

Sitting Volleyball Team Sweeps Past Algeria at World Cup



TEHRAN – Iran defeated Algeria 3-0 (25-5, 25-10, 25-10) in Group B of the 2023 World ParaVolley Sitting Volleyball World Cup on Tuesday.

Iran had defeated Japan 3-0 on Monday.

The 14-team men's competition consists of four groups.

Egypt, Rwanda, and Iraq are in Group A. Group B consists of Iran, Japan, and Algeria. Group C has Brazil, China, India, and Nigeria while Great Britain, France, Ukraine, and Germany are in Group D.

Among the participating teams who have already secured their tickets to the Paris Paralympics is world champion Iran and Brazil as well as host France.

Iran Defeat Mongolia at IBSA Goalball Asia/Pacific Championships

TEHRAN – Iran defeated Mongolia 11-1 in Group B of the 2023 IBSA Goalball Asia/Pacific Championships on Tuesday.

Team Melli will meet South Korea on Wednesday.

Earlier on Monday, Iran defeated Kazakhstan 10-0 in the event.

Group A consists of China, Australia, Thailand, and Pakistan.

Iran, the bronze medalist of the 2022 Asian Para Games, can get its ticket to Paris 2024.

Host China has already qualified for the Paralympics. Japan, which won a silver medal in the 2022 Asian Para Games, decided not to participate in this continental championship, opening up all the possibilities for the Persian squad.

Medvedev Tops Rublev, Zverev Overcomes Alcaraz at ATP Finals



Russia's Daniil Medvedev returns the ball to Russia's Andrey Rublev during their singles tennis match of the ATP World Tour Finals at the Pala Alpitour, in Turin, Italy, Nov 13, 2023.

TURIN -- Daniil Medvedev swept past Andrey Rublev 6-4 6-2 at their ATP Finals clash in the Red Group, while Alexander Zverev overcame world number two Carlos Alcaraz 6-7(3) 6-3 6-4.

Russian friends Medvedev and Rublev were destined for another epic showdown after meeting in the Dubai Open final and US Open quarter-finals, with world number three Medvedev winning both matches.

However, Rublev, ranked fifth in the world, began to despair after losing the first set and failing to

put up much of a fight in the second.

Earlier on Monday, Zverev came from a set down to beat a sluggish Alcaraz after two hours and 32 minutes in their opener.

The seventh-ranked German is making his sixth appearance at the event, having won the title in Turin in 2021 and London in 2018.

Zverev, who missed last year's edition due to a right ankle injury suffered during his Roland Garros semi-final against Rafael Nadal, fell when he hit a forehand and hit his ankle.

IOC President Calls for Unity in Sport at IF Forum

GENEVA (AFP) – International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Thomas Bach has emphasized the critical need for unity in the sporting world amidst increasing geopolitical tensions.

He conveyed this message while welcoming attendees to the 2023 International Federation (IF) Forum in Lausanne, Switzerland, on Monday.

Speaking at the Olympic Museum, Bach highlighted sport's ability to unite people, particularly during times of division. He emphasized the crucial need for solidarity in addressing the current global challenges facing the sports world. "The current geopolitical tensions are extremely complex. In such times, the unifying power of sport



International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach speaks at a press conference of the 141st IOC session in Mumbai, India, Oct 16, 2023.

is more important than ever before," said the IOC chief. "To be such a unifying power, it is essential that we all stand together."

Bach then stated that the upcoming 2024 Paris Olymp-

pic Games could serve as "a symbol of unity and peace," capable of uniting the world. "We all share the expectations of millions of people around the globe," he noted.

"They all have to experience so many divisions and confrontations in their daily lives that they are longing for something that unifies us, something that gives us hope, something that gives us optimism. After the pandemic, people are longing to come together again."

The IOC president also discussed the imminent future in the digital realm, where rapid advancements in AI and esports present both opportunities and challenges for the Olympic Movement. He informed attendees about the mission of the newly formed IOC Esports Commission, chaired by IOC Member and International Cycling Union (UCI) president David Lappartient, to explore the creation of the Olympic Esports Games.

Antetokounmpo, Portis Produce Double-Doubles in Bucks' 118-109 Victory Over Bulls



Milwaukee Bucks' Damian Lillard drives past Chicago Bulls' Ayo Dosunmu during the first half of an NBA basketball game Monday, Nov. 13, 2023, in Milwaukee.

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Giannis Antetokounmpo had 35 points and 11 rebounds and Bobby Portis also had a double-double in the Milwaukee Bucks' 118-109 victory over the Chicago Bulls on Monday night.

Milwaukee's Damian Lillard returned to action after missing two games with a calf injury, though

he shot just 3 of 17 while scoring 12 points. The Bucks lost both games they played without the seven-time all-NBA guard.

The Bulls were playing for the second straight night after beating the Detroit Pistons 119-108 at home on Sunday.

Bobby Portis had 19 points and

10 rebounds, both season highs.

Milwaukee's Khris Middleton scored 13 points to enable him to overtake Michael Redd for fifth place on the Bucks' career scoring list.

Middleton has 11,559 points since joining the Bucks in 2013, while Redd had 11,554 in his Bucks career. The Bucks' top four scorers are Antetokounmpo (16,575), Kareem Abdul-Jabbar (14,211), Glenn Robinson (12,010) and Sidney Moncrief (11,594).

Nikola Vucevic led the Bulls with 26 points and 12 rebounds. Zach LaVine scored 20, Coby White 16, Patrick Williams 13 and DeMar DeRozan 11. DeRozan shot just 3 of 14.

Milwaukee scored the game's first nine points and outscored Chicago 35-18 during an opening period that ended with a buzzer-beating 3-pointer by Antetokounmpo, the 500th of his career.

Chicago missed 16 of its first 19 field-goal attempts.

The Bulls chipped away at that 17-point deficit and finally took their first lead on an Andre Drummond putback with 5:15 left in the third. The lead changed hands three more times over the next minute or so, with a Portis basket putting Milwaukee back ahead for good.

Portis' basket started a 12-0 run that helped the Bucks regain a double-digit advantage at 81-70. The Bucks carried an 83-74 advantage into the fourth quarter and didn't allow the lead to drop below eight the rest of the way.

Chicago was missing Alex Caruso for a second straight game due to a toe injury. The Bulls were playing their first game without Jae Crowder, who is scheduled to undergo surgery Tuesday for an adductor and abdominal tear that will leave him unavailable for about two months.

Suarez Returns to Uruguay Squad, Cavani Out Injured



Uruguayan player Luis Suarez speaks during a press conference after his presentation as Gremio's new player during an event at the Gremio Arena stadium, in Porto Alegre, Brazil, April 26, 2023.

MADRID (Reuters) – Uruguay's record scorer Luis Suarez is back in the squad for the first time since the World Cup after being called up for their next two qualifiers but Edinson Cavani is out injured.

Marcelo Bielsa's 24-man list also included fellow striker Edinson Cavani but he has withdrawn after a muscle injury in Boca Juniors' 1-0 win over Newell's Old Boys on Sunday.

Mexican club Leon's Federico Vinas has therefore been drafted in as a late replacement.

Second-placed Uruguay, who have seven points, visit South American qualifying leaders Argentina, with 12, on Thursday and host bottom side Bo-

livia the following Tuesday.

The 36-year-old Suarez, who played his last game for Uruguay in the 2-0 win over Ghana in December at the World Cup, has made 137 international appearances, scoring 68 goals.

Uruguay failed to get past the group stage in Qatar.

The striker could return to the top of the all-time South American World Cup qualifying scoring charts, where he trails Argentina's Lionel Messi by two goals with a total of 31.

Another record within reach is the number of games played for Uruguay in World Cup qualifiers, currently held by Diego Godin with 65 appearances, three more than the Gremio forward.

Tour de France to Start in Lille in 2025

PARIS (Reuters) - The 2025 Tour de France will start in the northern city of Lille, organizers Amaury Sports Organization (ASO) confirmed on Tuesday.

The opening stage of the race will return to France for the first time since Brest, a port city in Brittany region, hosted the Grand Depart in 2021.

The 2022 race started in Copenhagen, the 2023 in Bilbao, while the 2024 Tour will depart from Florence, Italy.

The last time the Tour began in the north of France was in 2001.

The full details of the stages of the 2025 Grand Depart will be announced on Nov. 30 at a press conference in Lille.

