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Federer, Djokovic book clash at Sony **Ericsson semi-final**

AFP AND AP, MIAMI

World No. 2 Roger Federer overcame American Andy Roddick in three sets on Wednesday to set up a semi-final clash with Novak Djokovic at the ATP Masters Sony Ericsson Open hardcourt tournament in Miami.

The second-seeded Swiss, still in search of his first title of this year, defeated Roddick 6-3, 4-6, 6-4, avenging a quarter-final loss to the American here last year.

In the semi-finals 13-time Grand Slam champion Federer will face third-seeded Serbian Djokovic, who beat 10th-seeded Frenchman Jo-Wilfried Tsonga 6-3, 6-4.

Another backhand found Roddick helpess at the net.

Federer said he enjoyed playing the hometown favorite, but he wouldn't have minded putting it away sooner.

"I thought that I should have had it under control in the second set," Federer said. "Kind of lost that and was under quite a bit of pressure in the third set. So I'm happy I got through it. Got mavbe a touch lucky at that deuce pass-摺 ing shot. Bu, I hit it well and came up with a great shot and match point. So I was really happy. It was a good win for me tonight." 涠 Roddick thrilled the crowd of

14,000 by taking the second set, but he was disappointed that he couldn't hold off Federer in the third.

"It's easier if I would have just played terrible the whole time," said Roddick, who failed to convert two game points in the final game.

"I at least gave it a go there in the third, and didn't really catch a break there," he said.

Djokovic, who had lost his last four encounters with Tsonga, reversed that trend despite re-



John Terry keeps England on track

WORLD CUP: Terry scored the winner six minutes from • EUROPEAN STANDINGS time to give England a 2-1 victory over Ukraine and maintain an unbeaten run for Fabio Capello's squad

AFP, LONDON AND PARIS

John Terry's late winner ensured step toward next year's World Cup finals after a 2-1 win over Ukraine on Wednesday.

Fabio Capello's squad reached the for the second time in five days. halfway stage in their campaign to The Bayern Munich winger scored reach South Africa with five wins from distance to sink the Baltic out of five in Group Six. and

maintained their five-point lead over Croatia, 2-0 winners over Andorra earlier in the day.

England just about deserved the three points but the outcome hung in the balance top of Group One to seven points after Andriy Shevchenko came over misfiring Portugal, the 2006 off the bench to cancel out Peter Crouch's first-half strike with just over quarter of an hour left.

Capello admitted his side had been below par but said the win had after a 2-1 home win over Israel.

been testimony to their character. "It was not a rich game, a lit-

tle bit poor," the Italian said. "But AFP, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE very happy. We suffered a bit in the second half but we showed a lot of character and patience and I am very happy for John Terry. I 2010 World Cup qualifying. think this is the reason he is the captain."

coach Oleksiy Ukrainian Mykhaylychenko bemoaned the poor defending from his side that had enabled England to score both their goals from crosses.

the match, Ukraine helped them get the result," the former Rangers midfielder said.

Shevchenko had initially had to settle for a substitutes role as Ukraine started with a forward pair of Artem Milevskyy and Andriy Voronin.

Capello's only selection dilemma was resolved in Aaron Lennon's favor, the Tottenham winger's pace header in the 69th minute lifted

Marwijk's team 15 points from five games in Group Nine, eight ahead England took another significant of Scotland, who edged Iceland 2-1 with three games to play. A second-half goal from Franck

Ribery earned 1998 champions Terry's 84th-minute goal ensured France a 1-0 victory over Lithuania side in Kaunas on Saturday, and he proved the match-

Group 2

<mark>Team</mark> Greece

winner again in Paris. Hungary and Denmark enjoyed 3-0 wins over Malta and Albania respectively to extend their lead at the

semi-finalists. Greece, the 2004 European

champions, stay top of Group Two on goal difference from Switzerland

the result is very important. When Jozy Altidore's hat-trick lifted the the referee blew the whistle I was US to a 3-0 victory over Trinidad and Tobago on Wednesday, but onetime regional powerhouse Mexico suffered another setback in

The US solidified their lead in the final phase of qualifying for North and Central America and the Georgia Group 9 Caribbean, with seven points from three matches.

But Mexico fell 3-1 at Hondu**ras** — their second defeat in three "England did not exactly win matches — as their struggles away from home continued and left them stuck on three points.

Altidore, 19, became the youngest US player to score an international hat-trick, with goals in the 13th, 71st and 89th minutes. He eclipsed the mark for youngest hattrick set in 2004, when 20-year-old

Eddie Johnson. In San Jose, Walter Centeno's

srael Group 3 orthern Irel Slovakia Czech Republi Slovenia San Marino Group 4 D L GF GA Pts Group 5 Turkey Group 6 England Croatic Ukraine Group 3 rance Austria Faroe Islands Rep of Ireland Cyprus

FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2009

teams advance to European playoffs

 SOUTH / 	AWER				ING	-			
Team		GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	
Paraguay		12	7	3	2	19	9	24	
Brazil		12	5	6	1	19	5	21	
Chile		12	6	2	4	17	14	20	
Argentina		12	5	4	3	18	13	19	
Uruguay		12	4	5	3	21	10	17	
Colombia		12	3	5	4	6	10	14	
Ecuador		12	3	5	4	14	19	14	
Venezuela		12	4	1	7	14	22	13	
Bolivia		12	3	3	6	19	25	12	
Peru		12	1	4	7	6	26	7	

Top four qualify, fifth place to playof ASIAN STANDINGS Fourth Round

Scotland

FYR Macedonia

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Sports

ceiving treatment for apparent heat-related symptoms in the second set.

Djokovic broke Tsonga to take a 4-2 lead in the second, saved two break points in the eighth game and was under pressure again as he served for the match at 5-4 but closed out the victory in just under two hours.

Djokovic, who said he had been battling a stomach ailment on Tuesday, said that the aftereffects, the heat and the pressure of the match combined to affect him. But he still displayed precise, powerful groundstrokes that had Tsonga on the defensive from the start.

"I have to be very happy with today's performance, because I have been struggling to find a way to win against him in the last four encounters," he said. "I just knew that I needed to stick in and try to wait for my chances and be aggressive. Today I think I tried to be closer to the line, more in control, and just put the pressure on him. So I think that's what I did."

The other men's guarter-finals on Thursday pit world No. 1 Rafael Nadal against sixth-seeded Argentinian Juan Martin del Potro and fourth-seede Briton Andy Murray against Spain's eighth seed Fernando Verdasco.

Venus and Serena Williams were to face each other in the women's semi-finals yesterday.

The 20th showdown between the sisters ensures a finalist from the family tomorrow. The Williamses have won eight of the past 11 Key Biscavne titles.

"I believe we are the best in the world," Venus said. "I enjoy playing Serena because we challenge each other the most."

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"I'm always going to be up for 'V.' because she's playing really well and always playing me super tough," top-ranked Serena said.

Serena advanced first on Wednesday, overcoming a dismal start to beat unseeded Li Na of China 4-6, 7-6 (1), 6-2. Five hours later she was joined by No. 5-seeded Venus, who beat No. 26 Iveta Benesova of the Czech Republic 6-1, 6-4.

The other women's semi-final vesterday was to be between No. 8 Svetlana Kuznetsova and No. 11 Victoria Azarenka



England defender John Terry, top, vies with Ukraine striker Artem Milevskyy during their World Cup gualifying Group Six match at Wembley Stadium in London on Wednesday. PHOTO: AFP

Argentina suffer worst loss in 60 years

AFP, LA PAZ

stadium.

Argentina coach Diego Maradona cally they were the better team," refused to blame the negative ef-Maradona said. "It seemed to me that Bolivia gave everything they fects of competing at altitude after his side were humiliated 6-1 by Bohad, they played well and showed livia on Wednesday, thus registerus good football." ing their worst defeat in 60 years.

That remark prompted ap-Bolivia's goals came from a Joaplause from media representaquin Botero hat-trick and Marcelo tives, apparently for Maradona's Martins, Alex Da Rosa and Didi sense of fair-play. He added: "Whoever played Torrico, while Argentina found the

against that Bolivian team would net through Luis Gonzalez at La Paz's high-altitude Hernando Siles' have suffered the same fate as us. I suffered with them [the players]. But the former World Cup win-Every Bolivian goal was a dagger

in my heart." ner, who thus suffered his first defeat since taking over as coach last Argentina goalkeeper Juan year, refused to explain his falter-Pablo Carrizo, who had a memoing team's performance on playing rable night for the wrong reasons, was first beaten in the 12th minutes to go. Angel Di Maria was "No, the altitude was not an minute by Bolivia striker Marcelo sent off in the 63rd minute to make issue. We came up against a team

Martins, who plays for Shakhtar a terrible night even worse.

that gave very little away and basi- Donetsk in Ukraine.

However, the Argentines, twice world champions, were level in the 25th minute when Porto's Luis Gonzalez hit a shot from 30m without much conviction, but an unexpected bounce meant it went past Bolivia keeper Carlos Arias and into the net.

Bolivia went further ahead in the 34th minute through hat-trick hero Botero of Mexican club Correcaminos, Mexico.

An inspired and motivated Bolivia went 3-1 ahead just before the break, and Da Rosa and then Botero got further goals in the 50th

and 66th minutes. Torrico scored the sixth and final goal with three

preferred to the superior crossing ability of David Beckham from the Salvador that left Costa Rica alone right.

Defending champions Italy were held to a 1-1 draw by the **Republic** of Ireland, while three-time winners Germany beat Wales 2-0 to also stav on course for next year's South Africa showpiece. **Poland** were the night's biggest winners, smashing San Marino 10-0 in Group Three with Ebi Smolarek grabbing four goals. But Northern Ireland are the

unlikely leaders of that pool thanks to a 1-0 win over Slovenia. Liverpool's Albert Riera and

Xabi Alonso scored as European champions Spain came from behind to beat **Turkey** 2-1 in Istanbul. Spain were hit in the 26th minute when Semih Senturk scored. Their equalizer came from Xabi Alonso from the penalty spot in the 62nd minute after Ibrahim Uzulmez had handled following a Fernando Torres header.

Liverpool striker Dirk Kuyt scored twice as the Netherlands third team in Group B with the beat Macedonia 4-0 in Amsterdam to register their fifth win in five games. The win gave Bert van

Saudi Arabia boosted their

Costa Rica to a 1-0 victory over **E** Group A in second place on six points.

Zealand.

AFP. MANAMA AND RIYADH Bahrain defeated Qatar 1-0 in Manama on Wednesday and forced Australia to wait a little longer

to secure their ticket to the 2010 World Cup finals. The Socceroos had earlier defeated Uzbekistan 2-0 in Sydney to go back to the top of Asian zone Group A and would have become the first nation to qualify for the finals had this clash between the two Gulf neighbors ended in a draw. Bahrain are now third in the

table with seven points. Australia top the group with 13 points while Japan, who did not play on Wednesday, are second with 11. Uzbekistan and Qatar are on four points.

The top two teams will qualify for the finals with the third-placed side facing a play-off against the winner of that clash taking on New

SEE NORTH ON PAGE 19

Tenacious Bulls rally to top Lions

BY PAUL HUANG

at 3.650m above sea level.

CONTRIBUTING REPORTER ners on first and second scored the game-winning runs to help the Sinon Bulls overcome a one-run defi-

cit and top the Uni-President Lions 8-7 in extra innings in Taichung on Wednesday evening.

The second-year catcher 轉動20 for the Bulls made the most of his first plate appearance

of the season in relief of starter Yeh Jung-chang by lining an offering from Lions reliever Lin Yueh-ping down the rightfield line to score the game-winner.

A seesaw battle that featured five lead changes saw the home Bulls jumping to a quick 3-0 lead on a pair of RBI singles by Cheng Jau-hang in the second and fourth and a runscoring error by the Lions defense before the defending champs fought back with a three-run sixth to even things up at 3-all.

Kao Chih-kang's two-run double

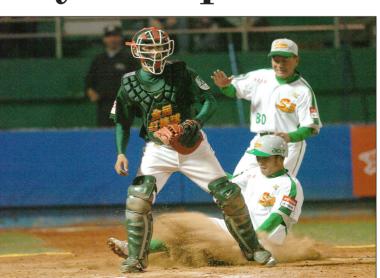
gave the Lions their first lead in the game at 5-3 in the top of the seventh, Lee Yi-wei's walk-off triple with run- only to see the Bulls answer with a run in the bottom of the same inning and actually regain a 6-5 lead in the eighth on Cheng's third RBI-

single of the night. Trailing by a run, the resilient Lions used a two-out single by Pan Wu-hsiung with runners on first and second to force the third tie of the WITH US contest on 6-6 in the top of

the ninth to send the game into extra innings, setting the stage for Lee's late-game heroics. Kieran Mattison of the US, who

entered the game to start the top of the ninth, was credited with the win and 10th, turning a blown save into a rather fortunate victory.

Suffering the tough loss was his counterpart Lin, who came into the game in the bottom of the 10th and walked two before surrendering the two-run triple to Lee for his first loss of the year.



despite allowing a run in the ninth Teng Shih-yang of the Sinon Bulls slides into home base, securing victory for his team in their Chinese Professional Baseball League (CPBL) match against the Uni-President Lions in Taichung on Wednesday. PHOTO: LIAO YAO-TUNG, TAIPEI TIME

> Yesterday's results: La New Bears 5, Brother Elephants 2 Sinon Bulls 6, **Uni-President Lions 4**

Today's games:

- Uni-President Lions v Brother
- Elephants (Sinjhuang, 6:30pm)
- La New Bears v Sinon Bulls
- (Hsinchu, 6:30pm)

Team Australia Japan Bahrain Uzbekista Qatar Group B

ream	GP	w	D	L.,	GF	GA	Pfs
South Korea	5	3	2	0	9	3	11
North Korea	6	3	1	2	7	5	10
Saudi Arabia	6	3	1	2	8	8	10
Iran	5	1	3	1	6	6	6
UAE	6	0	1	5	6	14	1
Top two teams in	each	grou		uali		14	rld
Cup, third-placed	teams	s int	o pl	ayot	ff.		

CONCACAF STANDINGS
 Final Round

		GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
		3	2	1	0	7	2	7
Rica		3	2	0	1	3	2	6
as		3	1	1	1	3	4	4
Mexico		2	1	0	1	2	2	3
ador		3	0	2	1	4	5	2
id & Tol	bago	3	0	2	1	3	6	2
ree qua	ılify.	Four	th-p	lace	teo	ım a	dvan	ces to
			-					eam advan lace team.

chances of making a fifth successive World Cup finals with a comefrom-behind 3-2 win over the United Arab Emirates in Riyadh.

The Saudis are in third place in Asian zone Group B with 10 points level with North Korea, who lost 1-0 to South Korea, who lead the table with 11 points, in Seoul earlier in the day.