

## LeBron interested in playing at Paris Olympics, media report



USA TODAY SPORTS

REUTERS – LeBron James may have sat out the last two Olympics but the NBA's all-time leading scorer is interested in making a return to the international stage with USA Basketball at the 2024 Paris Games, according to multiple reports on Monday.

Citing unnamed sources, ESPN said James is among a number of top players who are interested in competing in Paris while The Athletic said the Los Angeles Lakers forward has already called multiple stars in a bid to recruit them.

James has not played for Team USA since he won a gold medal at the 2012 London Olympics.

The 38-year-old James, a three-time Olympian and two-time gold medalist, reached out to Kevin Durant, among others, and the two players are viewing the Paris Games as a "last dance" with USA Basketball, sources told The Athletic.

According to The Athletic, James has also spoken to Stephen Curry, Anthony Davis, Jayson Tatum and Draymond Green, who are all prepared to commit as well. Curry has never represented the United States at an Olympics but ESPN said the NBA's all-time leader in three-pointers has expressed an interest in playing for Steve Kerr, his Golden State Warriors coach. James' push to recruit players started well before the United States lost in the bronze medal game of the recently-concluded FIBA Basketball World Cup and his decision was not related to that team's result.

## United board to vote on Ratcliffe's bid

THE GUARDIAN – Manchester United's board is expected to vote on Sir Jim Ratcliffe's bid to buy a 25% share in the club for about £1.3bn in the coming days, with sources close to the Ineos owner confident his offer will be accepted.

Ratcliffe's offer values United at £6.2bn, while the whole club is actually valued at about \$3.2bn (£2.63m). It is thought that Ratcliffe, who is one of Britain's richest people, may have offered a premium price for his potential holding in exchange to gain sporting control of the club. Ratcliffe is now the only publicly declared bidder after Sheikh Jassim bin Hamad al-Thani informed the Glazers that he had withdrawn his 100% offer of more than £5bn for the club.

# Wrestling U23 World Championships: Iran looking to complete perfect run in season finale

Sports Desk

Iran will be looking to make a clean sweep of six age-group world titles when the season-ending U23 World Championships get underway in Tirana, Albania, next Monday.

The Iranian Greco-Roman and freestyle squads walked away with double team trophies at the world under-17 event in Istanbul in early August, weeks before the country claimed the under-20 titles in Amman.

A gold medalist in the Jordanian capital, Amir-Reza Ma'soumi will headline the Iranian 10-man freestyle team in Tirana, putting his 125kg crown on the line.

Ma'soumi will be joined by another defending champion in Amir-Ali Azarpira, who was a late addition to the Iranian team for the 92kg contests in September's Senior Worlds in Belgrade – suffering a second-round exit – but will be glad to return to his favorite 97kg division next week.

Mohammad-Mobin Azimi will take part in the 92kg event, fresh from the world and Asian under-20 golds in the summer, while Ali Rezaei will be looking to improve on the 70kg silver he won in Amman, when competing in the 86kg weight class. Ali Khorramdel settled for a 61kg bronze in Amman but will be eager for a better finish in his new 79kg class. Milad Valizadeh will represent the country in the 57kg class, stepping into the event on the back of a disappointing campaign in Belgrade, where he was knocked out in the quarterfinals.

Shahdad Khosravi (61kg),



The photo shows a training session of the Iran U23 Greco-Roman squad in Tehran, Iran, on October 15, 2023.

Yassin Rezaei (65kg), Mohammad Bakhshi (70kg), and Salar Habibi (74kg) complete the Iranian freestyle lineup in the Albanian capital.

Iran bagged four golds and a silver in the previous under-23 event in the Spanish city of Pontevedra but still had to settle for a runner-up finish behind Georgia.

### Hedayati on high

In the Greco-Roman com-

petitions, Fardin Hedayati will be the other Iranian superheavyweight wrestler to watch as he will compete in the 130kg contests following dominant performances in the world and Asian under-20 championships.

Alireza Mohmadi fell to a shock first-round defeat last year in Pontevedra, but the world No. 1 in the UWW Rankings will be the ultimate favorite for the 82kg crown after a stunning cam-

campaign at the Senior Worlds, which saw the young Iranian – a former world under-20 champion – grab a precious silver medal.

Iman Mohammadi (63kg) and Danial Sohrabi (67kg) will also be among the hopefuls for top-podium finishes, having won the ultimate prize of their respective weight classes last year. Mohammadi will walk onto the mat as a reigning back-to-back senior Asian

champion, while Sohrabi – a 72kg contestant in Belgrade – took the bronze at the Hangzhou Asian Games less than a fortnight ago.

A bronze medalist last year, Amir Abdi will fancy his chances for a second medal in the 72kg competitions, while Mohammad Naqousi will participate in the 77kg class with world junior gold and bronze medals under his belt.

Abolfazl Choubani will seek a better finish than the sil-

ver-winning run in Amman, though he will see tough competition from reigning champion Istvan Takacs from Hungary as well as Georgian Achiko Bolkvadze, who beat the Iranian to the U20 gold, in the 87kg event. Mahdi Ahadi (55kg), Omid Arami (60kg), and Vahid Dadkhah (97kg) will also be part of the squad as Iran will chase a second Greco-Roman crown in a row – third in four years.

# Inter considering January move for Taremi: Report

Sports Desk



Porto striker Mahdi Taremi (9) scores a goal which is later disallowed for offside during a Champions League game against Barcelona at the Estadio do Dragao, Porto, Portugal, on October 4, 2023.

PEDRO NUNES/REUTERS

Porto striker Mahdi Taremi could ultimately seal his much-talked-about move to the Italian top flight during the midseason transfer window, according to La Gazzetta dello Sport.

The Milan-based newspaper reported on Sunday that Inter is keen on signing the Iranian international in January to add to the depth of the frontline, though a secondary option could see the Serie A giant move for the Dragons' frontman in the summer.

With Austrian Marko Arnautović out injured until November, and Chilean Alexis Sánchez far from his best form, Inter manager Simone Inzaghi is looking for a new number nine alongside Argentine skipper Lautaro Martínez.

Inter, runner-up in the Champions League last season, is currently second to Milan in the Italian league standing.

The 31-year-old Iranian, who registered 31 goals and 14 assists across all competitions for Porto last season – including 22

strikes which saw him finish as the leading marksman in the Portuguese league – came within inches of a summer contract with the Nerazzurri's archrival, AC Milan, only to see the deal fall through on the transfer deadline day after failing to reach an agreement on personal terms.

Taremi, whose current contract at Porto runs until next July, has had a slow start to the new campaign, finding the net twice in 11 outings for the club.

Having missed out on the previous domestic league crown, Porto is third in the Primeira Liga table – trailing Sporting and Benfica by three and two points respectively – while sitting second in the Champions League group – three points adrift of Barcelona after two rounds of matches.

Taremi's winter departure will be a major blow for head coach Sergio Conceicao but the Dragons could still be tempted to cash in on their Iranian asset in January rather than let him leave as a free agent next summer.