

# Iranian Wrestlers Win Colorful Medals at 2022 World Championships



TEHRAN – Iranian freestyle wrestlers Hassan Yazdani and Muhammad Nokhodi lost to their rivals in the final match of the 86kg and 79kg respectively in the 2022 World Wrestling Championships.

Hassan Yazdani lost to American wrestler David Taylor 7-1 in the final match of the 86kg in the 2022 World Wrestling Championships on Friday. Yazdani scored the first with an activ-

ity clock violation in the first period. Taylor scored a single-leg takedown with 30 seconds remaining to take a 2-1 lead into the break.

Taylor scored a second takedown near the edge to take a 4-1 lead and picked up another on a step-out for a 5-1 lead.

The 2020 Olympics gold medal winner stayed poised and countered with a takedown near the edge for a 7-1 lead.

Slovakian wrestlers Boris Makojev and Kazakhstan's Azamat Dauletbekov won the bronze medals.

Another Iranian wrestler Muhammad Nokhodi also lost to American wrestler Jordan Burroughs 4-2 in the final match of the 79kg on Friday.

It was Burroughs's sixth gold medal in the world championships.

Burroughs, who won a gold medal in 2012 Olympic Games, plans to retire

after the 2024 Olympics (whether or not he makes the team).

Kyrgyzstan's Arsalan Budazhapov and Vasyl Mykhailov of Ukraine claimed the bronze medals.

In 125 kg weight, Amir Hussein Zare, the world gold medal and Olympics bronze medal winner beat his Canadian competitor and won a bronze medal in the event.

Zare after gaining a rest lot in the first round, beat China's world silver medal holder Zhi Vi Deng 3-0 and in his 3rd and quarter final match he also beat Ukraine's world bronze medal holder Alexander Khutsianovski 10-1 to reach the semifinal match.

In the semifinal Zare faced Turkey's Taha Akgul who has 8 world and Olympics medals, who beat him 4-2 blocking his path towards the final match.

## Futsal Team Runner-Up in Thai Tournament



TEHRAN – Iran's national men futsal team came runner-up in Continental Futsal Championship Thailand 2022 on Friday.

Iran's futsal team stood at the second place in the tournament after it was defeated by Morocco in the final.

Iran's team was trailing by

two goals to zero in the first half, but it made a comeback in the second half and scored three goals to equalize the game three to three.

The match went to extra time to decide the winner. However, Iran was stopped by a late score by Morocco's team in the last 30 seconds.

## Iran's World Cup Countdown Begins With Coach Queiroz at Helm

TEHRAN - (Reuters) - Iran are racing against time to be ready for the World Cup finals, but returning coach Carlos Queiroz is confident upcoming friendly matches against Uruguay and Senegal can help prepare his team for November's tournament in Qatar.

After months of speculation, Queiroz was named last week to replace Croatia's Dragan Skocic at the helm but the former Real Madrid and Portugal coach has only a little over two months to fine tune the squad.

Queiroz returns after stints with the national teams of Colombia and Egypt. He took Egypt to the verge of qualification for Qatar this year.

He will be working with a squad he knows well from his eight-year stint in Tehran, having led Iran at the 2014 and 2018 World Cups. He left the role after his side's semifinal exit from the Asian Cup in the United Arab Emirates in January 2019.



The head coach of the Iranian national football team, Carlos Queiroz, attends the Iranian team training at Azadi training camp in Tehran, Iran on September 14, 2022.

"This is our first step towards preparing for the World Cup," the 69-year-old said of the training camp in Austria, which begins next week and sees Iran take on Uruguay on Sept. 23 and then Senegal four days later.

"We will do our best both on and off the field to get ready for

the competition. It's our responsibility to improve the conditions and make progress and always move forward," media quoted him as saying in Tehran.

Queiroz has named a 27-man squad for the camp as he prepares his team for a challenging World Cup campaign that will see the

Iranians open the competition against England on Nov. 21 before going on to face Wales and the United States.

Sixteen of the 23 players selected for the World Cup finals in Russia four years ago have been included in the roster picked for the camp, including 35-year-old Omid Ebrahimi.

The midfielder, who plays his club football in Qatar for Al Wakrah, was a stand-out performer under Queiroz in 2018 but has made only two appearances for Iran since November 2019.

Other familiar faces include goalkeeper Alireza Beiranvand as well as strike duo Sardar Azmoun of Bayer Leverkusen and Porto's Mehdi Taremi.

"As a professional coach, I know that all teams in the world have progressed," said Queiroz. "We will also do our best to face our opponents in Qatar and will be fully prepared for the campaign."

## Federer to Retire From the Sport After Next Week's Laver Cup



BERN (Reuters) - Roger Federer broke the news fans across the world have long been fearing when he announced on Thursday he will retire from competitive tennis after next week's Laver Cup in London.

The 41-year-old Swiss, who has won 20 Grand Slam titles and is regarded by many as the best player ever to wield a racket, has not played a match since last year's Wimbledon.

"As many of you know, the past three years have presented me with challenges in the form of injuries and surgeries," Federer said in a post on Instagram.

"I've worked hard to return to full competitive form. But I also know my body's capacities and limits, and its message to me lately has been clear. I am 41 years old."

"I have played more than 1,500 matches over 24 years. Tennis has treated me more generously than I ever would have dreamt, and now I must recognize when it's time to end my competitive career. The Laver Cup next week in London

will be my final ATP event. I will play more tennis in the future, of course, but just not in Grand Slams or on the tour."

Federer, who dominated men's tennis after winning his first Grand Slam title at Wimbledon in 2003, has been troubled by injuries in recent years.

He has undergone three knee operations in the last two years and his last competitive match was a quarter-final defeat against Poland's Hubert Hurkacz at the 2021 Wimbledon.

Federer had offered some hope to his legions of fans when he said he planned to return to the tour after teaming up with long-time rival and friend Rafa Nadal to play doubles at the Laver Cup in London next week.

He had also planned to play at the Swiss indoors tournament at home in Basel.

"This is a bittersweet decision, because I will miss everything the tour has given me," Federer, who has two sets of twins with wife Mirka, added.

## Ecuador Keep World Cup Spot After Chile's Appeal Dismissed

PARIS (AFP) - Ecuador will play at the 2022 World Cup after FIFA dismissed an appeal in the case of Ecuadorian player Byron Castillo whom Chile claimed was ineligible for the qualifiers, world soccer's governing body said on Friday.

Chile had appealed FIFA's June 10 decision to dismiss their complaint that Castillo was born in Tumaco, Colombia in 1995 and not in the Ecuadorian city of General Villamil Playas in 1998, as stated on his official documents.

"Having analyzed the submissions of all parties and after a hearing had been conducted, the Appeal Committee confirmed the decision of the Disciplinary Committee to close

the proceedings initiated against the FEF (Ecuadorian Football Association)," FIFA said in a statement.

"Amongst other considerations, it deemed that on the basis of the documents presented, the player was to be considered as holding permanent Ecuadorian nationality in accordance with... FIFA Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes."

The Chilean Football Federation confirmed it would appeal the decision at the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

"This is a dark day for football and for the credibility of the system... Of course, we will refer this to the Court of Arbitration for Sport,"



Ecuador's Byron Castillo (right) and Argentina's Nicolas Gonzalez eye the ball during a qualifying soccer match for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 at Monumental Banco Pichincha stadium in Guayaquil, Ecuador, on March 29, 2022.

Jorge Yunge, general secretary of the Chilean Football Federation, said.

## Sancho, Ronaldo Send Reminders as Man Utd Beat Sheriff, Lazio

LONDON (Reuters) - Jadon Sancho and Cristiano Ronaldo gave timely reminders of their value with both on target as Manchester United got their Europa League campaign back on track with a 2-0 victory at Moldovan side Sheriff Tiraspol.

Dutch club Feyenoord also registered their first points in emphatic fashion, crushing Sturm Graz 6-0 in Group F where Lazio were hammered 5-1 away to Danish side Midtjylland.

Former Champions League regulars Olympiakos's hopes of progressing from Group G already look slim, however, as they went down 3-0 at Bundesliga side Freiburg for whom Michael Gre-

goritsch grabbed a brace as they moved top.

United's Premier League resurgence was interrupted by a lacklustre home defeat against Real Sociedad last week but they responded with a businesslike win in Chisinau where the match was played because of security concerns.

Sancho, surprisingly left out of England's squad earlier on Thursday, slotted in United's opener in the 17th minute after a neat turn in the penalty area.

Veteran Ronaldo, given a start by manager Erik ten Hag after being consigned to the bench in the opening weeks of the Premier

League season, then tucked away a 39th-minute penalty to claim his 699th club goal.

Sheriff, who downed Real Madrid in the Bernabeu in last season's Champions League, offered an occasional threat but three-time European champions United were unruffled.

They joined Sheriff on three points in Group E with Real Sociedad, who beat United last week, topping the standings on six points after beating Omonia Nicosia 2-1.

Ander Guevara gave the Spaniards the lead but substitute Bruno leveled before Norwegian striker Alexander Sorloth struck the winner in the 80th minute.

## World Number One Alcaraz Loses to Auger-Aliassime in Davis Cup

VALENCIA (AFP) - Carlos Alcaraz, the youngest men's tennis world number one in history at 19 after his U.S. Open triumph last week, had a bittersweet homecoming as he lost to Felix Auger-Aliassime defeated 6-7 (3/7), 6-4, 6-2 in the Davis Cup in Valencia on Friday.

Given an ovation by fervent home support after his first Grand Slam conquest on Saturday, the Spaniard and his Canadian opponent played out a thrilling second singles rubber, with Canada levelling the tie at 1-1.

Alcaraz, from nearby Murcia,

had watched from the sidelines on Wednesday as Spain beat Serbia 3-0.

On Friday, he was neck and neck with his Canadian opponent through the first set as both players served strongly.

The Canadian was particularly unforgiving, hitting seven aces in the first set and winning 79 percent of his service points, yet Alcaraz battled back every time to force a tie-break.

In the tiebreak, Auger-Aliassime earned a mini-break to take the lead but the persistent Spaniard turned it around and clinched the set with a fierce

forehand drive down the line.

The second set was brilliantly and evenly contested too, until Auger-Aliassime broke to move 5-4 up. He then served out.

In the third, Alcaraz tired, perhaps surprisingly after his marathon matches in New York, and world number 13 Auger-Aliassime broke straight away and then again to go 4-1 ahead, holding off the Spaniard despite strong encouragement from the crowd.

Roberto Bautista had put Spain 1-0 up in the tie after coming from behind to beat Vasek Pospisil 3-6, 6-3, 6-3 earlier.