

Iran's Hassan Taftian Comes Sixth at World Indoor Tour

Hassan Taftian



TEHRAN (Tasnim) - Hassan Taftian from Iran has finished in sixth place at men's 60m of the 2019 IAAF World Indoor Tour in Dusseldorf, Germany.

Taftian, who won two gold medals at the 2016 Asian Indoor Athletics Championships in Doha and 2018 Asian Indoor Athletics Championships in Tehran, came sixth with a time of 6.68 seconds.

Bingtian Su from China won the gold medal with a time of 6.49 seconds.

The silver and bronze medals went to Americans Bryce Robinson and Michael Rodgers who both clocked 6.57 seconds.

The 2019 IAAF World Indoor Tour is the fourth edition of the IAAF World Indoor Tour, the highest series of international track and field indoor meetings.

It was designed to create an IAAF Diamond League-style circuit for indoor track and field events, to raise the profile of indoor track and field athletics.

Nuggets Beat Mavs 114-104 in NBA



Nikola Jokic had 19 points and 13 rebounds to lead a deep offensive effort, and the Denver Nuggets broke out in the second half to beat the Dallas Mavericks 114-104 on Friday night.

DALLAS (AP) - Nikola Jokic watched a lot of shots go up and come back down in the Denver Nuggets' hands Friday night.

Jokic finished with 19 points and 13 rebounds to lead a deep offensive effort, and the Nuggets broke out in the second half to beat the Dallas Mavericks 114-104.

Denver won the rebound battle 63-42, cruising to its third straight victory. The Mavericks have lost three in a row, this one without star rookie Luka Doncic due to a sore right ankle. He is considered day to day.

Denver outscored Dallas 39-23 in the third quarter to turn a one-point halftime lead into a 91-74 advantage. Paul Millsap had 17 points and 13 rebounds, Mason Plumlee had 12 points and 13 boards, and Isaiah Thomas had 16 points over 16 minutes in his second game since offseason hip surgery. Denver had seven players with at least 10 points.

"We had a deep bench already," Millsap said. "But adding (Thomas) in the mix, I think he makes us even more deep."

The Nuggets also had three players with 13 rebounds each. Dorian Finney-Smith led Dallas with nine.

"Rebounding was the biggest problem all night," Mavericks coach Rick Carlisle said.

"They have three phenomenal rebounders with Jokic, Millsap and Plumlee, and they just beat us to death there."

There were plenty of opportunities, too. Neither team shot better than 41 percent.

"We were aggressive," Jokic said. "We were going to the boards because they couldn't make shots."

Jalen Brunson started in Doncic's place and had a career-high 22 points. Dwight Powell had a season-high 20.

Powell gave Dallas a spark after entering midway through the first quarter. He scored eight points and grabbed three rebounds in six minutes. Powell's layup with 3:31 left gave the Mavericks a 21-20 lead. They entered the second quarter up 30-25.

With Jokic in foul trouble, Millsap and Plumlee took over inside in the second quarter, which ended with the Nuggets leading 52-51.

The Nuggets scored the first eight points of the second half, including 3-pointers by Barton and Beasley. Denver led by 20 points in the third quarter and 24 in the fourth.

"They just started playing a little harder," Brunson said. "They turned it up a little bit, and they got a little mojo going, got a run."

Judo Sees Japan Dominate Day 1 of Dusseldorf Grand Slam

DUSSELDORF (Euronews) - Explosive judo from Japanese judoka saw Japan dominate a thrilling first day of the Dusseldorf Grand Slam, taking four out of the five gold medals up for grabs on the opening day of the international judo competition.

Day 1 saw Kosovan hero Majlinda Kelmendi continue her rampage back to the top of the -52kg category as she earned her sixth Grand Slam title.

The Olympic Champion has shown everyone that this is her category, and this is her comeback. One big attack after another saw her become our Woman of the Day. Huge hip throws, first against Germany's Verena Thumm, and then in the semi-final against Odette Giuffrida of Italy.

In the final Kelmendi defeated Sosorbaram Lkhagvasuren of Mongolia, using the other side of her judo - her tactical prowess, meaning she stood atop the podium once again. Kelmendi has clearly set her sights on taking back her World title later this year.

On the men of day was Japan's Jushiro Maruyama, who won his third consecutive IJF World Judo Tour event.



A powerful performance saw Ryuju Nagayama of Japan defeat Russia's Robert Mshvidobadze in the -60kg final

The Osaka Grand Slam gold medalist, now famous for his uchi-mata, gave Japan many brilliant examples of his dynamism and explosion - the first against Korea's Ham Young Jin.

Even when his opponents knew what was coming, they couldn't stop him. Jushiro Maruyama: Is he the new number

one in Japan?

At -48kilos, the former World Champion Funa Tonaki defeated former

Paris Grand Slam silver medalist Kang Yujeong of Korea by ippon in the final to keep her Tokyo 2020 ambitions alive, as she sacrificed her weight to score a brilliant ippon with sumi-gaeshi.

Ryuju Nagayama, always one to put on a great judo display, defeated Russia's Robert Mshvidobadze. A beautiful uchi-mata saw him crowned Dusseldorf Champion at -60kg.

In the -57kg category it was World Champion vs Olympic Champion as Tsukasa Yoshida took on Rafaela Silva. Another sacrifice technique saw Japan take four out of the five golds at Dusseldorf so far.

Our Move of the Day came from Bashkuu Yondonperenlei in the -66kg bronze medal contest.

The most enormous pick up from Yondonperenlei, countering Paris Grand Slam Champion Denis Vieru of Moldova and the Mongolian was thrilled as he earned our Move of the Day.

Europe's Top Boxing Official Warned After Power Struggle

MOSCOW (AP) - Europe's top boxing official received a formal warning in a case which highlighted the sport's power struggles, the International Boxing Association said Saturday.

Tom Virgets, the executive director of AIBA, told the media that European Boxing Confederation president Franco Falcinelli was given the warning last month.

The Italian is a leading power-broker in the troubled world of amateur boxing but was suspended last year after a rift with Uzbek businessman Gafur Rakhimov, who was elected AIBA president in

November. Falcinelli was provisionally reinstated later that month. In an AIBA statement accompanying that ruling, he said he would now back Rakhimov and praised his "strong commitment."

While Falcinelli was suspended, he was re-elected as an AIBA vice-president despite being barred from entering the conference hall. Virgets said Falcinelli's alleged misconduct was not considered serious enough to require a ban.

Boxing's Olympic future remains in jeopardy due to a standoff between AIBA and the International Olympic Committee.

Olympic Champion Goggia Wins 1st Downhill

CRANS-MONTANA, Switzerland (AP) - Olympic champion Sofia Goggia won the first World Cup downhill of the post-Lindsey Vonn era on Saturday.

Goggia was rewarded with her first victory this season after taking an aggressively direct racing line typical of Vonn, the American star who retired after winning downhill bronze in the world championships two weeks ago at Are, Sweden.

World champion Ilka Stuhec crashed as the first starter Saturday, leaving Goggia favored to win.

The Italian racer was 0.49 seconds faster than Joana Haehlen

of Switzerland on the sun-bathed 2.45-kilometer (1 1/2-mile) Mont Lachaux course.

Switzerland's extended her lead in the downhill standings by placing third, 0.52 behind Goggia.

The result had little impact on the overall World Cup standings with runaway leader Mikaela Shiffrin skipping two weekends of races, in Switzerland and Russia, to rest after the world championships.

McDonald Beats del Potro in Delray Beach Open



United States' Mackenzie McDonald hits a forehand return to Croatia's Marin Cilic during their second round match at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia.

DELRAY BEACH, Fla. (AP) - American Mackenzie McDonald beat No. 1-seeded Juan Martin del Potro on Friday night in the quarterfinals of the Delray Beach Open, 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 (5).

McDonald, ranked 84th, advanced to his first ATP Tour semifinal. Del Potro was playing in his first event after missing four months because of a right knee injury.

No. 4 Steve Johnson of the

United States squandered an early lead and lost to Radu Albot 1-6, 6-3, 7-6 (5).

No. 2 John Isner hit 24 aces and won every service game to beat Adrian Mannarino 7-6 (2), 6-4. Isner improved his career record against the Frenchman to 7-1.

Isner's opponent in the semifinals will be qualifier Dan Evans, ranked 148th, who swept No. 6 Andreas Seppi 6-4, 6-4.

Flames Down Ducks, Extend Hot Streak



Feb 22, 2019; Calgary, Alberta, CAN; Calgary Flames left wing Andrew Mangiapane (88) celebrates with teammates after scoring a goal during the third period against the Anaheim Ducks at Scotiabank Saddledome.

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - Andrew Mangiapane scored the game-winning goal late in the third period, and TJ Brodie collected a goal and an assist as the host Calgary Flames won their fourth consecutive game, defeating the Anaheim Ducks 2-1 on Friday night.

Goalie Mike Smith made 25 saves for the Flames, who strengthened their hold on the top spot in the Western Conference.

Mangiapane broke the tie with 3:29 remaining in regulation. He tried to make a pass on a two-on-one rush only to see it blocked, but the puck came back to the speedy rookie, and he promptly buried a short-side offering for his third goal of the season, all in his past seven games.

Brodie and Anaheim's Derek Grant scored in the second period. Ducks goalie Ryan Miller made 26 saves.