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The Island Sports

Monday 8th June, 2009

A list of French Open Men's Champions

2009 - Roger Federer, 2008 - Rafael Nadal, 2007 - Rafael Nadal, 2006 - Rafael Nadal, 2005 - Rafael Nadal, 2004 - Gaston Gaudio, 2003 - Juan Carlos Ferrero, 2002 - Albert Costa, 2001 - Gustavo Kuerten, 2000 - Gustavo Kuerten, 1999 - Andre Agassi, 1998 - Carlos Moya, 1997 - Gustavo Kuerten, 1996 - Yevgeny Kafelnikov, 1995 - Thomas Muster, 1994 - Sergi Bruguera, 1993 - Sergi Bruguera, 1992 - Jim Courier, 1991 - Jim Courier, 1990 - Andres Gomez, 1989 - Michael Chang, 1988 - Mats Wilander, 1987 - Ivan Lendl, 1986 - Ivan Lendl, 1985 - Mats Wilander, 1984 - Ivan Lendl, 1983 - Yannick Noah, 1982 - Mats Wilander, 1981 - Bjorn Borg, 1980 - Bjorn Borg, 1979 - Bjorn Borg, 1978 - Bjorn Borg, 1977 - Guillermo Vilas, 1976 - Adriano Panatta, 1975 - Bjorn Borg, 1974 - Bjorn Borg, 1973 - Ilie Nastase, 1972 - Andres Gimeno, 1971 - Jan Kodes, 1970 - Jan Kodes, 1969 - Rod Laver, 1968 - Ken Rosewall, 1967 - Roy Emerson, 1966 - Tony Roche, 1965 - Fred Stolle, 1964 - Manolo Santana, 1963 - Roy Emerson, 1962 - Rod Laver, 1961 - Manolo Santana, 1960 - Nicola Pietrangeli, 1959 - Nicola Pietrangeli, 1958 - Mervyn Rose, 1957 - Sven Davidson, 1956 - Lew Had, 1955 - Tony Trabert, 1954 - Tony Trabert, 1953 - Ken Rosewall, 1952 - Jaroslav Drozny, 1951 - Jaroslav Drozny, 1950 - Rudge Patty, 1949 - Frank Parker, 1948 - Frank Parker, 1947 - Josef Asboth, 1946 - Marcel Bernard, 1940-45 - No tournament, World War II, 1939 - Dan McNeill, 1938 - Dan Budge, 1937 - Henner Henkel, 1936 - Gottfried von Cramm, 1935 - Fred Perry, 1934 - Gottfried von Cramm, 1933 - Jack Crawford, 1932 - Henri Cochet, 1931 - Jean Borotra, 1930 - Henri Cochet, 1929 - Rene Lacoste, 1928 - Henri Cochet, 1927 - Rene Lacoste, 1926 - Henri Cochet, 1925 - Rene Lacoste.

NOTE: Prior to 1925, the French Open was restricted to French players.

PARIS (AP) - Roger Federer beat Robin Soderling, tied Pete Sampras and won the French Open at last.

Undeterred by an on-court intruder, Federer beat surprise finalist Soderling 6-1, 7-6 (1), 6-4 Sunday to complete a career Grand Slam and win his 14th major title, matching Sampras' record.

On his fourth try at Roland Garros, Federer became the sixth man to win all four Grand Slam championships.

"Now the question is: Am I the greatest of all time?" Federer said. "We don't know, but I definitely have many things going for me because I've finally won all four Grand Slams, and I'm particularly happy reaching Pete's 14."

When the stylish Swiss hit a service winner on championship point, he fell on his knees to the clay that had vexed him for so long, screamed and briefly buried his face in his hands. He was teary by the time he met Soderling at the net, and fans gave Federer a standing ovation as he raised his arms in triumph.

"It's maybe my greatest victory, or certainly the one that removes the most pressure off my shoulders," Federer said. "I think that now and until the end of my career, I can really play with my mind at peace and no longer hear that I've never won Roland Garros."

Tears ran down Federer's cheeks as the Swiss national anthem played.



Switzerland's Roger Federer kisses his trophy after defeating Sweden's Robin Soderling in their men's singles final match of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, Sunday June 7, 2009. (AP Photo/Christophe Ena)

Federer wins elusive French title

Completes career Grand Slam

"Roger, really, congrats to you," Soderling said. "You really gave me a lesson in how to play tennis today. And to me you're the greatest player in history. So you really deserved to win this title."

The supportive crowd included Andre Agassi, the most recent man to complete a career Grand Slam when he won at Roland Garros 10 years ago. Agassi presented Federer with the trophy.

"You're the last man to win all four Grand Slams," Federer said. "Now I can relate to what it really feels like. ... It feels good to be for once on the podium as the winner. It's a magical moment."

Playing in cool, windy weather and occasional rain, Federer raced to a quick lead, sweeping the first four games. Soderling appeared nervous at the start of his first Grand Slam final, and Federer kept him scrambling with penetrating ground-

strokes to both corners and an occasional drop shot.

Federer's progress to the title was briefly delayed in the second set. The match was between points when a spectator waving a flag climbed through the photographer's pit and onto Federer's side of the court.

Federer backed away toward the backstop, but the fan caught up with him and tried to put a hat on Federer's head. Security personnel seemed slow to react before chasing the man to the other side of the court, and he was tackled,

then carried out. There was silence from the stunned crowd, then a chant of "Ro-ger! Ro-ger!" when the episode ended. Federer adjusted his headband, Soderling gave him a thumbs-up sign and play resumed.

Soderling's strokes steadied, and he pushed the second set to 6-all. But Federer played a brilliant tiebreaker, hitting aces on all four of his service points, and Soderling could only smile ruefully.

Federer broke again to start the third set and kept that lead the rest of the way. He never lost serve, and despite the difficult conditions, he had more winners than unforced errors - 41 to 24.

"It's always tough to play Roger," Soderling said. "He really played well today. I had a few small chances in the second set, but overall he played too well for me today!" Federer owed Soderling a thank-you for easing his path by upsetting four-time defending champion Rafael Nadal in the fourth round last Sunday. Nadal beat Federer at Roland Garros the past four years, including three consecutive times in the final.

"I kind of was relieved, because he was going to be the hardest one to beat," Federer said.

For Federer, a matchup against the 23rd-seeded Soderling was much more inviting. The Swede had never previously been beyond the third round at a Grand Slam tournament, and he fell to 0-10 against Federer.

"Yesterday, me and my coach were joking," Soderling told Federer during the trophy ceremony. "You've beaten me nine times in a row, and we were joking nobody can beat me 10 times in a row. But we were wrong."

Despite Nadal's surprising departure, Federer's path to the title wasn't easy. He rallied from a two-set deficit in the fourth round to beat Tommy Haas, and survived another five-setter against Juan Martin del Potro in the semifinals.

"I've had a tough draw," Federer said. "Of course, it's not Nadal on the other side of the net, but I beat him a couple of weeks ago on clay (in Madrid), so I really feel like I really deserve it."

Federer won his 14th Grand Slam championship at age 27. Sampras, who never reached a French Open final, was 31 when he won his last major title. Federer will try for No. 15 beginning in two weeks at Wimbledon, which he has won five times.

He has also won the U.S. Open the past five years, and he has three Australian

Australia face SL in do-or-die battle

Ricky Ponting's Australia must perform or face an embarrassing early exit from the World Twenty20 when they take on Sri Lanka on Monday.

The Australians, stunned by a seven-wicket defeat at the hands of the West Indies on Saturday following Chris Gayle's explosive 88 off 50 balls, cannot afford another loss.

Even if they emerge victorious, Ponting's men are not assured of advancing to the Super Eights because a Sri Lankan win over the West Indies on Wednesday will throw up a three-way tie to be decided by net run-rate.

The loss to the West Indies with 4.1 overs to spare could spell further disaster for Australia, who must not only beat Sri Lanka, but do so by a big margin to improve their net run-rate.

"It all lies ahead of us," Ponting said ahead of the group C match at Trent Bridge.

"We know exactly what we have to do and if we are good enough, we get it done." The defeat against the West Indies was Australia's fourth Twenty20 loss in a row.

Australia suffered a shock defeat by Zimbabwe in the inaugural World Twenty20 in South Africa in 2007, but still managed to reach the semi-finals where they lost to eventual champions India.

Sri Lanka will be charged up for their first international match since the horrific terror attack on their team bus in the Pakistani city of Lahore in March while on their way to resume a Test match.

Seven Sri Lankan cricketers and an assistant coach were injured in the attack, which left eight Pakistanis dead.

Kumar Sangakkara, leading Sri Lanka for the first time after Mahela Jayawardene quit the job after the Pakistan tour, said the team looked forward to the game against Australia.

"The pressure will be on them, but we are not taking victory for granted," said Sangakkara. "They will come hard at us and we have to be ready to stand tall."

"We know a side must win at least one game to stay in the race. We have just got to take our chances."

Sangakkara wanted his team to qualify for the semi-finals after being stuck in the Super Eights stage in 2007.

"We have a great mix in both batting and bowling, but at the end of the day it all depends on executing your plans well," he said.

"I am not sure Twenty20 is only a slog. One still needs to plan an innings to ensure you get a good total on the board."

LONDON (AP) - South Africa made a blistering start to its Twenty20 World Cup campaign, beating Scotland by 130 runs on Sunday to qualify for the Super 8 stage.

A.B. de Villiers hit 79 not out off 34 balls, smashing six sixes and five boundaries to help

South Africa post 211-5 - its highest Twenty20 score and the fifth best in the short history of the format.

Jacques Kallis scored 48, while Graeme Smith made 38 and Albie Morkel 24 in 11 balls.

Scotland never looked like chasing it down, slumping to 13-4 before being bowled out for 81 in the 16th over with only Kyle

Coetzer (42) and Majid Haq (15) reaching double figures.

Morkel took 2-15, while offspinners Johan Botha and Roelof van der Merwe each took 2-17 and Dale Steyn 2-21.

South Africa plays New Zealand at Lord's on Tuesday. Scotland has been eliminated from the tournament.

Scotland captain Gavin Hamilton won the toss, but his decision to field looked rash as Kallis hit five fours in a single over.

The Scots didn't help themselves with some erratic fielding. Kallis was dropped on 43 when he chipped a ball from Glenn Rogers to Hamilton, who initially took the

bowled by Botha, who then trapped Jan Steyn lbw for 2.

At 41-6, Scotland was in danger of posting a lower total than the Twenty20 international record of 67 scored by Kenya against Ireland last year.

But Coetzer hit 42 before he was caught and bowled by Van der Meuwe, who then bowled Majid Haq with his next ball.

Gordon Drummond was bowled by Morkel for 1 and the victory was completed when Morkel bowled Callum MacLeod.

Brief Scores: South Africa 211/5 (20) A.B. de Villiers 79*, J. Kallis 48 Scotland 81 all out (15.4) K. Coetzer 42, A. Morkel 2-15

Herschelle Gibbs was stumped for 16 off Ryan Watson, making it 125-3 in the 15th over, but De Villiers and Morkel reignited the innings with a 50-run partnership from only 19 balls.

The pair hit 22 from the 17th over before Morkel was caught by Coetzer off Gordon

Drummond for 24 in the 18th over. De Villiers reached his 50 from 25 balls. In the final over, Coetzer produced a diving catch to remove Mark Boucher for 2, but De Villiers responded with two successive sixes.

Scotland made a disastrous start to its reply. Watson was bowled by Steyn for 4 and Hamilton was caught by J.P. Duminy off Wayne Parnell for 5 inside two overs.

South Africa then took two wickets in a matter of minutes. Navdeep Poonia was run out for 0 and Steyn then bowled Colin Smith. Neil McCallum made 8 before he was



South Africa's AB de Villiers hits a six during the Group D Twenty20 World Cup cricket match between South Africa and Scotland at The Oval cricket ground in London, Sunday June 7, 2009. (AP)

S.Africa beat Scotland by 130 runs

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