

## TENNIS

## THIEM POUNCES AFTER ZVEREV TEEN TANTRUM

**ROTTERDAM:** Austria's Dominic Thiem battled into the second round of the Rotterdam World Tennis on Wednesday after Alexander Zverev's challenge fizzled out in a racquet-smashing tantrum. The German teenager lost 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 after dominating in the first set against second seed Thiem. He ended up smashing a racquet with five heavy blows in the final set after dropping serve.

The meltdown did not help in the end, with world number eight Thiem going through after one and three-quarter hours to next face France's Gilles Simon. Grigor Dimitrov advanced with a 6-7 (4/7), 6-2, 6-4 win over Alexander's elder brother Mischa Zverev as the red-hot Bulgarian racked up his 15th win of 2017. Dimitrov, who captured his second title of the season last weekend on home ground in

Sofia, had to dig deep, however, to see off Zverev who stunned world number one Andy Murray at the Australian Open last month.

The 25-year-old Dimitrov improved to 15-1 on the season and will next face Denis Istomin, who beat Novak Djokovic in the second round in Melbourne at the season's opening Grand Slam. Dimitrov, the fifth seed, took victory in just under two hours, firing his 11th ace for a match point and breaking on four of nine occasions.

"I'm pleased with the win. Mischa did not make it easy for me with his game. I had to fight to win," said Dimitrov, who was champion in Brisbane and a semi-finalist at the Australian Open in January. Belgian third seed David Goffin comfortably beat Andrey Kuznetsov 6-3, 6-2 "I am feeling good. I'm

playing really well and pleased with the victory, especially against Andrey—a good indoor player," Goffin said.

"He can play fast, so it was not an easy first round. I served well when I needed to and I am happy to win my first match in Rotterdam. I had a great week in Sofia (finalist against Dimitrov) and I've come here with a lot of confidence." Richard Gasquet put out Viktor Troicki 6-4, 6-2, ending with a pair of picture-perfect backhand passing shots. In the second round, defending champion Martin Klizan battled to a 6-7 (5/7), 6-4, 6-1 defeat of 2016 semi-finalist Philipp Kohlschreiber while French sixth seed Jo-Wilfried Tsonga dismissed Gilles Muller 6-4, 6-2. Frenchman Pierre-Hughes Herbert advanced past qualifier Evgeny Donsky of Russia 6-2, 7-6 (7/4). — AFP



**SAN JOSE:** Florida Panthers goalie Roberto Luongo (1) is tended to by a trainer during the third period of an NHL hockey game against the San Jose Sharks. — AP

## NHL

JACKETS TRASHES MAPLE;  
BLUES BEAT RED WINGS

**COLUMBUS:** Backup Joonas Korpisalo made 31 saves, and Nick Foligno and Boone Jenner had a goal each as the Columbus Blue Jackets beat the Toronto Maple Leafs 5-2 on Wednesday night. Josh Anderson, Oliver Bjorkstrand and Matt Calvert also scored, and Alexander Wennberg, Zach Werenski and Seth Jones had a pair of assists each for the Blue Jackets. Columbus moved into a tie with Pittsburgh for second place in the Metropolitan Division two days before the Penguins visit Nationwide Arena. Nazem Kadri scored both goals for Toronto, and Curtis McElhinney blocked 30 shots - McElhinney was waived by the Blue Jackets earlier this season after backing up Sergei Bobrovsky the past few seasons. Josh Leivo assisted on both goals for the Maple Leafs, who squandered a chance to move ahead of Ottawa and Boston for second place in the Atlantic Division.

## PANTHERS 6, SHARKS 5, OT

Jonathan Huberdeau scored 1:38 into overtime after San Jose's Joe Pavelski scored twice late in the third period to tie it. Nick Bjugstad and Aleksander Barkov each scored twice for the Panthers, who have won five of six games. Jussi Jokinen also scored. Jaromir Jagr assisted on Barkov's second goal for his 1,900th NHL point. Sharks' fans gave him a nice ovation. Brent Burns, Joel Ward and Marc-Edouard Vlasic also scored for the Sharks, who have lost five of six. Roberto Luongo

stopped 29 of 34 shots for Florida and had to leave the game with a lower-body injury with 38 seconds left in the third period. He was replaced by James Reimer, who stopped two shots.

## BLUES 2, RED WINGS 0

Carter Hutton made 25 saves for his second straight shutout, Ivan Barbashev scored 2:06 into the game and Jaden Schwartz had an empty-net goal in the final seconds, helping St. Louis beat Detroit. The Blues have won a season-high five straight games, and coach Mike Yeo has won six of seven since replacing the fired Ken Hitchcock. Detroit has dropped five straight games for the second time in less than a month, matching its season-long losing streak. Detroit also lost five straight following a 6-2 start to what's become a difficult season. The Red Wings played their first home game since team owner Mike Ilitch died Friday.

## FLAMES 3, FLYERS 1

Matthew Tkachuk had a goal and an assist, Brian Elliott made 33 stops and Calgary beat Philadelphia. The 19-year-old Tkachuk pulled Calgary even at 1 with a goal 4:28 into the first period, then assisted on TJ Brodie's go-ahead goal 12:45 into the second. Mark Giordano added an empty-net goal with 39 seconds left for the Flames. Nick Cousins scored for the Flyers, and Michal Neuvirth stopped 20 of 22 shots. —AP

## GOLF

RUMFORD, FOSTER  
SHARE LEAD IN  
WORLD SUPER 6

**PERTH:** Australia's Brett Rumford and Mark Foster of England shared the first-round lead at the European Tour's revolutionary new World Super 6 Perth event at Lake Karrinyup yesterday. The Perth native fired an opening round six-under 66 along with Foster.

There were 21 players within two shots of the lead as players vied to make it into Sunday's innovative new six-hole match play knockout format. The European Tour is trying to sex up golf for a 21st century audience and hopes the Perth event, and the recently announced GolfSixes over two days in England, in May will attract a new generation of fans.

A regular cut will take place after Friday's second round of strokeplay before the field is cut to 24 players for Sunday's finale in what is a first for the European Tour. Rumford, who finished fifth at the Australian PGA Championship on the Gold Coast last December, said he was looking to continue his good form in his homeland after losing playing privileges last season. "I actually feel as though the year has kind of been flipped on its head and I don't really feel any pressure whatsoever," Rumford said. "I don't feel pressure to win but my focus is on purely winning every golf tournament I'm trying to get into."

Rumford, 39, made birdies on the tenth, 11th, 14th and 15th - with a dropped shot on the 13th - to turn in 33 before picking up further shots on the first and fourth. Foster also turned in 33 and then added further gains on the first, fourth and fifth to join the lead. The Englishman also lost his tour card last year but quickly reclaimed it at the qualifying school and is embarking on a 16th consecutive season on Tour.

"I'm pleasantly surprised," he said. "You come all this way and you don't know what to expect and, obviously, as the round went on it got better so I was really pleased. "You just come down, you want to give yourself a chance, so I came down early because I've not been playing anything, so that was the best thing I probably could have done." There was a group of 10 players a shot off the lead containing American duo Casey O'Toole and Johannes Veerman, Englishman Robert Dinwiddie, German Sebastian Heisele and Japan's Hideto Tanihara. Thailand's Thitiphun Chuayprakong, Phacara Khongwatmai and Pavit Tangkamolprasert were among those on four under. The 2010 British Open champion Louis Oosthuizen of South Africa was three shots off the lead and Denmark's Thorbjorn Olesen was a stroke further back after a two-under 70. — AFP