

U-16 Hockey Team Ranks Third in Malaysia



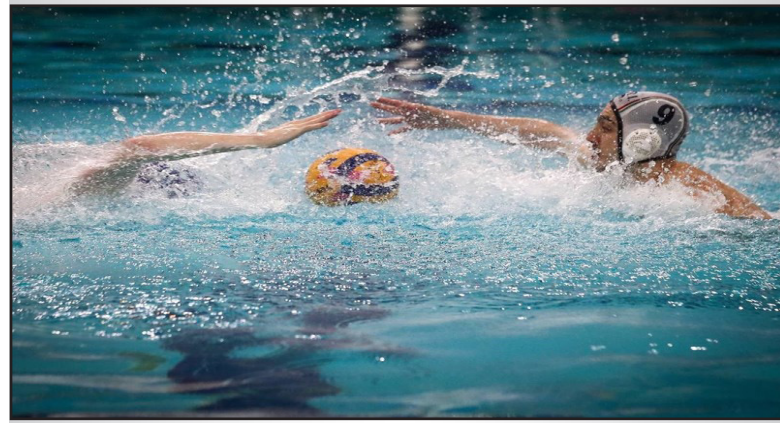
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Iran's under-16 boys' field hockey team won the third place in the world for the first time in the Malaysian tournament.

Iran's team under the head coach Muhammad Ali Malik Ahmadi won 8 victories in the first 2 days of the competition and was placed first in its group.

The Iranian team lost the result against the strong Malaysian team in the semi-final and won the third place in the world with a 3-1 victory over Indonesia.

Netherlands Prove Too Much for Water Polo Players at World Cup



TEHRAN – Iran lost to the Netherlands 18-7 in the semifinal round of the Men's Water Polo World Cup 2025, Division 2, held in Turkey on Saturday.

Team Melli had defeated South Africa 21-4, Ukraine 16-14 and Portugal 15-11 in its previous matches.

Iran will play the loser of China and Germany for the third place.

Two teams from Division 2 will qualify for the men's and women's Water Polo World Cup 2025—Super Final, joining the six men's and women's teams that will be eligible

through the Division 1 Tournaments.

Previously in the tournament, Iran won against South Africa with a score of 21-4 and beat Ukraine 16-14 in Group A to secure their spot in the quarterfinals.

The FINA 2025 World Aquatics Championships will be held in Singapore from July 11 to August 3, 2025.

The Water Polo World Cup 2025 Division 2 is taking place in Istanbul, Turkey, from December 18 to 21.

Iranian Beach Soccer Team Discovers Fate at 2025 Asian Cup

TEHRAN – Iran have discovered their opponents at the AFC Beach Soccer Asian Cup Thailand 2025 following the draw at the AFC House in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The 16 teams were divided into four groups with the tournament to be played at the Jomtien Beach in Pattaya from March 20 to 30, 2025.

Thailand, who will be seeking a first title, was drawn in Group A with Kuwait, Lebanon, and India while three-time winners Japan will face China, Saudi Arabia, and Iraq in Group B.

Defending champions

AFC BEACH SOCCER ASIAN CUP THAILAND 2025 DRAW RESULTS			
GROUP A		GROUP B	
THAILAND	KUWAIT	JAPAN	CHINA PR
LEBANON	INDIA	SAUDI ARABIA	IRAQ
GROUP C		GROUP D	
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	OMAN	BAHRAIN
AFGHANISTAN	INDONESIA	MALAYSIA	VIETNAM

Iran, in search of a fourth title, were drawn with two-time champions United Arab Emir-

ates, Afghanistan, and Indonesia in Group C. Oman, the 2015 champions,

will face Bahrain, Malaysia, and Vietnam in Group D.

The top two teams from each group will advance to the quarter-finals.

Also at stake in the continental showpiece are three tickets to the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup Seychelles 2025.

Draw Result:
Group A: Thailand, Kuwait, Lebanon, India
Group B: Japan, China PR, Saudi Arabia, Iraq
Group C: Iran, UAE, Afghanistan, Indonesia
Group D: Oman, Bahrain, Malaysia, Vietnam

Bayern Thrash Leipzig 5-1 to End Year in Style



Munich's Harry Kane (center right) vies for the ball against Leipzig's Benjamin Henrichs (center left) at the Allianz Arena, Munich, Germany, Dec 20, 2024.

MUNICH (Reuters) - Bayern Munich have stamped their authority over the Bundesliga in commanding style by hammering fourth-placed RB Leipzig 5-1 in a game that featured two goals in the opening two minutes for the first time in the league's history.

Having lost their first league match of the season to Mainz last week, Bayern delivered a command performance against a Leipzig side who struggled to build any attacking momentum.

Bayern top the standings on 36 points, seven clear of Bayer Leverkusen. Eintracht Frankfurt are third on 27, ahead of Leipzig on goal difference.

It is the 26th time Bayern have topped the table at Christmas, having won the title in 23 of the 25 previous occasions they did so.

The game had a remarkable start

when Harry Kane's neat backheel sent Michael Olise clear and he crossed for red-hot Jamal Musiala to tuck in after 28 seconds.

Leipzig hit back almost immediately as Lois Openda escaped down the right and his cross was swept home by Benjamin Sesco – the first time in Bundesliga history that two goals have been scored in the first two minutes.

Bayern dominated the rest of the game and got their second in the 25th minute as former Leipzig man Konrad Laimer scored his first Bayern goal, side-footing in a volley from a clever Olise cross.

Joshua Kimmich smashed home a trademark long-range shot after 36 minutes to give the hosts a deserved 3-1 halftime lead, as Leipzig failed to muster another effort on goal.

Marco Odermatt Wins First World Cup Downhill in Wengen



Switzerland's Marco Odermatt roars with delight after his World Cup downhill triumph at Val Gardena.

ST. MORITZ, Switzerland (AP) — The three-time overall World Cup champion Marco Odermatt dominated on Saturday to win a downhill in Val Gardena, beating Swiss teammate Franjo

von Allmen by 0.45 seconds.

It was Odermatt's first victory at the resort in the Italian Dolomites. The 27-year-old had had four podium finishes there — including in Friday's super-G —

but had never been better than second.

It had also been a less than stellar start to the season for Odermatt — by his lofty standards — and the Swiss stand-out yelled out in joy several times after crossing the line, before taking off his skis and raising them up and letting out another long roar.

Before Odermatt came down it had been an incredibly tight race, with the top three separated by just 0.02 seconds.

In the end, American skier Ryan Cochran-Siegle finished third, with Nils Allegre of France missing out on what would have been only his second ever podium finish by one hundredth of a second.

It was Odermatt's 40th World Cup victory, but only his third in downhill.

Odermatt won the downhill World Cup title last season, as well as the super-G, giant slalom and overall crystal globes.

The only previous downhill this season had been in Beaver Creek, where Odermatt finished second to teammate Justin Murisier.

Odermatt moved 60 points above Murisier in the downhill standings and 50 points above Henrik Kristoffersen in the overall.

The circuit moves to nearby Alta Badia where there is a giant slalom on Sunday and a slalom the following day.

Katir Banned for 4 Years After Falsifying Papers

MADRID (Reuters) - Spanish runner Mohamed Katir has been banned for four years by the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) for falsifying documents during a probe into his whereabouts failures for which he was already suspended for two years earlier this year.

Katir had admitted to three whereabouts failures during 2023.

Under WADA's "whereabouts" rule, all athletes must make themselves available to drug testers for one hour a day for out-of-competition testing.

Under the World Athletics anti-doping rules, three whereabouts failures within a 12-month period result in a rule violation.

The 26-year-old, who won the silver medal in the 5,000m at the World Athletics Championships last year, will serve both bans concurrently, extending his ineligibility to compete until February 2028.

"Katir... was found to have falsi-



Mohamed Katir of Spain reacts after taking the silver medal in the final of the Men's 5000-meters during the World Athletics Championships in Budapest, Hungary, Aug 27, 2023.

fied travel documents (namely a travel itinerary, boarding pass and booking confirmation) in an attempt to mislead investigators," the AIU said in a statement.

However, the Disciplinary Tribunal that ruled in the case denied the AIU's request to have Katir's results to be disqualified from March

9, 2023 because he had not benefited from a competitive advantage, the statement added.

"The vast majority of our elite athletes respect the strict rules and processes of the sport and they should take heart at the action being taken to ensure a level playing field," AIU head Brett Clothier said.

Embiid Scores 34 Points, Helps 76ers Beat Hornets 108-98

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Joel Embiid had 34 points and nine assists after missing a game because of a sinus fracture, helping the Philadelphia 76ers beat the Charlotte Hornets 108-98 on Friday night.

Wearing a protective "Phantom of the Opera" mask, Embiid was introduced to a roaring ovation.

Embiid scored 22 points in the first three quarters to lead the 76ers to their fourth win in five games. Philadelphia is still well under .500 at 9-16 but a recent hot streak has it at least within striking distance of a play-in tournament berth.

Embiid has been ravaged by



Philadelphia 76ers' Paul George (8) reaches for a rebound against Charlotte Hornets' Nick Richards (4) during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Friday, Dec. 20, 2024, in Philadelphia.

injuries this season and has only played in seven games, mostly due to knee soreness.

Vasilije Mijic led the Hor-

nets with 20 points. They lost their fourth straight game and have lost for the 12th time in 13 games.