

Iran Announces Roster for World Taekwondo Championships



TEHRAN – Taekwondo Federation of Iran has announced the names of eight Iranian taekwondo athletes who were qualified for the 2023 World Championships after the qualification competitions in Tehran.

The ceremony to announce the names of the male players was held on Saturday night; and the same ceremony is slated to introduce the qualified female players.

Male Iranian players on the roster include Mehdi Haji-Mousaei, -54 kg; Alireza Hosseinpour, -58 kg; Farzan Ashourzadeh, -63 kg; Danial Bozorgi, -68 kg; Mehran Barkhordari, -80 kg; and Arian Salimi, -87.

The 2023 World Taekwondo Championships is slated for May 29 to June 4 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Mbappe, Messi on Target as PSG Beat 10-Man Lens 3-1



PSG's Kylian Mbappe celebrates scoring his side's opening goal during the French Ligue 1 football match between Paris Saint Germain and Lens at Parc des Princes stadium in Paris, France, April 15, 2023.

PARIS - Kylian Mbappe and Lionel Messi scored first-half goals as Paris St Germain beat 10-man Lens 3-1 at the Parc des Princes to charge nine points clear at the top of Ligue 1.

Lens, still second but with their challenge badly dented, had Salis Abdul Samed shown a straight red card in the 19th minute for a tackle that missed the ball but caught Achraf Hakimi on the ankle.

PSG's response was swift, the champions seizing the advantage to smash in three goals in a nine-minute spree.

France striker Mbappe made the breakthrough in the 31st minute when he swiveled and hit a pass from Vitinha in off the post.

The goal made him PSG's

all-time record league scorer, taking his tally to 139 and one more than Edinson Cavani managed.

Vitinha made it 2-0 six minutes later with a long-range screamer that left Lens goalkeeper Brice Samba with no time to react.

Messi then got in on the act in the 40th minute after Mbappe backheeled the Argentine through to fire in at a tight angle and put PSG 3-0 up at the break.

Lens hit back in the second half with a consolation goal from the penalty spot on the hour, Polish winger Przemyslaw Frankowski calmly stepping up to send Gianluigi Donnarumma the wrong way.

Rublev Downs Fritz to Set Up Monte Carlo Masters Final Clash With Rune

LONDON (Reuters) - Andrey Rublev moved into his third Masters final after fighting back from a set down in Monte Carlo to beat American Taylor Fritz 5-7 6-1 6-3 on Saturday to set up a showdown with Danish teenager Holger Rune.

Going into the semi-final Fritz had the upper hand with a three-match winning streak against Rublev, but it was the Russian who prevailed in an encounter that was suspended for nearly two hours in the final set due to rain.

"It was really tough against Taylor to whom I lost three times. Very tough for me mentally to play against him," fifth seed Rublev said.

"But I started to feel I will have chances. And then we had

a great match and I was able to win."

Fritz started poorly and was broken in the first service game as the American stared quizzically at the surface he seemed to have mastered when knocking out defending champion Stefanos Tsitsipas, who was in the stands to watch the semifinal.

Fritz quickly found himself 2-0 down and even smashed his racquet in frustration, but he turned things around by engaging Rublev in long rallies to set up searing winners to level the set at 3-3 and then again at 5-5 as the pair traded breaks.

Rublev had the opportunity to serve for the set but Fritz converted his fourth consecutive break point to take the opener as his rattled Russian opponent re-



Russia's Andrey Rublev in action during his semi-final match against Taylor Fritz of the U.S.

quested a bathroom break before the second set.

But as the sky grew overcast, Rublev was unstoppable in the second set as he fired 11 win-

ners while Fritz lost his range and failed to convert any break points, making 17 unforced errors as the Russian forced the match into a decider.

Harden Scores 23 as 76ers Cruise Past Nets 121-101 in Game 1



Philadelphia 76ers' Tobias Harris (12) shoots over Brooklyn Nets' Spencer Dinwiddie (26) in the second half during Game 1 in the first round of the NBA basketball playoffs, Saturday, April 15, 2023, in Philadelphia.

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — James Harden feels more at home in Philly this postseason go-around than he did a year ago when he was still finding his footing after a trade. It helps that The Beard knows his role alongside Joel Embiid, has his health — and his signature step-back is back on point from beyond the arc.

Harden had all the right moves against the Nets.

Harden hit seven 3-pointers and had 23 points and 13 assists, NBA MVP finalist Embiid scored 26 points and the Philadelphia 76ers pushed back Mikal Bridges and the Brooklyn Nets in a 121-101 Game 1 victory on Saturday.

Tobias Harris added 21 points

and the 76ers hit a postseason team-record 21 3s in the opener of this Eastern Conference playoff series. The Sixers are trying to win their first NBA championship since 1983 and advance past the second round for the first time since 2001.

Bridges scored 30 points and helped the Nets at least hang around in the first half.

But Brooklyn's starless roster was no match for Embiid, Harden and a playoff-tested roster expected to make a deep run in the postseason. The Sixers had a sell-out crowd of 20,913 in a frenzy from the opening tip, then blew the game open in the fourth.

Depleted Real Madrid Down Cadiz Before Trip to Chelsea

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — Real Madrid eased to a 2-0 win at Cadiz in the Spanish league on Saturday despite resting several first-choice players ahead of its trip to London to face Chelsea in the second leg of the Champions League quarterfinals.

Karim Benzema had already hit the woodwork twice as Cadiz clung to the goalkeeping skills of backup David Gil to stay alive before Nacho Fernández and Marco Asensio broke through with goals in the 72nd and 76th minutes.

The win left Madrid 10 points behind Spanish league leader Barcelona, which visits Getafe on Sunday.

Madrid visits Stamford Bridge on Tuesday holding a 2-0 lead after its convincing win over Frank Lampard's team in Spain.

Coach Carlo Ancelotti once again rotated his squad after his team's 2-1 loss to Barcelona last month appeared to finish off its Spanish



Real Madrid's Nacho, right, and Cadiz's Theo Bongonda challenge for the ball during the Spanish La Liga soccer match between Cadiz CF and Real Madrid at the Nuevo Mirandilla stadium in Cadiz, Spain, Saturday, April 15, 2023.

league title defense.

Vinicius Júnior and Toni Kroos both stayed in Madrid to recover from what Ancelotti described as minor muscle issues that are not expected to keep them from playing at

Chelsea. Luka Modric only played the final 10 minutes. Benzema, who has missed several games this season with muscle injuries, was in the starting 11 at Nuevo Mirandilla Stadium.

Inter Slump to 1-0 Loss at Home to Monza

MILAN (Reuters) - A late goal by defender Luca Caldirola earned promoted side Monza a shock 1-0 win at Inter Milan in Serie A on Saturday as Simone Inzaghi's men slumped to a fourth loss in their last five league outings.

Inter, who are on course for a first Champions League last-four appearance since 2010 following their 2-0 win at Benfica in their quarter-final first leg on Tuesday, needed three points to return to the top four.

They now remain fifth on 51 points from 30 games, two points behind fourth-placed AC Milan who were held to a 1-1 draw by Bologna earlier on Saturday.

For Inter, who recently fell to three consecutive league losses against Spezia, Juventus and Fiorentina, and drew 1-1 last weekend at Salernitana, it was their third home loss in a row for the first time in 10 years.

"It was a photocopy of (our games against) Fiorentina and Salernitana,



Inter Milan's Edin Dzeko misses a chance to score

we are very disappointed and angry," Inzaghi told Sky Sport.

"It's not true that we don't feel the championship but only the cups. We knew the importance of this match, it is a negative result that slows down our path."

Inter forward Joaquin Correa could have made it 1-0 in the 24th minute when he concluded a pair of one-

twos with a low shot from inside the box, only to be brilliantly denied by the alert Monza keeper Michele Di Gregorio.

After a first half short of clear chances and quality, Inter gradually pushed for a goal and Di Gregorio pulled off another superb save to deny Romelu Lukaku's header shortly before the hour mark.