

# Sharapova and Safina progress

**PARIS:** Russian Maria Sharapova shrilled her way into the second round of the French Open with a 3-6 6-1 6-2 victory over Anastasiya Yakimova last night.

The former world number one, who dropped to 102nd in the WTA rankings being out of action for nine months because of a shoulder injury, needed a set to find her range on Court One before cracking winners past the world number 64.

Dinara Safina, the top seed, advanced along with No 3 Venus Williams.

Safina routed Anne Keothavong of Britain 6-0, 6-0, while Venus beat Bethanie Mattek-Sands 6-1, 4-6, 6-2.

Victoria Azarenka and Ana Ivanovic won 6-0, 6-0 at the French Open last year, and Serena Williams did it in 2003.

Williams, a seven-time Grand Slam champion, won the match's first five games, while Mattek-Sands asked for a medical time-out during the first set so a trainer could look at her right wrist. Overall, Williams holds a 36-12 record at Roland Garros, giving her the most wins of any player in the women's draw at the tournament.

No 12 Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland, No 13 Marion Bartoli of France, No 15 Zheng Jie of China, No 20 Dominika Cibulkova of Slovakia, No 22 Carla Suarez Navarro of Spain and No 29 Agnes Szavay of Hungary also advanced to the second round.

No 23 Alisa Kleybanova of Russia lost to Polona Hercog of Slovenia 6-2, 4-6, 6-1; No 14 Flavia Pennetta of Italy was eliminated by Alexa Glatch of the US 6-1, 6-1; No 26 Anna Chakvetadze of Russia lost to Mariana Duque Marino of Colombia 3-6, 6-4, 6-4.



■ Sharapova serves the ball to Yakimova

## DAY TWO COLLATED RESULTS

(x denotes seeded player):

### Men

**1st rd:** Rafael Nadal (ESP x1) bt Marcos Daniel (BRA) 7-5, 6-4, 6-3; Teimuraz Gabashvili (RUS) bt Igor Kunitsyn (RUS) 6-7 (6/8), 7-6 (7/5), 6-3, 6-1; Robin Soderling (SWE x23) bt Kevin Kim (USA) 7-6 (7/4), 7-6 (7/4), 6-2; Denis Istomin (UZB) bt Santiago Giraldo (COL) 6-3, 6-7 (2/7), 6-3, 7-6 (7/4); Nicolas Kiefer (GER) bt Ilija Bozoljac (SRB) 7-6 (7/4), 3-6, 7-5, 6-4; Nikolay Davydenko (RUS x10) bt Stefan Koubek (AUT) 6-2, 6-1, 6-4; Diego Junqueira (ARG) bt Paul Capdeville (CHI) 3-6, 7-5, 6-1, 6-3; Nicolas Massu (CHI) bt Daniel Kollerer (AUT) 6-3, 6-4, 1-6, 2-6, 6-3; Stanislas Wawrinka (SUI x17) bt Nicolas Devilder (FRA) 6-3, 5-7, 2-6, 6-4, 6-4; Potito Starace (ITA) bt Mischa Zverev (GER) 6-7 (5/7), 7-5, 1-0 - retired; Janko Tipsarevic (SRB) bt Albert Montanes (ESP) 3-6, 7-6 (7/3), 7-6 (7/5), 6-4; Feliciano Lopez (ESP x28) bt Franco Ferreiro (BRA) 6-7 (3/7), 4-6, 7-6 (7/4), 7-5, 6-2; Fernando

Gonzalez (CHI x12) bt Jiri Vanek (CZE) 6-3, 6-2, 6-3; Rui Machado (POR) bt Kristof Vliegen (BEL) 6-2, 6-4, 4-6, 2-6, 6-3; Victor Hanescu (ROM x30) bt Steve Darcis (BEL) 7-6 (10/8), 7-6 (7/5), 7-6 (7/3); Mikhail Youzhny (RUS) bt Gilles Muller (LUX) 7-6 (7/2), 6-1, 6-4; Martin Vassallo Arguello (ARG) bt Thomaz Belluci (BRA) 6-4, 6-7 (4/7) - retired; Andy Roddick (USA x6) bt Romain Jouan (FRA) 6-2, 6-4, 6-2; Jurgen Melzer (AUT x24) bt Sergio Roitman (ARG) 6-4, 7-6 (7/4), 6-0; Guillaume Rufin (FRA) bt Eduardo Schwank (ARG) 6-1, 6-3, 6-3; Jeremy Chardy (FRA) bt Thiago Alves (BRA) 6-2, 7-6 (12/10), 6-3; Simone Bolelli (ITA) bt Tomas Berdych (CZE x19) 6-4, 6-4, 5-7, 4-6, 6-3; Paul-Henri Mathieu (FRA x32) bt Laurent Recouderc (FRA) 6-4, 6-4, 6-1; Pablo And'jar (ESP) bt Robby Ginepri (USA) 6-4, 7-6 (9/7), 7-6 (7/3); Jose Acasuso (ARG) bt Santiago Ventura (ESP) 3-6, 7-6 (7/5), 6-0, 6-3; Roger Federer (SUI x2) bt Alberto Martin (ESP) 6-4, 6-3, 6-2; Ivo Minar (CZE) bt Oscar Hernandez (ESP) 6-3, 7-6 (7/4), 6-3;

Igor Andreev (RUS x25) bt Fabio Fognini (ITA) 1-6, 6-3, 6-1, 3-6, 7-5.

### Women

**1st rd:** Dinara Safina (RUS x1) bt Anne Keothavong (GBR) 6-0, 6-0; Polona Hercog (SLO) bt Alisa Kleybanova (RUS x23) 6-2, 4-6, 6-1; Aravane Rezai (FRA) bt Ai Sugiyama (JPN) 6-3, 6-2; Michelle Larcher de Brito (POR) bt Melanie South (GBR) 0-6, 7-6 (7/5), 7-5; Zheng Jie (CHN x15) bt Stephanie Cohen-Aloro (FRA) 6-1, 6-3; Lucie Hradecka (CZE) bt Yvonne Meusburger (AUT) 6-1, 6-2; Carla Suarez (ESP x22) bt Edina Gallovits (ROM) 6-1, 6-4; Tamarine Tanasugarn (THA) bt Camille Pin (FRA) 6-3, 5-7, 7-5; Venus Williams (USA x3) bt Bethanie Mattek-Sands (USA) 6-1, 4-6, 6-2; Lucie Safarova (CZE) bt Sabine Lisicki (GER) 6-2, 1-6, 6-1; Agnes Szavay (HUN x29) bt Corinna Dentoni (ITA) 6-3, 6-4; Dominika Cibulkova (SVK x20) bt Alona Bondarenko (UKR) 6-4, 2-6, 6-4; Kirsten Flipkens (BEL) bt Stephanie Foretz (FRA) 6-1, 4-6, 6-4; Maria

Sharapova (RUS) bt Anastasiya Yakimova (BLR) 3-6, 6-1, 6-2; Akgul Amanmuradova (UZB) bt Irena Pavlovic (FRA) 6-3, 6-4; Olga Govortsova (BLR) bt Katie O'Brien (GBR) 6-1, 6-1; Jill Craybas (USA) bt Tsvetana Pironkova (BUL) 7-5, 6-2; Marion Bartoli (FRA x13) bt Pauline Parmentier (FRA) 3-6, 6-1, 6-3; Maria Korytseva (UKR) bt Patricia Mayr (AUT) 6-1, 6-1; Alexa Glatch (USA) bt Flavia Pennetta (ITA x14) 6-1, 6-1; Lourdes Dominguez (ESP) bt Barbora Zahlavova Strycova (CZE) 6-1, 4-6, 9-7; Mariana Duque Marino (COL) bt Anna Chakvetadze (RUS x26) 3-6, 6-4, 6-4; Olivia Rogowska (AUS) bt Maria Kirilenko (RUS) 6-4, 6-4; Kateryna Bondarenko (UKR) bt Patty Schnyder (SUI x17) 6-4, 6-3; Agnieszka Radwanska (POL x12) bt Rossana de Los Rios (PAR) 6-3, 6-1; Jarmila Groth (AUS) bt Kinne Laisne (FRA) 6-4, 6-3; Tathiana Garbin (ITA) bt Ayumi Morita (JPN) 7-5, 7-5; **Suspended due to bad light:** Vera Dushevina (RUS) level with Caroline Wozniacki (DEN x10) 6-4, 5-7.

## Ronaldo and Messi vie for world's best player billing

**ROME:** Cristiano Ronaldo or Lionel Messi?

Forget about which team wins tomorrow's Champions League final between Manchester United and Barcelona, the debate over who really is the best player in the world could be decided on the field rather than by ballot.

Ronaldo has the official title right now, given to him by Fifa after his 42 league and cup goals last season helped United win both the domestic Premiership title and the Champions League.

Having won the English league again with Ronaldo contributing 18 goals, United could repeat its double when it faces newly crowned Spanish champion Barca at Rome's Stadio Olimpico in a final that has long been desired by neutral football fans.

It's a final that pits probably the two best strike-forces in club football. Yet the Ronaldo-Messi comparison stands out.

For the past five years, both players have been mesmerising defenders with their footwork, hammering home goals on a regular basis and setting up chances for their teammates.

### Comparisons

Ronaldo, famed for his stepovers and long-range shooting power, uses speed to get past defenders. Messi, much smaller and with a staccato gait, plays as if the ball is glued to his feet and manages to squeeze through gaps that don't appear to be there.

Both stars can also cause so much distraction with their dribbling skills that defenders leave their teammates wide open in front of goal. They are invaluable to their teams and would command huge transfer fees if either team decided to sell them.

But which one is better? It's no surprise that United's French defender, Patrice Evra, favors his teammate. He has faced Messi before and successfully kept him quiet when United knocked Barca out in last season's semifinals before going on to win the title.

"I was confident before the games because I train every day against players like Ronaldo, (Carlos) Tevez and (Wayne) Rooney," the left back said, referring to his United teammates. "You have a lot of quality there."



## World Results

### BASEBALL

**Major League Baseball games:**

Colorado	3	Detroit	1
Philadelphia	4	NY Yankees	3
<i>(11 innings)</i>			
Florida	5	Tampa Bay	4
<i>(11 innings)</i>			
Cincinnati	4	Cleveland	3
<i>(11 innings)</i>			
Boston	12	NY Mets	5
Washington	8	Baltimore	5
Atlanta	10	Toronto	2
Pittsburgh	4	Chi White Sox	3
Texas	5	Houston	0
Kansas City	3	St Louis	2
Oakland	6	Arizona	2
San Diego	7	Chicago Cubs	2
LA Angels	10	LA Dodgers	7
Seattle	5	San Francisco	4
Minnesota	6	Milwaukee	3

### BASKETBALL

**NBA playoff (home team in CAPS):**  
**ORLANDO** 99 Cleveland 89  
*(Orlando lead the best-of-seven series 2-1)*

### CYCLING

**16th stage of Tour of Italy, a 237 kilometres ride from Pergola to Monte Petrano:**  
**Stage:**  
 1. Carlos Sastre (ESP/CTT) 7hr 11min 54sec.  
 2. Denis Menchov (RUS/RAB) at 25sec, 3. Danilo Di Luca (ITA/LPR) 26, 4. Ivan Basso (ITA/LIQ) 29, 5. Stefano Garzelli (ITA/ASA) 1min 19sec, 6. Francesco Masciarelli (ITA/ASA) 1:21, 7. Franco Pellizzotti (ITA/LIQ) 1:21, 8. Tadej Valjavec (SLO/ALM) 2:11, 9. Jose Serpa (COL/SDA) 2:35, 10. Lance Armstrong (USA/AST) 2:51.  
**Overall:**  
 1. Denis Menchov (RUS/RAB) 70hr 06min 30sec, 2. Danilo Di Luca (ITA/LPR) at 39sec, 3. Carlos Sastre (ESP/CTT) 2min 19sec, 4. Franco Pellizzotti (ITA/LIQ) 3:08, 5. Ivan Basso (ITA/LIQ) 3:19, 6. Levi Leipheimer (USA/AST) 3:21, 7. Michael Rogers (AUS/THR) 5:54, 8. Stefano Garzelli (ITA/ASA) 8:21, 9. David Arroyo (ESP/GCE) 8:39, 10. Tadej Valjavec (SLO/ALM) 8:47.

### GOLF

**US PGA Byron Nelson Championship final-**

### round scores (USA unless noted):

261 - Rory Sabbatini (RSA) 68-64-65-64; 263 - Brian Davis (GBR) 68-65-66-64; 264 - D.A. Points 68-66-65-65; 265 - Dustin Johnson 68-65-66-66; Scott McCarron 66-69-68-62; 267 - John Mallinger 67-65-65-70; 268 - John Senden (AUS) 71-68-65-64; 269 - Briny Baird 69-64-67-69; Marc Leishman (AUS) 68-70-63-68; Jeff Maggert 71-66-65-67; Fred Couples 69-66-67-67; 270 - James Nitties (AUS) 65-68-68-69; 271 - Danny Lee (NZL) 69-67-69-66; Glen Day 69-66-65-71; Kevin Streelman 67-69-64-71; 272 - Greg Chalmers (AUS) 68-69-69-66; Vijay Singh (FIJ) 70-67-69-66; Mike Weir (CAN) 66-71-66-69; George McNeill 69-67-66-70; Justin Leonard 75-63-66-68; Robert Garrigus 70-66-69-67; Steve Marino 69-69-66-68; 273 - Rod Pampling (AUS) 72-67-69-65; Alex Cejka (GER) 69-69-67-68; Tim Wilkinson (NZL) 69-67-70-67; Charlie Wi (KOR) 73-66-64-70; 274 - Greg Owen (GBR) 68-71-68-67; 275 - Martin Laird (GBR) 72-67-68-68; 276 - Nathan Green (AUS) 70-69-66-71; 278 - Y.E. Yang (KOR) 69-67-69-73; 279 - Robert Allenby (AUS) 67-67-70-75; Jesper Parnevik (SWE) 67-68-69-75.  
**Scores after the third round of the LPGA Corning Classic (KOR unless noted):**

267 - Yani Tseng (TPE) 68-70-62-67; 268 - Paula Creamer (USA) 66-72-65-65; Soo-Yun Kang 65-69-65-69; 269 - Mika Miyazato (JPN) 70-67-62-70; 271 - Sandra Gal (GER) 65-69-68-69; Vicky Hurst (USA) 70-69-63-69; Song-Hee Kim 67-68-69-67; Ai Miyazato (JPN) 69-70-64-68; 272 - Karine Icher (FRA) 64-66-74-68; Jimin Jeong 66-69-69-68; Seon Hwa Lee 67-67-68-70; Mikaela Parmild (SWE) 67-67-68-70; Angela Stanford (USA) 69-69-67-67; 273 - Helen Alfredsson (SWE) 67-69-68-69; Katherine Hull (AUS) 68-69-65-71; Mi Hyun Kim 69-67-68-69; Hee Young Park 64-73-69-67; Suzann Pettersen (NOR) 67-68-68-70; Lindsey Wright (AUS) 67-69-67-70; 274 - Hee-Won Han 65-67-71-71; In-Kyung Kim 69-69-65-71; Ji-Yai Shin 68-71-67-68; 275 - Minea Blomqvist (FIN) 65-70-66-74; Na Yeon Choi 66-68-68-73; Meena Lee 67-72-66-70; Momoko Ueda (JPN) 72-67-69-67; 276 - Wendy Doolan (AUS) 70-67-70-69; Ji-Young Oh 70-67-69-70; 277 - Sun Young Yoo 72-68-72-65; 278 - Amy Hung (TPE) 68-71-72-67; 279 - Becky Morgan (GBR) 69-69-67-74; Se Ri Pak 73-66-69-71; Alena Sharp (CAN) 69-71-73-66; Karen Stupples (GBR) 73-68-65-73; 280 - Lorie Kane (CAN) 70-66-73-71,

Haeji Kang 68-73-69-70; Jee Young Lee 72-67-72-69; Amy Yang (TPE) 68-72-69-71; 281 - Jimin Kang 69-71-70-71; Sarah Lee 65-73-72-71; Teresa Lu (TPE) 71-70-68-72; Janice Moodie (GBR) 69-70-68-74; 283 - Il Mi Chung 67-71-73-72; Shanshan Feng (CHN) 69-72-71-71; 284 - Rachel Hetherington (AUS) 69-71-73-71; Eunjung Yi 71-69-69-75; 285 - Russamee Gulyanamitta (THA) 70-70-71-74; Sung Ah Yim 70-71-71-73; 287 - Eva Dahllof (SWE) 72-69-72-74; 288 - Na On Min 67-73-72-76; 289 - Maria Hjorth (SWE) 73-68-76-72.

### SOCCER

**Argentine championship:**

Colon (Santa Fe)	0	Racing Club	0
San Martin	0	Gimnasia	1
River Plate	2	Independiente	0
Velez Sarsfield	2	Boca Juniors	0

**Brazilian championship:**

Atletico Paranaense 2:	Nautico	3	
Avai	2	Coritiba	2
Fluminense	1	Santos	4
Gremio	2	Botafogo	0
Palmeiras	0	Sao Paulo	0
Santo Andre	1	Flamengo	2
Sport	2	Atletico Mineiro	3