

Plenty of dramatics as Nadal tops Kyrgios at Wimbledon

By HOWARD FENDRICH
AP Tennis Writer

WIMBLEDON, England — There is never a dull moment with Nick Kyrgios, whether he's smacking a forehand directly at Rafael Nadal's midsection — right at him, on purpose — and earning a staredown in return or arguing with the chair umpire or hitting a second-serve ace at 135 mph or an underarm ace.

All of that and more — much, much more — was on display at Centre Court on Thursday, when Nadal emerged from the tumult to beat Kyrgios 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (5), 7-6 (3) in a second-round Wimbledon match boasting all manner of dramatics, doses of animosity and delightful play.

"When he wants to compete well, he's one of the toughest opponents you can face. Normally against me and the top guys he wants to try hard," said Nadal, who was ranked No. 1 when he lost to a 19-year-old Kyrgios at the All England Club in 2014. "And when he's that way, he's very tough."

They have been at odds more recently away from the court, with Nadal, his uncle



Spain's Rafael Nadal, right, greets Australia's Nick Kyrgios at the net after beating him in a men's singles match Thursday at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London.

AP Photo/Kirsty Wigglesworth

and Kyrgios all trading barbs.

In the leadup to this meeting, Kyrgios joked that he didn't think "me and Rafa could go down to the Dog & Fox and have a beer together," referring to a nearby pub

where the 24-year-old Australian was spotted Wednesday night. The 33-year-old Nadal, meanwhile, observed that he was "too old for all this stuff."

Kyrgios is capable of being as entertaining and

befuddling a player as there is and showed why throughout this 3-hour-plus contest that overshadowed everything else going on around the grass-court Grand Slam tournament on Day 4.

Defending champion Angelique Kerber lost to Lauren Davis, an American who lost in qualifying but got into the main draw when someone else withdrew. Seven-time champion Serena

Williams needed a comeback to win in three sets against an 18-year-old qualifier. Williams' partner for mixed doubles, two-time Wimbledon singles winner Andy Murray, played his first-round match in men's doubles. Marcos Baghdatis, the 2006 Australian Open runner-up and a fan favorite, played what he says will be the last match of his career.

Everything was rendered secondary to Nadal vs. Kyrgios.

The No. 2-seeded Nadal is seeking his third Wimbledon title but first since 2010. He is eyeing a 19th Grand Slam title overall, which would move him within one of Roger Federer's record for men.

Kyrgios, ranked 43rd, hasn't been past the quarterfinals at any major yet.

And yet, because of his talent, plenty of people agree with Nadal's post-match assessment:

"Potentially," Nadal said, "he's a Grand Slam winner."

There is a lot to dissect with Kyrgios, who sometimes seems to act as if it is more important to look cool than to play well. It's very much in the eye of the beholder, certainly, but he did do some of each Thursday.

We have a wiener! Joey Chestnut eats 71 hot dogs for title

By ALI SWENSON
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Joey "Jaws" Chestnut ate 71 wieners and buns to secure his 12th title at Nathan's Famous annual July Fourth hot dog eating contest on Thursday, just a few hot dogs shy of breaking the record he set last year.

In front of a crowd of fans and facing 17 opponents, the California native far exceeded his nearest competitors, but didn't quite make or pass the 74-dog mark he reached in 2018.

When asked how he felt after the contest, Chestnut, 35, said, "I feel like I should eat a couple more."

"I knew it was going to be close. I was trying hard and I was overstuffing my mouth and it wasn't going down," he said. "I just needed to find a way to move a little bit faster. I think it's getting harder the older I get."

Miki Sudo won the women's competition by chomp-



Joey Chestnut stuffs his mouth with hot dogs during the men's competition of Nathan's Famous July Fourth hot dog eating contest on Thursday at New York's Coney Island.

AP Photo/Sarah Stier

ing down 31 hot dogs.

The 33-year-old fell short of her total last year

of 37 frankfurters but earned her sixth consecutive title by easily beating

runner-up Michelle Lesco, who wofled down 26 hot dogs.

Like Chestnut, she expressed some disappointment in not eating more.

"It wasn't my best number, the numbers were pretty low across the board. I don't know if it was the heat, but I really can't complain. I wasn't feeling in my best shape so I'm just glad that it was enough to pull off a sixth belt," she said.

Sonya "The Black Widow" Thomas holds the all-time women's record of 45 hot dogs in 10 minutes.

Chestnut and Sudo will each take home \$10,000.

Spectators with foam hot dog hats, plastic noise-makers and homemade signs descended on Coney Island's famed boardwalk for the contest.

The annual eat-off started in 1972, though the company has long promoted the event with a theatrical backstory that places its start date in 1916.

Chestnut has only lost once since 2007, when he pulled ahead of longtime foe Takeru Kobayashi for the first time. An ESPN

documentary released Tuesday features the two former rivals and their extreme training regimens.

"It's not something that there's books written about," Chestnut says in the film, which shows him lifting his head up and down with a weight dangling from his mouth. "There's not trainers. Everything's trial and error."

Kobayashi no longer takes part in the event.

Spectator George Cartolano, 40, said his favorite part of the contest was "watching them try not to regurgitate."

Elle Marks, 27, said she likes Chestnut because he's relatable. "He's a normal guy who just happens to be able to eat 74 hot dogs," she said.

Chestnut's next meal will probably be a "salad" and "a lot of liquid," he said. But he'll be back next year for the franks.

"As long as I'm healthy, as long as I'm happy and competitive, you can count me in," he said.

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