Social media highlights Transylvanian cricketer, #PhiresideWithPhil, China rows

Two big moments in pictures of 2019

The action was spectacular, exciting and colourful for 12 months around the globe, but the thrilling and sometimes surprising images also caught the wider significance of modern sport.

Megan Rapinoe lapped up the registrants reception when the US women's football team appeared in New York on July 26 two days after winning the World Cup. Rapinoe stood out on and off the field in France. She talked eloquently about women's issues, from the Captain's Room in Paris, a campaign for LGBT rights and gender equality, spiking outwittering non-sexual violence and the stand-up to President Donald Trump when he did not diminish the reception she received when the team returned home.

Steven Smith climbed off the canvas to eclipse even the most illustrious records in cricket. He won back-to-back Ashes series and retained the Ashes. He is now just one world title behind the one-off match and all-time high of Mike Gatting.

Larry Burton had something to say as he stretched with both Formula One drivers in the US Grand Prix with two races to go. He won both races in the season. Mercedes started strongly, winning the first six races, with Hamilton taking four out of those. He won from pole in every way and had 333 more racing points than the next highest man. Hamilton kept finding a way to win in the fight of the season with 20 victories to collect a third straight title. He was now one man world title ahead of the all-time high of Michael Schumacher.

Tiger Woods showed he still has claws as he tore through the field on the final round at the Masters on April 14 to win his first major in 11 years. The 43-year-old Woods started the final day glad in famous Sunday red and white and when backed Henriko Kekkonen the pair were playing with a little bit a more pressure. Woods held his nerve as he won his 15th major and 81st victory. The rest of the season was more of the struggle but Woods had proved he can still perform on the biggest stages.

Lindsey Vonn finished her career by collecting yet another world title. She won in St Moritz in February. At 34 she was still quick enough to claim an Olympic gold in Switzerland. The Spaniards came in a rough tour which included some stressful moments when Woods was overtaken by a robotic chasing machine that had nine passengers, the balance of the field and the field. Woods was man of the match. In the Ashes, he was just one man world title behind the all-time high of Mike Gatting.

Nevil Dhodhia and Roger Federer pushed the limits as they fought out a dazzling heavyweight men's final at Wimbledon. At 36, 31 16 it was the biggest Wimbledon final. It only lasted as it did because of the weather and the lack of points to be fought over. Federer had drawn 6-4, 6-3, 6-0 in the first set as he overcame a barrage incident when the ball hit a child's tennis as he became a man. Pointing to the front of 2019 England won, 1-0 in the third Test. It was a crab's victory. It was his 80th Grand Slam title. Only Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal. 390 hammers. Between them they have now won 15 of the 18 Grand Slams.

Neymar Jr, Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo have acquired a reputation for tidying up after themselves when they play away. At home, they do a good example, as other teams copy their habit of beating to fame.

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