

Greco-Roman Wrestlers Win Two Gold Medals in Champions Cup in Turkey



TEHRAN — Iranian Greco-Wrestlers bagged two gold medals on the first day of the international youth wrestling competition of the Turkish Champions Cup underway in Antalya.

Ali Ahmadi Vafa won the first gold medal for the Iranian team with a 9-1 victory over his Turkish opponent in the final of 55 weight category of the Greco-Roman wrestling contest of the Turkish Champions Cup.

To reach the final, Ahmadi Vafa

defeated three opponents from Greece, Kyrgyzstan, and Turkey.

Also, in the weight category of 67 kg, Ahura Boveyri from Iran defeated another Turkish opponent 9-1 in the final and won the second gold medal for Iran.

Amirreza Dehbozorgi and Mohammad Ashiri in 60 kg, Abolfazl Choubani and Abolfazl Paydar in 87 kg will face their opponents today on Monday in the second round of competitions.

Iran Down India at 2023 IIHF Ice Hockey Women's Asia



TEHRAN — Iran defeated India 17-1 in its opening match at the 2023 IIHF Ice Hockey Women's Asia and Oceania Championship on Sunday.

Team Melli Banovan is drawn in Group B along with India, Kuwait and Kyrgyzstan.

Group A consists of Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia and the UAE.

Iran is scheduled to meet Kuwait and Kyrgyzstan on Monday and Wednesday, respectively.

The IIHF Asia and Oceania Championship (formally the IIHF Challenge Cup of Asia) is a series of international ice hockey tournaments in the continent of Asia.

The event started on April 30 in Bangkok, Thailand and will finish on May 8.

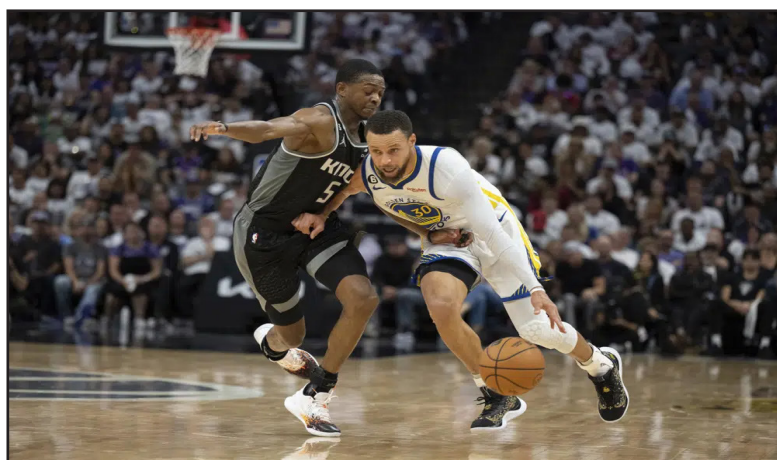
Curry Scores Playoff Career-High 50 as Warriors Down Kings

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — With his big-game swagger on display for the world and that signature mouthpiece dangling from a celebratory grin, Stephen Curry drove fearlessly to the basket with jaw-dropping acrobatics all afternoon and he fired with precision from way back in a Game 7 extravaganza for the ages.

He even playfully pretended to push the button and Light the Beam, Sacramento-style.

Curry scored a playoff career-high 50 points in the most prolific Game 7 performance ever and answered time and again to will the Warriors on in their quest for a repeat, sending Golden State into the Western Conference semifinals with a 120-100 win against the Sacramento Kings in Sunday's winner-take-all Game 7.

Curry led a memorable comeback in the series, too, perhaps improbable even for the defending champions when they got down 2-0 and



Sacramento Kings guard De'Aaron Fox (5) defends against Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry (30) during the second half of Game 7 of an NBA basketball first-round playoff series Sunday, April 30, 2023, in Sacramento, Calif.

given their road woes all season.

Curry's points are the most in NBA history in a Game 7, topping former teammate Kevin Durant's 48 for the Nets against Milwaukee in 2021.

Kevon Looney grabbed 21 rebounds for a Warriors team that needed to win twice on the road facing a hostile, cowbell-clanging crowd in the state capital to become

the first reigning champion to drop the first two games and win any postseason series.

Now, bring on LeBron James and the Los Angeles Lakers in the Western Conference semifinals with all that NBA Finals history between James and Golden State dating to his Cleveland days. Game 1 is Tuesday night at Chase Center.

Sacramento's special comeback season is over long before these young Kings had planned. After snapping a 16-year playoff drought — longest in NBA history — under Coach of the Year Mike Brown, playoff-starved Sacramento missed advancing to the second round for the first time since 2004.

Curry shot 20 of 38 with seven 3s and delivered after almost every big play by Sacramento as Splash Brother Klay Thompson struggled on both ends again. But Thompson came through in some crucial moments.

Napoli's Title Party Put on Hold After Salernitana Draw

ROME (AFP) - Napoli will have to wait a little longer to seal their first Serie A title in 33 years after being held to a 1-1 draw by Salernitana on Sunday.

Runaway league leaders Napoli needed to win to secure their third league crown with six games remaining in the season after Inter Milan beat closest challengers Lazio 3-1 earlier in the day.

And Naples thought a generation of frustration was set to come to an end when Mathias Olivera headed the hosts into the lead just after the hour mark.

But the long-awaited Scudetto party will have to be put on hold for at least a few more days after Boulaye Dia's stunning strike six minutes from time ensured Salernitana escaped with a point.

"The players are obviously disappointed at not having made our brilliant fans happy tonight. But you've seen for a while that these points are the hardest ones to get," coach Luciano Spalletti told DAZN.

The coming midweek round of matches could finally end Napoli's long wait for glory.

Spalletti's team are 18 points ahead of Lazio, who stay second thanks to third-placed Juventus drawing 1-1 at Bologna and officially dropping out of title contention, 19 points off the pace.

Napoli will win the league on Wednesday if Lazio fail to beat Sassuolo, who beat Empoli 2-1 on Sunday with a Domenico Berardi brace.

Regardless Napoli's current stars



Napoli were held by Salernitana

now only need a single point to emulate Diego Maradona, who led southern Italy's biggest club to their only previous league titles in 1987 and 1990.

Pushed by a feverish crowd,

decked out in blue and white, Napoli started on the front foot and almost went ahead seconds after kick-off when Victor Osimhen headed Hirving Lozano's cross just wide.

China's Ding Liren Defies Odds to Become World Chess Champion

ASTANA, Kazakhstan (Reuters) - China's Ding Liren was crowned on Sunday as the 17th world chess champion in a tense match against Russian-born Ian Nepomniachtchi in Astana, Kazakhstan, in the last chapter of an odds-defying sequence of events.

Thirty-year-old Ding won the rapid chess playoff by 2.5 points to 1.5, capitalizing on Nepomniachtchi's mistakes in time trouble in the last of the shorter-format games, following the pair's 7-7 tie in a psychological battle across 14 longer "classical" games.

"One Ding to rule em all," fellow grandmaster Anish Giri wrote on Twitter in honour of the new champion.

Ding's triumph means China holds both the men's and wom-



Ian Nepomniachtchi of International Chess Federation competes against Ding Liren of China.

en's world titles, with current women's champion Ju Wenjun set to defend her title against

compatriot Lei Tingjie in July.

Ding had leveled the score in the regular portion of the match

with a dramatic win in game 12, despite several critical moments - including a purported leak of his own preparation.

Carlsen said he was not motivated to play shortly after Nepomniachtchi won the Candidates tournament, the prestigious qualifier to the match.

Ding, runner-up in the Candidates thanks to an incredible second half of the event, was next in line.

He had only been invited to the tournament at the last minute to replace Russia's Sergey Karjakin, whom the international chess federation (FIDE) banned for his vocal support of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Ding ranks third in the FIDE rating list behind Carlsen and Nepomniachtchi.

Medvedev Overcomes Shevchenko to Reach Last 16 in Madrid



Daniil Medvedev, of Russia, returns the ball to Alexander Shevchenko, of Russia, at the Madrid Open tennis tournament in Madrid, Spain, Monday, May 1, 2023.

MADRID (AP) — Daniil Medvedev had to come from a break down twice in the final set to reach the last 16 of the Madrid Open with a 4-6, 6-1, 7-5 win over fellow Russian Alexander Shevchenko on Monday.

"He played well. He's young, so I'm sure he's going to (move) up the rankings, especially if he plays like in this tournament," Medvedev said of the 96th-ranked Shevchenko, who was making his main-draw debut in Madrid after coming through qualifying.

The victory takes Medvedev to a tour-best 33-4 record this season. He will next face either Alex de Minaur or Aslan Karatsev.

The 22-year-old Shevchenko, who appeared to struggle with cramps toward the end of the match, took

a 5-1 lead in the first set but went down 5-0 in the second. He then led 2-0 and 4-2 in the decisive set.

This is the first time Medvedev has won consecutive matches in Madrid.

Women's No. 1 Iga Swiatek later faces 16th-seeded Ekaterina Alexandrova for a spot in the quarterfinals. Mirra Andreeva, the 16-year-old Russian, takes on second-seeded Aryna Sabalenka.

Mayar Sherif defeated 24th-seeded Elise Mertens 6-4, 0-6, 6-4 to become the first Egyptian to reach the quarterfinals of a WTA 1000 tournament. Irina-Camelia Begu upset 14th-seeded Liudmila Samsonova 6-4, 6-4 to earn her third win against a top-20 opponent in 2023. It will be her third quarterfinal appearance in Madrid.

Ukraine to Boycott World Judo Championships Over Russia, Belarus Inclusion

LONDON (Reuters) - Ukrainian judokas will not take part in this month's world championships in Qatar following the International Judo Federation's (IJF) decision to readmit Russians and Belarusians as neutrals, the Ukrainian Judo Federation (UJF) said on Monday.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) last month recommended that athletes from the two countries be allowed to return to international competition as neutrals.

The IJF last week announced that it would allow judoka from Russia and Belarus to participate in the May 7-14 championships,

saying its decision would allow Russians and Belarusians to participate in qualifying for the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris.

The IOC's recommendations exclude athletes who support the war or are contracted to military or national security agencies. The IJF has said it has enlisted an independent company to perform background checks and identify any such athletes.

However, the Ukrainian federation alleged that a number of Russian judoka

Ukraine has barred its national sports teams from competing in events that include competitors from Russia and Belarus.