

**25** Power takes wreck-marred, storm-shortened IndyCar win



**26** Thomas holds off Cantlay to win with record at Medinah



**27** PSG suffer defeat at Rennes with 16-year-old in starring role



MASON: Daniil Medvedev of Russia poses for photographers after defeating David Goffin of Belgium during the men's final of the Western & Southern Open at Lindner Family Tennis Center in Mason. —AFP

## Medvedev beats Goffin for Cincinnati crown

Keys locks up WTA Cincy title with victory over Kuznetsova

CINCINNATI: Daniil Medvedev, coming off back-to-back ATP finals defeats, held off David Goffin 7-6 (7/3), 6-4 Sunday to win the ATP Cincinnati Masters. The ninth-seeded Russian finished with an ace after saving break points in the final game, lifting a first Masters 1000 trophy after settling for runner-up finishes to Nick Kyrgios in Washington and Rafael Nadal in Montreal last weekend.

"These have been the best three weeks of my life," Medvedev said. "My mentality was the best, my serve was the best, my tennis has been really consistent. I didn't have one bad match, I hope to continue this way for next few weeks."

After his full-on post-Wimbledon schedule, the winner admitted: "I'm so exhausted, I almost can't talk now." He also revealed that he was starting to cramp in the final game, when he tossed his racket in anger before saving break points.

"I think my Montreal final against Rafa was important," he said of hanging on. "I was maybe able to use that experience that I had and David did not." Medvedev, who only recently gained the ATP Top 10, now will find himself ranked fifth as a result of his three-week run of form.

"I don't check the rankings every two minutes, but I do look after I do well at a tournament," he said. "If I had lost I'd be seventh, now I'm fifth." Medvedev followed up his semi-final upset of defending champion Novak Djokovic as he controlled feisty Belgian Goffin to win an ATP leading 31st hardcourt match.

He has the most match wins on any surface this

year with 43. Spanish superstar Nadal, who did not play this week — is second with 41, followed by Roger Federer on 39. Medvedev stamped himself a contender for the US Open, the final Grand Slam of the season that starts in Flushing Meadows in a week.

Goffin was competing in his second final of 2019 after losing to Federer in Halle. "Congratulations to your team," he told Medvedev. "Once again, an unbelievable week for you, fantastic. I think you are ready for New York."

Medvedev powered to a 4-1 lead in the opening set but had to win it in a tiebreaker as Goffin, coached by 2002 Australian open winner Thomas Johansson, fought back. But Medvedev's break in the opening game of the second set was all he needed as he avenged a loss to Goffin at Wimbledon this year.

Earlier, Madison Keys came from a break down in both sets to defeat Svetlana Kuznetsova 7-5, 7-6 (7/5) on Sunday to win the WTA Cincinnati crown. The 2017 US Open finalist notched her fifth career title and second this season after a win in Charleston in April.

She'll return to the top 10 in the world rankings with the US Open a week away. Kuznetsova, a two-time Grand Slam champion working her way back up the rankings after a series of injuries, was broken back in the 10th game of each set by 16th-seeded Keys — who fired 13 aces on the way to victory.

"If my team had told me a week ago that I

would be here, I would have laughed in their face," admitted Keys, who had endured two opening-match defeats since a second-round exit at Wimbledon. Keys belted a total of 43 winners with 33 enforced errors and broke Kuznetsova three times.

Kuznetsova was the fourth Grand Slam winner Keys beat during the week, a string that included Spain's Garbine Muguruza, reigning Wimbledon champion Simona Halep and Venus Williams. "It was a tough draw from the very start," Keys said. "I definitely think I played some of my best tennis consistently this week."

"I'm obviously really happy and really proud of myself," she added, while stressing she won't let the performance put more pressure on her at the US Open. "It's definitely more of a building block," she said.

Despite leading both sets, Kuznetsova never had a set point in either. Keys winning the final four games of the first set before dropping her serve in the third game of the second. Keys broke Kuznetsova to level at 5-all and ran out the winner in the ensuing tiebreaker as the Russian sent a service return long on Keys's second match point.

"I just really focused in on obviously really important games and was able to make her play a lot of balls," Keys said. "I think when I was doing a good job at moving forward and kind of trying to neutralize some of her deep, heavy, spiny shots, I was able to get out in front in the point and play a little bit more offense."

Former world number two Kuznetsova, who



MASON: Madison Keys poses for photographers after defeating Svetlana Kuznetsova of Russia in the women's final. —AFP

received a wildcard into the draw, beat top seed Ashleigh Barty, world number three Ashleigh Barty and 2017 US Open champion Sloane Stephens on her way to the final. "I had a lot of matches where they could have gone either way, including this one," said Kuznetsova, who will jump from 118th to 31st in the rankings and said

she'd had a "great week."

"I had chances but she hit the ball well and was more aggressive. I'm happy with how I played, I'm feeling great," she said. "It could give me more motivation in the future," Kuznetsova added. "I just want to rest and get ready for the Open." —AFP

## Trippier, Morata combine to give Atletico winning start

MADRID: Alvaro Morata headed in a sumptuous Kieran Trippier cross to ensure a new-look Atletico Madrid beat Getafe 1-0 on Sunday and made a winning start in La Liga. Trippier looked right at home at the Wanda Metropolitano when his bending ball was nodded in by Morata before two red cards in four minutes, one for each team, made it 10 against 10 before half-time.

Getafe striker Jorge Molina and Atletico left-back Renan Lodi were the players sent off and then Morata missed a penalty, earned after a mesmerizing run from Joao Felix, Atletico's 126 million euro signing from Benfica.

It was enough for Felix to depart to a standing ovation and Atletico held on, even if this was perhaps not the statement opening to the season that Diego Simeone might have hoped for. After losing Antoine Griezmann to Barcelona, Atletico have spent close to 250 million euros this summer, just over half of that on Felix, whose electric run lit up an otherwise rather disjointed contest.

The 19-year-old is supposed to be the heartbeat not only of a new team but a different style too, one that is more attractive to watch and that could even pip Barcelona and Real Madrid to the title. But Getafe were stubborn opponents, showing again why they finished fifth last season, only narrowly missing out on a place in the Champions League to Valencia on the final day.

Felix aside, Atletico's other debutants impressed, including Lodi, before he was sent off, and Trippier, the first Englishman to play for Atletico since the Spanish Civil War and 20th in the history of the Spanish top flight.

The former Tottenham defender's pin-point cross was

the highlight of a confident performance that earned regular praise from the home fans. The early signs were encouraging as Trippier and Lodi pushed high and wide, like wingers, and the former almost played Koke in with a superb first-time pass.

Felix showed some nice touches and his team-mates were quick to protest on his behalf after Leandro Cabrera barged him over. Trippier was the team's best outlet and Atletico might have scored had he managed to pick out either Felix or Morata in the middle after a brilliant pass from Saul Niguez.

He had another chance moments later though and this time Trippier was more precise. A bending cross from the right allowed Morata to head in and Trippier enjoyed the celebrations, rousing the crowd on his way back and accepting a huge roar in return.

Getafe had struggled to find a way into the match but two red cards in four minutes threatened to shift the balance. First, referee Cuadra Fernandez turned a yellow card

into a red for Molina after consulting VAR, the striker catching Thomas Partey late down the back of his heel. Then Lodi was handed a second yellow for planting his hand in the face of Damian Suarez.

Atletico dropped Saul into left back before Felix was sacrificed later in the second half, Mario Hermoso coming on for his debut where Lodi had started. But not before Felix produced the most exhilarating moment of the match, for which an otherwise rather muted debut will be remembered.

Collecting the ball in his own half, he slid past one Getafe opponent, nutmegged another and then weaved through two more. After motoring 30 yards, he was finally brought down by Bruno for a penalty, the fans cheering as if they had seen a goal.

It should have been worth one but Morata's shot was pushed wide by David Soria and Getafe remained in touch. Getafe kept it close and Morata should have made it two when sent through in injury-time. One was enough. —AFP