

Hadi Choopan Invited to 2020 Olympia

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Iranian athlete Hadi Choopan has been invited to the 2020 Olympia.

The updated list of the 10 qualified competitors for the 2020 Olympia was released on the official website.

Choopan finished third last year and has been invited to the prestigious event once again.

10 athletes who qualified for the 2020 Olympia

- Brandon Curry (USA)
- William Bonac (Netherlands)
- Hadi Choopan (Iran)

- Dexter Jackson (USA)
- Roelly Winklaar (Curacao)
- Phil Heath (USA)
- Cedric McMillan (USA)
- Nathan DeAsha (UK)
- Juan Morel (USA)
- James Lewis (USA)
- William Bonac, Hadi Choopan, and Roelly Winklaar are questionable of the already qualified competitors right now since they don't live in the USA.

The Olympia is scheduled for December and will take place at Planet Hollywood in the Las Vegas Strip.



Rafael Nadal Withdraws From U.S. Open



In this Sept 8, 2019 photo, Rafael Nadal of Spain hits a return to Daniil Medvedev of Russia during the men's Singles Finals match at the 2019 US Open at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in New York.

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - Defending champion Rafael Nadal has pulled out of the U.S. Open citing concerns over coronavirus.

The four-time winner at Flushing Meadows does not want to travel to the United States for the event, which begins on Aug 31, while Covid-19 cases are on the rise.

A spike in coronavirus in Nadal's Spain homeland has already led to the cancellation of next month's Madrid Open. "After many thoughts I have decided not to play this year's U.S. Open," he wrote on Instagram. "The situation is very complicated worldwide, the Covid-19 cases are

increasing, it looks like we still don't have control of it.

"I have decided to follow my heart this time and for the time being I rather not travel."

Nadal said the revamped schedule was "barbaric" in terms of compressing events into a short time, but he appreciated tournament organizers across the world were doing their best.

Madrid's clay-court event was originally due to be played in May, but was moved to September after the first wave of Covid-19 hit Europe. However, a rise in cases in Spain has meant the tournament has been cancelled until next year.

Lillard, Anthony Help Blazers Over Rockets, 110-102

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. (AP) -- Damian Lillard scored 21 points and Carmelo Anthony hit a big 3-pointer late to help the Portland Trail Blazers to a 110-102 victory over the Houston Rockets on Tuesday night.

The Blazers led by one before Lillard made one of two free throws. Anthony's 3 then extended the lead to 107-102 when less than a minute to go.

Lillard raved about the contributions of Anthony, who found a home with the Trail Blazers after spending several months without a team last year following a brief stint with the Rockets.

Coach Terry Stotts loves how Anthony has evolved to help his team.

Lillard added two free throws and Anthony, who had 15 points and 11 rebounds, made one in



the final minute to secure the victory for Portland, which is fighting for a playoff spot.

James Harden led Houston with 23 points and nine assists on a night he was slowed by foul trouble.

Jeff Green added a season-high 22 points as the Rockets lost for the first time in the bubble after

winning their first two games.

The Blazers were up by six midway through the final quarter after CJ McCollum and Lillard made consecutive baskets. But Green scored all Houston's points in a 7-1 spurt that tied it at 98 a minute later.

McCollum finished with 20 points as the Blazers pulled with-

in 1 1/2 games of eighth-place Memphis.

The game was tied again later in the fourth when Gary Trent Jr. made a 3-pointer to put Portland up 103-100. A driving layup by Harden cut the lead to one with about 2 minutes to go.

Danuel House made a 3-pointer to get the Rockets within two midway through the third quarter. Lillard then scored all of Portland's points in a 9-3 run that pushed the lead to 82-74 with about 3 1/2 minutes left in the third.

Lillard had a three-point play and then sank 3s on consecutive possessions to allow the Trail Blazers to build the lead. Harden spent the last five minutes of the third quarter on the bench after picking up his fifth foul on the three-point play by Lillard.

Dybala Named MVP of 2019-20 Serie A

ROME (Dispatches) - Juventus striker Paulo Dybala has been named the Most Valuable Player of the 2019-20 Serie A season, Italy's top flight football league revealed.

In addition to Dybala's awards, the Lega Serie A also named this season's Best Young Player, Best Goalkeeper, Best Defender, Best Midfielder, and Best Striker.

Dybala, who looked set for a move to the Premier league last summer, scored 11 Serie A goals for the Bianconeri in 33 outings, helping Juve win their ninth consecutive Scudetto.

The Serie A awards were drawn up according to Stats Perform statistical surveys with the help of tracking data recorded by Netco Sports. All matches played in Serie A, the Coppa Italia and the Supercoppa Italiana were considered.



In this July 23, 2020 photo, Juventus' Argentinian forward Paulo Dybala (right) vies for the ball with Udinese's Nigerian defender William Troost-Ekong during the Italian Serie A football match between Udinese and Juventus, at the Dacia Arena Stadium in Udine.

Bundesliga Ready for Return of Fans If Authorities Approve

FRANKFURT, Germany (Dispatches) - Germany's first and second division football clubs have said they were prepared to allow some fans back into stadiums next season if the country's political authorities gave the green light later this month.

German Football League (DFL) CEO Christian Seifert said the possibility of fans in stadiums depended solely on political leaders giving the go ahead amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

"If and when fans will return to the stadiums is not a decision for the DFL but for the political leaders," Seifert told a news conference.

"The DFL does not expect or demand anything but we are preparing to take this small step (with fans in stadiums) when the time comes.

"Priority is not full stadiums but the health situation. We should not take unnecessary risks but we should also not capitulate and just expect it to go away."

The health ministers of the individual German states are due to meet next week to discuss the matter and the new Bundesliga season starts on Sept 18. The German Cup first round starts a week earlier. Seifert said that if fans were allowed into stadiums there would be



Germany's top 36 clubs agreed to plans drawn up by the league which could allow the partial return of fans to stadiums.

no visiting supporters at least until the end of the year to minimize the risk of infection, no standing tribunes and no alcohol sales.

Formula E Returns to Action in Berlin

BERLIN (Dispatches) - After a five-month hiatus, the 2019-20 Formula E season will finally resume for an unprecedented run of six races in nine days, all at the Tempelhof Airport in Berlin.

During that time off, the driver market has been kicked into action and no fewer than four teams have tweaked their line-up for the three

lots of double-header races.

There's also the small matter of the drivers' and teams' titles to be decided.

In the latest episode of the Current Affairs podcast, Formula E presenter Nicki Shields joins host Matt Kew to preview all of the alterations that have preceded the championship's return.



Bernal Wins Emotional Route d'Occitanie With Tour de France Looming



Egan Bernal looks in good shape for the Tour de France after taking overall honours at the Route d'Occitanie

TOULOUSE, France (AFP) - French rider and stage winner Egan Bernal has secured overall victory in the Route d'Occitanie, underlining his strength ahead of cycling's most prestigious race which starts later this month.

Bernal, and Chris Froome, who Portal coached to Tour wins, lined up alongside team principal Dave Brailsford in a touching homage.

"This morning it was nice to share some time with Nico Portal's family, they are part of our family," said the lithe-looking Bernal.

The Colombian secured his win by finishing fourth Tuesday at the end of a 195km ride through the Causses de Quercy national park, a popular hiking destination known for its dramatic cliffside paths.

Bernal came in behind delighted

French rider and stage winner Benoit Cosnefroy.

Team Ineos rider Bernal did enough to take the overall title, 19 seconds ahead of teammate Pavel Sivakov.

The pair pulled off an Ineos 1-2 on stage three Monday, gaining the time on the final mountain ascent that eventually secured the overall win.

The 23-year-old Bernal is favourite to win this season's Tour, which was postponed to August 29 due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Four-time Tour winner Chris Froome, meanwhile, finished 37th as he continues his epic journey back to fitness.

The British rider ended nearly 10 minutes behind teammate Bernal, but did enough to suggest he could well be on the Tour roster.