

Iranian Wrestling Teams to Compete at Asian Championships



TEHRAN – Iranian Greco-Roman and freestyle wrestling teams will participate in the 2023 Asian Championships. The Championships will mark the launch

of this year's continental championships season in Astana on April 9-14 at the Zhaksylyk Ushkempirov Martial Arts Palace.

Kazakhstan's capital city, which hosted the 2019 World Championships, will welcome Asia's leading wrestlers for the 36th edition of the six-day event.

Greco-Roman Team:
55kg: Pouya Dadmarz
60kg: Mehdi Mohsennejhad
63kg: Iman Muhammadi
67kg: Reza Abbasi
72kg: Sajad Imentalab
77kg: Amin Kavianinejhad
82kg: Alireza Mehmadi
87kg: Naser Alizadeh
97kg: Mehdi Bali
130kg: Amin Mirzadeh
Freestyle Team:
57kg: Alireza Sarlak
61kg: Yasin Rezaei
65kg: Rahman Amouzad
70kg: Morteza Ghiasi
74kg: Hussein Abouzari
79kg: Amir Hussein Kavousi
86kg: Alireza Karimi
92kg: Arask Mohebi
97kg: Mojtaba Goleji
125kg: Amir Reza Masoumi

Noshad Alamian Advances in World Table Tennis Ranking



TEHRAN – Iranian best table tennis player Noshad Alamian was able to advance ten places in the new ranking of the International Table Tennis Federation.

The International Table Tennis Federation announced the new ranking of players in April 2023, and according to the ranking, Noshad Alamian improved by ten places and reached the 54th position in the world.

Amir Hussein Hodaei, another Iranian national table tennis player, after gaining a valuable bronze medal in the World Feeder Competition in Turkey improved by twenty-seven places and reached the 106th position.

Nima Alamian dropped eight places and attained the 186th position in the world table tennis ranking.

Ex-World Champion Khan Handed Two-Year Doping Ban

LONDON (Reuters) - Former light-welterweight world champion Amir Khan said he would "never cheat" after being handed a two-year ban from all sport for testing positive for a prohibited substance.

UK Anti-Doping said on Tuesday that Khan, 36, returned a positive result for the anabolic agent ostarine following his loss to Kell Brook in Manchester in February 2022.

Khan, who announced his retirement in May last year, accepted a violation of anti-doping rules but said he had not intentionally ingested the substance, an argument accepted by an independent panel.

"I would never cheat. I'm a retired fighter. I've got a two-year ban now which is quite strange and funny that they banned me. I've already retired. I've no



comeback plans at all," Khan told Sky News.

Khan was first notified of his own positive result in April 2022 and given a provisional suspension, with charges following in July after he had announced his retirement with a 34-6 professional record.

Following the hearing in January this year, the National Anti-

Doping Panel accepted Khan's submission he had not taken the substance intentionally but imposed the ban on the basis of strict liability.

Ostarine is a drug designed to have similar effects to testosterone.

The ban is deemed to have commenced on 6 April 2022, when his provisional suspension

was imposed, and will expire on 5 April 2024.

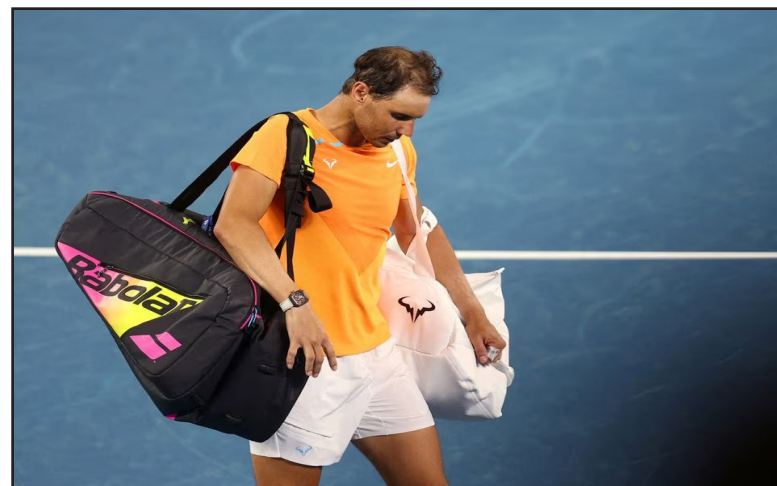
UKAD chief executive Jane Rumble said: "This case serves as a reminder that UKAD will diligently pursue anti-doping rule violations in order to protect clean sport."

Khan became a household name in Britain after claiming a silver medal at the 2004 Athens Olympics, aged just 17.

He made his professional debut in July 2005 and four years later won the WBA light-welterweight title with victory over Andreas Kotelnik in Manchester.

Khan unified the WBA and IBF titles with a win over Zab Judah in 2011 but controversially lost his next fight to Lamont Peterson, who would subsequently test positive for synthetic testosterone.

Nadal, Alcaraz, Auger-Aliassime to Miss Monte Carlo Masters



Spain's Rafael Nadal looks dejected after losing his second round match against Mackenzie McDonald of the U.S.

PARIS (Reuters) - Rafa Nadal will miss next week's Monte Carlo Masters having failed to recover in time from an injury that has sidelined him for months, he said on Tuesday, shortly before top-10 players Carlos Alcaraz and Felix Auger-Aliassime also pulled out of the tournament.

Nadal was forced to skip the Masters 1000 event in Indian Wells last month as well as the Miami Open that ended last week, as he continues his recovery from a hip issue that ended his Australian Open title defense in the second round in January.

"Unfortunately I am still not ready to compete and will miss one of those special tournaments I always love to play," Nadal said in a statement.

"Monte Carlo is and has been a

key event in my career, but unfortunately I will have to miss it again since I am still not ready to compete without the risk of getting injured. I will continue the process of getting ready to come back."

His absence from competitions means that Nadal days ago dropped four places to 13th in the rankings, ending his record 912-week stay inside the top 10.

The Spaniard, who has won Monte Carlo 11 times in his career still hopes to be fit for the French Open in May, a clay court tournament he has dominated for years, having won there 14 times.

World number two Alcaraz, who had an injury-plagued start to the season, was last in action at last week's Miami Open, where he was beaten in the semi-final by Italian Jannik Sinner.

Over 150 UK Ex-Soccer, Rugby Players Join Concussion Lawsuit

LONDON (Reuters) - A group of more than 150 former soccer, rugby league and rugby union players suffering from neurological impairments are due to join a class-action lawsuit against their respective governing bodies, lawyers representing the players said on Tuesday.

London sports law firm Rylands Garth said it would issue proceedings in court on Tuesday on behalf of 100 rugby league players, 40 rugby union players and 15 football players, taking the total number of claimants to 380.

The players allege that the sports' governing bodies failed to protect them from concussion and non-concussion injuries that caused various disorders including early onset dementia, chronic traumatic encephalopathy, epilepsy, Parkinson's disease and motor neurone disease.

Reuters has contacted RFL and soccer's governing body FIFA for comment.

In recent months, World Rugby has also recommended the tackle height be lowered in the amateur game and pointed to studies

in France and South Africa that showed positive advancements in terms of player safety and overall game experience.

Rylands Garth represents over 250 rugby union players with brain damage, including England World Cup winner Steve Thompson and former Wales captain Ryan Jones, in a claim against World Rugby and the governing bodies of England and Wales.

The firm also represents 100 rugby league players as part of a separate but similar potential claim against England's RFL.

Former British & Irish Lion Dafydd James, who joined the claim on Tuesday, said his early onset dementia diagnosis could explain his mental health struggles.

World Rugby, RFU and WRU responded to James's comments, saying, "we care deeply about every member of the rugby family and have been saddened by the brave personal accounts of Dafydd and other former players who are struggling with health issues."



Hayter Wins First Stage for Ineos Grenadiers

LONDON (BBC) - British time trial champion Ethan Hayter earned his first victory of the season on stage one of Itzulia Basque Country, outkicking the pack into the town of Labastida.

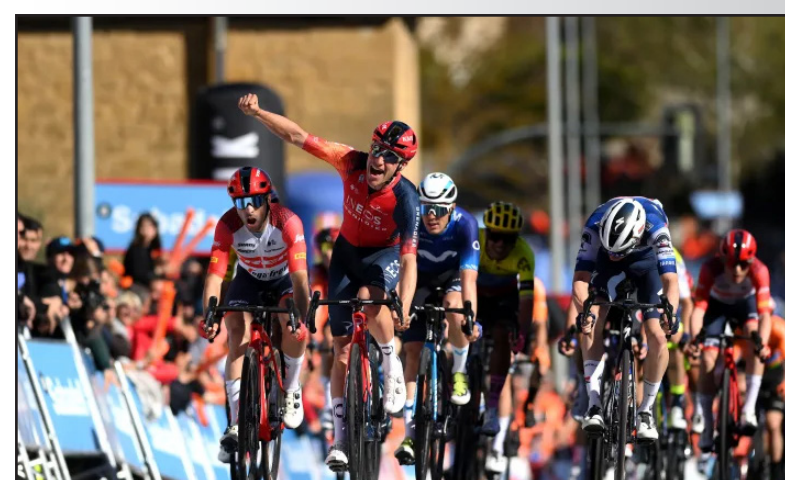
The Ineos Grenadiers rider, set up by his team-mate Omar Fraile, was the first to launch his sprint on the uphill finish, and held off Mauro Schmid (Soudal Quick-Step) and Jon Aberasturi (Trek-Segafredo) to the line.

Hayter's victory comes just two months after he broke his collarbone in a crash at the Cadel Evans Great Ocean Road Race, which derailed his early-season calendar and forced him to miss the European Track Championships.

"It takes a bit of time to come back," Hayter told the media after his victory in Spain. "[The Volta a] Catalunya was really hard and I was going alright, but actually those guys [Primož Roglič and Remco Evenepoel] were flying. It's really nice to come here and pay my team back for what they've been doing for me."

Recounting the final kilometers of Monday's 165.4km stage from Vitoria-Gasteiz to Labastida, Hayter revealed that things almost didn't go to plan. "I actually went through a bad patch," he said. "I think maybe I didn't drink quite enough or something and I was really struggling."

"Luckily I got back to the



Ethan Hayter punching the air as he wins stage one of Itzulia Basque Country

guy, they were obviously in the perfect position and there was crosswind. It wasn't really

strong, but when you're going that speed, it makes a difference."