

Iran's Women Futsal Team Thrashes Tajikistan at 2023 CAFA Championship



TEHRAN – Iran's women's futsal team trounced the team of Tajikistan in their second match at the 2023 CAFA Women's Futsal Championship.

Iran's women's national team demolished Tajikistan 16-0 in their second match in the 2023 CAFA Women's Futsal Championship on Saturday.

The Iranian women defeated Kyrgyzstan 5-0 in their opening match at the Central Asian tournament on

Friday,

The round-robin tournament is being held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan from Jan. 25 to 31.

The Championship is the second edition of the CAFA Women's Futsal Championship, the annual international futsal championship organized by CAFA for the women's national futsal teams of Central Asia.

Iran are the defending champion, having won the 2022 inaugural edition.

Mohsen Beheshti Wins Gold Medal at UIAA Ice Climbing World Cup



TEHRAN – Iranian athletes have bagged gold and silver medals at the UIAA Ice Climbing World Cup 2023 in Switzerland.

Mohsen Beheshti won the gold medal and ranked first in the men's speed final at the International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation's Ice Climbing World Championships in Saas-Fee.

Saas-Fee, the World Ice Climbing Championships site, is one of Europe's most famous ski slopes. Iranian ice climber Mohammad Reza Safdarian also won this tournament's silver medal.

Earlier, Beheshti bagged a gold medal at the UIAA Ice Climbing World Cup 2023 in South Korea.

Sabalenka Beats Rybakina for Australian Open Women's Title

MELBOURNE (AFP) – An emotional Aryna Sabalenka said it will take a "few more days" to sink in after battling from a set down to win a maiden Grand Slam title at the Australian Open on Saturday.

The hard-hitting Belarusian collapsed to the court in tears after winning 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 against Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina in a high-quality 2hr 28min arm-wrestle on Rod Laver Arena.

The 24-year-old Sabalenka wiped away tears before getting a warm hug from Moscow-born Rybakina, who played a full part in a thrilling match between two of the most powerful hitters in the women's game.

Sabalenka, the fifth seed and form player in 2023, then ran to her player's box to celebrate with her team.



"Thank you, my team, the craziest team on the tour. We've been through a lot of, I would say, downs last year," Sabalenka said, addressing her team after receiving the trophy. Turning to beaten 22nd seed Ry-

bakina, she added: "You're such a great player and of course we are going to have many more battles, hopefully in finals of the Grand Slams." Asked by reporters if it was the greatest match she had ever played,

Sabalenka said: "I would say it was. She played unbelievable tennis.

"I fought so hard to win this one. I think the tennis was great... I really enjoyed this battle."

Sabalenka will now rise to second in the world rankings behind Poland's Iga Swiatek, equalling her career high, having triumphed in her first Grand Slam final.

The finale was a captivating match of brutal groundstrokes, precision serving and wonderful rallies from two players at the top of their game.

It was a fitting end to two weeks of drama and shocks at Melbourne Park.

Rybakina cruised through the first set in 34 minutes but Sabalenka scrapped her way back in a 57-minute second set to take it to a nervy decider.

Curry's 35 Points Send Warriors Past Raptors, 129-117



Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry (30) shoots against Toronto Raptors forward Chris Boucher (25) during the second half of an NBA basketball game in San Francisco, Friday, Jan. 27, 2023.

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Stephen Curry had 35 points and 11 assists, and the Golden State Warriors beat the Toronto Raptors 129-117 on Friday night.

The high-scoring affair was close until the Warriors pulled away with a 31-point fourth quarter, securing a sweep in the season series.

"It feels like we took better care of the ball tonight," Golden State coach Steve Kerr said. "When Steph plays like that, the whole game opens up. The whole floor opens up."

Klay Thompson added 29 points, knocking down six 3-pointers despite beginning the night 0 for 5 from beyond the arc. Though Thompson played in the Warriors' 126-110 victory in Toronto on Dec. 18, the game Friday was his first time facing the Raptors at home since he tore his ACL in his left knee in the deciding Game 6 of the 2019 NBA Finals won by Toronto in Oakland.

Kevon Looney returned to the starting lineup and had 12 points and eight boards as six Warriors players scored in double figures.

The Warriors have won consecutive home games after dropping four straight at the Chase Center.

Golden State's bench outscored Toronto's 39-26, highlighted by 15 points from Jonathan Kuminga. The 20-year-old missed his first three shots from deep before making four straight 3s in the final three minutes of the third quarter, giving the Warriors a 98-94 lead they did not relinquish.

Donte DiVincenzo had a career-high 11 assists and the Warriors outscored the Raptors by 24 points in his 33 minutes off the bench.

Fred VanVleet had 28 points and 10 assists for the Raptors, who began their season-high, seven-game road trip 1-1. Scottie Barnes had 24 points and Pascal Siakam had 21, while Gary Trent Jr. added 17.

FIFA Bans Four Uruguay Players Over World Cup Incidents

PARIS (AFP) - Four Uruguay players, including Diego Godin and Edinson Cavani, have been suspended over incidents following the team's World Cup match against Ghana, FIFA announced on Friday.

The Uruguayan football federation has also been fined 50,000 Swiss francs (\$54,248) and handed a partial stadium closure for their next home match over the "discriminatory behaviour of its supporters" and the "misconduct" of the players.

Uruguay were incensed by refereeing decisions during their 2-0 win over Ghana in their final group game in Qatar last December.

A three-goal win would have seen them qualify for the last 16 but they were knocked out in dramatic fashion. Referee Daniel Siebert was



hounded by players after the match, while Cavani punched the pitchside VAR monitor.

Defender Jose Maria Gimenez and goalkeeper Fernando Muslera have both been banned for four matches, fined 20,000 Swiss francs

and given "community football service".

Veterans Cavani and Godin were given one-match bans each, will have to perform the community service and were fined 15,000 Swiss francs.

Leipzig Edge Stuttgart to Move Second in Bundesliga

BERLIN – Leipzig secured its second straight victory after Dominik Szoboszlai provided a brace to beat Stuttgart 2-1 at the curtain raiser of the 18th round on Friday.

The "Swabians" caught a bright start on the road as Thomas Kastanaras unleashed a dangerous shot from the edge of the box to test Leipzig's goalkeeper Janis Blaswich with nine minutes played.

Leipzig needed some time to gain a foothold into the game but opened the scoring with its first attempt as Szoboszlai's free-kick from 30 meters caught Stuttgart custodian Florian Muller flat-footed in the 25th minute.

The "Red Bulls" had a chance to double their advantage seven minutes later, but Andre Silva's

header went just wide.

After the restart, Stuttgart missed the golden opportunity to level the scores as Nikolas Nartey couldn't beat Blaswich from very close range in the 46th minute.

Clinical Leipzig showed no mercy and made it two at the other end of the pitch through Szoboszlai, who marked his second of the night after drilling the ball from 16 meters into the top left corner with 49 minutes gone.

Leipzig continued on the front foot but lacked in accuracy as Silva missed the target by a header from five meters at the hour mark.

Stuttgart was eventually able to halve the deficit in the 68th minute when Chris Fuhrich converted a handball penalty.

The visitors from the South

pressed frenetically for the equalizer in the closing stages but Leipzig's defense stood firm and secured all three points on home soil.

With the result, Leipzig has closed the arrears to front runners Bayern Munich to one point for the moment.

"The boys staged a sensational performance. It may sound weird as we didn't clinch any points here, but I am proud of my team," said Stuttgart coach Bruno Labbadia.

"My aim was to help the team. It really doesn't matter whether through goals or assists. When you are up there you want to stay there and keep attacking. For that, you need results like today," commented Szoboszlai.

Switzerland's Marco Odermatt arrives at the finish area during an alpine ski, men's World Cup super-G, in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy, Saturday, Jan. 28, 2023.

CORTINA D'AMPEZZO, Italy (AP) - Switzerland's Marco Odermatt got the better of his great Norwegian rival Aleksander Aamodt Kilde with a narrow triumph at the World Cup super-G at Cortina d'Ampezzo on Saturday.

The defending World Cup crystal globe holder Odermatt had missed the past two events with a knee injury but 10 days ahead of the World Championships in France showed fearsome form.

With the mercury at minus 7 and no wind it was a fast course and Odermatt timed 1min 25.57sec over the 2.2km run, with Norway's Kilde just 0.35sec slower and local outsider Mattia Casse in third at 0.49sec.

"I really didn't expect it like that. I wasn't sure how much I could go to the limit today... I just tried to ski clean and gain confidence gate-by-gate and it worked," he said.

"I think it was a difficult course setting,

and with bib 14 I could see some guys racing and that helped me really have a line in my head and to gain some confidence from watching the other guys."

Odermatt's seventh win of the season extended his lead over Kilde in both the super-G and overall standings to 48 and 213 points respectively.

The 25-year-old is also 507 points in front of Kilde's compatriot Henrik Kristoffersen in the general rankings as he attempts to retain his World Cup crown.

"It doesn't matter if he was out for a couple of days or not, as long as he can kind of get ready for those two minutes, one-and-a-half-minutes you have to go then everything is possible," said Kilde.

"And with the skiing Marco is doing now I knew he was going to be there."

Odermatt will have another chance to consolidate his position as leader with another super-G at Cortina on Sunday morning.