

Iran Win Greco-Roman 2018 Junior World Championships

TRNAVA, Slovakia (Dispatches) - Iran Greco-Roman wrestling team has claimed the title at the 2018 Trnava Junior World Championships, four points ahead of second-place Russia.

Iran won four gold medals and wrapped up the Greco-Roman team title with 136 points.

Amin Kaviyaninejad (IRI), with his left shoulder heavily taped, claimed back-to-back junior titles, making it his third overall age-level world championship.

In the 72kg championship bout, Kaviyaninejad scored an early takedown and transitioned into a gut wrench to command the 4-0 lead over Georgia's Nikoloz Tchikaidze. The Iranian wrestler slipped and surrendered his first



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takedown of the tournament, cutting his lead to 4-2.

The three-time age-level world champion dominated the

remainder of the bout, scoring two four-point throws, ending the match with a high dive to a body lock to pick up the fall.

Kaviyaninejad joined fellow countryman Amin Mirzazadeh (IRI) (130kg), Pouya Naserpour (IRI) (55kg), and Mohammadhadi Saravi (IRI) (87kg) as Trnava junior world champions.

Russia came second with 131 points while Armenia finished in third with 83 points.

Turkey and India came fourth and fifth with 79 and 73 points respectively.

The 2018 Junior World Wrestling Championships is being held in Trnava, Slovakia between September 17 and 23.

Osaka Beats Strycova to Reach Semifinals at Pan Pacific Open



Tennis player Naomi Osaka

TOKYO (AP) - Naomi Osaka raised her game when she needed to, and landed her a spot in the semifinals of the Pan Pacific Open.

The U.S. Open champion, who upset Serena Williams in the final in New York at the beginning of the month, won her ninth straight match Friday, beating Barbora Strycova 6-3, 6-4.

"This was my third time playing her, and each time it was very close, so I knew she was very good," said the third-seeded Osaka, the first Japanese player to win a Grand Slam singles title.

Osaka will next face Camila Giorgi, who advanced after Victoria Azarenka retired from their match in the first set. Giorgi was leading 5-3 when the match ended.

The 20-year-old Osaka converted all three of her break points and won 80 percent of points on her first serve.

She broke the eighth-seeded Strycova to take a 3-1 lead in the first set but was soon broken back. Leading 4-3, that's when Osaka took control. She immediately earned two break points, and Strycova double-faulted on the first one to put Osaka ahead 5-3.

In the second set, double-faults again cost Strycova, who was broken again at 2-2.

Also, fourth-seeded Karolina Pliskova defeated Alison Riske 6-1, 6-7 (5), 7-6 (4). She will next play Donna Vekic, who beat second-seeded Caroline Garcia 6-3, 6-4.

Wiggins Abandons 2020 Olympic Rowing Bid



Five-time Olympic champion cyclist Bradley Wiggins

LONDON (AFP) - Five-time Olympic champion cyclist Bradley Wiggins has abandoned plans to bid to row for Britain at the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo.

The 2012 Tour de France winner retired from cycling in December 2016 and flirted with the idea of rowing competitively, taking part in last December's British Rowing Indoor Championships.

The 38-year-old told his eponymous Eurosport show: "I'm still training most days with it, but I've decided I'm not going to the Olympics because

I've got too much other stuff to do. "I need to give myself a break. I haven't got time to train three times a day. To the level I want to do it to, it's a full-time job in itself. There's too much going on."

Wiggins previously floated the possibility of going to a sixth Olympics in Tokyo, when he will be 40, as a rower, although his lack of experience and the timeframe meant that was always a challenging prospect.

He won a fifth Olympic gold in the men's team pursuit at Rio 2016 after returning to the track from the road.

Copenhagen Scraps Plans to Host Formula One Race

COPENHAGEN (Reuters) - Denmark has scrapped plans to host a Formula One race in its capital Copenhagen, Finance Minister Kristian Jensen said on Friday.

The decision to halt plans to host a race around the streets of inner Copenhagen in 2020 came after lack of support from the city authorities, Jensen said.

World Body Withdraws Fenati's License Until 2019

LONDON (Reuters) - Motorcycling's world governing body has withdrawn the license of Italian MotoGP rider Romano Fenati until the end of the year after he caused a global outcry by grabbing a rival's brake lever while racing.

Fenati of his responsibilities to fans and young people.

The International Motorcycling Federation (FIM) said in a statement that the 22-year-old and his lawyer attended a meeting at the FIM's Swiss headquarters on Tuesday to explain his actions.

"Following the discussion with the rider and his representative, the FIM decided to withdraw Mr Fenati's FIM license until the end of the current calendar year," it added.

The FIM emphasized its concern for the safety of all riders and reminded

"A new FIM license for the 2019 season may be granted to him subject to the conditions laid down in the FIM regulations." Fenati has already been suspended by his national federation and had his domestic license revoked.

UEFA to Judge Ronaldo Red-Card Case



Juventus forward Cristiano Ronaldo is consoled by teammate Federico Bernardeschi (right) after receiving a red card during the Champions League, group H soccer match between Valencia and Juventus, at the Mestalla stadium in Valencia, Spain, Sept 19, 2018.

NYON, Switzerland (Dispatches) - Cristiano Ronaldo should learn next Thursday if he is banned from playing at former club Manchester United in the Champions League.

UEFA says its disciplinary panel will judge the case of Ronaldo's first Champions League red card on Sept 27.

Ronaldo tangled with Valencia's Jeison Murillo, appearing to tug at the defender's hair, in the first

half of Juventus' 2-0 win on Wednesday.

The UEFA panel studies all red-card cases and has the power to extend the mandatory one-game ban.

Ronaldo will miss a home game against Young Boys on Oct 2.

The subsequent game for Juventus is on Oct 23 at Old Trafford, where Ronaldo played for six years. He won the first of his five Champions League titles while with United in 2008.

Woods Returns to Tour Championship With Share of Lead



Tiger Woods

ATLANTA (China Daily) - The crowd at East Lake was larger and louder than

it has been in five years, which was the last time Tiger Woods was at the Tour Championship.

It was no coincidence. Woods played one of his best rounds of the year in his return to the FedEx Cup finale and caused the biggest cheer of a sun-baked Thursday afternoon by making an eagle putt from just over 25 feet on the par-5 18th for a 5-under 65 and a share of the lead with Rickie Fowler.

It was the second time in as many FedEx Cup playoff events that Woods was tied for the 18-hole lead. He shot a 62 at Aronimink in the opening round of the BMW Championship two weeks ago on a rain-soaked course that allowed just about everyone to go low.

Aguero Extends Man City Deal to 2021

MANCHESTER (Dispatches) - Manchester City striker Sergio Aguero has signed a one-year contract extension that will keep him at the club until 2021.

Aguero, 30, joined City from Atletico Madrid in 2011 for a reported £38mn.

The Argentina international has played a major role in City's major successes since then, winning three Premier Leagues and three EFL Cups.

He is City's record scorer with his 204

goals including the injury-time winner against QPR in 2012 that won the title.

"I'm very happy because they have treated my very well since the first day I got here," said Aguero, who will have spent a decade at the club by the time his new deal expires.

Manchester City director of football Txiki Begiristain said Aguero remains at the "forefront of what we want to achieve in the coming years".

Joshua Sees Povetkin as Toughest Fight Since Klitschko

LONDON (Reuters) - World heavyweight champion Anthony Joshua expects his title defense against Russian Alexander Povetkin on Saturday to be his toughest fight since Wladimir Klitschko -- and to end with a similar outcome.

Joshua, 28, knocked out Ukrainian Klitschko at Wembley in April 2017 and the 2012 Olympic champion is returning to the national stadium for the first time for his 22nd professional fight.

Povetkin, the 2004 Olympic super-heavyweight champion and WBA's mandatory challenger, lost to Klitschko in Moscow in 2013 -- the only defeat in the 39-year-old's professional career to date.

Joshua's last two world title bouts were at the Principality Stadium in Cardiff, where he beat Carlos Takam before adding the

WBO belt in a points win over New Zealander Joseph Parker in March.

The champion is the clear favorite but he was taking nothing for granted and said he had trained for a tough fight.

"He's a proper fighter, he knows what he's doing," said Joshua, who owns the WBA, IBF, WBO and IBO belts. American Deontay Wilder holds the WBC belt but the fans will have to wait for that long-desired match-up.

"There's loads of pressure, tons of pressure, it's the reality," said Joshua, who will have a crowd of some 80,000 on his side.

Saturday is the first of a two-fight deal at Wembley and Joshua said he felt at ease.

"Coming back here is a blessing," he declared. "It's time to just put



on a performance. It's Chapter Two to a certain degree but I just feel relaxed and calm. It's not new to me any more. I feel like this is home."

Speaking through a translator, Povetkin expected to be a match

for the champion.

"When I fought Klitschko, I was much weaker and in worse shape than I am now," he said. "I never try to say anything ahead of time, you'll see everything on fight night."