

Iran U-23 Defeat Chinese Taipei at Asian Volleyball Championship



TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Iran U-23 volleyball team defeated Chinese Taipei in its last group stage match of the 2017 Asian Men's Volleyball Championship on Wednesday.

The Iranian team, who had defeated Iraq and Pakistan in Pool B, swept past Chinese Taipei 25-23, 30-28, 25-21 in the third match. Iran will play China on Thursday in Pool F. The 2017 Asian Men's Volleyball Championship is the 19th edition of the Asian Men's Volleyball Championship, the biennial international men's volleyball championship of Asia organized by the Asian Volleyball Confederation (AVC). The event is being held in Surabaya, Indonesia from 24 July to 1 August 2017. It will be the second time that the Indonesia hosts the tournament after the 2007 Asian Championship.

A total 16 national teams are divided into four groups of four teams.

Iranian Woman Swims Into Guinness Record Book

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Iranian female swimmer Elham Sadat Asghari has managed to swim her way into the Guinness Book of World Records.

The 36-year-old Iranian sports-woman recently completed the challenge of swimming handcuffed for more than three hours non-stop in the Persian Gulf waters off the coast of the southwestern port city of Bushehr, located 1,050 kilometers (652 miles) south of the capital Tehran.

She received her Guinness World Record Certificate during a ceremony in Tehran a few days ago.

"I went through a great deal of trouble and difficulties to establish this record. Patriotism and my friends' unwavering support, however, encouraged me to be the first Iranian woman to secure a spot in the Guinness Book of World Records," Asghari told media.

The Iranian female swimmer added that she is fully prepared to set five new records, but needs sponsors.

The Iranian Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs recognized Asghari's 12-kilometer swim for her usage of the full-body swimming outfit in 2008.

The ministry, however, refused to approve her alleged 20-kilometers swimming record in the Caspian Sea in northern Iran in June 2013.

"What she has done is a personal act without coordinating with the Iran Amateur Swimming Federation (IASF) and the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs," Reza Habibi, a member of the technical committee at IASF, said at the time.

He added that the Fédération Internationale de Natation (FINA) only acknowledges swims of 5, 10, 15 and 25 kilometers.

Swimming World Records Continue to Tumble in Hungary

BUDAPEST (Reuters) - World records continued to fall at the world championships as the United States quartet in the mixed 4x100 meters medley relay lowered the mark in blistering fashion on Wednesday.

Four world records were set on Tuesday and fast racing was plainly evident the morning as the U.S. team of Ryan Murphy, Kevin Cordes, Kelsi Worrell and Mallory Comerford posted three minutes 40.28 seconds ahead of the final later on Wednesday.

The U.S. time smashed the mark set by Britain at the 2015 championships in Kazan, Russia by 1.43 seconds as they qualified nearly four seconds ahead of the field.

The mixed medley relay was added to the world championships two years ago and in June the



International Olympic Committee put the event into the Tokyo 2020 Games program.

"It's one of the most exciting races to watch," said Murphy, who led off in the backstroke.

Comerford led the quartet home

in the mixed gender event and Murphy said the Olympic addition was "exciting for the sport".

Australia's Oceania record time saw them qualify in second, with world champions Britain posting the fourth best time.

Elsewhere, Japan's Kosuke Hagino began his bid to become the first non-American winner of the men's 200m individual medley since 2001 with an authoritative display in the heats.

Michael Phelps and Ryan Lochte dominated the event from 2003 but Olympic silver medalist Hagino is clearly intent on upgrading his 2013 world silver after opening with a time of one minute 56.46 seconds.

China's domination in the women's 50m backstroke continued when current champion Fu Yuanhui clocked a swift 27.21 seconds to lead qualifying.

Local favorite Katinka Hosszu of Hungary also produced an efficient swim in the women's 200m butterfly to head into the semi-finals as leading qualifier.

Brain Disease 'Hits 99% of NFL Players'



The donated brains of college and high school players were also studied.

LONDON (Dispatches) - A study of American football players' brains has found that 99% of professional NFL athletes tested had a disease associated with head injuries.

The report published on Tuesday in the Journal of the American Medical Association studied 202 deceased players - 111 of them from the NFL.

All but one former National Football League player were found to have chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE).

The study is the largest of its kind yet conducted, its authors say.

Dr Ann McKee, director of Boston University's CTE Center, which led the study, cautioned against drawing any immediate conclusions.

"There's a tremendous selection bias," she said, explaining how

many of the brains were donated specifically by families who had suspected that their loved ones were suffering from CTE, which researchers believe is caused by repeated blows to the head.

The neurodegenerative brain disease CTE is typically found in people who have suffered repeated blows to the head, studies have found.

All 202 players studied - ranging in age from 23 to 89 - were required to have football as their primary exposure to head trauma.

Of the 202 total players, 87% were found to have traces of CTE.

It was also found in 48 of 53 college players and three of the 14 high school players.

Players featured in the study came from every position on the field, and from high school, university, and Canadian leagues, in addition to the NFL.

Novak Djokovic Out for Season With Elbow Injury



Novak Djokovic receives medical attention on court at Wimbledon

SERBIA (AFP) - Twelve-time Grand Slam champion Novak Djokovic will miss the rest of the season with an elbow injury, he announced on Wednesday.

The Serbian was forced to retire from his Wimbledon quarter-final against Tomas Berdych earlier this month because of the problem, and will now sit out of next month's U.S. Open.

In a live Facebook video post from Belgrade, the former world number one said that after suffering from the injury for a year-and-a-half, "I have made a decision to not play any competition, any tournaments" for the rest of 2017.

"Unfortunately this is the decision

that had to be made at this moment. Wimbledon was probably the toughest tournament for me in terms of feeling the pain that has escalated," he said.

Between mid-January 2015 and June 2016, Djokovic won 17 of his 22 finals played in 24 tournaments. It seemed nothing could interrupt his dominance of world tennis.

But since winning the French Open last year to complete his Career Grand Slam, he has failed to claim another major title.

He crashed out of the Australian Open in the second round and the French Open in the quarter-finals.

Warriors Finalize Signings of Curry, Durant and Others

Washington (The Sports Xchange) - The Golden State Warriors announced they have re-signed free agents Stephen Curry, Kevin Durant, Andre Iguodala, Shaun Livingston, Zaza Pachulia and David West, making official what had been reported over the past several weeks.

The Warriors did not disclose details of the agreements, but the terms were reported by various media outlets.

Curry agreed to a five-year,

\$201 million super-max deal shortly after the NBA's free agency period began.

Durant agreed to a two-year deal worth approximately \$53 million.

Iguodala reached agreement on a three-year, \$48 million contract, Pachulia agreed to a one-year, \$3.5 million contract, Livingston signed a three-year \$24 million deal, and West signed a one-year contract.

Hamilton Can Equal Pole Record, Take F1 Lead in Hungary

BUDAPEST (Reuters) - If all goes to plan for Lewis Hamilton in Hungary this weekend, the Mercedes driver will equal one of Michael Schumacher's all-time records and head into Formula One's summer break as sole leader of the championship.

Hamilton remains a long way off Schumacher's record 91 race wins but Saturday's qualifying at the Hungaroring could see him equal the great German's hitherto unmatched 68 pole positions.

A 58th career win for the Briton, and sixth at the circuit outside Budapest, on Sunday would send the triple world champion off on vacation with at least a six-point advantage over Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel.

Four-times champion Vettel has led since winning the Australian season-opener in March, jointly with Hamilton after China, but the German arrives in Hungary only a point clear after 10 of 20 races.

Hamilton, beaten by now-retired team mate Nico Rosberg to the 2016 title, but winner in Hungary, has not led the championship on his own since last September but has the momentum after a crushing home victory at Silverstone.

Mehdizadeh Wins Silver at 2017 World Games

TEHRAN (Tasnim) - Iranian Karate fighter Amir Mehdizadeh has seized a silver medal at the 2017 World Games in Wroclaw, Poland.

Firdosi Farzaliyev from the Azerbaijan Republic prevailed in the men's 60kg category after he overcame Mehdizadeh in the final.

Bronze went to Spaniard Matias Gomez Garcia after he beat Brazilian Douglas Brose.

Iran's speed climber Reza Alipour won the country's first gold medal in The World Games history on Sunday.

The World Games, first held in 1981, are an international multi-sport event, meant for sports, or disciplines or events within a sport, that are not contested in the Olympic Games.