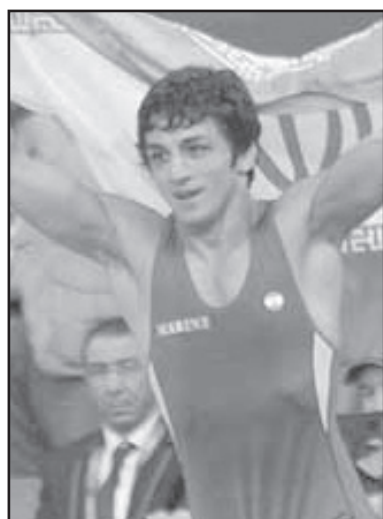


# Hamid Soryan Tops Greco-Roman Rankings in 59kg



*Hamid Soryan of Iran celebrates after winning the 55 kg Greco-Roman Olympic gold medal.*

TEHRAN (Tasnim) - **Hamid Soryan from Iran maintained his position as the best Greco-Roman wrestler in weight class of 59 kg, according to unitedworldwrestling.org.**

Soryan became Iran's most-decorated wrestler in 2014 and holds the top ranking at 59kg class.

The Iranian iconic wrestler claimed his sixth world championship title in last year's September in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

1. Hamid SORYAN (IRI) – World No.1 (1)
2. Mingiyan SEMENOV (RUS) – World No.2 (2)
3. Elmurat TASMURADOV

- (UZB) – World No.3 (3)
4. Stig Andre BERGE (NOR) – World No.3 (4)
5. Kohei HASEGAWA (JPN) – Asian Games No.1 (5)
6. YUN Won-Chol (PRK) – Asian Games No.2 (6)
7. Ivo ANGELOV (BUL) – Schultz Memorial No.1 (10)
8. Aleksandar KOSTADINOV (BUL) – Schultz Memorial No.2 (9)
9. Ismael BORRERO MOLINA (CUB) – World No.5 (7)
10. Ivan KUYLAKOV (RUS) – Pytlansinski No.2 (11)
11. Hatham Mahmoud FAHMY (EGY) – World Military No.1 (12)

12. Spenser MANGO (USA) – World No.5 (8)
13. Mirandek AINAGULOV (KAZ) – Schultz Memorial No.3 (not ranked)
14. Almat KEBISPAYEV (KAZ) – Schultz Memorial No.2 (17)
15. Tarik BELMADANI (FRA) – Paris GP No.1 (nr)
16. Taleh MAMMADOV (AZE) – GGP Final No.1 (13)
17. WANG Lumin (CHN) – World No.8 (14)
18. LEE Jung-Baek (KOR) – World No.9 (15)
19. Murad MAMMADOV (AZE) – Paris GP No.3 (nr)
20. Karen ASLANYAN (ARM) – German GP No.3 (18)

## Cahill Leaves NY Red Bulls, Joins Shanghai Shenhua

SYDNEY (China Daily) - **Australian premiere football veteran Tim Cahill said to leave the New York Red Bulls and join Shanghai Shenhua in the Chinese Super League.**

His decision came just three days after Australia triumphed in the Asian Cup.

His decision to leave the US Major League Soccer (MLS) surprised commenter's as the 35-year-old attacking midfielder had recently received offers from England, Asia, the Middle East and Spain before announcing the move to China on Tuesday.

He was in career best form during the Asian Cup in Australia, arguably scoring the goal of the tournament with a stunning bicycle kick in the quarterfinal against China.

Cahill told Fox Sports that he had

consulted widely with former teammates and coaches in the US before making his decision to side with the Chinese team.

While he had received offers from around the world, there were none from Australia.

He promised to reward Shanghai Shenhua with total commitment.

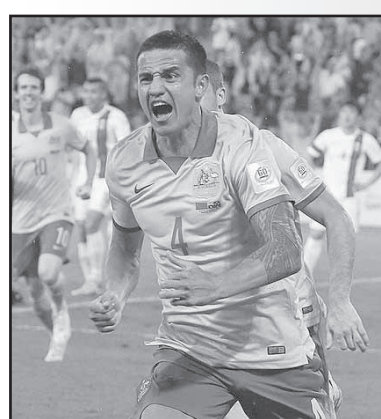
"I respect Australian football so much, but I've never have had an official offer in the last two months," he said.

"I'll make an impact in China on the pitch, I promise you.

"When I go somewhere I'll do it properly.

"I'm at an age where I want to give back to football as well as play at a high level."

Cahill has spent the majority of his



*Australia's Tim Cahill celebrates his first goal during their Asian Cup quarterfinal soccer match against China at the Brisbane Stadium in Brisbane.*

career in the English Premier League with Liverpool club Everton, scoring

68 goals in 278 games.

He then joined the New York Red Bulls in 2012 at the age of 32.

"I've done the Premier League, I've done America," he said before leaving for China in New York. "New York was amazing for me, but China is a growing market in football."

"It's all about doing what I want to do as footballer and trying different leagues, and I think it's exciting."

Instead of winding down his career there as predicted by football analysts, Cahill again prospered and was named the team's Most Valuable Player in 2013.

Shanghai Shenhua had been linked with Cahill, and the Chinese team has a history of signing renowned veterans, including Premier League stars Nicolas Anelka and Didier Drogba.

## Mahram Wins Iran's National Basketball League Title

TEHRAN (Tasnim) - **Mahram defeated Petrochemical of Bandar Imam on Thursday and claimed the championship of Iran's National Basketball League.**

Mahram had already won the Iran's Basketball Super League five times.

Mahram defeated Petrochemical of Bandar Imam 74-73 to take a 3-1 lead.

Arman Zangeneh led Mahram with 18 points and 10 rebounds while Behnam Yakhchali chipped in 20 points for Petrochemical of Bandar Imam.



*mahram club logo*

Elsewhere, Azad University defeated Haft Almas, Qazvin 88-70 and finished in third place.

## Pakistan Beat Afghanistan in Friendly



*Afghanistan Beats Pakistan in Soccer Friendly*

KABUL (FIFA) - **Pakistan bagged an injury-time win over neighbors Afghanistan in their football friendly on Friday, earning a measure of revenge for their trouncing two years ago in Kabul.**

Substitute Saad Ullah scored the winner for the home side just 10 minutes after coming off the bench in front of a small but lively crowd in the eastern city of Lahore.

The two teams last met in the Afghan capital in 2013, the first football international be-

tween the sides in 30 years.

Afghanistan won that day 3-0, at a canter but there was no repeat on Friday as Pakistan edged a scrappy encounter played on a rather patchy pitch.

Muhammad Riaz opened for Pakistan before Afghan striker Amiruddin Anwar levelled on 57 minutes.

The win for Pakistan came without star players Mohamad Adil and Kaleemullah, who were on club duty for FC Dordoi in Kyrgyzstan.

## Austria's Reichelt Wins Worlds Super-G; Miller Has Surgery

BEAVER CREEK, Colo. (AP) - **Bode Miller smacked a gate so hard he crashed, opening a deep gash on his right leg and tearing a tendon that required surgery Thursday night after the super-G race at the world championships.**

Norway's Kjetil Jansrud hit another panel and needed his left shoulder checked out.

This demanding and daunting course took a toll on some of the biggest names in skiing. Not Hannes Reichelt, though. The Austrian tamed this tricky terrain, winning the super-G after Miller tumbled down the hill.

Reichelt finished in 1 minute, 15.68 seconds - 0.11 seconds faster than Canada's Dustin Cook, who made a surprise run from back in the pack. Adrien Theaux of France earned the bronze.

Everyone was talking about Miller's horrific crash, including the winner.

"If you know Bode, sometimes it looks really bad, then he stands up and nothing happened," Reichelt said. "I hope he's safe and nothing happened."

No such luck. Miller underwent surgery on Thursday and is done for worlds. Miller said on his Twitter account after the operation: "Feeling lucky since things could have been way worse."

Miller had a strong run going when he hooked his left arm on a gate, spun backward, lost his

right ski, then his left, and went somersaulting down the mountain. He appeared to fall on top of one of his bouncing skis, causing the deep wound. Miller gingerly got up, retrieved his gear and even finished the race as his wife, pro volleyball player Morgan Miller, watched in the gallery while holding his son.

"Bode was skiing outstanding," U.S. men's coach Sasha Rearick said. "He was going for it, absolutely sending it from top to bottom. He took risks and was putting down a run that inspired America, inspires the world."

"He took a nasty crash. A really nasty crash."

It was Miller's first race since back surgery in November and yet he didn't hold back. He never does.

"Bode knew he had to put it on the limit in order to get on the podium today," said teammate Ted Ligety, who couldn't successfully defend his super-G world title from two years ago in Austria, finishing ninth. "What happened today was more just bad luck."

U.S. skier Travis Ganong said he talked to Miller in the finish area. "He said his whole body was numb. Everything hurt," Ganong said. "He said he has to get 100 stitches in his calf."

This may have been Miller's last big race of his career. At 37, Miller was pointing to the worlds in his comeback from herniated

disk surgery. He wasn't sure how much longer he would race after that.

Miller wasn't the only skier to get caught up in a gate. Jansrud crashed through one with his left shoulder, but kept going and tied for fourth. The Norwegian team later said the shoulder appeared OK, but he was in pain.

Jansrud, the Olympic super-G champion at the Sochi Games, is still looking for his first medal at the worlds.

This is Reichelt's first world championship gold medal. He's made himself right at home on this course, winning a World Cup super-G at Beaver Creek in December.

"That's sounds really good - world champion," said Reichelt, who had herniated disk surgery a year ago that knocked him out of the Sochi Olympics. "I'm feeling relaxed. The pressure before was really high. Not from outside, but from my side."

"I said, 'OK, you have to repeat the success of December. To repeat something is so difficult.'"

Cook started as racer No. 28, but used a fast run to finish a surprising runner-up. Well, to everyone else, that is.

"I'm a lot less surprised than most people are," Cook said. "I've been skiing really fast all year, fast in training for too many years. For me, it's a culmination of a lot of years. I know that I'm capable of this for sure."

There must be something about North American snow that appeals to Theaux. Of his 10 World Cup podium finishes, four are either in Lake Louise, Alberta, or Beaver Creek.

"It's just perfect," Theaux said.



*In this photo provided by Pentapoto, United States' Bode Miller crashes during the men's super-G competition at the alpine skiing world championships, Thursday, Feb. 5, 2015, in Beaver Creek, Colo. Miller did not finish the race.*

"It's a great, great day for me. I think the most beautiful of my life."

Aksel Lund Svindal of Norway made his first start of the season after Achilles tendon surgery in October. He was pleased with sixth place.

"I wasn't focused on the bad parts, the fact I didn't ski the last three months," Svindal explained. "I focused on the fact I had a lot of skiing in me and tried to make it happen."

## Blatter Warns Qatar Over Imported National Team

ZURICH (AFP) - **FIFA president Sepp Blatter on Friday warned Qatar against trying to form an imported team for the 2022 World Cup they will host and labelled the foreign team it used at the world handball championships as an "absurdity".**

"The nation of 2.2 million faces the huge challenge of forming a competitive national football team by 2022. However, this cannot be achieved by quickly naturalizing players," Blatter said in a commentary for the FIFA Weekly journal.

He said that football's world body does not allow this, unlike the International Handball Federation.

According to Blatter, Qatar's players, who reached last weekend's final at the handball world championships "contradict the spirit of a national team".

The Qatar squad included players born in Bosnia-Herzegovina, France, Spain, Cuba and Montenegro. Several had played for other national teams prior to the tournament but handball allows players to play for more than one country.

"The fact that sport builds social bridges and brings cultures together cannot be stressed often enough," said the FIFA president, who is campaigning for a new term in May's election.

"However, what happened at this year's men's world handball championship in Qatar stretched this notion to the point of absurdity," he said.

Under FIFA rules, a player has to have been born in the country he represents or his parents have to have been were born there. Otherwise, the player must have spent at least five years living there to qualify.