

## STRUGGLING RADWANSKA SEEKING SEASIDE TONIC

**EASTBOURNE, United Kingdom:** Struggling top seed Agnieszka Radwanska will be searching for her first victory of the pre-Wimbledon grass court season when the Eastbourne International begins today. The world number three has played only one match so far this season on the lawns, going out in Birmingham to CoCo Vandeweghe. "The first match is always tricky pretty much without practice on grass," Radwanska said. "I need a couple of more

days to adjust. Hopefully Eastbourne will be better." Radwanska has a decent pedigree on grass, winning junior Wimbledon in 2006, taking Eastbourne honours two years later and also playing the 2012 Wimbledon final as well as making two semi-finals at the All England Club.

But so far in 2016 results have been modest for the Pole, who lost in the Australian Open semi-finals and went out in the Roland Garros fourth round. Her

only title in 2016 came in Shenzhen just after Australia. The field at Devonshire Park features seven former tournament champions-Swiss Belinda Bencic (2015), Madison Keys (2014), Elena Vesnina (2013), Ekaterina Makarova (2010), Caroline Wozniacki (2009), Radwanska (2008) and Svetlana Kuznetsova (2004).

The top of the draw is populated by five of the world's top 10 — Radwanska, US Open finalist Roberta Vinci, Bencic, fellow

Swiss Timea Bacsinszky and double Wimbledon winner Petra Kvitova who, like Radwanska, is also scratching for form. All 16 seeds have byes into the second round for the final tune-up week prior to the start of Wimbledon on June 27.

Italian Vinci takes the second seeding while number three Bencic will be testing her fitness after making a return this month after missing more than two months with back pain. After playing a

semi-final in 's-Hertogenbosch, the 19-year-old was unable to complete her first-round match in Birmingham against Irina Begu.

Bacsinszky is seeded fourth, ahead of Kvitova and Russia's two-time Grand Slam winner Kuznetsova (sixth). Australian Samantha Stosur takes the seventh seeding as she works with a temporary coach after parting company for the second time with longtime mentor David Taylor. — AFP



LOS ANGELES: In this May 22, 2016, file photo, United States goalkeeper Merrill Moses stops a shot during a men's exhibition water polo match against Australia. — AP

## MOSES PUTS ASIDE COACHING TO PLAY FOR US IN RIO OLYMPICS

**SANTA ANA:** The silver medal keeps him going, all the way to Rio de Janeiro and his 39th birthday during the Olympics this summer. It took Merrill Moses a long time to come to grips with 2008. Then London happened, and eighth place for the US water polo team brought everything into focus.

"When you go to the Olympic Games and represent Team USA, you're going there to bring home a gold medal," he said. "I tell people in my speech when I talk to kids during camps, for like six months after we won the silver medal, I didn't think I won a silver, I thought I lost a gold. "I didn't really realize what I accomplished and it really didn't set in fully until 2012, when you realize how fast that all can be taken away and you're not even competing for a medal."

So Moses is back again for his third Olympics, the same cocky kid who rose to prominence playing for Terry Schroeder at Pepperdine some 20 years ago but changed immeasurably by time. While 6-foot-8 goaltender McQuin Baron waits in the wings, it looks as if Moses will start for the US in Rio. Juggling his responsibilities with the national team and his family at home - Moses and his wife, Laura, have two daughters - he remains as confident as ever.

### 'More prepared'

"I always have had the mentality that if I train harder than everyone and put more into it, I am going to be more prepared, and I think that's where the confidence comes in," Moses said. "As long as I prepare myself properly, I know that I'm going to give it my all, and I've been blessed with this talent and these long arms to be able to play at this level."

Back when Moses was deciding where to go to college, his ability to play the sport at an elite level was in doubt. Schroeder, who also coached Moses with the US water polo team and then hired him as one of his assistants with the Waves, described him as lightly recruited. On Moses' official visit to Malibu, he told the starter he was coming for his job. "He didn't make a friend there, but he certainly made a point," Schroeder said.

Moses is still making that point at the end of his 30s, holding his own while facing a barrage of heavy shots from the young

wave of 20-somethings that dominate the US roster. And there is more to come in Brazil. Serbia is the big favorite this summer, with Hungary, Italy, Croatia and Greece also among the expected medal contenders. The US is drawn into Group B with Spain, France, Montenegro, Italy and Croatia.

### As tight as ever

Schroeder, a former national team captain who coached the previous two US Olympic teams, thinks a podium finish is within reach for the Americans with Moses in goal. "He has this incredible will that makes him good," Schroeder said in a phone interview. "I mean he's skillful, he's got strong legs, can work as hard as anybody out there in the pool to get himself in shape and be ready when the Olympics come around, and you couple that with the confidence he has, and I think that the team has a chance to win a medal. I think without him, they don't."

Schroeder brought Moses back to Pepperdine in 2012, and they remain as tight as ever. Moses said he thinks of Schroeder like a second father, and the coach said he loves the goaltender and can trust him with anything. Moses would like to be a head coach one day, but he has no plans to leave his alma mater and wants Schroeder to stay as long as he wishes.

"He's got a lot of knowledge, not only about water polo - about life," Moses said. "He's definitely taught me a lot of things. I love working with him." Coaching at Pepperdine also gave Moses another place to train while he prepared for the Olympics. Moses, who helped the Waves win the national championship in 1997, practiced with his players occasionally, leading to some friendly trash talk.

"Whenever we see someone scoring on Merrill, everyone, they're really hyped," Pepperdine goaltender Zack Rhodes said. "It's really fun because of the energy he brings. When he blocks you, you know Merrill's yelling at you, like it's all in good fun and then when you score on Merrill, you have to let him know that you scored on him." Moses' training for the national team also served as an example for the Waves. "It's inspiring, you can tell he still really wants this," Rhodes said. "It's still something he really cares about." — AP

## ANDREW LANDRY LOSES LEAD BUT KEEPS COOL AT US OPEN

**OAKMONT:** All it took was three holes for Andrew Landry to tumble down the leaderboard Saturday at the US Open. Two birdies at the end of his round kept this year's long shot right in the mix. Landry, a 28-year-old playing in his first U.S. Open, held it together during a rough patch at Oakmont after dropping four shots in three holes. He rallied for a 1-over 71 left him one shot behind Dustin Johnson and in the final group of the third round Saturday afternoon.

"Birdie, birdie to end my second round is a way to get my momentum going in the third round," Landry said. "I'm looking forward to it." At No 624 in the world ranking, Landry has never been on a stage like this. As if the US Open weren't enough pressure, he had plenty of time to think about his dream start. He opened with a 66 to become the first US Open rookie since Bob Tway in 1986 at Shinnecock Hills to be the sole leader after his first round. He finished that off with one putt - a 10-foot birdie - Friday morning and had to wait until Saturday morning to start the second round. Majors are filled with stories of unheralded players who start fast and fade just as quickly. Landry didn't want to be one of those.

### Big trouble

Asked if he were comfortable seeing his name atop the leaderboard, he replied, "Sure. Should be there. I hope it stays there for a long time." For a moment, it looked as though it would be short-lived. He blasted out of a bunker on the par-3 sixth hole across to the fringe and made bogey. He dropped another shot on the seventh. And then he ran into big trouble on the par-3 eighth hole when he blasted out a bunker and over the green into deep rough. From there, he could only hack it out of the gnarly rough to some 30 feet from the pin, and he did well to two-putt for a double bogey.

Just like that, he was back to even par for the tournament. He lost the lead. He just didn't lose his head. "I made good swings. The only bad shot I hit was the bunker shot on 8 and I left myself in a bad situation," Landry said. "I was trying to hack it out on the green



OAKMONT: Andrew Landry of the United States putts on the second green during the third round of the US Open at Oakmont Country Club. — AP

and two-putt. That's what I did. I didn't really do anything that bad besides just not hitting fairways."

Landry made birdie on the par-3 13th and then finished with a flourish. He drove into deep rough but in a manageable spot short of the par-4 17th, chipped to 20 feet and holed it for birdie. From the first cut of rough on the 18th, his approach came off the slope to 3 feet for another birdie to put him 3 under 137. His name was high on the leaderboard. The only difference was the names around

it. That's why he's trying to avoid the distractions of a US Open by keeping his mind off golf during his day off Friday. Just hanging out, keeping my mind off of it and eating and drinking waters - not cold beer," he said. "Obviously, my name was mentioned quite a bit. It's definitely very pressured, especially when you have guys like Dustin Johnson and Sergio Garcia at the top of the leaderboard. So I just spent time with them, did a little laundry and slept." — AP

## FORMER VANDERBILT FOOTBALL PLAYER CONVICTED OF RAPE

**NASHVILLE:** A jury has convicted a former Vanderbilt football player on all counts after finding that he encouraged his teammates to rape an unconscious woman he had been dating. It took jurors a little more than four hours of deliberation before finding Brandon Vandenberg guilty on five counts of aggravated rape and two counts of aggravated sexual battery. In addition, he was convicted of one count of unlawful photography.

Vandenberg's mother cried in the courtroom Saturday after the verdict was read. He appeared to be weeping as he was taken away. The verdict comes amid a furor over the six month sentence a former Stanford swimmer was given for sexually assaulting an unconscious woman. It also comes during an ongoing debate about sexual assaults on the nation's college campus and the conduct of student athletes.

The lives of everyone involved have been ruined, Deputy District Attorney General Tom Thurman said of the case. He said he hoped the widespread publicity surrounding the Vanderbilt case would send a message.

The jurors in this case had to decide whether to hold Vandenberg, 23, criminally responsible for what teammates were accused of doing to the female student in a dorm room in June of 2013. His defense had maintained that he was drunk and should not be held responsible for what players he didn't even know did to the woman.

### Betraying trust

Four former players were all charged in the case



NASHVILLE: In this Oct 16, 2013 file photo, former Vanderbilt football player Cory Batey attends a discussion hearing at the Birch Building. — AP

but only two were accused of raping and sexually assaulting the woman. Throughout the trial, Vandenberg was portrayed as a man who violated the female student's trust by plying her with alcohol and then encouraging teammates to sexually assault her. "He served her up to three strangers - for whatever reason, it doesn't matter, is that he did it," Assistant District Attorney Jan Norman told jurors in closing arguments Saturday. Prosecutors told jurors that he passed out condoms to the other players, videoed the rape and sent footage to friends as it was happening. The defense had main-

tained that Vandenberg was a newly-arrived recruit to the Nashville school and had asked teammates outside the dorm to help him carry the unconscious woman into his room after he couldn't get her into her apartment. Vandenberg's lawyers told jurors the other players were on the woman as soon as they got her in the room.

The trial featured graphic videos and photos that were taken from the players' cell phones. "The videos are disturbing," Albert Perez, one of Vandenberg's attorneys told jurors in closing. "They make you mad, they make you sad." But Perez pointed out that the sex acts charged in the indictment were for things the other players did.

The victim in the case, who was then a 21-year-old neuroscience major, testified that she had no memory of the event. She said Vandenberg would later tell her that she had gotten drunk and sick and he took care of her, and she was embarrassed as a result. Prosecutors have suggested that she was under the influence of a date-rape drug.

Nashville Police became involved after Vanderbilt officials contacted them when security camera footage at the school showed players carrying an unconscious woman in a dorm room. Vandenberg and Cory Batey were convicted last year on multiple counts of aggravated rape and aggravated sexual battery. The verdicts, however, were thrown out after it was revealed that a juror had not disclosed that he had been a victim of statutory rape. Batey was convicted again in April. Both he and Vandenberg face a minimum sentence of 15 years in prison for aggravated rape with no possibility of parole. — AP

## INFINITI ENGINEERING ACADEMY APPLICATION DEADLINE LOOMS



**DUBAI:** Applications for the 2016 Infiniti Engineering Academy approaches the final stretch with the deadline of June 30, 2016. Engineering students from all disciplines will have the chance to earn the career opportunity of a lifetime in Formula One(tm) and automotive engineering, with a factory F1(r) team and the premium Japanese vehicle manufacturer.

Here in the UAE, almost 400 students have registered their interest for the once in a lifetime opportunity. Infiniti believe that the most daring, forward-looking technology is driven by the freshest, most creative human talents, and their new Technical Partnership with the Renault Sport Formula One(tm) Team includes, as a crucial component, this unique automotive-to-Formula One(tm) training program for

brilliant young engineers.

"The uptake of the program thus far has been excellent," said Juergen Schmitz, Managing Director, Infiniti Middle East. "We are confident that within the sea of applicants lies one lucky and talented student that is poised to win their dream opportunity - a chance to work at the Infiniti Technical Center for Europe (Cranfield, UK), as well as experi-

ence the facilities at the Renault Sport Formula One(tm) Team base in Enstone, Oxfordshire."

Combining opportunities to work at both companies means the 2016 Infiniti Engineering Academy winners are set to craft their careers from the outset with an incredible 12 months at the cutting-edge of big business automotive and motorsport engineering.

With the added depth of knowledge trans-

fer and enhanced scope for collaboration that Infiniti's Technical Partnership with the newly formed Renault Sport Formula One(tm) Team brings to the Academy, 2016 will open up a wide range of experiences and opportunities to the six winners. For more information on the Infiniti Engineering Academy, or to apply to be a part of the class of 2016, visit <http://academy.infiniti.com>.

