

King Of Clay: Nadal Wins 8th French Open Title

PARIS (AP) — Rafael Nadal became the first man to win eight titles at the same Grand Slam tournament when he beat fellow Spaniard David Ferrer in the French Open final Sunday, 6-3, 6-2, 6-3.

Nadal broke the men's record for match wins at Roland Garros, where he improved to 59-1, with his lone defeat against Robin Soderling in the fourth round in 2009.

For fans enthralled by Nadal's semifinal victory over top-ranked Novak Djokovic, Sunday's final may have seemed anticlimactic. But not for the champion, who hit a fallaway forehand winner on championship point, then tumbled to the clay he loves and covered his face to hide his emotions.

Nadal's path to the Roland Garros title was more arduous than usual. He fell behind in each of his first three matches and needed a fifth-set comeback to beat Djokovic.

And the latest title was especially sweet for the Spaniard because of his comeback after a seven-month layoff because of knee trouble. Since returning in February, he's 43-2 with seven titles in nine tournaments, and he has won his past 22 matches.

With his 12th Grand Slam title, Nadal moved into a tie for third place with Roy Emerson behind Roger Federer's 17 and Pete Sampras' 14.

Protesters tried to delay the final in the second set. One man jumped onto the

court near Nadal with a fiery flare spurring white smoke, and security personnel pushed the protester to the ground and quickly dragged him away.

Other protesters also brandishing red flares climbed to the top of nearby Court Suzanne Lenglen and unfurled a banner calling for the resignation of French President Francois Hollande.

The interruptions were brief, and there was no stopping Nadal. He has lost a total of 16 sets in nine years at Roland Garros and was never in danger of doing so against Ferrer.

Both finalists grinded away from the baseline, with one rally lasting so long fans began to buzz, then started to shush each other.

The 5-foot-9 Ferrer, who was playing in his first Grand Slam final at age 31, often wins points by extending them with his dogged defense. But Nadal matched his retrieving skills, and the torque on his groundstrokes eventually had Ferrer reeling.

Trophy presenter Usain Bolt watched from the front row wearing sunglasses, even though the day was gray with occasional drizzle.

Nadal misfired more than usual in the early going, perhaps adjusting to slow conditions and feeling the effects of his 4 1/2-hour win over Djokovic. He gave back an early service break and had to erase two other break points in the opening set.

It was the first set Ferrer had lost in the tournament, and at that point, he knew he

faced a daunting task. Nadal is 146-3 when he wins the first set in Grand Slam tournaments.

Nadal broke again early in the second set, and then came Ferrer's best chance to reverse the course of the match. At 3-1 he had four break points, but Nadal erased them all, the last with a backhand winner to end a 31-shot rally, longest of the match.

In the final set, Ferrer double-faulted for the fifth time to lose serve and fall behind 5-3, and Nadal needed only five more points to close out the victory.

Nadal broke the record for most men's victories at Roland Garros he had shared with Federer and Guillermo Vilas. He improved to 20-4 against Ferrer and has won 17 consecutive meetings on clay.

Buell: Championship 'Surreal'

NCAA Meet: Title Is South Dakota's First At NCAA Division I Level

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Bethany Buell's status among the all-time greats at the University of South Dakota had already been established.

The junior pole vaulter only cemented that legacy last week with arguably one of the greatest performances in school history.

Competing with a torn ligament in her left shoulder, Buell won a national title last Friday at the Division I Outdoor Track & Field Championships in Eugene, Ore.

"It's still sort of surreal. It hasn't completely worn off yet," she said during a phone interview Saturday from Eugene.

Buell cleared 14-feet-7.25 on her third and final attempt to win the event — she then missed on three attempts at 14-9.

Video replays show that on Buell's winning jump, she landed on the padding and immediately popped up with her arms in the air, realizing she had won.

"I was just honestly praising God for getting me through this season, it has been a rough one," Buell said, referring to her injured shoulder which kept her out of action for about six weeks.

"Just the fact that he was able to turn around a season and finish with a national title, it's been beyond amazing."

With a wrap secured tightly on her left shoulder, Buell jumped off the mat and ran directly to vaulting coach Derek Miles — sitting across the track in the bleachers.

"My second thought was celebrating with Derek," Buell said. "We've been through so much together, and it was great to enjoy that with him."

Not only did Buell's winning mark tie the Division I national meet record, it was USD's first-ever championship at the D-I level.

The school's last track national champion was Gayville native Emma Erickson in the 800-meter run at the 2008 D-II outdoor meet.

Three months ago, however, Buell was not even sure if she would be able to finish out her outdoor season.

She injured her left shoulder at the Texas Relays in late March, and later discovered she had torn a ligament. There was a decision to be made.

"We talked about maybe shutting down the season and getting the surgery over right then," Buell said. "We decided that if I wasn't at 14 feet by regionals, we would shut it down."

"Luckily that didn't happen." Thanks to some intense rehabilitation in the USD training room, Buell was able to not only qualify for the West Region Preliminary Round three weeks ago but finish fifth — though at 13-feet-5.5.

As she has during her Coyote career, Buell was able to put everything together on the nation's biggest stage. In Eugene last Friday, she was successful on seven of her first 10 attempts.

Her third and final jump at 14-7.25 was do-or-die time. Clear the bar and walk away a national champion, or miss and take second place.

"I tried to stay calm; I said a little prayer, too," she said. "I just had to focus on my technique."

Buell was far from the only



South Dakota's Bethany Buell clears the bar during the women's pole vault at the Summit League Indoor Track and Field Championship. Buell won the NCAA Outdoor championship in the event on Friday, helping the Coyotes to an 18th place finish in the meet.

P&D FILE PHOTO

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Heat Even NBA Finals Series With San Antonio

MIAMI (AP) — LeBron James overcame a terrible start to finish with 17 points, eight rebounds and seven assists and the Miami Heat rolled to a 103-84 victory over the San Antonio Spurs on Sunday night to even the series at a game apiece.

Mario Chalmers scored 19 points for the defending champion Heat, who trailed late in the third quarter before going on a 30-5 run to take control. Chris Bosh added 12 points, 10 rebounds and four assists.

Danny Green scored 17 points on 6-for-6 shooting and Tony Parker had 13 points on 5-for-14 shooting with five assists for the Spurs, who turned the ball over 17 times after tying a finals record with only four in their Game 1 victory.

Game 3 is Tuesday night in San Antonio.

Dwyane Wade added 10 points and six assists for the defending champion Heat, who were down 62-61 with under four minutes to play in the third quarter and in danger of falling into a serious hole in their bid to repeat.

Tim Duncan and nine points and 11 rebounds, and Kawhi Leonard had 14 rebounds, including eight on offense, for the Spurs, who shot 41 percent.

James had a triple-double in Game 1 with 18 points, 18 rebounds and 10 assists. But his scoring total was the lowest in these playoffs, and again there was chatter that the four-time MVP somehow needed to do more. James brushed those suggestions off, saying it was important to get guys like Bosh and Wade going early to get them into the game.

Actually, it was Chalmers who

ended up being the one to get James going.

James missed eight of his first 10 shots and was 3 for 13 after three quarters, and the Spurs led 62-61 on a layup from Green with less than 4 minutes to go in the third.

Green, who was cut twice by the Spurs and once by the Cavaliers during an early portion of his career that took him to Slovenia and Reno in the NBA's developmental league, was flawless in the first three quarters after playing a big role in the Game 1 victory.

But Chalmers seemed to have an answer every time. Often the brunt of harsh prodding from James and Wade on the court, the former Final Four hero from Kansas kept the Heat going in this one. His three-point play gave Miami a 64-62 lead in response to

Green's layup, Ray Allen hit a 3 and James finally converted on a tough drive to the rim for a 69-62 lead, eliciting a roar from the white-clad crowd.

James scored two more layups on a 7-0 run to start the fourth, stuffed Tiago Splitter on a dunk attempt and then fed Mike Miller for a corner 3. James capped the staggering Heat surge with a soaring tomahawk dunk for a 91-67 lead, prompting Spurs coach Gregg Popovich to pull his starters and start thinking about Game 3 back home.

Even though it's only Game 2, there was so much on the line for the star-studded Heat. An incredible 27-game winning streak fueled a 66-win season, with many handing James and Co. their second straight title before the playoffs even started.

SCL LEADERS FACE OFF



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Irene catcher Josh Wenande fires down to second to try to get a would-be base stealer during the Cardinals' South Central League amateur baseball game against the Yankton Tappers on Sunday at Yankton's Riverside Field. Batting on the play was Yankton's Jesse Bailey. The game, which matched the final two unbeaten in SCL play, was not completed by presstime.

Arizona's McCarthy On Meds After Seizure

PHOENIX (AP) — Arizona's Brandon McCarthy is taking medication and says he's confident he'll be fine after he collapsed at a restaurant with a seizure related to the head injury he sustained while pitching last September.

The Diamondbacks' right-hander underwent extensive examinations at the Mayo Clinic after the incident Monday. He was having dinner with his wife at a Phoenix restaurant when he passed out.

"It's something you get through," he said. "Now we know a little bit more about it. We know kind of how we'll treat it going forward, so I guess it means it's good to get one out of the way. At least now we know what we're dealing with."

McCarthy, speaking before Arizona played San Francisco on Sunday, said he knew that after a traumatic brain injury a person can become more "seizure-prone."

McCarthy, on the 15-day disabled list with what has become an annual problem with his shoulder, said he will be taking anti-seizure medicine for the foreseeable future. He doesn't believe the seizure will impact his return to pitching.

While pitching for Oakland last

Sept. 5, McCarthy sustained what was described at the time as life-threatening injuries when he was struck in the head by a line drive off the bat of Erick Aybar of the Los Angeles Angels. He had an epidural hemorrhage, brain contusion and a skull fracture. Emergency surgery was performed that night and he was released from the hospital six days later.

McCarthy, who signed a two-year free agent contract with the Diamondbacks, was 2-4 with a 5.00 ERA in 11 starts before going on the DL on May 31. He said he expects to begin throwing off the mound in the next couple of days and that the seizure would not set back that timetable.

For a time, McCarthy said, there was a chance that the situation would be much more serious after an initial CT scan showed a spot on his brain. The spot could have indicated bleeding and would have required surgery.

"When we went to sleep that night there was a chance that we wake up in the morning and someone would confirm it and we'd have to go through that whole process again," he said.

Louisville Ousts No. 2 Vanderbilt For CWS Berth

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Jeff Thompson surrendered one run in seven strong innings to make two early runs stand up in Louisville's 2-1 victory over No. 2 overall seed Vanderbilt in a NCAA super regional on Sunday, sending the Cardinals to the College World Series for the second time.

The Big East Conference pitcher of the year struck out nine, allowed three hits and threw 124 pitches. Zak Wasserman and Sutton Whiting drove in runs in the second inning for the Cardinals (51-12).

Left-hander Cody Ege earned his first career save by striking out Mike Yastrzemski with runners on the corners. Louisville is making its first trip to the CWS since 2007.

Vanderbilt freshman Zander Wiel homered in the sixth inning to account for the only extra-base hit of the series. The Commodores (54-12) stranded 11 runners for the second straight game.

INDIANA 11, FLORIDA STATE 6: TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — Sam Travis hit a tiebreak-

ing two-run homer, and Indiana beat Florida State to reach the College World Series for the first time in school history.

The Hoosiers (48-14) made the NCAA tournament for just the third time and were in their first super regional. But they played with plenty of poise on the road, sweeping the Seminoles.

Will Coursen-Carr (5-0) pitched four innings of relief for Indiana, allowing just one earned run. Coursen-Carr earned the win in the Big Ten tournament final, regional title game and super regional clincher.

After Florida State (47-17) scored three runs in the top of the fifth to tie the game 5-5, Travis gave the Hoosiers the lead for good in the bottom of the inning.

Scott Sitz (10-2) allowed seven runs, six of them earned, in 4 1-3 innings.

SOUTH CAROLINA 8, NORTH CAROLINA 0: CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (AP) — Jordan Montgomery pitched a four-hit shutout Sunday, leading South Carolina past North Carolina 8-0 in the NCAA super regionals for the Tar Heels' most lopsided loss this year.

Joey Pankake drove in two runs during a five-run second inning for the Gamecocks (43-19), who forced a decisive game Monday in the best-of-3 series with the winner going to the College World Series.

The Tar Heels (56-10) won Saturday's opener 6-5 on an RBI single in the ninth, putting them within a win of returning to Omaha, Neb., for the sixth time in eight seasons.

But the No. 1 overall seed in the NCAA tournament got a short outing from a starting pitcher and fell behind early for the second straight day.

Shamrocks 1-1-1 At Norfolk

NORFOLK, Neb. — The Yankton Shamrocks went 1-1-1 in the Golden Girls Invitational softball tournament on Saturday.

YANKTON SHAMROCKS 5, NORFOLK GOLDEN GIRLS GOLD 5: Brooklyn Bernatow had three hits, including a double, two stolen bases, a RBI and a run scored to lead Yankton.

Tori Herrboldt had a double and a run scored, and Lilly Ryken (2 SB) and Gabby Pietila (1 SB) each had a hit, a run scored and a RBI. Kelsey Oswald posted a hit and a run scored. Ivy Mines drove in a run. Noel Kusek and Lauren Eidsness each walked for the Shamrocks.

Herrboldt pitched all five innings, striking out seven.

YANKTON SHAMROCKS 7, NORFOLK IMPACT 3: Herrboldt struck out 10 in a six-inning contest and helped her cause with two hits and three RBI to lead the Shamrocks.

Herrboldt had a double and a single, two runs scored and a walk to go with her three RBI. Ryken had three hits and a RBI. Hailey Reiser had two hits, two RBI and a steal. Baylee Kenney had two hits, a run scored and a stolen base. Bernatow (1 R, 1 SB), Kusek (1 RBI), Pietila (2 R, 2 SB, 1 BB) and Oswald also had hits. Jessica Reinhardt added a walk and a run scored.

OMAHA SIZZLE 16, YANKTON SHAMROCKS 0: No statistics were provided.