

Iran Shine in World Taekwondo Grand Slam Event



Members of the Iran men's national taekwondo team react after finishing first at Wuxi 2017 World Taekwondo Grand Slam Champions Series in China on January 27, 2018.

TEHRAN (Press TV) - The Iran men's national taekwondo team has

claimed the title at the conclusion of the Wuxi 2017 World Taekwondo

Grand Slam Champions Series in China.

On Saturday, the Iranian sportsmen featured praiseworthy displays of spinning kicks and fast kicking techniques during the final team contests of the tournament, and could prevail over the hosts 76-56 to lift the trophy.

Earlier, the Iranian outfit had overpowered the Russian squad 39-20, and booked a spot in the title challenge.

The Iran men's national taekwondo team consisted of Armin Hadipour, Mirhashem Hosseini, Seyyed Hossein Ehsani, Erfan Nazemi, Mehdi Khodabakhshi and Saeed Rajabi.

They were under the tutelage of Seyyed Ne'mat Khalifah and Reza Imanzadeh as the head coach and coach.

The Wuxi 2017 World Taekwondo Grand Slam Champions Series kicked off on December 30, and ran through January 27, 2018.

Entire USA Gymnastics Board to Quit Over Abuse Scandal

CHICAGO (AFP) - The entire USA Gymnastics board of directors will resign in the wake of a sex abuse scandal, as part of the organization's decision Friday to comply with U.S. Olympic Committee requirements to avoid decertification.

After former U.S. Olympic team doctor Larry Nassar was jailed for up to 175 years for sexual abuse of girls and young women under the guise of treatment, USA Gymnastics promised to meet six requirements outlined by the USOC to remain the sport's national governing body.

"USA Gymnastics will comply with the USOC requirements,"

read the organization's statement.

Nassar's victims included Olympic champions Simone Biles, Aly Raisman, Gabby Douglas, Jordyn Wieber and McKayla Maroney. More than 150 women spoke out over a sentencing hearing in Michigan that lasted more than a week.

A trio of USA Gymnastics board of directors top executives -- chairman Paul Parilla, vice chairman Jay Binder and treasurer Bitsy Kelley -- already stepped down Monday following stinging criticism by victims of the organization's handling of the Nassar case.

Feuz Wins Third Downhill of Season



FIS Alpine Skiing World Cup - Men's Alpine Downhill - Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany - January 27, 2018 - Switzerland's Beat Feuz in action.

GARMISCH - PARTENKIRCHEN, Germany (Reuters) - Swiss Beat Feuz won his third downhill of the season with a late surge at Garmisch on Saturday to establish himself among the favorites to win a gold at next month's Winter Games.

The injury-plagued skier charged down the 3.3 kilometer Kandahar course in one minute 55.39 seconds, 0.18 seconds ahead of Austrian Vincent Kriechmayr and Italian Dominik Paris who tied for second place.

Norway's Aksel Lund Svindal, another of the favorites for Pyeongchang, was fourth in the last downhill race before the Games.

After missing the Vancouver Games through injury and failing to win a medal in Sochi, where he had still not

fully recovered from a knee injury, Feuz this time appears to have hit form just at the right time.

Feuz, skiing fifth, was well outside Svindal's time at the halfway mark but picked up time as he threw caution to the wind near the end.

Feuz, who claimed the 10th World Cup win of his career, previously won this season at Lake Louise and Wengen.

He was also second in Beaver Creek and Kitzbuehel and leads the World Cup downhill standings with 542 points, 40 ahead of Svindal with Paris third.

Austrian slalom specialist Marcel Hirscher leads the overall standings ahead of Henrik Kristoffersen with Svindal third and Feuz fifth.

Cavs Overcome LeBron's 11 Turnovers to Beat Pacers 115-108



LeBron James #23 of the Cleveland Cavaliers dunks over Thaddeus Young #21 of the Indiana Pacers during the second half at Quicken Loans Arena on January 26, 2018 in Cleveland, Ohio.

CLEVELAND (AP) - Before leaving the Cavaliers' locker room, LeBron

James made sure doughnuts from the team's tasty postgame spread were packed in his bag.

He had enough turnovers.

James recorded his 63rd career triple-double - overcoming a career-high 11 turnovers - and J.R. Smith scored 23 points as Cleveland showed some signs of ending its stunning slump with a 115-108 victory over the Indiana Pacers on Friday night.

James finished with 26 points, 11 assists and 10 rebounds as the Cavs, following a minor lineup switch by coach Tyrone Lue, won for just the fourth time in 11 games. However, James kept Indiana close in the fourth quarter with six turnovers - most of them coming on errant passes.

With the highest turnover total by an NBA player this season, he joined James Harden and Russell Westbrook as the only players with a quadruple-double in the last 15 years.

It was sometimes ugly, but it was a much-needed win for the Cavs, who beyond losing have been bickering and backbiting each other. Earlier this week, Cleveland's players challenged

each other during a heated team meeting.

There are still problems to be worked out on the floor, but at least for one night there was mostly harmony.

Still, there were a few curious moments. At one point in the first quarter, Kevin Love grabbed one of his 13 rebounds and turned and bent down to hand it to 5-foot-9 guard Isaiah Thomas, who left Quicken Loans Arena before the locker room was opened to media members.

Also, during a timeout, Love tossed his hoodie in the face of teammate Jeff Green, who didn't look pleased.

Following the game, Green playfully returned to the locker room to challenge Love, who said it was all done in fun.

"Hey, Kev, they thought you were serious," Green yelled to Love, who was surrounded by reporters. "Tomorrow we're putting on the gloves."

Cleveland stopped Indiana from sweeping all four games between the clubs this season.

Victor Oladipo scored 25, Darren

Collison 19 and Domantas Sabonis 17 for the Pacers, who kept attacking and closed within five in the final minute before Cleveland closed it out.

Smith made seven 3-pointers and Derrick Rose scored 14 points for the Cavs. Cleveland was without Dwyane Wade, who was excused from the team to attend to a personal matter.

With the Cavs unable to snap out of their prolonged, puzzling slide, Lue returned to a proven starting lineup with Thomas joining James, Love, Tristan Thompson and Smith - the latter four starters that led Cleveland to three straight NBA Finals.

Lue moved Jae Crowder out of the starting lineup and replaced him with Thompson, who took over at center and moved Love back to his usual spot at power forward.

The new/old look paid off and Rose came up big, scoring seven straight points in the third when Lue pulled an ineffective Thomas.

Rose recently returned after missing two months with ankle injuries that had him considering whether to continue playing.

Wozniacki Beats Halep to Win 1st Major at Australian Open

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — It took Caroline Wozniacki 43 majors and two failed attempts in finals before finally claiming her first Grand Slam singles title.

One of the first things she did as a champion was apologize to top-seeded Simona Halep following her 7-6 (2), 3-6, 6-4 win in the Australian Open final on Saturday night.

"I'm sorry, I'm just taking a second to hug Daphne," Wozniacki said, pausing as she clutched the winner's trophy in the on-court ceremony. "I dreamt of this moment so many years, to be here now it's a dream come true."

More than seven years after appearing in her first Grand Slam final at the 2009 U.S. Open — a straight sets loss to Serena Williams — Wozniacki can finally erase the "but never won a major" footnote that has long been attached to her resume.

"I'm never going to get the

question again about being a world No. 1 without a Slam," she said after leaving the court.

Wozniacki will regain the top ranking next week for the first time in six years — beating Serena Williams' record of 5 years, 29 days between stints at No. 1 on the women's tour — in another benefit of beating the top-seeded Halep.

Neil Diamond's "Sweet Caroline" played over the stadium speakers as the 27-year-old Danish player carried the Daphne Akhurst Memorial Cup around Rod Laver Arena.

Wozniacki lost two U.S. Open finals — in '09 and 2014 — and Halep lost two French Open finals before their meeting at Melbourne Park.

It was the first time in the Open era that players ranked No. 1 and 2 were meeting in a major final without either having won a Grand Slam title.

So the pressure was on.

It was the first time in the Open era that both Australian Open

In Halep's case, she was the first player who had saved match



Caroline Wozniacki holds up the Daphne Akhurst Memorial Cup

finalists had saved match points before reaching the final, also, so in some ways the pressure was off.

points in multiple matches to have reached the final. She saved triple match point and rallied in the third set to beat Laura Davis

15-13 in the third set of her third-round match, and also needed to save match points in her semifinal against Angelique Kerber.

Wozniacki saved match points in her second-round win over Jana Fett and later said she was relaxed because for the rest of the tournament she was "playing with the house money."

So both players rolled the dice in the 2-hour, 49-minute final, which featured some long, absorbing rallies and 10 service breaks — including six in an eight-game run in the third set.

Halep was playing with an injured left ankle, needed treatment for dizziness in the second set and had rallied from a break down in the third set to lead 4-3 when Wozniacki took a medical time out to have her left knee taped. In the end, she just ran out of steam.

Wozniacki is the third first-time major winner in the four Grand Slam tournaments since Serena

Williams won the 2017 Australian Open for her record 23rd Grand Slam title. Serena Williams, who beat her older sister, Venus, in last year's final, took time out for her pregnancy and the birth of her first child in September, and is preparing to return to competition next month. She was ranked No. 1 for 67 weeks, including 49 straight from Feb. 21, 2011 until Victoria Azarenka replaced her on Jan. 30, 2012.

Wozniacki got a break in Halep's first service game and had a chance to serve for the first set at 5-3, but the Romanian rallied to break back and to force a tiebreaker. After getting an early jump in the tiebreaker, Wozniacki won the last three points to win a set for the first time in a Grand Slam final.

Halep fended off four break points to hold early in the second set, and called for the trainer after holding in the fifth to get her blood pressure and pulse taken.