

Akram Afif, Saki Kumagai Win Asian Player of the Year Awards



Qatar's Akram Afif, left, Japan captain Saki Kumagai have named Asian soccer players of the year for 2019.

HONG KONG (AP) -- Qatar forward Akram Afif and Japan captain Saki Kumagai have been named Asian soccer players of the year for 2019.

The Asian Football Confederation announced the winners Monday at an awards gala in Hong Kong.

Afif won the award ahead of Iranian World Cup goalkeeper Alireza Beiranvand and Japanese defender Tomoaki Makino, who helped Urawa Red Diamonds to the final of the Asian Champions League.

Afif helped Qatar win the 2019

Asian Cup title, and Doha-based club Al Sadd win the national title and reach the Asian Champions League semifinals. Al Sadd will play in the Club World Cup starting next week in Qatar.

Kumagai won a fourth straight UEFA Women's Champions League title with French club Lyon and captained Japan at the 2019 Women's World Cup. Japan lost in the round of 16 to the Netherlands.

Coaching awards were won by Chung Jung-yong of South Korea's Under-20 team, and by Japan's women's coach Asako Takakura.

Clippers Blow Out Undermanned Wizards 150-125

LOS ANGELES (AP) -- Coach Doc Rivers called the first play of the game for Paul George and he hit a 3-pointer.

His teammates found him the rest of the way.

Kawhi Leonard scored 34 points, George added 31, and the Los Angeles Clippers rolled past undermanned Washington 150-125 on Sunday night for their 12th win in a row over the Wizards at home.

"It's those new shoulders. He's just a great shooter," Rivers said of George. "He's shooting deep shots on the move and doing it with great balance."

Montrezl Harrell added 23 points and a career-high 15 rebounds and Lou Williams had 22 points for the Clippers, who led all the way in improving to a franchise-best 12-1 at Staples Center.

"Their athletes are long, wiry and strong and defensive-minded," Wizards coach Scott Brooks said. "On top of that, they can score. That's a great benefit."

The Clippers shot 57% in taking a 27-point lead in the first half when George had 27 points.

"We just came out a little bit more aggressive as a unit," Williams said. "We were very efficient on the offensive end. The shots we took a lot of times were



Los Angeles Clippers forward Kawhi Leonard, right, shoots as Washington Wizards guard Isaiah Thomas defends during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, Dec. 1, 2019, in Los Angeles.

ones we wanted to take."

George and Leonard combined to score 10 of the Clippers' first 13 points in the third when they led 95-69.

The Wizards ran off 11 straight points to close within 15 in their only major spurt of the game.

From there, the Clippers outscored Washington 19-12 to lead 116-98 going into the fourth.

For the game, the Clippers shot 55%, owned a 66-46 edge in the paint and their bench outscored the Wizards reserves 73-39.

Inter Leapfrog Juventus to Top Serie A



MILAN (AP) - A teenage goalkeeper restricted Juventus to a 2-2 draw at home to Sassuolo on Sunday which dropped the eight-time defending champion into second place.

Juventus needed Cristiano Ronaldo's penalty to secure a point against Sassuolo before Inter Milan beat Spal 2-1 to move a point above the Bianconeri in the Serie A table.

Sassuolo's first-choice goal-

keeper Gianluca Pegolo was recovering from surgery and reserve Andrea Consigli was also injured, so 18-year-old Stefano Turati was handed his debut.

Turati's youth was highlighted by the appearance of veteran goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon at the other end.

The 41-year-old Buffon had made 160 Serie A appearances before Turati was even born.

Roger Federer's Face to Be Minted on Swiss Coin

BERN, Switzerland (AP) -- The Swiss government says it will produce a 20 franc silver coin with Roger Federer's image on it.

The government says it's the first time it has dedicated a commemorative coin to a living person.

A 50 franc gold coin with Federer's image on it will be minted next year. The government says the 20-time Grand Slam champion is "probably Switzerland's most successful individual sportsman, he is also the perfect ambassador for Switzerland."

The "heads" side of the coin shows Federer playing a one-handed backhand.

The government says a limited edition of up to 95,000 Federer coins can be ordered, costing 30 Swiss francs. They will be dispatched in January. The 50 franc coin will have a different design.

Hamilton Seals Easy 11th Victory of F1 Championship Season

ABU DHABI (AP) -- World champion Lewis Hamilton's 11th victory of another dominant season proved so easy that the driver who finished way back in second place at the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix joked that he should have eased up a bit.

Hamilton's 84th career win saw him finishing around 17 seconds clear of Max Verstappen. The Red Bull driver had started from second place behind Hamilton.

After Hamilton pulled clear from pole, he was five seconds ahead within 10 laps and Verstappen never got remotely close to catching his Mercedes in a season-finale resembling more of a coronation procession for the six-time Formula One champion.

Although Verstappen had re-



Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton of Britain leads during the Emirates Formula One Grand Prix, at the Yas Marina racetrack in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, Sunday, Dec. 1, 2019.

liability issues approaching the midway point of the 55-lap race, the 22-year-old Dutchman conceded it had little impact on who won.

Hamilton is now just seven wins behind seven-time F1 champion

Michael Schumacher's all-time record of 91, and could realistically overtake the F1 great next season.

After clinching a record-extending 88th career pole, Hamilton won on the Yas Marina circuit for

the fifth time in his career- four with Mercedes and once when driving for McLaren in 2011.

This was the opposite of the season-ending thriller in 2016, when former Mercedes driver Nico Rosberg beat Hamilton to the title in dramatic fashion.

The fans watching as the sky darkened and the floodlights flickered on saw no overtaking, except for Verstappen's clean move on Charles Leclerc's Ferrari on Lap 33. It was typical Verstappen, already a young master at overtaking and arguably the best in F1.

Leclerc finished third for a 10th podium in a strong first season with Ferrari, which included an F1-leading seven poles - two more than Hamilton and Bottas - and two wins.

Olympic Champion Mayer Edges Paris for WC Super-G Win



Austria's Matthias Mayer reacts in the finish area following his run in the men's World Cup super-G ski race at Lake Louise, Alberta, Dec 1, 2019.

LAKE LOUISE, Alberta (AP) - Olympic champion Matthias Mayer has ended Dominik Paris' victory streak to win the first World Cup super-G of the Alpine ski season.

Mayer raced down the sun-bathed Canadian course 0.40 seconds faster than Paris, who won the previous three super-G races last season, including taking gold at the world championships.

For the second time in the weekend, Italy's Paris was knocked out of the leader's box into the runner-up spot and there was another tie for third place.

Vincent Kriechmayr of Austria and Mauro Caviezel of Switzer-

land clocked the same time, trailing the winner by 0.49.

Mayer's sixth career World Cup win was his first in super-G for almost three years, though the Austrian later took gold at the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Games.

"A win in the first race of the season is very important. Couldn't be better for me," said Mayer, who holds an early lead in the overall World Cup standings after four events.

Thomas Dressen followed his downhill win over Paris with a 10th place Sunday to complete his first race meeting after a one-year injury absence.

Frenchman Alaphilippe Wins Velo d'Or Award

PARIS (AP) -- Julian Alaphilippe capped a successful season during which he wore the Tour de France's yellow jersey for 14 days by winning the Velo d'Or award as the best rider of 2019 on Sunday.

Alaphilippe, who rides for the Belgian Deceuninck-Quick-Step team, became the first Frenchman to receive the award since Laurent Jalabert back in 1995.

The 27-year-old Alaphilippe amassed 12 victories in 2019, including prestigious trophies at the Milan-San Remo classic, the



Julian Alaphilippe

Strade Bianche and the Fleche Wallonne.

Alaphilippe played a key role in one of the most exciting Tour de

France editions in decades this summer, challenging race favorites with flair and panache. He won two stages before eventually cracking during the final week of racing but his showmanship and unpredictable style gained him many admirers.

The Velo d'Or awards are decided by an international panel of cycling journalists. Alaphilippe was voted ahead of Tour de France winner Egan Bernal and Primoz Roglic, who won the Spanish Vuelta this year.