

MONDAY
Money

TUESDAY
Build the Change

WEDNESDAY
Sport

THURSDAY
Science

FRIDAY
Culture

THE DAY
Build a better world



NEWS DETECTIVES

TODAY'S BIG STORY

Alcaraz beats Djokovic in blockbuster battle

Is there a new king of tennis? Twenty-year-old Carlos Alcaraz knocked out reigning Wimbledon champ Novak Djokovic, who had seemed unbeatable, in an epic match.

Carlos Alcaraz fell to the floor in joy and disbelief. The crowd roared. He had done what no one had done on Wimbledon's **Centre Court** for a full decade. He had beaten Novak Djokovic.

The 20-year old Spaniard Alcaraz, currently ranked no.1 in the world, who played **blistering** tennis on his route to the final, finally beat his Serbian rival in the fifth **set**.

He had to fight back from what looked like a comfortable win for Djokovic in the first set. Alcaraz's nerves and the wind combined to give the **veteran** an easy time.



Second serving: Carlos Alcaraz has claimed his first Wimbledon title and second grand slam.

THE STORY SO FAR

Since the late 2000s, tennis has been dominated by the "big three", Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal, and Novak Djokovic. Alcaraz is the first younger player to beat one of them at Wimbledon.

There is a reason many players have described playing against the seven-time Wimbledon champion as like **volleying** against a "brick wall."

But Alcaraz fought back, winning the next set, digging deep and chasing the ball across the court to stay in the match.

Djokovic came back in the third set, showing that this would be a match **for the ages**. One single game lasted over 26 minutes!

It was an epic battle, and Djokovic even smashed his racket in frustration after the fourth set. But in the end, he accepted defeat with grace, tearing up as he thanked his family.

For years, Djokovic has defeated every possible opponent. An entire younger generation has failed to come out of his shadow.

Alcaraz's victory might **herald** a new era of tennis.

KEY WORDS

Centre Court:

Wimbledon's main tennis court

Blistering: Really forceful

Set: A men's tennis match has five sets

Veteran:
Experienced

Volleying: Hitting the ball back and forth

For the ages:
Very memorable

Game: Sets are divided into games

Herald:
Announce or signal



YOU DECIDE

Is there a new king of tennis?

YES. Alcaraz is just getting started. He has beaten the very best and he is only 20 years old!

NO. Djokovic has more in him. He almost beat Alcaraz this time, and he will not give up easily.



THE DETECTIVE ZONE

SPOT THE FAKE

One of these three news stories is fake.
Which one?

A surfboard-stealing otter is on the run

Record set for fastest 100-metres while on fire

Tennis player loses brick wall rematch

Roger Federer has won the most male Wimbledon titles, what did the Swiss tennis board award him when he won the first?



- A) A trophy
- B) £1,000
- C) A lifetime of chocolate
- D) A cow

TIME TO DESIGN!

Wimbledon has very strict rules about wearing an all-white tennis kit. Can you design a kit that would express your own style?

Step one:

Think about your design! Look at a tennis uniform. What do you like or not like about it? What colours or patterns would express your personality?

Step two:

Create your design!
Draw yourself wearing your new tennis kit.



Talking point

Is it possible to compare athletes across different sports, or is what they do too different?

Amaze someone

During the average tennis match, a player runs three miles.

Because of the wars in Serbia in the 1990s, Djokovic sometimes had to train in empty swimming pools rather than on courts.

THE EXTRA PAGE

Final for the ages

Over the past few years of men's tennis, as his great rivals have retreated from view, Novak Djokovic has spent his time destroying the hopes and dreams of nearly all younger challengers at the major tournaments. Not only has he continued to hold off the next generation, but he has relished his supremacy over them.

It has been clear for a long time, though, that Carlos Alcaraz is just different. Both in terms of his on-court talents and the supreme mental strength that underpins his success. A month after his body crumbled under the sheer tension of facing Djokovic at a major, Alcaraz recovered from a set deficit to perform at a remarkable level for five sets as he toppled Djokovic 1-6, 7-6 (8-6), 6-1, 3-6, 6-4 to win his first Wimbledon title.

It was a victory that took every ounce of self belief and determination from Alcaraz along with sustained shotmaking of the highest quality while performing at a level of intensity he has never experienced across best of five sets. The two best players in the world imposed relentless pressure on each other until the end, yet Alcaraz had the fortitude to see it out.



Unbroken: Djokovic missed a chance to equal Roger Federer's record for most Wimbledon wins.

Alcaraz's career was already clearly on a trajectory that few 20-year-olds have ever matched, yet the top seed's performance at Wimbledon has somehow outpaced all of the deafening hype. Having started the grass court season still unsure of his footing and how to produce his best tennis on the surface, he has blitzed the entire field, learning with every match as he has established a 12-match winning streak across Queen's and Wimbledon. Alcaraz is the first player to beat Djokovic on Centre Court in a full decade, since Andy Murray in the 2013 final.

At 20 years old, Alcaraz is the third youngest player to win the Wimbledon men's singles title, behind only Boris Becker and Bjorn Borg. His second grand slam title means he is the first new male player to win multiple major titles since Stan Wawrinka in 2015. By halting Djokovic's four-year dominance at Wimbledon, he has denied the Serb the chance of equalling Roger Federer's record of eight Wimbledon titles. ■

This is an edited version of a story from
© The Guardian [16/07/2023]

Read more on this topic



Tennis Shoes by
Noel Streatfield
Puffin



**Tennis term
at Trebizon** by
Anne Digby
Egmont

Answers to the puzzles

Roger Federer question

D) A cow

Spot the fake

Tennis player loses brick wall
rematch