

THREE DAYS FOR FIRST DRAW OF NBK'S CAMPAIGN 'WIN 32 TRAVEL PACKAGES TO FIFA WORLD CUP BRAZIL'

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) will hold the first draw in its campaign "win 32 travel packages for two to the 2014 FIFA World Cup" on Tuesday 4th of March 2014. There will be 10 winners rewarded with travel packages for two to attend the games of the 2014 FIFA World Cup that will be held in Brazil.

NBK is the only official non-host retail banking partner of the 2014 FIFA World Cup in Kuwait, in association with Visa, the official FIFA partner.

In an exclusive campaign valid until 30 April, 2014, new and current NBK Visa Cardholders and customers transferring their salaries or student allowances to NBK still have a chance to win 32 travel packages for two to attend the games of one of the world's biggest

sporting extravaganza. Each travel package includes two match tickets, round trip airline tickets, hotel accommodation for four nights, and transfer service for both winner and guest.

NBK Visa Cardholders (prepaid, credit cards) will get one chance to enter the draw for every KD 20 spent locally using their NBK Visa Cards for all purchases during the promotion period. NBK Visa Cardholders (debit, prepaid and credit cards) can also triple their chances to win while spending overseas during traveling or on the internet.

All current and new NBK customers who have their salary transferred to NBK will be eligible to get 10 chances to win in each draw for every transfer, while

all current and new Al Shahab customers who transfer their student allowance to NBK will get 5 chances to win in each draw.

NBK and Visa Worldwide have once again partnered to bring the thrill and enthusiasm of the 2014 FIFA World Cup to Kuwait. NBK is privileged to be the first and only bank in Kuwait to reward its customers with this exclusive offer.

FIFA World Cup is one of the world's most popular sporting events. NBK hosted the 2014 FIFA World Cup (tm) Winner's Trophy on its first visit to Kuwait last April. NBK Credit Cards are accepted worldwide and are the safest, most convenient and rewarding way to pay.

MORE TO COME FROM ME, VOWS FEDERER

DUBAI: Roger Federer uttered the astounding revelation after reaching the semi-finals of the Dubai Open on Thursday that he could conceivably remain on tour for another decade.

The 32-year-old appeared to dismiss the idea when it was first put to him by the on-court interviewer, Chris Bradnam, but further questioning revealed that he did not rule out going on almost as long as Jimmy Connors.

The American was still performing at a high level on tour past the age of 40, back in the early 1990's.

In Dubai, the Swiss legend was presented with a fan's request that 'win or lose, please would you keep playing another ten years?'

"No problem with that - the question is whether it would be on the tour or not!" answered Federer light-heartedly. Then he became a little more serious. "Clearly the goal is to play as long as I can, and to enjoy myself," he said, knocking back critics' suggestions that he should quit when he no longer has a chance of winning another Grand Slam title, which may be quite soon.

"Playing is not a problem: the question is (whether it is) on the tour or not," he repeated, and then offered one important insight as to why it is no problem. "The family love it on tour," Federer emphasised, referring to his wife Mirka, a former tour player, and to his two twin daughters, Myla Rose and Charlene Riva. It was a remark which prompted him to a slight rethink.

Popularity

"So ten years, maybe," he concluded, only half smilingly. "Ask it again and we will see. Let's talk in ten years." Part of the enduring dynamic is that much of Federer's popularity is unrelated to just winning the biggest titles. It appears not to have waned at all, even though he slipped from top spot in the rankings 15 months ago to world number eight now.

He has won frequent accolades for sportsmanship and charitable works, and his public relations efforts are famously and modestly generous. He also enjoys promoting many of the ATP Tour tournaments, at whatever level.

But the biggest ingredient of his future is probably the welfare of his twin daughters, and on a separate occasion here this week Federer explained how well the lives of his two 4-year-olds appear to fit with his schedule on tour. "They're coming to matches from time to time," he said. "You depend on the stadiums, and some are easier and some are harder to come to. It's fun for them to come to the site sometimes, you know."

"They play a little bit of tennis themselves now. They can relate a little bit to what I am doing, and it's not a bad thing. "Yeah, it's enjoyable and I like it when they come to the courts, and I'm warming up and they're running around too."

"Then I come back after the matches, and they help me take my tape off and it's really cute. It's nice," he said.

These emotional vibrations are what the longevity of Federer's ATP Tour career - already 18 years, and perhaps capable of continuing till more records are broken - may hinge upon.

Connors did not officially retire until he was 44, thus playing on tour for 24 years, and reaching more Grand Slam quarter-finals (41) than any other male until Federer equalled it at this year's Australian Open.

The American eventually played 1,532 tournament matches and won 110 titles, which will take some beating, although Federer has already played 1,150 matches, and has won 77 titles.

His 302 weeks as world number one compares favourably to Connors' 268, and he has won many more Grand Slam titles (17) than Connors (8). —AFP



ACAPULCO: Spain's David Ferrer serves to South Africa's Kevin Anderson at the Mexican Tennis Open in Acapulco, Mexico, Thursday. —AP

MURRAY INTO SEMIS, FERRER RETIRES

ACAPULCO: Top-seeded David Ferrer withdrew from his Mexican Open quarter-final against South Africa's Kevin Anderson in the second set on Thursday due to a left thigh strain.

Ferrer's exit leaves Andy Murray as the big favorite to win the Mexican Open 500. The Scot overcame a poor start to beat Frenchmen Gilles Simon 1-6, 7-6 (4), 6-2.

"It's tough to win matches when you get down like that, I've been struggling with my service in the first two matches", said Murray, who will play against the winner of the match between Latvia's Ernests Gulbis and Bulgarian Grigor Dimitrov.

Murray has beaten Simon 12 straight times. Third-ranked Ferrer was leading 6-4, 2-2 when he suffered an inner thigh

strain in his left leg. After seeking treatment in the locker room, the Spaniard returned to the court but lost the next two points before retiring.

Ferrer said he will have scans on Friday and then assess his recovery. "I'm very sad because I was playing great", Ferrer said. "I still do not know the extent of the injury. "I'll have to wait and see before taking a determination. The day was going so well for me and then this happened". Anderson will next play Ukraine's Alexandr Dolgoplov, who defeated Ivo Karlovic of Croatia, 6-4, 7-6 (4). Anderson, who last week lost the Delray Beach final, will be playing in his first semifinals of an Open 500.

"It's unfortunate to win a match like this, but hopefully he gets better",

Anderson said after the match. "I talked to him and he said that it happened when he was trying to go for a ball and felt his leg tweak a little bit".

On the women's side of the tournament, top-seeded Dominika Cibulkova of Slovakia defeated New Zealand's Marina Erakovic 6-4, 7-5 to set up semifinal against China's Shuai Zhang.

Zhang, the eighth seed, ousted Ajla Tomljanovic of Croatia 6-1, 5-7, 6-2. Canada's Eugenie Bouchard suffered a surprise 3-6, 6-4, 6-1 loss to France's Caroline Garcia.

Garcia, 89th in the WTA rankings, will play in the semifinals against American Christina McHale, who defeated third-seeded Kai Kanepi from Estonia 6-1, 2-6, 6-4. —AP