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Nadal Wins to Extend Grand Slam Streak to 22

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rafael Nadal's quest to complete his Rafa Slam at the Australian Open started with a first-round victory that lasted only 47 minutes. Nadal led by 6-0, 5-0 when Marcos Daniel, his Brazilian opponent, retired with a knee injury Tuesday in Melbourne.

Nadal could sympathize. He retired from last year's Open with an injured knee in the quarterfinals. "It's terrible feeling, for sure," Nadal said.

But Nadal recovered quickly, and he won the next three majors — rattling off 22 Grand Slam matches in a row, including Tuesday's victory. If he keeps winning, he would be the first man to win four straight majors since Rod Laver in 1969.

"It's not an obsession," Nadal told reporters of the so-called calendar Grand Slam. "You can write what you think. I never read a lot about myself."

In Monday's matches, Novak Djokovic took no chances against Marcel Granollers in a 6-1, 6-3, 6-1 victory.

Afterward, referring to Nadal and second-ranked Roger Federer, who also won Monday, Djokovic said, "They are deservedly the two biggest favorites to win this tournament."

But he added, "Definitely this performance gives me more confidence and gives me enough reason to think that I can beat anyone."

Eighth-seeded Andy Roddick started with a 6-1, 6-2, 6-2 win over Jan Hajek of the Czech Republic.

Also advancing were No. 6 Tomas Berdych, who lost the last Wimbledon final to Nadal, No. 9 Fernando Verdasco and the Frenchman Gilles Simon, who next plays Federer.

Simon has won both of his previous matches — on hardcourts in 2008 — against Federer. "It's a tricky second round for me," Federer said.

ZVONAREVA WINS OPENER Second-ranked Vera Zvonareva advanced by beating Sybille Bammer of Austria, 6-2, 6-1, in less than an hour Tuesday.

Zvonareva, who has reached the finals of the past two Grand Slam tournaments, conceded only four points in the first four games of the second set and did not allow Bammer to hold until the sixth game.

"It's tough to play your best tennis in the first match," Zvonareva said. "The most important thing is I've done what I needed to do and moved through to the next one."

Also advancing were the French Open finalist Sam Stosur, who beat the American wild card Lauren Davis, 6-1, 6-1; No. 12 Agnieszka Radwanska, who took six of the last seven games after a medical timeout to hold off the Japanese veteran Kimiko Date Krumm, 6-4, 4-6, 7-5; and No. 7 Jelena Jankovic.

In Monday's matches, fourth-seeded Venus Williams beat Sara Errani of Italy, 6-3, 6-2, and No. 15 Marion Bartoli trounced Tathiana Garbin of Italy, 6-0, 6-0.

