

# Iran Defeat China in FIVB World Championship Qualifier



*This photo shows a view of the match between the Iran men's national volleyball team (players in dark blue) and China at the Asian section of the 2018 FIVB Volleyball Men's World Championship qualification in Hossein Rezazadeh Hall, Ardabil, northwestern Iran, on August 12, 2017.*

TEHRAN (Press TV) - The Iran men's national volleyball team has defeated China in straight sets at the Asian section of the 2018 FIVB Volleyball Men's World Championship qualification.

The Iranian squad registered its

second resounding Pool A win of the competitions at Hossein Rezazadeh Hall in the northwestern Iranian city of Ardabil on Saturday evening, when it brushed aside the Chinese set 3-0 (25-21, 29-27 and 25-20).

Milad Ebadipour was the leading

scorer for Iran with 14 points, while Farhad Ghaemi and Amir Ghafour collected 11 and 10 points respectively.

"I offer my congratulations to the people of Ardabil on this victory as they cheered enthusiastically

for their team during the match. The spectators' thunderous ovation distracted our players in some cases, and they failed to get points as a result," Iran head coach Igor Kolaković said after the match.

He added, "We could overcome China in a much simpler manner; nevertheless China is a strong team and its fine performance disallowed us to accomplish such an objective."

The Iran men's national volleyball team will play Kazakhstan on Sunday.

The Asian section of the 2018 FIVB Volleyball Men's World Championship qualification acts as qualifiers for the 2018 FIVB Volleyball Men's World Championship, which is to be held in Italy and Bulgaria.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is in Pool A with China, Kazakhstan, Qatar and South Korea.

Australia, Chinese Taipei, Japan, New Zealand and Thailand were in Pool B. Japan and Australia have already booked their place in the the 2018 FIVB Volleyball Men's World Championship as the top two finishers of the pool.

## Champions Chelsea Beaten at Home in First Game

LONDON (Reuters) - Premier League champions Chelsea suffered an embarrassing home defeat on the first Saturday of the new season, having two men sent off as unfancied Burnley beat them 3-2 at Stamford Bridge.

Antonio Conte's disjointed side struggled from the early stages when captain Gary Cahill was dismissed for a lunging tackle and they found themselves three-nil down at halftime to a team who gained only seven points away from home all last season.

Wales international Sam Vokes scored two of the goals and Stephen Ward the other. New signing Alvaro Morata from Real Madrid came on to pull one back midway through the second half and then provided an assist for David Luiz, but in-between midfielder Cesc Fabregas was also sent off for a second yellow card.

It was a dispiriting afternoon for Conte, who won the title in

his first season at the club but has complained that Chelsea have not signed enough new players while allowing several to leave.

Liverpool manager Juergen Klopp protested that Watford's stoppage-time equalizer by Manuel Britos in an entertaining 3-3 draw should have been disallowed for offside.

Britos was standing almost on the line before nudging in the loose ball after Simon Mignolet pushed it onto the bar.

After the opening game of the season on Friday produced seven goals and a late winner for Arsenal, who beat Leicester City 4-3, the two teams at Vicarage Road served up more of the same entertainment for a worldwide television audience — including some poor defending.

The home side, under new manager Marco Silva, led twice through Stefano Okaka and Abdoulaye Doucoure but Sadio Mane and Roberto Firmino, with



*Sam Vokes scored twice as Burnley stunned defending champions Chelsea 3-2 at Stamford Bridge on Saturday.*

a penalty, both equalised.

Debutant Mohamed Salah seemed to have won the points for the visitors before Britos's dramatic late intervention. Promoted Huddersfield Town, playing in the top flight for the first time since 1972 and widely tipped for relegation, cruised to a 3-0 win away to Crystal Palace.

Record signing Steve Mounie, the Benin striker from Montpellier who cost 13 million euros (\$15.36 million), scored once in each half after Palace's Joel Ward put through his own goal. Wayne Rooney scored on his return to Everton from Manchester United to give the Merseysiders a 1-0 victory at home to Stoke City.

## Federer Advances to ATP Montreal Masters Final

MONTREAL (AFP) - Swiss Roger Federer has turned in a precision performance at the ATP Montreal tennis, using thundering serves and clever backhands to defeat unseeded Robin Haase for a spot in the final.

The 36-year-old Federer blasted nine aces and lost just nine points on his serve as he extended his match win streak to 16 -- his longest win streak in five years.

He raised his game to another level when it mattered most, beating Netherlands Robin Haase 6-3, 7-6 (7/5) in just 75 minutes.

"I'm very excited to be back in the finals," Federer said. "A bit surprising, to be quite honest,



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because I hadn't practiced much."

Federer has taken more time off this year than usual. He skipped the clay-court season from April to mid-June.

The 19-time Grand Slam winner Federer is seeking his 27th Masters 1000 title and his third Canadian Masters crown after wins in 2004 and 2006.

Haase, who hit 17 winners, made a late charge and forced a second-set tiebreak before Federer stymied the challenge to win the match.

Zverev, 20, will have a much tougher time against the skilled veteran Federer than he did in beating Shapovalov.

## Pain No Gain as Bolt, Farah Farewell Party Falls Flat



*Jamaica's Usain Bolt goes down after pulling up injured in the final of the men's 4x100m relay at the 2017 IAAF World Championships at the London Stadium in London on August 12, 2017*

LONDON (AFP) - Athletics legends Usain Bolt and Mo Farah have experienced some of their greatest moments in their careers at the 2012 Olympics in London but five years on and back in the same stadium, misery replaced joy.

Bolt, who won the individual 100 and 200m and the 4x100m relay in London in 2012, collapsed to the track injured anchoring the Jamaica 4x100 meters relay team.

Jamaican team doctor Dr Kevin Jones said Bolt had suffered from "cramp in his left hamstring".

"But a lot of pain is from disappointment from losing the race," Jones said.

"The last three weeks have been hard for him, you know. We hope for the best for him."

The organizers brought on a wheelchair but Bolt shrugged them aside and he limped across the line, grimacing.

Jamaica's 110m hurdles champion Omar McLeod and relay team-mate said nothing had changed with regard to the reputation of Bolt.

"Usain Bolt's name will always live on," he said.

Briton Farah, who had won the first of his four global double doubles of 5,000m and 10,000m to deafening cheers in London in 2012, put up a spirited and courageous effort but for the first time in six years of global championship competition he had to settle for silver behind Muktar Edris of Ethiopia.

Farah, who started the championships in grand style by winning the 10,000m, had been left

by Edris as the bell went and as hard as he tried he just didn't quite have the legs to pass his younger rival in the finishing straight.

"It's been amazing. It's been a long journey but it's been incredible," said Farah who was embraced by his fans as he made his way around the stadium on a lap of honor, stopping to sign autographs and pose for 'selfies'.

The despair and disappointment of Bolt and Farah was in stark contrast to another hero from 2012 -- Australia's 100m hurdling great Sally Pearson.

Bolt's dramatic failure to medal permitted American great Allyson Felix to sit on top of the overall career world medals table with 15 after she was part of the women's 4x100m relay gold-winning team.

The Americans had to fight hard to edge out the British team but in Bolt's relay it was the reverse as the host nation pulled off an impressive but shock win over the United States -- for whom 100m world champion two-time drugs cheat Justin Gatlin was booed by large sections of the stadium as he had been in the 100m even after he won the gold.

Elsewhere there was a gold for Russian Maria Lasitskene, competing as a neutral, who defended the women's high jump title and extended her winning streak to 25.

It was the first gold for Russian athletes competing at the championships but whose federation are still banned due to the doping scandal that affected all sports in the country.

## Race Walker Diniz Becomes Oldest World Champion at 39



*Yohann Diniz*

LONDON (Reuters) - Yohann Diniz produced an astonishing solo tour de force to become the oldest man ever to become a world athletics champion at the age of 39 as he won the 50 kilometer walk title on Sunday.

The French world record holder, one of the great figures of race walking, produced the second fastest walk in history, 3 hours 33 minutes 12 seconds — a time only he has bettered — with one of the performances of the entire World Championships.

Diniz was so dominant en route to his long-awaited first global title that

he lapped nearly all the 43-strong field over the 2km looped circuit on The Mall, finishing less than a minute adrift of his three-year-old world record of 3:32:33.

He was even able to take a swift comfort break when leading in the first 15 minutes before rejoining the race and destroying his opponents over the 25 laps between Admiralty Arch and Buckingham Palace.

A great showman, father of two Diniz was even able to smile and wave to the crowds lining the course well before the finish as he landed a third gold of the championships for France.

## Marquez Romps to Austrian GP Pole

VIENNA (AFP) - World champion Marc Marquez on a Honda has stormed to pole position for Austrian Grand Prix ahead of Ducati pair Andrea Dovizioso and Jorge Lorenzo.

Having won the last two GPs, three-time world champion Marquez

has a 14-point lead in the standings over Maverick Vinales, who was fourth on Saturday with his Yamaha teammate Valentino Rossi seventh.

It is a third straight pole for Marquez who posted a time of 1min 23.235sec to beat Dovizioso by

0.144sec for the 42nd pole of his 70-race career.

Marquez, 24, has taken control of the Moto GP season after struggles earlier in the season had left him fourth following June's Dutch GP, behind Vinales, Dovizioso and

Rossi.

Despite claiming back-to-back wins in Germany and the Czech Republic, the Spaniard was only fifth in Austria 12 months ago in a race where Ducati went 1-2 thanks to Andrea Iannone and Dovizioso.