

Iran's Team Rolls Into 2018 AFC Futsal Club Championship

TEHRAN (Press TV) - Iranian futsal club Mes Sungun Varzaghan has earned a spot in the semifinals of the 2018 Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Futsal Club Championship, after it could overcome Osh EREM of Kyrgyzstan.

On Wednesday, the Iranian team pulled off an 8-3 victory over the Central European outfit in a quarterfinal fixture played at the multi-purpose GOR Among Rogo sport arena in the Indonesian city of Yogyakarta.

Alireza Asgari scored a hat trick for Mes Sungun, while Saeed Taghizadeh netted a brace. Ali Asghar Hassanzadeh Navlighi, Mohammad Reza Sangsefidi and Abolghasem Orouji were each on target just once.

Mes Sungun will face the winner of the quarterfinal match between Iraqi futsal club Naft al-Wasat and Indonesia's Vamos Mataram.

The 2018 AFC Futsal Club Championship, which is the 9th edition of the AFC Futsal Club Championship, started on August 1 and will finish on August 12, 2018.



Members of Iranian futsal club Mes Sungun Varzaghan pose for a photograph during the 2018 AFC Futsal Club Championship in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, on August 6, 2018.

Djokovic, Sharapova Advance to 2nd Round at Rogers Cup



Novak Djokovic of Serbia serves to Mirza Basic (not in frame) of Bosnia during the Rogers Cup men's tennis tournament in Toronto, Aug 7, 2018.

TORONTO (Dispatches) — Novak Djokovic has advanced to the second round with a 6-3, 7-6 (7) win over lucky loser Mirza Basic at the Rogers Cup.

The four-time champion Djokovic, the ninth seed in Toronto, took care of his serve in the win over his Bosnian opponent. Djokovic had nine aces and was good on 76 percent of his first serves, converting 76 percent of his first service points and 79 percent of his second service points.

He had some trouble late in the second set, losing his serve to set up the tiebreak, before rallying.

The Serbian star, who last won the Rogers Cup in 2016 and is coming off a win at Wimbledon this year, will next face wild-card Peter Polansky of Canada.

In another match, former world No. 3 Stan Wawrinka, a three-time Grand Slam champion, beat 16th-seed Nick Kyrgios 1-6, 7-5, 7-5.

Kyrgios, from Australia, broke Wawrinka twice in the first-round match and had seven aces in a dominant first set. Wawrinka battled back, converting on 86 percent of his first service points to take the second set. He broke Kyrgios in the final game of the third set, converting his second match point opportunity when the Australian couldn't handle his return.

In other matches, Robin Haase of the Netherlands downed Japan's Kei Nishikori 7-5, 6-1.

Americans Sam Querrey, Frances Tiafoe and Ryan Harrison joined Russia's Karen Khachanov and Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas as other first-round winners. Tiafoe will face Canada's Milos Raonic in the second round.

Denis Shapovalov of Canada

played his first-round match against France's Jeremy Chardy later Tuesday.

Canadian wild card Felix Auger-Aliassime upset Lucas Pouille of France 6-4, 6-3, cruising into the second round in his main draw debut at the Masters 1000 tournament.

Over at the courts in Montreal, Maria Sharapova advanced to the second round of the Rogers Cup with a 6-1, 6-2 victory over qualifier Sesil Karatantcheva of Bulgaria.

Play resumed under the afternoon sun with Sharapova leading 4-1 in the first set after heavy rain and lightning forced organizers to suspend the match.

Sharapova, making her first Rogers Cup appearance since 2014, picked up where she left off Monday. She won six straight games after the restart and needed only 36 minutes to win the second set.

The 31-year-old had three aces and only committed two double faults to her opponent's 11.

The Russian is 5-0 all time against the 229th-ranked Karatantcheva, who was playing in her first WTA main draw in more than a year.

Sharapova, ranked 22nd in the world, will face Daria Kasatkina of Russia (No. 12) or Maria Sakkari of Greece (No. 31) in the second round.

In another match, Canada's Eugenie Bouchard is out after a 6-2, 6-4 first-round loss to Elise Mertens of Belgium. The 15th-ranked Mertens, who is making her Rogers Cup debut, will now face either Shuai Zhang of China (No. 32) or qualifier Barbora Krejickova (No. 232) of the Czech Republic in the second round.

Carmelo Reportedly Agrees to Join Rockets

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - Carmelo Anthony has reached a verbal agreement to join the Houston Rockets, sources told Yahoo Sports and USA Today.

Anthony, a 10-time All-Star who was waived July 30 by the Atlanta Hawks, had been expected to sign with the Rockets when he cleared waivers.

Entering his 16th NBA season, Anthony has a career scoring average of 24.1 points per game with the Denver Nuggets, New York Knicks and Oklahoma City Thunder.

Last season, unaccustomed to his role as power forward and playing alongside Russell Westbrook and Paul George, he averaged a career-low 16.2 points in 32.1 minutes in his



Carmelo Anthony

lone season for the Thunder.

This summer, he has worked out with Rockets stars James Harden and Chris Paul.

The Hawks acquired Anthony on July 25 as part of a three-team transaction, with Atlanta also receiving a protected

2022 first-round draft pick from the Thunder and Justin Anderson from the Philadelphia 76ers.

To complete the trade, the Hawks traded Mike Muscala to Philadelphia and Dennis Schroder to Oklahoma City, and Timothe Luwawu-Cabarrot moved from Philadelphia to Oklahoma City.

The Rockets created a roster opening last week by trading forward Chinanu Onuaku and cash to the Dallas Mavericks for center Maarty Leunen and the right to swap second-round draft picks in 2020. Onuaku played in six NBA games over the past two seasons and averaged 3.0 points and 2.3 rebounds.

Leunen, 32, has yet to appear in the NBA.

Real Madrid Beat Roma 2-1 at International Champions Cup

EAST RUTHERFORD (China Daily) - Real Madrid have won

AS Roma 2-1 in the International Champions Cup at the MetLife

Stadium in New Jersey.

Real Madrid forward Marco Asensio opened the scoring after one and a half minutes, assisted by Gareth Bale. The Welsh star scored about 13 minutes later, assisted by defender Daniel Carvajal.

AS Roma midfielder Kevin Strootman scored in about 37 minutes into the second half, assisted by forward Patrik Schick.

More than 51,000 people came

to MetLife Stadium to watch the game on Tuesday night.

The International Champions Cup is a pre-season tournament that has been held every summer since 2013. This year, the tournament kicked off on July 20 and will conclude on Aug. 11. Eighteen elite clubs including Real Madrid, Manchester United and Juventus will play in a total of 27 matches to be held in the United States, Singapore, and Europe.

Sagan Set for Vuelta After Tour Green Jersey



World road race champion Peter Sagan looks to have recovered from his Tour de France injuries in time for the Vuelta a Espana.

MADRID (Dispatches) - Peter Sagan appears set to ride the Vuelta a Espana, despite struggling through the latter stages of the Tour de France after a crash.

The Bora-Hansgrohe rider had already secured a record-equalling sixth green jersey in France when he went off the road in the 17th stage and suffered cuts to his arms and legs.

Sagan appeared to be in real pain as he completed the race, with reports in Spain suggesting his fitness would need to be assessed before the Vuelta later this month.

However, the Slovakian looked to put any fears of lasting damage to bed on Tuesday as he hinted at a return to Spain, where he has enjoyed four stage wins previously. "Hola Espana," Sagan posted alongside an image on his Instagram page, including a cycling emoji.

Sagan has only once completed La Vuelta - in 2011 - and it is still not certain that he will finish the race this year, with the UCI Road World Championships, where the 28-year-old holds the road race title, coming up in September.

Usain Bolt Will Have to 'Impress' New Aussie Soccer Coach

SYDNEY (China Daily) - Sprint star Usain Bolt will have to "impress the coach" to be offered a playing contract with Australia's Central Coast Mariners Football Club, its chief executive officer Shaun Mielekamp said on Wednesday.

Following the club's announcement that the retired Jamaican sprinter and record-breaking Olympic gold medalist is starting his soccer training with it for "an indefinite training period", Mielekamp said in a press conference that Bolt's training program "will be structured to see if he can reach a level of playing that earns him a professional contract."

"This may take three weeks, three months, six months. Or it may take longer. Who knows. Only time

will tell. But it's exciting to see what this will do for our region," said Mielekamp.

"There's a lot of hard work ahead and we're committed to building a team that will win matches and instill belief in our community. Hopefully Usain can help us on this mission," he said.

Bolt, 31, is expected to move to the club's base in New South Wales state's Central Coast area. His playing position will be "probably a question for the coach in future weeks as he gets to the ground and puts the boots on. Everyone knows he's fast, everyone knows he's big so there are some obvious positions that you would think of. I will leave that to the football department to guide us on that one," said Mielekamp.



Britain's Mo Farah (left) vies with Jamaica's Usain Bolt during an England versus Soccer Aid World XI charity football match for Soccer Aid for Unicef, at Old Trafford in Manchester, northwest England on June 10, 2018.