

Iranian Weightlifters Win Six Medals at Asian Championships



TEHRAN – Iranian weightlifters Iliya Salehipour and Alireza Abbaspour have won six medals at the 2024 Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships held in Qatar.

Salehipour and Abbaspour both bagged the medals in the 89 kg category on Monday.

Salehipour won a silver medal in the snatch category by lifting 161 kg and earned a bronze medal in the clean and jerk category with a lift of 195 kg.

He concluded the tournament

with a total lift of 356 kg, securing the silver medal overall.

Meanwhile, Abbaspour earned a bronze medal in the snatch category by lifting 159 kg and claimed the silver medal in the clean and jerk category with a lift of 196 kg.

He finished the sporting event with a total lift of 355 kg, which awarded him the bronze medal overall.

The 2024 Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships are taking place in Doha, Qatar, from December 19 to 25.

Women Powerlifters to Represent Iran at LA 2028 Paralympics



TEHRAN – Head of the powerlifting committee of Iran's Sports Federation for the Disabled Babak Mohammadi said on Tuesday that women powerlifters will represent the country in the next Paralympic Games in Los Angeles.

According to him, Iranian women will participate in the Paralympic Games for the first time. "Iranian women will take part in

the 2025 Cairo Para Powerlifting World Championships, to be held in October in Cairo, Egypt. The competition serves as 2028 Paralympics qualification," Mohammadi said.

"We will also send our women powerlifters to the 2025 Youth Asian Games and 2026 Asian Para Games in Nagoya, Japan," he added.

Title-Chasing Inter Grind Out 2-0 Home Win Over Como

MILAN, Italy - Inter Milan toiled to a 2-0 victory over lowly Como thanks to second-half goals from Carlos Augusto and Marcus Thuram on Monday to remain within touching distance of the Serie A summit.

The win lifted third-placed Inter to 37 points, leaving them three points off leaders Atalanta, who beat Empoli 3-2 on Sunday, and one behind second-placed Napoli, after they won 2-1 at Genoa on Saturday. Inter have a game in hand on the top two.

Defending champions Inter dominated the first half but squandered a number of chances, with the unmarked Denzel Dumfries firing over from close range and Federico Dimarco shooting straight at Como's veteran goalkeeper Pepe Reina.

Inter finally scored with Augusto's towering far-post header



Inter Milan's French forward #09 Marcus Thuram (left) shoots to score Inter Milan's second goal at the San Siro Stadium in Milan on Dec 23, 2024.

from a Hakan Calhanoglu corner three minutes after the break.

"Happy for the goal, but more important is the victory. We knew it was a tough game but we got three points," left back Augusto told Sky Italia.

"We knew it was a different

league last year, this year there are many strong teams. But I have confidence in my team mates who are the best in the world. We'll see at the end".

The visitors looked more dangerous after going behind, with man of the match Augusto mak-

ing a crucial interception to deny Edoardo Golaniga an equalizer and Yann Sommer pulling off a great save to keep out an effort from Nico Paz.

Inter kept pushing to extend their lead but captain Lautaro Martinez saw his 68th-minute effort disallowed for offside, extending his goal drought that has lasted more than a month.

Thuram sealed the win two minutes into stoppage time with a powerful shot past Reina to reach 12 league goals, level with Atalanta's Mateo Retegui in the Serie A scoring chart.

"Even in matches in which we are not 100 percent brilliant, it's important to win," said Inter center-back Alessandro Bastoni. "Especially because the others had already played and won, so we had to give a positive response."

Azmoun Scores as Shabab Al Ahli Beat Al Nasr at UAE League Cup



TEHRAN – Shabab Al Ahli football team defeated Al Nasr 2-0 in the 2024-25 UAE League Cup Monday night.

Sardar Azmoun scored the first goal in the 47th minute at the Al Rashid Stadium and Federico Cartabia netted the second goal in the 77th minute.

The UAE League Cup or the Pro League Cup is a knockout tournament for clubs in the UAE Pro-League.

The first edition of the tournament was played in the 2008-2009 season.

Tennis Players on Edge After Sinner, Swiatek Doping Cases

BENGALURU - As Jannik Sinner and Iga Swiatek prepare for the new season after a year in which they fell foul of doping rules, positive drug tests due to contamination are a genuine fear for many of their fellow professionals.

Russian former world number five Andrey Rublev echoed Raducanu's comments, saying he was "super afraid" to ingest anything he was not absolutely sure about.

London-based academic Andrea Petroczi, who is involved in research on anti-doping, said surveys showed increasing concerns among elite athletes around the world about doping violations caused by contamination.

The star duo spent small fortunes on quickly proving how the banned substances had entered their systems but other players, many of whom do not have huge financial

resources at their disposal, are understandably jittery.

Many athletes take precautions, Petroczi said, including meticulously checking medications, avoiding any unnecessary treatments, relying on third-party tested supplements and recording batch numbers of supplements and medicines.

Some go as far as maintaining logs and avoiding certain foods in

specific countries, but they understand that even the highest levels of vigilance cannot completely eliminate the risk of contamination or environmental exposure.

"Importantly, it's also crucial to acknowledge that the resources and strategies required for this level of vigilance aren't universally accessible," added Petroczi, a professor of public health at Kingston University.

Jokic Scores 32 Points, Nuggets Rout Suns 117-90

DENVER (AP) — Nikola Jokic scored 13 of his 32 points in a decisive third quarter, and the Denver Nuggets routed the scuffling Phoenix Suns 117-90 on Monday night.

Michael Porter Jr. had 24 points on 10-of-12 shooting for Denver, which played without guard Jamal Murray (sprained left ankle). The Nuggets have won four of five and they handed Phoenix its third straight loss.

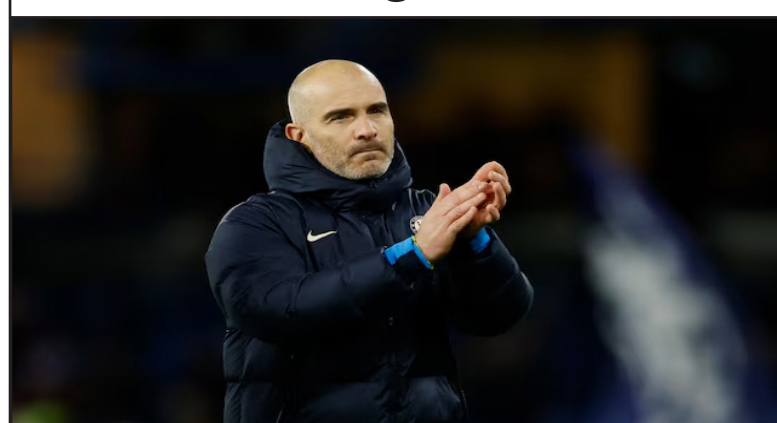
The Suns were missing guards Devin Booker (left groin) and Grayson Allen (concussion protocol). They struggled to find scoring outside of Kevin Durant and Bradley Beal, both of whom had 23 points.

Denver led by four at halftime and outscored Phoenix 45-28 in the third. Jokic, Porter and Russell Westbrook combined to shoot 13 of 17 from the field in the period, and the team was 18 of 28.

The Suns missed eight of their first 12 shots in the third and trailed by 24.



Chelsea Boss Maresca Dismisses Premier League Title Talk



Chelsea manager Enzo Maresca applauds fans after match

LONDON (Reuters) - Chelsea are second in the Premier League standings but manager Enzo Maresca played down talk of title pressure and said on Tuesday that he is only focused on areas where his team could improve.

Chelsea are on 35 points, four behind first-placed Liverpool, and play at Fulham in a West London derby on Thursday.

Maresca's side were denied an opportunity to top the table after a goalless draw with Everton over the weekend which also snapped Chelsea's run of eight straight wins in all competitions and five in a row in the Premier League.

"We are ahead of our expectation in terms of the way we are playing and points. For us, the main focus is to see how we can improve the players and how we can improve the team," Maresca told reporters.

"It's the reality for me, not about the pressure (of going for the title). I

would like that kind of pressure. I say we are not there because that is the reality for me. The main point is to continue to improve and to win games."

Chelsea are already eight points ahead of struggling defending champions Manchester City, who are seventh, but Maresca said Pep Guardiola's side could still bounce back in the title race.

"It's almost halfway so the table reflects the teams and where they are. Liverpool are doing fantastic since the first day," Maresca said.

Chelsea have defenders Wesley Fofana and Benoit Badiashile sidelined with long-term injuries.

Maresca said midfielder Romeo Lavia will also miss Thursday's fixture as he is recovering from his thigh injury. Mykhailo Mudryk is suspended after an adverse analytical finding in an anti-doping test. The Ukrainian has denied knowingly taking any banned substance.