

Iran Taekwondokas Bag 4 Medals in World Grand Slam



WUXI, China – Iranian taekwondokas have won four different gold, silver and bronze medals in the World Taekwondo Grand Slam Champions Series in China. The World Taekwondo Grand Slam Champions Series Final was held in Wuxi, China, April 2-3, 2023. Iranian athlete Aryan Salimi won a gold medal, followed by Mehran Barkhordari and Danial Bozorgi who won two silver medals, and in the third rank, Reza Kalhor won a bronze medal in the

two-day event. The Open Qualification Tournament was held on 30-31 March, with 389 athletes from 26 countries competing at the Wuxi Taihu International Expo Centre in the Chinese city of Wuxi. In the qualification tournament, 10 male and 3 female taekwondokas from Iran qualified for the Grand Slam. The prize money for the gold medalists is \$18,000, followed by \$7,000 for silver, and \$4,000 for bronze medals.

Canadian Teenager McIntosh Sets Another World Record



Canada's Summer McIntosh celebrates on the podium during the medal ceremony.

OTTAWA (Reuters) - Teenager Summer McIntosh set a world record in the 400m individual medley at the Canadian swimming trials, four days after she achieved the same feat in the 400m freestyle. McIntosh finished the 400m individual medley in a time of 4:25.87, surpassing the previous record of 4:26.36 set by Katinka Hosszu at the Rio Olympics in 2016. "That's the first time I really, vividly heard the crowd during

my race," the 16-year-old said. "It's amazing to have all my family and friends in the stands, cheering me on. It really helped me in the last 100 meters." McIntosh set a world record in the 400m freestyle on the opening night of the trials on Tuesday, shaving 0.32 seconds off the mark set by Australia's Ariarne Titmus last year. She has one race left, the 200m freestyle, in which she holds a best time of 1:54.13 from earlier this year.

Medvedev Beats Sinner for First Miami Open Title

SOUTH FLORIDA (Reuters) - Daniil Medvedev beat Italy's Jannik Sinner 7-5 6-3 to win the Miami Open on Sunday for his fourth title of the year and 19th overall.



Jannik Sinner, of Italy, returns a shot from Daniil Medvedev (not in photograph), of Russia, during the men's singles finals of the Miami Open tennis tournament, on April 2, 2023, in Miami Gardens, Florida.

The jubilant fourth seed pumped his fist after pounding an unreturnable serve on match point to seal the win on a hot and humid day at Hard Rock Stadium in South Florida. The Russian was playing in his fifth consecutive final after triumphs in Doha, Rotterdam and Dubai before finishing runner-up to Carlos Alcaraz at Indian Wells two weeks ago.

Medvedev said he was fortunate that Sinner had to come through a physical, three-set battle in the semi-final on Friday night against top seed Alcaraz. "I think everyone enjoyed the semi-final against Carlos, it was amazing," Medvedev said at the trophy ceremony, where he collected nearly \$1.3 million in prize money. "I'm probably a little bit lucky

because at that point I was already in bed watching you run all over the place, both of you. I know it is not easy to recover after such a match." Medvedev, who called himself a "hardcourt specialist" when loudly complaining about the slow speed

of the courts in Indian Wells, said he was grateful for the faster surfaces in Miami. Sinner took an early lead when he grabbed the first service break of the match with a shoestring volley for a 3-2 lead.

But as he would all day long, Medvedev answered right back, breaking to level at 3-3 when Sinner's forehand hit the net cord and landed out of bounds. Sinner, 21, appeared to struggle in the sweltering conditions and called on the trainer for some assistance before eighth game. After the match he said that he woke up feeling sick and was not able to play his best tennis. Serving to stay in the set at 6-5, Sinner shanked a backhand that gave Medvedev two set point opportunities and he converted the first one when the 10th seed's errant forehand found the net. Medvedev broke Sinner for 3-1 in the second set and cruised from there, his powerful groundstrokes and impenetrable defense carrying him to the finish. Medvedev was also the beneficiary of 36 unforced errors by Sinner, who won fewer than a third of his second serve points.

Algerian Player Dropped From Nantes Squad After Insisting on Maintaining Fast



Nantes' Jaouen Hadjam during the warm up before the match

PARIS (Reuters) - Algerian defender Jaouen Hadjam was dropped from Nantes squad before their defeat by Stade de Reims in Ligue 1 on Sunday after insisting on not breaking his Ramadan fast, his manager Antoine Kombouare said. Hadjam joined Nantes in January from Paris FC, and has featured in nine league matches so far. "Jaouen? There is no controversy. Those who fast, I support them... On matchdays, you should not fast," Kombouare told a news conference after their 3-0 home

defeat. "It is not a punishment. I set rules. It's his choice and I respect it," he added. Local reports said the 20-year-old agreed only to break his fast in away matches. The holy period of Ramadan will end on April 20. Nantes are 14th in the standings on 30 points, four above the relegation zone. France-born Hadjam decided last month to represent Algeria, and played in their 1-0 victory over Niger.

Murray Scores 26, Nuggets Hold Off Warriors 112-110



Golden State Warriors forward Anthony Lamb, left, pursues the ball with Denver Nuggets guard Jamal Murray in the first half of an NBA basketball game Sunday, April 2, 2023, in Denver.

DENVER (AP) — Jamal Murray scored 26 points and blocked Klay

Thompson's 3-point attempt in the final seconds, and the Denver Nuggets held on for a 112-110 win over the Golden State Warriors on Sunday night. Michael Porter Jr. had 29 points and 11 rebounds and Aaron Gordon added 13 points and 10 rebounds for short-handed Denver. Denver (52-26) moved within a game of securing home-court advantage in the Western Conference. A victory in the final four games or one loss by Memphis will give the Nuggets the No. 1 seed for the first time in franchise history. "I love the fact we've been in first place since the middle of December, but this is all geared towards the post-season and how we perform," coach

Michael Malone said. "I know when the season is over, that's how we're going to be judged." Nuggets center Nikola Jokic missed his third straight game with calf tightness that first cropped up against Milwaukee on March 25 and lingered against Philadelphia on Monday, Malone said. Thompson led Golden State with 25 points and Stephen Curry scored 21, but struggled from the field. Curry missed his first five shots from behind the arc and finished 2 of 14 from deep. "He's entitled to those," coach Steve Kerr said. "He's had such an incredible year and has played so well and has done so much for us. Just a tough night."

Benzema Nets 7-Minute Hat-Trick as Real Madrid Thrash Valladolid

MADRID (Reuters) - Karim Benzema scored three goals in seven first-half minutes as Real Madrid thrashed Real Valladolid 6-0 on Sunday to cut Barcelona's lead in LaLiga to 12 points. The hat-trick moved Benzema up to 14 league goals this season and second on the list of top scorers -- three behind Barca's Robert Lewandowski. Rodrygo's opener from a smooth counter-attack after 22 minutes opened the flood gates as Benzema took charge at the Santiago Bernabeu, netting a first half hat-trick for Real Madrid for the first time in his career.



Real Madrid's Karim Benzema (left) attempts a shot at goal in front of Valladolid's Joaquin during a Spanish La Liga soccer match between Real Madrid and Valladolid at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid, Spain, on April 2, 2023.

Benzema scored his first with a diving header from a Vinicius Jr cross while narrowly avoiding a collision with the far post and the Brazilian also created the second with a simple pass for the French striker to score from the edge of the box. The 35-year-old completed his hat-trick when he adjusted his run into the six-yard box to turn on the spot and scoop a Ro-

drygo cross that was behind him to score while his back was towards goal. Rodrygo claimed another assist in the second half when Marco Asensio played a one-two pass with the Brazilian forward before firing home and Eden Hazard

created the final goal as he pinched the ball from a loose pass and found Lucas Vazquez. Valladolid, who fell to a second straight LaLiga defeat, are 16th, a point above the relegation zone.

Russian Athletes Set to Return in Taekwondo at World Champs

GENEVA (AP) — Russian athletes are set to compete again in taekwondo at next month's world championships, the sport's governing body said Monday. The decision by World Taekwondo's ruling council could see Ukraine fulfill a threat by its government to boycott sporting events where athletes from Russia or Belarus are involved. Russia is strong in taekwondo. All four of its athletes won medals at the Tokyo Olympics, including two golds. Ukraine did not have any athletes qualify. World Taekwondo leaders met remotely Monday to discuss the International Olympic Committee's advice from last week to sports bodies to let neutral athletes and officials from Russia and Belarus return to competitions ahead of the 2024 Paris



Olympics. Conditions of neutrality should include, the IOC suggested, no active support for the war in Ukraine and not be "contracted to the military or national security agencies." The taekwondo world championships are scheduled to start on May 29 in Baku, where Russians

and Belarusians can travel more freely without visa restrictions that are common across Europe. However, military links between the Russian team, including some of its Tokyo Olympic medalists, and the army sports club CSKA could see some athletes barred by World Taekwondo's vetting rules.