

Sports

WIMBLEDON WOMEN'S SEMIFINALS

Serena advances to Wimbledon final

By Howard Fendrich
AP Tennis Writer

LONDON — Serena Williams has been saying it over and over and over: Wimbledon is only her fourth tournament since returning to the tour after having a baby.

“Every time I go out there, I want to, I guess, take a giant step forward,” she said. “Keep taking giant steps, but keep improving.”

Williams played a total of seven matches in 2018 before arriving at the All England Club, and she'll be playing her seventh match in the last two weeks when she meets 11th-seeded Angelique Kerber of Germany in the Wimbledon final on Saturday.

Certainly didn't take long for the 36-year-old American to get her game in gear and close in on what would be an eighth Wimbledon title, one short of Martina Navratilova's record, and 24th Grand Slam trophy in all, equaling Margaret Court's all-time mark.

It was only 10 1/2 months ago that Williams had far more serious concerns.

After giving birth to her daughter, Olympia, on Sept. 1, Williams dealt with health complications that included blood clots and led to what she said were multiple operations.

“Almost didn't make it, to be honest,” Williams said shortly after completing her 6-2, 6-4 semifinal victory over 13th-seeded Julia Goerges on Thursday.

She's been wearing compression leggings during her matches as a precaution and says she remains nervous.

“I mean, even this week, I had a pain in my leg, and I went to the worst-case scenario: ‘Oh, my God, I have a (pulmonary embolism) in my leg,’” Williams said. “I didn't know I would have such, kind of, traumatic thoughts. Especially now that I have a daughter, I want to be around as long as I can to support her. It's interesting how that mental recovery is actually taking much longer than I ever expected.”

The tennis? That's come quite naturally, not surprisingly.

She was off the tour for more than a year after her Australian Open title in January 2017 — won while she was pregnant, she later revealed. Williams first came back by playing doubles with her older sister, Venus, for the U.S. Fed Cup team in February. Then came her singles return, at Indiana Wells in March, when she won her first two matches before losing to her sibling.

Next was a first-round loss at Miami.

“I honestly felt I would have done better in some of the earlier tournaments. That was the hardest part — accepting that I didn't,” Williams said. “I know that sounds weird, but I worked out a lot and I worked hard.”

Following another two months away from competition, she entered

the French Open in late May, and won three matches before pulling out before the fourth round because of an injured pectoral muscle.

Williams rested some after that, not practicing serving at all for a couple of weeks, and was able to ease into things once Wimbledon began because of a draw that allowed her to avoid playing any seeded opponents — or anyone ranked inside the top 50, for that matter — until Goerges, who was making her Grand Slam semifinal debut.

Now will come the sternest on-court test Williams has faced: Kerber, a former No. 1 and two-time major champion with a lefty stroke and never-give-up-on-a-ball defense.

Williams is 23-6 in Grand Slam finals, and Kerber is responsible for handing her one of those rare defeats, at the 2016 Australian Open. Kerber also won that year's U.S. Open, replacing Williams atop the WTA rankings right afterward. That was also the year that Kerber reached the Wimbledon final, losing to Williams in straight sets.

They've played each other a total of eight times in the past, and Williams leads 6-2.

After winning her semifinal against Jelena Ostapenko 6-3, 6-3, Kerber was asked what she sees across the net when she goes up against Williams.

“I see a champion,” Kerber said, “that's for sure.”

BRIEFING

16th annual Miners' Jubilee Fun Run/Walk

The 16th annual Miners' Jubilee Fun Run/Walk is planned Saturday, July 21.

The annual fundraiser for the Baker High School track and field and cross country teams is sponsored by Sorbenots.

Registration is from 6:45 a.m. to 7:45 a.m. the day of the races in front of Kick's Sportswear. Races begin at 8 a.m. Cost is \$15, \$10 for ages 10 and under. The first 75 registered receive a T-shirt.

Registration forms are available at the Baker County YMCA Fitness Center.

More information is available from Suzy Cole at suzycole@gmail.com

Football camps coming soon at BHS

Summer football camps will be coming soon to Baker High School.

The annual youth camp and middle school camps are planned the week of Aug. 20, according to Baker High School coach Dave Johnson.

Johnson said camp times will be announced later.

Baker football practice begins Aug. 13

Baker High School football practice begins Aug. 13, according to coach Dave Johnson.

Baker's first game is Aug. 31 at home against Nyssa.

Baker swimmers at Walla Walla meet

WALLA WALLA — Four Baker swimmers competed at the Walla Walla Sweet Onion Open swim meet June 23-24.

Joze Ramos was high-point winner in the girls 13-14 age division. Other Baker swimmers were McKenna Gentilli, Jasmine Cole and Sage Baker.

WallaWalla Sweet Onion Open (Baker results)

Girls 9-10 100 freestyle — 15. Cole, 1:48.35; 17. Baker, 1:52.23. Girls 11-12 100 freestyle — 24. Gentilli, 1:29.87. Girls 9-10 50 backstroke — 16. Baker, 58.20; 19. Cole, 59.97. Girls 11-12 50 backstroke — 16. Gentilli, 46.02. Girls 11-12 100 breaststroke — 29. Gentilli, 2:29.80.

Girls 9-10 50 butterfly — 16. Cole, 1:20.78; 17. Baker, 1:27.12. Girls 11-12 50 butterfly — 13. Gentilli, 49.63. Girls 13-14 50 butterfly — 5. Ramos, 1:07.57. Girls 13-14 200 backstroke — 14. Cole, 2:07.27; 19. Baker, 2:21.41. Girls 9-10 50 breaststroke — 16. Cole, 1:30.15. Girls 11-12 50 breaststroke — 25. Gentilli, 1:10.95.

Girls 11-12 200 freestyle — 16. Gentilli, 3:21.48. Girls 13-14 50 freestyle — 1. Ramos, 29.57. Girls 13-14 100 backstroke — 2. Ramos, 1:16.53. Girls 13-14 200 breaststroke — 7. Ramos, 3:24.78. Girls 13-14 100 butterfly — 5. Ramos, 1:25.76. Girls 13-14 200 freestyle — 3. Ramos, 2:32.42.

SCOREBOARD

TELEVISION

All Times PDT
Wednesday, July 11
World Cup semifinals, 11 a.m. (FOX)
Seattle at LA Angels, 6:30 p.m. (ROOT)

Thursday, July 12
Seattle at LA Angels, 6:30 p.m. (ROOT)

Friday, July 13
Seattle at Colorado, 5 p.m. (ROOT)

Saturday, July 14
World Cup third-place, 7 a.m. (FOX)
LA Angels at LA Dodgers, Texas at Baltimore or NY Yankees at Cleveland, 4:15 p.m. (FOX)
Seattle at Colorado, 5:30 p.m. (ROOT)

Sunday, July 15
World Cup title, 8 a.m. (FOX)
Seattle at Colorado, 11:30 a.m. (ROOT)
LAFC at Portland, 3 p.m. (ESPN)

GOLF

Twilight League Men's Golf Standings
Second Half, Week 3

	W	L	T
Windshield Doctor	5	1	14.5
Outpost Electric	5	1	11.5
Rosie's Bordello	4.5	1.5	10
Superior Towing	4.5	1.5	9.5
P&E Distributing	3	3	8.5
Baker Dairies	1	5	8
Four Seasons	1.5	4.5	8
Tri County Equipment	1.5	4.5	7
Barley Brown's	1	5	6.5
Blacklers Hackers	3	3	6.5

Front Nine
Low gross — D. Tiedemann 39. Low net — Tim Wood 30.

Back Nine
Low gross — Shaun Lepley 36. Low net — Chris Watkins 29.

Baker Ladies Golf Association

July 11
First flight — 1. Linda Taylor. Second flight — 1. LaVelle Raley. Third flight — 1. Roxanne McAdams. Birdies — LaVelle Raley, Sammie Linzel, Myrna Evans, Dana Endicott.

BRIDGE

Baker Ladies Golf Association
July 11
1. Joan Colton. 2. Judy Karstens. 3. Margo Kenworthy.

MLB

American League East Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Boston	66	29	.695	—
New York	61	31	.663	3½
Tampa Bay	48	45	.516	17
Toronto	42	50	.457	22½
Baltimore	26	68	.277	39½

Central Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Cleveland	50	42	.543	—
Minnesota	42	49	.462	7½
Detroit	40	55	.421	11½
Chicago	31	61	.337	19
Kansas City	26	66	.283	24

West Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Houston	62	34	.646	—
Seattle	58	36	.617	3
Oakland	53	41	.564	8
Los Angeles	48	46	.511	13
Texas	40	54	.426	21

Thursday's Games
Oakland 6, Houston 4
Philadelphia 5, Baltimore 4
Boston 6, Toronto 4
N.Y. Yankees 7, Cleveland 4
Minnesota 5, Tampa Bay 1
L.A. Angels 11, Seattle 2

Today's Games
Texas at Baltimore, 4:05 p.m.
N.Y. Yankees at Cleveland, 4:10 p.m.
Toronto at Boston, 4:10 p.m.
Detroit at Houston, 5:10 p.m.
Kansas City at Chicago White Sox, 5:10 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Minnesota, 5:10 p.m.
Seattle at Colorado, 5:40 p.m.
L.A. Angels at L.A. Dodgers, 7:10 p.m.
Oakland at San Francisco, 7:15 p.m.

Saturday's Games
Toronto (Estrada 4-7) at Boston (Rodriguez 11-3), 10:05 a.m.

Kansas City (Duffy 4-8) at Chicago White Sox (Lopez 4-6), 11:10 a.m.
Tampa Bay (Archer 3-4) at Minnesota (Barrios 9-7), 11:10 a.m.
Detroit (Fulmer 3-8) at Houston (Cole 9-2), 1:10 p.m.

L.A. Angels (Heaney 5-6) at L.A. Dodgers (Kershaw 3-4), 4:15 p.m.
N.Y. Yankees (Sabathia 6-4) at Cleveland (Clevinger 7-4), 4:15 p.m.
Texas (Perez 2-3) at Baltimore (Ramirez 0-3), 4:15 p.m.
Seattle (LeBlanc 5-0) at Colorado (Gray 7-7), 6:10 p.m.
Oakland (Anderson 1-2) at San Francisco (Samardzija 1-5), 7:05 p.m.

Sunday's Games
Texas at Baltimore, 10:05 a.m.
Toronto at Boston, 10:05 a.m.
N.Y. Yankees at Cleveland, 10:10 a.m.
Detroit at Houston, 11:10 a.m.
Kansas City at Chicago White Sox, 11:10 a.m.
Tampa Bay at Minnesota, 11:10 a.m.
Seattle at Colorado, 12:10 p.m.
Oakland at San Francisco, 1:05 p.m.
L.A. Angels at L.A. Dodgers, 1:10 p.m.

Today's Games
Philadelphia 52, Oakland 40, .565
Atlanta 51, Washington 47, .466
Milne 39, Seattle 37, .564
New York 56, .417

Central Division
Milwaukee 55, Chicago 52, St. Louis 47, Pittsburgh 44, Cincinnati 41, .575
West Division
Los Angeles 51, Arizona 51, Colorado 48, San Francisco 49, San Diego 40, .548
Thursday's Games
Philadelphia 52, Atlanta 51, Washington 47, Milwaukee 39, Seattle 37, New York 56, Oakland 40, .565
Atlanta 51, Washington 47, .466
Milne 39, Seattle 37, .564
New York 56, .417

Colorado 5, Arizona 1
Philadelphia 5, Baltimore 4
Pittsburgh 6, Milwaukee 3
Washington 5, N.Y. Mets 4
L.A. Dodgers 3, San Diego 2

Today's Games
Milwaukee at Pittsburgh, 4:05 p.m.
Philadelphia at Miami, 4:10 p.m.
Washington at N.Y. Mets, 4:10 p.m.
Arizona at Atlanta, 4:35 p.m.
Cincinnati at St. Louis, 5:15 p.m.
Seattle at Colorado, 5:40 p.m.
Chicago Cubs at San Diego, 7:10 p.m.
L.A. Angels at L.A. Dodgers, 7:10 p.m.
Oakland at San Francisco, 7:15 p.m.

Saturday's Games
Milwaukee (TBD) at Pittsburgh (Nova 5-6), 9:35 a.m., 1st game
Milwaukee (Anderson 6-6) at Pittsburgh (Holmes 0-1), 1:05 p.m., 2nd game
Arizona (Greinke 9-5) at Atlanta (Newcomb 8-4), 1:10 p.m.
Cincinnati (Castillo 5-8) at St. Louis (Flaherty 3-4), 1:10 p.m.
Philadelphia (Nola 12-2) at Miami (Richards 2-5), 1:10 p.m.
Washington (Voth 0-0) at N.Y. Mets (Wheeler 2-6), 1:10 p.m.

L.A. Angels (Heaney 5-6) at L.A. Dodgers (Kershaw 3-4), 4:15 p.m.
Seattle (LeBlanc 5-0) at Colorado (Gray 7-7), 6:10 p.m.
Oakland (Anderson 1-2) at San Francisco (Samardzija 1-5), 7:05 p.m.
Chicago Cubs (Hendricks 5-8) at San Diego (Perdomo 1-3), 7:10 p.m.

Today's Games
Philadelphia at Miami, 10:10 a.m.
Washington at N.Y. Mets, 10:10 a.m.
Arizona at Atlanta, 10:35 a.m.
Milwaukee at Pittsburgh, 10:35 a.m.
Cincinnati at St. Louis, 11:15 a.m.
Seattle at Colorado, 12:10 p.m.
Oakland at San Francisco, 1:05 p.m.
Chicago Cubs at San Diego, 1:10 p.m.
L.A. Angels at L.A. Dodgers, 1:10 p.m.

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