

DJOKOVIC SAYS FEDERER'S SLAM RECORD 'IN BACK OF MY MIND'

MIAMI: Winning four of the past five Grand Slam titles has Novak Djokovic thinking about surpassing Roger Federer's record 17 Slam titles, but it's not a major motivation for the world number one just yet. The 28-year-old Serbian star, who captured his 11th Grand Slam crown in January at the Australian Open, won his fourth title of the year on Sunday, beating Japan's Kei Nishikori 6-3, 6-3 in the Miami Open final. Djokovic matched Andre Agassi with a sixth career Miami crown by taking his third in a row, became the all-time ATP

money leader with \$98,199,548, set a record with his 28th ATP Masters crown and moved to 11th on the all-time match win list with 714. "As I go along in my career and I achieve so much success, especially the last two years, I give myself more opportunities to actually make records," Djokovic said.

So pondering the ultimate mark, an 18th Grand Slam title, is no shocker. "Of course it's in the back of my mind somewhere," Djokovic said. "But I don't have it as a main motivation. Because then things can go a little bit out of control,

maybe can present some kind of distraction that I don't need." In the past 23 Grand Slam events contested, Djokovic has 10 titles, seven runner-up efforts, five semi-final losses and one quarter-final defeat. As the ATP season shifts from hardcourts to clay, Djokovic knows he can complete a career Grand Slam and add to his hefty total of major trophies with a triumph in June's French Open final. "Hopefully it ends with a win in Paris," Djokovic said. "That's one of the big goals every year." A trophy hoisting at Roland Garros, where he has lost in the

final each of the past two years, would bring Djokovic his fourth Grand Slam crown in a row, giving him possession of all four major titles at once, a "Novak Slam." "I don't think I'll have any difficulty to make transition to the clay courts quickly and swiftly enough," Djokovic said. Djokovic will play at Monte Carlo and plans to play in Madrid and Rome, but more runs to finals might have him reconsider his French Open tuneup plans. "Let's see what happens," he said. "Clay courts are physically most demanding surface, also looking at the big pic-

ture, knowing the French Open is the biggest goal I have on clay."

But another huge goal this year is to win at the Rio de Janeiro Olympics. "That's one of the dreams I have and one of the biggest inspirations right now in my career is to win a gold medal at the Olympic Games," Djokovic said.

"To be alongside the top athletes from all the different sports around the world and to dine with them, talk with them, see them perform live, is a unique experience I think every athlete looks forward to every four years." — AFP

ROW ERUPTS AFTER BRATHWAITE WINS WORLD T20 FOR WINDIES

KOLKATA: Carlos Brathwaite hit four consecutive sixes in a last-over thriller Sunday as the West Indies became the first team to win the World Twenty20 Championship twice. But the victory over England at Eden Gardens was marred when a long-running spat between players and the Caribbean board erupted into public. The West Indies went into the last over needing an unlikely 19 against the bowling of Ben Stokes.

Brathwaite astonishingly cleared the ropes four times in a row to fire the Windies to a four-wicket win with two balls to spare. "To see Carlos play like that at his debut World Cup was just tremendous," an emotional West Indies skipper Darren Sammy said afterwards. The gloss was soon taken off the scenes of unalloyed joy for the West Indies, who were also celebrating their women's Twenty20 final victory against Australia earlier, when Sammy gave vent to months-possibly years-of frustration with the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) in a post match interview. Referring to a lengthy and bitter pay dispute that had put their World Twenty20 participation in doubt, the all-rounder said his team felt "disrespected by our board."

"We had a new manager in Rawle Lewis, who has never managed a team before. We had no uniforms, no printing," said Sammy. "The trouble he went through to just get us in this uniform. I got to give credit to the entire team here."

'DISAPPOINTING' WINDIES BOARD

Sammy also thanked Grenada Prime Minister Keith Mitchell for a good luck message received hours before the final and then had a swipe at West Indies cricket chiefs. "I'm yet to hear from our own cricket board. That's very disappointing," said the 32-year-old.

Several hours later, the board slammed Sammy and apologised for his comments in a statement issued in Antigua and curiously headlined "WICB President has high praises for World Twenty20 Organisers." "The President would like to however apologise for what could be deemed inappropriate, comments made by the West Indies' male captain, Darren Sammy in a post-match interview and would like to apologise on behalf of the WICB, to the millions of fans who witnessed (sic)," said the statement. "The President has pledged to enquire the reason and will have the matter addressed."

Meanwhile England captain Eoin

Morgan in his post-match interview refused to blame the crestfallen Stokes for the heart-breaking defeat. "It's not his fault, we're all in this together, we enjoy our wins, and the pain will be shared tonight," he said. Marlon Samuels anchored the West Indies' run chase of 156 with an unbeaten 85, including nine boundaries and two sixes, after England had posted 155 for 9 in their 20 overs. After being reduced to 11 for three, Samuels single-handedly kept the Caribbean team in the hunt with his 66-ball blitz.

'EVERYONE A CHAMPION'

Brathwaite finished on 34 not out off just 10 balls as the 2012 champions triumphed for a second time.

"Everybody in the West Indies is a champion," beamed Sammy. England's batting hero Joe Root shared the new ball with David Willey and struck with his first ball as Johnson Charles skied a catch to Stokes mid-wicket.

Chris Gayle, who had put England to the sword with an unbeaten century in the group stage encounter, then heaved Root to the same fielder in the deep at long-on to trigger wild celebrations.

Willey trapped Lendl Simmons leg before wicket for nought to leave the Windies tottering at 11 for three. Samuels counter-attacked by hitting Chris Jordan for three boundaries in the sixth over and rebuilt by constructing a 75-run partnership with Dwayne Bravo (25).

Willey struck twice in his second spell as the asking-rate grew and England sensed victory before Brathwaite's barrage turned the game on its head at the end of an unbeaten 54-run stand with man-of-the-match Samuels off just 25 balls. "I can't really express how much of a top knock (by Samuels) that was. We couldn't turn back, it was a question of when not if," said Brathwaite. Earlier West Indies' bowlers justified captain Darren Sammy's decision to field first as Samuel Badree and Andre Russell reduced England to 23 for three after 4.4 overs.

Badree bowled Jason Roy for a second ball duck and also accounted for the struggling Morgan for five in his third over.

Root and Buttler rebuilt with a 61-run fourth wicket partnership. After Root departed for 54, David Willey's late cameo of 21 was studded with a boundary and two sixes to give England's bowlers a respectable total to defend. — AFP



DENVER: Magnus Paajarvi #56 of the St. Louis Blues gets the puck past goalie Semyon Varlamov #1 of the Colorado Avalanche for a goal to take a 2-0 lead in the first period at Pepsi Center on Sunday in Denver, Colorado. — AFP

KANE HAT TRICK LEADS BLACKHAWKS PAST BRUINS

CHICAGO: Patrick Kane had three goals and an assist as the Chicago Blackhawks raced to a six-goal lead in the second period before hanging on for a 6-4 win over the Boston Bruins on Sunday. Kane's scoring spree gave him 100 points for the first time in his nine-year NHL career. The win was career No. 800 for Chicago coach Joel Quenneville. Kane, the NHL's leading scorer, was clicking with linemates Artemi Panarin and Artem Anisimov during the club's fourth win in five games. Panarin had a goal and three assists, while Anisimov added a goal and two assists. Jonathan Toews also scored for the Blackhawks, who won't finish lower than third in the Central Division and will avoid a wild-card playoff seeding. Kane's second career regular-season hat trick — both this season — lifted him to 43 goals, the most for a Chicago player since Tony Amonte hit that mark in 1999-2000. He's the first Blackhawk to reach 100 points since Jeremy Roenick had 107 in 1993-94. Patrice Bergeron had two goals and an assist for the Bruins, who remained one point behind Detroit and Philadelphia for a playoff spot.

PENGUINS 6, FLYERS 2

Sidney Crosby, Beau Bennett and Patric Hornqvist scored to help Pittsburgh build an early lead, and the surging Penguins equaled their longest winning streak of the season at six games with a victory over Philadelphia. Crosby scored his 33rd goal and Pittsburgh jumped out to a 3-0 advantage midway through the second period. Carl Hagelin added his 12th and Eric Fehr scored twice in the third period for the Penguins, who won for the 12 time in 13 games. They moved five points ahead of the third-place New York Rangers in the Metropolitan Division. Pittsburgh, in the playoffs for the 10th consecutive season, reached 100 points for the 10th time in team history. Matt Murray stopped 28 shots for the Penguins. Wayne Simmonds matched a career high with his 29th goal, and Jakub Voracek also scored for the Flyers, who remained one point ahead of Boston for the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

DUCKS 3, STARS 1

Nate Thompson and Ryan Kesler each scored a short-handed goal. John Gibson made 25 saves and Anaheim defeated Dallas to return to the top of the Pacific Division. Ryan Getzlaf added an empty-net goal as the Ducks moved one point ahead of the Los Angeles Kings. Both teams have four games remaining, including the fifth and final Freeway Faceoff of the season between the rivals Thursday night at Los Angeles. Radek Faksa scored with 1:29 remaining and Antti Niemi stopped 22 shots as Dallas' four-game winning streak ended. The Stars lead St. Louis by two points for the Central Division title and home-ice advantage in the Western Conference playoffs.

BLUES 5, AVALANCHE 1

David Backes started the scoring in a three-goal first period, Anders Nilsson made 19 saves in relief of an injured Jake Allen, and St. Louis beat Colorado as the Avalanche moved to the brink of postseason elimination. Magnus Paajarvi, Colton Parayko and Alex Pietrangolo

also scored for the Blues, who are chasing Dallas for the Central Division title and trying to stay ahead of Chicago. Troy Brouwer added an empty-netter with 2:55 remaining. Matt Duchene scored late for the Avalanche, who maintained their slim playoff hopes with Minnesota's loss to Winnipeg. They trail the Wild by five points for the final Western Conference berth.

JETS 5, WILD 1

Mark Scheifele scored his team-leading 27th goal and Winnipeg beat Minnesota, giving Jets

fans something to cheer about in the club's last home game of the season. Minnesota dropped its third straight and squandered a chance to clinch a playoff spot. Chris Thorburn ended a 47-game goal drought for Winnipeg with his sixth of the season. Andrew Copp, Drew Stafford and Blake Wheeler, with an empty-netter, also scored for the Jets. Ondrej Pavelec made 28 saves. Wild center Mikael Granlund scored his 13th of the season. Mikko Koivu picked up an assist to give him 10 points in his last 10 games. — AP

NHL Results/Standings

Chicago 6, Boston 4; Pittsburgh 6, Philadelphia 2; Winnipeg 5, Minnesota 1; St. Louis 5, Colorado 1; Anaheim 3, Dallas 1.

Western Conference						Metropolitan Division							
Central Division						Atlantic Division							
W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS	W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS		
Dallas	48	23	9	260	226	105	Tampa Bay	45	28	5	217	186	95
St. Louis	47	23	9	216	193	103	Detroit	40	28	11	204	216	91
Chicago	46	26	7	224	200	99	Boston	41	30	8	233	220	90
Nashville	39	26	14	219	207	92	Ottawa	36	34	9	224	240	81
Minnesota	38	31	11	215	201	87	Montreal	36	37	6	211	228	78
Colorado	39	36	4	208	227	82	Buffalo	33	35	11	193	214	77
Winnipeg	32	39	8	204	231	72	Toronto	28	39	11	189	229	67
Pacific Division						Eastern Conference							
W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS	Atlantic Division							
Anaheim	44	24	10	209	185	98	Florida	44	25	9	225	194	97
Los Angeles	46	27	5	213	183	97							
San Jose	44	29	6	233	205	94							
Arizona	35	36	7	203	230	77							
Calgary	33	40	6	218	251	72							
Vancouver	29	36	13	179	225	71							
Edmonton	30	43	7	194	239	67							

Note: Overtime losses (OTL) are worth one point in the standings and are not included in the loss column (L).



KOLKATA: West Indies' captain Darren Sammy poses for a photograph with the World T20 cricket tournament trophy one day after West Indies won the event in the Indian city of Kolkata yesterday. — AFP

ENGLAND POTENTIAL IS FRIGHTENING: MORGAN

KOLKATA: Proud skipper Eoin Morgan has backed England to bounce back from the pain of defeat to the West Indies in the final of cricket's World Twenty20, saying his young side's potential is "frightening".

Speaking after a dramatic last-over defeat, Morgan said England would leave India with heads held high after coming so close to glory, only a year after their first-round exit in the 50-over World Cup.

And as he assessed the prospects of what was one of the youngest teams to have ever played for England, Morgan predicted the best was yet to come.

"This is the beginning of something I hope is going to be special," Morgan told reporters at the Eden Gardens stadium. "We have a great amount of talent to work with. Let's hope we can keep this group of players together for a long time and look to the future."

While eight of the West Indies starting XI are thirty-somethings, none of Morgan's team is over the age of 30 and all can expect to be in contention for the next 50-over World Cup, which England are hosting in 2019. The 29-year-old Morgan is the elder statesman in a formidable batting line-

up that features the likes of Joe Root, Jason Roy and Jos Buttler who are all aged 25 and yet to reach their prime. "I hope in the future we have a lot more success. Personally, I think we will," said Morgan.

"This side is at the very beginning of its progression. It's actually frightening to think what we can do if we achieve our potential." Under Morgan's captaincy, England have shed their reputation for conservatism in limited overs cricket and have instead been encouraged by their skipper to play "brash and aggressive" cricket.

'SHARING THE PAIN'

That ethos was again on show at Eden Gardens when they refused to go into their shell despite losing three wickets inside the first five overs, with both Root and Buttler taking the attack to the West Indies.

The match was lost in the final over when the normally reliable Ben Stokes was clattered for four sixes in a row by Carlos Brathwaite. Morgan admitted that 24-year-old Stokes was devastated but said the team was behind him all the way.

"We share everything we do, we stick together as a side. — AFP

WINDIES FINAL TRIUMPH HAILED AS 'ONE OF THE BEST EVER'

LONDON: Carlos Brathwaite's four consecutive sixes that carried West Indies victory over England in the World Twenty20 final capped what former players and journalists described as one of the sport's greatest matches yesterday.

With the West Indies requiring 19 runs for victory off the last over, the Barbadian needed just four of Ben Stokes' final six deliveries to seal a four-wicket victory at Kolkata's Eden Gardens on Sunday.

"Anyone who was here witnessed one of the great T20 matches. It was won, it was lost, then won, then lost. No side really deserved to lose it," former England captain Nasser Hussain wrote in his Daily Mail column after West Indies chased down England's 155 for nine on a difficult batting surface.

Fellow former England skipper Michael Atherton wrote in The Times: "It was a stunning end to a stunning tournament that showcased the best of the modern game—a game in which England played a full part for once."

The Daily Telegraph described Brathwaite's onslaught as "four balls that stunned the world" with its correspondent Jonathan Liew writing: "It was one of the most remarkable victories ever known. A match that will resound well beyond the boundaries of this stadium, well beyond the

boundaries of Twenty20 as a finish for the ages." While Brathwaite's incredible display of power-hitting allowed the Caribbean side to become the first to win the World Twenty20 title twice, there was plenty of sympathy for England bowler Stokes, who was on the receiving end of the late mauling.

England skipper Eoin Morgan said: "Ben is going to be devastated. Cricket can be a cruel game, it will take its toll over the next couple of days but we share the pain, we share the success." Former Sri Lanka captain Mahela Jayawardene, one of the greatest batsmen of recent times, also had sympathy for Stokes saying on ESPN that he was punished by Brathwaite because his deliveries were not quite accurate enough. "But I feel sorry for Ben Stokes—and a lot of the bowlers in this day and age," he added. Meanwhile, former Australian fast bowler Dennis Lillee was full of praise for the victors and their approach towards Twenty20 cricket.

He told ESPN he had written about their batting prowess in his newspaper column before the tournament began and said it was that power that secured victory in the end. "There has never been another six-hitting team like this one, and that turned out to be the clincher," he said. — Reuters