

SPORT



Far reaching results: Andy Roddick reaches for a return during the match against Roger Federer at the Sony Ericsson Open tennis tournament in Key Biscayne, Florida.

Molik still has eye on third Olympic team placement

ATHENS bronze medallist Alicia Molik refuses to give up on making her third straight Australian Olympics team despite losing almost all hope of qualifying for Beijing.

Sidelined with a calf injury since the Australian Open in January, Molik has slipped to 116th in the world rankings - well outside the Olympic cut-off of 56 - and, barring a minor miracle, will need to snare one of eight international wildcards to book her ticket to China.

The 27-year-old former pin-up girl of Australian tennis will make her comeback at the WTA tournament starting in Florida on Monday, but will then find it nigh impossible to make up the rankings shortfall during the looming European claycourt season.

Molik accepts her fate likely is in the hands of the International Olympic Committee and tennis governing body, the ITF, who will issue wildcards in the middle weekend of Wimbledon in July. But she remains optimistic about adding Beijing to her Sydney 2000 and Athens 2004 experiences.

"Alicia's incredibly keen to go to the Olympics," Molik's manager Lisa Chaffey said.

"It has been a priority on her schedule for the past year or more.

"Athens was such a wonderful team experience and personal experience for her and Beijing is high on her agenda."

Roddick finally ends 11 game losing streak

ANDY Roddick ended a streak of 11 consecutive losses to Roger Federer yesterday at the Miami Masters.

Dominating with his serve, Roddick took advantage of Federer's suddenly shaky play in the final set to win 7-6 (7-4) 4-6 6-3 in the quarter-finals.

"I came in knowing that nobody has beaten me 12 times in a row," Roddick told the capacity crowd. "So I had that on my side."

In the women's semi-finals, Serena Williams overcame a slow start to outlast Svetlana Kuznetsova 3-6 7-5 6-3.

Williams needs one more win for her fifth Miami title and second in a row. "I haven't won anything five times, except I win all the time in



Roger Federer

Uno," Williams said, referring to the card game. "I don't think that counts."

Her opponent Saturday will be No.4 seed Jelena Jankovic, who beat No.19 Vera Zvonareva 6-1 6-4.

Jankovic made the final after just surviving her opening match, when she saved five match points.

Roddick improved to 2-15 against Federer, who came into the tournament hoping to quell talk that his

game is in decline. Slowed by mono-nucleosis early in the year, the top-ranked Federer has yet to reach a final in 2008, making this his worst start since 2000.

"I am just sort of disappointed not to see my name playing in the finals," Federer said. "I think I have the game to obviously be there."

Roddick's opponent in the semi-finals tonight will be No.4 Nikolay Davydenko.

F1 teams cautiously support concept of expanded schedule next season

MOST Formula One teams supported extending the schedule to 20 races next season yesterday.

There are 18 Grands Prix this season - up one from last year - and F1 chief executive Bernie Ecclestone wants more racing and less winter testing.

"I think 20 races is a big number but a sensible number," Red Bull chief principal Chris-

tian Horner said. "It's a huge logistical challenge, but the way the teams are working with each other to self-regulate testing, it is possible."

The United States GP was removed from the calendar in 2008. Valencia will host the European GP street race in August and Singapore hosts the first night race in September.

McLaren team boss Ron Dennis welcomed

expansion - but with caution. "I have two provisos: Firstly, that the season never expands to more than 20 grands prix, which I regard as a natural logistical limit. Secondly, that we preserve a closed season over the winter," Dennis said.

Meanwhile, Fernando Alonso hasn't quite closed the door on a potential move to Ferrari. Alonso left McLaren last season to sign a

two-year contract with Renault, but hinted at another change following an eighth-place showing at the Malaysian GP. Coupled with Felipe Massa's poor start to the campaign at Ferrari, the Spaniard seems a natural fit to move again.

"I signed for two years in Renault but as we saw last year, contracts are always very flexible," Alonso said.

Karters revved up for season start

CAIRNS Kart Racing Club competitors are revved up for their first home ground meeting of the season at the Cairns International Motor Speedway track tomorrow.

The wet season has hampered previous efforts to get the Cairns season under way but drivers have not let conditions dampen their spirits, showcasing their talents at other venues.

Chelsea Holman and Thomas Janusz will take hot form into tomorrow's meeting after starring performances at the Two Track Challenge in Rockhampton and Gladstone on the Easter long weekend.

Holman finished second in the junior national heavy class and third in the junior national lights while Janusz captured second place in clubman super heavy competition and fourth in the clubman heavy division.

Also in good shape going into tomorrow's event are junior Christian Clark and Aiden Wright who are both backing up from strong showings in Townsville last weekend.

Lydon Dodge put his recent Australian titles frustrations behind him by taking out the clubman light division honours in Townsville.

► Racing starts at 10am and spectators are welcome. Closed-in shoes must be worn for access to the pit area. The speedway is on Thompson Rd, Edmonton.

Bikes interest Raikkonen

FORMULA One world champion Kimi Raikkonen said yesterday he would like to follow his Ferrari predecessor Michael Schumacher in trying out a MotoGP bike.

Schumacher, the seven times world champion who retired at the end of 2006, took part in his first competitive motorcycle race in Italy at the weekend after previously trying out Ducati's MotoGP machine.

"I only saw some pictures but I don't know anything about it," Raikkonen said when asked if he saw Schumacher's race.

"For sure I want to try the MotoGP bikes once, but we'll see."

Schumacher, who finished fourth in his KTM minor series race at Misano on Sunday, was again testing a Ducati MotoGP bike at Mugello, Italy on Thursday.

are you ready?

If you want to work at sea you need to be qualified.
Enrol in an AMC MED 1 course and get ready to pull your weight.
Course: MED 1 Certificate IV in Transport & Distribution (Marine Engineering) TDM 40201
Location: Beauty Point, Tasmania
Start date: April 21, 2008
Duration: 6-7 weeks
Cost: \$955
More info: (03) 63354433, email h.bird@amc.edu.au
or visit www.amc.edu.au/seafaring.at.amc

306532ml

AMC
AUSTRALIAN MARINE COLLEGE