

Iranian cueist Sarkhosh crowned 2023 Six-red Asian Snooker champion



Professional Iranian cueist Amir Sarkhosh (C) poses for a photograph after winning the trophy at the end of the 2023 Asian Confederation of Billiard Sports (ACBS) Six-red Snooker, Team and Under-21 Snooker Championships in Tehran, Iran, on June 25, 2023.

● IRNA

Sports Desk

Iranian cueist Amir Sarkhosh put up a marvelous performance at the 2023 Six-red Asian Snooker Championship and clinched the gold medal after defeating his rival from Hong Kong.

In the title clash on Sunday, Sarkhosh mesmerized spectators at the Enghelab Sport Complex in the Iranian capital Tehran and convincingly defeated Chau Hon Man of Hong Kong by 6 frames to 2.

Indian snooker players Pankaj Advani and Kamal Chawla shared the bronze medal.

The Asian Confederation of Billiard Sports (ACBS) Six-red Snooker Championship is a premier snooker tournament in Asia that sees the participation

of prominent cueists.

It is played with six color balls and sixreds.

President of the ACBS Mohamed al-Nuaimi along with President of the Bowling, Billiard and Boules Federation of the Islamic Republic of Iran (BBFIR), Hashem Eskandari attended the title clash.

En route to the final showdown on Sunday, Sarkhosh had defeated Iraqi cueist Ali Hussein 2-5 in the quarterfinals, and overcome India's leading snooker player Advani 1-5 in the semi-finals.

Sarkhosh also became the champion at the 2022 Asian Snooker Championship held in Doha. The 2023 ACB Six-red Snooker, Team, and Under-21 Snooker Championships were held between June 16 and 25 in Tehran, Iran.

Esmailnezhad joins Calzedonia Verona



● MEHR

Sports Desk

Iran international opposite spiker Amin Esmailnezhad joined the Italian volleyball club, Calzedonia Verona.

Esmailnezhad has an outstanding performance during the 2023 Volleyball Nations League (VNL) with Team Melli, reported Mehr News Agency.

His performance at the VNL drew attention from multiple foreign clubs, and finally, Esmailnezhad chose to play in the Italian Serie A1 Volleyball League with Calzedonia Verona. Calzedonia Verona is a professional volleyball team based in Verona, Italy. The club plays in Serie A1 of the Italian Volleyball League.

Ilkay Gundogan: Man City captain joins Barcelona

Manchester City captain Ilkay Gundogan left the club to join Barcelona following the expiration of his contract.

Gundogan left Manchester on the back of the club's greatest season, lifting the Premier League, FA Cup and Champions League trophies within the space of a month, according to skysports.com.

He spent seven years at the Etihad Stadium since joining from Borussia Dortmund in 2016, and manager Pep Guardiola had publicly hinted at his own desire to extend that stay further.

Gundogan was in talks with City over a new deal ahead of his contract expiry at the end of last week. However, the length of the deal on offer for the 32-year-old - one year plus an option of a further 12 months - was a sticking point, and he has instead penned a two-year contract, also including

a 12-month option, with LaLiga champions Barcelona. His release clause has been set at €400m (£342m).

Gundogan told the Manchester City club website: "For me, it has been a total privilege and pleasure to be part of Manchester City for the last seven years.

"Manchester has been my home and I have felt part of a very special family at City.

"I have been lucky to have experienced so many unforgettable moments in my time here and to have been captain for this extra special season has been the greatest experience of my career.

"First, I would like to thank Pep. To have been able to play under and learn from him for so long has been something I will never forget.

"I would also like to thank all my team-mates - past and present - who have all played such a special part

in making my time here so amazing.

"Finally, I would like to thank the incredible City fans. They have supported me from the moment I arrived, and I owe them all so much for their support.

"This club made me realise all my dreams and I will forever be thankful for this opportunity.

"I will carry City always in my heart. Once a blue, always a blue."

Writing on the Player's Tribune website, Gundogan said announcing to his teammates he was leaving City was his hardest goodbye in football, and explained why he had chosen Barcelona as his next, and perhaps final, move in his career.

He wrote: "Goodbyes are never easy, but it's even harder with this team. When I had to break the news to the boys that I was leaving in our group chat, I was very emotional. I will miss all of them, honestly.



● goal.com

"But I am happy to say that I'm leaving here as a champion, and I have nothing but love for the club in my heart. This season, something clicked. I just knew we were going to do it. "I don't even mean just the Champions League. The Premier League, the FA Cup - everything. Week

after week, I just felt everything lining up perfectly. Even when we were 10 points behind Arsenal, I knew we would win the league."

Addressing his decision to join Barca, he added: "If I was going to move, there is only one club in the world that made sense.

It was Barcelona or nothing.

"Ever since I was a little kid, I dreamed of wearing that shirt some day. I am confident that I have a few more years left at the highest level, and I just want to help bring Barcelona back to where they deserve to be."

Alcaraz claims Queen's title, top ranking

Spain's Carlos Alcaraz fired a Wimbledon warning as he comfortably beat Alex de Minaur 6-4 6-4 to claim the Queen's Club title and return to world number one.

In baking temperatures, the 20-year-old had too much firepower for his wily Australian opponent as he claimed his first grass-court title in impressive fashion, Reuters reported.

It was only Alcaraz's third tournament on grass, but the way he marched through the draw augurs well for his prospects at Wimbledon, where he will be seeded number one. De Minaur, the first Australian to reach the London final since Lleyton Hewitt in 2006,

had chances for a break of serve when leading 4-3 in the opening set but could not take them.

Alcaraz then broke serve in the following game before wrapping up the set on serve.

De Minaur double-faulted to hand over a service game early in the second set and there was no way the muscular Spaniard was going to pass up the opportunity to notch his fifth title of 2023.

Alcaraz is the fourth Spanish player to win the prestigious pre-Wimbledon tournament and will now hope to emulate Rafa Nadal who triumphed at Queen's in 2008 before going on to win Wimbledon for the



Spain's Carlos Alcaraz celebrates with the trophy after winning his final match against Australia's Alex de Minaur in Queen's Club, London, Britain on June 25, 2023.

● GETTY IMAGES

first time a few weeks later.

"So many legends have won here so to see my

name on the trophy surrounded by great champions, it's amazing," reigning U.S. Open

champion Alcaraz said on court.

While Novak Djokovic remains the favorite

to retain his Wimbledon title, Alcaraz will be the top seed at the tournament, where

Sprinter Noah Lyles ties Usain Bolt's record



Noah Lyles won the men's 200m race at the 2023 USATF NYC Grand Prix in 19.83 seconds.

● SARAH STIER/GETTY IMAGES

Noah Lyles approached history as the 25-year-old American sprinter recorded his 34th career sub-20 second 200-meter race after he won the 2023 New York City Grand Prix with a time of 19.83 seconds. That also marked Lyles' 11th win this season.

"It's not perfect, but it was very fun," Lyles told NBC after the race.

That marked Usain Bolt's career record. Lyles' time also ranked third-fastest in the event behind Bolt's world record of 19.19 seconds from 2009 and Yohan Blake's 19.26 from 2011.

Lyles has been on a tear for his entire professional career. He's a three-time world champion, four-time Diamond League final winner and won bronze at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics since he went pro in 2016. This was Lyles' second sub-20-second finish this season after he did it 11 times in 2022.

He'll have a chance to break Bolt's record if he enters another meet this summer. Upcoming options into the Diamond League in London on July 23 or the World Athletics Championships in Budapest, Hungary, in mid-to-late August.