

Iran Wrestlers Claim 2 Gold Medals at Ibrahim Moustafa Tournament



ALEXANDRIA, Egypt — The 2023 Egypt Ibrahim Moustafa 2023 Wrestling Tournament with UWW-ranking competitions ended with only two gold medals of Muhammad-Hadi Saravi (97kg)

and Meysam Dalkhani (63 kg). Oslo world champion, Muhammad Hadi Saravi, joined his countryman Meysam Dalkhani at the top of the podium on Thursday as he captured the gold med-

al in the Ibrahim Moustafa wrestling tournament in Egypt.

Saravi defeated Roberti Kobliashvili in the final of 97kg after his Georgian opponent pulled out injured in the final.

Artur Omarov from Czech Republic and Austrian Markus Ragginger won two bronze medals.

In 63kg weight, Delkhani won his first match versus Simik Mahmudov from Kyrgyzstan 7-nil, and in his 2nd match in the quarterfinal also beat Victor Sivbanu, the world gold medal holder from Moldavia 4-0, to reach the semifinal match. In the semifinal, too, he beat Kazakhstan's Madyar Maltkabayev 2-1 in a tough match to reach the final.

In the final match, Delkhani was faced with the world sil-

ver medal holder Larry Abuladze, whom he also beat in a very tough match 8-7 to win the tournament's gold medal of his weight.

Iranian Greco-Roman nation team's other chance for winning a medal, the Olympics gold medalist Muhammad-Reza Geraie was wounded before the bronze medal competition and ranked 5th after not being able to wrestle in that round.

Iran had only sent those three athletes to the tournament held in Egypt's historical Alexandria city on Thursday and Friday, February 4th and 5th.

The Ibrahim Moustafa tournament is the second Ranking Series event this year held on February 23-26 in Alexandria, Egypt.

Murray Saves Five Match Points to Reach Doha Final



Britain's Andy Murray celebrates his win against Czech Republic's Jiri Lehecka (not in the photograph) after a tennis semi-final match of the Qatar Open in Doha, on Feb 24, 2023.

DOHA (Reuters) - Three-time Grand Slam champion Andy Murray said the 'Law of Averages' had finally swung in his favor after he saved five match points to defeat Jiri Lehecka at the Qatar Open on Friday and reach a first ATP Tour final since June last year.

Wild card Murray beat his Czech opponent 6-0 3-6 7-6(6), fighting back from 5-3 down in the decider. He will face third seed Daniil Medvedev in the final after the Russian beat Canada's second-seeded Felix Auger-Aliassime 6-4 7-6(7).

The 35-year-old Briton has shown great resilience during his run to the showpiece match in Doha and his latest victory was his fourth three-set win in four games, which included comeback wins over Lorenzo Sonego and Alexandre Muller.

Asked how he managed to close out the narrow victories, Murray pointed to learning from defeats last season, telling reporters: "One of the great things about the scoring system in this sport is things can change very quickly."

"I had multiple conversations with my team in the middle to the end part of last year, and I lost lots of close matches."

"I said, 'As soon as I start winning some, then that's going to change quickly because of the law of averages, really, like I couldn't keep losing that many matches'."

"If I kept working hard and kept improving just a little bit, then those matches would change. So I'm glad that I was right with that, and I hope it continues."

The former world number one added that navigating a way out of so many tricky situations in a short timespan had bolstered his self-belief.

"There is a certain calmness to those situations, because you have been in them a lot in a short period of time. You know how you need to try and play and it becomes a little bit of a habit," Murray said.

"Maybe it's a little bit in the back of the opponent's mind, as well. There have been periods where someone like Novak (Djokovic) has come back from very difficult situations, and it has appeared that players think about it a little when they are getting close to the finish line."

"That's something that I'm feeling a bit just now, and obviously I will try to keep that going."

Kings Outlast Clippers 176-175 in Double Overtime

LOS ANGELES (AP) — There were a couple moments Friday night when Sacramento coach Mike Brown wishes he could have enjoyed being a part of the second-highest scoring game in NBA history.

Brown and his Kings though were able to savor something that is more important in the long run — a hard-fought victory.

Malik Monk scored a career-high 45 points, De'Aaron Fox had the go-ahead basket and finished with 42 and Sacramento outlasted the Los Angeles Clippers 176-175 in double overtime.

It is only the second time in the NBA's 76-year history that both teams have scored at least 170 points. Detroit beat Denver 186-184 in triple overtime on Dec. 13, 1983, in what remains the highest-scoring NBA game.

The Kings are third on the scoring list with the 176 points and the Clippers fourth. A team has scored 170 points

in a regular-season game only seven times.

"From a fan's standpoint, I can see how this game would have been a lot of fun to watch," Brown said. "There was unbelievable shot making and great defense. There was high-level talent that was on display. Kudos to the players."

Sacramento and Los Angeles also combined for 44 3-pointers, tied for the most in a game in NBA history.

Both teams also shot at least 58% from the field and were 80% or better from the foul line.

The Clippers had a 175-169 advantage with 1:57 remaining before the Kings scored the final seven points, including Fox's jumper with 36.5 seconds remaining. The Clippers had the final shot, but Nico Batum missed a 3-pointer at the buzzer.

The Kings also overcame a 14-points deficit late in the fourth quarter and six-point deficits in both overtime pe-



Los Angeles Clippers forward Kawhi Leonard, left, shoots as Sacramento Kings forward Domantas Sabonis, center, and forward Harrison Barnes defend during the first half of an NBA basketball game Friday, Feb. 24, 2023, in Los Angeles.

riods.

"We just stuck with it. We got down 12 at one point but just had our heads up. We knew they were going to let us back in," Monk said.

It was the first time in franchise history the Kings have had two players score at least 40 points in a game. It is the second time it has happened

in an NBA game this season after Cleveland's Caris LeVert and Donovan Mitchell did it against Boston.

Fox — who also had 12 assists and five steals — is just the 12th player since 1973-74 with 40 points, 10 assists and five steals in a game. The last to do it was James Harden in 2019.

RUSADA Files CAS Appeal Seeking 'Proper Result' for Valieva



In this file photograph taken on Feb 14, 2023 Russia's figure skater Kamila Valieva takes part in a show at the CSKA arena in Moscow.

LONDON (Reuters) - The Russian Anti-Doping Agency (RUSADA) has performed an about-turn in the case of Kamila Valieva and asked the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) to sanction the figure skater and set aside a ruling from RUSADA's own disciplinary tribunal.

Sport's highest court said on Friday that RUSADA had lodged an appeal seeking a ruling that would sanction Valieva after the disciplinary tribunal of Russia's anti-doping body had

found the teenager not guilty of any doping infraction.

CAS also confirmed appeals from the International Skating Union (ISU) and the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), which were announced by the bodies earlier this week, against the decision that found the athlete bore "no fault or negligence."

Valieva tested positive for the banned substance trimetazidine at the Russian national championships in December 2021 but

the result was only made known on Feb 8, 2022 a day after she helped her team win a gold medal at the Beijing Olympics.

In her defense, Valieva said the positive test was the result of a mix-up with her grandfather's heart medication.

A RUSADA investigation released in January acknowledged that Valieva did fail a drug test but ruled that the teenager was not guilty of any doping infraction.

"RUSADA seeks a ruling from CAS setting aside the challenged decision and finding the athlete to have committed an anti-doping rule violation under the RUSADA anti-doping rules, and sanctioned with 'the appropriate consequences' ...," CAS said in a statement.

RUSADA added that the consequences "may include or be limited to a reprimand".

Despite the positive test, CAS cleared Valieva to continue competing at the Beijing Games in the women's singles, upholding an earlier decision by RUSADA to lift a ban on the skater.

During the Beijing Games, the International Olympic Commit-

tee (IOC) decided that no medals for the team figure skating event would be presented until Valieva's case had been resolved.

Women's World Cup Downhill Canceled After Fog Delays

CRANS-MONTANA, Switzerland (AP) — A downhill race in the women's World Cup was canceled Saturday after initially being delayed for two hours because of fog over the course.

The downhill is now set for Sunday, taking the place of a super-G which was scheduled, race organizers said.

The cancellation was due to the "dangerous situation on the slope and for safety reasons," the International Ski and Snowboard Federation said.

The decision provoked whistles and jeers in the finish area from some spectators among a sold-out crowd of about 10,000.

After several delays from the scheduled 11 a.m. start, the race was due to begin at 1 p.m. on the mostly sun-bathed Mont Lachaux course. A forerunner testing the course then crashed on his run.



Spring-like soft snow conditions were reported by racers in the official training run Friday when World Cup downhill leader Sofia Goggia crashed into course-side safety fences.

The south-facing slope at Crans-Montana warms quickly in the sunshine and a race with 49 expected starters Saturday could

have continued close to 3 p.m.

World Cup overall leader Mikaela Shiffrin has skipped races at the Swiss Alps resort to take a break after the world championships.

Shiffrin has a massive 731-point lead and is on track to win a fifth giant crystal globe as the season-long champion.