

Nine Iranian Athletes to Compete at Karate 1-Premier League Salzburg



TEHRAN (Tasnim) — Iran has sent nine karatekas to Austria for third stop of the season of Karate

1-Premier League.

The competition will be held in Salzburg from February 28 to

March 01. The participants aim at earning the points at stake to take the top positions in Karate's Olympic standings.

Sara Bahmanyar (female kumite -50kg), Taravat Khaksar (female Kumite -55kg), Rozita Alipour (female Kumite -61kg), Hamideh Abbasali (female Kumite +68kg), Fatemeh Sadeghi (female kata), Bahman Askari (male Kumite -75 kg), Ali Asghar Asiabari (male kumite -75kg), Zabihollah Poorhab (male kumite -84kg) and Sajjad Ganjzadeh (male kumite +84kg) will represent Iran in the competition.

The first Karate athletes will win the qualification for Tokyo

2020 on April 6, 2020. The top four-ranked karatekas in each one of the Olympic categories will earn the ticket to the Olympic Games. As the anticipated date nears, the competitors travel to Salzburg to make their Olympic dreams come true.

Over 600 competitors from 88 countries are registered to compete at the 2020 Karate 1-Premier League Salzburg. This tally represents a considerable increase with the previous event since 513 competitors from 79 countries took part in the Karate 1-Premier League Dubai.

The tournament starts on Friday and the finals are scheduled on Sunday, March 1.

Clippers Snap 3-Game Skid With 124-97 Rout of Grizzlies

LOS ANGELES (AP) -- Kawhi Leonard and the Los Angeles Clippers have served notice just how dominant they can be with a healthy roster.

Leonard scored 25 points in three quarters as the Clippers snapped a three-game losing streak with a 124-97 rout of the Memphis Grizzlies.

Montrezl Harrell had 22 points for Los Angeles, which led throughout and was up by 35 early in the second quarter.

The Clippers were buoyed by the return of Paul George and Patrick Beverley. George, who strained his left hamstring again before the All-Star break, was back after miss-



Los Angeles Clippers forward Marcus Morris Sr., right, shoots as Memphis Grizzlies center Jonas Valanciunas defends during the second half of an NBA basketball game Monday, Feb. 24, 2020, in Los Angeles. The Clippers won 124-97.

ing last Saturday's game and scored seven of Los Angeles' first nine

points. Beverley, who was out five games with a groin injury, had six

points. George played 21 minutes and Beverley 19.

Both were able to slowly work their way back into the lineup as Leonard set the tone. He had 14 points in the first quarter as the Clippers roared out to a 40-14 lead. The All-Star forward scored 10 straight, including two dunks, to extend Los Angeles' advantage to 24-6 with 3:49 remaining in the period.

It was the third time this season and second against Memphis that Los Angeles put up 40 or more points in the opening 12 minutes. George scored seven of the first nine points as the Clippers shot 16 of 25 from the field in the quarter.

Adam Yates Gains Crushing UAE Tour Win



Adam Yates

PARIS (AFP) - British climber Adam Yates pulverized the opposition on the

tough, final ascent of stage three of the UAE Tour, winning by over a minute

and taking the overall race lead on Tuesday.

His compatriot Chris Froome the four-time Tour de France winner again struggled on his comeback from injuries, and was paced home over 10 minutes adrift on the day.

The 27-year-old Yates of Mitchelton-Scott is also making his 2020 debut and looks favourite to win in a competitive field after his stunning attack from 6km out at the end of a warm day with temperatures passing 30C.

"I attacked maybe a little too early,

but in the end I felt good," said Yates, whose win gives him a 1min 07sec lead in the overall.

"A minute is a lot, but we have to do this climb again, and maybe my legs won't be so good then," Yates said in reference to stage five.

"Also tomorrow I heard a rumour there are going to be crosswinds, so we'll see."

Yates was followed up the final 10.6km Jebel Hafeet climb at a 7 percent gradient by a trio of challengers with Slovenian prodigy Tadej Pogacar finishing 1min 03sec adrift.

Iranian Gymnast Among Top 4 in World



TEHRAN (Dispatches) – Interna-

tional Gymnastics Federation published on Tuesday its new rankings in which Saeed-Reza Keikha ranked fourth in pommel horse apparatus.

In the previous ranking of the world gymnasts, Keikha had been placed 5th, but his great performance in Melbourne World Cup promoted him to 4th position

with 63 points.

Mehdi Ahmad-Kohani, another Iranian gymnast, stood thirteenth with 25 points. He received a silver medal in the 2020 World Cup Gymnastics in Melbourne on Sunday.

The two athletes are now in Turkey to prepare for Baku competitions to be held during April 24-26.

Paire Hangs On to Beat Cilic in Dubai



France's Benoit Paire is yet to reach further than the fourth round of a Grand Slam in the singles draw

DUBAI (AFP) - Benoit Paire fought off four match points at the Dubai Championships on Tuesday, overhauling former U.S. Open winner Marin Cilic 2-6, 7-5, 7-6 (7/1) to reach the second round.

The French eighth seed appeared all but finished as Croatian Cilic served for a straight sets win leading 5-3 in the second set after taking the first.

But Paire broke as he clung on and then won the set in the opening match of the day played in 29C desert conditions.

"It was not easy today. I was not confident before the match. Normally when it's one set, 5-3, I normally tank," Paire said.

"This time I tried until the end.

It was working good. I'm really happy about the win.

"I was not feeling really good on court. I was a little bit sick (the last) two, three days. But I was happy to win today and to fight until the end."

Paire, who lost to Cilic at the second round of last month's Australian Open, recovered from a break down in the final set and saved match points in the 12th game to take it into a tiebreaker.

Paire was untouchable, sprinting to five match points and converting on the second as Cilic double-faulted for a 10th time.

Paire improved to 9-6 for the season and will play countryman Richard Gasquet next.

Norway's Lundy Wins Ski Jumping Women's WC in Ljubno

LJUBLJANA (AP) - Maren

Lundy of Norway has claimed the individual title at the women's ski jumping World Cup event in Ljubno, Slovenia, ending the four-event unbeaten run of Austria's Chiara Hoelzl.

Olympic champion Lundy landed jumps of 93 and 89 meters for a total of 254.8 points to top the podium, beating Austria's Eva Pinkelnig by 2.1 points. Home favorite Nika Kriznar came third for her first individual podium finish in the season with 250.0 points.

Hoelzl, who stormed to four individual titles during the last two weekends and topped the team



competition with Austria on Saturday, could only finish seventh on Sunday with 240.5 points.

Despite her disappointing run in Ljubno, the 23-year-old still leads

the overall World Cup ranking with 1,066 points, while Lundy's win sees her close the gap to Hoelzl with 1,040 points. Pinkelnig remains third with 939 points.

Vinales Tops Final Test Day, Marquez Back on 2019 Bike

MADRID (Dspatches) - Hon-
da's troubles this pre-season have
been well-documented, with both

LCR rider Cal Crutchlow and
world champion Marquez – who
is also riding below full fitness –
having been critical of the new
RC213V's poor turning.

With little progress seemingly
being made in Qatar, Honda took
one of Takaaki Nakagami's year-
old bike's from his side of the
LCR garage for Marquez to try.

Though it's unclear what bike
he used to set his best time, Mar-
quez ended the test seventh with

a 1m54.145s lap – 0.090 seconds
ahead of 2019 Honda-mounted
Nakagami.

Sepang test pacesetter and Sun-
day's fastest man in Qatar Fabio
Quartararo was first out on track,
and set the early pace with a
1m56.255s before eventually im-
proving to a 1m55.116s.

This stood for well over an hour,
before the Petronas SRT Yamaha
rider improved on his benchmark
with a 1m54.953s.

With around three and a half
hours of running remaining, Vi-
nales deposed Quartararo with a