



Iranian Female Climber Scales Mount Lhotse

TEHRAN – Iranian woman climber Afsaneh Hesamifard successfully has scaled Mt. Lhotse.

Hesamifard has already summited K2 (8,611m), Everest (8,848) and Annapurna (8,091).

Iranian male mountaineer Rouhollah Kazemi had successfully scaled Mt. Everest and Mt. Lhotse over the past several days.

Lhotse ranks as the fourth highest mountain in the world at 8,516 meters (27,940 ft), after Mount Everest, K2, and Kangchenjunga.

Rising Rune Raises Hopes by Beating Rusty Djokovic

ROME (Reuters) — Novak Djokovic sees a bit of himself in Holger Rune.

The 20-year-old Rune is solid in nearly every area: A great mover and super fit, he's strong off both his forehand and backhand, has good hands and is an aggressive returner.

Perhaps that's why Rune has now recorded two victories over Djokovic in little more than six months, beating the 22-time Grand Slam champion 6-2, 4-6, 6-2 Wednesday to reach the Italian Open semifinals.

Rune, who also defeated Djokovic in the Paris Masters final in November, troubled the Serbian star with his rapid court coverage. He made his opponent hit extra balls on points that Djokovic thought he had already finished off.

Djokovic said the consistently damp conditions at Foro Italico this week were challenging for him.

Unlike the win in Paris, which was a breakthrough moment for Rune, this one felt like a confirmation for the Danish player.

The 35-year-old Djokovic



Denmark's Holger Rune (right) celebrates after winning the quarterfinal match against Serbia's Novak Djokovic at the Italian Open tennis tournament, in Rome, May 17, 2023.

didn't appear at his best physically early on and called for a trainer after holding for a 2-1 lead in the second set. It wasn't immediately clear what the issue was.

Djokovic recently returned after three weeks off because of a lingering issue with his surgically repaired right elbow. He's preparing for the

French Open, which starts in 11 days.

Rune, meanwhile, is boosting his credentials as a Grand Slam title contender after a solid season on clay that included a runner-up finish in the Monte Carlo Masters, a title in Munich, and now a semifinal spot in his first main-draw appearance in Rome. Djokovic stormed into a 5-2 lead

in the second but Rune battled back, winning a 34-shot rally with a sublime backhand drop shot to set up a late break.

Rune also called for a trainer late in the second set to have his right leg treated. The match was then suspended because of rain with Rune serving to stay in the set at 4-5, 0-30.

After a suspension of more than an hour, Djokovic won two straight points to break Rune's serve and take the second set. But Rune responded with two service breaks early in the third.

Djokovic committed 35 unforced errors to Rune's 15, with 22 of those coming on his forehand. Djokovic has won the Italian Open six times, including last year, and failed to reach the final only once in eight previous editions — when he was beaten by Rafael Nadal in the 2018 semifinals.

Nadal, who holds the record of 10 titles in Rome, is not playing as he remains hampered by a nagging hip injury, leaving his status for Roland Garros in question.

Volleyballers Beat Turkey in Friendly



TEHRAN – Iran's national volleyball team defeated Turkey 3-1 (25-22, 25-18, 18-25, 25-17) in a friendly match in Istanbul on Friday.

Iran is preparing for the 2023 Volleyball Nations League (VNL), which will

be held between June 6 and July 23.

Team Melli will meet Japan in Nagoya in the competition's opener.

The final round of VNL 2023 will take place in Ergo Arena in Poland's Gdansk.

Teams Face Big Fines, Disqualification Under New UCI Tour de France Equipment Rules

PARIS (AFP) - All teams competing at this year's Tour De France, and Tour De France Femmes Avec Zwift will have to disclose all "critical equipment" they plan to use prior to race day under new rules implemented by cycling's international governing body, the UCI.

Teams that fail to meet the UCI's new rules face penalties from fines between CHF 5,000 - 100,000 (£4,470-£89,400) all the way up to disqualification.

The 'Road Equipment Registration Procedure' is outlined in a 17-page document, which went live on the 24th of April.

In short, framesets, wheels, handlebars, time trial base bars and extensions, clothing, and helmets - all considered to be "critical equipment", have to be approved for use at the sport's biggest race.

The real headache for mechanics and soigneurs alike though, is the deadline for the procedure is 1st of June for the Tour De France, and the 17th of June for the Tour De France Femmes Avec Zwift.

This is the first time the UCI has brought in specific regulation for the Tours, and the ruling now sits closer in line with the Olympics, where equipment also must be registered ahead of competition.

The UCI Regulations already outline specific obligations aimed at promoting fair and equitable access to equipment in cycling events - such as height labels on time trial bikes and minimum handlebar widths - but it says the new procedure is to "ensure these rules are properly adhered to" at the 2023 French Grand Tours.

The new rules are aimed at ensuring that the equipment teams use is accessible to the general public, or as the UCI puts it, "Equipment shall be of

a type that is sold for use by anyone that practices cycling as a sport."

However, complexities arise around equipment that is still in the development phase.

Any products that are still to hit the market will only be authorized if they are in the "final stages of development", meaning they must be available for consumer purchase within 12 months of the application. For these products, a particularly keen eye will be cast over the safety of the equipment.

Brands will, however, be allowed to apply for one prolongation for each product - and the UCI has not set a time limit set on the prolongation.

It's unclear if should brands fail to launch a product to market, there will be retrospective sanctions applied to riders and teams a year down the line.

The UCI has also decided that RFID Tags must be applied to all framesets being used to aid the UCI in keeping tabs on the random equipment checks throughout the races. RFID, or radio frequency identification, is a form of wireless communication that uses electromagnetic coupling in a radio transmitter.

Newly developed for the Tour, these tags must be applied by a UCI official, and attempted removal will damage the tag - these means they should be tamper free.

Use of these tags will first be trialled in the Tour de Romandie, where each team will be asked to fit a tag to three or four of their bikes.

It's no secret that a lot of brands save their biggest tech releases of the year for July though, and this might just scupper their plans for a surprise release as approvals may well be made public before then.

Miami Beats Boston 111-105 to Take 2-0 Lead in East Finals



Boston Celtics forward Jayson Tatum (0) is called for an offensive foul against Miami Heat forward Jimmy Butler, bottom, during the second half of Game 2 of the NBA basketball playoffs Eastern Conference finals in Boston, Friday, May 19, 2023.

BOSTON (AP) — Jimmy Butler went forehead-to-forehead with the Boston Celtics, and the Heat are heading back to Miami with an opportunity to advance to the NBA Finals.

Butler scored 27 points, hitting back-to-back buckets to tie the game and give Miami the lead, and the eighth-seeded Heat left Boston with a 111-105 victory Friday night and a 2-0 lead in the Eastern Conference finals.

Butler also provided eight rebounds, six assists and an emotional spark after Boston's Grant Williams started jawing with him: Butler stared down Williams, with both players drawing technical fouls for the double head-butt.

Then "Jimmy Buckets" scored and scored some more — nine points in all during a 23-9 run that turned a nine-

point deficit into a 105-100 lead.

Bam Adebayo had 22 points, 17 rebounds and nine assists for Miami, which returns home with a chance to sweep and become just the second No. 8 seed to reach the NBA Finals.

Jayson Tatum had 34 points, 13 rebounds and eight assists for Boston. But the Celtics star went 0 for 3 with two turnovers in the fourth quarter, when Boston blew an 89-77 lead en route to a second home loss in three nights.

After finishing 13 games ahead of the Heat in the regular-season -- and then watching top-seeded Milwaukee fall to Miami in the first round -- the Celtics have stumbled on what appeared to be a clear path to their second straight NBA Finals.

Jaylen Brown scored 16

points on 7-for-23 shooting; he went 1 for 5 with a turnover in the final quarter, when Miami outscored Boston 36-22.

The Celtics led by 11 in the third quarter and made it a dozen early in the fourth. Williams made a 3-pointer to make it 96-87 and was talking to Butler on the way back down the court. Butler scored at the other end and was fouled by Williams; the two players leaned into each other — drawing double technicals — before Butler hit the ensuing free throw.

After Tatum missed from long distance — one of three missed 3s in the fourth quarter — Butler drove to the basket to make it a four-point Boston lead. Miami trailed 98-96 when Butler was called for an offensive foul, kicking Marcus Smart after landing on a missed 3-pointer.

Pele Rests in Golden Tomb in Luxurious Mausoleum in Sao Paulo

SAO PAULO (Reuters) - The memorial dedicated to Edson Arantes do Nascimento, Pele, is a luxurious mausoleum where the remains of the Brazilian idol rest in a solid gold coffin on the outskirts of Sao Paulo.

The tomb where "O Rei" was buried after his death at 83 from advanced colon cancer is on the first floor of the Memorial Necropole Ecumenica vertical cemetery, considered the highest in the world, located less than a kilometre from the Vila Belmiro stadium of his beloved club Santos.

With a stadium-like setting, images of fans in the stands, synthetic turf on the floor and a small

pointed sky on the ceiling, the room where the three-time world champion is laid to rest features two life-size golden statues in addition to the gleaming coffin.

The golden tomb is adorned with a cross at the top and two panels on the sides, recreating the 1000th goal and the famous fist-in-the-air celebration he made when scoring at the Maracana stadium in 1969.

In the corners of the memorial hall are the only three jerseys worn by the Brazilian idol: the one from Santos, the Brazilian national team and the New York Cosmos, where he retired in 1977.



Fans stand next to the tomb of the late Brazilian soccer great Pele, which became open to the public for the first time, at the mausoleum of Necropole Ecumenica Memorial Cemetery in Santos, Brazil, on May 15, 2023.