

Iran Fail to Advance to FIBA U-17 World Cup



TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Iran lost to New Zealand 69-73 and failed to book a place in the FIBA U-17 Basketball World Cup.

The Iranian team, who had defeated Macau 148-45 and Chinese Taipei 93-84 in Group C of the FIBA U-16 Asia Championship, was defeated against New Zealand on Friday and failed to qualify for the tournament's

semis.

The top four teams will advance to the FIBA U-17 Basketball World Cup in Argentina.

Amirhossein Yazarloo led Iran with 22 points, while Tom Cowie score 18 points for New Zealand.

The tournament is being held in Foshan, China from 2 to 8 April 2018.

Ricciardo Fastest in First Free Practice in Bahrain



Red Bull's Australian driver Daniel Ricciardo ahead of his home GP

MANAMA (AFP) - Daniel Ricciardo made a statement of intent when he topped the times in Friday's opening free practice for Sunday's Bahrain Grand Prix.

The Red Bull driver took over as fastest man with 15 minutes of the 90 remaining and stayed on top three-tenths of a second clear of Finns Valtteri Bottas of Mercedes and Kimi Raikkonen of Ferrari.

German Sebastian Vettel, winner of the season-opening Australian Grand Prix, was fourth for Ferrari ahead of defending champion Briton Lewis Hamilton in the second Mercedes, the two four-time title-winners.

Australian Ricciardo, third on home soil in Melbourne, has said he hopes to challenge for victory in Sunday's race and he made a solid start in hot conditions at the Bahrain International Circuit.

Hamilton made a mistake on his flying lap using his fastest tyre and missed out on regaining top spot after leading the way in the first hour.

Frenchman Romain Grosjean of Haas was sixth ahead of compatriot Pierre Gasly in a Toro Rosso and Spaniard Carlos Sainz in the leading Renault.

Dane Kevin Magnussen was ninth in the second Haas ahead of German Nico Hulkenberg in the second Renault.

Dutchman Max Verstappen was unable to clock a competitive time after suffering a gearbox problem in his Red Bull in the opening minutes of the session.

It was a tough session for the revived McLaren team who were testing new aerodynamic upgrades, two-time champion Spaniard Fernando Alonso winding up only 11th fastest.

Spain 7, Italy 1: A fiasco for Juventus and Roma in Europe

ROME (AP) —The combined scores of the Champions League matches against Spanish opposition amounted to another debacle for Italian football last week.

Five months after the national team's failure to qualify for the World Cup, Italy's clubs proved no match for squads led by Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi.

Ronaldo scored twice as Real Madrid beat Juventus 3-0 on Tuesday in the first leg of their quarterfinal.

A day later, Roma made the already daunting task of beating Messi's team that much harder by scoring two own goals as Barcelona won 4-1.

The results are expected to render this week's second legs inconsequential and highlight a growing divide between the games of the southern Mediterranean neighbors.

A divide that has been in place at least since the 2012 European Championship final where Spain manhandled Italy 4-0.

While Italy eliminated Spain from the 2016 European Championship and Ju-



Juventus' Andrea Barzagli, left, and goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon react after the Champions League, round of 8, first-leg soccer match between Juventus and Real Madrid at the Allianz stadium in Turin, Italy, Tuesday, April 3, 2018. Real won 3-0.

ventus eliminated Barcelona from last season's Champions League, those results proved only temporary.

Juventus went on to lose last season's final to Madrid 4-1.

Then Spain's dominance resurfaced in a 3-0 win over Italy in September that relegated the Azzurri to a World Cup playoff which they lost to Sweden.

In Turin on Tuesday, Juventus fans stood up to applaud Ronaldo's second goal, an overhead kick.

In Barcelona, a pair of own goals by Daniele De Rossi and Kostas Manolas — plus

the referee's decision not to award a potential penalty when a defender made contact from behind with Edin Dzeko — put the hosts in control.

Added Dzeko, who scored Roma's only goal 10 minutes from time, "We need the VAR in the Champions League, too. If the referee had awarded us that penalty it would have drastically changed the match.

On the bright side for Roma is that it reached the quarterfinals for the first time in a decade.

Juventus, meanwhile, is on

course for a record seventh straight Serie A title.

Napoli, the other Italian club in the Champions League, was eliminated in the group stage then effectively opted out of the Europa League by playing reserves against Leipzig in the round of 32 and losing 3-1.

Napoli's strategy was to put its entire focus on winning Serie A for the first time in nearly three decades. But with only one win in its last four matches, Napoli has fallen four points behind Juventus with eight rounds remaining.

Roma is third in Serie A entering Saturday's match against visiting Fiorentina, which has won five straight since captain Davide Astori died of a suspected cardiac arrest.

With Juventus and Napoli far ahead, Roma, Inter Milan and Lazio are separated by only three points in the race for the final two Champions League berths.

For Roma and Juventus, next week's second legs may be more about containing the damage.

Zverev Gives Germany 1-0 Lead Over Spain in Davis Cup

ALENCIA, Spain (AP) — Alexander Zverev cruised past David Ferrer 6-4, 6-2, 6-2 to give Germany a 1-0 lead against host Spain in the Davis Cup quarterfinals on Friday.

Zverev was in control from the start at the bullring staging the tie in Valencia. The world No. 4 had four aces and 27 winners against the 33rd-ranked Spaniard.

"I played more aggressively as

the match went on. It's my first clay-court match in a very long time, so it was great to find my rhythm so quickly," Zverev said. "With (Rafael) Nadal in their team, it's a point we're not expecting to get, so it's important to start well."

World No. 1 Nadal faces 34th-ranked Philipp Kohlschreiber in the second singles.

This is the teams' first Davis Cup meeting since 2004.



Germany's Alexander Zverev reacts during his World Group Quarter final Davis Cup tennis match against Spain's David Ferrer at the bullring in Valencia, Spain, Friday April 6, 2018.

Cycling's Top Riders Set for Tour of California Next Month

LOS ANGELES (AP) - The top men's and women's teams will compete next month in the Amgen Tour of California, the premier U.S. cycling race.

The men will cover 645 miles over seven stages from Long Beach to Sacramento from May 13 to May 19. The women will have three of the top five teams for their three-day, 187-mile race that starts May 17 in Elk Grove.

Race owner AEG announced Thursday that Pete Sagan will ride

for the BORA-hansgrohe team while Mark Cavendish will go for Team Dimension Data and be joined by Rafal Majka.

Tony Gallopin of AG2R La Mondiale is in the men's field. So is LottoNL-Jumbo's Nielson Powless, the race's best young rider in 2016.

The women feature 2016 champion Megan Guarnier of USA Cycling National Team, Katie Hall of UnitedHealthcare and Kasia Niewiadoma of Canyon/SCRAM.

LeBron Scores 33 Points, Cavs Rally to Stun Wizards 119-115

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - LeBron James looked at the clock and scoreboard and didn't flinch.

It was time to fix things. His time. Closing time.

"He gets that look," Cavaliers forward Kyle Korver said.

James scored 13 of his 33 points in the fourth quarter and rallied Cleveland from a 17-point deficit to stun the Washington Wizards 119-115 on Thursday night to maintain the No. 3 playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

The Cavs trailed 104-87 with 7:35 left before storming back behind James, who added 14 assists, nine rebounds and made sure coach Tyronn Lue got a win in his return after missing nine games due to health reasons.

Cleveland was down 14 when James checked in with 7:48 left, and 13 seconds later, the deficit swelled to 17 when the three-time champion took off on one of those runs that have made him famous.

Jeff Green added 21 points and Kevin Love had 16 for the Cavs, who are 10-1 since March 17, when Lue was forced to leave a game in Chicago with "piercing" chest pains. Lue, who has changed his diet and is taking sleep medication, has come back to a Cleveland team that seems to be hitting its stride just in time for the playoffs.

But it took another of those patented James' comebacks to down the Wizards, who have dropped seven of nine and are in a three-

way battle with Milwaukee and Miami for playoff positioning.

Wizards coach Scott Brooks said he feared James would do exactly what he did.

Washington's John Wall looked more like his speedy All-Star self in his third game back from knee surgery, scoring 28 points with 14 assists. But he had a costly turnover in the closing seconds and the Wizards couldn't put away the Cavs down the stretch.

Bradley Beal added 19 points, and Otto Porter had 18 for Washington.

A basket by Markieff Morris gave the Wizards a 110-100 lead with 3:16 left, but James scored six straight, fed Green for layup, and Rodney Hood made two free throws to complete a 10-0 run by the Cavs. Morris then converted a three-point play, but Cleveland's Kyle Korver knocked down a 3 in front of Washington's bench — from nearly the same spot where he missed a big 3 in Game 3 of last year's Finals.

Green's two free throws — on a tough call against Wall, who appeared to make a clean steal — gave the Cavs a 116-115 lead, but after Walls missed a short jumper, James split a pair of three throws, giving Washington one last chance.

Wall drove the lane but instead of going to the basket, he attempted a twisting pass outside that was stolen by rookie Cedi Osman, who made two free throws to close it out.