

# Iranian Wrestlers Claim 3 Medals in Bulgarian Tournament



TEHRAN — Iranian Greco-Roman wrestlers have won three medals in international competitions in Bulgaria.

Petko Sirakov - Ivan Iliev U23 International Wrestling Cup in Sofia, Bulgaria, began on May 12 and will continue until May 15.

Three Iranian wrestlers Muhammad-Reza Rostami, Morteza Alghowsi, and Alireza Hassanvand grabbed respectively gold, silver, and bronze medals in 72, 97, and 130 kg weight categories.

## China Withdraws as Asian Cup 2023 Host Over COVID

BEIJING (Sky Sports) - China has withdrawn as host of the 2023 Asian Cup because of COVID-19.

The 24-team competition was to be held across 10 cities from June next year.

But the country is dealing with its worst coronavirus outbreak since the pandemic began.

"The AFC acknowledges the exceptional circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, which led to the



relinquishment (by China) of its hosting rights," the gov-

erning body said in a statement.

It added it would announce details about the hosting of the tournament "in due course".

Shanghai in particular, where the new Pudong Football Stadium was unveiled in October 2021, has been under a tough lockdown for the last month.

Earlier this month, September's Asian Games, also due to be held in China, were postponed because of the country's coronavirus situation.

## FIFA World Cup Trophy Tour to Stop in Iran



TEHRAN — The FIFA World Cup Trophy Tour, which kicked off on Thursday with a first-stop event in Dubai, will come to Iran.

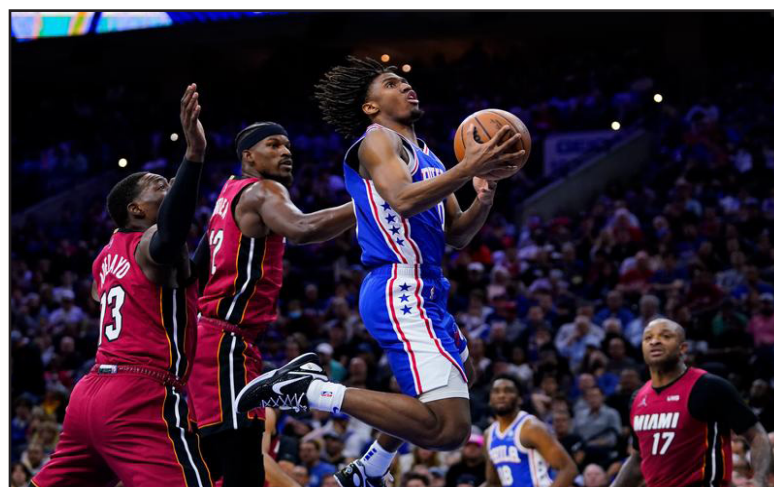
The former FIFA World Cup winners Iker Casillas and Kaká came together to send the original FIFA World Cup Trophy on its journey around the world ahead of the tournament later this year.

The FIFA World Cup Trophy Tour will stop in 51 countries and territories, bringing FIFA one step closer to the goal of visiting each of FIFA's 211 member associations by 2030. For the first time ever, the tour will visit all 32 countries that qualified for the FIFA World Cup, inspiring fans across the world

through exclusive consumer experiences.

"The FIFA World Cup Trophy is one of the greatest symbols in sport," said Romy Gai, FIFA's Chief Business Officer. "Bringing it on tour gives us a unique opportunity to shine a spotlight on the fantastic communities around the world who love the beautiful game. The trophy tour — which will end back in Qatar, our amazing hosts — highlights our commitment to making football truly global as we realize the dreams of our fans and bring the joy and excitement of the FIFA World Cup to their doorsteps, together with our long-standing partner Coca-Cola."

## Heat Close Out 76ers, Mavericks, Suns Go Into Game 7



Philadelphia 76ers' Tyrese Maxey goes up for a shot against Miami Heat's Bam Adebayo (13), Jimmy Butler (second left) and P.J. Tucker (17) during the second half of Game 6 of an NBA basketball second-round playoff series, in Philadelphia.

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Jimmy Butler scored 32 points to help the Miami Heat march into the Eastern Conference finals after beating the Philadelphia 76ers 99-90 in Game 6 of the best-of-seven Eastern Conference semifinal on Thursday.

The Heat will touch the conference finals floor for the second time in three seasons, while the Sixers swallowed the home loss witnessing James Harden and Joel Embiid's terrible performance.

Despite starting forward Danny Green exiting in the first quarter due to a bad-looking left knee injury, the Sixers managed to deliver a tight first half as they only fell one point behind at halftime.

Coming back from the locker room, the Heat took immediate control of the game. Butler scored 14 points in the third quarter and led the Heat with a 19-4 run. The Sixers struggled to narrow the gap to 11 points before the fourth quarter thanks to Shake Milton and Tobias Harris' tough fade-away jumpers.

The Heat kept the hot hands at the beginning of the last 12 minutes to enlarge the gap to 20. In the crucial moment, Gabe Vincent's 3-pointer and Butler's layup resisted the Sixers' late comeback, helping the Heat seal the victory.

Butler led with 32 points, Max Strus added 20 points and 11 rebounds for the Heat.

On the Sixers' side, Embiid had 20 points from 24 shooting attempts, and Harden's bleak 11 points were all from the first half.

In the Western Conference, the Dallas Mavericks routed the Phoenix Suns 113-86 by taking advantage of the Suns' 22 turnovers, dragging the series into a tiebreaker.

The Mavericks' star guard Luka Dončić scored 33 points and grabbed 11 rebounds, and Reggie Bullock and Jalen Brunson added 19 and 18 respectively.

Devin Booker contributed 19 points to the Suns but also had eight turnovers. Deandre Ayton had 21 points and 11 rebounds, and Chris Paul added 13 points.

## Bouwman Wins Giro's Uphill Stage Seven



Bouwman's only other stage victory was at the Criterium du Dauphine in 2017.

POTENZA, Italy (AP) — Dutch cyclist Koen Bouwman has claimed a first grand tour stage victory after winning a tough Stage 7 of the Giro d'Italia, as Juan Pedro Lopez kept hold of the pink jersey.

Bouwman was given a great leadout by Team Jumbo-Visma teammate — and 2017 Giro winner — Tom Dumoulin and sprinted to the line to edge out Bauke Mollema and Davide Formolo by two seconds

as the Giro tackled its first mountain range, the Apennines.

It was only a second ever victory for Bouwman, who won a stage in the Criterium du Dauphine in 2017.

Bouwman had time to look behind and raise his arms over his head as he crossed the finish line of the 196-kilometer (122-mile) route from Diamante to Potenza that included four categorized climbs and almost zero flat sections.

All four had been part of a seven-man breakaway that managed to get away on the second categorized climb, the top classified ascent up Monte Sirino.

Most of the overall contenders crossed the line together,

nearly three minutes behind Bouwman. Lopez maintained his 38-second advantage over Lennard Kamna after moving into the overall lead. Rein Taaramae was third, 58 seconds behind Lopez.

Stage 8 sees the Giro return to Naples for the first time since 2013 when the city hosted the start of the Italian grand tour. The undulating 153-kilometer (95-mile) stage starts and finishes in Naples, but it leaves the seaside city to take in four laps of a 19-kilometer (12-mile) circuit in the volcanic surrounding area.

The Giro finishes on May 29 in Verona.

Bouwman's only other stage victory was at the Criterium du Dauphine in 2017.

## Swiatek Crushes Sabalenka to Reach Italian Open Final

ROME (AP) — Iga Swiatek stepped up and nobody has brought her down.

Swiatek earned the No. 1 ranking in women's tennis by default two months ago when Ash Barty announced her immediate retirement. Add in Serena Williams' absence for nearly a year and there were plenty of questions about who might assert themselves as the new woman to beat.

Well, since February, nobody has beaten Swiatek.

The Polish player extended her winning streak to 26 matches and reached the Italian Open semifinals after beating former U.S. Open champion Bianca Andreescu 7-6 (2), 6-0.

Swiatek struggled to handle being a top-five player last year. Now she's learned how to use her recent success to intimidate.

Considering her prowess

on hard courts, the often-injured Andreescu has been tossed around as a potential No. 1. But Swiatek slowly wore Andreescu down in a lengthy first set at the Foro Italico and dictated the tiebreaker by moving her opponent from side to side.

In all, Swiatek produced 27 winners to Andreescu's 12 and converted all six of her break points.

Swiatek's semifinal op-

ponent will be third-seeded Aryna Sabalenka, who rallied past Amanda Anisimova 4-6, 6-3, 6-2 for her first victory over the American in five tries.

Also advancing was recent Madrid Open champion Ons Jabeur, who rallied past Maria Sakkari, 1-6, 7-5, 6-1 for her 10th straight win. Jabeur's semifinal opponent will be Jil Teichmann or Daria Kasatkina.