

## Terrence Shannon Jr. returns for Illinois after judge's ruling, scores 16



REUTERS

Terrence Shannon Jr., in his first game back after a judge's ruling allowed him to rejoin No. 14 Illinois, scored 16 points in an 86-63 victory over Rutgers. Shannon came off the bench and played 28 minutes. He had four assists and made 8 of 10 shots from the free throw line, ESPN wrote.

He was suspended by the university on Dec. 28 after he was arrested on a law-breaking for an alleged September incident in Lawrence, Kansas. US District Court Judge Colleen Lawless, however, ruled Friday that the university had violated Shannon's civil rights and granted a preliminary injunction that required Illinois to reinstate Shannon to the team.

A preliminary hearing in the criminal case has been set for Feb. 23.

Illini fans showed support for Shannon by cheering when the guard entered the court for pregame warmups and giving him a standing ovation when he checked into the game with 17:37 to go in the first half.

"Our team feels whole again," teammate Justin Harmon said after the game. "We have our best player back."

Illinois coach Brad Underwood said he was pleased with Shannon's performance considering he hadn't practiced with the team or played for three weeks.

"You could tell he was tired at times," Underwood said. "He integrated in a nice way. He was pretty solid."

Shannon's lawyers had requested the injunction earlier this month, claiming the school had made a "rush to judgment" and used an "unfair" process when it decided to suspend Shannon indefinitely late last month after a warrant was issued for his arrest. A woman at a bar alleged that Shannon had inappropriately touched her and sexually assaulted her.

The Illini (14-4, 5-2 Big Ten) were 4-2 in six games without Shannon, who hadn't played since Illinois' 97-73 victory over Missouri in St. Louis on Dec. 22.

Illinois will next play on Wednesday at Northwest-

## Uzbek Tantashev appointed to referee Iran-UAE match

Uzbekistan's Ilgiz Tantashev was appointed as the referee of the match between Iran and the UAE football teams.

The match will be held in Al Rayyan's Education City Stadium in Group C of the 2023 AFC Asian Cup on Tuesday.

The 39-year-old official has been active as a professional referee since 2012.

Tantashev has officiated football matches in the Uzbekistan League, Asian Champions League and AFC World Cup qualifiers.

Iran booked their place in the Asian Cup last 16 when they beat Hong Kong 1-0 in a Group C game on Friday at the Khalifa International Stadium where Mehdi Qayedi scored the winner.

The result moved Iran to six points at the top of the group where they will be guaranteed a top-two finish. They sit two points above the United Arab Emirates while Palestine are

third with one point.

Iran broke the deadlock in the 24th minute when Milad Mohammadi released Qayedi into the box where the 25-year-old took his shot from a tight angle and beat the keeper as he guided the ball into the far bottom corner.

Iran dominated possession and had several opportunities to extend their lead but failed to convert their chances as Hong Kong frustrated their more illustrious opponents, much to the disappointment of Iranian coach Amir Qalenoee.

Hong Kong, who made their return to the Asian Cup after 56 years and are 129 spots below Iran in the rankings, remain winless and are bottom with no points after losing to UAE in their group opener.

Iran-UAE game on Tuesday will effectively decide who tops the table and gets a more favorable draw in the knockout stage.



REUTERS

## Iranian climber achieves historic summit in Antarctica



Elite Iranian climber Amin Aziznia achieved a remarkable feat by becoming the first Iranian man to climb Vinson Massif, the highest peak in Antarctica, which stands at 4,892 meters (16,050 feet).

The challenging expedition was led by the experienced Nepali climber and expedition leader, Jangbu Sherpa, according to IRNA. Sherpa, aged 42, is not only a Nepali climber but also an international mountain guide.

He has successfully summited Everest five times, as well as Lhotse and Dhaulagiri. A leading figure in the third generation of Iranian elite climbers, Aziznia has been focusing on summiting high-altitude mountains outside Iran, particularly in the Himalayas and South America. It's noteworthy that the first Iranian woman to climb Vinson Massif in Antarctica is Sara Safari.

## Iran learn fate at 2024 IWBF Repechage



Iran's men's wheelchair basketball team discovered their opponents at the 2024 IWBF Repechage tournament.

Team Melli have been placed in Pool A along with hosts France, Canada, and the Netherlands, wrote Mehr News Agency.

Pool B consists of Colombia, Germany, Morocco, and Italy. Iran finished as runners-up at the 2024

IWBF Asia Oceania Zone (AOZ) Championships, which was held in Bangkok, Thailand from Jan. 12 to 20.

Australia directly qualified for the Paris 2024 as the winner.

The 2024 IWBF Repechage Tournament for Men, will take place in Antibes, France, from April 12 to 15. The tournament is the final qualification event for the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games.

## Injured Egypt star Salah to have 'rehab' at Liverpool

Mohamed Salah will return to Liverpool for treatment on the leg injury he suffered at the Africa Cup of Nations, but Egypt is hopeful he can come back for a potential semi-final.

Salah was injured in Egypt's 2-2 draw with Ghana on Thursday in Group B, BBC wrote.

"It makes sense that he's doing the rehab with us," said Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp on Sunday, before Egypt confirmed the forward's return.

The Egyptian football association had initially said on Friday that Liverpool forward Salah would only feature in the tournament again if his nation advances to a quarter-final on 2 or 3 February.

Asked if the 31-year-old would go back to Afcon should his country progress, Klopp added: "I would say if Egypt qualifies for the final, if he's fit before the final, then probably yes."

Klopp had suggested on Friday that Salah's hamstring problem



GETTY IMAGES

was likely to be severe, given the forward had missed just 10 league games for the Reds in more than six seasons.

"He was shocked and couldn't see why he was hit by something so intense," said the German.

"You have these hamstring injuries in a different way. He felt it and we know how rarely Mo goes off, or needs to go off, so it

is definitely something."

The last of Egypt's seven titles at the Cup of Nations came in 2010, a year before Salah made his international debut and they finished runners-up in the 2017 and 2021 editions.

He scored a late penalty last Sunday to help Egypt draw 2-2 with Mozambique to avoid an embarrassing opening defeat earlier in the tournament.

Salah is convinced he will win the Afcon "sooner or later".

"I would love to win it, absolutely," he said. "It will happen somehow - that is what I believe. Whatever I believe, I achieve - so sooner or later, it will happen."

"I have won everything possible but this one, not yet. Everybody knows what it means to any player to win an Africa Cup."

"The players are very motivated to win the tournament. I believe that, with hard work, everything is possible, so we just need to win one game to qualify and we go from there."