

Iran Upset Poland in FIVB World League

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - The national Iranian men's volleyball team have upset world champion Poland to achieve their first victory at the 2017 Fédération Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB) World League.

On Sunday evening, the Iranian squad defeated the Bia?o-Czerwoni Orze? 3-1 (18-25, 25-23, 25-23 and 25-22) at the end of a Pool A1 - Group 1 match at the Adriatic Arena in Pesaro city, on the eastern side of central Italy.

The Poles served for the first point and Micha? Kubiak earned the opening score for his team. The Eastern Europeans continued to impose the pace and led 11-7 later on.

The Persians then sprang into action and reduced the gap to 9-12. The Polish outfit did not capitulate and Kubiak dragged his teammates to the second technical time out 16-10.

Iran did not manage to find its rhythm in this first set, and Poland



The photo shows a view of the Pool A1 - Group 1 match between Iran (players in red) and Poland at the 2017 FIVB Volleyball World League in Adriatic Arena, Pesaro, Italy, on June 4, 2017.

easily got the first set 25-18.

The second set started tightly and it was a point to point battle to the first technical time out, where Iran finally took the lead at 8-7.

Iran, helped by the great support

of its passionate fans, could surge ahead and claimed the set 25-23 at last.

The Iranian volleyball players kept the momentum as the match extended into the third set. The Persians did not show any intention to let it go, and Amir Ghafour's light speed spike delivered the set to Iran 25-23.

Iran were fearless in the fourth set, and continued with the killer points

signed by Milad Ebadipour and Mohammad Javad Ma'navinejad.

Poland were unable to assume control of the match. Iran took the set 25-22 at last and clinched the match.

"I am very proud of my team. We grow every day through constant trainings, and I am very proud of my players and of the team spirit they were able to show tonight. They faced (Saeed) Marouf's injury well and they showed a good reaction in difficult situations," Iran's head coach Igor Kolakovic said after the match.

"This victory is so important for us to build up our self-confidence! The teamwork allowed us to win this match, because we were able to help each other on the court. We were able to reopen the match and I am very satisfied," Iranian player Ghafour said.

"Iran played with a lot of motivation. We started with intensity but then we started to struggle facing their attacks. We need to learn a lesson tonight because this is a sign that we need to have a more mature approach towards matches," Poland's head coach Ferdinando De Giorgi commented.

Daneshvar Ranks 2nd in World Cadets Rapid & Blitz Chess Championships 2017



Iranian chess player Bardiya Daneshvar (file photo)

TEHRAN (Press TV) - Iranian male chess player Bardiya Daneshvar has put on admirable performances at the first edition of Fédération Internationale des Échecs (FIDE) World Cadets Rapid & Blitz Chess Championships 2017 in Belarus, and finished in the second place overall.

On Sunday, the 11-year-old accumulated 7.5 points from nine games to snatch a silver medal in the blitz division of the competitions at the Palace of Sport in the Belarusian capital city of Minsk.

Earlier in the tournament, Daneshvar had garnered 7.5 points from nine games in the rapid section, finishing third overall.

The first edition of FIDE World Cadet Rapid & Blitz Chess Championships 2017 opened in Minsk, Belarus, on

June 1 and will finish on June 5.

The tournament is played using the Swiss system with 9 rounds. If a player does not have an existing FIDE rapid or blitz rating, then his/her classical rating is used, where applicable.

The time control for the rapid championships is 10 minutes plus 5 seconds per move increment from white's first move. The time control for the blitz championships is 5 minutes plus 2 seconds per move increment from white's first move.

Each participant receives a certificate of participation. The five best players in each category are awarded prizes in different items in goods. Special prizes also apply.

Iranian Footballers Beat Montenegro 2-1 in Friendly

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Iran men's national football team, domestically known as Team Melli, has defeated Montenegro in a preparation match for the forthcoming fixture against Uzbekistan at the third round of the 2018 FIFA World Cup qualification tournament.

On Sunday evening, the Iranian outfit notched a 2-1 win over the Hrabri sokoli (The Brave Falcons) at the all-seater and multi-purpose Podgorica City Stadium in the Montenegrin capital city of Podgorica.

Iran's 27-year-old Ramin Rezaeian picked up a long volley in the left corner of the hosts' side of pitch in the 11th minute. He slammed a header to let teammate Mehdi Torabi get the possession of the ball.

Torabi then ran down the ball quickly and played a pass opposite the 6-yard box to professional forward Sardar Azmoun, who plays as a striker for FC Rostov in the Russian Premier League.

Azmoun did not hesitate and cracked a shot to place the ball into the corner of Montenegro's net and open the scoring for the visitors.

In the 32nd minute, Stevan Joveti?, who plays as a striker for Spanish club Sevilla FC on loan from Milan-based professional Italian football club

Internazionale, held Iran to a one-all draw.

Azmoun scored for Team Melli once again shortly after the hour mark to seal Iran's victory.

The Iran men's national football team will play against Uzbekistan's White Wolves in the third round of the 2018 FIFA World Cup qualification tournament on June 12.

The game will be start at Azadi Stadium in western Tehran at 9:15 p.m. local time (1645 GMT).

The Islamic Republic of Iran is pitted against South Korea, Uzbekistan, China, Qatar and Syria in Group A of the third round of the 2018 FIFA World Cup qualification tournament.

Asian powerhouse Japan is drawn in Group B, and has joined Australia, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Iraq and Thailand.

The winner and runner-up of each group (four teams in total) will qualify for the 2018 FIFA World Cup, while the third-placed teams of each group (two teams in total) will head to the play-off round of the 2018 FIFA World Cup qualifiers.

The winner of the Asian play-off round will then face twice the fourth-placed squad in the fifth round of the Confederation of North, Central America and Caribbean Association Football (CONCACAF) qualifying games.

Real Madrid Defend Champions League Title

MADRID (Dispatches) - Real Madrid ripped Juventus to shreds with a scintillating second-half display to win their 12th European Cup in Cardiff on Saturday night.

The Italians had largely managed to repel the Spanish champions in the first period, thanks to Massimiliano Allegri's 4-4-2 shape. Their only weak spot seemed to be right-back Andrea Barzagli, who got targeted by Karim Benzema and Isco.

That did not prevent Cristiano Ronaldo from scoring the opener, but Juve responded by equalising with an attack down the left, aware that Madrid's narrow midfield diamond would make it difficult to protect the flanks.

After the interval, Zinedine Zidane upped the tempo and told his players to press more, which overwhelmed Juve. A deflected Casemiro strike was followed by another Ronaldo goal, before a late Marco Asensio finish wrapped up Madrid's first double since 1958.

Juventus made a surprisingly aggressive start, highlighted by a Gonzalo Higuain dribble through the middle. His lashed shot at Keylor Navas's goal was scrambled up on the second attempt by the Costa Rican goalkeeper.

Navas prevented an early Juventus goal a second time in the sixth minute, when an extended Juve attack pinned Real back and eventually presented Miralem Pjanic with a half-volley.



Real are champions of Europe for a record 12th time.

Navas got to it in spite of the speed and spin on the ball.

There was a temerity and a joy to Juve's play that we've not historically expected from Italian teams, especially not in big finals. Paulo Dybala backheel-nutmegging an opponent in his own half, for instance, suggested that for its defensive stoutness Allegri's Juventus side has evolved into something un-Italian. Something post-Italian, perhaps.

But Real wouldn't be Real if it didn't capitalize on its vast experience with high-stakes games like this and convert its one early chance. Ronaldo, defended ever so tightly until then, received the ball outside the box in the 20th minute, hit the overlapping Dani Carvajal on his right and got it back in the pocket between Juve's lines he opened up

by slowing his run.

He slotted his low shot into the far corner, past the sprawling Buffon.

After Ronaldo's opener, Juve grew into the game and moved Mandzukic into the box more often. On 27 minutes, Sandro volleyed a Bonucci diagonal into the area, where Gonzalo Higuain set up a spectacular Mandzukic volley that arched over Navas and into the net.

After that goal, Juve continued to dominate, and Sandro soon went past Isco to win a corner. Things did not look any brighter for Madrid when Carvajal got booked for going in late on Mandzukic. The Italians created less after the break, but Sandro remained one of their best weapons, and most of their crosses took place down his flank.

Down the other end, Madrid targeted the ageing Barzagli. Zidane

started off by moving Benzema out wide in order to skip past him and, inside six minutes, the Frenchman had already had three attempts. Neither succeeded.

Instead Madrid figured out that Barzagli struggled more when forced to run towards his own goal. Soon Isco ran onto a long ball behind him and set up a misdirected Ronaldo diving header. Just after the break, Marcelo lofted two passes above Barzagli in quick succession: one released Ronaldo, another found Isco, who was only denied by a surgical Barzagli intervention.

This must have concerned Allegri and, when the coach responded to going 3-1 down, it was Barzagli who came off for Juan Cuadrado.

As all this happened, Madrid were putting Juve under pressure. They pressed higher and more aggressively in the second half, forcing dangerous turnovers and denying Juve time to play their way out. Within 15 minutes, Modric, Isco and Marcelo had all recorded attempts.

As it was, the second goal came when a blocked Kroos shot fell to Casemiro, whose deflected strike spun past Gianluigi Buffon. It was lucky, but also a reward for Madrid's dominance.

At that point Allegri wanted a strong response, but Madrid kept pressing. Their third goal, on 64 minutes, came when Modric intercepted a ball high up the pitch -- denoting their approach in the second half -- ran down the line and found Ronaldo at the near post.

"They raised the tempo, as we were the ones pushing Real Madrid back in the first half," Allegri said. "But in the second we couldn't play our way out of defence and they kept pushing us back."

Juve never really responded. Allegri introduced Cuadrado, Claudio Marchisio and Mario Lemina, but Cuadrado got sent off, and the Italians only recorded a single effort in the entire half. Instead substitute Asensio made it 4-1 to seal Madrid's third Champions League title in four years.

Warriors Takes 2-0 Lead Over Cavaliers in NBA

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - Golden State Warriors took a 2-0 lead in the NBA Finals with a dominant 132-113 victory over Cleveland Cavaliers.

Kevin Durant hit a game-high 33 points, while Stephen Curry recorded his first play-off triple-double, with 32 points, 10 rebounds and 11 assists.

LeBron James made a record-equalling eighth play-off triple-double.

The Warriors, who welcomed back coach Steve Kerr after missing

11 games through back issues, have now won a record 14 straight play-off games.

The visitors trailed by just three points at half-time at Oracle Arena, before the Warriors outscored the Cavaliers 35-24 in a decisive third quarter.

Golden State beat Cleveland in the 2015 finals but were 2-0 and then 3-1 up last year, only to let their lead slip as the Cavaliers won their first NBA title.

Kerr, a five-time NBA champion as a player, had been absent since

game two of his side's first play-off series against Portland Trail Blazers after suffering complications from back surgery in 2015.

Assistant coach Mike Brown stepped in, completing 4-0 sweeps of Portland, Utah Jazz and San Antonio Spurs to reach the finals, with Kerr only announcing his return for this game hours before tip-off.

"For him to be out there when he has a built-in excuse not to because of the incredible pain he's under, it's amazing. It motivates us to win

for him," said Warriors shooting guard Klay Thompson, who hit 22 points.

Kerr, 51, led the Warriors to the 2015 title before last year's defeat and said his side would have to play "smarter" in game three of the best-of-seven series, which takes place in Cleveland on Wednesday (02:00 BST on Thursday).

A triple-double means a player has recorded a double-digit number in three of five statistical categories: points, rebounds, assists, steals, and blocks.

Cavaliers small forward James, 32, made 29 points, 11 rebounds and 14 assists to draw level with Los Angeles Lakers legend Magic Johnson on eight post-season triple-doubles. No other player has more than two.

With Curry also making a triple-double, it was only the second time in play-off history that opposing players have achieved the feat in the same game - the first coming in 1970 by New York Knicks' Walt Frazier and Milwaukee Buck's Kareem Abdul-Jabbar.