

TENNIS

Sound and fury does for Murray

Nishikori savors revenge against 2012 champion

By ASSOCIATED PRESS
in New York

Andy Murray lost his way, seven consecutive games and, eventually, his riveting five-set US Open quarterfinal against Kei Nishikori after a loud noise from a malfunctioning sound system interrupted a key point, resulting in a do-over.

Whether or not the gong-like sound, and chair umpire Marija Cicak's let ruling, was the reason that Nishikori wound up coming back to win 1-6, 6-4, 4-6, 6-1, 7-5 on Wednesday, it surely will be what's most remembered about the back-and-forth, 4-hour match.

After all, Murray's extended discussions with Cicak and another official about the unusual episode came during a stretch in which he dropped 12 of 14 points.

He went from a lead of two sets to one, plus a break point at 1-all, to ceding the fourth set and trailing 2-0 in the fifth.

"I could have won the match for sure," said Murray, the No 2 seed and 2012 champion at Flushing Meadows.

Murray acknowledged a brief dip in play, but preferred to focus on other reasons for allowing the sixth-seeded Nishikori to reach a Grand Slam semifinal for the first time since he was the US Open runner-up two years ago.

"I broke serve enough times," Murray said. "I just didn't hold serve enough. That was the difference."

Perhaps.
But Murray complained



Kei Nishikori hits a return to Andy Murray in their quarterfinal match at the US Open on Wednesday. ROBERT DEUTSCH / USA TODAY SPORTS

about the ruling right away, gave away the next three points to lose the game, then brought it up again with Cicak at the ensuing changeover, saying something similar had happened earlier and play had continued.

"Exactly the same thing," Murray exclaimed. "And I told you."

He also spoke to a tournament supervisor about it, pleading his case and saying, "That's not fair."

That same type of noise came from the speakers again at 4-1 in the fourth set. It also had happened during a women's match Monday night between Ana Konjuh and Agnieszka Radwanska.

The US Tennis Association said on Wednesday that a "digital audio sound processor" was at fault and would be replaced before the night session.

Despite all the fuss, Murray went ahead 5-4 in the fifth. But he wouldn't take another game. At 5-all, 30-all, Murray double-faulted to set up break point, and Nishikori converted by reaching for a stretch volley winner.

Murray slammed his racket against the net and cursed. Soon enough, his career-best run of reaching seven straight tournament finals was done.

"I would have loved to have gone further," Murray said,

"but it wasn't to be today."

He had won 26 of his previous 27 matches, including a second Wimbledon championship and a second Olympic gold medal, beating Nishikori in straight sets in the semifinals in Rio de Janeiro.

This time, Nishikori came through, helped by a series of effective drop shots and an ability to keep his nerve over the closing three games.

"It was too exciting on the court, but I tried to stay calm," he said. "It was really tough to stay calm. ... There were many ups and downs."

He next faces the winner of No 3 seed Stan Wawrinka, who defeated tearful Juan Martin del Potro, the 2009 champion,

7-6 (5), 4-6, 6-3, 6-2. The other men's semifinal is No 1 Novak Djokovic against No 10 Gael Monfils.

At 3-all in the second set of Murray vs. Nishikori, rain interrupted play for the second time in the match. The retractable roof atop Ashe was shut during the second, longer shower, and the break of about 20 minutes gave Nishikori's coach, 1989 French Open champion Michael Chang, a chance to run through the locker room and consult with his player.

"That helped me a lot to regroup the tactics," Nishikori said. "I (had) to change something to win the match."

Pushed to brink, Williams edges Halep

Serena Williams' serve was broken for the first time at this year's US Open. Twice, in fact. She dropped a set for the first time in the tournament, too, pushed to the brink by Simona Halep in the quarterfinals.

In a match filled with fantastic shotmaking and enthralling exchanges, neither player budged until Williams righted herself in the third set to emerge with a 6-2, 4-6, 6-3 victory over Halep on Wednesday night to get back to the semifinals at Flushing Meadows.

Halep, the 2014 French Open runner-up who was seeded No 5 in New York, staved off all 12 break points held by Williams in the second set and forced a third. But Williams converted the only break chance she would get — or need — in the deciding set to go ahead 3-1, and was on her way.

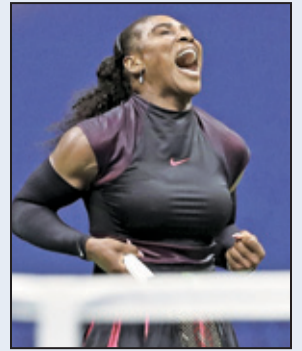
She finished with 18 aces, a 50-20 edge in total winners, and won the point on 26 of her 32 trips to the net.

Williams is bidding for her seventh title at Flushing Meadows and 23rd overall at a major tournament — both would be records for the Open era, which dates to 1968.

A year ago in the semifinals, Williams' attempt to finish off a calendar-year Grand Slam ended with a stunning loss to unseeded Roberta Vinci of Italy.

Her opponent Thursday will be 10th-seeded Karolina Pliskova of the Czech Republic, who beat the 34-year-old American's older sister, Venus, in the fourth round.

Williams, seeded No 1, had held serve in 37 consecutive games over the past two weeks until Halep broke to get within 3-2 in the opening set. Still, Williams



Serena Williams celebrates during her quarterfinal match on Wednesday

brezed through the rest of that set.

Then came a pivotal segment of the second. Instead of trailing 3-0, which was nearly the case, Halep wound up ahead 3-1.

First, she hung in there to erase seven break points — yes, 7! — in one game to hold for 1-all. Then she got to 15-40 on Williams' serve, creating two break points that Williams made vanish with three aces in a row, at 117, 109 and 122 mph.

Escape complete? Not quite. Then came two more break points, the last created by a huge Halep backhand that Williams tried in vain to get back with a desperation lefty shot. Williams' second double-fault of the game followed, and Halep would need to save five more break points before finally cashing in on her fifth set point to send the match to set No 3.

That's where Williams once again asserted herself, as she so often does.

In Thursday's other semifinal, No 2 Angelique Kerber plays two-time US Open runner-up Caroline Wozniacki. Kerber has a chance to end Williams' record-tying string of 186 consecutive weeks at No 1 in the WTA rankings.

As Halep can attest, though, Williams doesn't relinquish things easily.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

CLC raises \$500m from investors

By TAN YINGZI in Chongqing
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Chongqing Western Modern Logistics Industry Zone Development Construction opened the books for its five-year bond on Aug 30 in Singapore at 250bps over US Treasuries and raised \$500 million from investors.

The coupon rate is 3.25 percent.

The State-owned company, established by the Chongqing municipal government, is the developer of Chongqing Logistics City, also known as CLC, which was established in 2007 in the western part of the municipality, covering about 35 square kilometers with a total investment of 111.7 billion yuan (\$17.49 billion).

It hired Citi Group and DBS as joint global coordinators. CEB International, Bank of China, Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, China Construction Bank, China Citic Bank International, Bank of Communications and Shanghai Pudong Development Bank are the joint lead managers and bookrunners.

The company hit the road for its maiden dollar outing, holding 19 investors meetings in Hong Kong, Singapore and London from Aug 23 to 29.

In addition to the relatively low fundraising cost of US dollar bonds, one of the major reasons to issue dollar bonds in the southeastern Asian country is to enhance the relationship with Singaporean investors, according to the company.

The fundraising round was the first act of financial cooperation under the China-Singapore (Chongqing) Demonstration Initiative on Strategic Connectivity, the third intergovernmental project between the two countries.

Chongqing, the center of operations for the program,



Executives of Chongqing Western Modern Logistics Industry Zone Development Construction mark the success in bond listing in Singapore on Aug 30. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

will pilot cooperation in fields ranging from financial services, aviation, transportation and logistics to information communications technology.

In addition to the Chongqing-Xinjiang-Europe International Railway, Luo Shuquan, chairman of the Chongqing company, said that they are currently working on a new trade route.

The route will start in Chongqing, run through southern China's Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region and finally reach Singapore. The Chongqing-Guangxi-Singapore international transportation link will become the shortest cut to the sea in Southwest China, Luo said.

"It will help connect the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road to promote the integration of Asian and European trade," he said.

The company plans to

develop the Chongqing Western Modern Logistics Industry Zone into a railway-bonded logistical center after it became a free trade zone on Aug 31.

The logistics center will provide international trade and logistics services, especially in cross-border e-commerce, intermediary trade and payment settlement.

At present, it has raised 16.7 billion yuan from overseas financing, non-publicly oriented debt financing, perpetual tickets, sustainable corporate bonds and corporate bonds.

The company set up a logistics industry development fund of over 10 billion yuan with Ping An Insurance (Group) Co in April 2015.

A third-party payment platform is now under development. In May, Chongqing Railway Port Logistics Development Co, the Fujian-based superstore giant Yonghui

Group, and Liangka (Beijing) Information Technology Co Ltd started to build the platform together with registered capital of 100 million yuan.

The platform's trade volume is expected to reach 300 billion yuan in the third year after launching.

"Our focus in the coming two years is to build the CLC into a pilot zone for logistical finance," said Gu Yonghong, CLC deputy general manager and president of CLC Asset Management Co.

This year, the CLC plans to set up bonding companies and a transaction settlement center, as well as build equity investment management companies in Hong Kong and Singapore, he added.

"The CLC has become a pioneer among the companies included in China's Road and Belt Initiative to use international capital to diversify its funding resources," Gu said.



Containers are being loaded onto cargo trains destined to Europe from a railway station in Chongqing.

Logistics industry zone to expedite trade between Asia and Europe

By TAN YINGZI in Chongqing

Located at the intersection of the Belt and Road Initiative's trade routes and the Yangtze River Economic Zone, the Chongqing Western Modern Logistics Industry Zone is poised to become a major international port zone in inland China.

The Belt and Road Initiative, proposed by President Xi Jinping in 2013, stands to benefit the area through increased trade and investment, both from China and abroad.

The zone is the starting point of the Chongqing-Xinjiang-Europe International Railway and boasts full railway infrastructure, including a railway port for international trade.

The international railway started its service from the Tuanjiecun Railway Station in the Chongqing Western Modern Logistics Industry Zone in January 2011.

The nearly 11,180-kilometer link begins from Chongqing, crosses the border into

Kazakhstan at Alataw pass, the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, and passes through Russia, Belarus and Poland before reaching its terminus in Duisburg, Germany.

It cuts what was a five-week shipping period to about two weeks, and costs 80 percent less than air freight.

The new link offers an attractive alternative for trading companies in Chongqing that otherwise use more time-consuming and costly maritime routes via Chinese coastal ports, including Shanghai and Guangzhou, before shipping goods through the Strait of Malacca.

After its automobile import port was approved by the State Council in July 2014, the Chongqing Western Modern Logistics Industry Zone has provided European logistics companies with the option to ship cars by rail, rather than sea. A total of 1,000 imported cars have arrived in Chongqing by rail as of Sept 1.

The zone has also attracted significant foreign investments.

Gefco, a European leader in automotive logistics, will set up a distribution center in the zone soon.

Christophe Poirineau, Gefco's Asia president, said the Silk Road Economic Belt will create new market growth spots for foreign companies in China, according to a previous China Daily report.

"With trade volume rising among China, Central Asia and Europe, China is rebuilding the ancient Silk Road and pursuing a new trading model that is focused on product quality and logistics efficiency — a shift away from the previous quantity-centered model with slow delivery," Poirineau said.

Chongqing is the largest car-manufacturing city in western China. The number of cars it produced shot up to more than 2.6 million last year.

The municipality's GDP growth led the country at 10.9 percent in 2014 and 11 percent in 2015. The national growth rate was 6.9 percent last year.

Chongqing special