

# Late Khalilzadeh Goal Seals Persepolis Win Over Al-Taawoun



TEHRAN (Tasnim) – A late Shojae Khalilzadeh goal earned Iran’s Persepolis a valuable 1-0 victory over Al-Taawoun on Matchday Three of the 2020 AFC Champions League Group C on Tuesday.

Persepolis went into the game chasing their first win in the 2020 edition, but for the team to do so, it needed to overcome unbeaten Al-Taawoun.

The deadlock was broken with eight minutes to go through the unlikelyst of sources. An out-swinging corner at the near post was nodded onto the path of defender Khalilzadeh, who was well-positioned at the far post to control and apply a left-footed finish into the bottom corner to hand Persepolis what would prove to be the winning goal.

Despite the defeat, Al-Taawoun remains top of Group C thanks to a superior head-to-head record over second-placed Al-Duhail SC who had beaten Sharjah FC earlier in the day to reach six points, while Persepolis climbs above Sharjah into second place with four points, just two behind the group leader at the halfway point.

# Murray, Jokic Help Denver Stun Clippers 104-89



Denver Nuggets forward Jerami Grant (9) and guard Gary Harris (14) celebrate a play during the second half of an NBA conference semifinal playoff basketball game against the Los Angeles Clippers, Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2020, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. (AP) -- Denver’s dynamic duo of Jamal Murray and Jokic led another stunning turnaround as the Nuggets advanced to the Western Conference finals for the first time since 2009.

Murray scored 40 points, Jokic had a triple-double by the third quarter and Denver again overcame a double-digit deficit to shock the Los Angeles Clippers 104-89 in Game 7 on Tuesday night.

Denver became the first team in NBA history to rally from a 3-1 series deficit twice in the same postseason. The team beat Utah in Game 7 in the first round.

Even more history: The Nuggets are the third team in the U.S. major pro sports to rally from a pair of 3-1 deficits in the same playoffs, joining the 1985 Kansas City Royals and 2003 Minnesota Wild.

Denver will face LeBron James and the Los Angeles Lakers in the conference finals. They’ll be the underdogs, of course. That’s fine with Murray.

They certainly quieted the noise around the Clippers, who hoped the additions of Kawhi Leonard and Paul George would lead them to their first-ever conference finals - and beyond. But LA’s stars fell flat.

Leonard finished with 14 points on 6-of-22 shooting, while George had 10 points on 4-of-16 shooting.

The Clippers fell to 0-8 all-time in games where they could clinch a trip to the conference finals.

This marked the third time that coach Doc Rivers was on the losing end of a series where his team led 3-1. It also happened when he was with Orlando against Detroit in 2003, and with the Clippers against Houston in 2015.

The Nuggets celebrated in style after the game, dumping water on each other and jumping around in the locker room.

The 7-foot Jokic had a monster game with 16 points, 13 assists and 22 rebounds, which were the most by a Nuggets player in an NBA playoff game. He broke his record of 19 that he set last season and shared with Marcus Camby.

In a familiar trend, the Nuggets found themselves down by 12 in the first half. They also trailed 61-54 with 10:50 left in the third when they caught fire. The Nuggets went on a 35-13 run to build a 15-point lead in the fourth quarter.

Denver also rallied from double-digit deficits in its last two games to stun the Clippers.

Jokic insisted the third-seeded Nuggets weren’t feeling any pressure. He said Game 7 was just another game. After all, this was Denver’s fourth straight Game 7 dating to the playoffs last season.

Denver’s plans were to enjoy the moment - briefly, anyway, before getting ready for the Lakers.

# Italian Teenager Musetti Stuns Wawrinka



Lorenzo Musetti stunned Stan Wawrinka 6-0, 7-6 (2) in the first round of the Italian Open

ROME (Reuters) - Three-times Grand slam champion Stan Wawrinka was soundly beaten 6-0 7-6(2) by teenager Lorenzo Musetti, who won for the first time on the professional circuit in the first round of the Italian Open on Tuesday.

It was only a second game on the ATP Tour for the 18-year-old Italian, who came through three rounds of

qualifying, before aggressively upending the 35-year-old Swiss to set up a second-round meeting with Japan’s Kei Nishikori.

Wawrinka made a string of errors as he lost the first eight games before working his way back into the game.

Musetti, however, held his nerve to take the second set tiebreak and the match

# Kaemna Wins Tour de France 16th Stage

VILLARD DE LANS, France (Reuters) - Lennard Kaemna has claimed his first Tour de France victory when he outwitted Giro d’Italia champion Richard Carapaz to win the 16th stage, a 164-km ride from La Tour du Pin.

The 24-year-old German took advantage of Ecuadorian Carapaz’s momentary loss of focus at the top of the last climb of the day to go solo and finished one minute 27 seconds ahead



German Lennard Kamna crosses the finish line to win stage 16 of the Tour de France cycling race over 164 kilometers from La Tour-du-Pin to Villard-de-Lans, France, Sept 15, 2020.

after charging down in the descent.

Swiss Sebastien Reichenbach took third place, 1:56 off the pace as Slovenian Primoz Roglic retained the overall leader’s yellow jersey.

Defending champion Egan Bernal, whose hopes of winning the race fell away when he cracked in Sunday’s 15th stage, was dropped from the main bunch in the ascent to Saint-Nizier, suffering from back pains.

# Bundesliga Makes Risky Test Run on Road to Normality



BERLIN (Xinhua) -- The German Bundesliga could again be a role model for world sports.

Back in May, several countries followed the successful example of playing football matches behind closed doors in accordance with strict COVID-19 hygiene regulations.

This time, German sport is taking a step further, as all sports clubs are allowed to fill their halls or arenas to 20 percent capacity.

The trial will run until the end of October. The situation will then be reevaluated in six weeks.

The decision was widely welcomed not only by professional football clubs but other sports such

as handball and basketball.

Permission to play depends on local infection figures. The so-called “7-day-incidence” must be below 35 infections per 100,000 inhabitants within a week.

Considering that the Bundesliga’s curtain-raiser between treble-winning Bayern Munich against FC Schalke may still be played behind closed doors as the city of Munich is reporting a rate of over 40.

The plan includes only personal tickets for locals, and alcohol is banned. Away fans are not allowed. Investigations will also be made into the effects on traffic, aerosols, fans arrivals, and departures.

# Brazilian Gov’t Backs Neymar in Racism Row



PARIS (Dispatches) - Brazil’s government sent its support to Neymar Tuesday after he was red-carded for a fight in a Ligue 1 match in France, condemning the “racism” that triggered the

brawl.

The Paris Saint-Germain star is facing punishment by the French league’s disciplinary commission after slapping defender Alvaro Gonzalez near the end of PSG’s 1-0 loss to Marseille Sunday, accusing the Spaniard of calling him a “monkey.”

Gonzalez denies the accusation. But in Neymar’s native Brazil, the ministry responsible for human rights issues said it stood behind the world’s most expensive footballer.

“In the face of yet another case of racism that has come to the surface in sport, the ministry of women, the family and human rights publicly voices its solidarity with the player Neymar Jr,” the ministry said in a statement. “Racism is a crime.”

The statement came after Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro on Monday retweeted Neymar’s own version of events.

The Brazilian striker slapped Gonzalez on the back of the head near the end of Sunday’s match, sparking a mass brawl that ended with five players sent off, including Neymar.

He now faces a potential multi-match suspension, as does Gonzalez, if league officials find Neymar’s accusation is true.