

# Taremi the top scorer in Portuguese top flight but Porto finishes runner-up



## Sports Desk

Mehdi Taremi capped off a glittering campaign with a goal in Porto's 3-0 home victory over Vitoria SC on the final day of the Primeira Liga season.

Taremi's eighth-minute strike on Saturday saw the Iranian international finish as the leading marksman in the Portuguese top-flight with 22 goals – three clear of Benfica's Goncalo Ramos.

Former Persepolis striker tapped in into the roof of the net to round off a Porto's counter-attack in style before Otavio and Evanilson netted in the space of seven minutes to seal the victory in the first half.

However, the result proved not to be enough for Sergio Conceicao's men as Benfica also defeated Santa Clara 3-0, courtesy of goals from Ramos, Rafa Silva and Alex Grimaldo, to pip Porto to the

title – a record-extending 38th league trophy for The Eagles and a first since 2019. Benfica's season ended with only four defeats in all competitions, with three of them coming in the space of nine days in April.

Porto will still have the chance to finish the campaign with silverware when taking on Braga in Taça de Portugal final next Sunday. Taremi has bagged 31 goals in 42 appearances across all

competitions for Porto this season, including five in the UEFA Champions League which saw the Dragons win the group before a last-16 exit against Inter.

Taremi's four goals against Famalicao last weekend saw the Iranian overtake Brazilian Hulk into third place of Porto's all-time top scorers. Brazilian Mario Jardel tops the list with a remarkable 168 strikes, followed by retired Colombian Jackson

Martinez (92) and Taremi, who scored his 80th goal for Porto on Saturday.

Having joined the Dragons from Rio Ave on a four-year deal in 2020, Taremi, 30, has been linked in recent weeks with a move to the Saudi Pro League in the summer to sign for Al Hilal, but Jardel, in an interview with the Porto-based newspaper O Jogo on Friday, urged the Iranian to stay in the club and take aim at his record.



Porto's Mehdi Taremi celebrates after scoring in a 3-0 victory over Vitoria SC in the Primeira Liga in Porto, Portugal, on May 27, 2023.

● **DIAGO CARDOSO/GETTY IMAGES**

## Iranian Saei honored by World Taekwondo



Iranian Hadi Saei is pictured with his gold medal at the Beijing 2008 Olympics.

● **GETTY IMAGES**

## Sports Desk

Iranian great Hadi Saei was honored by the World Taekwondo for his contribution to sport.

In an event in Baku's Heydar Aliyev Center to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the international taekwondo governing body's foundation, some of the member national associations and athletes received recognition for playing "an integral role in the sport's success" over the past five decades.

Saei, who is now in charge of the Iranian Taekwondo Federation, was awarded for his gold-winning campaign at the Beijing 2008 Olympics and was joined by 13 other athletes in the list for outstanding performances in the Olympics, since taekwondo was first introduced to the Games in 2000.

Also having a Athens 2004 gold and a Sydney 2000 bronze under his belt, Saei is the most decorated Iranian in the history of the Olympic Games.

# White's buzzer-beater lifts Celtics past Heat, forces Game 7 in East finals

AP – The Boston Celtics were a tenth of a second away from elimination. The Miami Heat were a tenth of a second from the NBA Finals. Derrick White owned that final moment.

White scored on a putback as time expired and the Boston Celtics moved to the brink of the greatest comeback in NBA playoffs history, holding off the Miami Heat 104-103 on Saturday night to force a Game 7 in the Eastern Conference finals.

White became the second player in NBA history to hit a buzzer-beater with his team trailing and facing elimination – Michael Jordan's "The Shot" for Chicago against Cleveland in 1989 being the other.

Jayson Tatum scored 31 points, Jaylen Brown scored 26 and Marcus Smart added 21 for the Celtics, who became only the fourth NBA team to erase a 3-0 deficit in a best-of-seven series and

force a deciding game. The others in that club – the 1951 New York Knicks in the NBA Finals, the 1994 Denver Nuggets in the second round and the 2003 Portland Trail Blazers in the first round – all lost Game 7, all on the road. Boston, however, is going home for its shot at history. Game 7 is tonight on the Celtics' floor, a matchup that'll decide who meets the Western Conference champion Denver Nuggets in a title series that will start Thursday.

Jimmy Butler made three free throws with 3.0 seconds left – the foul was originally called with 2.1 seconds left; referees put 0.9 seconds back on after reviewing the play to see if it was a 3-point try that Al Horford fouled him on – for a one-point Heat lead. It capped a Miami rally from 10 points down with less than 4 minutes remaining.

The Celtics had White inbound the ball on the game's final possession,

and he passed to Smart – who missed a 3-pointer. But White sprinted from the inbound spot to the rim, the ball fell into his hands and he got the lay-in away just before time ran out to extend Boston's season.

There had been other buzzer-beaters from players whose teams were facing an elimination game, but before Saturday, only Jordan's came with his team trailing.

Butler scored 24 points and Caleb Martin had 21 for the Heat, who are trying to pull off their own improbable trek to the title series by being only the second No. 8 seed to make the NBA Finals. They've now lost as many games this week – three – as they had in their first 14 playoff games this spring combined on the way to ousting No. 1 Milwaukee, then No. 5 New York and taking what was supposed to be an insurmountable 3-0 lead over the second-seeded Celtics.



Celtics guard Derrick White (9) scores the game-winning basket against the Heat during Game 6 of the Eastern Conference finals in Miami, FL, US, on May 27, 2023.

● **JOHN MCCALL/SOUTH FLORIDA SUN SENTINEL**



Borussia Dortmund head coach Edin Terzic (L) and Mats Hummels look dejected after the 2-2 home draw against Mainz 05 at Signal Iduna Park, Dortmund, Germany, on May 27, 2023.

● **LEON KUEGLER/REUTERS**

## 'No happy ending' for tearful Dortmund, says coach Terzic

AFP – A tearful Borussia Dortmund manager Edin Terzic said there would be "no happy ending" after his side stumbled with the title in sight, giving Bayern Munich an 11th straight Bundesliga crown.

Dortmund held a two-point lead atop the table before the final round but were held 2-2 at home by Mainz, allowing Bayern, who won

2-1 at Cologne, to jump up to first place, winning the title on goal difference.

Terzic was seen in front of the club's famous yellow wall after the final whistle in tears, as the fans chanted the Dortmund-born coach's name.

"You can see how hard and how tough this sport that we fell in love with can be," Terzic

said, adding "it hurts extremely – there will be no happy ending for us this year."

Dortmund won the unlikely support of Bayern captain Thomas Mueller, who took time out from celebrating his side's 11th straight title – and his 12th Bundesliga championship – to express sympathy.

"I'm not apologising for becoming champions

and we're happy about that, but when you think of the others, then I feel a bit sorry.

"Even if they don't want or need to hear it. I'm not trying to present myself as big hearted or anything, but it's tough." Captain Mats Hummels, the only member of the squad to have tasted championship glory with Dortmund said "the next days will be brutal.

"It's going to be difficult to digest. It will take more than a few days."

Dortmund midfielder Emre Can said simply: "We gave everything as a team but it wasn't to be." "We wanted it but in the end we didn't make it." Dortmund led the table four times this season, but each time dropped points and allowed Bayern to return to the summit.