

# Iran Win 2023 Asian Weightlifting Championships



TEHRAN - Iran's weightlifting team have been crowned champions at the 2023 Asian Weightlifting Championships held in Jinju, South Korea.

Iran's national weightlifting team won the tournament on Saturday with 635 points.

Uzbekistan and China trailed Iran in the ranking with 631 and 608 points, respectively.

Iran's national team scooped 2 gold, 3 silver, and 5 bronze medals in the competition.

Hossein Soltani won 2 golds and

a silver in the 81 kg weight category, while Ayat Sharifi and Alireza Yousefi gained a silver medal each in the super-heavyweight category.

Mostafa Javadi won two bronze medals in 89 kg and Mehdi Karami gained a bronze in 109 kg.

Fatemeh Keshavarz snatched 2 bronzes in the 64 kg weight category.

Some 10 male and 5 female weightlifters represented Iran at the 2023 Asian Weightlifting Championships in Jinju, South Korea from May 5 to May 13.

## Djokovic Beats Etcheverry in Rome Opener, Swiatek Surges



Serbia's Novak Djokovic returns the ball to Argentina's Tomas Etcheverry during their match at the Italian Open tennis tournament, in Rome on May 12, 2023.

ROME (AFP) - Holder Novak Djokovic began his hunt for a seventh Italian Open title by battling past the unseeded Tomas Martin Etcheverry 7-6(5) 6-2 on Friday while women's champion Iga Swiatek delivered a masterclass to reach the third round.

Djokovic got off to a shaky start by dropping his serve in the opening game of the second-round match. The Serbian, who pulled out of the Madrid Open last month, wore a compression sleeve on his right arm, sparking concerns about a niggling elbow issue.

The 22-times Grand Slam champion, who had a first-round bye, also appeared unwell at one point and asked his team for medical assistance during a changeover.

He squandered a chance to

break back immediately but pounced when Etcheverry double-faulted and sent a forehand wide to level the set at 3-3.

The Argentinian forced a tie-break where he raced ahead 5-3 but Djokovic began to dictate terms by stretching the rallies and clawed his way back to wrap up the set before grabbing an early break in the next.

A more relaxed Djokovic mixed up his game with some delicate drops en route to a 5-3 lead and closed out the victory on serve when his opponent found the net.

Djokovic said he had not felt at his best on court. "You act like you are 100 percent. Most of the times you are not but you want to show your opponent that you're out there and trying to fight for every ball."

## Lakers Eliminate Champion Warriors With 122-101 Victory in Game 6

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Six months and a day after the Los Angeles Lakers fell to 2-10 to start the regular season, they emphatically eliminated the defending NBA champions to reach the Western Conference finals.

Although the Lakers' transformation has become increasingly incredible over the past several weeks, the primary forces behind it are LeBron James and Anthony Davis. The superstars won a ring together only three years ago, and they shared a joyous hug Friday night after they led their team to its biggest home victory in over a decade.

James had 30 points, nine rebounds and nine assists and the Lakers ended the Golden State Warriors' reign with a 122-101 victory in Game 6 of the second-round series.

Davis had 17 points and 20 rebounds for the seventh-seeded Lakers, who never trailed in their third home victory over Golden State in seven days. Austin Reaves scored 23 points — highlighted by a 54-footer from midcourt — at the halftime buzzer — along with six

assists and five rebounds while Los Angeles inexorably pulled away, weathering every attempt by Stephen Curry to will the Warriors back into it.

After the Lakers unseated the champs with remarkable style, they will face Nikola Jokic and the top-seeded Nuggets in the Western Conference finals starting Tuesday night in Denver. It's a rematch of the conference finals in the 2020 Florida bubble, won in five games by Los Angeles.

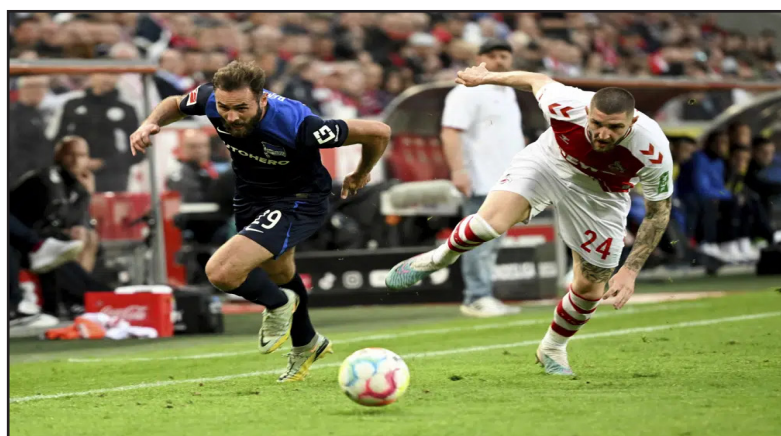
While routing the Warriors one last time, the Lakers improved to 7-0 at home since the regular season ended. They also snapped Golden State's streak of 28 playoff series with at least one road victory — an NBA-record run encompassing Curry's entire career.

James, Davis and the Lakers are the first team since 2014 to eliminate Curry's Warriors from the playoffs before the NBA Finals. Golden State has played in six of the last eight NBA Finals, missing the playoffs entirely in the other two seasons.



Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James passes over Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry during the second half in Game 6 of an NBA basketball Western Conference semifinal series Friday, May 12, 2023, in Los Angeles.

## Hertha Berlin Lose 5-2, Edge Toward Bundesliga Relegation



Hertha's Lucas Tousart, left and Cologne's Julian Chabot vie for the ball, during the German Bundesliga soccer match between Cologne and Hertha Berlin at the RheinEnergieStadion in Cologne, Germany, Friday, May 12, 2023.

BERLIN (AP) - Hertha Berlin edged closer to Bundesliga relegation after losing at Cologne 5-2 on Friday left the capital club rooted to the bottom of the table with two

games left to play.

Timo Hübers scored twice for Cologne to come from 2-1 down and move to 10th ahead of the rest of the 32nd round, while

Hertha missed the chance to move ahead of Bochum on goal difference.

Hertha remained five points from safety. Depending on other results, Hertha could be relegated to the second division next weekend with a loss at home to Bochum in the penultimate round.

Hertha got off to a bad start in Cologne when Davie Selke scored against his former teammates in the eighth minute. Selke thrived at Hertha in Pál Dardái's previous stint as coach but he was offloaded to Cologne in January.

Selke rose higher than Hertha defender Filip Uremovic to meet Eric Martel's cross and head the ball inside the left post. Selke and Uremovic needed treatment afterward. Uremovic was unable to continue.

Lucas Tousart equalized 10 minutes later when the Cologne defense failed to clear after good work from Marco Richter.

Hertha needed goalkeeper Oliver Christensen to thwart Kingsley Schindler's goal-bound effort before Stevan Jovetic got the visitors' second goal in the 33rd.

But Hertha's defense remained shaky. Hübers equalized with a header to a free kick, then Ellyes Skhiri scored Cologne's third on a counterattack before the break.

The outstanding Christensen stopped Cologne from chalking up the goals in the second half, while the crossbar and post also came to the visitors' rescue.

Hertha substitute Jessie Ngankam had the chance to equalize but Cologne 'keeper Marvin Schwäbe got the better of their one-on-one.

## Bais Wins Stage Seven of Giro After Gruelling Climb

ROME (Reuters) - Davide Bais of Eolo-Kometa won a gruelling stage seven of the Giro d'Italia after leading a three-man breakaway, beating Karel Vacek and Simone Petilli to the finish line for the first professional victory of his career.

The seventh stage was one for the climbers on a 218-km ride from Capua to Gran Sasso d'Italia which involved flat roads at the start before the final climb of approximately 45km and a total altitude gain of 3,900 metres.

The breakaway trio of Bais, Petilli and Vacek were seven-and-a-half minutes ahead of the peloton with 20km to go and they showed no signs of slowing down as the rest of the group played catch-up.

As they pedalled up an unrelenting climb through snow-banked roads, Czech rider Vacek fell away and looked to be out of the contest before he put his head down and caught up with the two Italians again in the final two kilometers.

They waited for each other to take charge in the final kilometer but it was 25-year-old Bais who found a reserve of energy to surge ahead.

He dropped his rivals and sprinted ahead in the last 200 metres to take victory with Italian fans around the finish line roaring their approval. Vacek finished second while Petilli was third after the pair ran out of steam.

It was a second stage win at the Giro for Italians this week after



Kometa's Davide Bais celebrates winning stage 7

Jonathan Milan won stage two in a sprint finish.

Andreas Leknessund of Team DSM retained the leader's maglia rosa jersey with a 28-second lead

over Remco Evenepoel, who led the sprint involving the general classification riders that finished three minutes and 10 seconds behind Bais.

## Newcastle Held 2-2 by Leeds



Newcastle's Callum Wilson, center, celebrates with teammates after scoring his side's 2nd goal from the penalty spot during the English Premier League soccer match between Leeds United and Newcastle United at Elland Road in Leeds, England, Saturday, May 13, 2023.

LEEDS, England (AP) - Newcastle dropped more points in its push for Champions League qualification by drawing 2-2 at Leeds, which remained in the Premier League's relegation zone on Saturday.

The match was marred late on by a spectator walking up to Newcastle manager Eddie Howe and giving him a push in the chest before being escorted away by security.

Rasmus Kristensen's deflected shot in the 79th minute earned Leeds a point but the team now managed by Sam Allardyce will come away from the match with big regrets because of errors by Patrick Bamford and Junior Firpo.

Leeds was leading 1-0 through Luke Ayling's seventh-minute goal when Bamford was given a chance to double the advantage from the penalty spot after Firpo was tripped by Joelinton.

Bamford saw his penalty

saved by goalkeeper Nick Pope and, three minutes later, Newcastle striker Callum Wilson converted a spot kick at the other end after Alexander Isak was bundled over by Max Wober.

Firpo then had a moment of madness when he raised his hand following a cross into the area, with the ball brushing his fingertips to give away a penalty.

Wilson converted that one, too, right down the middle in the 69th only for Kristensen to equalize.

Firpo was sent off for a second yellow card in the first minute of stoppage time, during which there was an alarming incident that saw a spectator walk up to Howe in the technical area and barge him in the chest.

Newcastle stayed third but failed to rebound from a 2-0 loss to Arsenal last weekend and is now four points clear of fifth-place Liverpool.