

Iran's Hadipour Secures Position in World Taekwondo Ranking



RASHT (Dispatches) – Head of Gilan taekwondo committee Mohsen Setorgi said on Saturday that Armin Hadipour has secured his 5th position in the recent World Taekwondo ranking list.

Setorgi said based on World Taekwondo Federation's recent Olympic ranking list, Hadipour is still standing on the 5th position.

He added that Iranian taekwondoka in the weight category of – 58 kg and with 270.38 points ranks 5th in the world.

He said that South Korea, Italy, South Korea and Spain ranked 1st to

4th respectively.

Earlier, International University Sports Federation (FISU) named Iranian karate fighter Armin Hadipour as the best athlete of the decade, according to the head of the karate committee of Gilan Province.

Hadipour has secured a quota for Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.

He was one of the Iranian four-member team that had participated in the 2019 World Taekwondo Grand Prix in Moscow, and managed to get an Olympics quota by reaching the semifinals.

Blazers Rally to Defeat Grizzlies in OT, 140-135



Portland Trail Blazers Damian Lillard (0) shoots the ball against Memphis Grizzlies Brandon Clarke (15) during the second half of an NBA basketball game, July 31, 2020, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

Washington (Dispatches) - CJ McCollum scored 33 points, Damian Lillard added 29 and the Portland Trail Blazers overwhelmed the Memphis Grizzlies in overtime Friday to win, 140-135, in the first Orlando-area seeding game for both teams.

Portland (30-37) built a first-half lead then surged ahead 75-62 in the third quarter before a 22-6 Memphis run pushed the Grizzlies (32-34) ahead. The Trail Blazers played from behind for much of the fourth quarter, but remained within striking distance.

Two 3-pointers from Carmelo Anthony in the final 1:23 gave

Portland the lead, including a 124-122 advantage with 37.5 seconds remaining. Brandon Clarke, who scored 21 points for Memphis off the bench, responded with a game-tying basket.

Ja Morant led a breakaway off of a defensive rebound in the closing seconds, but got tangled with a defender and was unable to get off a shot.

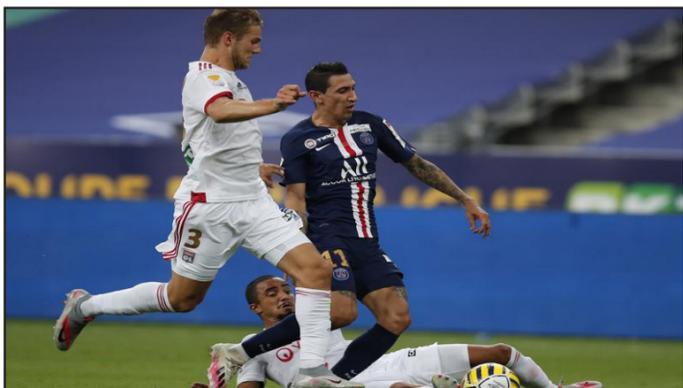
Morant, the Grizzlies' leading scorer on the season at just under 18 points per game, finished with 22 points Friday. He had only two points on 1-of-5 shooting at halftime, but came to life to lead the third-quarter run.

PSG Beat Lyon on Penalty Kicks to Win French League Cup Final

PARIS (Reuters) - Paris Saint-Germain continued their dominance in domestic competitions as they beat Lyon 6-5 in a penalty shootout in the French League Cup final on Friday to secure their fourth domestic treble in six years.

It was the last edition of the tournament, which was founded in 1993 but will be abandoned since next season to "reduce the season schedule."

Under the hot temperature which reached 34 de-



PSG's Angel Di Maria, left, tries to control the ball as Lyon's Jason Denayer, tries to stop him, during the French League Cup soccer final match between Paris Saint Germain and Lyon at Stade de France stadium, in Saint Denis, north of Paris, July 31, 2020.

grees Celsius at the Stade de France, both sides produced little chance at the regular time and the game finished 0-0 at the end of extra time.

The winning point for the capital-based team came after the first 10 penalties were all scored, but Keylor Navas saved Bertrand Traore's shoot which gave Pablo Sarabia the opportunity to score for the victory.

The Spaniard made it - PSG seal their third title of the season, after the French Cup and Ligue 1.

Bottas Leads 3rd Practice for British GP Ahead of Qualifying



SILVERSTONE, England (AP) -- Valtteri Bottas posted the fastest time in third and final practice for the British Grand Prix ahead of qualifying later on Saturday.

The Finnish driver was 0.14 seconds quicker than Mercedes teammate Lewis Hamilton, the Formula One champion. Red Bull's Max Verstappen was third in somewhat cooler conditions at Silverstone following Friday's stifling heat, with Racing Point's

Lance Stroll in fourth. McLaren's Carlos Sainz Jr. was fifth ahead of Ferrari's Charles Leclerc.

It was another frustrating session for his Ferrari teammate Sebastian Vettel, who managed only the 14th-fastest time and again had to come into the garage for repairs after a problem with the car's pedals on Friday.

Hamilton is aiming for a record-extending 91st pole position on a

track where he holds the record with six wins. He needs five more wins to equal Michael Schumacher's F1 record of 91.

Nico Hulkenberg was ninth driving for Racing Point as a last-minute replacement for Sergio Perez, who is in quarantine after testing positive for the coronavirus following a trip back to Mexico in between races because his mother had an accident.

Team principal Otmar Szafnauer said Perez was entitled to go despite Mexico having the world's third-highest number of deaths from COVID-19 - nearly 47,000.

"We've got no clauses in the contract where he's got to ask permission to go back to his family ... Our philosophy is we take all the precautions necessary in light of where we're travelling and if we do take those precautions, I'm confident that we won't get the virus," Szafnauer

said. "We just need to now forensically look back and try to ascertain how Checo became infected and make sure that we cover that off in the future."

The fourth race of the season is again being held without fans because of virus restrictions in place.

"Without the fans, it is really weird. The British Grand Prix, since I was a kid, was always a massive thing, it was almost like a festival and turning up at the circuit with nobody here is quite peculiar," Red Bull team principal Christian Horner said. "It doesn't feel like a British Grand Prix in that respect. The atmosphere obviously isn't here."

Mercedes has won the first three races, Bottas clinching the season-opener in Austria and Hamilton winning the next two in Austria and Hungary.

Like Austria, Britain is hosting back-to-back races at Silverstone.

Organizers Told Not to Hold Madrid Open Amid Surge in COVID-19 Cases



MADRID (Reuters) - Madrid Open organizers have been advised by local health authorities not to stage the tournament next month due to the rise in COVID-19 cases in the Spanish capital and are evaluating their options, they said on Saturday.

The Madrid Open, which was rescheduled to take place from Sept. 12-20 and features both men's and women's events, is an important tournament for the players to prepare for the French Open which now begins on Sept. 27.

"The organizers of the Mutua Madrid Open have been in close communication with the competent health organizations in the Community of Madrid and with the National Sports Council," the organizers said in a statement <https://www.madrid-open.com/en/mutua-news/official-statement-from-the-mutua-madrid-open>.

"In the last meeting, on July 29, due to the increase in cases... in Madrid in recent days, the organizers stated their concerns about being able to stage the tournament free from health complications that

might affect players, fans and staff. "In view of this situation, the organizers requested the help of Antonio Zapatero, Deputy Secretary of Public Health, and were advised not to stage the tournament due to the current trend of COVID-19 cases."

The organizers added that they were keen to make a decision in good time as it was "impossible to guarantee a positive change in this situation in the coming weeks."

Spain has recorded more than 306,370 cases of the novel coronavirus.

"In light of the advice... the organizers... are analyzing and closely evaluating all the possible options, while always focusing on guaranteeing the safety of all those involved," they added.

"The final decision... will fall to Ion Tiriac and Super Slam Ltd., the tournament's license holder."

The professional tennis season is scheduled to restart after a five-month shutdown due to the pandemic with the WTA's Palermo Ladies Open in the Sicilian capital on Monday.

Belgian Soccer League Switches to 18-Team Format

BRUSSELS (AP) -The Belgium league has changed its format for the next two seasons, switching to a 18-team competition following a court ruling that ordered the reinstatement of a demoted team.

Following a meeting of its general assembly on Friday, the league took the decision to include demoted side Waasland-Beveren, which was relegated in May when Belgian authorities decided to stop the season because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Waasland-Beveren took the case to court, arguing that it could have stayed among the elite if the season had not been cut short, and the league was ordered to reinstate the club in the spotlight. A failure to do so would have resulted in a penalty of euro 2.5 million for every match played without Waasland-Beveren.

Starting next weekend, the topflight season was initially planned with 16 teams, including the winner of the second division playoff between Leuven and Beerschot, who are facing off in the return leg this weekend. But to avoid a complex 17-team format both will now play in the top division in addition to Waasland-Beveren with the match on the weekend merely deciding the second division champion.

