

# Iran's Women Rugby Team Defeats Uzbekistan



TEHRAN – Iranian 7-member women's national rugby team have advanced to the semifinal by defeating Uzbekistan and Qatar in the Asian competitions underway in Doha, Qatar. Iran's national rugby squad

defeated Uzbekistan 31-12 and Qatar 22-0 in the first and second matches of the tournament.

In the third match, Iran lost the game against the UAE 17-0 but advanced to the semifinals

as the second team from Group B after the UAE.

As for the women's category, the draw placed the Iran team in the second group alongside the UAE, Qatar, and Uzbekistan, while the first group were

India, Guam, and Mongolia.

Iranian women will compete against India in the semi-finals.

But the Iranian men's rugby team lost 22-5 against the Bahraini multinational team to lose the chance to reach the top eight teams of the tournament.

Iran's men's rugby squad could not reach the quarterfinal after the loss against Bahrain 22-5.

The event's champion in the men's and women's categories qualifies to the Asian Series competitions that will be held next year and qualify for the 2027 Rugby Sevens World Cup.

The Asia Rugby Sevens Trophy for men's and women's kicked off on Friday. The two-day trophy is organized by the Qatar Rugby and Hockey Committee at the Al Earsal pitch in Onazia.

## Maghsoodloo Beats Serbian Rival in Grand Swiss



TEHRAN – The Iranian grandmaster Parham Maghsoodloo emerged victorious over his rival from Serbia at the FIDE Grand Swiss Tournament 2023.

Maghsoodloo, with a rating of 2707, defeated his opponent from Serbia Alexey Sarana, with a rating of 2682, in the ninth round of the competition.

Due to the brilliant performance, Maghsoodloo now stands at 12 place in the world ranking with a rating of 2744.6.

Other Iranian chess players including Muhammad-Amin Tabatabaei downed his opponent from the Netherlands, while Pouya Idani and Alireza Firouzja shared the spoils with their opponents from Spain and India

respectively in the ninth round of the competition.

The FIDE Grand Swiss and FIDE Women's Grand Swiss 2023 are underway from October 23 to November 6 at the Villa Marina, Douglas, Isle of Man.

Both tournaments are part of the qualifications for the World Championship cycle, with the top two players in the open event qualifying for the 2024 Candidates Tournament and the top two players in the Women's Grand Swiss qualifying for the 2024 Women's Candidates.

The total prize fund is \$600,000, with \$460,000 for the Grand Swiss and \$140,000 for the Women's Grand Swiss.

## Djokovic Edges Rune, Tsitsipas Marches Into Paris Semifinals

PARIS (Reuters) - World number one Novak Djokovic stayed on course for a seventh Paris Masters title by beating Holger Rune in the quarterfinals, with the Dane still qualifying for a spot at the ATP Tour Finals after Andrey Rublev beat Alex de Minaur.

Djokovic was rock solid as he avenged his defeat by the tenacious youngster in last year's showpiece to win 7-5 6-7(3) 6-4 and set up a semi-final against Russian fifth seed Rublev, who beat Australian De Minaur 4-6 6-3 6-1.

Victory for 20-year-old Rune would have sealed his place in Turin but he will still make his debut in the year-ender featuring the world's top eight



players as De Minaur had to win the title to deny the Dane a place at the elite event.

Djokovic's victory means Germany's Alexander Zverev also qualifies for the ATP Tour Finals.

Rune delighted the Paris crowd with some stunning tennis and saved a match point at 4-5 in the second set before an inspired tiebreak took the match to a decider.

But Djokovic was unfazed and

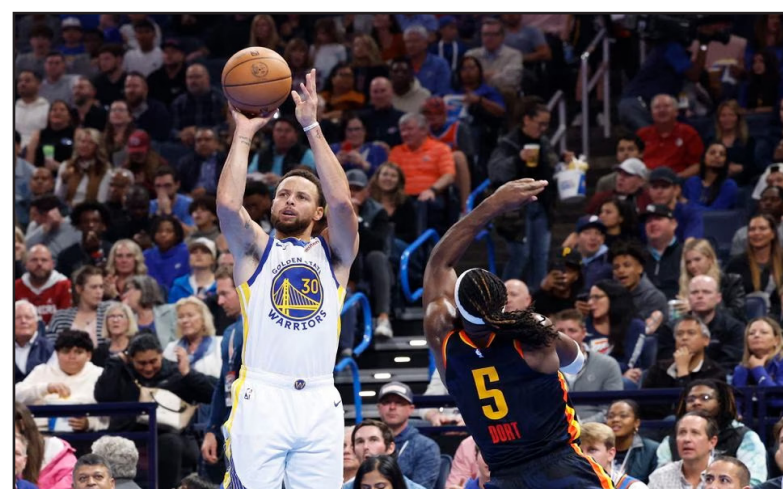
broke serve early in the third set, while Rune was not helped by a cut to his hand that required some lengthy patching up at a changeover.

The sixth seed could make no impression on the Djokovic serve in the decider as the top-ranked Serb clocked up a 16th successive win since losing in the Wimbledon final.

"It was quite a similar match to last year's final, it was anybody's game in every set," Djokovic said.

Earlier in Bercy, Greek Stefanos Tsitsipas maintained his stunning form with a 6-3 6-4 defeat of Russia's Karen Khachanov to set up a semi-final against Grigor Dimitrov.

## Warriors Top Thunder on Controversial Buzzer-Beater



Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry (30) shoots a three point basket against Oklahoma City Thunder guard Luguentz Dort (5) during the second half at Paycom Center.

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Stephen Curry scored 30 points, including the winning layup in the final second, to lift the Golden State Warriors to a 141-139 victory over the host Oklahoma City Thunder on Friday in an NBA in-season tournament game.

As Curry's ball was going through the basket, Draymond Green made contact with the rim.

After a lengthy review, Green's contact was deemed "not to cause the ball to take an unnatural bounce" and the basket was counted.

The game was the first for both teams in the NBA's inaugural in-season tournament.

The final sequence was one of four late reviews -- all involving Green.

With the Thunder leading by one with just more than two minutes remaining, Luguentz Dort was called for a foul on Green away from the ball as Curry let a 3-pointer fly.

Oklahoma City challenged the call, which was reversed to an illegal screen on Green.

Moments later, Green went up for a shot near the basket, and his left elbow caught the Thunder's Chet Holmgren near the eye.

Holmgren remained down for a few minutes before walking off the floor. Officials ruled Green's con-

tact to be incidental after another review.

With 32.5 seconds left, Green was called for a blocking foul on Holmgren that was challenged by the Warriors. That call stood, and Holmgren made both free throws to put Oklahoma City back in front 138-137.

The game was tied after Dort made 1 of 2 free throws with 16.4 seconds left, with Golden State calling time out to set up the final shot.

Dario Saric added 20 points off the bench for the Warriors, who have won five consecutive games following an opening loss. Golden State got 19 points from Jonathan Kuminga, 18 from Klay Thompson, 17 from Andrew Wiggins and 15 from Green. Reserve Chris Paul contributed 13 assists.

The Thunder were without Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, who sat out with a left knee sprain he sustained late in the team's Wednesday loss to the New Orleans Pelicans.

Dort led Oklahoma City with 29 points, making all six of his 3-point attempts. It was his highest-scoring game since the 2021-22 season.

Holmgren added a season-high 24 points while Jalen Williams and Josh Giddey added 18 each. Giddey scored 14 points in the fourth quarter.

## Paris St Germain Go Top With 3-0 Win Over Montpellier



PSG's Kylian Mbappe (right) and Montpellier's Falaye Sacko challenge for the ball during the French League One soccer match between Paris Saint Germain and Montpellier at Parc des Princes stadium in Paris, France, Oct 3, 2023.

PARIS (Reuters) - Paris St Germain took provisional top spot in Ligue 1 with a comfortable 3-0 home win over Montpellier thanks to goals from Lee Kang-in, Warren Zaire-Emery and Vitinha.

The hosts took the lead after 10 minutes through Lee who fired into the top corner following a low cross from Achraf Hakimi that Kylian Mbappe dummied for the South Korean.

The visitors tried to find an equalizer but instead PSG's exciting 17-year-old prospect Zaire-Emery

thundered the ball home after Ousmane Dembele's back-heel in the 58th.

Hakimi was on hand once more eight minutes later to cross for substitute Vitinha to slam the ball into the corner.

Luis Enrique's PSG side had the ball in the net again in added time but the effort was disallowed for offside.

PSG lead the table on 24 points, two ahead of Nice who host Stade Rennes on Sunday. Montpellier are 11th with 11 points.

## Olympic Bronze Medallist Levy Fails Doping Test

PARIS (Reuters) - Hurdler Ronald Levy has been informed by the Jamaica Anti-Doping Commission that he failed an out-of-competition test taken last month, the Olympic bronze medallist said.

Levy, who finished third in the 110 meters hurdles at the Tokyo Games, said on Instagram that he did not knowingly breach any rules and was awaiting the

results of his "B-sample" test.

"I am stunned at the turn of events because I have always conducted myself with the highest level of integrity in the sport, which I love dearly and would never seek to gain an unfair advantage," wrote Levy, who won gold at the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

"I intend to defend my integrity during this process."

