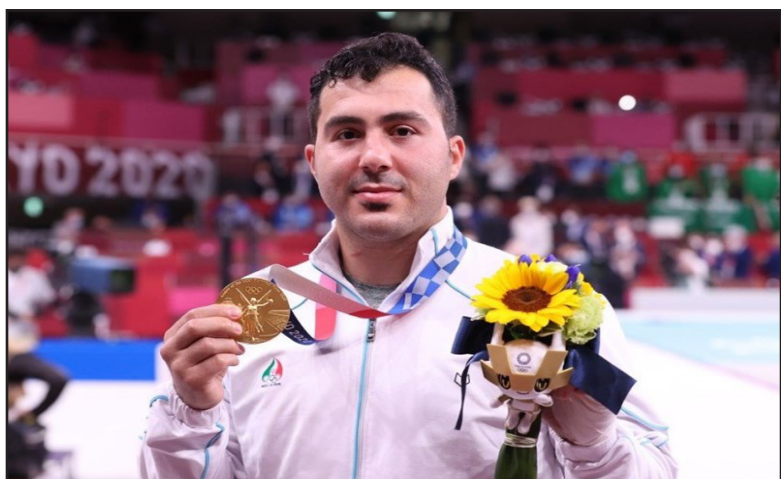


Iranian Karate Athletes Win Eight Medals at 2025 Open de Marseille



TEHRAN – Iranian karate practitioners won eight medals in the 2025 Open de Marseille. Iran won four gold medals, one

silver and three bronzes in the event.

Abolfazl Arab Yaghoubi defeated Italian Leonardo Nannini 8-2 in the final bout of U14-year Male Kumite -50kg.

Behnam Dehghanzadeh defeated French player Yassine Rhablou 4-2 in the final bout of Senior Male Kumite -60kg.

Morteza Nemati defeated his countryman Ali Rahimi 4-3 in the final match of the Senior Male Kumite -75kg.

Sajad Ganjzadeh beat Faadel Boussag of France 4-2 in the final of Senior Male Kumite +84kg.

Mehdi Shahgol in the Senior Male Kumite -75kg, Mahdi Ganjzadeh in the Senior Male Kumite +84kg and Ghazal Naderi in the Senior Female Kumite -61kg claimed three bronze medals.

The 2025 Open de Marseille was held in Marseille, France from January 17 to 19.

The tournament brought 784 athletes from 34 countries together.

Roberto Piazza Officially Named Iran Volleyball Coach



TEHRAN – The Islamic Republic of Iran Volleyball Federation (I.R.I.V.F.) officially hired Italian coach Roberto Piazza as the national team head coach on Monday.

The federation has penned a two-year deal with Piazza with an option to extend his deal by two more years.

In the meeting, attended by the president of the federation, Milad Taghavi, and

members of the media, Piazza expressed his hope of achieving success in the new position.

He will be assisted by his compatriot Tomaso Totolo in Team Melli.

Piazza was named Team Melli coach in early September and traveled to Iran on Monday to finalize his deal.

Piazza has replaced Brazilian coach Mauricio Motta Paes.

Man City Back in Top Four After 6-0 Drubbing of Ipswich

IPSWICH, England (Reuters) - Manchester City's Phil Foden scored twice and created another goal in an outstanding first-half display as they hammered Ipswich Town 6-0 at Portman Road on Sunday to roar back into the Premier League's top four.

The comprehensive win moved City to 38 points and into fourth position on goal difference ahead of Newcastle United, but they are still 12 points behind leaders Liverpool, who have a game in hand, and six behind Arsenal and Nottingham Forest.

Ipswich, who remain 18th on 16 points, had a couple



Manchester City's Erling Haaland (front) attempts a shot on goal during the English Premier League soccer match.

of good early chances but City shook off the shackles of recent poor performances with a superb display of attacking football, and once they got the first goal, there

was no way back for their hosts.

It came in the 27th minute as Jeremy Doku combined with Kevin De Bruyne, and he in turn worked the ball on

for Foden to take a touch before drilling it home to break the deadlock.

That trio tormented the Ipswich defense as Mateo Kovacic doubled the lead three minutes later. Doku was again involved down the left, feeding the ball for Foden to set up Kovacic, and the Croat needed no second invitation to fire into the net from the edge of the box.

City continued to attack down the left and their perseverance paid off in the 42nd minute as Foden added his second, his shot squirming under the body of Ipswich keeper Christian Walton and across the line.

Sinner, Swiatek Win ITF World Champion Awards



Jannik Sinner of Italy celebrates after defeating Holger Rune of Denmark in their fourth round match at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Monday, Jan. 20, 2025.

LONDON (AP) — Jannik Sinner and Iga Swiatek have won the International Tennis Federation's 2024 world champion awards.

Swiatek edged out Aryna Sabalenka for the women's singles award in the list announced by the ITF on Monday.

Swiatek won the French Open plus four WTA 1000 titles, an Olympic bronze medal at the Paris Games and also helped Poland to the Billie Jean King Cup semi-finals. Sabalenka won the Australian and U.S. Open crowns and finished the year ranked No. 1.

Sinner is the first Italian to win the award. He finished 2024 at No. 1 with a 73-6 win-loss record after winning the Australian and U.S. Open titles, the ATP Finals and leading Italy's successful defense of the Davis Cup crown.

Sinner and Swiatek were both subject to doping cases last year, which has overshadowed their participation at the Australian

Open this month.

The ITF said the world champion awards were selected based on "objective criteria" considering all results but with a special emphasis on Grand Slams, the World Cup of Tennis competitions and the Olympic and Paralympic events.

"Last year was a memorable year for our sport with the staging of the Olympic and Paralympic Games alongside our traditional team events," ITF President David Haggerty said. "And we see with several of our award winners that representing their country inspired them to even greater achievements in 2024."

Mbappe Shines as Real Madrid Fight Back to Beat Las Palmas 4-1



Real Madrid's Kylian Mbappe (right) controls a ball chased by Las Palmas' Sandro Ramirez.

MADRID (AFP) - Kylian Mbappe was in inspired form, scoring twice to guide Real Madrid to a comeback 4-1 win over visitors Las Palmas on Sunday that lifted the champions to the top of the La Liga standings.

Real leapfrogged Atletico Madrid, who were stunned 1-0 at lowly Leganes on Saturday, to sit top on 46 points, two ahead of their local rivals in second, with third-placed Barcelona trailing by seven points after they were held to a 1-1 draw by Getafe.

Carlo Ancelotti's side were shocked as Las Palmas took the lead 25 seconds after kickoff when Fabio Silva stroked home a Sandro cross from close range, but Real piled on the pressure and Mbappe equalized from the penalty spot in the 18th minute, after Rodrygo was fouled inside the box.

Missing Vinicius Jr for the first of two league games due to suspension after his red card against Valencia, Mbappe took the responsibility of providing Real's attacking impetus, playing one of his best all-round games since arriving in the Spanish capital from Paris St

Germain last year.

Mbappe was seemingly everywhere on the pitch and linked well with Jude Bellingham and Rodrygo, forcing Las Palmas goalkeeper Jasper Cillessen to work hard to keep Real at bay.

Mbappe ran past three defenders and fired a bullet shot from the edge of the box that Cillessen brilliantly kept out, but Lucas Vazquez brought down the rebound and put it on a plate for Brahim Diaz to tap into the empty net for Real's second goal in the 33rd minute.

Mbappe extended their advantage three minutes later with a fine first-time effort into the top corner from a cross by Rodrygo, who scored the fourth on a quick counter-attack in the 57th minute.

Las Palmas were reduced to 10 men when substitute Benito Ramirez received a straight red card for a studs-up tackle on Lucas Vazquez in the 64th minute.

Despite Real taking their foot off the gas, they still had three efforts by Mbappe, Bellingham and Federico Valverde ruled out by the VAR for offsides in the build up.

Trail Blazers Beat Bulls 113-102 to End 5-Game Skid

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Scoot Henderson had 25 points and the Portland Trail Blazers snapped five-game losing streak with a 113-102 victory over the Chicago Bulls on Sunday night.

Zach LaVine had 27 points for the Bulls. They have lost five straight.

Portland stretched its lead to 97-82 on Shaedon Sharpe's 3-pointer with 7:36 left. Patrick Williams' dunk got the Bulls within single digits at 110-102 with 1:26 left. Deni Avdija answered with a layup for Portland to end the threat.

Sharpe came off the bench for the Blazers after coach Chauncey Billups told him his defense needed to improve to return to a starting role. Sharpe finished with 23 points.

The Bulls led by as 15 points in the first half. Henderson made back-to-back 3-pointers that got the Blazers to 43-42.

Portland tied it at 45 on Jerami Grant's 3 and it was even at 53 going into the break.

Portland, playing the second of a back-to-back, pulled ahead early in the second half, leading by as much as 65-57 on Avdija's 3-pointer.



Ayo Dosunmu made a 3 for the Bulls that tied it at 75 but Chicago wasn't able to pull in

front. Avdija finished with 20 points and 12 rebounds.