

Iran Taekwondokas Shine in Armenia ITF Open Championship



TEHRAN – Iranian taekwondo athletes won eleven colorful medals in the 2024 Armenia ITF Taekwondo Open Championship in Yerevan.

Iranian taekwondo practitioners grabbed six gold and five silver medals in the sporting event.

Iranian men’s taekwondokas Amir Ghorbani (+82kg), Erfan Shahmuhammadi (-82kg), Keyhan Shariati (-70kg), Arian Shoostari (-60kg), Muhammad Farahmand (-58kg), and Arad Bagheri (-50kg) each received gold medals.

Other Iranian Taekwondo practitioners, Ahoura Abbasi, Mani Khani, Arsha Takhireh, Siavash Shahmuhammadi, and Taha Ehsani each received silver medals.

The 2024 Armenia ITF Taekwondo Open Championship was held in Yerevan, Armenia, from March 29-31, 2024.

Roma Stall in Top-Four Chase With Goalless Lecce Draw



LECCE (Reuters) - AS Roma’s bid for a top-four finish suffered a blow as they were unable to break the deadlock in a 0-0 draw at Lecce in Serie A on Monday.

Roma are fifth in the standings with 52 points, five points behind Bologna in fourth place, the final guaranteed Champions League qualifying spot. Atalanta, who have played one match fewer, are in sixth place with 50 points. Lecce are 13th with 29.

Bologna had little trouble securing a 3-0 victory at home against bottom-of-the-league Salernitana earlier on Monday, bringing them within two points of third-placed Juventus.

Lecce had chances in the first half but they were frustrated by a solid performance from Roma’s goalkeeper Mile Svilar. “We suffered a lot in the first half... We have to improve on this, we have to be tougher when we’re playing direct.

If the team isn’t capable of switching it up, you struggle,” Roma coach Daniele De Rossi told DAZN.

Both teams continued to create opportunities after halftime, with Lecce’s Patrick Dorgu firing wide from close range shortly after the hour mark, while Roma’s Houssem Aouar had a shot kept out by an incredible reaction save from Lecce keeper Wladimiro Falcone.

Remi Oudin had the chance to be the home side’s hero in stoppage time, but his long-range shot was narrowly off target.

Roma will next face city rivals Lazio in the ‘Derby della Capitale’ on Saturday.

Lecce’s Alexis Blin (center left) and AS Roma’s Tommaso Baldanzi fight for the ball during the Serie A soccer match between US Lecce and AS Roma at the Via del Mare Stadium in Lecce, Italy, on April 1, 2024.

Tyrese Haliburton Helps Pacers Surge Past Nets 133-111

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Tyrese Haliburton scored 27 points and had 13 assists to lead the Indiana Pacers to a 133-111 rout of the Brooklyn Nets on Monday night.

Despite being ejected for a flagrant foul midway through the third quarter, Pacers forward Jalen Smith had 17 points and 10 rebounds.

The Nets’ Dennis Schroder was called for a technical foul for flailing on the follow-through and hitting Smith’s face. Then Smith was called for a flagrant foul and ejected when he retaliated by pushing Schroder. The two had to be separated.

Pascal Siakam added 15 points and Obi Toppin had 14 for the Indiana.

Cam Thomas scored 22 points, Trenderon Watford 21 and Mikal Bridges 19 for the Nets.

The Pacers shot 52% for the game. Indiana dominated from the start, leading 43-27 after the first quarter

and 75-47 at halftime. The Pacers



Indiana Pacers’ Tyrese Haliburton (0) hopes to the basket against Brooklyn Nets’ Dorian Finney-Smith (28) during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Monday, April 1, 2024, in Indianapolis.

led by as many as 29 in the first half. The Pacers shot 58% in the first half while holding the Nets to 38%. Indiana led by as many as 36 points in the third quarter.

Indiana center Myles Turner dis-

located his right index finger on a dunk attempt when he was fouled by Watford. The Pacers called a timeout with less than a minute left in second quarter, so he could shoot free throws, hitting the second of two attempts.

Turner did not return in the second half, finishing with nine points and five blocked shots in 14 minutes.

Carlisle said X-rays revealed there was no fracture, but he doesn’t know Turner’s status for Wednesday night.

Nets coach Kevin Ollie said his team should be better prepared.

Ollie said hopefully his team can get to the free-throw line and slow the Pacers down.

Carlisle said it will be a good test on Wednesday because emotions were high in the blowout.

Carlisle passed former Boston Celtics coach Red Auerbach for 12th on the NBA’s all-time coaching victories list with 939. Carlisle was drafted by the Celtics in 1984 when Auerbach was a team executive.

The Nets played without Dennis Smith Jr., sidelined with right hip soreness, and Cameron Johnson, out with injury maintenance on left big toe sprain.

Rodrygo Reminds Real of His Worth as Mbappe Arrival Looms



Brazilian forward #11 Rodrygo and Athletic Bilbao’s Spanish midfielder #24 Benat Prados jump for the ball during the Spanish league football match between Real Madrid CF and Athletic Club Bilbao at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid on March 31, 2024.

MADRID (Reuters) — Rodrygo Junior as Real Madrid beat Athletic Bilbao 2-0 to keep an eight-point

lead over Barcelona in the Spanish league.

Rodrygo scored both goals and Madrid maintained its comfortable lead at the top after Barcelona had won 1-0 at Las Palmas on Saturday.

Vinicius didn’t play because of a suspension over yellow cards, but Jude Bellingham was back in the squad after missing two straight league games because of a red-card suspension. The influential England international set up Rodrygo’s second goal in Madrid’s third straight league win.

Rodrygo’s opener came with a beautiful shot into the top corner from just outside the area eight minutes into the match at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium.

The Brazil forward had scored for

Brazil in a friendly against Spain at the Bernabeu last week, but he hadn’t found the net for Madrid in seven consecutive games.

“He played very well, made the difference with some high-quality plays,” Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said of Rodrygo.

The Brazilian said after the match he is not feeling threatened by the possible arrival of Kylian Mbappe. Fourth-place Athletic arrived with its focus on next weekend’s Copa del Rey final against Mallorca. The Basque Country club will try to win the cup for the first time in four decades. Defender Yeray Alvarez left Sunday’s game with an apparent muscle injury in the 25th and could be doubtful for the final in Seville.

Tyson Says He is Still a Huge Draw Despite Age

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Mike Tyson will be 58 when he takes on Jake Paul on July 20 in Texas but he said fans are still clamoring to see the former heavyweight champion in action.

The bout between one of the most feared fighters in history and YouTuber-turned-boxer Paul will be held at the 80,000-seat AT&T Stadium in Arlington and streamed live on Netflix.

“I’m 58 and what? I’m getting billions of views from just talking to somebody about fighting,” Tyson told Reuters.

“Everybody, even most of the athletes, they’re jealous, that’s whack... I say in your prime you couldn’t draw a million people, man. What are you talking, you couldn’t sell out arena. Who at 58 could sell out an 80,000-seat arena?”



Former heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson stands on the field before an NFL football game between the Las Vegas Raiders and the Pittsburgh Steelers, Sept 24, 2023, in Las Vegas.

“Iron Mike”, who has a 50-6 record with 44 knockouts, said the 27-year-old Paul recognizes the public’s enduring interest in him. “Why you think he wants to fight me and not anybody else?”

Tyson said of Paul, who has a 9-1 record with six knockouts.

“Everybody wants to fight him, all the boxers want to fight him. But if he fought them the only people that will come are the peo-

ple that like him.

“The other guys, their parents might not even come watch them. That’s just keeping it real. They’re too boring for their children to watch, it’s like watching grass grow.”

The fight is the first for Tyson since he took on Roy Jones Jr. in an exhibition bout in November 2020, where Paul was on the undercard.

Although it has yet to be officially announced, the fight is also expected to be designated an exhibition, the USA Today reported.

That would mean the rounds would be two minutes as opposed to the traditional three, the boxers would wear heavier gloves that make it safer and there will be no official judges to score the rounds, so a victory could only come by knockout.

Inter Close In on Title With 2-0 Win Over Empoli



Inter Milan’s Argentine forward #10 Lautaro Martinez (left) tries to score against Empoli’s Italian goalkeeper Elia Caprile during the Italian Serie A football match between Inter Milan and Empoli in Milan, on April 1, 2024.

MILAN (Reuters) - Runaway leaders Inter Milan continued their seemingly unstoppable march to the Serie A title after an early goal from Federico Dimarco and a late effort from Alexis Sanchez secured a 2-0 win at home against Empoli on Monday.

Inter are top of the table with 79 points, 14 ahead of city rivals AC Milan in second place with eight matches left to play. Their sizeable lead means that Inter could potentially clinch the Scudetto during the city derby against Milan on April 22.

The result pushed 18th-placed Empoli into the relegation zone, level on 25 points with Frosinone in 17th and one point ahead of 19th-placed Sassuolo.

Inter manager Simone Inzaghi, who celebrated his 100th victory with the club, lost his voice during the match, with assistant coach Massimiliano Farris taking over the post-match duties.

Dimarco broke the deadlock for Inter in the sixth minute when he

fired the ball left-footed into the bottom corner from the edge of the box.

The rest of the first half ebbed and flowed, with Inter pressing to extend their lead, and Empoli goalkeeper Elia Caprile standing firm to deny them. Yet Empoli gained momentum towards the end of the half, creating chances that were narrowly off target.

Inter came back with renewed vigor after the break and Nicolo Barella was inches away from scoring after beating three Empoli defenders.

Substitute Sanchez was left unmarked to tap home Denzel Dumfries’ cross and double Inter’s lead in the 81st minute after a flowing passing move from the hosts.

Davide Frattesi almost grabbed a third for Inter with the last kick of the match, but the ball slipped just past the post.

Inter will next play Udinese away on Monday while Empoli host Torino on Saturday.