



Russian tennis players banned

On April 20, Wimbledon organizers banned Russian and Belarusian players from competing in the tournament. Wimbledon, which takes place in London, England, from June 27–July 10, is one of the four most important tennis tournaments of the year, which are known as the Grand Slam.

Wimbledon organizers said the decision is part of an effort to punish Russia for the war in Ukraine, which is now in its second month. Belarus, which borders both nations, was included because it is one of the few countries that support Russia. The ban prevents some of the top players in the world from competing. This includes the second-ranked men's player, Daniil Medvedev of Russia, and Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus, currently fourth in the world.

Reactions to the ban have been mixed. The world's top men's player, Novak Djokovic, spoke out against it. The Women's Tennis Association and the Association of Tennis Professionals said Russia and Belarus should be banned from team events but that players from those nations should be allowed to compete independently.



Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus



Emmanuel Macron after his victory

DID YOU KNOW?
Emmanuel Macron was the youngest president in France's history when he was elected in 2017 at age 39.

Macron wins second term in France

The final round of the French presidential election was held on Sunday, April 24. Current president Emmanuel Macron defeated Marine Le Pen, becoming the first French president to win a second term in office in 20 years.

Macron and Le Pen also faced each other in France's 2017 election, which Macron won with more than 66% of the vote. The vote was closer this year, with Macron winning about 58% of the vote. About 28% of people who could vote chose not to this year. That is the highest number of non-voters in a French election in more than 50 years.

Macron is an ally of the US and has supported Ukraine in its fight against Russia. In France, he has been criticized for his economic policies, which are seen by some people as favoring the wealthy. Le Pen has supported Russian president Vladimir

Putin but criticized his invasion of Ukraine. She is known for her strong opposition to immigration and Islam but attempted to focus more on economic issues during this campaign.

"Our country is full of so many divisions," Macron said in his victory speech. "I'm no longer the candidate of one camp but the president of all." US President Joe Biden congratulated Macron on his victory. "France is our oldest ally and a key partner in addressing global challenges," he said.

Next, elections will be held in June to decide the makeup of the French parliament (branch of government that makes laws, similar to the US Congress). The political parties of both Macron and Le Pen will compete in these elections. If Macron's party does not win a majority, experts say he will have a difficult time putting his policies in place.



IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

BUILDING BIG

A 13-year-old in North Carolina set a Guinness World Record for fastest time to build a Lego Titanic. Mike Wimmer has studied the history of the real ship, which sank in 1912. He built the 9,090-piece set in 10 hours, 46 minutes, 31 seconds.



Mike Wimmer

A HAPPY SIGHT

Spencer, a golden retriever known for cheering on runners at the Boston Marathon, was named the official dog of this year's race on April 18. Runners stop to take selfies with the therapy dog, who hasn't missed a race since 2015. "He's very, very special," said his owner.



Spencer

FLYING HIGH

A week before her 100th birthday, World War Two veteran Kate Orchard took to the skies to raise money for charity. Orchard, who served in the UK's Royal Air Force, flew with a pilot and also took the controls herself. She said she chose a charity that helps other veterans because "they sacrificed a lot for us."



Kate Orchard in the cockpit

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