 31 runs; .847 FLG	1st Team 4A All-State; All-League 1st Team; .480 avg; .545 OBP; .929 SLG; 8 doubles; 6 triples; 8 HR; 44 RBI; 43 runs; .933 FLG; 14 steals	SD6 Player of the Year; All-League 1st Team; .593 avg; .632 OBP; 1.081 SLG; 7 doubles; 7 triples; 7 HR; 51 RBI; 43 runs; .952 FLG; 24 steals	1st Team 5A All-State; CRC Player of the Year; All-League 1st Team; .526 avg; .629 OBP; 1.118 SLG; 12 doubles; 3 triples; 9 HR; 30 RBI; 44 runs; 19 steals; .955 FLG	1st Team 4A All-State; All-League 1st Team; .432 avg; .474 OBP; .489 SLG; 12 RBI; 25 runs; .900 FLG; 15 steals	2nd Team 4A All-State; All-League 1st Team; .304 avg; .402 OBP; .359 SLG; 15 RBI; 16 runs; .971 FLG	HM 4A All-State; All-League 1st Team; .430 avg; .524 OBP; .709 SLG; 7 HR; 25 RBI; 24 runs	2nd Team 5A All-State; All-League 1st Team; .323 avg; .421 OBP; .516 SLG; 6 RBI; 4 runs; .719 FLG

ALL-EO Softball Second Team

Pitcher Tehya Ostrom, Pilot Rock, JR	Pitcher Rebekka Holman, Pilot Rock, SR	Pitcher MacKenzie Gonzales, Echo/Stanfield, JR	Catcher Sydney Peal, Weston-McEwen, JR	First Base Kiersten Murphy, Pendleton, SR	Infield Madison Dave, Pilot Rock, SR	Infield Shannon Carter, Mac-Hi, SR	Infield Isabelle Dillow, Weston-McEwen, SR	Outfield Amie Coffman, Weston-McEwen, FR	Outfield Hannah McCarty, Echo/Stanfield, JR	Outfield Kelly McLaughlin, Irrigon, SR	Designated Player Sara Weinke, Pilot Rock, JR	Utility Jordyn Lambert, Weston-McEwen, FR
All-League 1st Team; .493 avg; .544 OBP; .648 SLG; 5 doubles; 2 RBI; 23 RBI; 26 runs; 75.2 IP; 12-0 W-L; 1.01 ERA; 84 K; 17 BB; 1.000 FLG	All-League 1st Team; .440 avg; .556 OBP; .500 SLG; 16 RBI; 19 runs; 50.2 IP; 9-2 W-L; 1.65 ERA; 57 K; 7 BB; .935 FLG	All-League 1st Team; .311 avg; .425 OBP; .426 SLG; 16 RBI; 20 runs; 117.2 IP; 11-8 W-L; 2.49 ERA; 122 K; 49 BB; .933 FLG; 10 steals	HM 3A All-State; All-League 1st Team; .406 avg; .525 OBP; .531 SLG; 5 doubles; 1 HR; 20 RBI; 11 runs; .995 FLG	3rd Team 5A All-State; All-League 1st Team; .324 avg; .395 OBP; .437 SLG; 8 doubles; 19 RBI; 14 runs; .951 FLG	All-League 1st Team; .520 avg; .575 OBP; .947 SLG; 15 doubles; 1 triple; 5 HR; 49 RBI; 36 runs; .921 FLG	2nd Team 4A All-State; All-League 1st Team; .362 avg; .487 OBP; .447 SLG; 4 doubles; 2 triples; 18 RBI; 34 runs; .902 FLG; 17 steals	HM 3A All-State; All-League 1st Team; .580 avg; .608 OBP; .761 SLG; 8 doubles; 2 HR; 24 RBI; 46 runs; .875 FLG; 13 steals	2nd Team 3A All-State; All-League 1st Team; .412 avg; .483 OBP; .451 SLG; 12 RBI; 26 runs; .966 FLG; 13 steals	All-State; All-League 1st Team; .400 avg; .538 OBP; .500 SLG; 7 RBI; 37 runs; .876 FLG; 15 steals	All-League 1st Team .456 avg; .554 OBP; .735 SLG; 7 doubles; 3 triples; 2 HR; 25 RBI; 27 runs	All-League 1st Team; .514 avg; .588 OBP; .847 SLG; 6 RBI; 34 runs; .941 FLG	