

Alireza Beiranvand Shortlisted for AFC Player of Year



TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Iran goalkeeper Alireza Beiranvand has been short-listed for the best AFC player of the year.

The goalkeeper, who has recently joined Belgian team Antwerp from Persepolis, is in the six-player list.

Qatari player Akram Afif is also in the list and hopes to win the award for the second successive year.

Salem Al-Dawsari from Al Hilal, Kuwaiti club Al-Qadisiya's player Ahmad Al-Dhafiri, Urawa Reds of Japan's center back Tomoaki Makino and Kim Kyung-jung, striker of South Korean football club Gangwon FC, also are candidates in the list.

Three-man shortlist for the Asian Football Confederation's men's player of the year will be announced on November 25 and the winner will receive the annual accolade on December 5.

Lowry Scores 33 to Lead Raptors to 11th Straight Over Lakers



Toronto Raptors' Kyle Lowry (7) plays against the Los Angeles Lakers during the second half of an NBA basketball game Saturday, Aug. 1, 2020, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. (AP) -- Kyle Lowry had 33 points and a career-high 14 rebounds and the defending NBA champion Toronto Raptors restarted their season by beating the slow-starting Los Angeles Lakers for the 11th straight time, 107-92 on Saturday night.

OG Anunoby scored 23 points for the Raptors, the second-place team in the Eastern Conference. They haven't lost to Los Angeles since the 2014-2015 season.

Lowry had a strong second half to help turn back a surge by the Lakers, the Western Conference leaders who are 1-1 in the restart. The Lakers' magic number for clinching the top seed in the West remains at one.

Lowry's biggest shot was a 3-pointer from the right wing for a 97-86 lead with 3:01 to play.

LeBron James had 20 points and 10 rebounds, and Anthony

Davis had just 14 points after he scored 34 in a win against the Los Angeles Clippers in their first game back on Thursday night. Kyle Kuzma scored 16.

The Lakers shot a season-low 35.4% from the field.

James hit consecutive 3-pointers for a 76-72 lead early in the fourth quarter.

Anunoby responded with consecutive 3s for a 78-76 lead. The Raptors continued to pull away and Anunoby made a layup for a 90-83 lead.

With James and Davis struggling, the Raptors jumped to a 13-0 lead behind Anunoby and Lowry before the Lakers got back into it behind their bench.

The Lakers' reserves outscored the Raptors 13-2 in the first quarter and 31-6 in the first half to help Los Angeles to a 44-41 halftime lead. Kuzma had nine points and Alex Caruso seven.

James had seven points and Davis just one in the first half.

Australia's Kyrgios Withdraws From U.S. Open



In this file photo taken on February 25, 2020 Australia's Nick Kyrgios hits the ball during his Mexico ATP Open 500 men's singles tennis match against France's Ugo Humbert in Acapulco, Guerrero State, Mexico.

WELLINGTON (Reuters) - Australia's Nick Kyrgios has withdrawn from the U.S. Open and again criticized some of his fellow professionals for their decisions to ignore health advice during the coronavirus pandemic.

Kyrgios follows compatriot and women's world number one Ash Barty, who withdrew from the Aug. 31-Sept. 13 tournament earlier this week.

"I will not be playing this year at the U.S. Open," Kyrgios said in a video on social media on Sunday.

"It hurts me at my core not to be out there competing in one of

the sport's greatest arenas, Arthur Ashe Stadium.

"But I'm sitting out for the people, for my Aussies, for the hundreds and thousands of Americans that have lost their lives, for all of you. It's my decision."

Kyrgios had no problems with the USTA scheduling the tournament or players competing if they chose, "so long as everyone acts appropriately and acts safely".

The 25-year-old said he recognized that lower-wage employees at the event, such as restaurant staff, cleaners and locker room attendants, needed the tournament to take place.

Hamilton Tops Bottas for Home Pole After Qualifying Spin

LONDON (Dispatches) - Lewis Hamilton continued his fine Formula One form by beating Mercedes team-mate Valtteri Bottas to pole position on home soil at the British Grand Prix.

Having overcome a spin in Q2, Hamilton produced two impressive laps in Q3 and a track-record time of 1:24.303 put him 0.313 seconds clear of Bottas at Silverstone.

The Finn had been fastest in FP3 and the first two sessions of qualifying but had no answer when it mattered.

Max Verstappen was third for Red Bull with Charles Leclerc taking fourth for Ferrari, with both those cars over a second behind Hamilton, who came into the event on the back of



two straight wins.

Lando Norris caught the eye again to take fifth for McLaren, with Racing Point's Lance Stroll separating him from team-mate Carlos Sainz.

Renault duo Daniel Ricciardo and Esteban Ocon took eighth

and ninth, the latter promoted above Sebastian Vettel, whose second lap time was deleted due to exceeding track limits.

As well as being a poor day for Vettel, there was more frustration for Alex Albon as he failed to reach the final shoot-out and

finished 12th.

That was one place ahead of Nico Hulkenberg, who is standing in for Sergio Perez at Racing Point after the Mexican's positive coronavirus test.

Along with Albon and Hulkenberg missing out, there was further drama in Q2 as Hamilton spun at Luffield, spraying gravel onto the track which led to a red flag.

Fortunately for the championship leader, he was able to continue with the damage to his car not significant.

He later looked relieved after taking what ultimately proved to be a comfortable seventh British Grand Prix pole, improving on a record he already holds.

Juve Crash on Season Finale, Inter Second in Serie A



Cristiano Ronaldo looks on as Juventus fell to their second consecutive defeat.

MILAN (AFP) - Juventus crashed to their second consecutive defeat as the Serie A champions finished their season with a 3-1 home loss against Roma, days before their Champions League campaign resumes.

Inter Milan took second place

with a 2-0 win over direct rivals Atalanta in Bergamo, who fell to their first league defeat since January.

Juventus had already wrapped up their ninth straight league title and are looking towards their last 16 home game against Lyon next

Friday when Maurizio Sarri's side need to overturn a 1-0 first-leg deficit.

Cristiano Ronaldo was rested for the final match with nothing left to play for against fifth-place Roma who are already assured of the Europa League group stage next term.

Sarri had threatened to field Juventus's Under-23 team after his tired troops fell 2-0 to Cagliari during the week.

Argentine Gonzalo Higuain spearheaded the Juventus attack and finished off an Adrien Rabiot cross after just six minutes in the Allianz Stadium.

But Diego Perotti inspired a Roma fightback setting up Nikola Kalinic to nod in the equalizer after 23 minutes.

Perotti gave Roma the lead from the penalty spot before the break and six minutes into the second half

connected with a Nicolo Zaniolo cross for his second of the night as Juventus fell to their third defeat in four matches.

Inter Milan finish just one point behind the champions after winning the three-team race for second spot.

Antonio Conte's side ended Atalanta's 17-match unbeaten run going back to January 20, to finish the season on a high before they play Getafe in the Europa League next week.

Daniilo D'Ambrosio nodded in the first goal after just one minute with Ashley Young doubling their lead after 20 minutes with a stunning curling shot.

Atlanta, who meet Paris Saint-Germain in the Champions League quarter-finals, finish in third place for their second consecutive season.

Belgian Van Aert Powers to Strade Bianche Victory

PARIS (Reuters) - Team Jumbo-Visma's Wout van Aert stormed to victory at the Strade Bianche one-day race on Saturday, as elite cycling returned after a five-month break due to the COVID-19 crisis.

The Belgian rider, who finished third in the previous two editions of the 184 kilometer race, launched his decisive solo attack with 13km remaining on the final sector of gravel road.

The 25-year-old finished 30 seconds clear of Italian Davide Formolo (UAE Emirates) on the Piazza del Campo in Siena, while German Maximilian Schachmann (Bora-Hansgrohe) took third spot.

"Today was one long day of suffering and nobody felt that great. The

heat was exhausting but I really focussed on hydration and keeping cool and, in the end, I got something left," Van Aert said.

Dutchwoman Annemiek van Vleuten won the women's race for a second consecutive year as she continued her winning run after the resumption of the season.

In the closing stages, the 37-year-old Mitchelton-Scott rider chased down Spaniard Margarita Victoria Garcia (Ale BTC Ljubljana), who had attacked with 45km to go.

World road champion Van Vleuten went on to drop her rival on the Via Santa Caterina before cruising to the finish line.

Van Vleuten has won every race she started since winning the world



FILE PHOTO: Tour de France - The 217.5-km Stage 10 from Saint-Flour to Albi

championships in Yorkshire last September, with Saturday's triumph taking her to six consecutive victories.

American Leah Thomas of Equipe Paule Ka rounded out the podium almost two minutes later.