

Iran Defeat Kyrgyzstan at Ice Hockey Women's Asia Championship



TEHRAN – Iran gained an emphatic victory against Kyrgyzstan at the 2023 IIHF Ice Hockey Women's Asia and Oceania Championship in Thailand on Wednesday.

Iranian women's national ice hockey team thrashed Kyrgyzstan 26-0 in group B of the 2023 IIHF Ice Hockey Women's Asia and advanced to the semifinals of the competition.

Earlier, Iran defeated India 17-1 and Kuwait 20-0 in the tournament.

Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, and the UAE are in Group A.

After a single round-robin in each group, the first two teams from Group A will qualify for the semifinals and the remaining teams need to qualify for the semifinals against the best two teams coming from Group B.

Greco-Roman Wrestlers Runners-Up at Champions Cup in Turkey



TEHRAN – Iran's Greco-Roman team came in second place in the international youth wrestling competition of the Victory Cup and Champions in the Turkish city of Antalya.

The Iranian athletes bagged four gold, three silver, and two bronze at the event.

Ali Ahmadi Vafa (50kg), Amirreza Dehbozorgi (60kg), Ahura Boveyri (67kg), and Farzin Hedayati (130kg) won four

gold medals.

Yasin Yazdi in the 82kg, Abolfazl Choubani in the 87kg, and Abolfazl Fathi in the 130kg received three silver medals.

Meanwhile, Mohammad Ashiri (60kg) and Abolfazl Paydar (87kg) gained two bronze medals.

Turkey came first and Kirgizstan ranked third in the tournament.

Messi's PSG Future in Doubt After Suspension Over Saudi Trip

PARIS (AFP) - Lionel Messi's future at PSG was plunged into doubt on Wednesday after he was suspended by Paris Saint-Germain after travelling to Saudi Arabia without the club's permission.

A source with knowledge of the disciplinary procedure told AFP that Argentina's 35-year-old World-Cup winning captain, who is out of contract at the end of the season, would be sidelined for "several days", while various media in France reported that he would be suspended for two weeks.

"He cannot train, cannot play, and will not be paid while disciplinary measures are in place," the source added.

Another source, also speaking on condition they were not identified, indicated that the seven-time Ballon d'Or winner would "probably" be sidelined for a fortnight, noting that "nobody is more important than the club".

Messi played the whole game in PSG's 3-1 home defeat by Lorient in Ligue 1 on Sunday.

He then travelled to Saudi Arabia to fulfil commercial commitments in his role as a tourism ambassador for the Persian Gulf state.

The Saudi Tourism Authority said in a press release on Wednesday that Messi had "returned to Saudi for a second time, this time with his



Bayern Munich's Canadian midfielder Alphonso Davies (left) and Paris Saint-Germain's Argentine forward Lionel Messi vie for the ball during the UEFA Champions League round of 16, 2nd-leg football match between FC Bayern Munich and Paris Saint-Germain FC in Munich, southern Germany, on March 8, 2023.

family" and had been treated to a demonstration of palm weaving and had fed Arabian gazelles.

As a result of the trip, Messi missed a training session scheduled for Monday following the weekend defeat.

Knicks Beat Heat 111-105 in NBA



Miami Heat guard Kyle Lowry shoots a three-point basket past New York Knicks forward Julius Randle (30) in the first half of Game 2 in the NBA basketball Eastern Conference semifinals playoff series, Tuesday, May 2, 2023, at Madison Square Garden in New York.

NEW YORK (AP) — Jalen Brunson took the blame when the Knicks dropped the opener of the Eastern Conference semifinals and insisted he needed to be better in Game 2.

Halfway through, it appeared he wasn't.

Struggling again with his shot and this time a sore right ankle as well, Brunson told himself he needed to fight through it.

He did, getting New York back to even in the series.

Brunson scored 30 points Tuesday night and keyed the run the Knicks needed just in time for a 111-105 victory over a Miami Heat team playing without Jimmy Butler.

Julius Randle returned from a sprained left ankle that sidelined him in Game 1 with 25 points, 12 rebounds and eight assists, and RJ Barrett scored 16 of his 24 points in the first quarter for the No. 5-seeded Knicks. Josh Hart finished with 14 points, 11 rebounds and nine assists.

But it was Brunson, who was 0 for 7 from 3-point range in the opener, who made the biggest plays after going just 1 for 6 for seven points in the first half.

Caleb Martin scored 22 points in place of Butler for the Heat, who host Game 3 on Saturday afternoon. They will hope to have Butler, the leading scorer in the playoffs who sat out after spraining his right ankle late in their 108-101

victory in the opener.

Miami had a six-point lead midway through the fourth quarter thanks to undrafted players Martin and Gabe Vincent before Brunson, who had been listed as questionable after feeling ankle pain at the end of Game 1, took over.

He made a 3-pointer that became a four-point play when Isaiah Hartenstein was fouled on the play, and the point guard then scored to knot it at 93.

The Heat went back up 96-93 on Vincent's three free throws, but Hart tied it with a 3 before Brunson hit a 3 and scored again to make it 101-96 with 2:48 remaining.

Butler is averaging 35.5 points in the postseason, finishing off the top-seeded Bucks in the first round with 56 and 42 points in the last two games. He had 25 points and 11 points in the opener of this series and almost watched his teammates pull this one out without him.

Randle was originally hurt against the Heat in a victory March 29 after starting the first 77 games. He returned for the start of the playoffs but wasn't sharp for much of the series against Cleveland before reinjuring the ankle in the Game 5 clincher.

He was much better Tuesday for a Knicks team trying to advance to the Eastern Conference finals for the first time since 2000, when they got there after beating Miami in seven games.

Arsenal Return to Top of League With Win Over Chelsea



Chelsea's French defender Wesley Fofana (first right) defends a bicycle kick from Arsenal's Polish defender Jakub Kiwior (second right) during the English Premier League football match between Arsenal and Chelsea at the Emirates Stadium, in London, on May 2, 2023.

mier League on Tuesday with a 3-1 win over a woeful Chelsea, set on their way by two goals from Martin Odegaard, but the title is still Manchester City's to lose having played two games less than the leaders.

Arsenal raced into a 3-0 half-time lead when captain Odegaard was given acres of space - twice - by Chelsea's flimsy defense to score in the 18th and 31st minutes, and Gabriel Jesus converted from close-range 11 minutes before the break.

Arsenal's first win in five games took them to 78 points,

two more than second-placed City - the reigning champions - who have the chance to reclaim top spot when they host West Ham United on Wednesday.

After losing to City 4-1 last week, Mikel Arteta made three changes, including giving striker Leandro Trossard a start in the place of Gabriel Martinelli and handing Jakub Kiwior his first league start in midfield.

His side dominated their slumping London rivals straight from the kick-off as they sought to shake off last week's potentially title-deciding setback.

Ronaldo Tops Forbes' Highest-Paid Athletes List in 2023

PARIS (Reuters) - Cristiano Ronaldo became the world's highest-paid athlete after his move to Saudi Arabian side Al-Nassr nearly doubled his annual playing salary while Paris St Germain duo Lionel Messi and Kylian Mbappe round off the top three, according to Forbes.

Ronaldo, who joined the Saudi soccer club on a deal until 2025 after leaving Manchester United last year, earned \$136 million with Forbes saying his annual playing salary went up to an estimated \$75 million.

Ronaldo's contract has been estimated by media to be worth more than 200 million euros (\$219.98 million).

PSG forward Messi, 35, was next on the list after bringing home a combined \$130 million

while club team mate and France captain Mbappe - the youngest on the list at 24 - earned \$120 million to sit third.

PSG are owned by Qatar Sports Investments.

Los Angeles Lakers player and NBA great LeBron James (\$119.5 million) and Mexican boxer Canelo Alvarez (\$110 million) rounded out the top five.

Last year also saw the advent of LIV Golf, the breakaway tour that has lured away some of the US-based PGA Tour's top players with huge sums of money, and two of its golfers make the top 10.

Former world number one Dustin Johnson (sixth with \$107 million) made the biggest gain after making the controversial switch to LIV Golf having not



Portugal's forward Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates after scoring his team's fourth goal during the UEFA Euro 2024 group J qualification football match between Luxembourg and Portugal at the Stade de Luxembourg, in Luxembourg, on March 26, 2023.

even made the cut for the top 50 in 2022 while he was joined by

fellow LIV golfer Phil Mickelson (seventh with \$106 million).