

Iran Into Women's Futsal Asian Cup China Quarterfinals



TEHRAN (Tasnim) - Defending champion Iran defeated Hong Kong 3-1 in the AFC Women's Futsal Asian Cup China 2025 Group B tie on Friday.

Elham Anafjeh scored twice as her teammate Mahtab Banaei found the net once more, while Nastaran Moqimi scored an own goal.

Team Melli Banovan, who had defeated the Philippines 1-0 in its opening match, secured its place in the quarter-finals.

The win took Iran to six points –on a par with Vietnam who also qualified- as the two teams are going to meet on Sunday to decide the group winners.

Man United Reach Europa League Final After Dispatching Athletic Bilbao



Manchester United's Alejandro Garnacho misses a chance to score in front of Athletic Bilbao's goalkeeper Julen Agirrezabala.

MANCHESTER (Reuters) - Manchester United booked their berth in the Europa League final after a 4-1 semifinal thrashing of Athletic Bilbao on Thursday, with Mason Mount scoring twice to give the hosts a 7-1 aggregate win and a chance for the beleaguered team to hoist some silverware this season.

United, who are languishing in 15th place in the Premier League, are now one win away from their first Europa League trophy since 2017 and a place in the Champions League next season.

They will face similarly struggling side Tottenham Hotspur in the all-Premier League final on May 21 at Bilbao's San Mames Stadium.

United kicked off the night with

a comfortable cushion thanks to their stunning 3-0 victory a week earlier in Bilbao.

But Mikel Jauregizar put Athletic on the score sheet in the 31st minute after a terrible clearance attempt by Harry Maguire landed at the Spaniard's feet and he unleashed a blistering shot from outside the box into the top corner.

The goal made for some nervy moments in Old Trafford but the mood shifted dramatically when Mount, a second-half substitute, drew United level in the 72nd minute to finally silence the 5,000 singing Athletic fans. The midfielder latched on to a short pass from Leny Yoro before turning and firing past goalkeeper Julen Agirrezabala.

Timberwolves Beat Curry-Less Warriors 117-93



Minnesota Timberwolves guard Anthony Edwards (5) drives to the basket during the first half of Game 2 of an NBA basketball second-round playoff series Thursday, May 8, 2025.

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The Minnesota Timberwolves were stewing over their rough start in Game 1 against Golden State, a reaction coach Chris Finch was pleased to see.

Julius Randle had 24 points and 11 assists to help the Timberwolves capitalize on Warriors star Stephen Curry's absence in a 117-93 victory Thursday that tied the second-round series at a game apiece.

The foundation was laid in an ornery film session with Finch and his staff the day before.

"He was unhappy, and he let us know he was unhappy, and we felt that," Randle said. "We were pretty motivated as a team."

Anthony Edwards finished with 20 points after an injury scare for the Wolves, who more than tripled their 3-point output (going 16 for 37) from their Game 1 loss when Curry was sidelined by a left hamstring strain that likely will keep him out at least until next week.

Nickeil Alexander-Walker added 20 points to spearhead a superb performance by the bench, combining with Donte DiVincenzo and Naz Reid to go 10 for 22 from deep.

"We looked a lot more like ourselves," Finch said.

Jonathan Kuminga (18 points) and Trayce Jackson-Davis (15) combined to shoot 14 for 17 from the floor for the Warriors. They took nearly five minutes to score,

finally breaking through down 13-0 on Jimmy Butler's 3-pointer.

With the NBA's career leading 3-point shooter next to him on the bench, coach Steve Kerr used a kitchen-sink experiment with 14 players getting time.

"But I would still like to win," Butler said. "I think the biggest lesson is don't start off in a hole like we did tonight, and the game maybe could have ended up a little bit differently."

Kuminga, the seventh overall pick in the 2021 draft who dropped out of the rotation at times during the regular season and missed significant time with a sprained right ankle, was a bright spot off the bench. But this Warriors team was already thin on offense with a healthy Curry.

Against the Wolves and their athletic, long and versatile defense, there wasn't much to lean on. Without Curry to worry about, the Wolves had an easier time keeping shooters Buddy Hield and Brandin Podziemski quiet.

The Warriors put up their lowest first-quarter score (15) in the playoffs since Game 6 of the 2016 NBA Finals, according to Sportradar, when they had 11 in a loss to Cleveland.

Draymond Green picked up his fifth technical foul of the playoffs, two short of an automatic one-game suspension, for elbowing Naz Reid after Reid had just fouled him.

Salah, Russo Win Football Writers' Awards

LONDON (AP) — Liverpool forward Mohamed Salah was voted "Footballer of the Year" in England by soccer writers for a record-tying third time Friday, while Arsenal striker Alessia Russo won the women's award.

Salah previously won the award, handed out by the Football Writers' Association, in 2018 and 2022. Arsenal great Thierry Henry is the only other player to have captured it three times.

The FWA's accolade is the oldest individual soccer award in the world. It was first awarded in 1948.

The FWA said Salah won



Mohamed Salah and Alessia Russo have landed the top FWA awards.

90% of the votes cast by more than 900 members, making it the "biggest winning margin this century." Teammate Virgil van Dijk was second and

Newcastle striker Alexander Isak was third.

Salah has the most goals (28) and assists (18) in the Premier League this season

and played a key role in Liverpool winning the title for the second time in five years.

Russo finished ahead of Manchester City striker Khadija Shaw and Arsenal teammate Mariona Caldentey, with FWA chair John Cross saying Russo's performances in the Women's Champions League have helped her stand out.

Arsenal, which is second in the Women's Super League, has reached the Champions League final after beating eight-time winner Lyon in the semifinals and will play Barcelona in the title match.

Alcaraz Beats Lajovic in Return From Injury at Italian Open



ROME (AP) — Carlos Alcaraz returned from a brief injury layoff with a 6-3, 6-3 victory over Serbian qualifier Dusan Lajovic at the Italian Open on Friday.

The third-ranked Alcaraz withdrew from the Madrid Open last month due to an upper right leg ailment that bothered him during the Barcelona Open final. He also

had a left leg injury.

Against Lajovic, Alcaraz wore a long black brace that covered the upper portion of his right leg and stretched down to just below his knee.

Alcaraz won the opening four games but dropped his serve when he served for the first set at 5-2. The Spaniard broke back in the next game to close it out, showing off his speed on the clay court at the Foro Italico when he ran down a drop shot and produced a backhand winner on one key point.

Alcaraz also went ahead early in the second set.

Alcaraz, who won the Monte Carlo Masters in April, improved

to 10-1 on clay this season. He'll next face either 31st-seeded Alex Michelsen or Laslo Djere.

A four-time Grand Slam champion, Alcaraz is preparing to defend his title at the French Open, which starts May 25.

The Rome tournament also marks the return of top-ranked Jannik Sinner from a three-month doping ban.

Sinner and Alcaraz are in opposite sides of the draw.

Sinner opens against 99th-ranked Mariano Navone on Saturday.

In the women's tournament, top-ranked Aryna Sabalenka opened with a 6-2, 6-2 victory over Anastasia Potapova.

Report: Pacquiao to Come Out of Retirement for Title Shot

MANILA (Reuters) - Manny Pacquiao will come out of retirement to face Mario Barrios for the WBC welterweight championship on July 19 in Las Vegas, ESPN reported on Thursday, citing sources.

The 46-year-old Filipino southpaw won world championships in a record eight weight divisions from flyweight to super welterweight. He retired in 2021 after a 72-fight career during which

he had 62 wins, eight losses and two draws.

A Filipino senator from 2016 to 2022, Pacquiao ran for president in 2022 and is currently in a race for the Senate, with the election scheduled for May 12.

Pacquiao, whose fast footwork and blistering speed of punches made him one of the top offensive fighters in the sport's history, is set to be inducted into the International Hall of Fame next month.



Manny Pacquiao poses ahead of the weigh-in.