

# Iran Beat UAE 4-3 in Penalties, to Face Spain in Final at Beach Soccer Cup



**DUBAI (Dispatches)** - In the 2019 Intercontinental Beach Soccer Cup in Dubai, defending champions Iran have beaten host nation, the UAE, in penalties, after a 1-1 draw in regulation, to set up a final match with Spain. Iran's keeper Hamid Behzadpour drew first blood in the

opening period, when he rifled a long-range shot into the net.

In the second period, Iran held onto their slender lead, but the Emiratis restored parity in the third through their captain to force extra time.

Extra time failed to produce a victor, so the game rolled on into a penalty shootout, where each team missed one spot kick before Peyman Hosseini proved the hero for Iran as he saved the last penalty.

Iran will play against Spain in the final match, while handling the heartbroken Emiratis a play-off for third against Russia.

# James' Triple Double Streak Ends But Lakers Win 7th Straight



**James had his streak of triple doubles snapped at three games as he finished with six assists and four rebounds**

**LOS ANGELES (AFP)** - Anthony Davis and LeBron James combined for 51 points as the Los Angeles Lakers won their seventh straight game with a 95-80 victory over the Miami Heat.

Davis finished with a team-leading 26 points and eight rebounds and James scored 12 of his 25 points in the fourth quarter for the Lakers who are also 4-0 at home.

James had his streak of triple doubles snapped at three games as he finished with six assists and four rebounds.

"I just wanted to be aggressive and see if I could make it count," said James, who registered his 1,000th career double double.

His three triple doubles in the previous three contests made him the first to do it since Magic Johnson accomplished the feat 32 years ago.

James previously led the Heat to two NBA titles before leaving

to rejoin the Cleveland Cavaliers in 2014.

"We are very resilient. We bounce back and we don't get rattled," James said of the Lakers. "That's not common for a team that has only been together a short period of time, but it is a good trait."

Jimmy Butler led the Heat with 22 points after scoring 34 in his previous game.

Backup point guard Goran Dragic came off the bench to score 19 points for the Heat who shot just 35.0 percent from the floor and made just six of 35 three point attempts.

Miami, who were playing on a short rest after beating Phoenix 124-108 the previous night, had their lowest-scoring and poorest-shooting game of the season.

The Heat were without starting forward Justise Winslow, who has now missed four straight games with back problems.

## Sassuolo Beat Bologna 3-1 in Serie A

**SASSUOLO, Italy (AP)** - Sassuolo have recorded their first home win since September as they beat Bologna 3-1 in Serie A.

Francesco Caputo scored in each half, and Jeremie Boga also netted for the hosts.

Sassuolo moved up to 11th, a point above Bologna, ahead of the rest of the weekend's fixtures.

Sassuolo had won just one of their six matches - home and away - since their last victory at the Mapei Stadium on Sept. 22.

But Caputo gave it the lead in the 34th minute when he swept



*Sassuolo's Francesco Caputo shooting to score one of his two goals against Bologna.*

home Filip Djuricic's scuffed overhead kick, seconds after Bologna goalkeeper Lukasz Skorupski had denied Manuel Locatelli.

Boga doubled Sassuolo's lead in the 68th, two minutes before Riccardo Orsolini reduced the deficit.

However, Caputo swiftly restored Sassuolo's two-goal advantage with a fine solo effort.

Orsolini, who received a debut call-up to the Italy squad earlier Friday, thought he had pulled another goal back for Bologna but it was disallowed for offside.

## Ash Barty Defeats Garcia to Level Fed Cup Final



**PERTH, Australia (AP)** - Australian Ash Barty continued her season-long extraordinary form to beat France's Caroline Garcia 6-0, 6-0 and level the Fed Cup final at 1-1 on Saturday.

The world No.1-ranked Barty beat Garcia in just 56 minutes on an outdoor hard court at Perth Arena to get Australia back on track after Kristina Mladenovic beat Ajla Tomljanovic, who was making her Fed Cup debut, 6-1, 6-1, to give France the early lead.

Barty, who won her first singles major at the French Open this year, extended her Fed Cup winning streak to 15 matches, a run that began in February 2017.

"I think that's probably the best tennis match I've ever played in my life," she said. "I could not have asked for a more perfect

match."

Barty is set to face Mladenovic in the first reverse singles match on Sunday.

"I know she has the weapons to make me uncomfortable," she said of Mladenovic. "It's about trying to nullify that the best I can."

Fresh off her record \$4.42 million triumph at the WTA Finals in Shenzhen last weekend, Barty overwhelmed the world No. 45-ranked Garcia with potent serving and pinpoint shot-making. She finished with 15 winners and eight aces.

## Barca Preparing for Post-Messi Era: President

**RCELONA, Spain (Dispatches)** - Even though Lionel Messi is still going strong, Barcelona's club president has already started to look ahead to that unwanted day when the club's all-time great steps off the Camp Nou field for the very last time.

Josep Bartomeu told media in an interview on Friday that "we are preparing this post-Messi era."

"In the next coming two or three seasons our leader will continue to be Leo Messi," Bartomeu said at



*Barcelona's club President Josep Bartomeu*

Camp Nou Stadium. "But it's true that there are other young players who are coming. Players coming from abroad, but also players com-

ing from our La Masia (academy). And we are very happy because we are preparing this post-Messi era."

Messi is Barcelona's all-time leading scorer with 609 goals in 697 games and has led it to 34 trophies. He remains the team's undisputed leader, its best scorer and passer of the ball. His place in the hearts of Barcelona's fans is only shared by Johan Cruyff, the former player and coach credited with establishing Barcelona's attacking style that Messi has exploited to perfection.

## Manchester United Defeat Partizan 3-0 in Europa League



*Manchester United have cruised into the Europa League knockout stages*

**MANCHESTER (Dispatches)** - Manchester United have cruised into the Europa League knockout stages with a 3-nil victory over Partizan Belgrade at Old Trafford.

18-year-old Mason Greenwood broke the deadlock in the 22nd minute, with a composed finish from close range.

Anthony Martial doubled the lead for the Red Devils after the half-hour mark, with an excellent solo effort.

And Marcus Rashford lashed home the third, four minutes after the break, to seal United's win, and advance from their Group with two games to spare.

## Klopp Rules Out Move for France Superstar Mbappe

**LONDON (AFP)** - French star Kylian Mbappe is out of Liverpool's price range, the Premier League leaders manager and long-time admirer Jurgen Klopp says.

The 20-year-old Paris Saint Germain striker -- who was instrumental in France's lifting of the 2018 World Cup -- has been linked with Real Madrid.

This gathered momentum earlier in the week when Real's coach Zinedine Zidane remarked that Mbappe had always said it was his dream to play for the Spanish side.

Klopp, speaking ahead of Sunday's clash with second-placed Manchester City, had been keen to sign Mbappe in 2017 and met with the player and his entourage.

However, he opted to join PSG for £158 million (\$202 million). PSG are seeking to extend his



present contract and if they were reluctantly to allow him to leave are believed to want more than the record fee of £198 million they paid Barcelona for Neymar in 2017.