

Iran Claim World Sitting Volleyball Title



TEHRAN – Iran defeated Egypt 3-0 (25-21, 25-19, 25-17) in the 2023 World ParaVolley Sitting Volleyball World Cup final on Saturday.

Previously, Iran had secured victories against Japan, Algeria, Iraq and Ukraine in straight sets.

Earlier in the day, Germany beat Ukraine 3-2 to finish in third place.

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

Egypt advanced to 2024 Paralympics as the second team.

France Demolish 10-Man Gibraltar 14-0 in Record Win

NICE, France (Reuters) - France recorded the biggest victory in European Championship qualifying with a 14-0 rout of 10-man Gibraltar on Saturday as Kylian Mbappe grabbed a hat-trick and Warren Zaire-Emery scored on his debut.

The French surpassed Germany's 13-0 win over San Marino in 2006 in their biggest ever win in international football. It was also the first time a European team had scored 14 goals in a World Cup or European Championship qualifying match.

"Being down to 10, already with 11 it's complicated for them, but it doesn't take away the credit for us even if we could have been more efficient, it's as much about respecting the opponent as scor-



France's Kylian Mbappe (center) is in action during the Euro 2024 group B qualifying football match between France and Gibraltar in Nice, France, Nov 18, 2023.

ing goals," France manager Didier Deschamps said. "Fourteen is not

bad." Marcus Thuram, Zaire-Emery,

Mbappe, Jonathan Clauss, Kingsley Coman and Youssouf Fofana netted in the first half of the Group B match after France had gone ahead through a third-minute own goal.

France was already assured of top spot in the group and Deschamps handed 17-year-old Zaire-Emery his debut, making him the youngest France player since 1914.

The teenager became the youngest scorer for France since that date with his goal in the 16th minute, but he was caught on his ankle by Ethan Santos. The Gibraltar defender was sent off and Zaire-Emery's debut came to a premature end.

With Gibraltar reduced to 10 men, France's biggest ever win, 10-0 over Azerbaijan in 1995, was clearly within sight.

Six Boxers to Represent Iran at IBA Junior World Championships

TEHRAN – Iran will send six boxers to the IBA Junior World Boxing Championships.

The competition will be held in Yerevan, Armenia from November 24 to December 4.

The last edition of the Junior World Boxing Championships was held in St. Petersburg, Russia in September 2015.

The championships will be held in all of the 13 official women's and men's weight categories in Yerevan, from the pinweight (46kg) up to the heavyweight

(+80kg).

Altogether 57 countries have decided to send their 15 and 16-year-old talents to the IBA Junior World Boxing Championships.

Iran squad:

60kg: Ashkan Hashemi

63kg: Amir Muhammad Rostampour

66kg: Muhammad Saleh Mesbahi

70kg: Mahan Sajedi

75kg: Abdorrahman Dara

+80kg: Abbas Garshasbi

Verstappen Wins Gripping Las Vegas Grand Prix



Red Bull's Max Verstappen celebrates winning the race

LAS VEGAS (Reuters) - Red Bull's Max Verstappen sang "Viva Las Vegas" after racing to a record-extending 18th victory of the season and joining Sebastian Vettel in third place on Formula One's all-time winners' list.

The triumph on a spectacular night in Sin City was the 53rd of the triple champion's career, and sixth in a row, and came after a five-second penalty for forcing Ferrari's Charles Leclerc off track at the start and then a collision with Mercedes' George Russell.

Leclerc finished second after starting on pole position, losing and regaining the lead and then losing it again before passing Sergio Perez on the final lap to deny Red Bull a seventh one-two of the season.

The win was Red Bull's 20th in 21 races, another record for a single season, and delivered the racing that had risked being swamped in a wave of hype as Vegas hosted a grand prix for the first time since the 1980s.

It also completed a sweep of three U.S. wins in 2023 for their 26-year-old Dutch driver, who was also dominant in Miami and Austin.

Red Bull played the timeless Elvis song over the team radio, after pop star Justin Bieber waved the chequered flag, and Verstappen showed he is a far better driver than singer by joining in.

Leclerc, whose team are the only ones to beat Red

Bull this season, showed all his fighting spirit after the initial setback.

"I wanted that win so bad but what a race," he gasped over the radio after finishing 2.070 seconds behind Verstappen.

It was the second race in a row that Perez had lost out on the last lap, with the Mexican passed by Aston Martin's Fernando Alonso at the line in Brazil.

Perez at least had the consolation of securing second in a championship won long ago by his team mate -- another first for Red Bull who have never previously ended a season with their drivers one-two.

Esteban Ocon was fourth for Alpine with Lance Stroll fifth for Aston Martin and Ferrari's Carlos Sainz sixth.

Mercedes seven times world champion Lewis Hamilton was seventh, ahead of a demoted Russell, Alonso and McLaren's Australian rookie Oscar Piastri, who took a bonus point for fastest lap.

While Red Bull won both titles long ago, Ferrari closed the gap to second-placed Mercedes to four points with one race remaining in Abu Dhabi.

The lack of grip was evident from the start as cars accelerated past the floodlit casinos and hotels and down the Strip.

The 10 p.m. (0600GMT) start was the latest in F1 history.

Djokovic Beats Alcaraz to Set Up Final Clash With Sinner



Serbia's Novak Djokovic plays a forehand return to Spain's Carlos Alcaraz during their singles semifinal tennis match of the ATP World Tour Finals at the Pala Alpitour, in Turin, Italy, Nov 18, 2023.

TURIN (Reuters) - World number one Novak Djokovic outclassed Carlos Alcaraz 6-3 6-2 on Saturday to reach his ninth ATP Finals title clash

where he will face local favorite Jannik Sinner.

In a rematch of this season's Wimbledon final, the winner of an all-time record 24 men's

Grand Slam titles capitalized on the Spaniard's inconsistency to continue his quest for a seventh trophy this year and become the most successful player in 2023.

The 20-year-old Alcaraz, who also has won six titles this season, missed out on becoming the youngest finalist in the season-ending tournament since Pete Sampras in 1991.

The world number two squandered double chances to break in the Serb's first service game before Djokovic rebounded by winning four straight points to avoid an early deficit.

Alcaraz piled on the pressure early in the match and had more winners, 11 to Djokovic's five, but unforced errors

led him to drop his serve before the top seed secured the first set.

The twice Grand Slam winner bounced back early in the second set but then dropped serve before Djokovic took a 3-1 lead.

Alcaraz again missed two chances to break in the sixth game as U.S. Open champion Djokovic grabbed a 4-2 lead and then broke before serving out for victory in one hour 28 minutes.

Djokovic, aiming for a tournament record seventh title, now prepares for Sinner, who beat Daniil Medvedev, and will be out for revenge after losing to the Italian in the group stage.

Turkey Stun Euro 2024 Hosts Germany, Spoil Nagelsmann's Home Debut

BERLIN (Reuters) - Visitors Turkey shocked Euro 2024 hosts Germany 3-2 in a friendly on Saturday to spoil coach Julian Nagelsmann's home debut after taking the job in September.

The Germans, racing to get a strong team together for next year's tournament on home soil, still have a way to go and their leaking defense remains a major cause for concern.

The Turks, already qualified for Euro 2024, looked sharp with thousands of their fans in the Olympic stadium, but the hosts eased off after a

strong start and an early lead, and the result will do little to fuel German fans' expectations for the tournament next year.

Nagelsmann, who took over from Hansi Flick, enjoyed a winning debut in October away to the United States before drawing against Mexico.

"We should have finished off the game in the first 10 minutes," Nagelsmann said. "But from the 25th minute and until the break we did not do much."

The Germans took a fifth-minute lead when attack-

ing midfielder Kai Havertz, unusually deployed as a left back, converted a Leroy Sane cutback in front of a sold-out 70,000 crowd.

Sane came close to scoring himself when he saw Turkey keeper Altay Bayindir out of position but his low drive sailed narrowly wide.

The visitors made the most of a string of defensive errors to hit back and they cut the deficit through Ferdi Kadoglu's powerful shot after he latched on to a deep cross from Abdulkemim Bardakci in the 38th minute.

Turkey drew level through

former Bayern Munich youth player Kenan Yildiz in first-half stoppage time after the 18-year-old was left completely unmarked at the far post.

Niclas Füllkrug levelled three minutes after the restart with a low shot following Florian Wirtz's solo run for his 10th goal in 12 internationals for Germany but the Turks refused to settle for a draw.

Salih Özcan hit the post and they earned a 70th-minute penalty for a handball by Havertz which Yusuf Sari converted.