

Iranian Athletes Preparing for World Deaf Wrestling Championship



TEHRAN (MNA) – Iranian deaf Greco Roman wrestlers have started their training sessions to prepare for the upcoming international wrestling championships.

The cadet and junior deaf wrestlers held the first session of their 10-day training camp in the western city of Sanandaj, Kordestan province, on Sunday.

The Iranian athletes will prepare themselves for the World Deaf Wrestling Championship, which will be held in Trabzon, Turkey, in May-June.

Raptors Turn Back 76ers 110-103 for 4th Straight Win



TAMPA, Fla. (AP) – Pascal Siakam and Fred VanVleet each had 23 points and the Toronto Raptors beat the Philadelphia 76ers 110-103 for their fourth straight victory Sunday night.

Chris Boucher scored all 17 of his points for the Raptors in the final 14 minutes, hitting five 3-pointers over six minutes in a 19-10 stretch that pulled the Raptors ahead for good.

“They got me open and I shot with confidence. Then when I made them I felt good about taking the next one,” said Boucher, who also had a big fourth-quarter block of Philadelphia center Joel Embiid.

Coming off a 50-point outburst against Chicago on Friday night, Embiid had 25 points and 17 rebounds for the 76ers, who lost their fourth consecutive road game. But he made only six of 20 shots from the field, and the Sixers went 5 for 21 in the fourth quarter.

Toronto coach Nick Nurse gave much of the credit for the defense on Embiid to Aron Baynes.

“We kind of had to have him in there. When we didn’t,

it wasn’t pretty,” Nurse said of his 6-foot-10, 260-pound center. “I thought he put his body on him just enough. He got called for some, but that’s OK.”

Ben Simmons paced Philadelphia (20-11) with 28 points and nine rebounds.

The 76ers led 55-52 after an 18-point first half by Simmons, who had missed two games with a stomach virus after scoring 42 points in a loss at Utah.

Philadelphia shot 39% for the game.

The Raptors had erased an early 14-point deficit by hitting five 3-pointers - four by VanVleet - in a span of 2 1/2 minutes.

Boucher’s big shooting spurt late in the game was less expected.

VanVleet and Boucher hit five 3s each and the Raptors shot 14 for 34 from behind the arc.

Toronto Raptors guard Fred VanVleet (23) shoots over Philadelphia 76ers forward Tobias Harris (12) during the second half of an NBA basketball game Sunday, Feb. 21, 2021, in Tampa, Fla.

Dodig, Polasek Win Australian Open Men’s Doubles Title

MELBOURNE (Reuters) – Ivan Dodig and Filip Polasek have won their first Grand Slam title together, taking down defending Australian Open men’s doubles champions Rajeev Ram and Joe Salisbury 6-3 6-4 in the final.

It was the first Grand Slam triumph for Polasek, 35, who came out of retirement in 2018, while Croatia’s Dodig won his second men’s doubles title after winning the 2015 French Open with Marcelo Melo.

Polasek became only the second Slovakian player to win a Grand Slam after Daniela



Croatia’s Ivan Dodig (right) and partner Slovakia’s Filip Polasek pose with the championship trophy in Melbourne on Feb 21, 2021.

Hantuchova and dedicated the title to his newborn daughter.

The duo dominated the final at Rod Laver Arena, breaking their opponents’ serve once in each set during the 88-minute contest.

Such was their domination that they created 15 breakpoint opportunities in the match while not allowing Ram and Salisbury a single look at their own serve.

The defeat denied Ram, 36, a double at Melbourne Park this year after he paired with Barbora Krejčíková to win the mixed doubles title on Saturday.

Inter Dominate Milan Derby in Serie A



FC Inter’s Romelu Lukaku scores during a Serie A football match between AC Milan and FC Inter in Milan, Italy, Feb. 21, 2021.

ROME (Xinhua) – The highly-anticipated Milan derby turned out to be a lop-sided one, as Inter-Milan swept aside city rivals AC Milan 3-0 on Sunday, with Lautaro Martinez bagging a brace and Inter goalkeeper Samir Handanovic playing heroics.

It was the most eye-catching Derby

della Madonnina in recent years, not only because it was a head-to-head for the top spot, with only one point separating the two teams, but also because of the clash between Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Romelu Lukaku, as the Swede was suspected of racially insulting his former Manchester

United teammate in the Coppa Italia quarterfinals last month.

Both sides had a relatively full squad to choose from, as Christian Eriksen got the nod in midfield for Inter, while Ibrahimovic led Milan’s starting line-up and goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma marked his 200th Serie A appearance.

Inter started strong and broke the deadlock in under five minutes, as Lukaku’s square ball was blocked by Simon Kjær, but the Belgian followed up to float a cross for the unmarked Martinez to steer in a twisting header.

For Milan, Theo Hernandez saw his weak right-footed strike whistle past the post, while at the other end Ivan Perisic forced Donnarumma into a one-handed save, and Martinez’s follow-up ballooned over the bar.

The Rossoneri had an aggressive start after the break, but Handanovic performed a series of saves to deny attempts from Ibrahimovic and San-

dro Tonalì.

But just as Milan were starting to pin them back, Inter scored a second with a well-worked team goal in the 56th minute, as Eriksen’s through-ball released Perisic to pull back for Martinez to tap in from close range.

Lukaku added a sensational third 10 minutes later when the hitman sprinted from midfield before beating Donnarumma with a ferocious strike.

With the win, Inter now have a four-point lead over Milan at the top of the Serie A table.

Elsewhere, Napoli dropped to seventh after a 4-2 defeat away to Atalanta. The Partenopei have been decimated by injuries lately, and striker Victor Osimhen was stretchered off in stoppage time after a clash of heads.

Also on Sunday, 10-man Benevento held Roma 0-0, while Parma shared spoils with Udinese in a 2-2 draw.

Man City Stay 10 Points Clear of Man United, Leicester

LONDON (Reuters) – Manchester City have chalked up yet another victory to maintain their stranglehold of the Premier League title race but pursuers Manchester United and Leicester City both secured important wins to enhance their top-four bids on Sunday.

Raheem Sterling’s header after 75 seconds was enough for City to win 1-0 at Arsenal - a result much more comfortable than the narrow scoreline suggests.

It was their 13th Premier League win in a row, and 18th in all competitions, equaled a club-record 11 successive away wins and kept them 10 points ahead of the pack at the top.

Manchester City’s English midfielder Raheem Sterling (left) jumps to head home the opening goal of the English Premier League football match between Arsenal and Manchester City at the Emirates Stadium in London on Feb 21, 2021.

Mathieu Van der Poel’s Team Out of UAE Tour After Positive Coronavirus Test

DUBAI (Dispatches) – Mathieu van der Poel is out of the UAE Tour, following a positive coronavirus test for an Alpecin-Fenix team member.

The Dutchman, who led after winning stage one, did not start Monday’s second stage, because his team withdrew to “safeguard the race bubble”.

“Those who came into contact are self-isolating,” said organiz-



Mathieu van der Poel (L) won Sunday’s opening stage of the UAE Tour but his team pulled out of the race Monday following a positive Covid-19 test

ers RCS. Riders will be tested on 25 and 26 February.

Tour de France winner Tadej Pogacar has taken the lead after finishing fourth in Monday’s individual time trial.

The 22-year-old Slovenian, who rides for UAE Team Emirates, won last year’s Tour in spectacular fashion by winning an individual time trial on the penultimate stage of the race.

Barcelona’s Wining Ended by Last Minute Penalty



Cadiz, who beat Barcelona 2-1 earlier in the season, get a last-minute draw

BARCELONA (Dispatches) – Lionel Messi scored on his club-record 506th La Liga appearance but Barcelona could only bounce back from their Champions League defeat by Paris St-Germain with a draw against Cadiz.

Messi’s first-half penalty after Pedri was felled and cancelled out by Alex Fernandez’s last-minute penalty.

Cadiz’s equaliser, from their only shot on goal, ended Barca’s seven-match-winning run in La Liga.

Barcelona could have moved to within six points of leaders Atletico Madrid if they had overcome Cadiz, who brought their four-game losing run to an end with their late dramatics at the Nou Camp.

Apart from Ruben Sobrino bundling an awkward shot wide just minutes after Messi gave Barca the lead, Cadiz rarely threatened.

But the hosts were left frustrated as Messi’s penalty - coolly taken after Pedri was sandwiched in a tackle between Salvi and Isaac Carcelen

- was all they had to show despite controlling 81% possession and having 20 shots.

For the Argentine, who is out of contract at Barca in the summer and whose future at the Nou Camp remains a key point in the club’s upcoming presidential elections, it was a milestone day as he passed former team-mate Xavi to set a new club record for Barca appearances in Spain’s top flight.

Inspired Cadiz goalkeeper Jeremias Ledesma, who was instrumental in their 2-1 win over Barca in December, was again hugely influential as he made a string of saves to keep out Messi and Antoine Griezmann.

Frenkie de Jong and Pedri both also had goals disallowed before the break and Ousmane Dembele was lively for the hosts, but Cadiz earned their point with a stoic defensive display.

Clement Lenglet’s foul on Sobrino ultimately proved decisive to give away the late penalty, with Fernandez converting.