

Iran Wrestlers Pocket 3 Medals in Medved 2017



Iranian freestyle wrestler Ahmad Bazri (R) claims victory at the International Grand Prix Tournament Medved 2017 in the Belarusian capital.

MINSK (Dispatches) – Iranian freestyle wrestlers have featured praiseworthy performances at the International Grand Prix Tournament Medved 2017 in Belarus, and bagged three medals at the international tournament.

Ahmad Bazri overcame two representatives from the host nation in his first two contests of the 86-kilogram weight class at the Palace of Sports of the Belarusian capital city of Minsk.

He, however, conceded a de-

feat from Russian opponent Zaur Yurevich Makiev in the semi-final round.

Bazri bested a Ukrainian freestyle wrestler in his next bout, and advanced to the repechage round.

He defeated a contestant from

Russia and took away the bronze medal.

Earlier, Mohammad Mottaqi had picked up a silver medal for the Iranian team in the 74-kilogram division. Hamid Reza Zarrinpeykar bagged the bronze in the same weight section.

The 47th edition of International Grand Prix Tournament Medved started in Minsk, Belarus, on September 16 and finished the following day.

The tournament was held in the men's 57-, 61-, 65-, 70-, 74-, 86-, 97- and 125-kilogram weight categories.

Female freestyle wrestlers competed in the 48-, 53-, 55-, 58-, 60-, 63-, 69- and 75-kilogram classes.

Aleksandr Vasiliyevich Medved is a retired Soviet freestyle wrestler, who was named by the International Federation of Associated Wrestling Styles (FILA) as "one of the greatest wrestlers in history".

He won three Olympic gold medals, seven world and three European titles between 1962 and 1972.

Iranian Fencing Squad Stands 1st in FIE Junior World Cup

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – Iran's national sabre fencing team has exhibited consummate skills and composure during 2017 Fédération Internationale d'Escrime (FIE) Junior World Cup, and snatched the gold medal to emerge as the champion of the prestigious international sporting event.

The Iranian outfit, consisting of Amir Ahmad Amini, Nima Zahedi, Mohammad Hossein Abedini and Ahmad Reza Shahmiri, pulled off a 45-43 victory over the Belarusian squad at Shahid Afrasiabi Hall of Shahid Shiroudi Stadium in the Iranian capital city of Tehran, and struck the yellow metal.

Earlier, the Iranian team had defeated Germany with the same result in the quarter-final round, and progressed to the final contest.

In the bronze medal match, Italy defeated Iraq 45-34.

Meanwhile, Iran's Amirahmad Amini could collect a bronze medal at men's sabre individual category.

Sabre is a light cutting and thrusting weapon in the sport of fencing. In the sabre section, the entire body above the waist, except the weapon hand, is targeted. Hits with the entire blade or point are valid. Touches that land outside of the target area are not scored.

The 2017 FIE Junior World Cup, organized by the Fencing Federation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, was held in the Iranian capital on September 16 and 17.

The tournament brought together a total of 32 fencers from 15 countries, including Belarus, Germany, Iraq, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kuwait and Romania.

Slovenia Claim FIBA Eurobasket Title



Slovenia have won their first FIBA Eurobasket title after beating Serbia in a tight final in the Turkish city of Istanbul.

ISTANBUL (Dispatches) – Slovenia have won their first FIBA Eurobasket title after beating Serbia 93-85 in a tight final in Istanbul.

After a balanced first quarter, which ended in Serbia's 22-20 lead, Slovenia managed to score 36 points in the second that gave them a 56-47 edge at halftime.

However, Serbia did not give up and fought their way back in the 3rd and 4th quarters, but the Slovenians held on to claim their first ever title in the tournament.

Miami Heat guard Goran Dragic scored 35 points for Slovenia. Meanwhile, giants Spain won the bronze medal after defeating Russia also 93-85.

Iranian Wushu Fighters Take 5 Medals in Asian Championships

SEOUL (Dispatches) – Iranian wushu practitioners have collected five medals at the ninth edition of Asian Junior Wushu Championships in South Korea.

On Sunday and the opening day of the continental sports event in Gumi City, Mohammad Reza Ja'fari tested his martial art skills and maneuvers in the boys' 9-12-year-old category of Daoshu form, and scored 9.18 points to sit in the second slot and pick up the silver medal.

A Chinese competitor grabbed the gold medal with 9.22

points. A wushu artist from the Philippines tallied 9.17 points to get the bronze.

Zahra Botshekan also pocketed a bronze in the girls' 9-12-year-old division of Daoshu form.

A Chinese wushu artist defeated a representative from Malaysia in the last contest, and collected the gold medal.

Furthermore, Niloufar Mokhtarpour garnered 9.19 points to claim the silver medal in the Chiangshu form of Taolu competitions, and followed a representative from Singapore with 9.20 points.

A contestant from South Korea notched up 9.19 points to collect the bronze.

Ali Shokravi also settled for the bronze medal with 9.20 points in the boys' 12-15-year-old category of Nangun form. A wushu contestant from China was awarded the gold medal, and the silver went to a competitor from Hong Kong.

Additionally, Nahid Pourshaban got 9.53 points to grab the silver in the girls' 15-18-year-old section of Nanquan form. The young Iranian female athlete

trailed a Chinese wushu fighter with 9.62 points. A competitor from Uzbekistan racked up 9.50 points to stand behind Pourshaban.

Nanquan usually requires less flexibility and has fewer acrobatics than Changquan, but it also requires greater leg stability and power generation through leg and hip coordination.

The ninth edition of Asian Junior Wushu Championships kicked off on September 14, and will run through September 21, 2017.

Belgium Beat Australia 3-2 to Reach Davis Cup Final



Belgium's David Goffin and Steve Darcis celebrate with team after winning the semi-finals.

BRUSSELS (Reuters) – David Goffin and Steve Darcis staged a thrilling comeback on Sunday to take Belgium into their second Davis Cup final in three years with a 3-2 victory over Australia.

World number 12 Goffin, playing some of the best tennis of his career, defeated world number 20 Nick Kyrgios 6-7(4) 6-4 6-4 6-4 on the clay, weathering some blister-

ing serves from the Australian that neared the 230-kph mark.

"It's incredible... It was the match of my career in the Davis Cup so far," an elated Goffin told reporters after leveling the match 2-2.

Darcis, a Davis Cup hero in Belgium, clinched the victory with a 6-4 7-5 6-2 win over late replacement Jordan Thompson to put his side into November's final against France,

who completed a 3-1 win over Serbia earlier on Sunday.

"It's a big week for me but it was an unbelievable win for David, I've never seen him play that good," said Darcis, who has won four out of his five Davis Cup singles in the run to the final this year.

Australia started the final day 2-1 up after winning Saturday's doubles and Kyrgios looked the favorite early on, silencing the rowdy Belgian crowd by hitting 10 aces in the first set and winning the tie-break.

Goffin, whose knee injury at the U.S. Open in August initially put his semi-final appearance in doubt, quickly found his way back, however, converting backhand service returns into winners and eventually frustrating the unpredictable Kyrgios.

Goffin had not beaten Kyrgios in their three previous en-

counters but this was their first match on clay and, with the home advantage, that proved critical for the 26-year-old Belgian.

Kyrgios, who was fined for bad behavior during his U.S. Open first-round defeat, lost his cool, smashing his racket into the court after losing his service game late in the fourth set.

Darcis, who also won the fifth rubber against Argentina in 2015 to put Belgium into the final -- where they lost to Britain -- had an easier time on Sunday, breaking Thompson's service in the first game.

Set to play John Millman until a late switch by Australian coach Lleyton Hewitt, Darcis still faced a fierce challenge from Thompson, world number 70, in the second set. He was forced to save a set point with an ace and endured a rally of more than 40 shots.

Wang Stuns Mladenovic, Kerber Gets Osaka Revenge

TOKYO (Reuters) – China's Wang Qiang inflicted a 'double bagel' on eighth seed Kristina Mladenovic of France in the first round of the Pan Pacific Open on Monday.

Wang needed 48 minutes to seal the 6-0 6-0 win over the world number 15, who also suffered first round defeats at the U.S. Open and in Connecticut, Cincinnati and the Canadian Open.

Germany's seventh-seeded former world number one Angelique Kerber beat last year's Pan Pacific runner-up Naomi Osaka 6-3 6-4 to avenge her U.S. Open defeat by the Japanese teenager.

Kerber became only the second women's defending champion to lose in the U.S. Open first round.

"It's always tough to play against her," the German told the WTA website after her victory.

"I was trying to come out here and really focus on every single point and make it better than last time... she's a great player, great, talented player and tough opponent. For sure she will have great success in the future."

Kerber plays either American qualifier Madison Brengle or Russia's Daria Kasatkina in the next round.

Local favorite Kurumi Nara beat Kazakh Yulia Putintseva 2-6 6-4 6-2 in another first round contest.