

FIBA World Cup: Cote d'Ivoire defeat all but ends Olympic dream for Iran



Iran's Piter Girgoorian (10) goes up for the basket during a defeat against Cote d'Ivoire at the FIBA Basketball World Cup in Jakarta, Indonesia, on August 28, 2023.
● FIBA

Sports Desk

Iran is on the verge of missing out on a berth in next year's Paris Olympics after suffering a second successive defeat at the FIBA Basketball World Cup.

Beaten by Brazil on the opening day, Turkish coach Hakan Demir's fell to a 71-69 loss to Cote d'Ivoire after a thrilling final few minutes in Jakarta's Indonesia Arena on Monday to stay bottom of Group G.

The Africans exploited Iran's four turnovers in five possessions by grabbing the lead in a tense fourth quarter. The stretch also included the fifth foul for Hamed Haddadi, who had been Iran's focal point on offense in the second half.

Even though Arsalan Kazemi scored off an in-bounds play to give Iran a 69-68 advantage with 13 seconds left, Solo Diabate was the hero late as his courageous drive to the rim gave him the chance to win the game from the foul line.

Behnam Yakhchali hit a clutch three-point shot with one minute remaining and scored a game-high 19 points, while Nisre Zouzoua topped the score for the Ivorians with 17.

"After the last game against Brazil our response was very important. We started the game very well and had the lead for most of the game. They made better decisions in the last minute and won. We fought until the end and have to keep on going like this," Yakhchali said after the game.

With defending champion Spain coming Iran's way today, the Asian side is unlikely to finish as the continent's top team at the World Cup after co-host Japan came out on top against Finland (98-88) in Group E on the preceding night.

Taremi eager to seal last-gasp Milan move: Report

Should the deal eventually go through, Taremi will become the second Iranian international to move to the Serie A this summer, following Sardar Azmoun, who joined AS Roma from Leverkusen on a season-long loan deal.



Porto striker Mehdi Taremi (c) is seen in action during a 2-1 victory over Rio Ave in the Portuguese Primeira Liga in Vila do Conde, Portugal, on August 28, 2023.
● fcporto.pt

Sports Desk

Porto striker Mehdi Taremi has made his desire known to the Portuguese club that he wants to join Serie A giant Milan before the summer transfer window deadline on Friday, according to Relevo journalist Matteo Moretto.

The Italian club representatives are in talks with Porto over a deal for the Iranian talisman, whose contract at the Primeira Liga side runs until July next year.

Portuguese newspaper A Bola, meanwhile, wrote that Monday's 2-1 away victory against Rio Ave was likely the last appearance in the

Dragons' outfit for the prolific frontman.

Porto is believed to be asking 25-30 million euros for their Iranian asset, who turned 31 last month, though Milan is reluctant to meet the price tag.

Yet to get off the mark in the new season, Taremi bagged 31 goals, while providing his

teammates with 14 assists, in 51 appearances across all competitions for Porto in the previous campaign – including 22 strikes in the league which saw him finish as the leading marksman in the Portuguese top flight.

Porto still had to settle for a runner-up finish behind Benfica in the league but went on

to lift the Taça de Portugal trophy for a second year in a row. The Iranian also netted five to help Porto win the group in the UEFA Champions League before being knocked out by Inter in the round of 16.

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international to move to the Serie A this summer, following Sardar Azmoun.

AS Roma signed the Leverkusen forward, who had four goals and assists apiece in 33 outings for the Bundesliga side, on a season-long loan contract with the option to make the deal permanent.

Carlsen, Niemann settle cheating claims dispute



● SAINT LOUIS CHESS CLUB

THE GUARDIAN – A dispute that caused scandal in the world of elite chess appears to have been settled after the players involved said they have moved on from their rift.

Hans Niemann, a rising star in the chess world, filed a \$100m lawsuit against Magnus Carlsen, the website Chess.com and chess streamer Hikaru Nakamura after allegations he had cheated.

The allegations began after Niemann beat Carlsen, widely considered one of the greatest players in history, in a match at the Sinquefeld Cup last year. The Norwegian implied that the then teenager had cheated. A week later Carlsen refused to play in an online game against the American, opting instead to resign.

Niemann has admitted to cheating online when he was 12 and 16, but insists he has never done so over the board. He also promised to play naked to prove his innocence after unfounded claims he may have used vibrating anal beads were amplified by Elon Musk.

Chess.com, which has millions of users around the world, concluded in a 72-page report released last October that Niemann had "likely cheated" in online matches between July 2015 and August 2020. Niemann denied those allegations. The report did not find any evidence that Niemann had cheated in in-person matches. A US judge dismissed Niemann's suit in June.

On Monday, chess.com said the parties had agreed to move forward with no further threat of legal action. Carlsen, the world No 1, addressed the events at the Sinquefeld Cup in his own statement.

"I acknowledge and understand Chess.com's report, including its statement that there is no determinative evidence that Niemann cheated in his game against me at the Sinquefeld Cup," said the Norwegian. Niemann said he was looking forward to moving on from the lawsuit.

Djokovic back to world number one after US Open win

BBC – Novak Djokovic will replace young rival Carlos Alcaraz as the men's world number one after a routine win on his US Open return. Serbia's Djokovic, who lost the Wimbledon final to Alcaraz, won 6-0 6-2 6-3 against France's Alexandre Muller in Monday's night session in New York. Djokovic, 36, was not allowed to play in the United States last year because he was not vaccinated against Covid-19.

He has returned knowing another title will be a record-equalling 24th major. Matching Australian Margaret Court's all-time tally is Djokovic's target and he made a statement start by breezing past 84th-ranked Muller.

"We started quite late but nevertheless I was excited to go out on the court – it has been a couple of years. In the second and third sets I dropped the level of my serve and I had to work

for the points a bit more," said Djokovic, who will spend a record-extending 390th week at the top of the ATP rankings.

Djokovic, who won the Australian Open and French Open earlier this year, is aiming for a fourth title at Flushing Meadows and will play Spain's Bernabe Zapata Miralles in the second round. He will return to world number one after the tournament.

Alcaraz and Djokovic are

the joint favourites for the men's singles title having developed a fascinating rivalry over the past 12 months.

The match-up has ignited over the past few months following three compelling contests in the French Open semi-finals, the Wimbledon showpiece and this month's Cincinnati final. Alcaraz and Djokovic cannot meet at the US Open until the final as a result of being the top two seeds.



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