

Amir Ghalenoei Appointed Iran Football Coach



TEHRAN — Amir Ghalenoei was appointed as the new head coach of Iran national football team on Sunday.

The 59-year-old coach, who currently leads Gol Gohar in Iran league, replaced Carlos Queiroz who headed Iran in the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

The details of the deal will be announced after Gol Gohar and Naft Masjed Soleyman match, scheduled for Sunday.

Felix Sanchez, the former Qatar coach, was also a candidate to take charge of Team Melli but he was appointed as Ecuador coach on Saturday.

Ghalenoei had previously announced that he would not accept the federation's request to lead Iran but he changed his mind to take charge of Team Melli.

Fritz Survives Shelton Scare to Reach Indian Wells Third Round



INDIAN WELLS, California (Reuters) - Defending champion Taylor Fritz has battled back against fellow American young gun Ben Shelton 4-6 6-4 6-3 and top seed Carlos Alcaraz breezed past Thanasi Kokkinakis 6-3 6-3 in second-round action at Indian Wells.

An energized Shelton came out firing, crushing an emphatic overhead to break Fritz's mighty serve en route to grabbing the first set and putting the tournament on upset watch.

The fourth-seeded Fritz held his nerve and converted the first

break opportunity he saw on set point when Shelton dumped a forehand into the net to level the match at a set apiece.

In the final game of the match Fritz showed that he is more than a big server, hitting a brilliant lob and deft drop shot to set up match point, which he converted when Shelton's attempt to block back a ferocious forehand sailed long.

Taylor Fritz returns a shot to Ben Shelton at the BNP Paribas Open tennis tournament, March 11, 2023, in Indian Wells, California. (PHOTO / AP)

Swiss Skier Odermatt Wins GS, Secures Discipline Title

KRANJSKA GORA, Slovenia (AP) — Olympic champion Marco Odermatt capped what he called "a perfect season" by securing his second straight World Cup title in giant slalom Sunday.

The Swiss skier won the penultimate GS of the season, beating his only rival for the GS title before the race, Henrik Kristoffersen, by 0.32 seconds.

Odermatt extended his lead over the Norwegian to 160 points in the GS standings, locking up the title with only 100 points still at stake at the season-ending race next Saturday.

"It's crazy, I can't really believe that," Odermatt said. "It was another battle today in the second run. I made my mistakes, just



Switzerland's Marco Odermatt speeds down the course during an alpine ski, men's World Cup giant slalom in Kranjska Gora, Slovenia, Sunday, March 12, 2023.

before the flats, I thought 'oh, that's going to be tight' so I risked it all and it worked out."

Odermatt won a GS on the same hill Saturday and triumphed in six of the nine giant slaloms he started this season.

Odermatt earlier successfully defended his overall title, while also winning the super-G globe and world titles in GS and downhill.

Odermatt has gathered 1,826 points and is closing in on the 23-year-old men's record for most World Cup

points in a single season — 2,000, set by Austrian great Hermann Maier in the 1999-2000 season.

After Sunday's race, he drew praise from his rivals, as third-place Alexis Pinturault called Odermatt's season "sensational" and compared him with Austrian record eight-time overall champion Marcel Hirscher.

"A bit like Marcel in the past, winning everywhere, in different disciplines, and also very strong in the big events like world championships and Olympic Games," the Frenchman said about Odermatt.

Kristoffersen, however, thought he could close the gap to Odermatt next year, at least in GS.

Napoli Return to Champions League Set for Historic Season



Napoli's Victor Osimhen celebrates kicks the ball, during the Serie A soccer match between Napoli and Atalanta at Diego Armando Maradona stadium in Naples, Italy, Saturday March 11, 2023.

ROME (AP) - Napoli returns to Champions League action this week well on track to have the standout season in European soccer and in the club's entire history.

The quarterfinals of Europe's marquee club competition finally beckon for Napoli, which has a 2-0 lead from the first leg before hosting Eintracht Frankfurt in the Stadio Diego Armando Maradona on Wednesday.

Only three of the 12 teams left in the competition top their domestic leagues — Napoli, Bayern Munich

and Benfica — and the 18-point lead in Serie A is by far the most dominant.

Real Madrid hosting Liverpool with a 5-2 lead is the glamor game of the four second legs remaining in the round of 16, though only Madrid of that storied pair has so much as a chance of a domestic league title.

Napoli is a lock to be Italian champion for just the third time in its history, the first since 1990, and the first time without having Maradona in the team.

Curry, Warriors Rally Past NBA-Best Bucks 125-116 in OT



Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry (30) celebrates after making a 3-point basket during the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Milwaukee Bucks in San Francisco, Saturday, March 11, 2023.

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Stephen Curry knocked down all the dazzling shots everybody has come to expect from him in crunch time night after night — and then a surprising block at the rim that mattered just as much or maybe even more.

Curry scored 36 points with 22 of those in the fourth quarter and overtime, shining in his first home game back from a long injury absence and leading the Golden State Warriors past the NBA-best Milwaukee Bucks 125-116 on Saturday night.

Curry hit a tying 3-pointer with 19 seconds left in regulation, then blocked a layup attempt by Jrue Holiday in the closing moments.

"He came out of nowhere. Jrue had a straight line drive to the rim," Draymond Green said.

The Warriors got the ball back with 1.9 seconds remaining and Curry inbounded to Green, who missed from deep though he thought for sure it was "cash."

Holiday had put Milwaukee up on a 3 with 32.7 seconds to play and wound up with 18 points, nine rebounds and eight assists. But the Bucks (48-19), playing without star Giannis Antetokounmpo, had their three-game winning streak snapped with just their second defeat in 21 games since Jan. 21.

Curry's 3 with 1:08 remaining in regulation got Golden State within 108-106. A steal by Klay Thomp-

son on the other end moments later led to a tying layup by Curry before Holiday delivered.

"Overtime and fourth quarter, he got away from us a little bit," Bucks coach Mike Budenholzer said of Curry. "Some of them were high level."

Thompson added 22 points, Donte DiVincenzo had 20 points and 10 rebounds and the Warriors won at home for the seventh in a row and 11th in 12.

Curry loved making a difference on the defensive end.

Khrist Middleton had 19 points and five assists, Bobby Portis contributed 15 points and 13 rebounds and Brook Lopez 19 points, seven boards and five blocks.

Bucks leading scorer and rebounder Antetokounmpo missed his second straight game with right hand soreness and third overall after sitting out March 7 with a non-COVID illness.

Golden State used a 16-4 burst out of halftime to go ahead 66-53 but the Bucks fought back to get within 80-77 heading into the fourth.

Green went down hard and limped to the locker room midway through the third quarter before returning with 38.7 seconds left. While cutting through the key, Green's left foot got tangled with Holiday's right leg

and Green tripped and rolled his ankle.

While sore, "I will 100% expect to play," Green said of Monday's game with Phoenix.

Green finished with five points, 13 rebounds and nine assists and Golden State shot better from beyond the arc (41.8%) than it did inside (40.4%).

Australian Tszyu Downs Harrison in Sydney



Australian boxer Tim Tszyu (right) in action against United States boxer Tony Harrison during their interim World Boxing Organization (WBO) super-welterweight world title fight at Qudos Bank Arena in Sydney.

SYDNEY (Reuters) - Tim Tszyu stopped American Tony Harrison in the ninth round at Sydney Arena on Sunday to win the interim WBO super welterweight belt and almost certainly set up a winner-take-all fight with unified world champion Jermell

Charlo.

Tszyu, the son of former undisputed light-welterweight world champion Kostya, sent Harrison to the canvas with a volley of punches. Although his opponent regained his feet to beat the count, the referee stopped the fight.

The 28-year-old Australian, who improves his record to 22-0 with 16 knockouts, was supposed to fight Charlo in January before the veteran American, who owns the WBO, WBC, IBF and WBA light middleweight belts, broke his left hand.

Tszyu instead lined up 32-year-old Harrison, a former WBC champion and the only boxer to have beaten Charlo, and on Sunday burnished his credentials with an impressive victory.

The Australian was always on the front foot against the experienced Detroit native, who relied on his razor sharp jab and ringcraft to keep the younger fighter at bay.

In the third, Tszyu landed a big right hand on the counter that rocked Harrison onto the ropes but the American survived until the end of the round and worked the inside to get himself back