

WIMBLEDON



SUSAN MULLANE-USA TODAY SPORTS

Roger Federer returns a shot during his match against Andy Murray on Friday. Federer will play in his 10th Wimbledon final in a rematch with defending champion Novak Djokovic.

Federer facing Djokovic in final

HOWARD FENDRICH
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON—If Roger Federer was going to allow Andy Murray to gain a foothold in the Wimbledon semifinals, this seemed as if it might be the moment.

Murray delivered a 129-mph ace to pull out an epic seven-deuce, 15-minute game, saving five set points along the way, to get to 5-all in the second set. As he strutted near the Centre Court stands, shaking his fist and roaring, spectators loudly saluted the effort with a standing ovation.

"I," Federer would say later, "was screaming inside."

Was Murray suddenly making a match of it? Swinging the momentum his way? Not against Federer. Not on this day. Displaying the impeccable serving he produced all match — indeed, all fortnight — Federer held at love right away, then broke Murray in the next game. And that, essentially, was that.

Federer's 7-5, 7-5, 6-4 victory Friday, built by taking 70 of 91 points he served and breaking Murray in the last game of each set, moved him into his 10th Wimbledon final. One more win would make Federer the first man with eight titles at The Championships, as the grass-court tournament first held in 1877 is known around these parts.

"Doesn't matter whether it's No. 8 or No. 1," Federer said, "Wimbledon finals is always a big occasion."

On Sunday, the No. 2-seeded Federer faces No. 1 Novak Djokovic in a rematch of last year's final. Djokovic won that one in five sets to keep Federer stuck on seven trophies at the All England Club, tied with Pete Sampras and

1880s player Willie Renshaw, and a record 17 Grand Slam trophies overall.

Djokovic, who also won Wimbledon in 2011 and owns eight major titles, advanced by beating No. 21 Richard Gasquet 7-6 (2), 6-4, 6-4.

Nine of Gasquet's first 10 winners came via his smooth, one-handed backhand, but that stroke eventually let him down. At 2-all in the tiebreaker, Gasquet's backhand sailed long, and he wouldn't take another point in the set. When he was broken right away to begin the second, any suspense about who would win dissipated.

About the only intrigue concerned Djokovic's left shoulder, which was massaged by a trainer during second-set changeovers.

"It'll be fine for the next match," Djokovic said.

After reaching his fourth Wimbledon final in five years, Djokovic called Federer "the greatest player of all time on grass courts, and maybe greatest player of all time."

Sure looked that way against No. 3 Murray, who lost to Federer in the 2012 Wimbledon final — the last time Federer won a major — but beat him a few weeks later for gold at the London Olympics.

Entering Friday, Federer had been broken only once during Wimbledon. So it was noteworthy that Murray won the coin toss, elected to receive and then, a minute into the match, smacked a backhand winner for break point.

Federer responded with a service winner, an ace and another service winner.

Murray never got another break chance; he got to deuce on Federer's serve only once more.

"The guy served unbelievable," Murray said. "That was the difference."

Federer's 20 aces were part of his 56-winner performance, compared with 11 unforced errors.

"Definitely one of the best matches I've played in my career," Federer said, adding moments later: "One of my best serving days of my career, for sure."

Now that's saying something.

The highlight was the second set's 10th game, when Murray trailed love-40, dealt with two more break points, and eventually held. There were 20 points in all, lasting so long that both men changed rackets during the game, with Federer eliciting boos when he sneaked a sip from a water bottle.

Federer and Murray each used the word "unbelievable" to describe their terrific exchanges.

"It felt like every point was getting finished with a winner," Murray said.

Momentarily, it felt significant when Murray took that game, and the fans got their loudest.

"They were getting into it, as well, starting to get pumped up there," said Murray, whose Wimbledon title in 2013 was the first for a British man in 77 years. "A shame I couldn't keep it up."

That's because Federer, 10-0 in Wimbledon semifinals, never relented, right down to the on-the-run, cross-court backhand passing winner he flicked at a ridiculous angle in the final game.

He will turn 34 on Aug. 8, the oldest Wimbledon finalist since Ken Rosewall was the 1974 runner-up at 39.

"I need to keep it up for one more match," Federer said, "to really make it the perfect couple of weeks."

GOLF ROUNDUP

Yang takes lead at Women's Open

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LANCASTER, Pa. — Amy Yang rolled in four consecutive birdies in a round of 4-under 66 Friday for a three-stroke lead after two rounds of the U.S. Women's Open.

While the bulk of the field tried to solve the sloping greens at Lancaster Country Club, Yang charged into the lead on her inward nine with birdies on the 11th, 12th, 13th. She hit her approach to within a foot on No. 14 and punctuated the run. The 25-year-old South Korean was at 7-under 133.

"I just enjoy it out here," Yang said. "And I know the golf courses are very tough; I just enjoy the tough condition of the golf courses."

Stacy Lewis, last year's runner-up, and Japan's Shiho Oyama were tied for second at 4-under 136. Lewis birdied four of eight holes in the middle of her round, but bogeyed her last and settled for a 3-under 67.

Oyama had an opening 70 and was 2 over early in her second round before rallying. She made six birdies in a 12-hole stretch, including four on her second nine, on the way to a 4-under 66.

Yang has had her share of success on the LPGA Tour, earning a pair of victories since turning pro in 2006. But some of her finest golf has been played in the U.S. Open, where she has finished in the top 10 four times in the last five years.

She tied for fifth in 2010 U.S. Open, shared 10th place the following year and placed second in 2012. Last year at Pine-

hurst No. 2, she was third after 36 holes and first after 54 before closing with a 74 and finishing fourth.

She was paired with eventual winner Michelle Wie in the final round at Pinehurst and believes that experience can only help over the final two rounds.

Lewis' patience was tested early in the first round as she struggled with four bogeys and two birdies before breaking out of her funk. That carried over into the second round and she went on a tear that propelled her to near the top of the leaderboard — again — in the biggest event in women's golf.

"I just started playing golf, is really what it was," Lewis said, "I was thinking a lot those first 10, 11 holes, thinking a lot about my golf swing and just not playing. So I got to just playing golf ... and it's what you're seeing in the scores."

Marina Alex, part of a three-way tie for the lead after one round, carded a 1-over 71 and was next at 3-under 137.

Karrie Webb, also first round co-leader, had a 20-over 72 and was in a large group at 2-under 138. That group includes top-ranked and two-time champion Inbee Park (70), first-round co-leader Jane Park (72) and Michelle Pressel (70).

Spieth surges, but Thomas leads at John Deere Classic: Justin Thomas shot a 4-under 67 on Friday to take a 1-shot lead through two rounds at the John Deere Classic.

Thomas, a 22-year-old seeking his first career win, is at 12-under 130 total. Johnson Wagner and

Tom Gillis are a shot back. Jordan Spieth shot a 7-under 64 on Friday to go from at risk of missing the cut to moving within five shots of the lead.

Spieth, who will try for his third straight major title next week at the British Open, opened the tournament Thursday with an even-par 71. But he rallied with four birdies in six holes and an eagle Friday.

Brooks upstages big names: Some of the top names in golf were upstaged by a player ranked No. 528 in the world at the Scottish Open on Friday, with unheralded Englishman Daniel Brooks surging into a surprise three-shot lead after the second round.

Brooks rolled in a 30-foot putt for birdie on the last hole for a 5-under 65, which followed up a first-round 64 — the lowest 18-hole score of his eight-year professional career — at the links tune-up for next week's British Open at St. Andrews.

Defending champion Justin Rose, 2008 winner Graeme McDowell and Shane Lowry all shot 66 and were in a six-way share of second place on 8 under, a group that also included American Ryan Palmer (65).

Phil Mickelson birdied Nos. 14-16 to recover for a 68 that lifted him to 3-under overall and above the cut mark of 2 under — despite what the five-time major champion called a "horrific" putting display on the Gullane greens.

But they were all trailing Brooks, who was ranked as low as No. 570 two weeks ago after 13 straight missed cuts on the European Tour.

SOCCER

Swiss say 1 of 7 FIFA officials agrees to extradition to U.S.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BERN, Switzerland — One of the seven FIFA officials arrested in Zurich as part of an American corruption probe has agreed to be extradited to the United States, Swiss authorities said Friday.

Switzerland's Federal Office of Justice didn't identify the official involved, saying in a statement that he "wished not to be named at the moment."

The official, who initially had contested his extradition, agreed to be extradited on Thursday afternoon. The office said it approved his extradi-

tion immediately but that, in keeping with its usual practice, it would not give details of when he would be handed over.

Under Swiss law, he must be collected by a U.S. police escort and taken to the United States within 10 days.

The seven men arrested in raids on a luxury hotel May 27 in Zurich, where FIFA has its headquarters, included current and former members of FIFA's executive committee. The United States submitted a formal request for their extradition at the beginning of July.

The widening Ameri-

can investigation alleges bribery and racketeering worth more than \$150 million involving high-ranking FIFA officials over a 24-year span.

The official who has agreed to be extradited is accused of accepting bribes totaling millions of dollars in connection with the sale of marketing rights to various sports marketing firms and keeping the money for himself, the Swiss justice office said. Those rights were related to the broadcast of World Cup qualifiers, regional tournaments and continental championships in North and South America.

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF CAMDEN COUNTY



THANK YOU

Over 100 golfers participated in the Boys & Girls Club of Camden County's Golf Challenge on Monday, June 29th at the Woodcrest Country Club in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. The exciting event netted well over \$50,000 for Club programs and services. Thank you sponsors, volunteers and attendees!

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