

Iran Wushu Fighters Runners-Up in Sanda Asian Championships



TEHRAN – Bagging 13 gold, silver and bronze medals, Iran's wushu team finished runner-up in the Sanda division at 11th Asian Junior Wushu Championships underway in Macao.

Iran bagged 8 gold medals, 3 silver medals and 2 bronze medals in the competitions in both Taolu and Sanda divisions, landing in third place in total.

In the Sanda division, China came first, followed by Iran in second place with 5 golds, 1 silver and 2 bronzes, and Kazakhstan in third place.

Iran wushu participated in these

competitions with 14 athletes, and in the end, Zahra Botshekan, Seyed Ali Miri, Diana Rahimi, Amir Hessam Mohammadi, Narges Shahbazi, Mani Khaneh Keshi, Sana Panahi and Reza Khorshidi won 8 gold medals, Samyar Sadeghi, Mahan Ahmadpour and Sana Panahi won three silver medals, Setayesh Barati and Rojan Fattahi won two bronze medals for their country.

The 2023 SJM 11th Asian Junior Wushu Championships started in Macao, China, on August 17, and concluded on August 20.

Djokovic Defeats Alcaraz to Win Cincinnati Open



Novak Djokovic, of Serbia, serves to Carlos Alcaraz, of Spain, during the men's singles final of the Western & Southern Open tennis tournament, on Aug 20, 2023, in Mason, Ohio.

CINCINNATI (AFP) - Novak Djokovic overcame a match point and stifling heat to beat world number one Carlos Alcaraz 5-7 7-6(7) 7-6(4) and win the Cincinnati Open in a heart-pounding thriller.

Djokovic collapsed on his back and ripped his shirt open after triumphing in the nearly four-hour contest to get revenge for his loss to the young Spaniard in last month's Wimbledon final.

"So much to say and so little energy," Djokovic said while collecting his third Cincinnati Open title.

"It has been a roller coaster and definitely one of the toughest and most exciting matches that I've ever been a part of in any tournament.

"It did feel like a Grand Slam final, even more than that, to be honest."

The Serb was hobbled by the intense humidity in the tail end of the first set, barely moving when Alcaraz hit a backhand winner to grab the opener.

Alcaraz raced out to a 4-2 second-set lead and it appeared he might cruise to the finish line as his 36-year-old opponent looked cooked in the Ohio sun.

But Alcaraz would produce a poor service game while leading 4-3 that included four unforced errors to give life to the world number two.

In the second-set tiebreak Djokovic saved a championship point and went on to force a deciding set after winning a 25-shot rally.

During the break before the third set, a frustrated Alcaraz pounded his right hand against the plastic drinks container next to his chair, requiring a medical time out to tape his finger.

In the decider, Djokovic broke for a 5-3 lead but would then squander two match points in the next game.

The drama would continue when Djokovic missed an overhead for 5-5 and the players would ultimately arrive at another tiebreak, which Djokovic won on his fifth match point of the contest.

The win delivered Djokovic his 95th career title and 39th Masters 1000 crown.

The tournament was Djokovic's first on US soil in two years after he was barred from entering the country because he is not vaccinated against COVID-19.

Cheptegei Wins Third Successive 10,000m Gold

BUDAPEST (Reuters) - Uganda's Joshua Cheptegei delivered a devastating last lap to win a third successive World Championship 10,000 meters gold on Sunday despite barely competing over 25 laps in the last three years.

The world record holder over 5000m and 10,000m has had

an injury-hit year and struggled to hit his top form but, on a hot, humid night in Budapest he broke clear approaching the bell and stamped his authority over the field with a 53-second last lap to come home in 27:51.42.

Daniel Simiu Ebenyo of Kenya took silver with Selemon Barega of Ethiopia the bronze.



Uganda's Joshua Cheptegei celebrates with the gold medal after winning the men's 10,000m final.

American Lyles Delivers With 100m World Gold



Noah Lyles of the U.S. crosses the line to win the men's 100m final.

BUDAPEST (Reuters) - Noah Lyles has been talking up his 100 meters chances in the World Athletics Championships all week and the American 200 meters specialist backed up the chat where and when it mattered on Sunday as he took

gold in a personal best 9.83 seconds.

It was a blanket finish behind him as Letsile Tebogo of Botswana took silver by one thousandth of a second from Briton Zharnel Hughes. Fourth-placed Oblique Seville of Jamaica was three thousandths of a

second off the podium as all three men clocked 9.88.

Former champion Christian Coleman was also in the mix after a great start but was just overhauled to finish fifth in 9.92.

Tebogo, 20, is the first African to win a world 100m medal, while Hughes, the fastest in the world coming into the championships with 9.83, is the first Briton on the men's 100m podium since Darren Campbell took bronze 20 years ago.

It is the United States though who are firmly top of the sprinting tree again as Lyles' victory makes it four world titles in a row, following four in a row for Jamaica before that.

It had been billed as a wide open final and at 50 meters most of the field were locked together in a line. Lyles, though forged his way to

the front in the last 30 meters, just, and the event's biggest showman had to delay his celebration until the big screen confirmed his triumph. He had predicted he would run 9.65 but a personal best of 9.83 proved enough.

The two-times world champion in the 200m will now go for the sprint double, last achieved by Usain Bolt in 2015, before hoping to sign off with a win in the sprint relay.

Hughes, who was disqualified for a false start in the Tokyo Olympics final, was delighted with his medal to cap a season where he has captured the British 100 and 200m records that had both stood for 30 years.

Defending 100m world champion Fred Kerley of the U.S. failed to qualify for the final after running 10.02 in the semis.

Success of Women's World Cup Can't Hide Financial Gap With Men

STOKE, England/MADRID (Reuters) - Just a few years ago, pre-season training for Stoke City's women sometimes included painting the dugout and removing litter from the pitch at a former working men's club in central England.

Now, in line with a global boom in women's football, they are being paid, receive instructions from a full-time coach, enjoy the same multi-million pound training facilities as the men - and no longer moonlight as rubbish collectors.

That professionalization has underpinned the success of the ninth Women's World Cup, which ended on Sunday with Spain beating England by a single goal in a final that pitted the two European countries with the strongest domestic leagues against each other.

Attracting record crowds and television audiences, the tournament buoyed hopes that the women's game can start to bridge the yawning financial



gap that exists with the men.

According to consultancy Deloitte, the women's teams of the highest revenue-generating clubs in world football accounted for only 0-1% of total club revenues, in the 2021/22 season.

Spain's captain Olga Carmona - the scorer of Sunday's deciding goal - plays for Real Madrid, where the women's team generated revenues of 1.4 million euros in the 2021/22 season, according to Deloitte.

That compared with the Real

Madrid men's teams revenues of 713.8 million euros in the same season.

In broadcast rights, the women's game has struggled to compete. The FIFA president, Gianni Infantino, threatened Europe's "Big 5" nations with a TV World Cup blackout unless their broadcasters upped their offers.

According to FIFA, broadcasters from Britain, Spain, France, Germany and Italy offered only \$1 million to \$10 million for the

right to show World Cup games. That compared with the \$100 million to \$200 million paid for the men's tournament.

The question now is whether the vast audiences that tuned in to the World Cup can lead to larger broadcast rights and sponsorship deals for national sides and the domestic clubs that are needed to sustain interest outside of major tournaments.

England's success in Euro 2022, when 17.4 million people tuned in to watch the Lionesses beat Germany in extra time, has shown what can happen when a team's success becomes part of the national conversation. The viewing figures did not include those watching in big fan parks and pubs.

Players like Jill Scott, Chloe Kelly and Ella Toone have built up huge social media followings and signed multiple brand sponsorships, keeping their names and the game in the spotlight.

Juventus Start New Serie A Season With Comfortable Victory



Inter Milan's Dutch defender Stefan de Vrij (left) and Juventus' Serbian forward Dusan Vlahovic go for the ball during the Italian Serie A football match between Inter and Juventus on March 19, 2023 at the Giuseppe-Meazza (San Siro) stadium in Milan.

ROME (Reuters) - Juventus began their new Serie A season in commanding style, cruising to a 3-0 victory over Udinese.

Juve, coming off a lackluster seventh-place finish last season and barred from European competition due to a series of misconducts, started the 2023-24 campaign with a statement win over Udinese.

The Bianconeri asserted their dominance in the first half. Federico Chiesa found the net following an assist from Dusan Vlahovic

just two minutes in. Vlahovic then doubled the lead by converting a penalty. Andrea Cambiaso's cross in the final moments of the half set up Adrien Rabiot, who sealed the score with a header.

In other matches, late goals from new signings Charles De Ketelaere and Nadir Zortea secured Atalanta a 2-0 away win against Sassuolo.

Additionally, Roma ended in a 2-2 draw with Salernitana, while Lecce pulled off an upset, besting Lazio 2-1.