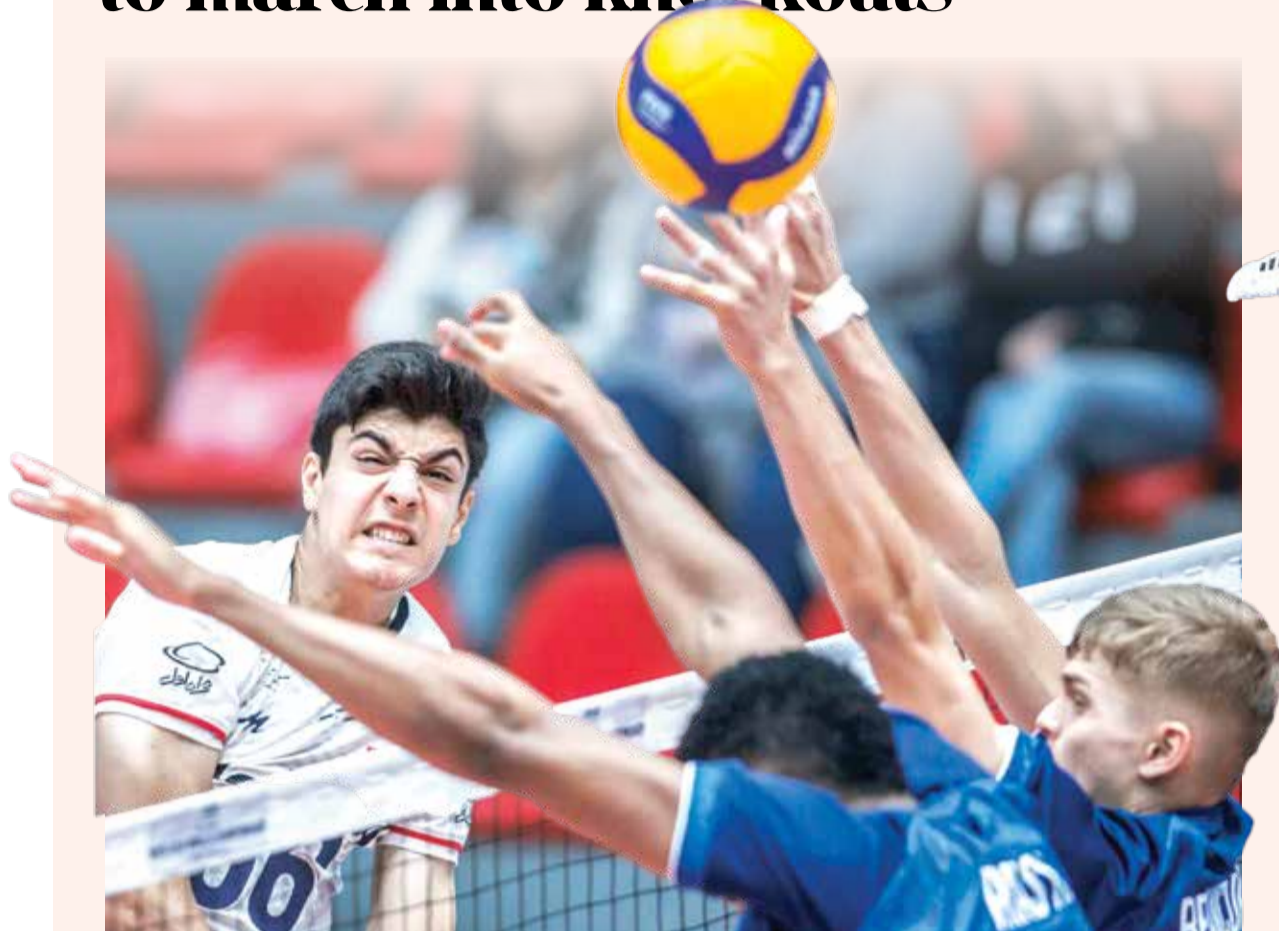


FIVB U19 World Championship: Iran routs Colombia to march into knockouts



Sport Desk

Iran eased into the last-16 round of the FIVB Boys' U19 World Championship in San Juan, Argentina, thanks to a 3-0 (25-13, 25-22, 25-16) victory over Colombia in Pool C. This was a third consecutive victory for Iran at the competition – following wins against South Korea and Puerto Rico – as Mohammad Vakili's boys are yet to concede a set in San Juan.

Iran had already been handed a victory over Nigeria in the final match of the group fixtures after the African side withdrew from the event and a perfect run in the pool will see the Asian champion take on Mexico in the knockout phase on Tuesday. Outside-hitter Morteza Narimani contributed with a game-high 17 points – including four aces – for Iran, with Abolfazl Mahdian chipping in 15 points.

Juan Felipe Velasco topped the scoring

chart for the Colombians with 11 points. "Our performance was superb in major spells of the contest. We were brilliant in serving significantly in the first set. The game was so close in the second set, but a change of tactics and players in the third led us to the victory," Vakili said after the match. "We also had 13 successful blocks, which is an impressive figure for a team of this age group," added the Iranian, whose team is chasing a third world under-19 title – and a first since 2017 – in San Juan.

Later on Saturday, Poland – runner-up in Tehran two years ago – defeated Japan in four sets (34-32, 26-24, 22-25, 25-21) in Pool B, while Brazil powered past Chile in straight sets (25-11, 25-17, 25-21).

USA beat the host 3-0 (25-19, 25-18, 25-20) to maintain a perfect record in Pool A and Italy came out victorious against Belgium 3-1 (25-16, 25-15, 25-23, 26-14) in Pool D.



Iranian outside-hitter Morteza Narimani hits a spike during a straight-set victory over Colombia at the FIVB Boys' U19 World Championship in San Juan, Argentina, on August 5, 2023.

● FIVB

History-making Iran into last 16 of world U19 handball meet



Iran's Amirhossein Karami (24) shoots during a 46-24 victory over Burundi at the Men's U19 Handball World Championship in Opatija, Croatia, on August 5, 2023.

● IRIHF

Sport Desk

Iran secured a first-ever place in the round of 16 at the IHF Men's U19 Handball World Championship in Croatia. Fourteen years after the country's last participation at the event, Iranian boys defeated Burundi 46-24 on Saturday to win Group H with five points. Amirhossein Karami delivered a man-of-the-match performance, scoring a game-high 14 goals to lead Majid Rahimizadeh's side to a second victory in the competition.

Later in the day, the Faroe Islands stunned handball powerhouse Sweden by a 34-31 scoreline to join Iran in Group IV of the last 16 – also featuring Germany and Saudi Arabia.

Iran will resume action in the next round today against Saudi Arabia – in a repeat of last year's semifinals in the Asian Championship in Bahrain, where Iran had edged the Saudis 34-33 before suffering a defeat against South Korea in the final.

Iran opened its campaign in Croatia with a 26-26 draw against Sweden and went on to beat the Faroe Islands 29-27.

Wrestling U17 Worlds: Khalili storms to FS gold, Sayyar settles for bronze



Iran's Sina Khalili (1) has his hand raised as the winner in the freestyle 65kg final against Russian Magomed Alibakharchiev, representing the Individual Neutral Athletes, at the Wrestling U17 World Championships in Istanbul, Turkey, on August 5, 2023.

● UWW

Sport Desk

The second day of the freestyle contests at the Wrestling U17 World Championships in Istanbul, Turkey, saw the Iranians bag a gold and a bronze medal across five weight classes.

Having powered past opponents from Slovakia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Germany, Sina Khalili made a quick work of Russian Magomed Alibakharchiev – participating as a neutral athlete – for the 65kg gold.

The reigning Asian champion was at his defensive best and used his speed and strength for successive takedowns en route to a 10-0 victory.

Khalili's gold continues the country's streak of having at least one freestyle champion at the event after missing out on the gold in 2016 in Tbilisi, Georgia.

There was further glory for the Iranian squad in first five weight divisions as Sam Sayyar bounced back from a last-four setback against American Paul Kenny to out-muscle Turkmenistan's Azymerdi Ashyrgulyev 10-0 and grab the 48kg bronze – sharing the third podium with Joseph

Bachmann of Puerto Rico, while Kenny went on to edge Japanese Yamato Furusawa for the ultimate prize.

Amir-Reza Teymourizad, meanwhile, was unfortunate to leave the competitions empty-handed after suffering a defeat against Armenian Samvel Gevorgyan in the third-place bout of the 55kg class.

Saturday's result came after Iran had lifted the Greco-Roman trophy in Istanbul last week.

The country's 10-man squad collected one gold and silver apiece as well as double bronze medals to top the table with 113 points – five clear of second-placed Azerbaijan which won two golds – with Georgia in third with 96 points.

Payam Ahmadi defeated Asian champion Shakhzod Ruziokhunov 4-0 to claim the 48kg gold, while Ahmadreza Mohammadian settled for the 71kg silver after a 6-5 loss to Greek wrestler Arionas Kolitsopoulos.

Alireza Amiri (45kg) and Amirhossein Abdevali (110kg) finished their campaigns with a couple of consolation bronzes.

Iranians cap Asian Youth & Junior Weightlifting Ch'ships with 10 medals



Sport Desk

Alireza Esfandiari brought the curtain down on a medal-laden campaign for Iran at the Asian Youth & Junior Weightlifting Championships in Delhi, India, with a couple of gold

medals and a silver in the super-heavyweight class of the junior contests. Esfandiari took the snatch gold with a best lift of 177kg before settling for the clean & jerk silver with 207kg.

An overall tally of 384kg secured the total gold of the +109kg event for the Iranian.

Meanwhile, Taha Nemati, winner of three youth golds earlier in the competition, finished second to Esfandiari in the snatch contest thanks to a 166kg lift, while taking the C&J and total bronzes.

Earlier on Saturday, Kourosh Zare' took the snatch bronze of the 109kg class before claiming the C&J and total silvers.

Hassan Emadi grabbed the silver medal of the snatch event.

The final day's medals took Iran's tally to 21 medals – three golds, 11 silvers, and seven bronzes – as the country finished as the runner-up in the juniors age group with 708 points. Uzbekistan won the title with 729 points, with the host country in the third place with 599 points.



Iran's Alireza Esfandiari is seen in action in the juniors' +109kg contests of the Asian Youth & Junior Weightlifting Championships in Delhi, India, on August 5, 2023.

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