

Iran Edge Past Tajikistan in 2022 CAFA U15 Championship



TEHRAN – The junior girl's national football team of the Islamic

Republic of Iran defeated Tajikistan rivals and stood as runner-up

in the Central Asian Football Association (CAFA) U-15 Championship 2022.

In the second competition, the Iranian junior girl's national football team competed against the hosts (Tajikistan), where the Iranians overcame their rivals 1-0.

Tania Jahanshahi scored the only goal of the contest; then, Iran finished runner-up in the tournament.

In the first competition, the Iranian team competed with representatives of Uzbekistan, which

ended up in a 2-2 result.

However, the Iranian junior girl's national team stood second after Uzbekistan because of the goal difference.

The contest was held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, from October 21 to 25.

The Central Asian Football Association (CAFA) Championship is an international football competition, which is being held among the member states of the Central Asian Football Association.

Spain Betting on Youngsters to Succeed at World Cup

MADRID (AP) — Spain will look a bit different at this year's World Cup.

Don't expect to see veterans like Sergio Ramos, Gerard Piqué, Andrés Iniesta or David Silva in its squad.

Instead, look for youngsters like Pedri González, Gavi Páez and Nico Williams.

Spain is going really young to try to win soccer's biggest prize and lift a major trophy for the first time since 2012.

Pedri is 19 and has already established himself with the national team. Gavi, 18, not long ago became the youngest player to debut and score with "La Roja" at 17, and just recently won the Kopa Trophy for best under-21 player, an award that Pedri won the previous season.

Williams turned 20 in July, and has quickly gained space after impressing in his first two matches in the lead up to the



FILE - Swiss Remo Freuler, left, fights for a header with Spain's midfielder Sergio Busquets, during the UEFA Nations League group A2 soccer match between Spain and Switzerland at the Romareda stadium in Zaragoza, Spain, Saturday, Sept. 24, 2022.

World Cup.

There are also 19-year-olds Yerey Pino and Ansu Fati, though the latter didn't make it to the squad recently because of his lack of playing with Barcelona.

Nearly half of the team's squad in Qatar is set to be 25 or younger.

"The youngsters have incredible talent and can add a lot to the squad," 30-year-old forward Pablo Sarabia told The Associated Press.

Spain coach Luis Enrique, going into his first World Cup in the position, has not been shy about calling up youngsters but

will balance it out with the experience of players like Sergio Busquets, César Azpilicueta, Koke Resurrección, Dani Carvajal and Jordi Alba — all 30 or older.

"We have a group of youngsters and some veterans who we feel can face any rival," Luis Enrique said.

Luis Enrique has apparently narrowed his list of forwards, with Álvaro Morata, Ferran Torres, Marco Asensio, Pablo Sarabia and Pino having their sports practically secured.

Making late pushes are Williams and Borja Iglesias, while losing out will likely be veteran Iago Aspas, the often-injured Gerard Moreno and Fati, who has not played often with Barcelona.

Raúl de Tomás is probably out as well because he will not get to play for new club Rayo Vallecano until January.

Suns Push Past Warriors for 134-105 Win



Golden State Warriors guard Klay Thompson drives past Phoenix Suns forward Mikal Bridges (25) during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022, in Phoenix.

PHOENIX (AP) — The technical fouls were piling high in the third quarter. So was Devin Booker's point total and the Phoenix Suns' lead.

By the time the whistles finally stopped, the Suns were well on their way to 134-105 victory over the Golden State Warriors on Tuesday night in a game that featured Klay Thompson's first career ejection and seven technical fouls.

Booker scored 34 points and Devin Ayton added 16 points and

14 rebounds.

"I thought emotionally, we kept it together when it was starting to get a little squirrely," Suns coach Monty Williams said. "We were able to make enough plays during that time where we could get back to solid."

Both teams lost their cool at various times during the third quarter, with all of the technical fouls called in less than six minutes. Thompson received two quick technicals and was ejected after having words

with Booker, who also received a technical because of the exchange.

At one point during the argument, Thompson held up four fingers to signify the four championships the Warriors have won over the past decade. Those rings didn't help on Tuesday. The veteran guard finished with two points on 1-for-8 shooting, including 0 of 5 from 3-point range.

It was the five-time All-Star's first career ejection in 651 regular season games.

Golden State's Draymond Green and coach Steve Kerr, along with Phoenix players Chris Paul and Ayton also were whistled for technicals for various outbursts in the third, with most of that ire directed at the officials.

Thompson didn't speak with the media following the game.

In the midst of the third-quarter chaos, the Suns were playing well and their lead which grew to 19 points by the end of the quarter. Without Thompson, the defending NBA champs were never able to mount a rally and the Suns kept a comfortable lead throughout the fourth.

Booker shot 10 of 19 from the field and 11 of 14 on free throws. The two-time All-Star added seven assists.

Steph Curry led the Warriors with 21 points. Jordan Poole scored 17 off the bench. Green added 14 points, eight rebounds and five assists. Kerr said Thompson simply got frustrated, which led to the ejection.

"His shot wasn't going," Kerr said. "Some decent looks early didn't go and I thought he got a little frustrated. I love the competitiveness. Obviously, he took it too far with the ejection, but I love the fire. Klay is an incredible competitor. We need his energy."

Phoenix used a 13-0 run midway through the first to take a 37-29 lead by the end of the quarter. Paul made a 3-pointer at the halftime buzzer to give the Suns a 72-66 lead at the break.

Booker scored 16 points in the first half while Ayton had 12 points and 11 rebounds. Poole led the Warriors with 14 first-half points.

The Suns improved to 3-1 for the season while the Warriors fell to 2-2.

Leipzig Stun Real Madrid in UEFA Champions League



Real Madrid's Brazilian forward Vinicius Junior (right) and Leipzig's Hungarian defender Willi Orban vie for the ball during the UEFA Champions League Group F football match between RB Leipzig and Real Madrid CF in Leipzig, eastern Germany on Oct 25, 2022.

BERLIN (Reuters) - RB Leipzig consolidated second spot in UEFA Champions League Group F after stunning Real Madrid 3-2 on Matchday 5 on Tuesday with goals from Josko Gvardiol, Christopher Nkunku and Timo Werner.

Real grabbed a bright start on the road as Aurelien Tchouameni headed the side netting following a free kick with five minutes played.

However, the opener was scored at the other end, as Real goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois parried Andre Silva's attempt into the path of Gvardiol, who nodded home the rebound from close range in the 13th minute.

Nkunku had the chance to double the lead moments later, but the Frenchman couldn't find the open goal from tight angle.

Nkunku atoned for his error in the 18th minute, when he drilled a loose ball from inside the box into the roof of the net to make it 2-0 following a corner.

Real showed signs of life in the 35th minute when Rodrygo tested Leipzig goalkeeper Janis Blaswich.

The visitors eventually halved the deficit before halftime, after Marco Asensio's pinpoint cross found Vinicius Jr, who headed home off the inside of the post.

The Red Bulls focused on counterattacks and should have extended their lead after the restart, but Nkunku snatched at a chance in the 71st minute.

Real remained dangerous in fast breaks but lacked in accuracy, as Vinicius Jr pulled wide from a promising position in the 79th minute.

Leipzig put the result beyond doubt and completed a counter through Werner, who poked home Mohamed Simakan's square pass two minutes later.

Real were able to reduce the deficit in the dying seconds of the match after Rodrygo converted a penalty, but couldn't find an equalizer.

"It is always great to snatch a 3-2 win over Real. We played very well in the first half. Especially until the 25th minute. We knew that Real would turn up, but we defended well. I think we deserved the victory," said Leipzig head coach Marco Rose.

Elsewhere, Borussia Dortmund booked their berth in the last 16 after a goalless draw with Manchester City in Group G. City had a golden chance to take all three points but Dortmund goalkeeper Gregor Kobel saved Riyad Mahrez's penalty.

Wawrinka Beats Ruud, Murray Also Advances at Swiss Indoors



BASEL, Switzerland (AFP)— On a stellar day for veteran Grand Slam champions, Stan Wawrinka beat third-ranked Casper Ruud and Andy Murray rallied to win in three sets in the first round of the Swiss Indoors.

The 37-year-old Wawrinka hit his ninth ace to seal a 6-4, 6-4 win over Ruud, who was the U.S. Open runner-up last month, and delight his home crowd.

Wawrinka is now ranked No. 194 after persistent injury problems but the win was his second over a top-five opponent in five weeks. He beat fourth-ranked Daniil Medvedev last month in Metz, France.

"I fought despite the injuries. I wanted to come and play in front of you," Wawrinka said in a tearful on-court interview, thanking fans for their support.

Murray, a former U.S. Open champion like Wawrinka, earlier won 6-7 (5), 6-3, 6-4 against Roman Safiullin after the Russian led 4-1 in the final

set.

The 35-year-old Murray, who also won two Wimbledon titles, reeled off five straight games to complete the victory after more than 2 1/2 hours on court. It was the No. 49-ranked Scot's first match in Basel since 2005.

"I changed the way I was returning a little bit and when I did that I was able to create a few more opportunities and frustrate him a little bit," Murray said.

Wawrinka first played in Basel 19 years ago but never went beyond the semifinals at the event won by hometown favorite Roger Federer a record 10 times.

Wawrinka next plays Brandon Nakashima of the United States. He could face Murray in the quarterfinals.

Another Swiss winner was 20-year-old Dominic Stricker who beat American Maxime Cressy 7-6 (4), 6-3. Stricker, a wild-card entry ranked No. 129, next faces Pablo Carreno Busta. The fifth-seeded Spaniard beat Sebastian Baez 6-2, 6-1.

IOC Names 11 Research Centers for Athletes' Health Concerns

GENEVA (Reuters) - The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has announced 11 organizations as IOC Research Centers for 2023-2026 to protect athletes' health.

The IOC Research Centers "will each work widely to research, develop and

implement effective preventive and treatment methods for sports-related injuries and illnesses, supported by a four-year grant from the IOC," an IOC statement said.

The centers come from Australia, Can-

ada, Denmark, South Korea, the Netherlands, Norway, Qatar, South Africa, Britain, the United States, and a French-speaking Research Network composed of institutions from France, Belgium, Luxembourg and Switzerland.