

Persepolis in limbo over future of the bench

Sports Desk

Persian Gulf Pro League champion Persepolis is yet to know who will be in charge of the bench for the start of the next season.

Brazilian interim coach Osmar Loss Vieira, who led Persepolis to a seventh top-flight crown in eight years earlier in the month, has been hesitating to commit his future to the capital Reds.

Now on vacation in his home country, Osmar said before leaving Iran that "family reasons" might keep him from continuing with Persepolis, though the media in Iran suggested in recent days that he could be lured by Thai champion Buriram United. The club is believed to wait on Osmar's decision until the end of the week, while some reports say Persepolis hierarchy has already been in talks with several coaches for the Reds role.

Croatian Dragan Skocic – the ex-manager of the Iranian national team – German coach Petar Segrt, who led Tajikistan to the Asian Cup last eight on its debut in February, and former Al Ahli coach Nebojsa Jovicic in Qatar,

have been named in the Iranian media as the candidates for the job, but the club is yet to confirm the news of the negotiations, insisting Osmar remains their first choice for the bench.

Having joined Persepolis as a number two to Yahya Golmohammadi for the start of the 2022/23 season, Osmar was appointed to the job following the Iranian's departure in January – much to the irritation of the majority of the Reds supporters, who hoped to welcome their legendary coach Branko Ivankovic – then in charge of the Oman national team – back to the club.

Persepolis fell to a 1-0 defeat at Iralco in Osmar's first game as the manager before he eventually won the fans over thanks to a remarkable run of 12 wins and two draws in 15 league outings – including a sensational comeback victory over Esteghlal Khuzestan in May, in which the Reds rallied from a three-goal deficit at half-time to win 4-3 right at the death and overtake archrival Esteghlal on top of the table with three games to spare.



Persepolis coach Osmar Loss Vieira is seen during a 1-0 win against Mes Rafsanjan on the final day of the Persian Gulf Pro League season at the Azadi Stadium, Tehran, Iran, on June 1, 2024.
● ALI SHARIFZADEH/IRNA

Iran U21 crowned world deaf futsal champion



● surdofutsal.kz

Sports Desk

Iran defeated host Kazakhstan 7-4 to defend its title at the 2nd U21 Deaf Futsal World Championship in Astana.

Amirreza Hassanzadeh bagged

four goals with Ilia Fayyaz, Pouria Saeidi, and Abolfazl Ebrahimi also on the scoresheet as Iran came out victorious in extra time after the game had finished 3-3 in normal time.

Mahdi Sanei's boys had beaten

Brazil 6-1 for a place in the final showpiece, having come out on top against the South American side 5-1 in the group stage. Iran also beat Uzbekistan (5-3), Azerbaijan (14-1), and Thailand (7-1) en route to the final.

Iranian Labib wins Asian road cycling bronze

Sports Desk

Ali Labib won a first medal for medal in the Asian Road Cycling Championships in Almaty, Kazakhstan, taking the bronze in the individual road race event.

Representing the country in the men's under-23 class, Labib crossed the finish line in 2:55:27 hours to collect 70 points in the final standing.

Jasim al-Ali clocked 2:55:27 to beat fellow-Emirati cyclist Mohammad Almutaiwei to the gold by a 40-point margin.



● ALMUTAIWEI

Iranian girls win historic CAVA volleyball gold

Sports Desk

The Iranian girls won a historic gold at the CAVA U18 Volleyball Championships – featuring Central Asian countries – in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

Iran defeated Kazakhstan 3-1 (25-12, 16-25, 25-17, 25-16) to claim a first women's medal across different age classes in the sport for the country.

This was a second victory over Kazakhstan in the tournament for Fateh Shaban Khamseh's girls following a straight-set triumph in pool phase.

In the boys' event, the Iranian team, preparing for August's world under-17 event in Sofia, settled for a runner-up finish after a 3-1 loss to Pakistan.



● volleyball.ir

Dutch midfielder De Jong to miss Euros with injury

BBC – Netherlands and Barcelona midfielder Frenkie de Jong has been ruled out of this summer's European Championship through injury.

De Jong, 27, played just three times for his club after suffering an ankle injury in March.

He was included in Ronald Koeman's Euro 2024 squad despite struggling with his recovery, but has been forced to pull out

of the tournament.

On Tuesday, Atalanta midfielder Teun Koopmeiners was also ruled out after injuring himself in the warm-up before the Netherlands' 4-0 friendly win against Iceland on Monday evening.

The 26-year-old, who has 21 caps, played 51 games for Atalanta last season as they won the Europa League and finished

fourth in Serie A.

Chelsea defender Ian Maatsen, 22, who spent last season on loan at Borussia Dortmund, has been added to the Dutch squad. The Netherlands begin their Euros campaign on Sunday when they play Poland in Group D, while they also face France and Austria in the group stage. De Jong has played 54 times for his country, scoring twice.

