

## Iran's Keshavarz bags double Asian weightlifting bronzes



Fatemeh Keshavarz (R) poses with her bronze medals at the Asian Weightlifting Championships alongside her Iranian teammate Elham Hosseini in Jinju, South Korea, on May 8, 2023.  
● AWF

### Sports Desk

Fatemeh Keshavarz collected first medals for Iran at the Asian Weightlifting Championships in Jinju, South Korea, by claiming a couple of bronzes in the women's event.

Representing the country in the 64kg weight class, Keshavarz got off to a slow start to her campaign on Monday as she only managed to lift the 85kg weight and finish fifth in the snatch contest.

Mongolian Ganzorigiin Anuujin took the snatch gold with 93kg gold and was accompanied on the podium by Kazakhstan's Karina Goricheva (91kg) and Medine Amanowa (90kg) of Turkmenistan. The 18-year-old Iranian, however, went on to finish third in the clean & jerk contest with a best lift of 109kg, while Anuujin grabbed her second gold of the night with 118kg, edg-

ing silver winner Amanowa by one kilogram.

An overall tally of 194kg gave Keshavarz the total bronze, with Anuujin (211kg) and Amanowa (207kg) taking the gold and silver respectively.

"I could have done better today but my body was a bit low in energy in the snatch event. I could not match my training records but I'm still thankful to have finished with two medals," said Keshavarz, who became only the second Iranian woman to win Asian weightlifting medals, following Elham Hosseini. Hosseini stole the headlines in Manama, Bahrain, last year by making a clean sweep of three 81kg golds. Keshavarz said she will be looking to participate at the Asian juniors' event and the World Championships next, while her "ultimate goal will be a berth for Paris Olympics."

## Messi, Argentina World Cup team win Laureus awards



Lionel Messi poses with the 2023 Laureus World Sportsman of the Year Award in Paris, France, on May 8, 2023.

● JOHANNA GERON/REUTERS

**BBC** – Lionel Messi and his World Cup-winning Argentina scored a double by being named Sportsman and Team of the Year at the Laureus World Sports Awards.

Messi captained Argentina, scored seven times and won the Golden Ball as his country won the 2022 World Cup in Qatar in December.

He is the first athlete to win the team and individual awards in the same year.

Sportswoman of the Year went to Jamaican sprinter Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce. She won the women's 100m world title at the World Athletics Championships in Oregon in July, becoming the first person to win five golds in an individual track event at the championships.

"This is a special honour," said PSG forward Messi, 35. "Particularly as the Laureus World Sports Awards are in Paris this year, the city that has welcomed my family since we came here in 2021.

"I want to thank all my teammates, not only from the national team but also at PSG – I have achieved none of this alone and I am grateful to be able to share everything with them."

Fraser-Pryce's 100m gold came 13 years after her first and the 36-year-old has more world sprint titles than any other athlete. She ran a sub-10.7-seconds 100m seven times in 2022, three more than the previous best for a female sprinter in a calendar year.

"I was thrilled to be nominated alongside such inspiring women athletes, and to win this award, voted for by some of the greatest sportsmen and women of all time, is just amazing," she said.

Argentina lifted the World Cup for the third time, beating France in a penalty shootout in Doha after possibly the greatest final of all time, which ended in a 3-3 draw.

They beat England's Euro 2022-winning Lionesses, men's Champions League winners Real Madrid and France's men's Six Nations champions to win the award.

Manchester United and Denmark midfielder Christian Eriksen won Comeback of the Year following his return to football after collapsing on the pitch because of cardiac arrest during Euro 2020, while men's tennis world number two Carlos Alcaraz was awarded World Breakthrough of the Year after a 2022 in which the then 19-year-old won the US Open and became tennis' youngest men's number one.

## Champions League derby days decisive for Milan and Inter

AFP – Milan is gearing up for its biggest local derby in a generation as two of Europe's grand old clubs face off tonight in a blockbuster Champions League semi-final.

Two clashes full of colour, noise and drama await in one of the continent's football capitals, AC Milan and Inter Milan battling at the San Siro for the chance to take the Italian city's European trophy tally to 22.

Milan and Inter are no longer true giants like the other semi-final's contenders Real Madrid and Manchester City but tonight's match will be unbeatable for atmosphere and played in one of football's most evocative arenas.

"The atmosphere at the stadium is incredible... Everyone here is a fan, men and women alike. The pressure is there all the time," said AC Milan defender Pierre Kalulu in an interview with AFP.

"When you first arrive here you don't feel all that involved, but after a while you begin to feel that passion. You can feel that it's a match which can change your season."

"You kind of go back to being a kid scoring a goal in the playground. You put all that in the Champions League and I can't imagine what these matches will be like."

Both team's seasons hinge of the



● REUTERS

result of the all-Italian tie, with qualification for next year's competition far from certain thanks to disappointing league campaigns which left last season's main Serie A title challengers miles behind newly-crowned champions Napoli.

Inter, though, come into the match in blistering form and with a previously misfiring attack suddenly banging in the goals left and right. Simone Inzaghi's side have won

five on the bounce, scoring 14 times in that run. Of those goals 10 have been scored by the forwards, with Romelu Lukaku in particular suddenly finding some form towards the end of what has been a largely dismal return on loan from Chelsea.

Since the start of April Lukaku has scored five times and set up four more in all competitions, and his well-taken goal in Saturday's 2-0 win at Roma was the latest sign

the Belgium striker might be getting back to his best.

Lukaku wants to stay at Inter but there is little chance that his loan will be extended beyond the end of a season which could end with them crowned European champions or not even in the competition.

Strike partner Lautaro Martinez has netted six times in as many appearances and set up three after breaking a worrying eight-

match scoring drought and even Edin Dzeko is back in the goals after not scoring since January.

Milan meanwhile are sweating on the fitness of Rafael Leao, who in recent weeks has shown just how important he is to Stefano Pioli's attack but picked up a thigh injury in the weekend's win over Lazio. Of the eight matches this season which Leao has either missed through injury or not started, Milan have won only one.

The Portugal winger has started every single one of Milan's 10 continental matches and was crucial to their getting past Napoli in the last eight.

Without him Milan's chances against an in-form Inter will diminish as the left flank, with Theo Hernandez, is such an important part of the way the team attack.

"We need to enjoy everything that will surround us up until the minute before kick-off, then we need to unload everything we have," said Pioli at the weekend.

"Inter are in great form right now, and they're a great team. I don't think we're favourites but it doesn't matter, we're in good shape."

"We're in a Champions League semi-final, for almost all of us it's the first time. We need to feel the electricity, the excitement of the occasion."

## Lakers beat Warriors for 3-1 lead; Heat push Knicks to brink

**ASSOCIATED PRESS** – Lonnie Walker scored all of his 15 points in a phenomenal fourth quarter, and the Los Angeles Lakers rallied late to take a 3-1 series lead with a 104-101 victory over the Golden State Warriors in Game 4 on Monday night.

LeBron James scored 27 points and Anthony Davis had 23 points and 15 rebounds for the seventh-seeded Lakers, who moved to the brink of an improbable trip to the Western Conference finals with their eighth consecutive home victory since March.

Los Angeles overcame Stephen Curry's third career postseason triple-double down the stretch largely because of

Walker, who has made a seismic impact in returning to the Lakers' rotation in this series after the former starter was stuck on the bench in recent weeks.

Curry had 31 points, 10 rebounds and 14 assists in his 13th career triple-double for the defending champion Warriors, who will have to overcome a 3-1 series deficit for only the second time in franchise history to continue their NBA title defense. Golden State also did it in the 2016 Western Conference finals. Game 5 is tonight in San Francisco.

**Heat 109 Knicks 101**  
Jimmy Butler had 27 points and

10 assists, Bam Adebayo finished with 23 points and 13 rebounds and Miami moved a win away from its third trip to the Eastern Conference finals in the last four years by topping New York.

Max Strus scored 16 points, Kyle Lowry added 15 and Caleb Martin had 10 for the Heat. Miami, the No. 8 seed, leads the East semifinal series 3-1, with Game 5 – and the first potential clincher – awaiting in New York tonight.

Jalen Brunson finished with 32 points and 11 assists for fifth-seeded New York, while RJ Barrett had 24 points and Julius Randle scored 20 for the Knicks before fouling out with about three minutes left.



Lakers' LeBron James (L) forces Warriors guard Stephen Curry to turn over the ball during Game 4 of the Western Conference semifinal series in Los Angeles, CA, US, on May 8, 2023.  
● LUIS SINCO/LA TIMES