

Ali Moradi Elected as President of Iran Weightlifting Federation



Ali Moradi

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Ali Moradi has been elected as the president of Iran’s Weightlifting Federation on Monday.

In the presidential elections of the weightlifting federation held at the Iran’s Academy Olympic, Moradi secured 24 of the 37 votes available, followed by Ahmad Sa’adatmand with 8 votes

and Koroush Bagheri with five votes.

Moradi will remain in the post until 2019.

“Right now, we should improve infrastructure across the country. We will organize technical committee as soon as possible to make the best decision on our weightlifting teams,” Moradi told reporters.

Iran’s Sourian Honored by Bulgarian Wrestling Federation



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SOFIA (IRNA) – President of Bulgarian Wrestling Federation Valentin Yordanov honored Iranian wrestling world champion Hamid Sourian at the end of Dan Kolov and Nikola Petrov International Tournament.

Yordanov, also the Bulgarian wrestling legend, presented gifts to Sourian who is a six-time world champion and won the gold medal in the 55-kg Greco-Roman competition at the 2012 Summer Olympics.

Dan Kolov and Nikola Petrov International Tournament began in Sofia, Bulgaria on April 24 and wound up on April 26.

Wrestlers from 26 countries participated in the event.

In the competitions, Afshin Biabangard and Habibollah Akhlaqi won gold medals in 71- and 85-kg weight categories respectively for Iran in Greco-Roman wrestling, while Omid Norouzi and Mostafa Salehizadeh received bronze medals in 66- and 98-kg weight classes.

In Freestyle wrestling, Reza Atri and Yadollah Mohebi clinched silver medals in 57- and 125-kg weight categories and Ali-Asghar Jebeli grabbed another bronze medal for Iran in 65-kg weight class.

Sourian refused to finish his game against Ivo Angelov from Bulgaria as he believes the referee’s decisions were not correct.

Alireza Jahanbaksh Nominated for Jupiler League Best Player Award

AMSTERDAM (Persian League) – Iranian international and NEC Nijmegen winger Alireza Jahanbaksh has been nominated for the Best Player Award in the 2014-2015 season of the Dutch second tier league (Jupiler League).

Jahanbaksh who signed a three-year contract with NEC in summer of 2013, has scored 19 goals and provided 24 assists in 64 appearances for the club so far.

The 21-year old winger has also won 15 caps for his country including three World Cup matches against Nigeria, Bosnia and Argentina in Brazil last summer.

Jahanbaksh’s coach in NEC Ruud Brood has also nominated for the



Alireza Jahanbaksh

best coach award. He has led his team to the title and promotion to the first division (Eredivisie) six weeks before the end of the season. The 2015 award ceremony will

take place on Tuesday May 12th at the Sparta stadium Castle in Rotterdam. The top scorer and the talent of the year will also announce in the ceremony.

The nominations are as the following:

- Player of the year
 1. Alireza Jahanbaksh (NEC)
 2. Vincent Janssen (Almere City FC)
 3. Joey Slegers (FC Eindhoven)
 4. To be announced
- Talent of the year
 1. Dean Koolhof (De Graafschap)
 2. Vincent Janssen (Almere City FC)
 3. Branco van den Boomen (FC Eindhoven)
 4. To be announced
- Coach of the year
 1. Jean-Paul de Jong (FC Eindhoven)
 2. Fred Grim (Almere City FC)
 3. Ruud Brood (NEC)
 4. To be announced

Iran Wins Title of 2015 Asian Kurash Championships



Iran’s national men Kurash team

BEIRUT (FNA) – Iran’s national men Kurash team won the title of the 2015 Asian Championships in Lebanon.

The Iranian team grabbed 7 gold medals to become champion for the first time on Sunday.

Lebanon and Turkmenistan ranked second and third respectively following Iran.

In the meantime, Iran’s national women team ranked second in the championships.

The Iranian women clinched 2 gold, 4 silver and a bronze medal to rank second after Turkmenistan.

Lebanon, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Iraq, Syria, India and Iran participated in the tournament.

Barca Guarding Against Complacency in La Liga Title Push

MADRID (AFP) – Barcelona coach Luis Enrique has stressed his side won’t take their eye off the ball despite having a comfortable run-in to the end of the La Liga season as they chase a fifth title in seven years.

A 2-0 win over local rivals Espanyol on Saturday ensured Barca maintained a two-point lead over Real Madrid at the top of the table with just five games remaining.

However, whilst Real have to face Champions League-chasing Sevilla and Valencia in the coming weeks, four of Barca’s last five games come against sides in the bottom half of the table, starting with the visit of Getafe on Tuesday.

“Whether the run-in is easier or not is in theory, but you need to show that on the field,” said Enrique.

“Who would have thought we would take one point from two games against Malaga? We will continue to approach all the games until the end of the season in the same way.

“I don’t see why the players are going to change now. I am not worried that they will get complacent, the professionals are the ones most aware of how difficult it is to beat any opponent.”

Goals from Neymar and Lionel Messi at the weekend took Barca’s star front trio of the Brazilian, Argentine and Luis Suarez to within three of a century of goals for the season.

And they could easily reach the 100 mark against a Getafe side that has picked up just one point in three games since putting a healthy distance between themselves and the relegation zone.

Thomas Vermaelen could even make his Barca debut nine months after signing from Arsenal as he was given the medical all-clear from a hamstring injury for the first time this season on Sunday.

The Belgian’s return means Enrique has a fully-fit squad to choose

from and is likely to make a number of changes with one eye already on next week’s Champions League semi-final against Pep Guardiola’s Bayern Munich.

Madrid kept the pressure on Barca as they came from behind to win 4-2 at Celta Vigo on Sunday in a hugely entertaining game.

Los Blancos would win the title should they win all five remaining games and Barca drop any points thanks to their better head-to-head record with the league leaders.

“At the moment we are not thinking about other teams, but about what we have to do,” said Madrid boss Carlo Ancelotti.

“If we win all five games we force Barca to win all of their games, so that is the objective for us.”

Ancelotti will have to do without the suspended Sergio Ramos and Dani Carvajal for the visit of relegation-threatened Almeria to the Santiago Bernabeu on Wednesday.

The Italian will also be without Karim Benzema and Gareth Bale in attack through injury, although the Welshman is hopeful of returning for the weekend visit to Sevilla.

Atletico Madrid can move a step closer to sealing third place and an automatic return to the Champions League next season when they travel to the out of sorts Villarreal.

Villarreal are the only side to have beaten Atletico at the Vicente Calderon in La Liga this season, but haven’t won in nine games in all competitions.

Sevilla and Valencia will also be confident of victory in their battle for fourth place as they visit Eibar and Rayo Vallecano respectively.

At the bottom, Cordoba need to beat Levante to maintain any realistic hope of avoiding the drop after just one year back in the top-flight, whilst Elche can move closer to survival when they host Deportivo la Coruna.

Iran Remains Sixth Among World Futsal Teams

TEHRAN (IRNA) – Based on the latest rankings of world’s futsal teams, Iran’s national futsal team continues to remain on the sixth place.

Iran grabbed 1,611 points to remain in the sixth place among world teams and gained the top spot among Asian teams.

In 2015, Iran has received four straight victories against Croatia and Slovenia.

In the ranking of Asian teams, Japan, Thailand, Uzbekistan and Australia placed second to fifth respectively following Iran.

Spain with 1922, Brazil with 1910 and Russia with 1910 points are the first three world futsal teams, according to the ranking.

Iran’s Kia Academy to Participate in Cordial Cup

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Iran’s Kia Academy will take part in the 18th international Cordial Cup.

The U-11 tournament will take place in the Kitzbueheler Alps from May 22nd to 25th.

The Iranian team has been drawn with Bayern Munich and the teams from Finland and Austria in the event.

The team is coached by Mehdi Mahdavia, who played for VfL Bochum, Hamburger SV and Eintracht Frankfurt and Hamburg SV from the 1998 to 2010.

Bowyer and Stewart Looking For Good Runs At Richmond

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) – Clint Bowyer is having a terrible year. Tony Stewart, too.

The veteran drivers have struggled through most of the first eight races this year before breakthrough performances last weekend at Bristol. Neither driver believes they’ve turned a corner, but both believe they can be competitive Saturday night at Richmond International Raceway.

Why? Because the current NASCAR rules package both are struggling with doesn’t necessarily dictate their fate at Richmond, another short track where driver ability can still

trump aerodynamics, horsepower and ill-handling race cars.

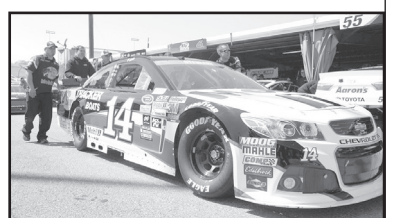
Bowyer was on pace for his second top-10 finish last week before he was caught in a late accident; Stewart was sixth, his first top-10 finish this season.

“It just seems like this package that we keep migrating to with our sport, it just kind of keeps painting you in a corner of you are only as good as your equipment,” Bowyer said Friday at Richmond. “It’s too bad because the only differential right now is when you get to some short tracks, it’s still kind of old-school, get up on the wheel and make some stuff happen.”

Bowyer has been slumping this season with a Michael Waltrip Racing team that is admittedly behind the competition. Stewart, though, has been relegated to the middle of the pack as teammates Kevin Harvick and Kurt Busch have had some of the strongest cars each week.

Stewart, a three-time champion, is simply struggling with the rules package.

“Part of this year, for me, is trying to get caught back up and to get back up to speed with the change in the rules package and the engine package,” he said. “I’m used to driving really high-horse powered cars and when they took the horsepower away from us, that’s something that was differ-



The pit crew for NASCAR Sprint Cup Series driver Tony Stewart (14) push his car to the inspection station at Richmond International Raceway in Richmond, Va., Friday, April 24, 2015.

ent for me. It’s a matter of me changing my driving style to compensate for what the rules package is.”