

# Iran Down South Korea in FIBA Under-18 Asian Championship

TEHRAN (Press TV) - The Iran men's national under-18 basketball team has recovered to defeat South Korea in a classification match at the 2018 Fédération Internationale de Basket-ball (FIBA) Under-18 Asian Championship.

On Friday, the Iranian outfit, which had slumped to a 72-87 loss against New Zealand in a quarterfinal encounter the previous day, prevailed over South Korea 89-81 in a 5th-to-8th-place fixture at Stadium 29 of the central Thai city of Nonthaburi.

The Iranian sportsmen managed to roll to a 71-64 victory over Japan



on Tuesday. The Iranian squad had defeated Kazakhstan 86-54 a day earlier.

The Iran men's national under-18 basketball team clinched an 80-50 win over Indonesia in its opening match on August 5.

The 2018 FIBA Under-18 Asian Championship got underway on August 5, and will run through August 11, 2018.

The top four finishers will qualify for the 2019 FIBA Under-19 Basketball World Cup, and will represent FIBA Asia in the upcoming tournament.

## Trump Criticizes NFL Players as Protests Continue



WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - Several NFL players who protested during the U.S. national anthem before pre-season games have been criticized by President Donald Trump.

Ex-49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick was the first to protest in 2016 and some players raised a fist and others knelt at three games on Thursday.

The NFL says plans to fine players for anthem protests have been put on hold.

"Find another way to protest, stand proudly for your national anthem or be suspended without pay," tweeted Trump.

"Numerous players, from different teams, wanted to show their 'outrage' at something that most of them are unable

to define. "Be happy, be cool! A football game, that fans are paying sooooo much money to watch and enjoy, is no place to protest. Most of that money goes to the players anyway."

Players who refused to stand during The Star-Spangled Banner have said the protests were against police brutality of African Americans and racial inequality, and the demonstrations have previously been criticized by Trump.

On Thursday, Philadelphia Eagles' Malcolm Jenkins and De'Vante Bausby, San Francisco 49ers' Marquise Goodwin and Miami Dolphins' Robert Quinn raised a fist, while his teammates Kenny Stills and Albert Wilson knelt.

## Djokovic Stunned by Greek Teen Tsitsipas in Toronto



Novak Djokovic, left, of Serbia, congratulates Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece after their match at the Rogers Cup men's tennis tournament in Toronto, Aug 9, 2018.

TORONTO (Reuters) - Greek teenager Stefanos Tsitsipas has secured the biggest win of his career when he sent Wimbledon champion Novak Djokovic packing in the third round of the Rogers Cup with a stunning 6-3 6-7(5) 6-3 win.

Top seed Rafa Nadal battled past Swiss wild card Stan Wawrinka 7-5 7-6(4) and will next meet Marin Cilic, who took down Argentinian Diego Schwartzman 6-3 6-2.

A confident Tsitsipas sent

a blistering forehand to the back corner while the ninth-seeded Serbian was heading the other way on his first match point to secure the win before looking at his box in disbelief.

Tsitsipas, who turns 20 on Sunday, relied on his serve and forehand combination to get by Djokovic, who was competing in his first tournament since collecting his 13th grand slam title at the All England Club last month.

## Messi, Ronaldo, Salah, De Bruyne Up for Champions League Awards



PARIS (Dispatches) - Cristiano Ronaldo, Lionel Messi and Mohamed Salah have all been nominated for UEFA's Champions League positional awards, with the list dominated by Real Madrid players.

Madrid won their third consecutive European title with thanks to a 3-1 win over Liverpool in Kiev, Gareth Bale netting a brace.

Bale did not make the cut of players voted for by coaches of the 32 teams from the 2017-18 Champions League group stage and 55 journalists representing each of UEFA's member nations, with Ronaldo, Messi and Salah the attackers put forward.

Keylor Navas may have his position at Madrid under serious threat following the signing of Thibaut Courtois but is nominated in the goalkeeping category alongside Alisson and Gianluigi Buffon.

Madrid have a clean sweep among the defenders in the shape of Marcelo,

Raphael Varane and captain Sergio Ramos, while only Manchester City star Kevin De Bruyne - accompanying Luka Modric and Toni Kroos - prevents a similar scenario for the midfielders.

The three nominees for the Europa League Player of the Season award are drawn from the final and continue the Spanish theme.

Atletico Madrid duo Antoine Griezmann and Diego Godin have been named alongside Marseille's Dimitri Payet.

Godin lifted the trophy after Griezmann scored twice in a 3-0 win over the Ligue 1 side in Lyon.

The winners will be announced at the respective Champions League and Europa League group stage draws in Monaco on August 30 and 31.

Real Madrid dominated UEFA's Champions League awards nominations, with seven of their final starting XI against Liverpool up for prizes.

## Bulgarian Pulev to Fight Hughie Fury in Sofia



Bulgarian Kubrat Pulev

heavyweight title held by Briton Anthony Joshua will be Pulev's first since April, 2017 when he beat American veteran Kevin Johnson in Sofia.

The IBF has ordered Pulev to face Briton Dillian Whyte and American Jarell Miller to decide a title challenger but the two turned down the fights, angering the Bulgarian.

"Two have refused so far - Whyte and Miller, but Fury has already said no problem and he will play," the 37-year-old Pulev, who has only one loss in 26 fights, said.

Hughie Fury is a cousin of ex-world heavyweight champion Tyson Fury.

Pulev pulled out of fighting Joshua in October, 2017 after suffering a shoulder injury. Joshua, who also holds the WBA, IBO and WBO titles, went on to beat his replacement Carlos Takam.

Pulev, one of Bulgaria's most popular sportsmen, turned professional at 28 in 2009.

## MotoGP Riders Cast Doubt on 2019 Mexico Race

MEXICO CITY (Dispatches) - It emerged in Brno last weekend that the Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez is a serious contender to join the 2019 calendar, and could be handed an April slot to make it back-to-back with the Americas Grand Prix in Austin.

However, Valentino Rossi described the parkland venue, which hosts Formula 1 but features many walls in close proximity to the track, as being too "dangerous" for MotoGP.

Other riders were quizzed on the subject ahead of this weekend's Austria race, with Marc Marquez saying riders were promised in the latest Safety Commission meeting that there will be changes made to run-off areas before any race took place in Mexico.

But Andrea Dovizioso said he doubts that the necessary improvements could be made in time.

"We spoke about in the last safety commission, we will speak again during this weekend," said Dovizioso. "But I don't think everything is fixed, I don't think so."

"We say our opinion, but like Marc said, we can't really see on the paper. So if that has to happen, we have to make a test and have to understand better the situation."

"I don't know the details, but I don't think at the moment we are going to Mexico."

Alex Espargaro concurred with Dovizioso's opinion that a test would be required at the Mexican track to assess safety, but doubts there is enough time for this to happen before a 2019 race.

LCR Honda's Cal Crutchlow was more enthusiastic about a possible Mexico visit, but admitted he is also unsure if the race will go ahead.

## Iranian Para-Volleyball Player Named IPC's Athlete of Month in July



Morteza Mehrzad

TEHRAN (MNA) - Iranian male paralympic sitting volleyball player Morteza Mehrzad has been selected by public votes as the International Paralympic Committee's Athlete of Month in July.

Morteza Mehrzad was named the "Athlete of Month" by public votes in a poll conducted on the website of the Paralympics International Committee (IPC).

In the poll, Mehrzad won the

title with 60 votes, followed by Swedish wheelchair tennis player Stefan Olsson, British wheelchair racer Kare Adenegan and Dutch wheelchair tennis player Diede de Groot.

The Iranian paralympic sitting volleyball player played a major role in winning the title of the 2018 World ParaVolley Sitting Volleyball World Championships, held in the Netherlands.

## Cavendish Pulls Out of European Championships Road Race

GLASGOW (Reuters) - Britain's former world champion Mark Cavendish has pulled out of the European Championships road race on medical advice, British Cycling announced.

Sunday's projected clash between 2011 world champion Cavendish and Slovakia's current world champion Peter Sagan around the streets of Glasgow had been billed as a final day highlight of the inaugural multi-sports championship.

But the 33-year-old Cavendish, an all-time great road sprinter who has struggled with injury and illness following several crashes this season, has withdrawn after advice from his medical team.

Sagan, who had another triumphant Tour de France by winning the points classification for the sixth time, will still have plenty of high-quality opposition in Sunday's race headed by Norway's defending champion Alexander Kristoff.