

Iran Reportedly Reaches Agreement With Gianni De Biasi



TEHRAN (Tasnim) - Football Federation Islamic Republic of Iran (FFIRI) will reportedly appoint Giovanni "Gianni" De Biasi as new head coach of Team Melli.

Italia transfer market expert Gianluca Di Marzio has reported that the Italian coach will pen a 30-month deal with the Iranian federa-

tion.

The ex-Udinese coach is expected to replace Marc Wilmots, who left Iran in early December following poor results in the 2022 World Cup qualification, within the next 48 hours.

Iran sits in third place in the group with six points from four games after defeats to Iraq and Bahrain.

Mavericks Make 22 3-Pointers, Beat Trail Blazers 133-125

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) -- Damian Lillard had another big performance, scoring a game-high 47 points. But a tough loss and issues with the officiating had the Portland Trail Blazers star in a foul mood.

Luka Doncic scored 27 points to go with nine assists and six rebounds, and the Dallas Mavericks made 22 3-pointers in a 133-125 victory Thursday night with a complete team performance that overcame Lillard's hot shooting.

After picking up a technical foul in the final seconds, Lillard voiced his frustrations with the officiating.

One game after scoring a career-high 61 points, Lillard became the first player in franchise history to score 100 points over two games.

The Mavericks needed Doncic, who scored 20 of his points in the first half, and plenty of help in the win.

Dallas had six players make at least three 3-pointers, and it was the sixth time this season the Mavericks made 20 3s, with Seth Curry and Jalen Brunson leading the way with four each.

The 43 combined 3-pointers made by Dallas and Portland tied an NBA record.

Trevor Ariza, recently acquired in a trade from Sacramento, scored a season-high 21 in his Portland debut.

Lillard's hot shooting alone wasn't enough to stay in front of a high-powered Mavericks team that has the league's No. 1 ranked offense. Although Dallas went off for a monstrous 45-point quarter to begin the game, Lillard kept Portland within striking distance.

The Mavericks cooled in the second quarter - but only a little bit. They pushed their lead to as high as 17 in the second quarter. Even after missing their last eight 3-pointers to end the half, they still led 78-63 at halftime.



Portland Trail Blazers guard Damian Lillard (0) shoots around Dallas Mavericks forward Kristaps Porzingis during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Portland, Ore., Thursday, Jan. 23, 2020.

Shiffrin Masters World Cup Downhill for 1st Win in 2020



United States' Mikaela Shiffrin competes during an alpine ski, women's World Cup downhill in Bansko, Bulgaria, Friday, Jan. 24, 2020.

BANSKO, Bulgaria (AP) — Mikaela Shiffrin mastered a tricky course to win a women's World Cup downhill Friday for her fifth victory of the season and first in 2020.

The three-time overall champion from the United States was one third of a second off the lead at her second split but remained flawless on the rest of the technically demanding Marc Girardelli course.

Shiffrin beat Federica Brignone of Italy by 0.18 seconds, with Johanna Haehlen of Switzerland five hundredths further back in third.

It was Shiffrin's second career win in downhill, more than two years after her maiden triumph in the sport's fastest discipline in Lake Louise, Alberta.

Friday's result ended a series of five races without win for Shiffrin, including two in the American's strongest discipline, slalom.

Juve Knock Out Roma 3-1 to Reach Coppa Italia Semis

ROME (AP) - Juventus FC have beaten AS Roma 3-1 at the Allianz Stadium in the northern city of Turin, which was the second Coppa Italia (Italy Cup) quarter-final match after Napoli beat Lazio 1-0 on Tuesday.

Juve striker Cristiano Ronaldo scored his first goal in Coppa Italia in the 26th min-



Juventus' Cristiano Ronaldo tries to get around Parma's Jasmin Kurtic during an Italian Serie A Soccer match at the Allianz Stadium in Torino, Italy, Jan 19, 2020.

ute of the first half. Rodrigo Betancourt followed up with another goal in the 38th and Leonardo Bonucci's header added the third goal just before the end of the first half.

Roma midfielder Cengiz Under's ball went in after it deflected off Juve goalie Gianluigi Buffon in the second half.

Bikila, Debele Triumph as Ethiopians Dominate Dubai Marathon

DUBAI (Reuters) - Olika Adugna Bikila won the men's Dubai Marathon on Friday ahead of Kenyan Eric Kiprono Kiptanui and Ethiopian compatriot Tsedat Abeje Ayana, as the top 11 runners finished the race inside two hours

and seven minutes. Ethiopians dominated the 21st edition of the race with 18 of the top 20 men's and women's finishers in Dubai.

With little to separate the leading

pack heading into the final kilometer, Bikila produced a late charge to cross the line in 2:06.15, 0.02 seconds ahead of his fellow debutant Kiprono, to collect the winner's cheque of \$100,000. "At 40km, I realized that, with my

speed, I could win," Bikila said.

Ayana took third place with a time of 2:06.18.

It was the first time in marathon history that 11 men's runners had clocked times below 2:07.

Williams, Osaka Out; Federer Survives as Surprises Rock Australian Open



Switzerland's Roger Federer came from behind in a super tie-breaker

MELBOURNE (AFP) - Serena Williams crashed out, 15-year-old Coco Gauff stunned Naomi Osaka and Roger Federer survived a five-set thriller as the form book went flying out of the window at the Australian Open on Friday.

Men's title-holder Novak Djokovic eased into the last 16 but elsewhere there were surprises all over Melbourne Park with Williams the biggest victim and Federer fighting back from 4-8 down in a fifth-set tie-break with John Millman.

Williams' bid for a record-equalling 24th Grand Slam was shattered by the unlikely figure of China's Wang Qiang, who triumphed in three tough sets -- after winning just one game when they played at the US Open in September.

Gauff then stepped up her giant-killing Melbourne debut as she ousted Japanese defending champion Osaka, 22, in dismissive style, winning 6-3, 6-4 in just 67 minutes to reach round four.

Federer came within a whisker of repeating his 2018 U.S. Open upset by Millman as he was taken to five punishing sets by the tough Australian.

The 20-time Grand Slam champion was facing defeat in the super tie-breaker but he clawed back from 4-8 down to clinch his 100th win at the Australian Open.

With Williams now 38, 23 years older than Gauff, the two players are at opposite ends of their careers.

And with Williams' close friend Caroline Wozniacki retiring on Friday, after defeat to Ons Jabeur, it looked like a changing of the guard in women's tennis.

But Williams, who has now had eight winless Grand Slams since returning from childbirth, said she hadn't given up hope of matching Margaret Court's 47-year-old record for Grand

Slam titles.

Williams was the bookies' favourite to lift the trophy for the eighth time but she came unstuck against a determined Wang, who won 6-4, 6/7 (2/7), 7-5.

Her defeat came just minutes after Denmark's Wozniacki was knocked out by Tunisia's Jabeur, bringing a tearful end to the former world number one's final tournament before retiring.

Williams' exit removes a major hurdle for Australia's world number one Ashleigh Barty, 23, who had been on course to meet her in the semi-finals.

Barty, bidding to become the first Australian champion since 1978, hit form in a 6-3, 6-2 demolition of Elena Rybakina, saying she had played her best tennis so far this year.

Gauff, who trained with Serena Williams in the off-season, had promised she would be less nervous than in her last meeting with Osaka, when she was thrashed in round three of last year's U.S. Open.

And so it proved as the teenager broke once in the first set and twice in the second to floor a rattled Osaka and ramp up a rivalry that could run and run.

In the men's draw, reigning champion Djokovic thrashed Japan's Yoshihito Nishioka 6-3, 6-2, 6-2 to reach the round of 16 at a canter.

But Greek sixth seed Stefanos Tsitsipas was also on the receiving end of an upset as he went down in straight sets to Canada's Milos Raonic, the world number 35.

Former U.S. Open champion Marin Cilic, 31, outlasted Robert Bautista Agut in five tough sets and Tennys Sandgren, under fire during his last deep run in Melbourne over links to right-wing activists, beat fellow American Sam Querrey in straight sets.

Dutch Dakar Biker Dies After Saudi Crash

THE HAGUE (AFP) - Dutch motorcyclist Edwin Straver, who crashed during the penultimate stage of the Dakar rally, has died of his injuries, his wife confirmed on Friday.

The 48-year-old from Rijswijk in southern Netherlands fell from his KTM 450 on January 16 travelling at relatively low speed, but fracturing his spine.

"Edwin died in the early hours of Friday morning surrounded by his loved ones," his wife Anja den Hollander told AFP.

The family was in the process of



Dutch rider Edwin Straver, pictured during the 2018 Dakar Rally, has died following a crash in this year's edition in Saudi Arabia

making funeral arrangements, she said.