

Iran's Judo Federation to Lodge Complaint With CAS Against IJF's Vote



TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Iran's Judo Federation to file a complaint with the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) against the International Judo Federation (IJF) for banning the Iranian athletes from participation in international contests.

"Given the recent decisions of the World Judo Federation, the officials of the Iranian Judo Fed-

eration in coordination and joint meetings with the officials of the Ministry of Sports and Youth and the National Olympic Committee, and consulting with experienced sports lawyers, decided to file a lawsuit with the Court of Arbitration for Sport against the disciplinary committee of the World Judo Federation, which does not comply with legal standards," the statement said

on Sunday.

It added that in its previous complaint, Iran's sports diplomacy achieved a great victory by breaking the indefinite suspension vote, expressing the hope that the Iranian Judo Federation will be able to defend Iran's judo once again.

Iran's suspension from international judo events for refusing to let the Iranian athletes fight Zionist opponents was overturned by the Court of Arbitration for Sports (CAS) on March 1. In 2019, the International Judo Federation accused the Islamic Republic of imposing a ban on facing Israelis in competition, and suspended Iran from competing in judo tournaments. Iran denies the claim saying athletes themselves choose not to face the Zionists.

However, the CAS dismissed the ban stating that IJF's had "overstepped its authority". The case was sent back to an IJF (International Judo Federation) disciplinary panel for review.

The ban does not affect Iranian judokas going to the Tokyo Olympics because that team is sent by the national Olympic body and not the national judo federation.

Iranian officials can again challenge the IJF verdict at CAS.

Football Legend Cantona Voices Support for Palestine



TEHRAN (Dispatches) - French football legend Eric Cantona has supported a relief campaign launched for Palestinians who are facing Zionist attacks.

Ex-Manchester United forward Cantona, 54, put his photo on Instagram as he has worn a 'Hoping for Palestine' t-shirt, which was designed for an NGO, Hoping Foundation.

"Hoping is raising funds for Palestinian Medical Relief so-

ciety's emergency response in Gaza," Cantona said, Anadolu reported.

In this photo, Cantona posed alongside his wife Rachida Brakni as the 44-year-old French actress had the same t-shirt as well.

Some 200 people, including children and women, have been killed and hundreds more injured since the Zionist regime started attacks on Gaza last Monday.

German FA Chief Resigns Over Nazi Comment, Calls for Change



Fritz Keller said he was stepping down as president so that the DFB 'can make a far-reaching and necessary new start'

BERLIN (AFP) - Departing German FA president (DFB) Fritz Keller said the association "must change" on Monday as he officially resigned over comments he made comparing his deputy to a notorious Nazi-era judge.

"I am giving up my position as president so the DFB can make a far-reaching and necessary new start," said Keller in a lengthy statement on the federation's website, after announcing his plan to step down last week.

While accepting "personal responsibility" for his controversial comments, the departing president also slammed the "desolate leadership situation" at the scandal-hit federation and called for wide-reaching reforms.

Keller sparked outrage and calls for his resignation after likening DFB vice-president Rainer Koch to Roland Freisler, the infamous

head of the Nazi party's court in the 1940s, during a meeting last month.

The 64-year-old later apologized to Koch, acknowledging that his words were "totally inappropriate, notably towards the victims of Nazism", and officially stepped down Monday after facing a DFB tribunal to explain his comments.

The scandal also exposed what appeared to be a fierce power struggle between Keller and his deputies at a federation which has lurched from crisis to crisis in recent years.

Keller's resignation appears to have paved the way for a mass clearout of the DFB top brass.

General secretary Friedrich Curtius is also set to resign, while Koch and treasurer Stephan Osna-bruegge would not put themselves up for re-election in 2022, the federation said last week.

Jazz Take Top Spot in NBA Playoffs, Thump Kings 121-99

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) - Jordan Clarkson scored 33 points, Rudy Gobert added 13 points and 16 rebounds and the Utah Jazz took the No. 1 spot in the NBA playoffs, beating the Sacramento Kings 121-99 on Sunday night.

Utah (52-20) won its final two to edge Western Conference-rival Phoenix for the top spot. It's the first time in franchise history that the Jazz have finished with sole possession of the best record in the NBA.

Mike Conley had 11 points, nine assists and six rebounds in his second game back after missing two weeks because of a right hamstring injury. Bojan Bogdanovic had 18 points.

Now comes the waiting game for coach Quin Snyder's team. Utah awaits one of the surviving teams from the play-in



Utah Jazz center Rudy Gobert (27) dunks the ball against the Sacramento Kings during the first quarter of an NBA basketball game in Sacramento, Calif., Sunday, May 16, 2021.

games that begin Tuesday and end Friday.

Terence Davis had 20 points for Sacramento. The Kings, who started four reserves, finished the season with a three-game losing streak.

A loss to Sacramento in the final regular season game would have dropped Utah into a tie with Phoenix, and the Suns held the tiebreaker after sweeping three games against the Jazz.

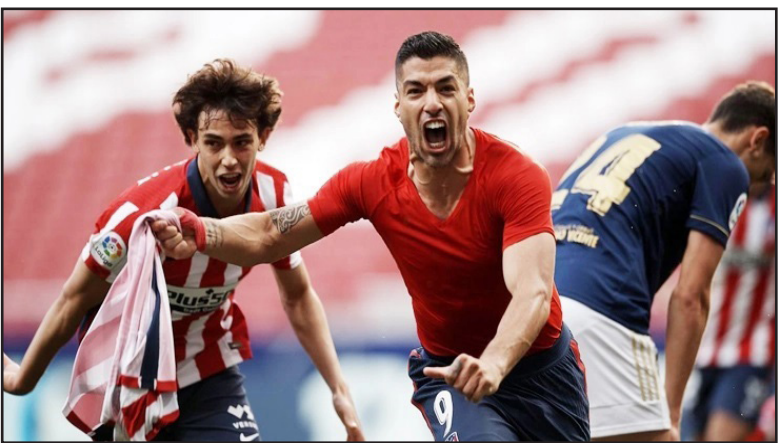
Instead, the Jazz shook off a slow start and thumped the Kings for the second time in three weeks.

Utah led by 15 at halftime and continued to pull away in the second half. Bogdanovich scored nine points and dunked off a bounce pass from Royce O'Neal, while Clarkson added a pair of 3s as part of a 20-4 run in the third quarter. O'Neal's 3-pointer later pushed Utah's lead to 90-61.

Clarkson sank three free throws midway through the fourth to make it 113-87.

Conley, limited to 16 minutes against Oklahoma City on Friday in his return from a right hamstring injury, got the Jazz going after they sputtered early. He had 11 points with three 3s and seven assists to help Utah to a 64-49 lead.

Suarez Rescues Atletico in Title Race



MADRID (Dispatches) - Luis Suarez scored a dramatic late winner as Atletico Madrid fought back to beat Osasuna and put themselves on

the verge of a first La Liga title for seven years.

Diego Simeone's side now travel to Real Valladolid in their final game knowing that a win will clinch the title.

Ante Budimir's header had put Osasuna on course for a shock win and seen Real Madrid briefly top the table.

But Renan Lodi levelled before Suarez steered in Yannick Carrasco's cross.

Both Atletico goals arrived in the final 10 minutes of a compelling contest - and just as it looked as though they were going to have

to surrender top spot to their city rivals.

Real, who were leading and went on to win at Athletic Bilbao, were in pole position for the title with two minutes remaining.

Simeone's side, who have led the table since November and at one stage had a 10-point lead at the top, dominated throughout but initially failed to take advantage of a glut of chances, with the Argentine urging them forward.

Suarez hit the post and flashed a drive wide as the hosts peppered the Osasuna goal with 16 shots during the first half.

Swiatek Overwhelms Pliskova in Final

ROME (Dispatches) - Polish teenager Iga Swiatek thrashed Czech ninth seed Karolina Pliskova 6-0 6-0 to win the Italian Open.

The 19-year-old reigning French Open champion took just 45 minutes to dispatch the 2019 winner.

Former world number one Pliskova has now lost back-to-back Rome finals after defeat by Simona Halep last year.

"I'm overwhelmed. At the beginning of this tournament I would not have dreamed of winning it," said 15th seed Swiatek.

Swiatek swept through the first set in just 20 minutes, with Pliskova winning only four points.

"I will just quickly forget about today," said Pliskova, who was playing in her third consecutive Rome final.



Swiatek claimed her third WTA title having followed her Roland Garros success with a win in Adelaide in January

Former UK Players Call for Football Reform

LONDON (Dispatches) - Several former footballers have launched a parliamentary petition calling for an independent regulator in English football.

Gary Neville, Jamie Carragher, Rio Ferdinand and Gary Lineker are among 23 ex-players and journalists to undersign an open letter to fans. They say April's European Super League attempted breakaway demonstrates the need to reform the game's governance.

The petition was signed by more than 20,000 people in its first hour. For it to be considered for a parliamentary debate, 100,000 signatures are required.

"As football fans, we were appalled by the attempt to set up a European Super League," reads the letter, which has also been signed by Jamie Redknapp and Micah Richards.

"It was a direct threat to the integrity of the game; destroying the concept of sporting merit and open competition.

"Now we must make sure this never happens again. Without swift and direct intervention, the return of a European Super League will be a constant threat."