

Iran Greco-Roman Wrestlers Crowned Asian Champions



TEHRAN – Iranian Greco-Roman wrestlers won the title of the 2023 Asian Wrestling Championships in Kazakhstan on Monday.

The second day of the Asian championships was held in Kazakhstan and two Iranian wrestlers made it to the finals and two others went to the ranking meeting. With the four gold medals grabbed on the first day, the Iranian national team won the Asian championship title by obtaining the necessary points before the final matches and classification. Earlier on Sunday, Iranian Greco-Roman wrestlers claimed four gold medals in the 2023 Asian Wrestling Championships. Pouya Dadmarz, who had defeated Taiga Onishi (JPN) and Ikhtiyor Botirov (UZB), defeated Indian Rupin

Sonipat 3-1 in the final match of the 55kg. Iran's Iman Mohammadi defeated Shermukhammad Sharibjanov from Uzbekistan 9-0 in the final bout of the 63kg. He had emerged victorious over Indian Neeraj Chhikara and South Korean Song Jin-seub. Nasser Alizadeh also claimed third gold for the Iranian team, beating Kazakhstan's Nursultan Tursynov 8-0 in the final bout of 87kg. Amin Mirzazadeh won Iran's fourth gold, beating Chinese wrestler Meng Lingzhe 2-0 in the 130kg final. Amin Kavianinejad pulled out of the final match of the 77kg due to the injury and seized the silver.

Arsenal Denied Huge Win as Liverpool Hit Back to Draw



Liverpool's Roberto Firmino (left) scores his side's second goal during the English Premier League football match between Liverpool and Arsenal at Anfield in Liverpool, England, April 9, 2023.

LIVERPOOL, England - Arsenal's grip on the Premier League title race was loosened as Liverpool produced a storming comeback to snatch a 2-2 draw in super-charged clash at a raucous Anfield on Sunday. The north Londoners were heading for a first league win at Liverpool since 2012, an eighth successive league win and a massive three points in their quest to win the league as they powered into a 2-0 lead. But Liverpool woke from their slumber and with the crowd cranking up the volume, they surged back and Roberto Firmino headed an 87th-minute equalizer that sparked delirium in the stands and would have been heartily cheered by fans of Manchester City too. It could have got even worse for Mikel Arteta's side too as Mo Salah, who scored Liverpool's first goal and then missed a second-half penalty, blazed a late chance over and was then denied brilliantly by Arsenal goalkeeper Aaron Ramsdale. Ramsdale then made an even more

miraculous save from Ibrahima Konate in a breathless period of stoppage time. When the dust settled on a rambunctious contest that had everything, Arsenal, bidding for a first title since 2004, lead Manchester City by six points but the reigning champions have a game in hand and also face Arsenal at home later this month. Arsenal have 73 points from 30 games, while Liverpool are eighth with 44 points. A game which began in somber mood as the 34th anniversary of the Hillsborough disaster was marked by a moment of silence, exploded into life and even included an alleged elbow by an assistant referee on Liverpool's Andy Robertson. Arsenal had taken an early lead when forward Gabriel Martinelli wriggled through in the eighth minute after a flowing move involving Bukayo Saka and managed to squeeze in a shot under pressure past Liverpool keeper Alisson.

Lakers Hold Off Jazz 128-117

LOS ANGELES (AP) — LeBron James hit eight 3-pointers while scoring 36 points, Anthony Davis had 16 points and 13 rebounds, and the Los Angeles Lakers surged into the postseason as the seventh seed in the Western Conference with a 128-117 victory over the Utah Jazz on Sunday. About 30 minutes after the streamers fell from the rafters on the Lakers' regular-season finale, Los Angeles (43-39) learned it will host Minnesota (42-40) in a play-in game on Tuesday night. "It's different, because usually in the postseason, we have multiple days to prep for a team," James said before the first play-in game of his 20-year NBA career. "We literally have one day to prep. ... For us, it's good that we don't have to travel. It's good that we get to stay here, but we shouldn't be comfortable. We need to stay on edge and

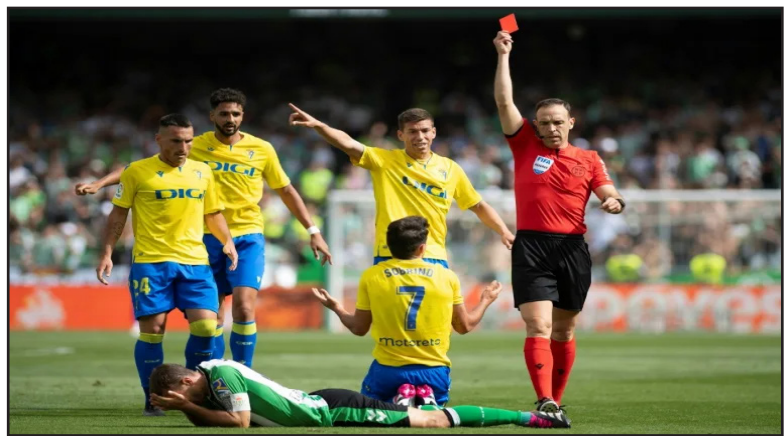
get ready for the game." D'Angelo Russell had 17 points for the Lakers, who won nine of their last 11 games and went 18-9 after revamping their roster at the trade deadline. Los Angeles was six games under .500 as recently as Feb. 13 before finding its groove with the new players led by Russell, defense-minded starter Jarred Vanderbilt and outside shooter Malik Beasley. Russell will be facing the Timberwolves for the second time since they traded him at the deadline. "Not the fact that they traded me has anything to do with it, but the fact they're in the way of what we're trying to get done, that's all that really matters to me," Russell said. The Lakers never pulled away from the Jazz, who stayed within one possession down the stretch despite resting



Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James, right, shoots as Utah Jazz forward Kelly Olynyk defends during the first half of an NBA basketball game Sunday, April 9, 2023, in Los Angeles.

several key players. James hit his sixth 3-pointer with 3:32 to play and added his seventh with 1:07 left before burying the eighth with 39 seconds to play, finishing one shy of his single-game high in 3's.

Atletico Beat Rayo to Close In on Real Madrid



MADRID (AFP) - Atletico Madrid cut the gap on second place Real Madrid to just two points with a 2-1 win over 10-man Rayo Vallecano on Sunday in La Liga. Valencia fell to a damaging 2-1 defeat at Almeria which leaves them in the relegation zone, while nine-man Real Betis lost 2-0 at home against Cadiz, denting their bid for Champions League football. Defenders Nahuel Molina and Mario Hermoso struck first-half goals two minutes apart to put Atletico into a dominant position at Vallecas. Rayo had defender Florian Lejeune sent off in the second half for a professional foul on Alvaro Morata, allowing Atletico to stroll, but Fran Garcia's powerful drive gave the hosts some hope in the final stages. Atletico held on to keep up the pressure on their rivals, champions Real Madrid, who lost 3-2 at home against Villarreal on Saturday. Diego Simeone's side have been in superb form in 2023, unbeaten in their last 12 league games, winning nine of those

matches. "The first thing we did was take stock of what we weren't doing well," Hermoso told DAZN, when asked about his side's form. "We wanted to turn around the situation, which wasn't nice, and we know what Atletico's shirt means, what it demands." The Rojiblancos took the lead after a slick break, with Yannick Carrasco and Antoine Griezmann combining well, before the latter played a fine pass to Morata. The striker nudged the ball on to Molina, racing up on the right, who swept the ball home to net his first goal for the club. Molina dedicated his strike to team-mate Angel Correa, absent from the squad after his mother died this week, raising the Argentine's number 10 shirt into the air. "We know what 'Angelito' means to us, how hard it must be to go through a moment like this, and the team dedicates this win, with all the love in the world, to his family, to his people," added Hermoso. Atletico soon grabbed their second with Hermoso heading home from Carrasco's corner for his

fourth goal of the season. After Lejeune was dismissed Atletico cruised, with Griezmann, Morata and Marcos Llorrente all missing chances. However Garcia smashed past Jan Oblak from distance in the 85th minute to give Atletico a scare, but they saw the game out to move six points ahead of Real Sociedad in fourth and put Real Madrid firmly within their sights. Rayo, ninth, have failed to earn a victory in their last eight league games. "We were having a good game, then they scored their first goal which gave them wings," Rayo midfielder Oscar Valentin told DAZN. "We are calm because we know the team is competing well in every game and sooner or later those three points will come, which will bring calm." - Betis beaten - Nine-man Real Betis fell to a shock home defeat by Cadiz, leaving Manuel Pellegrini's side sixth in La Liga. After Villarreal's win on Saturday they leapfrogged Betis, who could not go back ahead of Quique Setien's side as they stumbled in an Andalusian derby. Betis playmaker Sergio Canales made his comeback after being given a reprieve from a four-game ban by court order, but it only lasted 38 minutes. The Spaniard was sent off for pulling down Ruben Sobrino and stopping the Cadiz forward from running through on goal. Ruben Alcaraz sent Cadiz ahead with a penalty and they doubled their lead when Theo Bongonda broke away and unselfishly teed up Chris Ramos to tap home his

first goal for the club. Betis were soon reduced to nine men on a miserable afternoon for the hosts as Aitor Ruibal twice swung his elbow at Fali and was dismissed. "I'm sorry team, fans, Real Betis," wrote Canales on Twitter. "Today I made a mistake, a grave error, and I'm responsible for the defeat. "I have to be self-critical and keep working like never before to help you." Vedat Muriqi hit a brace, including a stoppage-time penalty, to rescue Real Mallorca a 3-3 draw at Real Valladolid. On Monday leaders Barcelona can move 15 points clear with a

Ruud Beats Kecmanovic in Estoril for 10th ATP Title

ESTORIL, Portugal — Top-seeded Casper Ruud won his 10th ATP title by beating Serbian friend Miomir Kecmanovic 6-2, 7-6 (3) in the final of the Estoril Open on Sunday. The Norwegian did not drop serve to secure his first trophy of the season. "It's my first time in Estoril and first time lucky, I guess," Ruud said. "To be here with the trophy this Sunday is very special. It's been quite some months since I won my last title, so it's very important." Sixth-seeded Kecmanovic was seeking his second ATP singles title. The 40th-ranked Kecmanovic saved five break points he faced in the second set, but was



unable to convert three of his own to avoid the tiebreaker. Kecmanovic also lost the doubles final in Estoril. All of Ruud's titles have come on clay. He will move to No. 4 in Monday's rankings.

Suarez, Marcelo, Endrick Win State Championships in Brazil

SAO PAULO (AP) — Top goalscorer Luis Suárez, veteran Marcelo and teenage starlet Endrick scored in their finals and won prestigious state championship titles in Brazil on the weekend. Suarez, the 36-year-old Uruguayan striker, scored from the spot in the 65th minute to give Gremio do Rio Grande do Sul state championship title against local rivals Caxias with a 1-0 win on Saturday. The first leg ended 1-1. The 34-year-old former Real Madrid left-back Marcelo, playing as a midfielder for Fluminense, scored the team's second goal in the 4-1 crushing of arch rivals Flamengo in the second leg of the Rio de Janeiro state championship. Flamengo won the first leg 2-0 last week. Marcelo's first goal since his return to the club where he started professional soccer in 2005 came with a blast from the edge of the box, which opened the score for Fluminense in the 30th minute.



Marcelo of Fluminense celebrates with his teammate Alexander after scoring against Flamengo during the Rio de Janeiro state championship final soccer match, at Maracana stadium in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Sunday, April 9, 2023.

German Cano scored in the 34th and the 56th minute to put Fluminense in front on aggregate. Alexander made it 4-0 in the 65th minute. Ayrton Lucas netted Flamengo's only goal in added time. The 16-year-old striker Endrick, who was recently sold to Real Madrid, scored Palmeiras' third goal in the 4-0 victory against tiny Agua Santa in the second leg of the Sao Paulo state championship final.