



AP Photo/Ben Curtis

Switzerland's Roger Federer celebrates defeating Spain's Rafael Nadal during a men's singles semifinal match Friday at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London.

# Federer tops Nadal in Wimbledon semis

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**  
*AP Tennis Writer*

**WIMBLEDON**, England — After waiting 11 years to get another shot against Rafael Nadal at Wimbledon, Roger Federer was so, so close to the finish line.

One match point slipped away when Federer missed a forehand return. A second came and went on a backhand return. Later, serving for a spot in a record 12th final at the All England Club, Federer shanked a leaping overhead off the top edge of his racket frame, giving Nadal a break point. After Nadal wasted that chance, Federer earned two more match points — and failed to convert those, either, as his wife, Mirka, peeked through the fingers covering her face.

Federer knew it wouldn't be easy against his great rival. Never is, really, no matter where they play. Eventually, Nadal pushed a backhand long on match point No. 5, bringing an anticlimactic close to the otherwise classic contest and allowing Federer to win their semifinal 7-6 (3), 1-6, 6-3, 6-4 on Friday.

"I'm exhausted. It was tough at the end," Federer said. "I'm just very relieved it's all over."

Federer closed in on a ninth championship at the All England Club and 21st Grand Slam trophy in all. To get to those numbers in Sunday's final, Federer must get past Novak Djokovic, who is the defending champion and seeded No. 1.

"We all know how good he is anywhere," Djokovic said about Federer, "but especially here."

Djokovic isn't too shabby himself. He reached his sixth final at the grass-court major by beating 23rd-seeded Roberto Bautista Agut 6-2, 4-6, 6-3, 6-2 earlier Friday. Djokovic is eyeing a fifth championship at Wimbledon and 16th major title.

As entertaining as that first semifinal was — including a 45-stroke point won by Djokovic — it was merely a tasty appetizer ahead of the day's delectable main course.

Not only was this the 40th installment of Federer vs. Nadal, but it also was their first meeting at Wimbledon since the 2008 final. In a match many consider the best in the sport's lengthy annals, Nadal edged Federer 9-7 in a fifth set that ended after 9 p.m., as any trace of daylight disappeared.

How excited, then, were the spectators for the rematch? When Federer and Nadal strode out into the sunshine at 4:30 p.m. Friday, they were welcomed by a standing ovation before ever swinging a racket.

Quickly, that greeting was justified. These are, of course, two of the greats of all-time — maybe the two greatest — and they lived up to that status for stretches.

One key, for Federer, was that his rebuilt backhand, hit strong and flat more frequently than it

used to be, held steady against Nadal's bullwhip of a lefty forehand. Another was that Federer was able to withstand Nadal's serve, which has improved a ton over the years. Federer amassed 10 break points, and though he succeeded on just two, that was enough, with the last, vital conversion making it 2-1 in the fourth set. And then there was this: Federer won 25 of the 33 points when he went to the net.

"I didn't play well enough," said Nadal, who lost a five-set semifinal to Djokovic a year ago at Wimbledon.

There was something of an "Anything you can do, I can do, too" vibe to Friday's proceedings. Federer would kick up chalk with an ace to a corner, and Nadal would do the same in the next game. When Nadal jumped out to a 3-2 lead in the first-set tiebreaker, Federer used sublime returning to reel off five points in a row to claim it.

Who else but Federer could strike a serve so well that Nadal's wild reply would be caught by someone in the Royal Box behind him, as happened early in the second set? Who else but Nadal could attack Federer's generally unassailable forehand in such a manner as to draw one so off the mark that it landed in the third row?

"I thought probably the biggest points in the match went my way. There were some tight ones and long rallies," Federer said. "He plays with such velocity and spins and everything, you're not always sure you're going to connect the right way."

No one ever has managed to reduce Federer to mid-match mediocrity quite the way Nadal can, part of why the Spaniard entered Friday with a 24-15 overall lead head-to-head, including 10-3 at Grand Slam tournaments.

This was the second major in a row where they've faced off: Nadal won their windy French Open semifinal last month en route to his 12th championship on the red clay and 18th Slam overall. But Wimbledon is Federer's dominion: He's won 101 matches at the place — more than any other man at any other Slam, even Nadal at Roland Garros — and all of those trophies.

Djokovic, meanwhile, leads his series with Federer 25-22, including 9-6 in Grand Slam matches.

"I hope I can push him to the brink and hopefully beat him. But it's going to be very difficult, as we know," Federer said. "He's not No. 1 just by chance."

On Friday, Djokovic was as animated as ever. When Bautista Agut's shot hit the net tape, popped in the air and slid over for a winner that tied their semifinal at a set apiece, Djokovic motioned to the roaring fans, sarcastically encouraging folks to get louder. When Djokovic ended that 45-stroke point — the longest on record at Wimbledon, where such stats date to 2005 — with a backhand winner, he cupped his ear while glaring into the stands.

# Rugby: The fastest growing sports in the U.S.

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"The first time someone comes to tackle me, I will be afraid," she said.

## Rugby is not new to Pendleton

Gabriel, who is the Risk Management/QI Coordinator at the Yellowhawk Tribal Health Center in Pendleton, started a men's team about 12 years ago, then added youth programs.

There has been a high school boys team the past 11 years — the East Oregon Sasquatch Rugby Club. There also is the Wendigo Girls Club team. The teams compete in a high school league in the spring through Rugby Oregon.

"Most of the teams are in the Portland area," Gabriel said. "Rugby is the fastest growing sport in the U.S. Lacrosse is second."

Gabriel played football at Marist High School in Eugene, then played college football at College of the Redwoods, and one year at Mississippi State.

"I played college football, but when I played my first rugby match in Germany (where he was stationed in the Air Force), I wondered why I never played before," Gabriel said.

Gabriel came to Pendleton in 2006, and with the help of a few friends, the sport of rugby started to take shape in the Round-Up city.

Though the programs are strong, Gabriel knew there was something missing — the women.

"Just last week, I thought let's see what interest there



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Jennifer Keeton runs with the ball as part of a drill during Wednesday evening rugby practice at Grecian Heights Park in Pendleton.

is in a women's club," he said. "I thought this was an incredible opportunity to the women in our community to have something to do. We have a handful of girls who have played before. It's interesting what kind of people are coming out right now — it's the moms."

Adding a women's team also brings the family together.

"We want to build a positive rugby culture," Gabriel said. "Men, women and kids make a family-friendly atmosphere. Together, they can learn the culture of this

incredible game."

## They come from all walks of life

Keeton and Ronsenberg are businesswomen, as is Shelley Whitney, who helps her mom, Deana Eckman, run Deana's Auto Biz in Pendleton.

"I just started," Whitney said of rugby. "This is my first practice. When you are a mom, you miss being competitive and the camaraderie of playing sports with other women. The social aspect is fun."

Heather Smidt, whose husband Eric plays on

the men's local team, is a clinical social worker in Pendleton.

"It's good exercise," said Smidt, whose son Elijah, 9, also plays.

Kola Shippentower-Thompson looked right at home on the field.

She is a professional mixed martial arts fighter, fitness instructor at the Roundup Athletic Club and mother of three.

"This is my first practice," Shippentower-Thompson said. "I've always been athletic. I thought I would give it a try."

When she was in high school at Upper Columbia Academy in Spangle, Washington, Shippentower-Thompson played basketball, volleyball, soccer and softball. She also was the quarterback of the football team.

Stover is the team's ace in the hole. She played college rugby at Elon University in North Carolina, and for a couple of years in the Washington, D.C., area before making the move to Pendleton.

Stover works with Gabriel at Yellowhawk, and it was by happenstance that rugby came up in a conversation one day. She's now a regular on practice day.

"We have a few others who play, but we need to get a few more women to join us," Gabriel said.

The rugby teams hold joint practices at 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays, and at 9:30 a.m. Saturdays. All practices are at Grecian Heights Park, 1910 S.W. Athens Ave.

# Softball: Pendleton team plays Crook County today

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runs. Eagleheart hit a single and a double within the same inning, which scored two runs. Her double would wrap up Pendleton's offense, leaving them up 22-1.

Klamath Falls got one more shot at a comeback, but it didn't amount to much. Eagleheart swiftly struck out their first two batters, and Lambert grounded out the third to end the game.

"The girls put the ball in play and hit really well today," VanNice said. "They took advantage of some walks and passed balls. They played smart softball."

Eagleheart's three innings of pitching earned her eight strikeouts. She allowed just one hit and one run, and didn't

walk a single batter. She was also unstoppable at the plate, hitting 3-for-3 with two runs and three RBIs.

"Alanah was just in the zone," VanNice said. "She had it going. She was a stud for us today."

And she wasn't the only All-Star that brought the bats. Lead-off hitter VanNice also had a flawless 3-for-3 showing that scored three runs and three more RBIs. Courtesy runner Boatman put up four runs. Lambert chipped in three, and Medrano and Evans each added two.

The Pendleton 8/9/10 All-Stars hit the diamond again today for a round-two game against Crook County. On Sunday, they'll challenge Beaverton.



Photo contributed by Jason VanNice

Pendleton's Finley Evans slides into home during an 8/9/10 Little League softball state tournament game against Klamath Falls on Friday in Portland.

## SCOREBOARD

### BASEBALL

#### AMERICAN LEAGUE

All Times PDT				
East	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	58	31	.652	—
Tampa Bay	53	39	.576	6 1/2
Boston	50	41	.549	9
Toronto	34	58	.370	25 1/2
Baltimore	27	63	.300	31 1/2
Central	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	57	33	.633	—
Cleveland	50	39	.562	6 1/2
Chicago	42	44	.488	13
Kansas City	31	61	.337	27
Detroit	28	58	.326	27
West	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	57	35	.620	—
Oakland	50	41	.549	6 1/2
Texas	50	42	.543	7
Los Angeles	45	46	.495	11 1/2
Seattle	39	55	.415	19

#### Thursday's Games

Texas 5, Houston 0  
**Friday's Games**  
Tampa Bay 16, Baltimore 4  
N.Y. Yankees 4, Toronto 0  
Boston 8, L.A. Dodgers 1  
Minnesota 5, Cleveland 3  
Texas 9, Houston 8  
Kansas City 8, Detroit 5  
Seattle at L.A. Angels, 7:07 p.m.

#### Saturday's Games

Tampa Bay (McKay 1-0) at Baltimore (Brooks 2-3), 10:05 a.m., 1st game  
Toronto (Richard 1-5) at N.Y. Yankees (Happ 7-4), 10:05 a.m.  
Chicago White Sox (Covey 1-4) at Oakland (Bassitt 5-4), 1:07 p.m.  
Tampa Bay (Morton 10-2) at Baltimore (Means 7-4), 4:05 p.m., 2nd game  
Minnesota (Odorizzi 10-4) at Cleveland (Bauer 8-6), 4:10 p.m.  
Detroit (Boyd 6-6) at Kansas City (Keller 4-9), 4:15 p.m.  
L.A. Dodgers (Stripling 3-3) at Boston (Sale 3-8), 4:15 p.m.  
Houston (Miley 7-4) at Texas (Minor 8-4), 5:05 p.m.  
Seattle (TBD) at L.A. Angels (Harvey 2-4), 6:07 p.m.

#### Sunday's Games

Tampa Bay at Baltimore, 10:05 a.m.  
Toronto at N.Y. Yankees, 10:05 a.m.  
Minnesota at Cleveland, 10:10 a.m.  
Detroit at Kansas City, 11:15 a.m.  
Houston at Texas, 12:05 p.m.  
Chicago White Sox at Oakland, 1:07 p.m.  
Seattle at L.A. Angels, 1:07 p.m.  
L.A. Dodgers at Boston, 4:05 p.m.

#### NATIONAL LEAGUE

East	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	54	37	.593	—
Washington	48	42	.533	5 1/2

Philadelphia	47	44	.516	7
New York	40	51	.440	14
Miami	34	55	.382	19
Central	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	48	43	.527	—
Milwaukee	47	44	.516	1
St. Louis	44	45	.494	3
Pittsburgh	44	46	.489	3 1/2
Cincinnati	41	47	.466	5 1/2
West	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	60	33	.645	—
Arizona	47	45	.511	12 1/2
Colorado	45	45	.500	13 1/2
San Diego	45	45	.500	13 1/2
San Francisco	41	48	.461	17

**Friday's Games**  
Chicago Cubs 4, Pittsburgh 3  
Washington 4, Philadelphia 0  
Boston 8, L.A. Dodgers 1  
Miami 8, N.Y. Mets 4  
Arizona 4, St. Louis 2  
Colorado 3, Cincinnati 2

#### Saturday's Games

Pittsburgh (Lyles 5-5) at Chicago Cubs (Lester 8-6), 11:20 a.m.  
N.Y. Mets (Syndergaard 6-4) at Miami (Gallen 0-1), 3:10 p.m.  
Arizona (Kelly 7-8) at St. Louis (Hudson 7-4), 4:15 p.m.  
L.A. Dodgers (Stripling 3-3) at Boston (Sale 3-8), 4:15 p.m.  
San Francisco (Bumgarner 5-7) at Milwaukee (Davies 7-2), 4:15 p.m.  
Washington (Corbin 7-5) at Philadelphia (Nola 8-2), 4:15 p.m.  
Cincinnati (Roark 5-6) at Colorado (Free-lund 2-6), 5:10 p.m.  
Atlanta (Teheran 5-6) at San Diego (Lucchesi 7-4), 5:40 p.m.  
**Sunday's Games**  
Washington at Philadelphia, 10:05 a.m.  
N.Y. Mets at Miami, 10:10 a.m.  
San Francisco at Milwaukee, 11:10 a.m.  
Arizona at St. Louis, 11:15 a.m.  
Pittsburgh at Chicago Cubs, 11:20 a.m.  
Cincinnati at Colorado, 12:10 p.m.  
Atlanta at San Diego, 1:10 p.m.  
L.A. Dodgers at Boston, 4:05 p.m.

### TENNIS

#### WIMBLEDON RESULTS

LONDON (AP) — Results Friday from Wimbledon at The All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club (seedings in parentheses):

**Men's Singles Semifinal**  
Novak Djokovic (1), Serbia, def. Roberto Bautista-Agut (23), Spain, 6-2, 4-6, 6-3, 6-2.  
Roger Federer (2), Switzerland, def. Rafael Nadal (3), Spain, 7-6 (3), 1-6, 6-3, 6-4.

### Women's Doubles Semifinal

Barbora Strýcová, Czech Republic and Su-Wei Hsieh (3), Chinese Taipei, def. Kristina Mladenovic, France and Timea Babos (1), Hungary, 7-6 (5), 6-4.  
Yifan Xu, China and Gabriela Dabrowski (4), Canada, def. Barbora Krejčíková, Czech Republic and Katerina Siniakova (2), Czech Republic, 6-1, 3-6, 6-3.

### Mixed Doubles Semifinal

Robert Lindstedt, Sweden and Jelena Ostapenko, Latvia, def. Matwe Middekoop, Netherlands and Zhaoxuan Yang, China, 7-5, 6-2.  
Ivan Dodig, Croatia and Latisha Chan (8), Chinese Taipei, def. Kveta Peschke, Czech Republic and Wesley Koolhof (5), Netherlands, 7-5, 6-4.

### CYCLING

#### TOUR DE FRANCE RESULTS

##### Friday At Chalons-sur-Saone, France Seventh Stage

##### A 143-mile ride from Belfort to Chalons-sur-Saone, the longest stage in the race:

1. Dylan Groenewegen, Netherlands, Team Jumbo-Visma, 6:02:44.
2. Caleb Ewan, Australia, Lotto Soudal, same time
3. Peter Sagan, Slovakia, Bora-Hansgrohe, same time
4. Sonny Colbrelli, Italy, Bahrain-Merida, same time
5. Jasper Philipsen, Belgium, UAE Team Emirates, same time
6. Elia Viviani, Italy, Deceuninck-Quick-Step, same time
7. Giacomo Nizzolo, Italy, Dimension Data, same time
8. Jasper Stuyven, Belgium, Trek-Segafredo, same time
9. Michael Matthews, Australia, Team Sunweb, same time
10. Alexander Kristoff, Norway, UAE Team Emirates, same time
11. Jasper De Buyst, Belgium, Lotto Soudal, same time
12. Andre Greipel, Germany, Arkea Samsic, same time
13. Andrea Pasqualon, Italy, Wanty-Gobert, same time
14. Mads Wurtz Schmidt, Denmark, Katu-sha-Alpecin, same time
15. Maximiliano Richeze, Argentina, Deceuninck-QuickStep, same time
16. Rick Zabel, Germany, Katu-sha-Alpecin, same time
17. Ivan Garcia, Spain, Bahrain-Merida, same time
18. Niccolò Bonifazio, Italy, Total Direct Energie, same time

19. Jan Tratnik, Slovenia, Bahrain-Merida, same time
20. Oliver Naesen, Belgium, AG2R La Mondiale, same time

#### Also

73. Ben King, United States, Dimension Data, same time
108. Joey Rosskopf, United States, CCC, 1:19.
158. Tejay van Garderen, United States, EF Education First, 3:13.
161. Chad Haga, United States, Sunweb, 3:13.

#### Overall Standings (After seven stages)

1. Giulio Ciccone, Italy, Trek-Segafredo, 29:17:39.
  2. Julian Alaphilippe, France, Deceuninck-QuickStep, :06.
  3. Dylan Teuns, Belgium, Bahrain-Merida, :32.
  4. George Bennett, New Zealand, Team Jumbo-Visma, :47.
  5. Geraint Thomas, Britain, Team Ineos, :49.
  6. Egan Bernal, Colombia, Team Ineos, :53.
  7. Thibaut Pinot, France, Groupama-FDJ, :58.
  8. Steven Kruiswijk, Netherlands, Team Jumbo-Visma, 1:04.
  9. Michael Woods, Canada, EF Education First, 1:13.
  10. Rigoberto Uran, Colombia, EF Education First, 1:15.
  11. Jakob Fuglsang, Denmark, Astana Pro Team, 1:19.
  12. Emanuel Buchmann, Germany, Bora-Hansgrohe, 1:22.
  13. Enric Mas, Spain, Deceuninck-Quick-Step, 1:23.
  14. Adam Yates, Britain, Mitchelton-Scott, 1:24.
  15. Xandro Meurisse, Belgium, Wanty-Gobert, 1:39.
  16. Nairo Quintana, Colombia, Movistar Team, 1:41.
  17. Mikel Landa, Spain, Movistar Team, 1:43.
  18. Daniel Martin, Ireland, UAE Team Emirates, 1:46.
  19. David Gaudu, France, Groupama-FDJ, 1:52.
  20. Vincenzo Nibali, Italy, Bahrain-Merida, 1:56.
- Also**
63. Tejay van Garderen, United States, EF Education First, 10:26.
  72. Joey Rosskopf, United States, CCC, 25:33.
  100. Ben King, United States, Dimension Data, 39:41.
  172. Chad Haga, United States, Sunweb, 1:02:02.