

Iran's Women Beat Uzbekistan at IHF Junior World Championship



TEHRAN – Iran's women's national handball team defeated Uzbekistan 40-31 at the IHF Women's Junior World Championship held in North Macedonia.

Iran's women's junior national handball team ended the 24th IHF Women's Junior World Championship by defeating Uzbekistan, securing 27th place in the world.

This marked a three-step improvement for the team compared to the previous championship.

The team had previously suffered three successive losses against the Netherlands (34-11), Romania (33-15), and Brazil (30-22) in Group A.

Iran then lost to Tunisia (26-23) in Group I of the President's Cup but managed to secure a victory against Chile (27-25) in their following match.

The competition kicked off in North Macedonia on June 19 and will run until June 30.

Thompson Sets World-Leading Mark to Win Jamaican 100m



Kishane Thompson (far left) is the fourth fastest Jamaican in history

KINGSTON (Reuters) - Kishane Thompson registered a sizzling world-leading mark of 9.77 seconds to win the men's 100 meters at the Jamaican Olympic trials on Friday, becoming the joint ninth fastest man in history.

Two-time World Championships finalist Oblique Seville was second in 9.82, while World Indoor 60m bronze medallist Ackeem Blake finished third in 9.92.

Thompson, who is in only his second season as a professional, had not raced at all this season before the Jamaican championship and told Reuters he believes he can go faster.

"My coach instructed me just to run the first 60 meter, nothing more, after that, shut it down," he said.

"If I came second or third, I would've made the team. The goal wasn't to prove anything tonight, just run the 70 or 60 meters and see where I was."

Thompson, now the fourth fastest Jamaican - behind Usain Bolt, Yohan Blake and Asafa Powell - said he had much to improve on making his Olympic debut in Paris.

"It's kind of new to me, but I'm getting it slowly," he said.

Shericka Jackson recovered from a poor start to win the women's 100m in 10.84, clawing her way from the back of the field after 30

meters to power past Tia Clayton (10.90) and twice Olympic champion Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce (10.94).

Jackson, the back-to-back world champion in the 200m, said winning was more important than running a faster time.

Malik James-King won the 400m hurdles in 47.42, moving up to number five in the world this season as he crossed the finish 0.62 seconds ahead of national record holder Roshawn Clarke, while Jaaheel Hyde was third in 48.35.

James-King said he never panicked, even as he left it until hurdle number nine to catch Clarke.

"I was actually focusing on my lane and the hurdles in front of me while bidding my time to execute down the home stretch," he said.

On the women's side, twice world championship bronze medallist Rushell Clayton sped to a lifetime best 52.51, the second-fastest time this season, to secure her first Olympic berth.

Janieve Russell (53.33) and Shianne Salmon (53.71) completed the podium spots.

Deandre Watkin ran a massive personal best of 44.48 to win the men's 400m, while Sean Bailey finished second in 44.65, while JeVaughn Powell ended third in 44.79.

Verstappen Wins Austria Sprint With Norris Third

VIENNA (AFP) - Max Verstappen resisted a spirited attack from Lando Norris on Saturday to claim victory for Red Bull in a feisty sprint race at the Austrian Grand Prix.

The series leader and three-time world champion delivered a home win at the Red Bull Ring with a fighting response after being passed by McLaren's Norris in the opening laps.

His win was his third sprint triumph this year, his fifth in succession and his 10th in 15 contests as he came home 4.616 seconds ahead of McLaren's Oscar Piastri and 5.348 clear of Norris, who was unable to maintain his early speed.

George Russell finished fourth for Mercedes ahead of Ferrari's Carlos Sainz and seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton in the second Mercedes. Charles Leclerc in the second Ferrari was seventh.

Sergio Perez came home eighth in the second Red Bull ahead of Haas's Kevin Magnussen and Lance Stroll of Aston Martin.

Verstappen was given a



rousing reception by the massed ranks of his 'orange army' in the grandstands, notably roaring with delight when he responded to snatch back his lead from Norris.

On a hot day in the Styrian Alps, Verstappen made a strong start from pole, after two formation laps, to lead through Turn One ahead of Norris with Piastri hustling his team-mate - and Sainz passing Russell for fourth.

The whole grid started on medium tyres, hoping to survive the rising temperatures and complete the distance of

24 laps, reduced to 23, without alarm.

The McLarens stayed in close proximity and threatened not only each other but the leader as they searched for space to pass, all three cars separated by less than six-tenths of a second.

Having made several moves, Norris finally found a way past the Dutchman at the top of the hill on lap five, but Verstappen responded immediately and regained the lead at the next corner allowing Piastri to use his momentum to take second.

Norris, who was feeling un-

well before the race, was left struggling to resist the charging Sainz while Piastri set off in pursuit of Verstappen.

By lap eight, the Mercedes were producing a measured helping of pace and this allowed Russell to pass Sainz on the outside of Turn Four for fourth with the help of Drag Reduction System (DRS).

Hamilton, in sixth, closed steadily on Sainz, who clung on while his Ferrari team-mate Leclerc rose from 10th to seventh, but was unable to make any further impression.

At the front, Verstappen relaxed after regaining control and moved out of DRS reach for Piastri who, by lap 15, was looking in his mirrors to see team-mate Norris closing in again. Verstappen led by two seconds.

As it unfolded, it was Verstappen controlling affairs and opening up a gap of more than four seconds as he cruised home before turning his attention to preparations for Grand Prix qualifying taking place later Saturday.

Copa America

Vinicius Helps Brazil to 4-1 Copa America Win Over Paraguay



NEVADA - Brazil's Vinicius Jr scored twice in his side's 4-1 Copa America victory over Paraguay in a

Group D clash in Nevada on Friday, bouncing back from a lacklustre display in his first game of the tourna-

ment. Colombia, who have qualified for the quarter-finals, top Group D with six points after two matches, with Brazil in second on four points.

Costa Rica are third with one point and Paraguay, who are bottom with zero after two defeats, have been eliminated from the competition in the group stage for only the second time since 2001.

This victory marked Brazil's first win in six competitive matches and their maiden competitive win under the management of Dorival Jr, who took charge of the team in

January. From the whistle, Vinicius' pace and trickery posed a constant threat to Paraguay down the left flank, a far cry from his performance in Brazil's 0-0 draw with Costa Rica in their opening group stage match, in which he was largely ineffectual.

Despite Brazil's strong start, it was Paraguay who almost went ahead in the 15th minute as Damian Bobadilla's goal-bound effort took a massive deflection off Eder Militao and nearly wrongfooted Brazil goalkeeper Alisson Becker, who showed quick reflexes to keep out the strike.

Uruguay Rout Bolivia 5-0

NEW JERSEY - Darwin Nunez extended his rich vein of form as Uruguay secured a place in the Copa America knockout phase on Thursday with a 5-0 victory of Bolivia.

Facundo Pellistri gave the Celeste a perfect start at MetLife Stadium by nodding home from close range in the eighth minute after Ronald Araujo's headed cross.

Nunez doubled the lead as he ran onto Maximiliano Araujo's through ball and lashed a first-

time effort past goalkeeper Guillermo Viscarra. The Liverpool striker now has 10 goals in his past seven international appearances.

Araujo then latched onto Nicolas de la Cruz's perfectly weighted pass by slotting a shot that ricocheted in off Viscarra's legs.

Real Madrid midfielder Federico Valverde made it 4-0 by expertly directing the ball into the bottom-left corner after Pellistri's cross from the right side of the penalty area.



Biles Leads U.S. Olympic Trials



MINNEAPOLIS (Reuters) - Simone Biles saved her best for last to seize the lead at the U.S. Olympic team trials in Minneapolis on Friday on an opening night where Shilese Jones and Kayla DiCello went down with injuries.

Biles found herself in the unfamiliar position of trailing at the halfway point of the night after four-time Olympic champion produced an uncharacteristically wobbly performance on balance beam.

But she channeled that frustration into a jaw-dropping floor routine and capped the night with a soaring Yurchenko double pike vault that brought the sold-out crowd of more than 16,000 fans at Toyota Center to their feet.

Biles earned a 15.975 for her signature vault and is firmly in the lead with 58.900 all-around points. Tokyo Olympic silver medalist Jordan Chiles scored 56.400 point while Olympic all-around champion and Minnesota native Sunisa Lee in third.

Despite ending the night on a high note, the evening got off to a brutal start as critical injuries continue to mount for the U.S. with a month to go until the Paris Games.

Kayla DiCello was carried from the mat and then left the floor in a wheelchair after landing badly on her vault in the opening moments of the competition.

Last year's Pan American Games all-around champion was a reserve at the Tokyo Games in 2021 and a strong contender for the U.S. team in Paris.

Shilese Jones, a runaway favorite to make the team, received medical attention after her vault went wrong during warmups.

Jones ended her night after the first rotation and it is unclear whether she will return to compete in Sunday's finale.

Jones, who played a key role in helping the U.S. win team gold at the World Championships in 2022 and 2023, pulled out of the U.S. Championships earlier this month with a shoulder injury in the hopes of being at full strength for the trials.

The injuries to Jones, Blakely and DiCello open the door for lesser known athletes like 16-year-old Hezly Rivera, Leanne Wong, and Tiana Sumanasekera to make the five-woman team for Paris, which will be named on Sunday.