

# Karimi Wins Silver at Matteo Pellicone Ranking Series



ROME, Italy (Dispatches) – Alireza Karimi from Iran has won a silver medal at the Matteo Pellicone Ranking Series 2021.

Karimi lost to American Kollin Raymond Moore in the 97kg final.

He had already defeated American Hayden Nicholas Zillmer and Turkey's Ibrahim Ciftci.

Kazakhstan's Alisher Yeragli and American Hayden Nicholas Zillmer won bronze.

Behnam Ehsanpour will represent Iran at the 67kg.

The competition serves as a UWW Ranking Series event for the 2021 World Championships in Oslo, Norway, later this year.

Around 360 wrestlers from 32 different countries are participating in the tournament.

## Thailand Invites Iran for 8-Nation Futsal Cup



TEHRAN (Dispatches) – Iranian men's national futsal team has been invited to participate in a tournament in Thailand.

Thailand Football Association has invited Iran to take part in the 'SAT International Futsal Championship Thailand 2021' which is slated to be held from May 18 to 23 in Bangkok.

The event will be held with eight teams in two groups of four where teams play a round-robin before going into knock-out stages.

Thailand has also sent invitations to Japan, Finland, Netherlands, Indonesia, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Vietnam, UAE, and Uzbekistan.

## Kvitova Rolls to Qatar Total Open Title

DOHA, Qatar (Reuters) - Petra Kvitova of the Czech Republic has cruised past Spain's Garbine Muguruza 6-2, 6-1 to win the Qatar Total Open at Doha.

Kvitova, a two-time Wimbledon champion, also beat Muguruza in the 2018 final here

and has been in the tournament final in three of the past four years, last year falling to Aryna Sabalenka.

The fourth-seeded Kvitova broke Muguruza five times in nine chances as she cruised to the win in one hour and six minutes.

It's the 28th career WTA title for Kvitova, who improved to 5-1 in her career against Muguruza.

Swiss qualifier Viktorija Golubic stunned No. 2 seed Fiona Ferro of France 4-6, 6-0, 7-6 (4) to reach the final in France.

Golubic will next face Denmark's Clara Tauson, who upset seventh-seeded Paula Badosa of Spain 7-5, 6-1 in the other semi-final.

The 18-year-old Tauson won their only previous meeting 6-0, 4-6, 6-3 in January.

## Barcelona Beat Osasuna to Close Gap at Top



Barcelona's Moriba Kourouma Kourouma, also known as Ilaix Moriba (second left), celebrates with teammate Lionel Messi (center) at El Sadar stadium in Pamplona, Spain, March 6, 2021.

BARCELONA (Dispatches) - Eighteen-year-old Ilaix Moriba scored his first goal for Barcelona to help them overcome Osasuna and move back to within two points of La Liga leaders Atletico Madrid.

Lionel Messi set Jordi Alba up for the opener, while Barca's Marc-Andre ter Stegen saved well from Kike Barja and Ruben Garcia before the break.

Moriba ensured victory with an excellent finish from outside the area.

Barcelona's crucial presidential election takes place on Sunday.

Barca, a club grappling with financial problems while also attempting to keep six-time Ballon d'Or award winner Messi, will elect a new president on Sunday from three candidates - Joan Laporta, Victor Font and Toni Freixa.

Victory was Barcelona's second since the club's Nou Camp offices were raided on Monday

and former president Josep Maria Bartomeu was arrested in a probe related to allegations of improper management and business corruption.

Osasuna, a side 11 places adrift of Barca, were first to threaten, with Ter Stegen at full stretch to push Barja's effort wide.

A brilliantly threaded pass from Messi and fierce finish from Alba into the roof of the net put Barca ahead, but it was Ter Stegen who ensured they maintained that lead after foiling Garcia.

Osasuna worked hard to limit Barca after the break, but they failed to find an equaliser before substitute Moriba opened his Barca account with a fine curled finish.

La Liga leaders Atletico Madrid, who were 10 points clear of Barca at the end of January, host third-placed city rivals Real Madrid on Sunday.

## Vlhova Wins Giant Slalom as Shiffrin Stutters



Petra Vlhova won the giant slalom on her home course

day.

Vlhova had led after the first run of the slalom the day before only for the American to seize victory in the second run. On Sunday, Shiffrin led on the first leg with Vlhova second, before the American stuttered and slipped to third.

Vlhova won with a two-run time of 2 minutes 16.66 seconds.

"In the end on my home course I won," said an emotional Vlhova. "This was my dream."

New Zealander Alice Robinson recorded the fastest second-run time to jump from seventh to second, 0.16sec behind. Shiffrin was third, 0.37sec slower than the winner.

Italian Marta Bassino was fourth and, with on race left in the discipline this season, has clinched the small globe for the giant slalom champion.

Vlhova continued to close in on Swiss speed specialist Lara Gut-Behrami, who was ninth, in the chase for the overall World Cup title.

"In the last races in the slalom I was not in good shape," said Vlhova. "I had a small crisis. I trained a lot. I came here to my home."

Vlhova has closed the gap to 36 points behind the Swiss with six races to go: three slaloms, one giant slalom, one super-G, one downhill.

JASNÁ, Slovakia (AFP) - Slovakian Petra Vlhova turned the tables

on Mikaela Shiffrin to win the World Cup giant slalom in Jasna on Sun-

## Lewandowski Hat-Trick Steers Bayern Past Dortmund 4-2

MUNICH (Reuters) - Champions Bayern Munich have roared back from two goals down to beat Borussia Dortmund 4-2 with a hat-trick from Robert Lewandowski, to remain two points clear at the top of the Bundesliga.

Dortmund, who had won their four previous games in all competitions, scored twice with Erling Haaland in the opening nine minutes and Poland striker Lewandowski responded with a brace of his own in an explosive first half.

But a goal from Leon Goretzka in the 88th minute put the hosts in front and Lewandowski scored his third in the 90th to kill off the game.

"It is currently the case that



Bayern's Robert Lewandowski celebrates scoring his side's fourth goal during the German Bundesliga soccer match between Bayern Munich and Borussia Dortmund at the Allianz Arena in Munich, Germany, March 6, 2021.

if an opponent gets a chance, we get punished," said Bayern coach Hansi Flick. "But we shook ourselves after 2-0 and

showed that we won't have it taken away from us.

"We deserved the win in the end because we dominated the

game for an hour. The team showed it was awake after going 2-0 down."

Lewandowski, chasing Gerd Mueller's legendary record of 40 league goals in one season dating back from the 1971-72 campaign, now has 31 goals with 10 league games remaining.

Bayern, hunting a record-extending ninth consecutive league title, are on 55 points, two ahead of RB Leipzig, winners 3-0 at Freiburg. Dortmund dropped to sixth on 39.

The league's two best attacks lived up to their reputation in Der Klassiker with a stunning four-goal first half performance in an empty Allianz Arena.

## Van der Poel Wins Superb Starde Bianche to Complete Dutch Double

LONDON (Dispatches) - Mathieu van der Poel completed a Netherlands double in Strade Bianche after Chantal van den Broek-Blaak had earlier won the women's race in Siena.

Van der Poel, 26, punched clear on the final climb to win by five seconds from world champion Julian Alaphilippe.

Ex-Tour de France winner Egan Bernal was third with Ineos Grenadiers team-mate, Britain's Thomas Pidcock, fifth.

Van den Broek-Blaak, 31, won by seven seconds from Elisa Longo Borghini.

In the men's race Pidcock, 21, was the first British rider home, 54 seconds behind the winner, with Simon Carr 11th



Van der Poel leads the final charge into the medieval centre of Siena

and Owain Doull 30th.

After securing victory on the famous white dirt roads of Tuscany, Van der Poel said: "Strade is one of the races I really wanted to win, and it's really cool to win it today.

"I felt pretty good, I launched an attack on the last gravel section and I came with Bernal and Alaphilippe in the lead.

"We did a pretty strong ride the three of us. I felt I had something left in the legs to go all out on the last climb, and it's amazing to finish it off in this way."

Van den Broek-Blaak is the fourth successive Dutch winner of the women's event, following Anna van der Breggen (2018) and Annemiek van Vleuten in 2019 and 2020.