

Para Archer Fatemeh Hemmati Nominated for 'Athlete of Year'



TEHRAN – The shortlist for the 2024 World Archery Awards has been released and Iranian archer Fatemeh Hemmati is among the nominees for "Athlete of the Year".

Nominees have been named for nine prizes, including the six category trophies (recurve men, recurve women, compound men, compound women, para men, and para women) that are open for public vote on the www.worldarcheryawards.com website until midnight CET on 10 January 2025.

The overall Athlete of the Year trophy, which has been won by Ella Gibson and Marcus D'Almeida since its

reintroduction in 2022, is decided by a panel of journalists.

Among the frontrunners this year are armless Paralympic Champion Matt Stutzman, triple Olympic gold medalists Lim Sihyeon and Kim Woojin, and nine-time Hyundai Archery World Cup Champion Sara Lopez.

The winners will be announced across online and physical events in early 2025.

Hemmati won two silver medals at the Individual compound and Mixed team compound in the 2024 Paralympic Games.

Women Handballers Finish 4th at Asian Championship



TEHRAN – Iran's women's national handball team lost to Kazakhstan with a score of 28-22 in the 2024 Asian Women's Handball Championship, finishing in fourth place.

Team Melli Banovan faced Japan and lost with a score of 34-14. However, they managed to defeat India 32-30 and Hong Kong 26-17 in Group B.

In the semifinals, Iran fell short against South Korea 33-20. Despite this, Iran has already qualified for the 2025 World Women's Handball Championship as one of the top four teams.

In the final match, Japan edged past South Korea 25-24 to win the championship at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium.

The 2024 Asian Women's Handball Championship was held in New Delhi, India from December 1 to 10, 2024.

The tournament is organized under the auspices of the Asian Handball Federation and serves as the Asian qualifying event for the 2025 World Women's Handball Championship. The top four teams from this tournament qualified for the championship in 2025.

Foolad Sirjan Shock Italian Lube in FIVB Club World Championship

TEHRAN – Reigning Asian champions Foolad Sirjan from Iran caused the biggest upset of the opening day of the FIVB Volleyball Men's Club World Championship 2024, downing Italian giants Cucine Lube Civitanova on Tuesday in Uberlândia.

Making just their second appearance in the tournament, Foolad secured their first-ever victory at the world stage, beating the 2019 world champions Lube in a five-set battle that saw them come out on top 3-2 (25-21, 14-25, 24-26, 25-23, 16-14) in Pool A.

Besides the Iranian team, whose full name is Foolad Sirjan Iranian, Italy's Itas Trentino, Brazil's Sada Cruzeiro and Egypt's Al Ahly SC also triumphed at the Sabiazinho stadium in the first of four days of pool play action in Brazil.



The MVP in their campaign at the Asian Championship, opposite Ali Hajipour led the team's offense with 18 points (16 kills, two blocks). Outside hitter Alireza Abdolhamidi, with 15 points (13 kills, one block, one ace), and middle blocker Mohammad Valizadeh, with 12 (eight kills,

two blocks, two aces), also had solid performances.

Lube's French two-time Olympic champion middle blocker Barthélémy Chinenyze topped all scorers with 21 points (16 kills, three aces, two blocks). Bulgarian outside hitter Aleksandar Nikolov and Turkish

opposite Adis Lagumdžija contributed 18 and 17 points, respectively.

In the opening match of the tournament, which featured another duel between Italians and Iranians, five-time world champions Trentino had no issues securing their first victory in Pool B. Helped by a strong start, the Europeans downed Shahdab Yazd 3-0 (25-12, 25-22, 25-21) to start their campaign in Uberlândia.

World champion outside hitters Daniele Lavia, with 12 points (11 kills, one block), and Alessandro Michieletto, with ten (seven kills, two aces, one block), led the Italian victory. Cuban national team middle blocker Javier Concepción scored ten points for Shahdab, with six kills, two blocks and two aces.

Real Madrid Beat Atalanta 3-2



Real Madrid's Kylian Mbappe celebrates after he scored his side's first goal at the Bergamo's stadium, in Bergamo, Italy, Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2024.

Spanish giant's faltering Champions League title defense on Tuesday.

Galacticos Kylian Mbappe, Vinicius Junior and Jude Bellingham all scored in a thrilling 3-2 win at Italian league leader Atalanta. But Madrid still had to ride its luck as Mateo Retegui fired over from in front of goal in stoppage time when handed a golden chance to level the game.

It was only Madrid's third win in the competition's revamped league phase and leaves the 15-time champion in the unseeded playoff positions in 18th place.

"It's a very important win. Not everyone wins here. We suffered and competed. In the Champions League,

you have to suffer," Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said. "It's still difficult to finish in the top eight, but we have two games left to earn points."

Six-time champion Liverpool leads the way after maintaining its perfect record in Europe this season with a 1-0 win against Girona.

Like Madrid, Paris Saint-Germain also picked up a much-needed win, beating Salzburg 3-0 to sit in the last playoff spot in 24th place.

Bayer Leverkusen is second after a 1-0 win over Inter Milan, while Aston Villa beat Leipzig 3-2 and is third.

The top eight teams advance directly to the round of 16. Positions nine to 24 face a playoff to reach the next phase.

Australian Teen Gout's Record Run Earns Bolt Comparison

MELBOURNE (Reuters) - Schoolboy sensation Gout Gout is bathing in new-found celebrity and savoring comparisons with Usain Bolt following his eye-catching runs at the Australian schools championships in Brisbane.

The 16-year-old ran the 200 meters in 20.04 seconds in Brisbane on Saturday to break the national record Peter Norman set at the 1968 Olympics.

The son of migrants from war-torn South Sudan, Gout also clocked a blistering 10.04 in the 100 meters heats on Friday in a wind of +3.4, the fourth fastest time in all conditions by an Australian.

Gout's performances went viral on social media and earned a shout-out from 100m and 200m world-record holder Bolt, who posted on Instagram: "He looks like young me."

Now the biggest name in Australian athletics while finishing year 11 at high school, Gout said the reaction since the



Australian celebrates winning the U18s, 100m final Jono Searle.

weekend had been overwhelming. Gout met with Adidas executives in Melbourne on Tuesday, having recently signed a contract with the apparel giant.

He will head to Florida next month to join Olympic 100m champion Noah Lyles at a training camp organized by

Adidas, which sponsors both athletes.

With Australia set to host the 2032 Olympics in Brisbane, the country's athletics chiefs are thrilled to have a potential track superstar in their midst but are also hoping to temper expectations and ensure Gout can live a normal childhood.

Bucks Beat Magic 114-109 to Return to NBA Cup Semifinals

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 37 points, Damian Lillard had nine of his 28 in the final minute and the Milwaukee Bucks returned to the NBA Cup semifinals in Las Vegas by beating the Orlando Magic 114-109 on Tuesday night.

Milwaukee reached the semifinals of the in-season tournament in Las Vegas last December and will be the only returning team in Year 2. They will play Saturday against the winner of Wednesday's quarterfinal between the New York Knicks and Atlanta Hawks.

Jalen Suggs led a short-handed Orlando team with 32 points but missed a potential go-ahead 3-pointer with 12 seconds left. Lillard was fouled and sank two free throws with 9.1 sec-



Milwaukee Bucks' Giannis Antetokounmpo goes after a loose ball during an Emirates NBA cup tournament quarterfinals basketball game Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2024, in Milwaukee.

onds remaining and Suggs missed a potential tying 3.

Antetokounmpo then made both free throws with 5 seconds left and the Bucks held on.

The Magic were missing forwards Paolo Banchero (torn

right oblique), Jonathan Isaac (right hamstring strain) and Franz Wagner, who suffered a torn right oblique on Friday against Philadelphia; along with guard Gary Harris (left hamstring strain).