

# Alireza Nasiri Wins Gold at Junior World Weightlifting Championships



TEHRAN – Alireza Nasiri of Iran won a gold medal in the 2023 Junior World Weightlifting Championships.

Nasiri claimed the gold in the 96kg weight class after lifting 166kg in the snatch and 205kg in the clean and jerk for a total of 371kg.

Turkmenistan's Shahzadbek Matyakubov won the silver with 367kg and the bronze medal went to Masashi Nishikawa of Japan with 362kg.

Iran has sent 10 weightlifters to the Championships, underway in Guadalajara, Mexico.

The competition started in the Mexican city on November 15 and will run through November 23.

A total of 229 lifters from 44 countries are taking part in the 2023 IWF World Junior Weightlifting Championships.

## Austria Outclass Euro 2024 Hosts Germany in 2-0 Win

VIENNA (Reuters) - Austria outplayed a toothless Germany to win 2-0 in their friendly, ending their year on a high while piling more pressure on the embattled Euro 2024 hosts who had Leroy Sane sent off early in the second half.

Marcel Sabitzer's low drive in the 29th minute put the dominant hosts, who have qualified for the Euros, in front with Germany posing no threat in attack and needing 32 minutes for their first shot on goal.

Another quick passing move led to Austria's Christoph



Baumgartner chipping the ball over keeper Kevin Trapp in the 73rd, with Germany down to 10 men following the 49th-minute red card for Sane.

For Germany coach Julian Nagelsmann, who took over in September, it was the second straight loss after Saturday's 3-2 home defeat to Turkey,

forcing him back to the drawing board seven months before the start of the Euros on home soil.

Nagelsmann blamed a lack of unity within the team on the pitch while also criticizing an "absurd rate of loss of possession in the first half."

Germany's Antonio Rudiger (right) defends against a shot by Austria's Christoph Baumgartner during the international friendly soccer match between Austria and Germany at the Ernst Happel stadium in Vienna, Austria, on Nov 21, 2023.

## Hussein Vafaei Starts UK Championship on High



TEHRAN – Hussein Vafaei of Iran defeated English snooker player Martin O'Donnell 6-0 in his first match in the 2023 UK Championship.

Some of the biggest names in the sport will go to battle for the huge £250,000 prize.

It's the first Triple Crown event of the 2023-24 season and takes place at the iconic York Barbican

Center.

Last year, Northern Ireland's Mark Allen fought back to beat China's Ding Junhui in one of the most enthralling UK Championship finals in the history of the tournament.

World number one Ronnie O'Sullivan won his first UK title in 1993 and is seeking a record-extending eighth title.

## Argentina Hand Brazil Third Straight Loss



Argentina's Lionel Messi in action with Brazil's Andre

RIO DE JANEIRO (Reuters) - Nicolas Otamendi scored with a towering header to give Argentina a 1-0 away win over Brazil in a bad-tempered World Cup qualifier that was delayed by half an hour on Tuesday after police clashed with fans at a sold-out Maracana Stadium.

The longstanding sporting rivalry between two of the most successful teams in world soccer hit fever pitch after the Brazilian police charged Argentinian fans in response to fighting in the stands during the national anthems.

The world champions, led by captain Lionel Messi, went over to the terraces to try and calm the situation before leaving the pitch and returning to the dressing room for more than 10 minutes.

The players eventually returned and the match started in a tumult of noise as local fans roared their support of the five-times world champions, who were looking to get their campaign back on track after losing successive qualifiers for the first time.

Instead, Brazil plunged to a third straight defeat and first ever at home loss in a World Cup qualifier to stand sixth in the standings, eight points behind leaders Argentina and in the last spot that guarantees a berth at the 2026 finals.

After all the pre-match drama, it was a nervy first half with 22 fouls, three bookings and several skirmishes as rival players frequently faced off and the referee flashed cards in an attempt to calm the situ-

ation. Brazil were arguably the better side and almost scored from a corner just before halftime through a Gabriel Martinelli strike that defender Christian Romero cleared off the goal line.

Despite being without key players like Vinicius Jr and Neymar because of injuries and losing their captain Marquinhos to a leg issue halfway throughout the game, Brazil kept up the pressure after the break.

They wasted a golden opportunity to score in the 47th minute when Martinelli missed an absolute sitter, striking a close-range shot straight at the goalkeeper.

Argentina held on and made the most of one of the few chances they created in the 63rd minute when defender Otamendi rose high to power home a Giovanni Lo Celso corner.

It was Argentina's only shot on target and Brazil's misery was compounded when substitute midfielder Joelinton was sent off for hitting Rodrigo de Paul in the face in the 82nd minute, only three minutes after he came off the bench.

The Brazilian fans unloaded their frustration on the team, screaming "Ole! Ole! Ole!" as Argentina passed the ball around in the last few minutes, an attitude that angered caretaker manager Fernando Diniz.

Argentina went from ecstasy to shock after the game when their World Cup-winning manager Lionel Scaloni made the stunning admission that he was contemplating walking away from the job.

## Hornets Work OT to Snap Celtics' Streak



Charlotte Hornets guard LaMelo Ball (1) (right) shoots the ball for a score in the last few seconds of the second half while under pressure from Boston Celtics guard Jrue Holiday (4) and Boston Celtics guard Jaylen Brown (7) in an NBA basketball game on Nov 20, 2023, in Charlotte, North Carolina.

WASHINGTON (AP) - Miles Bridges, recently reinstated from an NBA suspension, drilled a tiebreaking 3-pointer

with 6.1 seconds left in overtime as the Charlotte Hornets pulled out a 121-118 victory against the visiting Boston Celt-

ics.

Charlotte delivered a startling fourth-quarter comeback, scoring the last nine points in regulation over the final two minutes, en route to snapping a four-game losing streak. LaMelo Ball contributed 36 points, nine rebounds and eight assists for the Hornets. Ex-Celtic Gordon Hayward had 20 points.

Bridges finished with 14 points and 15 rebounds.

Jayson Tatum scored 31 of his 45 points in the first half for the Celtics, whose six-game winning streak ended. He also had team-high totals in rebounds (13) and assists (six). Boston's Payton Pritchard added 21 points.

Nuggets 107, Pistons 103

Reggie Jackson had 21 points and six assists as visiting Denver overcame the ejection of Nikola Jokic to beat Detroit, handing the Pistons their 12th straight loss.

Nuggets coach Michael Malone was ejected with 1:21 remaining in the first quarter for arguing with the officials. Jokic was tossed with 1:22 left in the first half after picking up his second technical.

Kentavious Caldwell-Pope supplied 20 points for the Nuggets, who snapped a four-game road losing streak. Cade Cunningham led the Pistons with 27 points and nine assists, while Marvin Bagley III had 18 points and eight rebounds.

## Holder's Canada Knocked Out of Davis Cup by Finland

MALAGA (Reuters) - Canada's reign as Davis Cup champions was ended by outsiders Finland who produced a big shock on the opening day of the Final Eight in Malaga.

Roared on by thousands of Finnish fans, Otto Virtanen and Harri Heliövaara beat Vasek Pospisil and Alexis Galarneau 7-5 6-3 to move in to the semi-finals for the first time.

Milos Raonic, playing in the event for the first time in five years, had given Canada the perfect start as he dispatched lowly-ranked Finn Patrick Kaukovalta 6-3 7-5 thanks to 18 aces.

Both teams were hit by injuries with Canada's top-ranked player Felix Auger-Aliassime

unable to take to the court while Finland's number one Emil Ruusuvuori was also ruled out.

But 171st-ranked Virtanen stepped up for his country with an impressive defeat of fellow 22-year-old Gabriel Diallo to take the tie into a deciding doubles rubber.

Virtanen again produced some stunning tennis while Canada's hopes were not helped by an injury to Pospisil who battled on.

A service break in the eighth game of the second set proved enough and Finland sealed the win to set up a clash later this week against Czech Republic or last year's runners-up Australia.

The Final Eight continues on Wednesday with the Czechs taking on Australia when orga-



Canada's Alexis Galarneau and Canada's Vasek Pospisil (bottom) and Finland's Harri Heliövaara and Finland's Otto Virtanen take part in the men's double quarter-final tennis match between Canada and Finland.

nizers, the International Tennis Federation, will hope the

atmosphere matches that of the week's opening battle.