

AS Roma appointed Paulo Fonseca as new coach with the former Shakhtar Donetsk boss signing a two-year contract, the Italian Serie A club said on Tuesday.

Warriors edge Raptors to keep NBA title hopes alive



Kawhi Leonard (L) of the Toronto Raptors and DeMarcus Cousins (R) of the Golden State Warriors go up for a rebound during Game Five of the NBA Finals at Scotiabank Arena in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, on June 10, 2019.

Clutch three-pointers by Stephen Curry and Klay Thompson enabled the defending champions Golden State Warriors to edge Toronto 106-105 on Monday and sustain their hopes of winning a third consecutive NBA Finals.

But any joy from the victory was dimmed by a right Achilles injury to Kevin Durant only 12 minutes into his first game after being sidelined for a month by a right calf injury, AFP reported.

Curry scored 31 points while Thompson added 26 as the Warriors pulled within 3-2 in the best-of-seven championship series, forcing a sixth game Thursday at Oakland, California, with game seven if needed in Toronto on Sunday.

"Do or die," Curry said.

"It wasn't pretty in the second half but we just made the shots."

Durant's long-awaited return ended with the All-Star forward being helped off the court.

"You could kind of just feel the life just go right out of us," Warriors forward Draymond Green said.

"But to Steph's credit, he rallied the troops."

"He talked to everybody,

went around the huddle and just told everybody to stay locked in and do this for Kevin. And I think we did a good job of coming together."

Durant, the 2017 and 2018 NBA Finals Most Valuable Player, departed the arena on crutches but became an inspiration to his teammates.

"We do it for Kevin," Thompson said.

"He wants us to compete at the highest level and we'll think of him every time we step on the hardwood."

Durant breathed life into Golden State's title quest, Curry said.

"We understand the moment and I think we can rally, considering how the second half went," Curry said.

Durant, Golden State's top playoff scorer with 34.2 points a game, will have an MRI on Tuesday.

"On the one hand I'm so proud of them, just the amazing heart and grit they showed, and on the other I'm just devastated for Kevin," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said.

"So it's a bizarre feeling we all have right now, an incredible win and a horrible loss at the same time."

The Warriors seek their fourth title in five seasons while the Raptors suffered an agonizing near-miss in their bid for the first title in their 24-season history.

History remains on the Raptors' side. Only once in 34 prior situations has a team led the NBA Finals 3-1 and lost the title, that being in 2016 when LeBron James-led Cleveland rallied to defeat Golden State.

'Greatest' Warriors win

Needed a couple plays

Kawhi Leonard, who led Toronto with 26 points, sank a back-to-back three-pointer and jumper to give the Raptors, who trailed by 14 points in the third quarter, their largest lead at 103-97 with 3:28 remaining.

"In this day and age, up six with three minutes to go, doesn't mean a whole lot," Raptors coach Nick Nurse said.

"I felt good at that point. Just needed to make a couple more plays."

Golden State answered with Thompson and Curry sinking three-pointers and Thompson nailing another that put Golden State ahead to stay at 106-103 with 57 seconds to play.

Kyle Lowry cut the lead to

the final margin with 30 seconds remaining and, after Golden State's DeMarcus Cousins was whistled for a foul trying to set a screen, the Raptors had one last chance to swipe the title.

But the Warriors double-teamed Leonard and Green blocked a Lowry corner three-point shot at the buzzer.

"It has got to be the greatest," Green said when asked to compare the win to others in Golden State's history.

"Down six with a couple minutes to go in an elimination for these guys to win a championship, we could have thrown in the towel. We could have folded, but we didn't."

Durant had missed nine play-off games but he briefly made the Warriors look like the team that dominated the past two NBA Finals.

Disaster struck 2:14 into the second quarter when Durant planted his right foot and pulled up, then sat on the court and grabbed his leg. Durant was helped off the court, his dramatic comeback over far too soon.

Iran, South Korea share the spoils in Seoul

Sports Desk

Iran and South Korea played to a 1-1 draw in a friendly fixture at Seoul World Cup Stadium on Tuesday as the Iranians' undefeated run against their rival extended to six matches.

the space behind Iran's backline and chip the ball over Iranian keeper Alireza Beiranvand.

Marc Wilmots's men, however, had to wait only five minutes for an equalizer.

Ramin Rezaeian's corner from the right flank went off the leg

Both teams had the chance to break the deadlock earlier in the game.

Na Sang-ho's volley off a Lee Yong cross on the stroke of half-time hit Iran's crossbar before Iranian substitute Ahmad Nouroollahi's effort from outside the box



Iran's Mehdi Torabi (L) and South Korean Na Sang-ho are in action in a friendly match in Seoul, South Korea, on June 11, 2019.

Hwang Ui-jo put the host in front in the 58th minute after a moment of misjudgment from the Iranian defenders Milad Mohammadi and Morteza Pouraliganji saw the South Korean find

of South Korean defender Kim Young-gwon and past keeper Jo Hyun-woo into the net - denying the Iranian defenders Milad Mohammadi and Morteza Pouraliganji saw the South Korean find

was denied by the woodwork in the 55th minute.

It was Wilmots's second game in charge of Iran, after his side thrashed Syria 5-0 in the Iranian capital of Tehran last Thursday.

Aguero's return lifts Messi's hopes of Copa glory with Argentina

Lionel Messi has long craved a suitable strike partner so that he can win a major trophy with Argentina and the return of his friend Sergio Aguero has given the nation renewed hope of winning the Copa America.

Even though he is third on Argentina's list of all-time top scorers and has a prolific record with Manchester City, Aguero has started only 14 games in major tournaments since making his World Cup debut in 2010, Reuters reported.

But with Gonzalo Higuain retired, he is set to play a central role in Brazil.

Aguero played his part in memorable triumphs for his country at youth level, twice winning the under-20 World Cup as well as claiming an Olympic gold medal alongside Messi at the 2008 Beijing Games.

we all want. I put myself in his shoes and I want to do the best."

Just as Messi has been unable to replicate his glut of trophies with Barcelona on the international stage, Aguero also showed a desire to balance his considerable success at City with a prize with Argentina after winning a domestic treble.

in nine friendly games with the team.

He has picked a side largely lacking in experience but containing exciting young players such as Real Betis midfielder Giovanni Lo Celso and Inter Milan forward Lautaro Martinez.

Messi has admitted that unlike previous Copa America tournaments, his side is no



MARCOS BRINDICCI/REUTERS

But he is desperate to win a major international trophy, above all for Messi, who has lost four finals with the national team, missing out on the last two Copa America finals with painful penalty shootout defeats to Chile.

"I'm more excited about winning for Leo than for myself because he has played for so long and he has suffered so much," Aguero told Fox Sports.

"Whenever I talk with Leo, we always say 'Pray that one day it happens for us'. It's what he wants and it's what

"I'm feeling fit and I finished the season well. I have no injuries and I want to do the same for Argentina as I do with City," he added.

Argentina faces a daunting opening game in Group B against Colombia but should be confident of beating Paraguay and Qatar to progress to the quarterfinals.

Coach Lionel Scaloni is not the most glamorous of choices to succeed Jorge Sampaoli after their woeful World Cup campaign.

However, the former defender, who was an assistant to Sampaoli, has earned six wins

longer the favorite, but that should not affect the Argentines' ambition.

"We go there with the same excitement and hope as always but the reality is we are in a period of transition and are not candidates," Messi said.

"There are many new players with few games but we're going to try and win it as we always have done. A Copa America is so important, whether it's in Brazil or anywhere else. It's been a long time since Argentina won it."

Argentina won the last of its 14 Copa America titles in 1993.

Becker calls on young players to 'show up', start challenging for Grand Slams

Former world number one Boris Becker called on tennis players under the age of 28 to 'show up' and start challenging for Grand Slam titles.

With Nadal winning the French Open, the last 10 Slams have been won by either the 33-year-old, Novak Djokovic, 32, or Roger Federer, 37, BBC Sport reported.

Dominic Thiem, 25, is the only male player currently aged under 28 to have reached a Grand Slam final.

"That is not good," six-time Grand Slam champion Becker said.

"That is not a compliment for anybody under 28."

"And don't give me that the others are too good. We should question the quality and the attitude of everybody under 28. It just doesn't make sense. As much as I respect Roger, Rafa, Novak - who else? Show up. Give me something I want to talk about."

Austrian Thiem has reached



TONY O'BRIEN/REUTERS

two successive French Open finals and took a set from Nadal at Roland Garros on Sunday.

He defeated Djokovic in the semifinals, while Greek 20-year-old Stefanos Tsitsipas beat 20-time Grand Slam champion Federer at the Australian Open.

To date, Andy Murray, Stan Wawrinka, Marin Cilic and Juan Martin del Potro - all now over the age of 30 - are the only players other than Nadal, Djokovic and Federer to have

won a Grand Slam title since the Spaniard won at Roland Garros in 2005.

"Eventually they will be too old. But you want to see the passing of the torch while they are still in their prime," added Becker, who won Wimbledon at the age of 17.

"You want to see Stefanos and Dominic beating them when they are still very, very good."

"It's not the forehands. It's not the fitness. It's a certain

mentality, mindset, attitude that makes the difference between winning and losing."

Nadal, Djokovic and Federer have won 53 Grand Slam titles between them, and there have long been fears as to what will happen to tennis' popularity once they retire.

"There will be a dip. People have to get used to the new players," said Becker.

"There will be a 'wow' moment. 'Wow, we're not talking about Roger and Rafa any more'."

"But we said the same thing with [John] McEnroe and [Jimmy] Connors, [Andre] Agassi and [Pete] Sampras. Maybe myself and [Stefan] Edberg and [Mats] Wilander."

"Tennis will always continue with great new stars. But there will be a dip and then the spotlight will be on the young generation to say, 'Now, show up. Who are you? Are you good enough, can you carry the sport, or was it all a bluff?'"