

Iran Wins World U-16 Chess Olympiad 2016



Iran scoops gold at World Youth Chess Olympiad

TEHRAN (MNA) – Iran's national cadet chess team have won the title of 2016 Worlds U-16 Chess Olympiad by defeating Romanian rivals in the final round.

In a tough final round encounter, the Iranian squad brought Romania to their knees in order to land on top of the podium at the international event held in Slovakia.

The Iranian outfit at the tournament comprises Alireza Firuzja and Arash Tabbaz who both came victorious in the concluding showdown as well as Parham Maghsoudloo whose last match ended in a tie.

Accordingly, the Persian side overcame Romania 2.5-1.5 to become the World Youth Olympiad champions for the second consecutive year.

Having attracted 261 chess players from 40 countries, the World Youth U16 Chess Olympiad 2016 was competed in Poprad of Slovakia from July 21st to July 30.

Conducted under the auspices of Federation Internationale des Echecs (FIDE), the tournament ran on a 9 round Swiss system and each match between teams was held over 4 boards.

Iran Beats Japan at William Jones Basketball Cup

TEHRAN (Tasnim) - Iran national basketball team defeated Japan 73-65 in the penultimate match of the 38th William Jones Cup on Saturday.

Defending champion Iran will play India in its last match on Sunday.

Iran started the tournament with a 73-61 win over Chinese Taipei B and defeated United States Sacramento State Hornets 70-59 and Egypt 74-65 respectively.

Afterward, Iran suffered three successive losses to South Korea (67-50), Chinese Taipei A (66-63) and Mighty Sports (80-73).

The competition started on July 23 at the Sinjhuang Gymnasium in New Taipei City and will run until July 31.

The Iranian team is preparing for the 2016 FIBA Asia Challenge which is an international basketball tournament.

FIBA Asia will be hosted by Tehran, Iran, from September 9 to 18.

This tournament will serve as the first step in determining the process of the qualifiers for the 2017 FIBA Asia Cup which will feature teams from both FIBA Asia and FIBA Oceania for the first time.

Argentina Olympic Team Robbed at Mexico Hotel

PUEBLA (DAWN) - Argentina's Olympic football team charged Friday that cash and electronics were stolen from players' hotel rooms while they were playing a friendly in Mexico.

Argentina Football Association (AFA) vice president Claudio Tapia said the theft took place when Mexico and the South American team played to a 0-0 draw in the central

city of Puebla on Thursday night.

Tapia said the team would stay at the Camino Real hotel until the players are compensated.

It was the last preparation game before both countries compete in the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, which start next Friday.

"When we returned at 11:40 pm and went up to the rooms, we realized that they had been robbed,"

Tapia said, without specifying how much money was taken.

"You know what's the strangest thing? It's that they have verified and know who is the thief from the (security) cameras, so they are protecting the thief," he said.

The football official voiced frustration at the various statements the team had to give to the authorities, saying that the paperwork was a

"total lack of respect."

"We won't leave the country as long as this is not resolved," Tapia said.

He added that the players needed a notarized document, either from the insurance company or Mexico's football federation, saying that they will get what they are owed.

Hotel officials could not be reached for comment.

Neymar to Lead Brazil in Rio Games



Brazil's Neymar during a training session before their international friendly soccer match against Japan.

GIOANIA (thehindu) - Barcelona forward Neymar will captain Brazil at the Rio 2016 Olympic football tournament, the team's head coach said on Friday.

The 24-year-old has led Brazil's senior national team for the past two years but there was speculation he might be stripped of the skipper's armband in Rio.

Brazil coach Rogerio Micalé said Neymar had "exceeded his expectations" after meeting him for the first time this week.

"In relation to the captain, it's going to be Neymar," Micalé told a press conference in Gioania on Friday.

"He has exceeded my expectations in relation to his quality. He changes direction so quickly. In one-on-one he is in a different world. Within the group he is loved by everybody. A

good guy, with a big heart in relation to his teammates, especially the younger ones."

Neymar has been widely lambasted in Brazil for regularly posting images of himself partying and posing with other celebrities on social media.

His recent performances for Brazil have also been questioned, having received five red cards for ill-discipline in the past 18 months.

Neymar is one of three players over the age of 23 in Brazil's squad, as per International Olympic Committee rules. The others are Beijing Guoan midfielder Renato Augusto and Palmeiras goalkeeper Fernando Prass.

Brazil, who are bidding for their first Olympic football gold medal, will fine-tune their tournament preparations with a friendly against Japan in Goiania.

Schweinsteiger Calls Time on Germany Career

BERLIN (FIFA) - Bastian Schweinsteiger has notified coach Joachim Low that he no longer wishes to be considered for future selection in the German national team. Germany's captain made a total of 120 appearances for the reigning world champions.

"Jogi Low knew how much EURO 2016 in France meant to me," said the 31-year-old Manchester United midfielder. "I desperately wanted to win this title as we haven't been able to bring the trophy back to Germany since 1996, but it wasn't to be and I have to accept that. [But] in winning the World Cup in 2014, we achieved something historic, and something very emotional that will never again be repeated in my career. Therefore the right and sensible thing to do is to hang up my boots and wish the team the very best in qualifying for the World Cup in 2018."

Schweinsteiger joined FC Bayern Munich at the age of 13, graduating to the first team in 2002 and making his senior debut in the UEFA Champions League in November of that year. With the Bavarians he won more Bundesliga titles (eight) and DFB Cups (seven) than any other player, while he also lifted the 2013 UEFA Champions League, the UEFA Super Cup and FIFA Club World Cup. In the summer of 2015 he transferred to Manchester United, where he helped the club win its first FA Cup since 2004.

A star of the 'summer fairy tale' The Kolbermoor native's first taste of international action came shortly before UEFA EURO 2004 in a 2-0

home defeat to Hungary. He impressed enough to be named in the final tournament squad in Portugal, where he featured in all three group games. Two years later, when Germany hosted the FIFA World Cup™, he was then one of the national team's leading figures and played a starring role in Germany's 'summer fairy tale', despite still being used as a right-sided midfielder.

He started all but one of Germany's seven games, coming on as a substitute in the semi-final as eventual champions Italy beat the hosts in extra time. In the third-place play-off against Portugal, Schweinsteiger netted twice and set up Petit's own goal in the 3-1 victory, feats that earned him the official Man of the Match award.

By now one of the first names on the Germany team sheet, Schweinsteiger endured further near misses at EURO 2008 (lost in the final to Spain) and EURO 2012 (lost again in the semi-final to Italy). Yet it was on the biggest stage of all that he delivered his greatest performances for his country. Moved into central midfield by then-Bayern coach Lois van Gaal at the start of the 2009/10 season, he developed into one of the world's best defensive midfielders and a truly world-class player for both club and country.

Ahead of the 2010 FIFA World Cup South Africa, the potential of Germany's young and relatively inexperienced squad was hard to gauge. However, with Schweinsteiger as its anchor, the team lit up the tournament with some breath-taking football, culmi-



Bastian Schweinsteiger

nating in hugely impressive victories against England (4-1) and Argentina (4-0). Nevertheless, Spain once again proved too good for Die Nationalmannschaft, knocking them out in the last four (1-0).

Zenith in Rio As he mentioned in his retirement statement, Schweinsteiger would finally achieve the high point of his career at international level four years later. A more mature and well-rounded outfit by the beginning of the 2014 World Cup Brazil, Germany stormed into the final thanks to one of the most significant results in footballing history: a 7-1 hammering of the hosts in the semi-final.

Against Argentina, Low's men were then inspired by one of Schweinsteiger's single greatest career performances, eventually prevailing 1-0 in extra time and securing a fourth FIFA

World Cup. Following the tournament, Schweinsteiger took over the captaincy from Philipp Lahm and helped his country qualify for EURO 2016, where he scored the last of his 24 international goals against Ukraine and won his 120th and final cap in the 2-0 semi-final defeat to host nation France.

Schweinsteiger retires as Germany's fourth-most capped player, behind Lothar Matthaus (150), Miroslav Klose (137) and his long-time national team colleague Lukas Podolski (129). In qualifying action for Russia 2018, Germany will be shorn of a true leader as they take on Czech Republic, Northern Ireland, Norway, Azerbaijan and San Marino in Group C. Moreover, Low must now appoint a new captain to lead the team out at the FIFA Confederations Cup in Russia in summer 2017. Schweinsteiger's retirement may leave a big hole indeed.

Djokovic Advances, Raonic Falls in Toronto Quarterfinals

TORONTO (AP) -- Milos Raonic couldn't hide his disappointment.

The fourth-seeded Canadian used the word repeatedly when answering questions after a 6-4, 6-4 loss to France's Gael Monfils on Friday night in the Rogers Cup quarterfinals.

"Disappointment is the right word," Raonic said. "In tennis, unless you're the guy winning the tournament's most of the weeks, which there's very few guys that are doing that, you're losing quite a bit. So it's very important to make the most of those, try to learn, try to be better from those situations. That's my next objective."

The 10th-seeded Monfils will face top-ranked Novak Djokovic on Saturday at York University's Aviva Centre. Djokovic beat fifth-seeded Tomas Berdych of the Czech Republic 7-6 (6), 6-4.

"He's playing great tennis at the moment," said Djokovic, 11-0 against Monfils. "He won Washington. He's been playing more or less every day for the last couple of weeks. He's feeling confident on the court."

In the other quarterfinals, second-seeded Stan Wawrinka of Switzerland topped South Africa's Kevin Anderson 6-1, 6-3, and third-seeded Kei Nishikori of Japan beat Bulgar-

ia's Grigor Dimitrov 6-3, 3-6, 6-2.

Raonic had the crowd's full support, with the chair umpire repeatedly having to ask the fans to quiet down. Even still, fans would call out "Let's go Milos!" or chant MI-LOS RAO-NIC clap, clap, clap-clap-clap after every game and most points. The boisterous crowd helped Monfils as well, though. He said before the match that he always loves a packed stadium, even if the fans aren't supporting him.

"I play Davis Cup outside (of France)," Monfils said. "It's the same feeling, you know, either way. I think I'm a guy always pumped up. Any energy, I take it. Even if it's for

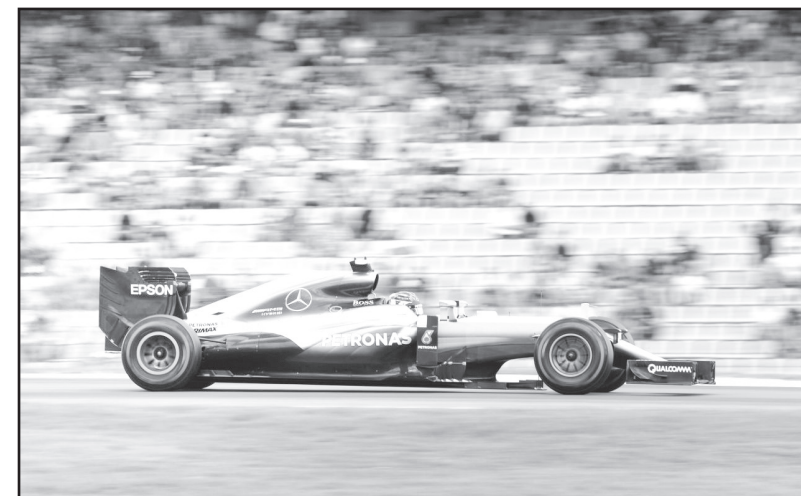
me or not for me, I take it."

Raonic lost the Wimbledon final to Andy Murray this year after becoming the first Canadian man to make the finals of a Grand Slam tournament. No Canadian man has won the Rogers Cup - previously the Canadian Open - since Robert Bedard in 1958.

Djokovic beat the fifth-seeded Berdych for the 12th straight time and is 25-2 against the Czech player. The 29-year-old Serb won the event that rotates between Toronto and Montreal in 2007, 2011 and 2012.

Djokovic has six victories this year, two in Grand Slam events at the Australian and French opens.

Formula One - Rosberg Tops Final Practice From Hamilton



Mercedes AMG Petronas F1 Team's German driver Nico Rosberg rides ahead of the Formula One Grand Prix of Germany at the Hockenheim circuit, southern Germany,

BERLIN (AFP) - Nico Rosberg topped the third and final free practice ahead of Mercedes team-mate Lewis Hamilton by just 0.057 seconds to complete a clean sweep of all three sessions ahead of this weekend's German Grand Prix. The 31-year-old German produced a best lap of one minute and 15.738 seconds

on a dry, warm and sunlit morning at Hockenheim where the two Mercedes men continued their domination. Hamilton's session was upset by an investigation into an 'unsafe release' when he came out of the pits ahead of Frenchman Romain Grosjean, who had to stop his Haas to allow the defending champion out.