

# Iran Win World Wrestling Clubs Cup Title



TEHRAN – Shahr Bank of Iran claimed the title of the seventh edition of the World Wrestling Clubs Cup.

The Iranian team defeated the Russian side Ivan Poddubny 6-4 in the final match.

Iran had defeated freestyle wrestling teams from Georgia (10-0) and Kazakhstan (9-1) before the final, while Russia beat India (9-1) and Armenia (9-1).

Also, India beat Kazakhstan 7-3 in the bronze medal match, according to Tehran Times report.

The World Wrestling Clubs Cup is an international wrestling club competition among teams representing member nations of the United World Wrestling (UWW), the sport's global governing body.

## Iranian Skiers Shine at Alpine Championships



TEHRAN – Two Iranian skiers have gained proper results at the 2023 World Alpine Skiing Championships.

Muhammad Kiadarbandsari and Muhammad Saveh Shemshaki could advance to the finals at the event.

This is considered Iran's best performance in the history of

world championships.

So far, the Iranian athletes have stood in 23rd place in the tournament in which 118 contenders have participated.

The 47th FIS Alpine World Ski Championships is underway in two neighboring locations in the French Alps, Courchevel, and Méribel.

## Man City Held at Forest to Fall Behind Arsenal in Title Race

NOTTINGHAM (Reuters) - Manchester City fell two points behind Premier League leaders Arsenal after being held to a 1-1 draw at Nottingham Forest on Saturday.

Arsenal left it very late to beat Aston Villa 4-2 earlier on Saturday and climbed back to the top of the standings, putting pressure on City to earn victory at Forest, with the visitors starting the encounter at a blistering pace.

City dominated possession and deservedly took the lead four minutes before the break with Bernardo Silva slamming the ball into



Nottingham Forest's Morgan Gibbs-White (right) challenges for the ball with Manchester City's Jack Grealish during the English Premier League football match between Nottingham Forest and Manchester City at City ground in Nottingham, England, Feb 18, 2023.

the net from the edge of the box.

The visitors should have

doubled their advantage midway through the second half but the usually lethal

Erling Haaland hit the crossbar from close range before blazing the rebound over the top.

That miss proved pivotal as, out of nowhere, Forest's January signing Chris Wood tapped home at the far post to level six minutes from time and lift the roof off a damp City Ground.

The champions threw everything at Forest in search of a dramatic late winner but they could not break the hosts' resistance, leaving City two points behind Arsenal having played one game more. Forest climbed to 13th.

## Inter Squeeze Past Udinese, Messias Fires Milan Third



MILAN (AFP) - Inter Milan have made sure the gap separating them from runaway Serie A leaders Napoli stayed at 15 points with a 3-1 success over Udinese.

Romelu Lukaku, Henrikh Mkhitaryan and Lautaro Martinez all scored in a hard-fought win against ninth-placed Udinese, who have won only once in their last 15 league matches.

Simone Inzaghi's side stay second and are three points ahead of local rivals AC Milan, who beat Monza 1-0 earlier on Saturday, but are a long way behind rampant Napoli after their 2-0 win at Sassuolo on Friday.

"Udinese are a very physical side with good technique who cause you a lot of problems, as we already saw in the reverse fixture (lost 3-1)," said Inzaghi to Sky. "It's a good victory that allows us to keep going."

Lukaku gave Inter the lead from the penalty spot at the second attempt in the 20th minute, his first league goal since their opening match of the season at Lecce.

But Sando Lovric gave the away side a deserved equalizer with a powerful strike two minutes before half-time.

From there Inter struggled to break down spirited Udinese, Edin Dzeko missing a great chance a minute before a piece of magic from Mkhitaryan which swung the match in the hosts' favor.

Former Armenia captain Mkhitaryan swept home a beautiful first-time finish from Federico Dimarco's layoff in the 73rd minute to send a wave of relief around the San Siro.

In the final minute substitute Martinez lashed in his eighth goal in all competitions since the World Cup after collecting Danilo D'Ambrosio's long pass, giv-

ing Inter a big win ahead of the Champions League visit of Porto on Wednesday.

Milan's season is creaking back into gear and Junior Messias lashed in a powerful strike from the edge of the area in the 31st minute to earn a third league win since the new year.

Saturday's win against their Lombardy rivals was Milan's third single-goal victory in a row in all competitions and came after Tuesday's 1-0 Champions League win over Tottenham Hotspur.

Monza, whose unbeaten record ends at eight matches, dropped down a place to 11th thanks also to Bologna's late 2-1 win at struggling Sampdoria.

Milan were still not back to their very best but could have easily won by more, Michele Di Gregorio having to make a series of saves before Messias crashed home his third league goal of the season.

Rafael Leao clipped a speculative effort off the post in the 19th minute and six minutes later his weak finish at the end of a counter-attack was pushed out by Di Gregorio, who then had to pounce to stop Brahim Diaz from scoring.

Fikayo Tomori forced another good save from Di Gregorio with a snap shot just before the half-hour mark, but the best chance of the lot was wasted by Theo Hernandez in the 56th minute.

The France left-back was sent charging through by Leao but misdirected his chipped finish into the side netting.

Milan then had to weather a late Monza storm as Patrick Ciurria struck a low shot off the post before Di Gregorio kept out Sandro Tonali and Matteo Pessina denied struggling summer signing Charles De Ketelaere.

## Canada's St-Germain Stuns Shiffrin to Take Slalom Gold



Canada's Laurence St-Germain competes on her way to win the women's World Championship slalom, in Meribel, France, Feb 18, 2023.

MERIBEL, France (Reuters) - Canada's Laurence St-Germain

claimed a shock victory in the world championships slalom as

she beat favorite Mikaela Shiffrin to the gold medal on Saturday.

The 28-year-old had never got close to winning a major race before but chose the perfect time to change that with a sensational second run to eclipse slalom great Shiffrin.

In denying the American a fifth world title in a discipline Shiffrin dominates, St-Germain became the first Canadian woman to win a slalom world title for 63 years.

Shiffrin led by 0.19 seconds

from Swiss Wendy Holdener going into the medal run but a couple of errors through the early gates lost her time and she finished 0.57 seconds off the combined time set by the charging Canadian.

Remarkably, her second run time was only the 29th fastest although starting last meant the course was rutted.

Germany's Lena Duerr took the bronze medal with Holdener failing to finish her second run after pushing too hard.

## Swiatek Thumps Pegula to Defend Qatar Open Title

DOHA (Sky Sports) - World number one Iga Swiatek defended her title at the Qatar Open with a straight-set victory over America's Jessica Pegula.

The three-time major winner, from Poland, beat second seed Pegula 6-3 6-0 in just 69 minutes in Doha on Saturday.

It takes Swiatek's head-to-head record with the world number four to 5-2.

The 21-year-old dropped just five games all week as she claimed her first WTA Tour title of 2023 and her 12th title overall.

In the first set, Swiatek went a break up at both 2-0 and 4-2 but Pegula broke back immediately each time.

However, the American failed to pull even when Swiatek broke for a 5-3 lead.

The Pole raced through the second set, winning 73% of points when returning Pegula's second serve.

Swiatek, who beat Estonia's Anett Kontaveit in straight sets in last year's Qatar Open final, becomes the first player to defend a WTA Tour singles title since she won a second successive Italian Open in May.

Her victory at last year's Qatar Open sparked a 37-match winning run which culminated in her second Grand Slam title at the French Open.

Swiatek, who wore a ribbon in the colours of the Ukraine



Iga Swiatek won the French Open and US Open last year

flag on her cap, sent a message of support to the people of the country.

"I feel like we all have pretty short memories, but we should all support Ukraine and Ukrai-

nians in everything they cope with every day," she said.

"It's disappointing that the situation has not changed, but hopefully they will stay strong."