

Iranian Greco-Roman Wrestlers Invited to Lithuanian Event



TEHRAN (MNA) – Lithuanian wrestling officials have invited Iran to take part in an international youth wrestling competition in the European country.

The International Rimantas Bagdonas youth Greco-Roman tournament will be held December 12-14 in Vilnius, in 10 weight categories.

The event is named after Rimantas Bagdonas, who is a former Lithuanian Greco-Roman champion.

Zverev Destroys Schwartzman to Complete Cologne Double

BRUSSELS (Dispatches) - Top seed Alexander Zverev won his second ATP title in Cologne in the space of a week with a quickfire 6-2 6-1 demolition of Argentine Diego Schwartzman in the final of the bett1HULKS Championship on Sunday.

The German world number seven had claimed his first ATP crown of the year by besting Canada's Felix Auger-Aliassime 6-3 6-3 to win the bett1HULKS Indoor title at the same venue last Sun-



Germany's Alexander Zverev returns the ball to Argentina's Diego Schwartzman during the men's final of the 'bett1Hulks Championships' tennis tournament at the Lanxess Arena in Cologne, western Germany, on Oct 25, 2020.

day.

Zverev, this year's U.S. Open runner-up, sent down nine aces and won an incredible 83 percent of his first serve points as he cruised through the clash with 28-year-old second seed Schwartzman in 71 minutes without being broken.

"Two days ago I wasn't sure if I was going to finish the tournament. Now I'm here as the champion," a beaming Zverev said while accepting the trophy.

Tao Geoghegan Hart Wins Giro d'Italia by 39 Seconds



ROME (Dispatches) - Giro d'Italia winner Tao Geoghegan Hart is "leading the way" for a new generation of young cyclists, says his Ineos Grenadiers team principal Sir Dave Brailsford.

The 25-year-old is only the second British man to win the Giro, taking the title in Milan on Sunday.

Chris Froome was the first, in 2018 at the age of 33.

"I think one of Tao's great at-

tributes is that he's a great racer," Brailsford said.

"He's got a nose for it, he can feel a race. It's something really cool about a whole new generation of young guys coming along now and they're really, really good racers. It's very fun to watch.

"The sport's changing, it's getting more dynamic, so he's leading the way, really, for a new generation of youngsters, which is incredibly exciting to see."

Report: NBA Came in \$1.5bn Under Revenue Projections in 2020

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - The NBA league came in \$1.5 billion under revenue projections, which was the result of multiple factors, according to the Associated Press.

Revenue projections for the league this season were missed by about \$1.5 billion, the report said. The losses were the result of a combination of factors — the shutdown caused by the pandemic, the cancellation of 171 regular-season games, completing the season in a bubble at Walt Disney World without fans, the nearly \$200 million price tag for operating that bubble and a yearlong rift with the Chinese government that saw NBA games not shown on state television there.

It shouldn't necessarily come as surprise NBA revenue was down in 2020. It likely won't be the only sport to suffer a huge monetary loss due to the coronavirus. Every other major sports league has operated with limited or no fans at games. Seasons have been shortened, and some games have been postponed or canceled due to coronavirus outbreaks. The China situation is only issue listed above that is unique to the NBA.

Still, \$1.5 billion is a staggering figure. In May, commissioner Adam Silver reportedly warned players revenue could be an issue, saying 40 percent of the NBA's revenue comes from game nights in arenas, according to ESPN's Adrian Wojnarowski.

NBA commissioner Adam Silver prepared players for a potentially grim landscape amid the coronavirus pandemic, suggesting there are no guarantees when fans could fully return to NBA arenas next season.

Silver said that 40% of the league's revenue comes from money built around game nights in arenas.

"This could turn out to be the single greatest challenge of all our



lives," Silver told the players.

Silver made that statement before the NBA launched its Orlando bubble, which cost the league nearly \$200 million.

Given that the coronavirus is still very much an issue in the United States, it's tough to imagine NBA revenue bouncing all the way back in 2021. On Friday, the United States set a record for new coronavirus cases with more than 83,000 cases were reported.

It's unclear how much that will impact the NBA next season. The league is still negotiating next season's start date. It's looking at Dec. 22, and there were rumors the NBA could try a later start date with the hopes teams could host fans at games in 2021, but the December rumors suggest the league knows that could be an issue due to the coronavirus.

If the NBA starts the 2020-21 season in December, that could set up the league for a normal October start for the 2021-22 season. It's possible the NBA is hoping COVID-19 will be less of an issue by then.

Hamilton Overtakes Schumacher With Record 92nd F1 Win



Mercedes' British driver Lewis Hamilton celebrates in the parc ferme after the Portuguese Formula One Grand Prix at the Autodromo Internacional do Algarve on Oct 25, 2020 in Portimao.

LONDON (Dispatches)

- Six-times world champion Lewis Hamilton has become the most successful Formula One driver of all time in terms of race wins with a dominant 92nd career victory at the Portuguese Grand Prix.

The Mercedes driver, who took the chequered flag a huge 25.592 seconds ahead of second-placed team mate Valtteri Bottas, had equalled Ferrari great Michael Schumacher's record 91 wins at the previous race at the Nuerburgring.

Victory, along with a bonus point for fastest lap, stretched the Briton's championship lead over Bottas to 77 points

with five races remaining.

"You are re-writing the history books," Mercedes told Hamilton over the team radio, with team boss Toto Wolff adding: "Lewis, 92. 92."

Dutch youngster Max Verstappen finished third for Red Bull at the Algarve circuit near Portimao that was hosting the country's first grand prix in 24 years.

Hamilton lapped all but the three drivers behind him but it had not looked so simple at the start when he dropped to third from pole position on a lively opening lap with occasional rain complicating matters.

Champions Juventus Held by Verona in Serie A



Dejan Kulusevski scored his second goal of the season for Juventus

ROME (Dispatches) - Champion Juventus continued their shaky performance in Serie A as the defending champion were held by Hellas Verona 1-1 on Sunday.

Without talisman Cristiano Ronaldo, Paulo Dybala partnered Alvaro Morata up front, while Arthur Melo pulled the strings in the middle of the park.

Both sides saw goals chalked off due to offsides in the first half, but Verona went ahead on the hour mark when Mattia Zaccagni's smart pass found Andrea Favilli who drilled home.

Dybala's missile hit the bar in the 76th minute, one minute before Dejan Kulusevski scored the leveler after a mazy run in the box.

The Bianconeri had a series of chances in the dying minutes, but were unable to find a winner.

The Old Lady now ranks fifth in the table with nine points.

Elsewhere, Napoli came from behind to beat Benevento 2-1, as Lorenzo Insigne's stunner canceled out his brother Roberto's opener for Benevento, before Andrea Petagna sealed the win.

Juraj Kucka's late equalizer saved Parma from a home defeat in a 2-2 draw with Spezia after having been 2-0 down.

Cagliari dominated Crotone 4-2, while Fiorentina edged Udinese 3-2 with Gaetano Castrovilli bagging a brace and setting up another.