

Foolad Win Bronze Medal at FIVB Club World Championship



TEHRAN — The Iranian volleyball club, Foolad Sirjan, clinched third place in the 2024 Men's Club World Championship.

Iran's Foolad Sirjan defeated Cucine Lube Civitanova 3-2 (23-25, 25-23, 21-25, 26-24, 19-17) to win the bronze medal at the sporting event.

Ali Hajipour shone for Foolad with 24 points, helping them secure Iran's second podium finish in tournament history.

Dirlic from Lube Civitanova tallied 21 points for his team. Iranian player Abdolhamidi also shone, while Bottolo impressed for the Italian side.

Brazilian powerhouses Sada Cruzeiro claimed their fifth FIVB Volleyball Men's Club World Championship title in Uberlândia, defeating Italian rivals Itas Trentino 3-1 (25-22, 20-25, 25-16, 25-22).

The victory ties Cruzeiro with Trentino as the most successful team in the tournament's history.

Iran Pitted With India at 2024 Asian Roll Ball Championship



TEHRAN — Iran discovered its rivals at the fourth edition of the Asian Roll Ball Championship.

Team Melli has been drawn in Pool A along with Inia, Sri Lanka, Qatar, Myanmar and Malaysia.

Pool B consists of Nepal,

Oman, the Philippines, Vietnam, and Bhutan.

Roll ball is a game played between two teams and is a unique combination of roller skates, basketball, handball, and throwball.

The competition will be held in Goa, India from December 16 to 19.

Inter Shock Lazio With Stunning 6-0 Away Win

ROME (Reuters) - Defending champions Inter Milan stormed to a 6-0 win at Lazio in Serie A on Monday as they scored quick-fire goals either side of halftime in a superb display that silenced the Stadio Olimpico.

Inter delivered a masterclass to overwhelm Lazio, with Hakan Calhanoglu breaking the deadlock with a 41st-minute penalty and Federico Dimarco making it 2-0 at the break with a volley.

Nicolo Barella slotted home for 3-0 six minutes after the restart before Denzel Dumfries netted two minutes later and Carlos Augusto and Marcus Thuram



Inter Milan's Dutch defender #06 Stefan de Vrij (right) and Inter Milan's Dutch defender #02 Denzel Dumfries (center) fight for the ball.

completed the rout late on. Inter remain third with 34 points from 15 matches and trail leaders Atalanta by three points with a game in

hand. Lazio, who beat second-placed Napoli last time out, suffered a second league loss in three games and sit fifth on 31 from 16 matches.

Lazio were the best side in the opening 30 minutes although Inter defender Stefan de Vrij thought he had opened the scoring after a rebound only to see his effort ruled out for offside.

However, Inter were awarded a penalty minutes later after a lengthy VAR review showed defender Samuel Gigot stopped the ball with his arm from Dumfries' initial attempt in the same move.

Calhanoglu converted to give the visitors the lead and Inter grew in confidence, with Dimarco firing inside the far post to quickly double their advantage.

Spanish Football Association Elects Louzan as New Chief



Newly elected Royal Spanish Football Federation president Rafael Louzan

MADRID (Reuters) - The general assembly of Spain's soccer federation (RFEF) has elected Rafael Louzan as president after more than a year of turmoil at the scandal-ridden body following the downfall of former chief Luis Rubiales and his right-hand man Pedro Rocha.

Head of Galicia's regional FA, Louzan, 57, received 90 votes to beat Valencian FA chief Salvador Gomar who garnered only 43 votes in a two-way race following a last-minute withdrawal of Extremadura FA's head Sergio Merchan.

Rubiales has been the target of a corruption investigation, and is due to stand trial in February for sexual assault over his unsolicited kiss of player Jenni Hermoso after Spain won the 2023 Women's World Cup in Sydney.

Rocha, who briefly succeeded him, was handed

a two-year ban for irregularities. Last April, the Spanish government created a special committee to oversee the soccer governing body until it held new elections.

Louzan, too, has had legal problems that could plague the RFEF's hopes of starting with a clean slate as Spain gears up to co-host the 2030 World Cup.

In May 2022, he was found guilty of malfeasance in a case involving a contract to improve a football pitch in the city of Morana. Although he was cleared of fraud charges, the sentence barred him from holding public office for seven years.

Louzan has denied wrongdoing and appealed, which allowed him to run for RFEF presidency. The Supreme Court is due to hear the appeal on Feb 5.

Bulls Hold Off Raptors 122-121 for 4th Win in 6 Games



Chicago Bulls' Nikola Vucevic, right, drives past Toronto Raptors' Kelly Olynyk (41) in Toronto on Monday, Dec. 16, 2024.

TORONTO (AP) — Nikola Vucevic scored 24 points, Coby White added 19 and the Chicago Bulls held on to beat the Toronto Raptors 122-121 on Monday night for their fourth win in six games.

Talen Horton-Tucker scored 15 points and Ayo Dosunmu had 12 as seven Bulls players reached double figures.

Chicago's Lonzo Ball missed six of his first seven 3-point attempts before making a key shot from long distance late in

the fourth. Bulls guard Josh Giddey had to be helped off the court midway through the third quarter after rolling his right ankle while trying to defend a shot. He did not return. Giddey finished with 11 points, nine rebounds and eight assists in 24 minutes.

RJ Barrett scored 32 points and Grady Dick had 27 as Toronto almost erased a 16-point deficit in the fourth quarter, but the short-handed Raptors lost their fifth straight.

Ronaldo to Run for Brazil Federation Presidency

BRASILIA (Reuters) - Former Brazil striker Ronaldo will run for the presidency of the country's football confederation (CBF), the 48-year-old said.

Ronaldo, who won the World Cup with Brazil in 1994 and 2002, will run as a candidate in the CBF elections to replace current president Ednaldo Rodrigues in 2026.

"Among hundreds of things that motivate me to become a candidate for president of the CBF, I want to recover this prestige and respect that the Selecao (Brazil's national



Brazilian former soccer player Ronaldo Nazario reacts next to the FIFA Club World Cup trophy during the Club World Cup draw at Telemundo Studios.

team) always had and today nobody else has," he told Globo Esporte.

The former Barcelona, Inter Milan and Real Madrid forward currently also said he expects to sell his stake in Spanish top-flight side Real Valladolid.

"We're negotiating a possible sale very soon and we should close the deal. It won't be an obstacle to my candidacy," he added.

Ronaldo previously owned a 90% stake in Brazilian team Cruzeiro, which he sold earlier this year.