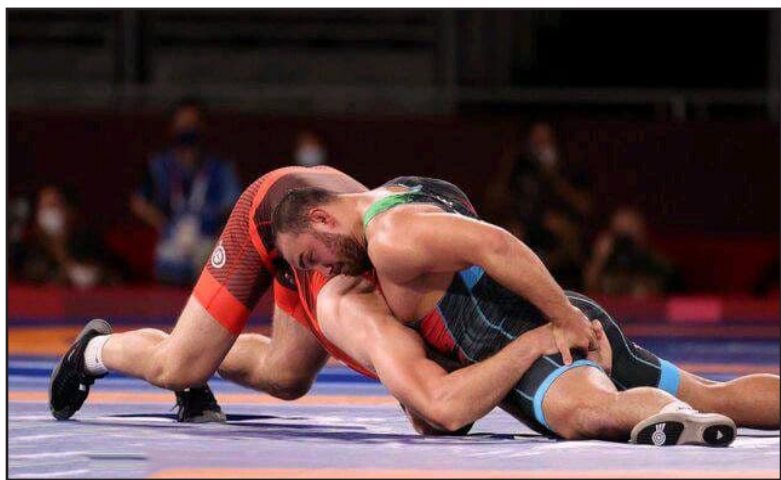


# Yazdani, Zare Qualify for Final in World Wrestling Championship



NORWAY – Iranian freestyle wrestlers Hasan Yazdani, and Amir Hussain Zare won their matches against Kazakhstan and American opponents in the World Wrestling Championship 2021 in Oslo, Norway.

Hassan Yazdani in the 86 kg won his first match in the World Wrestling Championship against an opponent from Kazakhstan in less than 3 minutes 12-2.

Hassan Yazdani in his second fight against the representative of Puerto Rico won 10-0 and reached the semifinals

He faced Russian wrestler Artur Naifonov and beat him 8-2 in the semifinals and to take on U.S. wrestler David Taylor in the final.

Meanwhile, Amirhussein Zare in the weight category of 125 kg in the second round defeated the U.S. representative in less than 2 minutes 10-0 and advanced to the next round and won Turkish wrestler Taha Akgül 4-0.

However, Iranian Younes Imami in the 74 kg weight category lost in the quarterfinals to Georgian wrestler Avtandil Kentchadze 10-1.

## Man Utd Held by Everton in Latest Slip-Up

LONDON (AFP) - Manchester United missed the chance to move top of the Premier League and needed a late VAR call in their favor to avoid another home defeat as Everton emerged from Old Trafford with a 1-1 draw on Saturday.

Yerry Mina's late winner for the Toffees was ruled out by a review for offside after Andros Townsend had cancelled out Anthony Martial's opener for United.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's decision to rest Cristiano Ronaldo from the start will be questioned as the Red Devils have now won just two of their last six games in all competitions.

A point is enough to move both sides level on points with league leaders Liverpool, who face champions Manchester City on Sunday.



Manchester United's Cristiano Ronaldo looks on during the game

Ronaldo's heroics deep into stoppage time against Villarreal on Wednesday saved United from having a mountain to climb to reach the knockout stages of the Champions League.

But Solskjaer did not risk the 36-year-old with a third start in a week as he took his place on a star-studded bench alongside Jadon Sancho and Paul Pogba among five changes.

Martial's inclusion was the

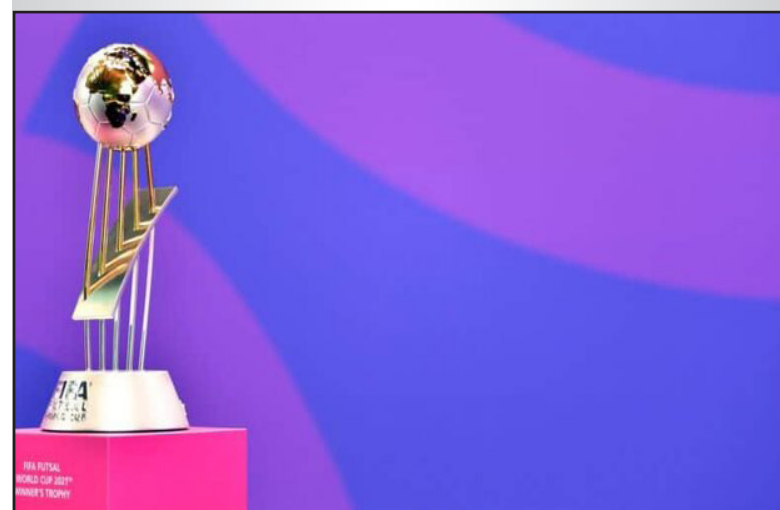
surprise with Jesse Lingard and Donny van de Beek also left on the sidelines.

The Frenchman struggled to impress in his few previous outings this season and missed a glorious early chance when he mistimed his jump for a free header at the back post.

Everton do not have the same depth of resources in attacking areas as Rafael Benitez again had to cope without his two main sources of goals, Richarlison and Dominic Calvert-Lewin, due to injury.

The visitors still created plenty of chances as Michael Keane flicked Townsend's free-kick just wide, Abdoulaye Doucoure's goalbound effort was blocked by Aaron Wan-Bissaka, and Demarai Gray tested David de Gea in the first half.

## Iran to Bid for Hosting 2024 FIFA Futsal World Cup



TEHRAN – The Iranian Football Federation announced that it is planning to bid for hosting FIFA Futsal World Cup in 2024.

While the 2021 Futsal World Cup in Lithuania is not over yet, the Iranian Football Federation has started planning to bid for hosting the next round of this tournament in 2024.

“Shahaboddin Azizi Khadem, President of the Football Federation said that it was decided to submit the hosting letter of 2024 World

Cup to Gianni Infantino, the President of FIFA,” the former head coach of Iran national futsal team, said Hussein Shams.

The Iranian Football Federation had previously applied to host the 2020 World Cup which was held with a one-year postponement, but ultimately FIFA voted to host Lithuania.

Iran advanced to the quarter-finals of the 2021 tournament but was eliminated after a defeat against Kazakhstan.

## U.S. Women's Soccer League Postpones Matches After Abuse Allegations



North Carolina Courage Coach Paul Riley was fired Thursday after a report in *The Athletic* detailed allegations made by players on teams that Riley has coached since 2010

WASHINGTON (AP) - The top professional women's soccer league in the United States, under fire for its handling of allegations of sexual misconduct against a head coach, announced on Friday that it was postponing its weekend matches.

“This week, and much of this season, has been incredibly traumatic for our players and staff, and I take full responsibility for the role I have played,” National Women's Soccer League (NWSL) commissioner Lisa Baird said.

“I am so sorry for the pain so many are feeling,” Baird said in a statement. “Recognizing that trauma, we have decided not to take the field this weekend to give everyone some space to reflect.”

The postponement came after the North Carolina Courage fired head coach Paul Riley on Thursday for what the team called “very serious allegations of misconduct.”

lishman spanning multiple teams and leagues since 2010. Riley was the second NWSL coach to be dismissed this week after the league terminated Washington Spirit coach Richie Burke's contract following an investigation into allegations of verbal and emotional abuse.

In her statement, Baird, the NWSL commissioner, said “business as usual isn't our concern right now. Our entire league has a great deal of healing to do, and our players deserve so much better.”

Baird said the decision to postpone the weekend matches was made in collaboration with the players association.

“This pause will be the first step as we collectively work to transform the culture of this league, something that is long overdue,” she said.

U.S. internationals Alex Morgan and Megan Rapinoe were among the players who criticized the league's handling of the allegations against Riley.

“Bottom line: protect your players. Do the right thing NWSL,” Morgan tweeted.

## Lens Cut PSG Lead to Six Points in Empty Stadium



On target: Lens forward Arnaud Kalimuendo (centre) celebrates his second goal

PARIS (AFP) - Lens cut Paris Saint-Germain's lead at the top of Ligue 1 to six points with a 2-0 win over Reims although their fans were forced to stay away.

Teenage striker Arnaud Kalimuendo, on loan from PSG, scored both Lens goals as the team moved to 18 points.

PSG lead with 24 points from eight games and have a game in hand.

Lens were playing their second home match at Stade Bollaert behind closed doors following crowd trouble last month in the local derby with Lille.

Kalimuendo, just 19, opened the scoring on the stroke of half-time from the penalty spot after a red card handed to Reims teenage winger Hugo Eki-

tike for dangerous play.

Kalimuendo added his second in the 52nd minute as Lens bounced back from a 1-0 loss to Strasbourg in their last, crowdless, home game.

“We were in control. Obviously, with the penalty and the red card, it helped us to intensify our control,” said Lens coach Franck Haise.

“To be second in the table heading into the international break, with an average of two points per game, it's beautiful.”

PSG will look to restore their nine-point lead when they travel to Rennes on Sunday.

## Top-Seeded Rublev, Ruud Reach San Diego Open Semifinals

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The top two seeds, Andrey Rublev of Russia and Casper Ruud of Norway, have reached the semifinals of the inaugural San Diego Open.

Rublev, who ended the hopes of San Diego native Brandon Nakashima on Wednesday, kept up his strong form and beat sixth-seeded Diego Schwartzman 6-1, 7-5 on Friday.

Ruud reached the first tour-level hard court semifinal in his career with a routine 6-1, 6-4 victory over Italy's Lorenzo Sonego.

Rublev also beat Schwartzman in the recent Laver Cup.

“The match against him at the Laver Cup helped me a lot because we hadn't played for a really, really long time and I didn't know what he was doing on

court,” Rublev said. “The match at Laver Cup gave me confidence and also let me know how I needed to play today.”

The Russian set up a Saturday showdown against Cameron Norrie of Britain, who scored his second straight upset win over a seeded player this week, defeating No. 4 Denis Shapovalov of Canada 6-3, 6-1.

Ruud said his match “was closer than it may have seemed, but the key moments and important points went my way today. The three times I broke him, the games were close and at 4-3 in the second I got into a little bit of trouble on my serve but I was able to serve out a close game.”

“This is my first semifinal on hard court after reaching the quar-



Russia's Andrey Rublev

ters in Toronto and Cincinnati, so it's another important step in my career. It gives me confidence for tomorrow and the belief that I can beat good players on this

surface.”

Ruud will face Grigor Dimitrov, after the unseeded Bulgarian outlasted Aslan Karatsev 6-1, 1-6, 6-2 in the quarterfinal nightcap.