

Iranian Wrestler Gets Silver Medal in Kazakhstan's Int'l Tournament

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Iran's Greco-Roman wrestler Hamidreza Badkan received a silver medal at the international Zhaxylyk Ushkempirov tournament in Kazakhstan on Sunday.

Badkan could not overcome his Kazakh opponent in the final challenge of the 97-kilogram weight class, and conceded a 4-5 defeat following a close contest.

Earlier in the tournament, the junior Iranian wrestler received a bye in the first round of the competitions, before emerging



victorious 10-0 in his first bout. Badkan downed a representative from the host nation 9-0 in the semi-finals and found a

place in the final showdown. The international Zhaxylyk Ushkempirov tournament began in the western Kazakh city of

Aktau on May 4, and will wrap up on May 6, 2018.

The Islamic Republic of Iran Wrestling Federation (IRIWF) has dispatched six wrestlers to the sporting event.

Pouya Dadmarz, Mehdi Mohsennejad, Mohammadreza Mokhtari, Mohammadreza Rostami, Hassan Forouzandeh and Hamidreza Badkan represent Iran in the 55-kilogram, 60-kilogram, 67-kilogram, 72-kilogram, 87-kilogram and 97-kilogram weight classes, respectively.

Venus Loses to Kontaveit in Round 1 of Madrid Open

MADRID (AP) - Venus Williams lost to Anett Kontaveit of Estonia in the first round of the Madrid Open.

Kontaveit rallied from a set down to beat the eighth-seeded Williams 3-6, 6-3, 6-2 on the outdoor clay court.

"I'd lost to her two times already, and so I had nothing to lose," Kontaveit said. "I didn't go out there feeling scared. I do feel like I can challenge anybody here, so I was feeling good to go on the court."

Kontaveit was coming off a semifinal run in Stuttgart last week. Williams was playing her first clay match of the year,

though she has passed the second round only once in Madrid.

Fourth-seeded Elina Svitolina beat Alize Cornet 6-2, 6-2 after breaking her serve five times.

Irina-Camelia Begu beat fifth-seeded Jelena Ostapenko 6-3, 6-3, and Kristina Mladenovic also upset 12th-seeded Coco Vandeweghe 7-5, 6-0.

Sixth-seeded Karolina Pliskova and seventh-seeded Caroline Garcia advanced.

Two-time defending champion and top-ranked Simona Halep opens on Sunday, along with Gabrine Muguruza, Caroline Wozniacki and Maria Sharapova.

Juventus Win to Move Closer to Serie A Title



Sami Khedira puts Juventus ahead against Bologna

ROME (Dispatches) - Juventus came from behind with

three second-half goals to beat Bologna and put them just one

win away from a seventh successive Serie A title.

But Juve could be crowned champions on Sunday if Torino beat second-placed Napoli, who are seven points behind.

Simone Verdi had put Bologna ahead with a first-half penalty but a Sebastien de Maio own goal drew Juve level.

Sami Khedira's strike 12 minutes later turned the game in Juve's favour before Paulo Dybala added a third.

Bologna took the lead on the half-hour mark when Verdi converted from the spot after Daniele Rugani had brought down Lorenzo Crisetig in the

box. Kwadwo Asamoah and Gonzalo Higuain had the best chances to equalize for Juventus in the first half but it was an own goal that eventually brought them level when De Maio turned the ball into his own net.

Emil Krafth had a chance to give Bologna the lead once again but Gianluigi Buffon touched his effort onto the post.

Khedira scored from close range to put Massimiliano Allegri's side ahead before Dybala wrapped up the victory six minutes later.

Valencia Clinch Champions League Berth After Betis Loss



BARCELONA, Spain (AP) - Valencia were assured of a top-four finish in the Spanish league and a berth in next season's Champions League after Real Betis lost at Athletic Bilbao 2-0.

The defeat left fifth-place Betis eight points behind Valencia in fourth with two games left for the Seville-based club.

Iker Munian headed in a cross from Inigo Lekeu for Bilbao's opener in the 76th minute, and Aritz Aduriz scored from a pass by Inaki Williams in stoppage time.

Betis hit the crossbar twice when pressing for a late equalizer before Aduriz scored on the final kick of the match.

Valencia, which visited Villarreal, finished in 12th place the last two seasons.

Champion Barcelona, Atletico Madrid and Real Madrid are also heading back to the Champions League next season.

Also, Eibar rolled to a 4-1 win at Girona in the first match since Jose Luis Mendilibar agreed to stay on another season at the Basque Country club.

Ex-Man Utd Boss Ferguson Remains in Intensive Care

LONDON (Dispatches) - Former Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson remains in intensive care after having emergency surgery on Saturday for a brain haemorrhage.

A United statement said the procedure "had gone very well" but there is no update on the 76-year-old's condition.

The Scot retired as United manager in May 2013 after winning 38 trophies during 26 years in charge.

He was at Old Trafford last Sunday when he presented Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger with a commemorative trophy.



Former Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson was left fighting for his life following emergency surgery for a brain haemorrhage on Saturday.

Ferguson's family have requested privacy as he recovers in Salford Royal Hospital.

"We will keep Sir Alex and his loved ones in our thoughts during this time, and we are united

in our wish to see him make a comfortable, speedy recovery," United later said in a tweet.

"He needs a period of intensive care to optimize his recovery."

The most successful manager in the history of the British game, Ferguson's trophy haul at Old Trafford included 13 Premier League titles, two Champions League crowns, five FA Cups and four League Cups.

Ferguson famously won the Treble of Premier League, FA Cup and Champions League in 1999, the year in which he was knighted.

Golovkin Destroys Martirosyan to Defend Middleweight Titles

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Gennady Golovkin equaled the record of 20 straight world middleweight title defenses with a devastating second-round knockout of Vanes Martirosyan on Saturday to retain his WBA and WBC belts.

Golovkin ended the fight with a vicious series of right and left combinations that floored the heavy underdog Martirosyan, who appeared doomed from the outset of the hastily arranged fight at the StubHub Center.

Martirosyan was in big trouble from the beginning of the second round as Golovkin rendered the challenger helpless by landing a right uppercut on the chin. He followed with a few stinging jabs and

then a full throttle left hook and straight right on the ropes that put Martirosyan down for good at 1:53 of the round.

The American tried to get up before the 10 count but slumped forward, ending up face down on the canvas. Golovkin, who is boxing's longest-reigning current world titleholder, is now unbeaten in 39 fights, including 34 by knockout.

Martirosyan was a last-minute replacement following the cancellation of the Kazakh's much anticipated rematch with Canelo Alvarez of Mexico.

The rematch was cancelled because of Alvarez's two failed drug tests in February, followed by his suspension by the Nevada State Athletic Commission on April 18.

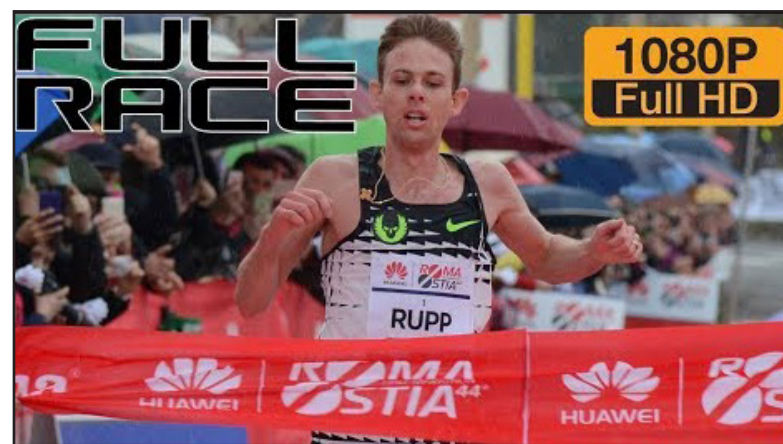
Alvarez will be free to fight once his suspension ends in August.

Saturday's event was moved from Las Vegas to south central Los Angeles and Golovkin fought for a fraction of the money he would have received for a fight against Alvarez.

With the victory he now joins Bernard Hopkins for the division record of 20 successful title defenses. Golovkin (38-0-1, 34 KOs) is now in line to surpass Hopkins in the fall when he hopes to finally get that rematch with Alvarez.

The 31-year-old Martirosyan, who normally fights at light middleweight, was completely outclassed as he stepped up a division to face the hard-hitting Golovkin.

Galen Rupp Wins Prague International Marathon



PRAGUE (AP) - Olympic bronze medalist Galen Rupp of the United States won the Prague international marathon on Sunday while Kenyan runner Bornes Jepkirui Kitur was the fastest woman in the race.

Rupp who pulled ahead away from the favorite Sisay Lemma of Ethiopia with about four kilometers to go, finished the

race in 2 hours, 6 minutes and 7 seconds. It was the second fastest time in the history of the race.

Lemma crossed the finish line in 2:07:02 while Kenya's Stephen Kwelio Chemlany was third in 2:09:42.

Kitur won in 2:24:19 ahead of Belaynesh Oljira and Amane Gobena, both from Ethiopia.