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Coman's goal seals sixth Champions League title for Bavarians



Bayern conquer Europe



Bayern Munich's Kingsley Coman celebrates after scoring the goal.

AFP – LISBON

Bayern Munich won the European Cup for the sixth time yesterday as Kingsley Coman's goal gave them a 1-0 win over Paris Saint-Germain in an engrossing Champions League final in Lisbon, completing a fantastic season for the German giants and leaving their opponents still searching for the trophy they covet more than anything.

It was often a cagey final, with a bit of needle between the teams, but chances too, especially before Coman appeared at the back post to head in Joshua Kimmich's inviting 59th-minute cross and wrap up a treble for a team who had already won the Bundesliga and German Cup.

Hansi Flick's team will feel they deserved their victory, yet PSG will regret not taking any of the chances that were offered up to them on a surreal occasion at an empty Estadio da Luz.

Kylian Mbappe in particular should have done better than shoot straight at Manuel Neuer right on the stroke of half-time.

The 24-year-old Coman was born in Paris and started his career at PSG, only to leave in 2014 for Juventus, sensing he wouldn't get the regular football he desired if he stayed put.

He had been on the bench in the semi-final against Lyon but was promoted to the starting line-up for the final, replacing Ivan Perisic on the left wing.

Now he may not be welcome back in his home city again.

But at Bayern he will always be remembered as the man who won them this trophy in 2020, in the club's 11th final and seven years after they were last European champions.

Flick's team have ended this season with 21 straight victories and unbeaten in 30 matches. They deserved to be crowned in a full stadium.

The strangest of finals pitted together two clubs who have taken very different routes to becoming part of Europe's elite, with Bayern's status as Germany's most successful and powerful side long established and PSG having left the rest of the French game behind following the Qatari takeover of 2011.



Bayern Munich's French forward Kingsley Coman (left) heads the ball to score against Paris Saint-Germain during the UEFA Champions League final match played at the Luz Stadium in Lisbon, yesterday.

But if this was a mismatch in terms of history, on and off the pitch right now they are almost perfectly balanced.

That translated into the kind of proper match-up on the field that neither side often experiences these days.

Bayern came desperately close to opening the scoring midway through the first half when Lewandowski -- looking for his 56th goal of the season -- took down an Alphonso Davies cross, turned and struck a shot against the post.

The Pole also came close with a header that was saved by Keylor Navas, PSG's goalkeeper who won the Champions League three times with Real Madrid and who was returning after injury ruled him out of the semi-final against RB Leipzig.

But Bayern take risks by playing with such a high line, and PSG should have punished them in the first half.

Neymar was denied by an excellent Neuer save after being set up by Mbappe, while Mbappe himself contrived to fire straight at the goalkeeper after David Alaba gited him the ball in the Bayern box. Alaba had earlier seen his central defensive colleague, Jerome Boateng, limp out seemingly with a recurrence of the hamstring problem that forced him off against Lyon.

Niklas Suele replaced him and helped contain the Paris attack as Bayern held onto their lead.

Bayern had broken the deadlock just before the hour mark in a move that began with a sprayed Thiago Alcantara pass forward, and ended with Coman arriving to head in Kimmich's perfect delivery.

Neymar ended the game with a yellow card for chopping down Lewandowski, and a runners-up medal, while Bayern celebrated.

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

RECENT WINNERS

2019-20: Bayern Munich (GER)
2018-19: Liverpool (ENG)
2017-18: Real Madrid (ESP)
2016-17: Real Madrid (ESP)
2015-16: Real Madrid (ESP)
2014-15: Barcelona (ESP)
2013-14: Real Madrid (ESP)
2012-13: Bayern Munich (GER)
2011-12: Chelsea (ENG)
2010-11: Barcelona (ESP)
2009-10: Inter Milan (ITA)
2008-09: Barcelona (ESP)
2007-08: Manchester United (ENG)
2006-07: AC Milan (ITA)
2005-06: Barcelona (ESP)
2004-05: Liverpool (ENG)

MOST NUMBER OF TITLE VICTORIES

REAL MADRID (ESP): 13
(1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1966, 1998, 2000, 2002, 2014, 2016, 2017, 2018)
AC MILAN (ITA): 7
(1963, 1969, 1989, 1990, 1994, 2003, 2007)
LIVERPOOL (ENG): 6
(1977, 1978, 1981, 1984, 2005, 2019)
BAYERN MUNICH (GER): 6
(1974, 1975, 1976, 2001, 2013, 2020)
Barcelona (ESP): **5**
(1992, 2006, 2009, 2011, 2015)
AJAX (NED): 4
(1971, 1972, 1973, 1995)

Anderson stars as England take control despite Azhar's century

AFP — SOUTHAMPTON

Pakistan captain Azhar Ali led from the front with a brilliant undefeated 141 but England still enforced the follow-on at Southampton yesterday as James Anderson was left frustratingly short of becoming the first paceman to take 600 Test wickets.

Pakistan were dismissed for 273, a huge 310 runs behind England's imposing 583-8 declared, on the third day of the third Test.

Anderson took 5-56 in 23 overs -- his 29th five-wicket haul in Tests -- as the hosts, 1-0 up in a three-match contest, pressed for their first series win over Pakistan in a decade.

That left Anderson with 598 wickets but he would have had more had not three catches been dropped off the 38-year-old's bowling with the new ball. After England captain Joe Root had enforced the follow-on, the umpires decided the fading light was unsafe for Pakistan to start their second innings even though the Ageas Bowl floodlights were on.

The only bowlers to have taken 600 wickets in Tests are three retired spinners -- Sri Lanka's Muttiah Muralitharan (800), Australia's Shane Warne (708) and India's Anil Kumble (619).

But Azhar, who'd managed just 38 runs in three previous innings this series, shared a stand of 138 with wicketkeeper Mohammad Rizwan (53) During his innings, Azhar become just the fifth Pakistan batsman after Younis Khan, Javed Miandad, Inzamam-ul-Haq and Mohammad Yousuf to have scored 6,000 Test runs.

Anderson, who'd reduced Pakistan to 24-3 overnight, needed just six balls Sunday to remove Asad Shafiq after the struggling batsman limply edged to Root at first slip.

England thought they had Azhar, on 21, caught behind off a fearsome 91 mph ball from fast bowler Jofra Archer that rose steeply but a review revealed the ball had brushed the batsman's shoulder.

There was no need for technology when Fawad Alam, whose near 11-year wait for a Test recall ended with a four-ball duck in the drawn second Test at Southampton, fell for 21.

The left-hander, a distinctive figure thanks to his open stance, lunged forward to off-spinner Dom Bess and wicketkeeper Jos Buttler held a good catch off the shoulder of the bat.

It was a heartening wicket for Bess in a season where conditions had favoured the quicks and a much-needed dismissal for Buttler, fresh from 152 -- just his second Test century -- on Saturday after some poor displays behind the stumps.

Pakistan were now 75-5 but Azhar, working hard to avoid falling lbw again, completed his 17th century in 81 Tests when he cover-drove Bess for a 15th four in 205 balls.

Rizwan's fine innings ended when he was well caught on 53 down the legside by opposite number Buttler.

The England keeper held an even better, high one-handed diving legside catch to dismiss tailender Shaheen Afridi off Stuart Broad.

England, in fading light but with the floodligts on full beam, then dropped three catches to Anderson's despair.

Rory Burns grassed a routine chance when Azhar on 116 edged a drive before fourth slip Zak Crawley floored Mohammad Abbas when the No 10 was on nought.

It was the first major mistake by Crawley in a match where he'd scored 267 -- his maiden Test century -- and shared an England fifth-wicket record partnership of 359 with Buttler.



England's James Anderson celebrates after taking the wicket of Pakistan's Asad Shafiq.

SCOREBOARD

England 1st Innings 583-8 dec

Pakistan 1st Innings

Shan Masood lbw b Anderson 4
Abid Ali c Sibley b Anderson 1
Azhar Ali not out 141
Babar Azam lbw b Anderson 11
Asad Shafiq c Root b Anderson 5
Fawad Alam c Buttler b Bess 21
Mohammad Rizwan c Buttler b Woakes ... 53
Yasir Shah c Root b Broad 20
Shaheen Afridi c Buttler b Broad 3
Mohammad Abbas run out (Broad) 1
Naseem Shah c Sibley b Anderson 0
Extras (b2, lb7, nb2, w2) 13

Total (all out, 93 overs, 423 mins) ... 273

Fall of wickets: 1-6 (Masood), 2-11 (Abid), 3-24 (Babar), 4-30 (Shafiq), 5-75 (Alam), 6-213 (Rizwan), 7-241 (Yasir), 8-247 (Afridi), 9-261 (Abbas), 10-273 (Naseem)

Bowling: Anderson 23-3-56-5; Broad 20-5-40-2; Archer 17-3-58-0 (1w); Woakes 15-2-42-1 (2nb); Bess 18-2-68-1


Pakistan captain Azhar Ali celebrates after reaching his century, yesterday.

Abbas, Kallis and Sthalekar inducted into ICC Hall of Fame

REUTERS — DUBAI

Australia's World Cup-winning all-rounder Lisa Sthalekar was inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame yesterday, along with South African Jacques Kallis and Pakistan batting great Zaheer Abbas.

India-born Sthalekar is the first woman cricketer to achieve the double of 1,000 runs and 100 wickets in one-day Internationals.

"Never in my wildest dreams did I believe that I would ever get to join such an illustrious group of players," the 41-year-old said after joining former team mates Belinda Clark, Karen Rolton and Cathryn Fitzpatrick in that list.

The flamboyant spin-bowling all-rounder was a key member of four Would Cup-winning Australia squads.

Kallis is the fourth South African player in the list, having retired as the only player to score 10,000-plus runs and claim 250-plus wickets in both test and ODI cricket.

Only Asian cricketer to have scored 100 first-class hundreds, Abbas is the sixth cricketer from Pakistan to get the honour.

So far 93 players have been inducted in the Hall of Fame under the current system wherein retired players become eligible five years after playing their last international match.

Langasque captures first European Tour title in Wales

REUTERS — LONDON

France's Romain Langasque overturned a five-shot deficit to claim his maiden European Tour title at the Wales Open yesterday.

Langasque, 25, produced six birdies in a bogey-free round of six-under-par 65 to surge through a congested leaderboard and finish eight-under at the Celtic Manor Resort, two strokes clear of Finn Sami Valimaki, who carded a 69.

English duo David Dixon and Matthew Jordan shared third place at five-under, a shot clear compatriots Laurie Canter and James Morrison, and Swede Sebastian Soderberg.

Oliveira wins 'super cool' Styrian MotoGP

AFP — SPIELBERG

Miguel Oliveira overtook Pol Espargaro and Jack Miller on the last corner of the Styrian Grand Prix yesterday to claim a first MotoGP for Portugal and the Tech-3 team.

In a race shortened to a 12-lap sprint by a spectacular crash, Spaniard Espargaro on a KTM entered the last lap ahead.

Australian Miller of Ducati-Pramac overtook but entering the last corner Espargaro was half a wheel ahead.

As the two forced each other wide, Oliveira on his independent KTM, dived through on the inside to win. Miller was second and Espargaro third.

"I was very surprised," said Oliveira.

"Because I crossed the finish line. I saw the chequered flag and no one was around me and I was like 'I'm going to win'. It was sweet. Super cool."

The race was interrupted when the brakes on Maverick Vinales' Yamaha failed and he threw himself onto the tarmac before the riderless bike smashed through one of the safety barriers.

STYRIAN MOTOGP RESULTS

1. Miguel Oliveira (POR/KTM-Tech3) 16min 56.025sec, 2. Jack Miller (AUS/Ducati-Pramac) at 0.316, 3. Pol Espargaro (ESP/KTM) 0.540, 4. Joan Mir (ESP/Suzuki) 0.641, 5. Andrea Dovizioso (ITA/Ducati) 1.414, 6. Alex Rins (ESP/Suzuki) 1.450, 7. Takaaki Nakagami (JPN/Honda-LCR) 1.864, 8. Brad Binder (RSA/KTM) 4.150, 9. Valentino Rossi (ITA/Yamaha) 4.517, 10. Iker Lecuona (ESP/KTM/Tech-3) 5.068

World championship standings

1. Fabio Quartararo (FRA) 70 points, 2. Andrea Dovizioso (ITA) 67, 3. Jack Miller (AUS) 56, 4. Brad Binder (RSA) 49, 5. Maverick Vinales (ESP) 48

The interruption cost Suzuki's Johan Mir who was leading but had no another front tyre available while other teams used the pause to change theirs.

Espargaro has been leading when the previous week's Austrian Grand Prix was interrupted by a red flag.

After the restart, Miller and Espargaro broke clear. In the closing laps, Oliveira joined them. He took advantage as the leaders focused on each other on the final corners.

"I tried to brake a little early and ride underneath Pol," said Miller "I didn't expect Oliveira to be there".

Espargaro acknowledged the restart had prevented Mir winning.

"It was not our race it was Mir's race. He was the fastest," said Espargaro.


Red Bull KTM Tech 3's Portuguese rider Miguel Oliveira celebrates on the podium after winning the MotoGP Styrian Grand Prix, yesterday.

Mir was fourth, while Oliveira made history

"First for Portugal on 900th MotoGP," said Oliveira.

"We are the best. History for me today and for my country."

Frenchman Fabio Quartararo, who finished in 13th place, remains in the lead of the World Championship with a three-point advantage over Ducati's Italian Andrea Dovizioso who was fifth yesterday.

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NBA: James dominates as LA Lakers secure 2-1 lead

REUTERS — NEW YORK

LeBron James **(pictured)** recorded 38 points, 12 rebounds and eight assists to lead the Los Angeles Lakers to a 116-108 victory over the Portland Trail Blazers in Game 3 of their Western Conference first-round series on Saturday night near Orlando.

Anthony Davis scored 23 of his 29 points in the second half and finished with 11 rebounds, eight assists and three blocked shots as Los Angeles took a 2-1 lead in the best-of-seven series ahead of Game 4.

Kentavious Caldwell-Pope scored 13 points, and Alex Caruso added 10 points and seven assists.

Portland star Damian Lillard contributed 34 points and seven assists while playing with a dislocated left index finger. CJ McCollum registered 28 points and eight rebounds, Carmelo Anthony had 20 points and four steals and Jusuf Nurkic added 10 points.

Lillard made 5 of 11 shots from 3-point range and was 8 of 20 overall but made just 2 of 9 field-goal attempts in the second half. The Trail Blazers connected on 41.1 percent of their shots and were 12 of 35 from 3-point range.

Meanwhile, Houston Rockets 107 (OT) Chris Paul drilled a 3-point heave as part of a 12-0 run to open overtime, and Oklahoma City beat Houston in Game 3 of a Western Conference first-round series.

Paul finished with 26 points, six rebounds and five assists, as a three-guard lineup worked wonders for Oklahoma City, which now trails the series 2-1 with Game 4 set for Monday. Shai Gilgeous-Alexander added 23 points, seven rebounds and six assists, while Dennis Schroder scored a team-high 29 points off the bench along with five rebounds and five assists.

In other game, Bam Adebayo had a hoop, two offensive rebounds and three free throws down the stretch as Miami staved off an Indiana rally to take a commanding 3-0 lead in their Eastern Conference first-round playoff series.

NBA PLAY-OFF RESULTS

Eastern Conference
Milwaukee 121 Orlando 107
(Milwaukee lead series 2-1)
Indiana 115 Miami 124
(Miami lead series 3-0)

Western Conference
Oklahoma City 119 Houston 107 OT
(Houston lead series 2-1)
Los Angeles Lakers 116 Portland 108
(Lakers lead series 2-1)



QSL 2020-2021 season set to kick off on September 3

Champs Al Duhail to begin title defence against Umm Salal

FAWAD HUSSAIN
THE PENINSULA

A fortnight after lifting their seventh Falcon Shield, champions Al Duhail will begin their title defence against Umm Salal as the QNB Stars League (QSL) 2020-2021 season is set to kick off on September 3, the Qatar Stars League announced yesterday.

Al Sadd, who finished on third spot in the league, will take on newly-promoted Kharaitiyat in the opening match of the new season to be played at Education City Stadium as QSL announced fixtures for the first three weeks.

The Qatar Stars League said it announced the schedule 'after co-ordination with the authorities concerned'. Various factors were taken into consideration before finalising the schedule including 'events, tournaments and matches that will be held in Doha in the coming days, participation of Qatari clubs in AFC Champions League and Qualifiers and matches of Qatar's national teams'.

Meanwhile, Al Gharafa, who finished fourth last season, will also be seen in action on the inaugural when they take on Qatar SC at the Thani Bin Jassim Stadium.

Reigning QSL champions Al Duhail will square off with Umm Salal at the Education City Stadium on September 4, which will also see Al Rayyan playing against Al Sailiya at Hamad Bin Khalifa Stadium.

> **We want to win the QSL. This is one of our main goals for the new season. I think we are a better team than before. We have more options to play with, in all the positions on the pitch:** *Al Sadd coach Xavi*

The Week 2 match between Al Duhail and Al Sadd has been postponed due to their AFC Champions League games.

The second round will begin on September 7 while Week 3 matches will be played from September 11.

The battle for the title is expected to remain between top three sides of the last season – Al Duhail, Al Rayyan and Al Sadd.

Walid Regragui-coached Al Duhail, hoping for the return of their key players like striker Yousef Msakni, Assim Madibo and Bassam Al Rawi, will be a force to be reckoned with after their consistent performance in the recently-concluded season which lent them the title last Friday.



Al Duhail's players celebrate after winning the QNB Stars League title at Al Janoub Stadium, on Friday.

But, Al Sadd, the most successful side in QSL's history with 14 titles, will be eyeing the crown from their first match after failing to retain the Falcon Shield. Al Sadd coach Xavi Hernandez had said his team will come as a better side in the new QSL season.

"We want to win the QSL. This is one of our main goals for the new season. I think we are a better team than before. We have more options to play with, in all the positions on the pitch," Xavi had said.

Al Rayyan, coached by Diego Aguirre, who lost just one match last season but finished second behind Al Duhail due to a one-point difference will add spice in the title race.

AFC President applauds Al Duhail's victory

THE PENINSULA – DOHA

Shaikh Salman bin Ibrahim Al Khalifa, President of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) and Vice-President of FIFA, congratulated Al Duhail on winning their seventh QNB Stars League title.

Shaikh said in a message to Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the President of the Qatar Football Federation: "The achievement of Al Duhail translates the efforts of the club's family (administration, technical equipment and players) throughout the Qatari football season and this achievement also embodies the spirit of sincerity and dedication that distunguished the team's performance leading to the big title .

"Al Duhail winning the title enhance the special place of the club in the Qatari soccer arena , and reflects its leadership in the strong competition and writing history through successive successes," the AFC President added.



Shaikh Salman bin Ibrahim Al Khalifa, President of AFC

Afif, Brahimi and Edmilson in the run for top QFA award

CHINTHANA WASALA
THE PENINSULA

Asian Player of the Year, Al Sadd's striker Akram Afif will be in the running for back to back QFA Player of the Year Awards, it was revealed yesterday.

The Board of Trustees of the QFA Award yesterday finalised the nominations for the annual ceremony at an online meeting.

The joint-top scorer in the QNB Stars League (QSL) this time, with 15 goals, same as Al Rayyan's Algerian star Yacine Brahimi, won the prestigious award last year following an exceptional season in which his team won the coveted QSL title.

Brahimi and Al Duhail's Brazilian midfielder Edmilson Jr are the other nominees for the Award.

Brahimi's contribution played a huge role in Al Rayyan's second-place finish this season while Edmilson played a vital role in Al Duhail's title triumph. The 26-year-old scored six goals in his second season with The Red Knights, including the winning goal which sealed their seventh Falcon Shield on Friday.

The annual awards ceremony will not take place this season, taking into consideration the country's efforts to combat the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).

Nominees and winners will be announced through the official website and social media of QFA and Qatar Stars League.



Akram Afif, Yacine Brahimi and Edmilson Junior

Meanwhile, Barcelona legend Xavi Hernandez of Al Sadd, Al Rayyan's Diego Aguirre and Al Gharafa's Slavisa Jokanovic will be in contest for the Best Coach Award.

Incidentally, two seasons ago, Xavi was one of the finalists in the battle for the QFA Best Player's Award, which was eventually won by Al Duhail's Youssef Msakni. Al Gharafa's Homam Elamin, Tarek Salman of Al Sadd and Khaled Muneer of Al Wakrah are the nominees for the Best U-23 Player Award.

The QSL team coaches, Qatar national team coach, Olympic team coach, team managers, media representatives, President and Board members of the QFA Awards Committee and the representative of QFA and QSL will vote and then the winners will be announced.

The winners of the Best Referees and the Football for All Awards will be announced after the final results of voting.



Karsten Warholm of Norway posing for a photograph next to a digital results board after winning in 400m hurdles event during the Diamond League meeting at the Stockholm Olympic Stadium, yesterday.

Warholm edges closer to Young's 400m hurdles record in Stockholm

AFP – STOCKHOLM

Norway's two-time world champion Karsten Warholm blasted to the second fastest 400m hurdles time ever at the Diamond League in Stockholm on Sunday after sleeping in a motor home.

Despite clipping the final hurdle, the 24-year-old clocked 46.87 seconds, bettering his own European record of 46.92sec and moving within touching distance of American Kevin Young's long-standing world record of 46.78, set back in 1992.

Warholm and his coach Leif Olav Alnes drove from Norway in a camper van and the pair slept in the vehicle before the meet to reduce health risks due to the coronavirus.

"The perfect description of our relationship would be raw, tough love," Warholm says. "I like it like this. Last year he told me I was too fat, so I replied 'you are too fat as well'. Suddenly we both lost weight."

World 200m champions Noah Lyles said he was stunned Warholm, who reached the 2016 Olympic semi-finals, had missed out on Young's record.

Another world champion shone at an empty stadium in accordance with COVID-19 health and safety protocols, with the American Donavan Brazier timing 1min 43.76sec to win the 800m ahead of Canadia's Marco Arop.

Elsewhere, men's pole vault world record holder Armand Duplantis took gold on home soil by jumping 6.01 metres in a global best for the virus-affected season.

Murray makes triumphant start to year

AFP – NEW YORK

Britain's Andy Murray **(pictured)** made a triumphant ATP comeback on Saturday, defeating Frances Tiafoe 7-6 (8/6), 3-6, 6-1 in his first match of 2020 at the Western and Southern Open.

The 33-year-old Scotsman advanced in hot and humid conditions to a second-round date with German fifth seed Alexander Zverev at the COVID-19 quarantine bubble that will also be used for the US Open, which starts on August 31.

Murray won the 2012 US Open as well as the 2013 and 2016 Wimbledon titles plus the 2012 and 2016 Olympic gold medals.

Former world number one Murray, now ranked 129th, suffered a pelvic injury at Davis Cup last November and that, combined with the pandemic shutdown, kept him out of competition until he faced 22-year-old Tiafoe in a meeting of wildcard entrants.

Murray broke Tiafoe for a 2-0 lead in the third set when the American missed a volley, broke again to 5-1 with a backhand return winner and held at love to finish matters after two hours and 28 minutes.

Murray was the 2008 and 2011 winner in this Grand Slam tuneup event, usually staged in Cincinnati but moved to New York due to the COVID-19 pandemic that wiped out much of the season, including Wimbledon.



Tiafoe, ranked 81st, forced the only break point of the first set in the 11th game with a lob winner but Murray dismissed it with a service winner up the middle and held to 6-5 on a second-serve ace.

In the tie-breaker, Tiafoe jumped ahead 5-2 before Murray roared back, saving a set point to reach 6-6 when Tiafoe sent a backhand wide and taking the set two points later on a passing forehand winner.

Tiafoe, whose only ATP title came at the 2018 Delray Beach Open, saved a break point with an ace in the fifth game of the second set and took the first break of the match for a 5-3 lead on a backhand drop volley winner before holding to force a third set.

Wawrinka wins Prague Challenger

AFP – PARIS

Former US Open champion Stan Wawrinka on Saturday won the second-tier Challenger tournament in Prague, on his return to action after a six-month break because of the coronavirus pandemic but admitted: "I'm not at my best yet".

Wawrinka, the 2016 US Open winner, has elected to skip this year's Grand Slam in New York citing the "health situation" in the city and instead focus on Roland Garros which starts on September 27.

World number 17 Wawrinka defeated 253rd-ranked Aslan Karatsev of Russia 7-6 (7/2), 6-4 in the Prague final on clay.

The three-time Grand Slam champion was playing in his first event since reaching the quarter-finals at Acapulco in February.

He won the last of his 16 ATP Tour titles at Geneva in 2017.