

Shelton-Alcaraz US Open thriller ends at 3:33 a.m.

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
NEW YORK — The late-night action at the U.S. Open has now reached an extreme.

Ben Shelton’s five-set thriller to beat reigning champion Carlos Alcaraz in the quarterfinals ended at 3:33 a.m. Wednesday, leaving few people awake to see the 4 1/2-hour marathon reach its finale on one of the sport’s biggest stages. That only added to the list of early-morning finishes that had already stirred frustration and concerns about how organizers were managing the schedule at the Grand Slam event with numerous matches straying well past night-owl hours.

Players have long loved the electricity of playing night matches under the lights in the nation’s biggest city. But the tournament had already set a record with three post-2 a.m. finishes over the first six days, as well as having two other matches go past 1 a.m.

That had included Venus Williams being subjected to the latest start in U.S. Open history at 12:13 a.m., after it took 4 hours, 36 minutes for Novak Djokovic to get knocked out in the first round.

“It’s not ideal,” Williams said at the time.

Shelton himself had a four-set second-round win against Denis Shapovalov that ended at 2:07 a.m.

Then came Tuesday night — well, Wednesday morning.

Shelton, a 23-year-old from Atlanta seeded No. 8, earned a massive win in his young career to reach his third major semifinal by taking down the second-seeded Alcaraz 6-7 (5), 6-1, 6-3, 1-6, 7-6 (10-7). He closed the fifth-set tiebreak with a 146-mph ace and ended the reigning champion’s 18-match winning streak in Grand Slam tournaments.

It ended with Arthur Ashe Stadium perhaps one-third full at what became the latest-finishing match in U.S. Open history.

“We’re going to break the record,” TV announcer John McEnroe said. “It’s going to be the latest finish in U.S. Open history, and we are here to witness it.”

This one set up an all-American semifinal matchup with 11th-seeded Frances Tiafoe, with the U.S. guaranteed to have a representative in Sunday’s final as it seeks its first major men’s title since Andy Roddick won at Flushing Meadows in 2003.

About 5 1/2 hours after the match’s conclusion, the U.S. Open went to social media with a lighthearted nod to the late night, offering a fill-in-the-blank letter for fans to ask their bosses to be excused from work Wednesday.



Ben Shelton, of the United States, celebrates after winning against Carlos Alcaraz, of Spain, in the quarterfinal round of the U.S. Open tennis championships, Wednesday, in New York.

“We understand how important showing up is, but sometimes you have to make time for things you’re passionate about,” the post on X stated. “Carlos Alcaraz and Ben Shelton put on an absolute stellar performance during their US Open quarterfinal, and was a fully committed fan who was completely locked in from start to finish.”



Left: The clock reads 3:21 a.m. as Carlos Alcaraz, of Spain, plays in the fifth set against Ben Shelton, of the United States, during the quarterfinal round of the U.S. Open tennis championships, early Wednesday, in New York.

Adam Hunger — AP



Ebrahim Noroozi — AP

Caitlin Clark, of the United States, shoots during the Women’s Basketball World Cup match between the United States and Czechia in Berlin, Monday.

Clark’s experience at the women’s World Cup has been a ‘pinch-me moment’

BY DOUG FEINBERG
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

BERLIN — Caitlin Clark has been blown away by the enthusiasm from the international fan base turning out at the women’s FIBA World Cup and said the tournament is a fun respite from the “craziness” of the WNBA season.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Clark talked about her relationship with Angel Reese, how she has drawn inspiration from coach Mike Krzyzewski in pursuit of a team-first championship mindset and the growth of the international women’s game.

“I certainly do feel the pressure that there’s still so many people screaming my name. I look at it as we get to help advance the game globally,” Clark said. “This is my first time playing in Europe and getting to see how excited and passionate people are about the game here and where it can continue to go is really, really cool.

“It’s maybe nice to get a little break of the craziness of the WNBA season,” Clark added, “but at the same time, I would never change anything, and I’m pretty used to it.”

Clark has been the epicenter of the women’s game since leading Iowa to back-to-back NCAA championship games, one of which included a showdown with Reese. She also reiterated her feelings about her college rival, saying she appreciates Reese’s desire to win and her relentlessness on the court.

“We’re both fiery, fiery competitors and we want to win and it’s one of the things I really admire about her

game,” Clark said. “She’s competitive and she has a tremendous motor, like she has one of the best motors in the league. She works just as hard as anybody on the court. So, it’s been fun to be able to play with her.”

The glare on Clark in the WNBA has intensified with the Indiana Fever in contention to make a deep run in the playoffs now that she is healthy. At the World Cup fans are getting a preview of what they have clamored to see: Clark playing alongside some of the best players in the world.

The outcry was palpable when Clark was left off the US team that won the gold medal at the 2024 Paris Olympics.

“I think she’s going to leave an incredible legacy. She certainly already has at this World Cup in particular,” said Risa Isard, director of research and insights at women’s sports marketing platform Parity. “The legacy of this entire new and next generation of women’s basketball players is really exciting. I mean the ceiling kind of does not exist.”

While Clark is looking forward to 2028, her immediate challenge is helping the U.S. win a fifth straight World Cup title — which adds a tinge more pressure.

“You don’t want to be the team that everybody talks about because you didn’t win,” Clark said. “You want to do what’s expected and that’s to win a gold medal. I think it would certainly help and hopefully it’s just a step in the direction of where I want to keep building and hopefully the goals that I want to

achieve of hopefully playing in the Olympics in ‘28.”

CLARK’S FIRST INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE A ‘PINCH-ME MOMENT’

Women’s basketball’s popularity is growing internationally and Clark takes great pride in being part of the growth. Being in Berlin with the cadre of U.S. stars, Clark’s first experience has been somewhat eye-opening.

“When you get to see it up close and really understand the impact that you’re having and the way that the game’s been able to grow, that’s special,” Clark said.

The Fever All-Star said that a fan came up to her before the USA’s game against the Czech Republic and said that they traveled from Australia to watch her play.

“People are spending so much time and money, and people in surrounding European countries are coming here to be able to watch us, or get our signature or wear our jersey or try to get a photo. Sometimes you feel like that’s just the United States, but you’re coming to understand the game is really continuing to grow,” Clark said. “It is kind of a pinch-me moment to see.”

GARAGE SALE
YARD SALE
815 Triplett Street
(Wendell Foster's Young Building)
Yard Sale Thursday
September 10 2pm – 6pm
And Friday September 11
7am – 12pm
Proceeds go to Wendell Foster
Residents' Christmas and Birthday Fund

Browns CB Ward joins Kelce as investor in Cleveland Guardians

BY JOE REEDY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BEREA, Ohio — Denzel Ward is the latest Northeast Ohio native and NFL player to become a minority investor in the Cleveland Guardians.

The Guardians announced Wednesday morning that the Cleveland Browns cornerback has purchased a minority share in the franchise.

Ward bought a small share of David Blitzer’s 35% stake. Blitzer, the Guardians vice chairman, can become the controlling owner after the 2027 season or he can wait to exercise that option later. The Dolan family currently owns the majority stake.

“They (Blitzer’s group) worked with me throughout the entire process. I’m grateful that they brought me on and gave me a great opportunity,” Ward said before practice. “I’m a Cleveland kid and love Cleveland to death and just had the opportunity to continue to be a part of the Cleveland community in different ways.”

Ward joins Kansas City Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce as NFL players who have a piece of the Guardians. Kelce, a Cleveland Heights native, was announced in late May. He was slated to throw out the first pitch before the Guardians faced the Detroit Tigers on June 14, but the game was postponed due to rain.

The Guardians announced they will honor Ward during Tuesday’s game against the Chicago White Sox.

LEGAL NOTICE
Public Notice
Notice is hereby given that Kenneth Adamson of 915 Hensley Rd., Shepherdsville, KY 40165 has filed an application with the Energy and Environment Cabinet to construct a modular home. The property is located approximately at 85.74837° W, 37.98872° N.
Any comments or objections can be submitted via email to: DOWFloodplain@ky.gov Kentucky Division of Water, Floodplain Management Section, 300 Sower Blvd. Frankfort, KY 40601. Call 502-564-3410 with questions.



Carolyn Kaster — AP

Cleveland Browns cornerback Denzel Ward (21) arrives to warm up before a preseason NFL football game against the Buffalo Bills, Aug. 22, in Cleveland.

day’s game against the Chicago White Sox.

“Denzel Ward is a hometown hero on the field and off it,” Paul Dolan and Blitzer said in a joint statement. “His excellence, character and commitment to this community make him a perfect fit for our organization. We are proud to welcome him as a partner in the Guardians future.”

Ward signed a two-year extension in July worth \$62.2 million — including \$52.3 million guaranteed — that made him one of the NFL’s highest-paid defensive backs.

Ward grew up less than an hour from Cleveland in Macedonia and is the Browns’ longest-tenured player. The five-time Pro Bowl selection was the fourth overall pick in the 2018 NFL draft out of Ohio State.

Kelce and Ward have been at Guardians games together, but Ward said there was never any talk about possible ownership opportunities.

While the Browns have gone 8-26 the past two seasons since making the playoffs in 2023, the Guardians are looking to make MLB’s postseason for a third straight season. They hold the third wild card spot in the American League and are two games behind the White Sox, who lead the AL Central.

“You have thoughts just thinking about how you could grow in life and things to be a part of and stuff like that. I think once we started having talks and seeing that it was a real thing and how serious it was getting, I think it became more real over time,” Ward said.

LEGAL NOTICE
Public Notice
Notice is hereby given that S&S Earthscapes, LLC., 5940 State Route 2830 Owensboro, KY 42303, has filed an application with the Energy and Environment Cabinet to place fill within the floodplain of Yellow Creek. The property is located at 5940 State Route 2830 Owensboro, KY 42303, approximately 1,635 l.f. southwest of Hawes Blvd/State Route 2830 intersection. Any comments or objections shall be submitted via email to: DOWFloodplain@ky.gov and must be received by June 15, 2025. Kentucky Division of Water, Floodplain Management Section, 300 Sower Blvd. Frankfort, KY 40601. Call 502-564-3410 with questions.

LEGAL NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that James Andrew Baker of 8644 Sauer Lane, Owensboro, KY 42301, has filed an application with the Energy and Environment Cabinet to construct a 30X40 Pole Barn, slab on grade with flood vent. 12X40 Carport on side. The property is located approximately at -87.271185°W, 37.815602° N. The directions to site are Left off of 60 onto Oakford Road. Make a right off of Oakford onto 1554. Make a left off of 1554 onto Sauer Lane. House on the left in front of first bridge. Any comments or objections can be submitted via email to: DOWFloodplain@ky.gov Kentucky Division of Water, Floodplain Management Section, 300 Sower Blvd. Frankfort, KY 40601. Call 502-564-3410 with questions.