

WIMBLEDON

Alcaraz returns to Wimbledon final, seeking his third straight title

By HOWARD FENDRICH
AP Tennis Writer

LONDON — Carlos Alcaraz moved within one victory of a third consecutive Wimbledon championship and sixth Grand Slam title overall at age 22 by defeating Taylor Fritz 6-4, 5-7, 6-3, 7-6 (6) on Friday.

The No. 2-seeded Alcaraz takes a 24-match winning streak into the final Sunday, when he will face either No. 1 Jannik Sinner or 24-time major champion Novak Djokovic.

Alcaraz beat Djokovic in the 2023 and 2024 title matches at the All England Club and is 5-0 so far in major finals. That includes a five-set comeback win over Sinner at the French Open a month ago.

The fifth-seeded Fritz, the runner-up to Sinner at last year’s U.S. Open, was trying to become the first American man in the Wimbledon final since Andy Roddick lost to Roger Federer in 2009.

Fritz had two chances to force a fifth set against Alcaraz, leading 6-4 in the tiebreaker. But Alcaraz collected the next four points to finish off the win, then rocked back on his heels, spread his arms wide and screamed.

That wasn’t the only time Fritz made things interesting. He accumulated more total points than Alcaraz through the first two sets, and finishing the afternoon with more win-

ners — 44 to 38 — and 19 total aces to 13.

When Alcaraz double-faulted, then missed a forehand, to drop the second, they were even at a set apiece.

But with five-time Wimbledon champion Bjorn Borg and celebrities such as Anna Wintour and Leonardo DiCaprio looking on, Alcaraz quickly recovered from that lapse, marking some of his best shots with a shout of “Vamos!” or a raised index finger. He never faced a break point the rest of the way, while stealing two of Fritz’s service games in the third set.

Even when Fritz did get an opportunity to get back into things, Alcaraz was ready. In the fourth set’s first game, Alcaraz provided Fritz a bit of an opening by missing two forehands for love-30. But Alcaraz shut that door just as quickly with four points in a row, including a 134 mph ace and 135 mph service winner.

Amid the tension of the tiebreaker, Fritz took time to delicately lift a butterfly off the grass and out of harm’s way. Soon, he had grabbed five straight points to reach the precipice of going to a fifth set. But Alcaraz never let Fritz get any closer, forcing four errors.

The temperature topped 85 degrees Fahrenheit (30 degrees Celsius), with no clouds interrupting the blue sky overhead to offer protection from the sun. For the second consecutive day,

spectators had trouble in the heat; there were two brief delays in one second-set game while fans needed to be helped.

The pop of a Champagne cork could be heard in the stands just before the start, and the Spaniard burst out of the gate, taking 10 of the initial 12 points, including a break for a 1-0 lead. That game featured glimpses of why Alcaraz is so great already. Indeed, the very first point was illustrative: He returned a 135 mph serve, then capped a 10-stroke exchange with a delicate drop shot.

There would soon be a forehand winner, then a good return that drew a netted response by Fritz. A return of a 128 mph serve that found chalk led to a net-cord winner for the break.

More was to come in a terrific set for Alcaraz. He even managed to out-serve Fritz, delivering six aces and 20 of his 24 service points while reaching 137 mph. Alcaraz won the point on all three of his serve-and-volley tries, including one perfect stop volley. By the end, Alcaraz was 31-for-41 when at the net.

To be clear, Fritz played exceedingly well himself, conjuring a quality with his neon-orange racket frame that would have been good enough to overcome most any foe on grass.

As everyone paying attention knows by now, Alcaraz is not just any foe.



Brian Rathjen/NT Sports Editor

Atlantic’s Makenna Schroeder slides into home during an Iowa Class 3A regional semifinal softball game Thursday, July 10, at Atlantic.

Atlantic

From page A8

one base runner in the fifth, and RBIs by Peyton McLaren and a bases-loaded walk ended the game early.

Atlantic finished with 10 runs on nine hits, with Peyton McLaren going

3-for-3 with three RBIs and two stolen bases. She helped her own cause by throwing a four-hitter, striking out six in four innings. Zoey Kirchhoff came in relief and allowed just one base runner. Also strong on offense were Schroeder and Jillian Saathoff, both 2-for-3, and Reese Ball, who was

2-for-2.

And now it’s off to Saturday’s regional semifinals for Atlantic and a home date vs. Centerville. The other half of the bracket saw top-seeded Albia survive a 1-0 upset bid by Clarke of Osceola, and Davis County upset Fairfield 6-4.

On The Record:

Prep Softball Rankings

Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union
Note: Final rankings for classes 1A and 2A were announced earlier this week.

Class 3A

School	Record	LW
1 Dubuque Wahlert	32-7	1
2 Williamsburg	30-7	2
3 Mount Vernon	25-11	3
4 Davenport Assumption	22-13	5
5 Albia	25-3	8
6 PCM of Monroe	22-4	4
7 West Liberty	19-7	7
8 West Delaware	23-11	11
9 Estherville-Lincoln Central	20-7	6
10 Washington	26-9	9
11 Missouri Valley	27-6	10
12 Atlantic	26-13	12
13 Center Point-Urbana	22-12	15
14 Chariton	16-6	14
15 Algona	18-6	NR
Dropped out: Clarinda (13)		

Class 4A

School	Record	LW
1 Cedar Rapids Xavier	35-5	1
2 Norwalk	31-7	3
3 North Polk	32-5	7
4 Dallas Center-Grimes	31-7	2
5 ADM	25-8	4

6 Carlisle	27-9	5
7 Clear Creek Amana	30-8	6
8 Fort Dodge	25-12	8
9 Western Dubuque	29-11	9
10 North Scott	27-11	10
11 Winterset	25-14	11
12 Creston	31-6	13
13 Grinnell	29-8	12
14 Sergeant Bluff-Luton	32-6	14
15 Bondurant-Farrar	23-9	15
Dropped out: None		

Class 5A

School	Record	LW
1 Waukee Northwest	35-5	1
2 Linn-Mar	31-6	2
3 Southeast Polk	29-10	6
4 Ankeny Centennial	30-9	3
5 West Des Moines Valley	27-11	4
6 Johnston	25-15	5
7 Cedar Falls	28-9	8
8 Pleasant Valley	29-9	7
9 Ames	29-10	11
10 Muscatine	25-10	10
11 Cedar Rapids Kennedy	23-16	14
12 Iowa City High	22-14	9
13 Cedar Rapids Prairie	23-17	12
14 Des Moines Roosevelt	26-12	15
15 Indianola	21-13	NR
Dropped out: Waukee (13)		

This Date In Baseball

1901 — Cy Young of the Boston Red Sox won his 300th game with a 5-3 victory over the Philadelphia A's.

1921 — Babe Ruth sets a record of 137 career home runs.

1945 — Tommy Holmes of the Boston Braves went hitless to end his consecutive-game hitting streak at 37 games, an NL record that stood until Pete Rose broke it in 1978.

1949 — Larry Doby of the Cleveland Indians and Jackie Robinson, Roy Campanella and Don Newcombe of the host Brooklyn Dodgers became the first black players to appear in an All-Star game as the AL took advantage of five NL errors to win 11-7 at Ebbets Field in Brooklyn.

1951 — Allie Reynolds of the New York Yankees beat Bob Feller of the Indians 1-0 with a no-hit game at Cleveland. Gene Woodling's home run was the difference.

1955 — St. Louis' Stan Musial hit Frank Sullivan's first pitch of the 12th inning for a home run to give the NL All-Star team a 6-5 victory over the AL at Milwaukee's County Stadium. The AL had led 5-0 after six innings.

1979 — In the most ill-fated promotion in baseball history, thousands of fans overran

the Comiskey Park field during "Disco Demolition Night" and caused the Chicago White Sox to forfeit the second game of a doubleheader after losing to Detroit 4-1 in the first.

1990 — Melido Perez pitched the record-tying seventh no-hitter of the season as the Chicago White Sox beat the New York Yankees 8-0 in a game shortened to six innings by rain. That was one inning longer than the rain-shortened no-hitter pitched in 1988 by Melido's brother Pascual, who watched from the Yankees' bench.

1994 — Tony Gwynn barely slipped past Ivan Rodriguez on Moises Alou's double in the 10th inning to give the NL an 8-7 victory and end its record six-game losing streak in the All-Star game. Fred McGriff's two-run homer in the ninth off Lee Smith had tied it and earned him MVP honors.

1997 — Francisco Cordova and Ricardo Rinco combined for a 10 inning no-hitter as the Pittsburgh Pirates defeated the Houston Astros 3-0. Cordova pitched nine innings, walking two and striking out 10, before being removed with the score 0-0. Rincon pitched the 10th and got the win when Mark Smith hit a three-run homer in the bottom of the inning.

2005 — Miguel Tejada and Mark Teixeira led the American League to a 7-5 win over the National League in Detroit for its eighth straight win. Tejada, the game's MVP, homered off John Smoltz to start the scoring and Teixeira added a two-run drive off Dontrelle Willis.

2008 — Greg Maddux became the oldest pitcher in big league history to steal a base at 42 years and 89 days when he stole a base in San Diego's loss to Atlanta. Jim Kaat had the previous mark. It was Maddux's 11th stolen base of his career.

2011 — Prince Fielder hit a three-run homer and Roy Halladay and his relief combined on a six-hitter to lead the NL over the AL 5-1, giving the senior circuit its first two-game winning streak in the All-Star game since the mid-1990s.

2016 — Kansas City's Eric Hosmer homered and drove in two runs, Royals teammate Salvador Perez also hit a two-run homer, and the American League won its fourth consecutive All-Star Game, beating the NL 4-2.

2021 — The Korea Baseball Association announced that it is suspending its season due to a spike in COVID-19 cases.

Readers are leaders!

Legal Notice

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
MASSENA CITY COUNCIL

RE: APPLICATION FOR VOLUNTARY ANNEXATION OF PROPERTY TO CITY LIMITS

TO THE PUBLIC:

The MASSENA City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday July 28, 2025 at 5:30 PM CST to address an application for voluntary annexation of property to the Massena City Limits.

If granted, the application would annex the following described property to the City's jurisdictional limits:

Tract One:

The NE¼ of the NE¼ of Section 33-75-34, Cass County Iowa, except Parcels C, D, E, and F of the NE¼ of the NE¼ and except Lot 2 of the NE¼ of the NE¼ and except Parcel B of the NE¼ of the NE¼ and except Lot 1 of Parcel A of the NE¼ of the NE¼ and except the East 25 feet of Lot 1 of NE¼ of the NE¼ and except 300 foot x 125 foot parcel in the NW¼ of the NE¼ of the NE¼ (Parcel 210002026001000) and except land constituting Parcel 210002106001003

Current Parcel No. of the property to be annexed: 210002106001004

Tract Two:

The North 367 feet of the East 323.5 feet of Lot 19 of the Subdivision of Lots 2, 5 and 6 of Section 33-75-34, West of the 5th P.M., Cass County, Iowa.

Current Parcel No. of the property to be annexed: 210014281001000

Tract Three:

Lot "A" in the NW¼ of the NE¼ of Section 33-75-34 (Except Lot 1 of Lot "A")

Current Parcel No. of the property to be annexed: 210020230001001

Tract Four:

North 367 feet of the West 236 feet of the W½ of the NW¼ of the NE¼ of Section 33-75-34 (Except parcel in the SE corner) and the North 367 feet of the East 21 feet of the E ½ of the NE¼ of the NW¼ of said Section 33-75-34

Current Parcel No. of the property to be annexed: 210002169001000

Tract Four:

The South 80 Feet of the North 367 Feet of Lot 1 of Lot 34, 2nd Addition to the City of Massena, Iowa, except the West 10 Feet thereof, all in the NE¼ of the NW¼ of Section 33-75-34, Cass County Iowa.

Current Parcel No. 210002119001000

Tract Five:

Lot 13 of OP Lot 2 Second Addition in the E½ of the NE¼ of the NW¼ of Section 33-75-34, Cass County, Iowa

Current Parcel No. 210001986001000

Any member of the public having objections or other input on said Application may appear at said hearing and present said objections or input to the Council, and unless you do so the Council will act without considering said objections or input. The time, date, and location of public hearing are as follows:

Date:	Monday July 28, 2025
Time:	5:30 PM CST
Location:	Massena City Hall 100 Main Street Massena, Iowa 50853

At the close of the Public Hearing, the City Council will act on the Applications. Further information can be obtained at Massena City Hall.