

Iran Thrash Mexico in FIVB U19 World Championship

TEHRAN (Press TV) - Junior Iranian volleyball players have celebrated their second win at the 2017 Fédération Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB) Volleyball Boys' U19 World Championship in Bahrain, downing the Mexican squad.

The Iran national under-19 volleyball team blanked Mexico 3-0 (25-19, 25-12, 25-18) in a Pool D encounter of the tournament at Isa City Sports Hall on Sunday.

"It was a good match for us with each one playing good volleyball on court. We have prepared for this championship with a good combination of training, recovery and mental conditioning. We are ready for any match in this tournament," Iran's coach



The photo shows a view of the match between the Iran national under-19 volleyball team (players in red) and Mexico at the 2017 FIVB Volleyball Boys' U19 World Championship in Bahrain on August 20, 2017.

Reza Vakili Farjad said.

Iran's captain Amirhossein Efsandiar said, "This is an important victory for us. If we

played slow and if we relaxed, the result could have been different. Before we started the match, we knew we needed to

be strong against a good team like Mexico. As captain, my team-mates need to see me as a strong leader. I want to win every match."

The 2017 FIVB Volleyball Boys' U19 World Championship started in Bahrain on August 18, and will wrap up on August 27.

Iran is in Pool D with China, the Czech Republic, Italy and Mexico.

Pool A consists of Bahrain, Egypt, Puerto Rico, Tunisia and the United States. Brazil, Cuba, France, Japan and Poland form Pool B.

Argentina, Chile, South Korea, Russia and Turkey are pitted against each other in Pool C.

Neymar Slams Barcelona Bosses After PSG Home Debut

PARIS (AFP) - Paris Saint-Germain's world record signing Neymar launched a scathing attack on his former club's directors, saying "Barca deserve much better".

The people in charge at the Catalan giants "are not the people who should be there, for the direction of Barca," Neymar told reporters af-

ter scoring twice on his home debut as PSG thumped Toulouse 6-2 in Ligue 1 on Sunday.

"I want to speak the truth, I'm very sad with them," said the Brazilian star who cost the Paris club a world record 222 million euros (\$261 million) to price from Barcelona. "I spent four years there and

I was very happy. At the start, I was happy. I spent four beautiful years there and I parted happy. But with them (the club's directors), no.

Despite securing the massive fee for Neymar, Barcelona are struggling to replace him before the transfer window closes.

"I cannot speak now I am in

another team. I don't know what's going on there, but I see my old teammates sad, and it's that which makes me sad because I have a lot of friends there," he said.

However, former Tottenham flop Paulinho's arrival has not been warmly received by Barca fanatical supporters at the Camp Nou.

Lampaert Wins Second Stage, Takes Vuelta Lead



Quick-Step Floors team's Yves Lampaert (R) celebrates as he crosses the finish line to win the second stage of "La Vuelta" Tour of Spain on August 20, 2017.

GRUISSAN (France) (AFP) - Belgian Yves Lampaert has won the second stage of the Vuelta a Espana and took the overall lead of the race with a late attack on

the 203.4km ride from Nimes to Gruissan.

Lampaert won from teammate Matteo Trentin in a time of 4hr 36min 13sec as Quick-Step Floors

caught the peloton napping with two kilometers to go with Britain's Adam Blythe in third.

Splits in the peloton meant the overall contenders were distanced as Vincenzo Nibali clawed back some of the 22 seconds he lost to Tour de France champion Chris Froome on the opening stage team time trial.

The 10-second time bonus on offer to stage winners moved Lampaert to the top of the general classification standings, a second ahead of Trentin with Italian Daniel Oss third.

With nine summit finishes to come, the flat route in southern France was supposed to offer a rare chance for sprinters to shine, but strong crosswinds made the peloton susceptible to attacks.

Quick-Step took advantage with a three-pronged attack three kilometres from the line, opening up the gap Lampaert needed for his first Grand Tour stage win.

Nibali finished in the lead group with Froome eight seconds back alongside 2015 Vuelta winner Fabio Aru and Adam Yates.

However, Alberto Contador lost a further five seconds on Froome in his final race before retirement to fall 31 seconds back on the four-time Tour de France winner.

Froome is aiming to become just the third rider to ever win the Tour and Vuelta in the same year.

The Briton is ninth in the overall standings, 21 seconds behind Lampaert.

Greek Federation Accuses Bucks of Staging Player's Absence

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Greece's basketball federation has accused the Milwaukee Bucks and the NBA of hatching a plan to prevent All-Star forward Giannis Antetokounmpo from playing in the European championship.

The NBA denied the allegation.

The saga started Saturday about an hour after Antetokounmpo posted on Facebook and Instagram that he was unavailable because of a knee injury, with the Greek federation attacking the Bucks and the NBA in a statement, describing an "organized and well-staged plan" to keep Antetokounmpo from playing in the Eurobasket at the end of the month.

"The simultaneous report by the Milwaukee Bucks and Giannis Antetokounmpo himself, by phone and social media from faraway China, and not by the appropriate official manner, of his inability to join the national men's team saddens us ... but is not

surprising," the federation said in the statement.

"A series of indications ... had convinced us of the existence of an organized and well-staged plan by (Antetokounmpo's NBA) team, with the full knowledge if not encouragement of the NBA that put the athlete on the spot and forced him to announce today that he is no longer part of the men's national team."

However, the NBA countered Saturday night with a statement saying Antetokounmpo is indeed hurt.

"The NBA and the Milwaukee Bucks have followed all appropriate protocol under the NBA-FIBA agreement," the NBA said in a statement released to The Associated Press. "Giannis has an injury that has been confirmed through multiple examinations and any suggestion to the contrary is false."

The Greek federation said more details would soon become known. Takis Tzagro-



FILE - In this file photo dated Thursday, April 27, 2017, Milwaukee Bucks' Giannis Antetokounmpo runs with the ball during the second half of Game 6 of an NBA first-round playoff series basketball game in Milwaukee, USA.

nis, the federation general secretary, told state TV ERT that a scan revealed no problems with Antetokounmpo's knee.

Australia Defeat Iran to Claim Asian Cup Basketball Title



Iran national basketball team lost to Australia 79-56 in the FIBA Asia Cup 2017 final match on Sunday.

BEIRUT (Dispatches) - Australia defeated Iran 79-56 to claim the championship of the FIBA Asia Cup basketball tournament on August 20 in Beirut.

It was the first appearance for Australia in the tournament, while Iran is a three-time champion. Iran's Hamed Haddadi was voted the most valuable player of the tournament. He scored 18

points in the final, while Arsalan Kazemi had nine points and 10 rebounds.

Iran made the finals by defeating South Korea 81-78 in the seminal match on August 19.

Kazakhstan lost all three of its tournament games, to New Zealand, Korea, and Lebanon.

Iraq beat Qatar but lost to the Philippines, China, and Jordan.

Dimitrov Downs Kyrgios for Biggest Career Crown

CINCINNATI (AFP) - Grigor Dimitrov captured his seventh and biggest career title Sunday, defeating Australia's Nick Kyrgios 6-3, 7-5 to win the ATP Cincinnati Masters and boost his confidence for the U.S. Open.

The 11th-ranked Bulgarian never dropped a set in taking the top prize of \$954,225 and his first Masters title, a perfect stepping stone into the year's last Grand Slam event that begins a week from Monday.

"In the big picture, it means a lot to me,"

Dimitrov said. "I'm pretty confident after that win. This is what I've been practicing for. It's my biggest win so far.

In the highest-level ATP final ever contested between two players born in the 1990s, Dimitrov collected his tour-best 24th hardcourt match victory of the year and third title of 2017 after Brisbane and Sofia.

Kyrgios, who ousted Monday's new world number one Rafael Nadal in the quarter-finals, has not won an ATP title since taking his third last year in Tokyo.

Pacquiao Vs. Horn Rematch Confirmed for Brisbane



CANBERRA (Reuters) - Filipino boxer Manny Pacquiao's rematch with Australian Jeff Horn has been confirmed for Brisbane later this year, the city's mayor said on Monday.

Brisbane Lord Mayor Graham Quirk had earlier threatened to pull funding without confirmation from the Pacquiao camp but said he had been reassured at a meeting with promoters on Monday.

"I have had a meeting earlier

today which has confirmed that Manny Pacquiao will definitely be in Brisbane this year for a rematch with Jeff Horn," Quirk told local media.

The fight is expected to be held in November at the same Lang Park stadium where a packed crowd of 50,000 saw former schoolteacher Horn upset Pacquiao for the WBO welterweight belt in an unanimous 12-round decision last month.

Formula One Launches eSports World Championship

LONDON (Reuters) - Formula One will crown its first virtual world champion at the season-ending Abu Dhabi Grand Prix after announcing on Monday the launch of an eSports series to run from September to November.

The new eSports Series is a partnership with Formula One, game developer Codemasters and events and competitions specialists Gfinity.

The series will be in three stages, starting with qualification events through September to determine the 40 quickest virtual drivers, and run on PlayStation4, Xbox One and Windows PC platforms.

Live semi-finals will be held at London's Gfinity Arena on Oct. 10-11 with the top 20 going on to the three-race finals at Abu Dhabi's Yas Marina circuit on Nov. 24-25.