

Iran Freestyle Wrestlers Win Veterans World Championships



Iranian Freestyle Wrestlers practice

BELGRADE (Tasnim) – Iran freestyle wrestling team claimed the title of the Veterans World Championships on Friday.

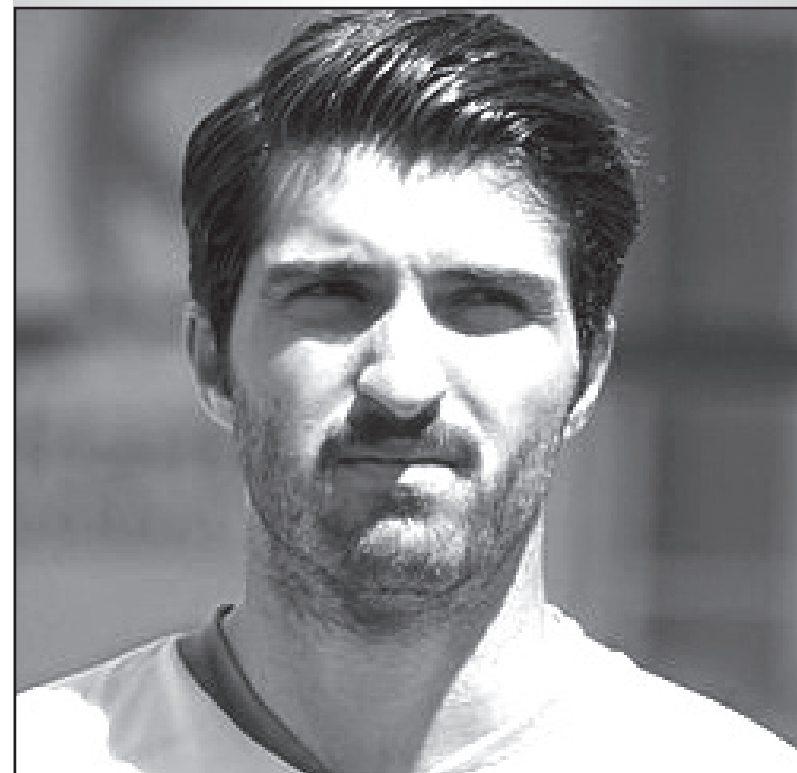
In the tournament, which was completed after three day, Iran won 27 total medals at the Veterans Worlds, including nine gold's, six silvers and 12 bronzes.

The Greco-Roman division is set for Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

In the 3rd World Veteran Wrestling Championship more than 700 athletes represent 50 countries, including Iran, Bulgaria, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Japan, Cuba, Poland, Serbia, Hungary, Turkey, US, Croatia, Belarus, India, Georgia, Italy, France and Germany.

The third edition of World Veteran Wrestling Championship opened in Belgrade on August 22, and will wrap up on August 31.

Osasuna Signs Iran's Karim Ansarifard



Karim Ansarifard

MADRID (Tasnim) - Pamplona based Segunda side, Osasuna, signed Iranian international Karim Ansarifard on Friday.

The 24-year-old striker has joined Osasuna on a two-year contract for an undisclosed fee.

Former Tractor Sazi front man has

been reunited with his countryman Javad Nekounam in Osasuna.

Reports in Spain over the last week had suggested that Ansarifard was due to seal a move to Real Zaragoza.

Karim Ansarifard was part of Iran football team in the 2014 World Cup.

Iran to Host a Stage World Chess Tournaments

Tehran (IRNA) – Iran will host a stage of tournaments of World Chess Federation (FIDE) for the first time during February 14-28, 2015.

The competitions will be organized in four stages, the first of which will be held in Baku, Azerbaijan Republic, the second in Tash-

kent, Uzbekistan, third in Tehran and the fourth in Moscow.

Baku will host the first stage during October 1-15, 2014, while the

second stage will be held in Tashkent during October 20-November 3. Moscow is to host the fourth stage during May 13-27.

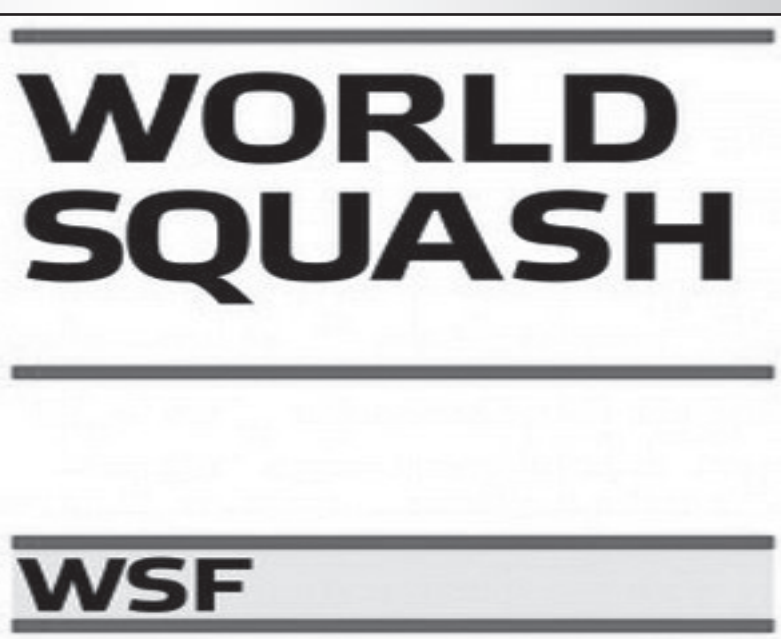
Squash Officials Refuse to Give Up On Their Olympic Dream

LAUSANNE (SCMP) - Squash hasn't given up hope of being included at the 2020 Olympics with top official Heather Deayton encouraged by IOC president Thomas Bach's moves to add flexibility to the sports programme for the Tokyo Games.

"We have not given up hope. In fact, we have our fingers crossed squash will still be played at the 2020 Olympics now the IOC is looking at ways to increase the medal sports, while reducing the number of disciplines in those existing sports," said Deayton, World Squash Federation vice-president.

Squash lost its bid to become an Olympic sport at last September's IOC general assembly in Buenos Aires when members voted to reinstate wrestling, which received a majority of 49 votes, followed by a joint bid by baseball and softball (24 votes) and squash (22).

But hopes have been renewed with Bach wanting to put in place a new road map for the Olympic movement and has received feedback from 14 working groups created to discuss his recommendations for Olympic Agenda 2020, his strategic blueprint for the future.



World Squash Federation Logo

The working groups comprised members from the IOC, athletes, and representatives from the international federations, national Olympic committees and outside experts. Apart from looking at ways to reduce costs of staging Games, these groups also looked at proposals to increase the number of sports

from the existing 28.

"We are very encouraged by this as we believe Bach wants more sports at the Olympics. The issue is he doesn't want to increase the number of athletes, keeping the cap at around 10,000 for the Summer Games, rather hoping to make room by reducing the number of

disciplines in other sports," said the Hong Kong-based Deayton.

Malaysian world number one Nicol David, who is chasing a 10th straight title at this week's Hong Kong Open, said: "I have heard there is still a chance squash will be played at the 2020 Olympics and if that is the case, I would love to be in it."

"I'm 31 now and if I take care of myself physically, I should be able to make it. It would be a dream come true to represent my country at the Olympics," David said.

Squash is played in more than 185 countries around the world with more than 70 countries registered on the men's and women's squash tours. It was recently voted as the world's healthiest sport by Forbes magazine.

The 14 working groups presented a broad outline of their findings to the IOC executive board in July. The proposals will now go to IOC commissions next month and the executive board in October. Final recommendations will be put to the full IOC at a special assembly in Monaco in December.

"We will know then if we still have a chance. I'm very hopeful," Deayton said.

Ronaldo Left Out of Portugal Squad

TEHRAN (FNA) - Portugal boss Paulo Bento left star man Cristiano Ronaldo out of his squad for the start of the country's Euro 2016 qualification campaign due to ongoing concerns over the forward's fitness.

The Real Madrid ace was plagued by thigh and knee problems at the tail end of last season and during this summer's World Cup in Brazil, but the 29-year-old played all 90 minutes of Monday's Liga opener against Cordoba, even netting in the dying seconds with a sensational long-range strike, Goal reported.

However, Bento has decided against calling upon the Ballon d'Or holder for the Group I clash with Albania on September 7.

Ronaldo admitted after being crowned Uefa's Best Player in Europe for last season in Monte Carlo on Thursday that he had pushed himself to the limit for Madrid last season, meaning he was not in peak physical condition for his country's World Cup campaign.



Cristiano Ronaldo

However, while the former Manchester United man will not feature in the Selecao's meeting with Albania next month, his Madrid colleagues Pepe and Fabio Coentrao have been including in Bento's 24-strong squad.

103-Year-Old Challenges World's Fastest Man

TOKYO (China Daily) - Closing in on his 104th birthday, a twinkling Japanese sprinter has thrown down the challenge to the world's fastest man, Usain Bolt, telling him: "Let's rumble!"

Hidekichi Miyazaki - who holds the 100m world record for centenarians at 29.83 seconds and is dubbed "Golden Bolt" after the Jamaican runner - plans to wait another five years for his dream race and was happy to reveal his secret weapon: his daughter's tangerine jam.

"I'd love to race Bolt," the wispy-haired Miyazaki told AFP in an interview after tottering over the line with a joyful whoop at a recent Japan Masters Athletics competition in Kyoto.

"I'm keeping the dream alive. I try to stay in top shape and stay disciplined and healthy. That's important for everyone - even Usain Bolt."

Born in 1910, Miyazaki offered some dietary tips to Bolt, whose world record is 9.58 seconds.

"My body is small, so I take care

of what I eat," said Miyazaki, who stands just 1.53 meters tall and weighs 42 kg.

"When I eat, I chew each mouthful 30 times before swallowing," he added, loosening his Usain Bolt running shoes. "That makes my tummy happy and helps my running. And I eat my tangerine jam every day."

In a country with one of the world's highest life expectancies, Miyazaki is the poster boy for Japan's turbocharged geriatrics.

About 6,000 pensioners are registered at the Masters federation, which hosts more than 40 track-and-field meetings every year across the nation.

Serenaded by buzzing cicadas in sweltering heat, Miyazaki fell into the arms of 73-year-old daughter Kiyono after clocking in at 38.35 - more than 20 seconds behind race winner Yoshio Kita, a relatively young 82.

"I'd give myself five out of 10 for that," he said after regaining his breath and copying Bolt's trademark "lightning

pose. "Before I ran, I curled up for a little nap - big mistake! I felt stiff."

"I'm still young so it's a learning

process," joked Miyazaki, grinning from ear to ear as he put on a straw hat. "I can run for another five years."



103-year-old Japanese sprinter Hidekichi Miyazaki (2nd left) runs during men's 100m dash at a Japan Masters Athletics competition in Kyoto on Aug 3. Miyazaki, who holds the 100 metres world record for centenarians at 29.83 seconds and is dubbed 'Golden Bolt' after the Jamaican flyer, plans to wait another five years for his dream race.

Basketball World Cup Has Record 45 NBA Players



James Harden of the Houston Rockets will lead Team USA in the FIBA World Cup, in Spain

BILBAO (Miami Herald) - -- The Basketball World Cup started Saturday with a record 45 current NBA players on the rosters of the 24 teams.

There were 75 players in the tournament who have played in the NBA, along with 17 more who have been drafted and whose rights are owned by NBA teams.

All 12 players on the U.S. roster

are on NBA teams. Host Spain is next with six current NBA players.

Only three teams in the tournament have no players who have either played or been drafted by NBA clubs. Cleveland and Houston both have a league-high four players in the field.

The previous record was 44 active NBA players in the 2010 tournament.