

Iran Crowned at World's Fitness Challenge Championships



TEHRAN – Iran's national fitness team has won the title of world championship in the 2023 World Fitness Challenge Championships held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

The Iranian team won 6 gold, 8 silver, and 8 bronze medals in the sporting event.

Kyrgyzstan's team stood in second place and Iran's team B stood in third place.

World Fitness Challenge Championships was held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan from October 27 to 30.

Iranian Savate Fighters Bag 3 Medals at World Combat Games



TEHRAN – Iranian Savate fighters on Tuesday received three bronze medals at the 2023 World Combat Games held in the Saudi capital of Riyadh.

Iranian athletes Hamzeh Moradian in the men's division and Sahel Khorasanzadeh as well as Aylar Donyadoust in the women's division each received bronze medals in the sporting event.

A total of 1,657 athletes (913 male and 744 female) from 80 countries compete in 16 sports, namely aikido, boxing, fencing, judo, ju-jitsu, karate, kendo, arm wrestling, kick-boxing, Muaythai, sambo, savate (French boxing), sumo, taekwondo, wrestling, and wushu.

The 2023 World Combat Games were held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia from October 20 to 30, 2023.



Saeid Marouf Nominated to Lead Iran Volleyball Team

TEHRAN – Former Iran captain Saeid Marouf is among the candidates to take charge of the Iran national volleyball team.

Marouf was a member of the Iran national volleyball team in the 2020 Olympic Games but announced retirement after the Games.

Now the federation has put him among the candidates to replace former Iran coach Behrouz Ataei.

Gianlorenzo Blengini, Renan Dal Zotto, Vital Heynen and Stephane Antiga are the coaches who have previously been shortlisted to lead Iran.

Messi Wins Record 8th Ballon d'Or, Bonmati Claims Women's Award



PARIS (Reuters) - Lionel Messi won his record-extending eighth Ballon d'Or here on Monday, while Spain's Aitana Bonmati claimed the women's award.

The Argentine soccer great won the award for his exceptional performance at the Qatar World Cup last year when he led Argentina to the trophy with seven goals and was named the best player of the tournament.

Messi has won the most significant individual football award in the years of 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2015, 2019, 2021, and now 2023.

"This is a gift to the whole Argentina team for what we achieved," said Messi, paying tribute to his teammates. "Becoming world champion was the title we were missing. I'd like to thank everyone who helped make Argentina the world champion team."

He also dedicated the trophy to legendary Argentine footballer Diego Maradona, who passed away in 2020 and would have celebrated his 63rd birthday on Monday.

"Happy birthday Diego. This is for you

too," he said.

Norwegian forward Erling Haaland came second for winning the UEFA Champions League, Premier League, and FA Cup title with Manchester City, while Qatar World Cup golden boot winner Kylian Mbappe was third.

Bonmati lifted the women's Ballon d'Or, ahead of Australia's Sam Kerr and compatriot Salma Paralluelo, for winning Spain's first Women's World Cup title in August.

Bonmati, a Champions League winner with Barcelona and World Cup winner with Spain, succeeds fellow Spaniard Alexia Putellas, who was also the 2021 winner.

"It says a lot that we won the Ballon d'Or three times in a row. We are a country that lives football, and we work hard every day to be the best."

While she has now won the biggest titles in the sport, Bonmati still has the sparkle and motivation to reach new heights.

In other awards, England's Jude Bellingham was named the best under-21 player, while Haaland won the prize for the best striker of the year.

Swiatek Overcomes Early Deficit to Beat Vondrousova

PARIS (AFP) - Iga Swiatek erased a 5-2 first set deficit and ultimately rolled to a 7-6(3) 6-0 win over Marketa Vondrousova in the Pole's first match of the group stage of the season-ending WTA Finals in Cancun on Monday.

After struggling to find her rhythm early on against the big-hitting lefty, Swiatek crushed an overhead to set up a break point, which she converted on her opponent's backhand error to cut the deficit to 5-3 and seize the momentum.

Vondrousova served for the set a second time at 5-4 but Swiatek broke again with a precise backhand winner up the line for 5-5 as she began to take control of the match, constructing points

from the baseline and cutting down on her errors.

Swiatek completed the first set comeback on a double fault and a disillusioned Vondrousova went quietly in the second set.

Although she defended her title at the French Open for her fourth Grand Slam title, 2023 has been something of a disappointment for Swiatek, who did not get past the quarters of any of the other majors and lost her world number one ranking.

She came into her third WTA Finals with a ton of momentum, however, after winning her first WTA 1000 title of the season in Beijing, and has a chance to re-take the top spot from Aryna Sabalenka in Cancun.



Vondrousova, who made her top-10 debut after emerging as the surprise winner of Wimbledon, is making her first appearance at the season-ending Finals, which features the top eight singles players and doubles teams in the world.

In the other Group B match-up of the evening, American US Open champion Coco Gauff needed just 56 minutes to defeat Ons Jabeur 6-0 6-1 in a rain-delayed clash, making for the fourth straight-set result in the singles tournament so far.

Saudi Arabia Set to Host 2034 World Cup After Australia Drops Out

MELBOURNE (Reuters) - Saudi Arabia was left as a shoo-in to host the 2034 World Cup after Australia confirmed it would not make a bid for soccer's global showpiece on Tuesday's deadline day.

FIFA had invited bids from Asia and Oceania for the tournament by Oct 31.

Football Australia (FA) boss James Johnson had said the country was "exploring the possibility" of 2034, but on Tuesday the governing body said it would instead focus on bids for the 2026 Women's Asian Cup and the 2029 Club World Cup.

Australia's decision to not proceed with 2034 leaves Saudi Arabia as the only confirmed bidder.

Saudi Arabia announced it would bid only minutes after soccer's global governing body called for Asia and Oceania bids on Oct 4.



In this file photo dated June 16, 2022, A 2026 FIFA World Cup Trophy is on display before press conference at Rockefeller Plaza in New York.

The president of the Asian Football Confederation, the sport's continental governing body to which Australia belongs, said "the entire Asian football family" would stand united in support of the Saudi bid.

A week after FIFA's invitation, Indonesia said it was in discussions with Australia about a possible joint bid along with Malaysia and Singapore - before saying a week later that it backed Saudi Arabia's bid.

Nuggets Beat Jazz 110-102 for 4th Straight Win

DENVER (AP) — Nikola Jokic had 27 points, 11 assists and 10 rebounds for his second triple-double of the season, Jamal Murray added 18 points and 14 assists, and the Denver Nuggets continued their strong start to the season with a 110-102 win over the Utah Jazz on Monday night.

Jokic is tied with LeBron James and Jason Kidd for fourth on the all-time list with 107 career triple-doubles.

"It speaks to his greatness, it speaks to his consistency, night in and night out playing the game at an extremely high level," Nuggets coach Michael Malone said. "The one thing you can compare LeBron and Nikola with is the ability to make everyone around them



Denver Nuggets guard Jamal Murray, front, collects the ball as Utah Jazz center Walker Kessler, back right, pursues in the first half of an NBA basketball game Monday, Oct. 30, 2023, in Denver.

better. That is the definition of greatness."

Aaron Gordon scored 21 points, most on thunderous dunks, as Denver extended its season-opening winning

streak to four games. It is the Nuggets' first 4-0 start since 2018 and the sixth in franchise history. The 1976-77 team's 8-0 start is the best in club history.