

Iranians collect double GR golds, bronzes in U17 Worlds

Sports Desk

Iranian wrestlers grabbed four medals at the U17 World Championships in Amman, Jordan, collecting double Greco-Roman golds and bronzes apiece across five weight classes on Tuesday.

Stepping into the 48kg final on the back of three technical-superiority wins, not conceding a single point, Armin Shamsipour capped his dominant run with a 10-1 victory over Uzbekistan's Khusniddin Abdulkarimov to walk away with the ultimate prize.

Amir-Mahdi Saeidinava clinched a second gold for the country in the Jordanian capital, coming out victorious over Vladyslav Pokotylo of Ukraine in the 65kg final.

The Iranian launched Pokotylo for a massive four-point throw and never looked in trouble in securing a 6-2 win.

Elsewhere, Emad-Reza Mohsennejad bounced back from a 9-0 loss to Mikhail Shkarin, participating as an individual neutral athlete, in the semifinals to defeat Bulgarian Dinko Neykov 6-0 for the 80kg joint-bronze alongside Vladyslav Solodchuk of Ukraine. Shkarin went on to beat Yerkebulan Anapiya of



Uzbekistan 3-0 in the final showpiece. Iranian Aliasghar Dadbakhsh also finished his campaign with a consolation bronze.

Representing the country in the 110kg contests, Dadbakhsh overcame opponents from Kazakhstan and Armenia to reach the last four, before an 8-0

setback against Ukraine's Ivan Yankovski sent him into the third-place bout. A 3-1 win against Chinese Haorui Wang saw the Iranian share the third po-

dium with Ronak Ronak of India, with Yankovski coming out on top against Hungarian Zoltan Czako 13-4 for the gold. Amir-Ali Heydari, mean-

while, was unlucky to end his 55kg campaign empty-handed after a loss to Armenian Yurik Mkhitaryan in the bronze-medal contest.



Iran's Armin Shamsipour (red) is seen in action against Yedige Toleutayev of Kazakhstan in the Greco-Roman 48kg semifinals at the Wrestling U17 World Championships in Amman, Jordan, on August 19, 2024.

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Iran's Khatoon heads to Bhutan in pursuit of AWCL spot

Sports Desk

A place in the inaugural AFC Women's Champions League will be on the line when Iranian champion Khatoon Bam gets its campaign underway in the preliminary round of the Asian elite clubs' competition on Sunday.

Khatoon, which had to recover from the tragic death of star player Melika Mohammadi in a

car crash last December to win a record-extending 10th domestic league crown, left for Bhutan on Tuesday ahead of the opener against Group D host Royal Thimphu College in Thimphu's Changlimithang Stadium. The bad news for Khatoon head coach Marziyeh Ja'fari is the untimely injury blow for prolific striker Negin Zandi, which could see the 20-year-old prodigy miss the two games in Thim-

phu. Ja'fari's girls will finish their preliminary-round campaign against Hong Kong league champion Kitchee SC on August 31, with the top team of three joining Melbourne City, Filipino club Kaya, and Thailand's College of Asian Scholars in the main-round Group B - set to be staged in a centralized single round-robin format in Thailand in October.

Persian Gulf Pro League preview:

Reds reunion as Tractor welcomes Persepolis in eagerly-awaited clash

Sports Desk

Persian Gulf Pro League giants Tractor and Persepolis will be after a statement victory in the early stages of the new season when the two sides square off in an expected jam-packed Yadegar-e-Imam Stadium in Tabriz today.

The highly-anticipated encounter will see three of Tractor's summer signings play against their former teammates.

Iran international goalkeeper Alireza Beiranvand and wizard winger Mahdi Torabi were instrumental figures in Tehran Reds' domestic dom-

inance in recent years, while fullback Danial Esmailifar also played his part in helping Persepolis lift a seven top-flight trophy in eight seasons in June.

Having a new head coach in Dragan Skocic, Tractor will hope the trio's winning mentality will inspire the club to end the devoted fans' wait for a first league title come the end of the season.

Torabi and Esmailifar contributed with a couple of assists, while Beiranvand kept a clean sheet as Tractor defeated Mes Rafsanjan 2-0 on the road last Friday - a first opening-day victory for the northwestern Iranian side in

a decade. Persepolis, meanwhile, got off to a slow start to its title defense as the Reds were held to a 1-1 draw against Zob Ahan in Arak's Imam Khomeini Stadium - serving as the champion's home venue - with new Spanish coach Juan Carlos Garrido left ruing his wasteful frontline.

Elsewhere today, Foolad Khuzestan and new manager Yahya Golmohammadi will look to build on the first-day win at Nassaji Mazandaran when hosting Mes Rafsanjan in Ahvaz, while Iralco and Nassaji go head-to-head in Arak. Golgozar will be eager to

bounce back from the away loss to Malavan in the first home game of the new campaign against Esteghlal Khuzestan.

On Friday, Sepahan will play away to newly-promoted Kheybar Khorramabad in a game that could see new midfielder Staeven Nzonzi - a 2018 World Cup winner with France - make his debut for Jose Morais's side. Javad Nekounam's Esteghlal, which had a late VAR decision to thank for the 2-1 win at Shams Azar last week, will face Malavan.

Zob Ahan will host Havadar, and newcomer Chadormalou welcomes Shams Azar.



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