

Iran to Participate at FINA World Men's Junior Water Polo Championships



TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Iran will take part at 20th FINA World Men's Junior Water Polo Championships.

The competition will be held in Kuwait from December 12 to 20.

A total of 20 teams will compete in the tournament.

Iran has been drawn in tough Group C along with host Kuwait, Montenegro, USA and Italy.

The team will be headed by Mehdi Panamtaash in the tournament.

Reeling Knicks Drop 10th Straight, 115-87 to Trail Blazers



Portland Trail Blazers guard CJ McCollum, front left, dribbles the ball on New York Knicks guard Damyean Dotson, right, as guard Dennis Smith Jr., back left, closes in during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Portland, Ore., Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2019. The Blazers won 115-87.

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - In the wake of an easy win, the Portland Trail Blazers agreed they needed the rout for their own morale.

Damian Lillard had 31 points, including eight 3-pointers, and Portland handed the wretched New York Knicks their 10th straight loss, 115-87 on Tuesday night.

"Anytime you have that type of win, and the way that we did it, I think we should feel good about it, especially in a game that we feel we should have won," Lillard said.

Hassan Whiteside added 17 points and 15 rebounds as the Blazers ended a two-game skid. Portland led by as many as 32.

"Those kind of games feel good," coach Terry Stotts weighed in.

Julius Randle had 15 points for the Knicks, who have won just four games, fewest in the NBA. They have one victory on the road.

The Knicks opened their four-game West Coast trip in disarray after coach David Fizdale was fired on Friday, just hours after he ran practice. Mike Miller was named interim head coach, and New York lost 104-103 at home to Indiana the next night.

"In an 82-game schedule you may have some nights where it won't go in, and we found ourselves in that," Miller said.

In Portland, New York faced Carmelo Anthony, who played for the Knicks from 2011-17.

When the Blazers picked up Anthony on Nov. 19, the 10-time All-Star had been out of the game for more than a year. But he has fit in well with Portland as a starter, averaging nearly 16 points and six rebounds a game.

Anthony finished with 16 points.

"We were locked in, since this morning, since shootaround, we were locked in," Anthony said. "Dame came out and led us, Hassan played great, but I thought overall defense was what got us going. We were talking, we were active, a lot of energy on the defensive end."

Portland was coming off a 108-86 defeat at home to Oklahoma City on Sunday, with the team still reeling from the loss of Rodney Hood, who tore his left Achilles tendon in a loss to the Lakers on Friday. Hood will miss the rest of the season.

Lillard's step-back 3 put the Blazers up 32-22 at the end of the first quarter. Lillard had 17 points in the opening period.

Portland led by as many as 21 in the half and was up 60-41 at the break behind 25 points from Lillard.

The Knicks were 2 of 15 from 3-point range in the first half and 7 of 38 for the game.

Napoli Sack Ancelotti Hours After 4-0 Champions League Win

LONDON (Dispatches) - Napoli have sacked manager Carlo Ancelotti less than three hours after he guided them into the Champions League knockout stages.

The Serie A club had not won in nine games in all competitions until Tuesday's 4-0 success at home to Genk.

Ancelotti was in his second season in charge of Napoli but they sit seventh in the league after that poor run.

They are the only team to beat Liverpool in 90 minutes this season, defeating the Reds 2-0 in September.

Last month the manager and Napoli players were in a high-profile dispute with president Aurelio de Laurentiis.

De Laurentiis ordered the team to attend a week-long training camp but Ancelotti and his



Carlo Ancelotti

players all returned home.

Ancelotti, who won the Premier League and FA Cup Double with Chelsea in 2009-10, has been linked with the vacant managers' jobs at Arsenal and Everton.

He is one of only three managers to win three European Cups/Champions Leagues - along with

Liverpool legend Bob Paisley and current Real Madrid boss Zinedine Zidane.

Ancelotti won two Champions Leagues with AC Milan and one with Real Madrid, as well as domestic titles with Milan, Chelsea, Paris St-Germain and Bayern Munich.

He did not appear to know an announcement was imminent after the win over Genk, when he said: "I'll speak to president De Laurentiis tomorrow and we'll make the best decision for Napoli.

"As far as I'm concerned, with certain players coming back and the right conditions in place, this team can still target fourth place.

"The win tonight is a weight off our shoulders and can give the players a big boost for the future."

But a tweet later that evening simply read: "SSC Napoli has taken the decision to part ways with first-team coach Carlo Ancelotti.

"The friendship and mutual respect between the club, president Aurelio de Laurentiis and Carlo Ancelotti remain intact."

Pakistan Dominate Sri Lanka in First Home Test for Ten Years



Naseem Shah celebrates the dismissal of Oshada Fernando.

RAWALPINDI, Pakistan (AFP) - Test cricket made its long-awaited return to Pakistan after a deadly attack in 2009, with the home team led by fast bowler Naseem Shah dominating Sri Lanka on Wednesday.

Naseem, who is just 16, grabbed 2-51 on the opening day of the first Test which marked a momentous occasion in Pakistan cricket at Rawalpindi stadium.

Sri Lanka won the toss and

batted and closed the day at a precarious 202-5 after bad light stopped play 20.5 overs early.

At close Dhananjaya de Silva was unbeaten on 38 and Niroshan Dickwella not out 11 as Sri Lanka spoiled a good 96-run start given by skipper Dimuth Karunaratne (59) and Oshada Fernando (40).

Pakistan struggled for wickets in the first session as Sri Lanka reached 89-0 at lunch.

Shaheen Shah Afridi trapped

Sri Lankan skipper Karunaratne leg-before soon after lunch to trigger a collapse which saw the visitors lose four wickets within just 31 runs in the post lunch session.

Karunaratne hit nine boundaries in his 110-ball knock.

Naseem then had Fernando caught at slip for 40, an innings laced with six boundaries and a six.

It was his first Test wicket after he came away empty-handed from his debut in Brisbane against Australia last month.

He also had Angelo Mathews caught in the slips for 31. Mathews added 62 runs for the fifth wicket with De Silva.

Naseem, who is also included in Pakistan's squad for next month's Under-19 World Cup in South Africa, said he was happy to play the lead role.

"I enjoyed a lot and the whole crowd was supporting me," he said.

"Whenever I bowled a good delivery, they supported me. I was very excited that I was playing before the home crowd and got two wickets."

Usman Shinwari also claimed his first wicket when Kusal Mendis edged him to wicket-keeper Mohammad Rizwan for 10, while Mohammad Abbas bowled Dinesh Chandimal for two with a beautiful delivery.

Pakistan, who in a surprise decision left out their key spinner Yasir Shah, had struggled for a breakthrough in the first session.

Naseem was the stand-out bowler in the morning as he generated pace, hitting Karunaratne on the helmet in the 19th over.

Sri Lankan skipper, then on 42, fell down but showed no further signs of discomfort, hitting Shaheen Shah Afridi for his eighth boundary to reach his 24th Test fifty.

Russian Boxers to Boycott Olympics If Sanctions Not Lifted



MOSCOW (Dispatches) - Russian boxers will only take part in the Tokyo Olympics if doping sanctions forcing them to compete as neutral athletes are overturned, the general secretary of the Russian Boxing Federation said on Wednesday.

Umar Kremlev said he has spoken with the Olympic boxing team and they "unanimously" rejected the conditions laid out by the World Anti-Doping Agency as punishment for manipulating doping data.

The WADA sanctions, announced on Monday, ban the use of the Russian team name, flag or anthem at a range of major sports competitions over the next four years, including next year's Olympics.

"They said we won't go without our flag and anthem," Kremlev said. "We aren't going for medals, but for that feeling that I brought the highest honor home for my country."

Separately, the speaker of Russia's upper house of parliament said Russia could create an alternative to the Olympics.

"This ruling show the clear crisis in international sports institutions. I believe that Russia could host its own games at home," Valentina Matvienko said in comments reported by the Interfax news agency.

There is a precedent. After the Russian Revolution of 1917, the Soviet Union refused to compete in the Olympics and hosted its own Spartakiads - named after the ancient rebel slave Spartacus - with a strong socialist slant. However, the Soviet Union began competing at the Olympics in 1952 and Russians generally take great pride in the country's Olympic achievements since then.

If the sanctions aren't overturned, Kremlev said Russian boxers would prefer to turn pro rather than compete at the Olympics.