

IN BRIEF | TENNIS

INDIAN WELLS, CALIF.

Nadal captures title

Rafael Nadal won his first title since the French Open, beating Novak Djokovic 6-2, 7-5 Sunday in the Pacific Life Open.

When Djokovic's forehand went long on the final point, Nadal raised his arms, then flopped on his back and lay there a moment, arms still extended, as the fans laughed and cheered.

Nadal, a five-time champion last year and an 11-time winner in 2005, had gone a stretch of 12 tournaments without winning, dating to the successful defense of his title at Roland Garros in June.

▶ RIZZUTO: Danish visitor nabs double

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watched the whole fight from his own deck and says the Billfisher II boys "earned every ounce of that fish."

"Mitch was just off Pine Trees in some pretty snotty water," Mike said. "The boat looked like a cork in a washing machine. I'm real glad I was not part of the crew that day."

"After boating his fish, it took him over an hour to get back to the fuel dock for weighing," Mike said. "I know because I wanted to see what was worth getting the stuffing kicked out of you."

Two at a blow in a blow

There are no blue marlin in Copenhagen, so you can understand why Danish visitor Jens Soebj was total unprepared for what happened to him last Monday.

Jens and his wife had visited Kona last year, seen the photos of the big marlin on display at Grander Alley and made plans to return specifically to try to catch one.

Jens caught two. Both at the same time.

Jens had chartered the Linda Sue III with old-timer Jeff Heintz at the helm.

"I was only going to do this once," Jens explained to me. "I wanted to be sure I went with someone who has a lot of experience."

Jeff headed toward VV-buoy through gnarly seas. Despite the turmoil on top, Jeff spotted some extra commotion off to the starboard. Some baitfish jumped. The water bubbled. Jeff was sure he'd just seen a big fish grab a small one.

He turned his 35-foot Bertram 90 degrees aimed for the boil in 800 fathoms and alerted his crew. Lead Wilson got ready.

As they circled the spot where the bait had disappeared, a marlin hit a Bobby Brown Softhead lure.

"We saw the marlin jumping to the left and then jumping immediately to the right," Jens said. "It must be two different fish!"

Indeed, it was. And it was Jens' job to fight them both.

It took some doing, but Jens battled both marlin, one at a time, and boated both in a 45-minute doubleheader.

"If it had taken 15 minutes more, I would have been dead," Jens said.

"It was really lumpy from a south swell and difficult trying to back down on two different fish, and keep them separated," Jeff said.

The first-time Danish billfisherman's double, both on Bobby Brown Softheads, weighed 298.5 and 284 pounds.

With both fish being at about the 300-pound mark, those weights raise some interesting questions about their sex.

Males rarely grow that big, and the females that are caught here are seldom less than 300 pounds.

Could those have been two males, which would have made them giants for their gender?

Or two females? If so, both would be relatively small compared to the typical Kona females weighing 400 pounds or more.

Or a male and female of the same size traveling together? That's probably the most likely and most interesting possibility.

At this point there is no longer any way to find out, but it's a question worth exploring in similar instances when fish of this size are weighed.

Jens added a spearfish, too, and was soon busy spreading the word to colleagues back home.

"I have a number of friends in Denmark who are now eager to come fish here," Jens told me in a call from the boat before reaching the dock to weigh the fish. "I will do some promotion for Kona in Denmark."

No better advertising than word-of-mouth from a happy customer.

Dangers in the dark

Fishing offshore at night has its inherent dangers. Monsters

real and imagined come at you out of the dark. Sharks with sharp teeth and powerful muscles, squids armed with powerful beaks, sucker-lined arms and exploding ink, fanged snake mackerel, crazed creatures that jump into the boat to attack your lights and stab you instead.

But the weirdest creatures you are likely to encounter at night are those you brought along with you -- your fishing companions.

Adrift at night in the dark far from the stability of land, minds become uninged and people think up bizarre stuff to say and do. Somehow, the darkness seems to make the insane seem sensible.

Here's a sample from a recent overnight Ika-shibi trip with Ed Barnett, Dick Peterson and Keith Lovless aboard Ed's boat Reelntless.

After they had caught a 25-pound yellowfin tuna and a 15-pound aku, Keith began talking about how to solve the island's pernicious mongoose problem (a most worthy and sensible goal).

Ah, if you could only find a demand for mongoose, says Keith.

Let's say, for example, that mongoose turned out to be great bait for marlin.

According to Ed, Keith suggested lip-hooking a mongoose to troll for marlin (a dead one, mind you -- maybe one you might find as roadkill by the side of the road -- which I hasten to add because of the PEIA folk who might be reading this).

"Dick and I are rolling around the deck thinking about Keith hooking up a mongoose (you know how tired you get overnight) and trolling it behind his boat 'TN'T'." Ed said.

But not so fast, here. We are not quite over the edge yet.

After all, "mongoose" is a favored color pattern for trolling lures used by salmon and steelhead fishermen in the northwest.

Not only that, but fish will eat roadkill, as was proved during the early part of the 19th century when roadkill was used to feed hatchery trout, making chopped liver better bait than worms, by the way.

(No longer, says my resident hatchery expert, Roadkill often spreads diseases to the fish).

But I digress. "So Dick is going up the mountain to visit a friend, and finds a dead mongoose," Ed says. "Dick originally considered trapping a live one but figured the dead one would work and wouldn't bite back."

Dick picks it up in a plastic bag and brings it to my store, Pacific Rim Fishing Supplies," Ed says. "We put a note on it. 'Dear Keith, here is your favorite marlin lure. Tight lines.'"

"Because Keith is out on his boat, Dick ties the bagged 'bait' to the rear view mirror in his car with the note."

"Keith returns, finds the note and is all excited that he has a new marlin lure."

"He rips open the bag, sees the mongoose and jumps back about 5 feet, according to what he said later."

"Then he looked around to see where the camera was but we hadn't been smart enough to try to capture his reaction."

You'd think sandy soil surface in the bright light of day, but Keith thought long and hard about using it, maybe just to have the last laugh.

But the weather turned bad and the dead mongoose turned worse.

Last report from Ed: "So the mongoose goes back on the side of the road."

Newest Kona Fishing Chronicles available

The Kona Fishing Chronicles Volume 6/7 is now available at select tackle shops and bookstores. The 288-page pocket-size paperback features the best fishing stories and fishing tips of 2006 and carries a 2007 copyright (hence the 6/7 designation).

For book buyers who like to thumb through the pages and get a sense of the stories and writing style, go to www.

fishinghawaiioffers.com and read some of the fishing stories on the site.

For some readers, the stories are the attraction. They give you the chance to experience the fun and excitement of fishing with top fishermen without leaving your house.

For others, it's the chance to become better fishermen by learning the skills practiced daily by Kona pros. The book features the stories of the great catches but it also tells where and how the fishermen found them, hooked them, and fought them.

Many "Chronicles" readers are from all over the world who plan to visit Kona and want advice on the types of fishing available, the best seasons, the best places to fish, and the other details needed to plan a successful experience.

The fishing-month-by-month chapters help illustrate the kinds of fishing available as we move through a typical year here.

Kona is an outstanding place for family fishing because the waters tend to be calm most days and the fishing begins right outside the harbor (no long and boring run for kids to wait through until the lines go out). As a result, many of the stories in the book involve successful family fishing trips with youngsters. To emphasize that point we put kids on the cover of this volume.

We always try to put some history in the book and this time you'll find a special chapter on Henry Chee and his legacy. Kona fishing pioneer Henry Chee revolutionized big-game fishing worldwide by making the first resin-head trolling lures for marlin fishing.

We always include some fun info in the book just for kicks. Take the banana-jinx, for example. It pops up in about four places throughout the monthly chapters so we decided to include a special chapter with more background and some surprising information.

This is now the eighth paperback book in the series. That's an astounding 2,304 pages of fishing information all together.

In Kona, look for the book at Kona Fishing Tackle, Pacific Rim Fishing Supplies, Melton International, or Borders.

In Hilo, it's at Tokumaga Fishing Supplies.

Kona fishing reports available in Japanese

For your Japanese friends or clients who are interested in Kona fishing, selections from our weekly reports are now available on the internet in Japanese. Go to www.FishingHawaiiOffshore.com, and click on the Japanese link near the top of the page.

The reports are translated by Kona resident Uki Uzawa, who has been an important resource for Japanese visitors for many decades.

Grander story

Monday readers who missed the story of Kona's first 2007 grander (appeared on Tuesday) can find it on the internet at www.FishingHawaiiOffshore.com. Act fast. It will remain on the site only until the end of the week.

Making the Big-Fish List

Are you feeling ignored? Have you caught a fish bigger than one on the Big-Fish List but don't see your name there? Then call me.

Yes, calling me (885-4208) is part of the process. I need to verify facts about how, where and when it was caught. We also need an official weight (no guesses, formula estimates or hand scales), and a picture (to be sure the fish is properly identified).

For weekly updates, to check Big Island trends, and locate FADs visit www.fishinghawaiioffers.com.

Riz Zuto is the author of Fishing Hawaii Offshore, the Fishing Hawaii Style Series and The Kona Fishing Chronicles yearbooks. Look for the books at bookstores and tackle shops or visit www.KonaFishingChronicles.com. Got a fishing story for us? Call 885-4208, email rzzuto@KonaFishingChronicles.com or write to Box 635, Kamuela, HI 96743.

SCOREBOARD

TV SCHEDULE

HORSE RACING
6:30 a.m. Quarters
3 p.m. NIT: DePaul at Kansas State (second round) FOXPT ESPN

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
1 p.m. NIT: Mississippi at Clemson (second round) ESPN
2 p.m. NIT: DePaul at Kansas State (second round) ESPN

NHL HOCKEY
1 p.m. Pittsburgh at N.Y. Rangers VERSUS

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
1 p.m. NCAA tournament (second round) ESPN2
3 p.m. NCAA tournament (second round) ESPN2
5:30 p.m. NCAA tournament (second round) ESPN2

TODAY'S BUIF GAMES

GOLF
BHF:ourney at Volcano Country Club, 10 a.m.

HOCKEY

NHL CONFERENCE EASTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic Division

W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
New Jersey	43	21	88	219	179
Pittsburgh	41	21	92	250	223
N.Y. Rangers	35	28	79	208	195
N.Y. Islanders	34	27	78	214	208
Philadelphia	20	41	51	190	267

Northwest Division

W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Buffalo	46	12	99	271	214
Ottawa	42	13	92	292	201
Toronto	34	28	78	222	235
St. Louis	36	26	89	241	231
Montreal	34	32	52	202	251

Southeast Division

W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Atlanta	39	29	89	222	225
Tampa Bay	39	30	82	226	229
Carolina	36	28	80	217	207
Florida	40	23	72	213	201
Washington	26	34	13	65	218

WESTERN CONFERENCE Central Division

W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Nashville	47	20	100	249	192
Detroit	45	18	99	228	181
St. Louis	40	23	72	188	137
Chicago	27	35	63	179	225
Columbus	28	37	6	137	224

Northwest Division

W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Vancouver	43	23	62	195	179
Minnesota	42	24	71	202	178
Calgary	37	25	84	232	200
Colorado	37	29	6	80	238
Edmonton	30	35	67	180	215

Pacific Division

W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Anaheim	43	18	92	236	190
San Jose	44	24	91	222	177
Dallas	43	24	5	91	194
Los Angeles	25	34	14	64	204
Columbus	38	40	4	64	194

WEST

► Georgia (19-13) at Air Force (24-8), 3 p.m.
► DePaul (19-13) at Kansas St. (23-11), 5 p.m.

SOUTH

► Mississippi (21-12) at Clemson (22-10), 1 p.m.
► San Diego State (22-10) at Syracuse (23-10), 1 p.m.

QUARTERFINALS

Tuesday's game
► N.C. State (20-15) at West Va. (24-9), TBA

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

NCAA TOURNAMENT REGIONAL GREENSBORO REGIONAL

Saturday's results
► The Galen Center, Los Angeles
► Montreal
► Arizona State 57, UC Riverside 50

Sunday's results

► The Breslin Student Events Center, East Lansing, Mich.
► Vanderbilt 62, Delaware State 47
► Bowling Green 69, Oklahoma State 66
► Michigan State 69, Delaware 58
► Rutgers 77, East Carolina 34

At The RBC Center, Raleigh, N.C.

► Duke 81, Holy Cross 64
► Temple 64, Northeast 61

Second Round

Tuesday's game
► The Galen Center, Los Angeles
► Louisville (27-7) vs. Arizona State (29-4), 4:30 p.m.

DAYTON REGIONAL First Round

Saturday's results
► Frank Erwin Center, Austin, Texas
► Missouri State 74, Southeast Missouri State 60
► Marquette 87, Louisiana-Lafayette 58, 4:30 p.m.

At Maples Pavilion, Stanford, Calif.

► Middle Tennessee 85, Gonzaga 46
► Marist 67, Ohio State 63

Sunday's results

► Pittsburgh Civic Center, Hartford, Conn.
► Mississippi 88, TCU 74
► Maryland 89, Harvard 65

At The Peterson Events Center, Pittsburgh

► Wisconsin 76, Drake 27
► Pittsburgh 71, James Madison 61

Second Round

Tuesday's games
► Frank Erwin Center, Austin, Texas
► Chicago White Sox vs. Marquette (26-6), 1 p.m.

At Maples Pavilion, Stanford, Calif.

► Middle Tennessee (30-3) vs. Marist (28-5), 2 p.m.

DALLAS REGIONAL First Round

Saturday's results
► Illinois Arena, Minneapolis
► Iowa State 79, Washington 60
► Wichita State 67, Texas Tech 58
► Georgia Tech 55, DePaul 54
► Purdue 63, Oral Roberts 42

At The Galen Center, Los Angeles

► West Virginia 68, Texas A&M 50
► George Washington 76, Boise State 67

Sunday's results

► At The Peterson Events Center, Pittsburgh
Note: Dana 62, California 59
► North Carolina 95, Prairie View 48
Scott Verplank 67-73-70-72 - 282
Barry Brown 68-70-74 - 282
Grant Gossett 68-70-72 - 283
Henrik Stenson 67-72-72 - 283
Brand Snedeker 67-70-69-73 - 285
Chad Campbell 71-69-68-75 - 283
Evan Falek 67-70-76 - 283
Tiger Woods 68-70-69-76 - 283
Mark Calcavecchia 67-72-72 - 284
Robert Gomez 69-73-70-72 - 284
John Edgers 70-71-74 - 285
Robert Almerly 70-73-71 - 285
Jason Dufner 67-70-73 - 285
Stewart Kirk 70-69-69 - 285
Mark Wilson 68-71-71 - 286
Skip Kendall 72-68-73-73 - 286
Phil Mickelton 72-68-72-74 - 286
Jason Bohn 69-70-74 - 286
D.J. Taheri 70-68-73-75 - 286
Frank Lickliter II 67-74-73 - 287
Wally Tatum 71-72-73 - 287
Zach Johnson 71-72-73 - 287
Carl Peterson 69-73-70 - 288
Ryan Armour 71-70-77 - 288
Adam Laddley 72-70-71-71 - 288
Colin Montgomerie 70-73-72-72 - 288
Paul Goydos 70-75-73 - 288
72-69-74-73 - 288
Peter Lonard 68-71-74-75 - 288
Stuart Appleby 70-70-73-75 - 288
Brian Gay 68-70-73 - 289
Steve Elkington 70-73-73 - 289
Paul Azinger 73-65-76 - 289
Charles Warren 68-73-75 - 289
Brad Faxon 71-69-78-72 - 290
Cliff Kresge 69-70-76 - 290
Charles Howell III 71-72-76 - 290
Craig Kanada 69-70-73-78 - 290
Bob Estes 73-68-71-78 - 290
Camilo Villegas 67-70-73-78 - 291
Greg Van Sledright 67-70-73-78 - 291
Tim Herron 70-72-76 - 293
Heath Slocum 72-70-74-77 - 293
Richard S. Johnson 70-71-76 - 294
Brett Quiggley 72-72-79 - 294
Jay Simandle 68-75-79 - 294
Troy Matteson 70-73-77-75 - 295
Steve Fleck 68-72-78-81 - 296
Tom Johnson 71-69-73-78 - 297
John Mallinger 70-72-73-82 - 297
71-72-79-77 - 298
Mike Weir 70-72-79-77 - 298
Jeff Quinney 72-69-76-81 - 298

BASEBALL

SPRING TRAINING GLANCE AMERICAN LEAGUE

City	W	L	Pct
Cleveland	12	8	.667
Detroit	13	7	.650
New York	9	11	.447
Texas	11	6	.647
Los Angeles	9	8	.529
Baltimore	9	8	.529
Minnesota	10	9	.526
Oakland	9	9	.500
Boston	8	10	.444
Kansas City	8	11	.419
Chicago	8	12	.400
Toronto	6	10	.375
Seattle	6	11	.346
Tampa Bay	3	16	.158

NATIONAL LEAGUE

City	W	L	Pct
Cincinnati	13	4	.765
Arizona	12	6	.667
Los Angeles	13	7	.650
St. Louis	10	8	.556
San Diego	10	6	.625
Atlanta	9	9	.500
San Francisco	12	9	.571
Colorado	8	10	.444
Chicago	8	9	.471
Philadelphia	9	11	.450
Florida	9	11	.450
Pittsburgh	11	9	.549
San Diego	6	10	.375
Pittsburgh	6	12	.333
Washington	5	11	.312
New York	6	14	.300

NOTE: Split-squad games count in the standings; games against non-major league teams do not.

Sunday's results

Houston 4, Toronto 3
Florida 3, Washington 1
St. Louis 5, N.Y. Mets 4
Boston 2, Baltimore 1
Cleveland (so) 4, Chicago 5
Atlanta (so) 6, Cincinnati (so) 3
Minnesota (so) 4, Philadelphia (so) 3
Detroit (so) 6, Tampa Bay (so) 0
Tampa Bay (so) 5, Philadelphia (so) 4
N.Y. Yankees 8, Pittsburgh 1
Texas 12, Colorado 8
Seattle 8, Milwaukee 5
Oakland (so) 4, Arizona 5
Chicago White Sox 14, San Diego 7
L.A. Angels (so) 4, Chicago Cubs 0
Oakland (so) 6, L.A. Angels (so) 5
San Francisco 5, Kansas City 5

Houston vs. Florida at Jupiter, Fla., 7:05 a.m.

► N.Y. Yankees vs. Toronto at Dundas, Fla., 7:05 a.m.
► Cleveland vs. Atlanta at Kissimmee, Fla., 7:05 a.m.
► Cincinnati vs. Detroit at Lakeland, Fla., 7:05 a.m.
► L.A. Dodgers vs. Washington at Viera, Fla., 7:05 a.m.
► Pittsburgh vs. Philadelphia at Clearwater, Fla., 7:05 a.m.
► San Diego vs. Oakland at Phoenix, 10:05 a.m.
► Arizona vs. Seattle (so) at Peoria, Ariz., 10:05 a.m.
► Chicago Cubs (so) vs. Milwaukee at Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., 10:05 a.m.
► Seattle (so) vs. Chicago Cubs (so) at Mesa, Ariz., 10:05 a.m.
► Chicago White Sox vs. Kansas City at Surprise, Ariz., 10:05 a.m.

GOLF

Player	Score
Vijay Singh	70-68-67-67 - 272
Rocco Mediate	66-60-76-67 - 274
Boo Weekes	69-67-69-72 - 278