

Paris Paralympics: Teenage Rahimi wins taekwondo silver, gets Iran off the mark on Day 1

Sports Desk

Unlike the Paris Olympics, Iranian fans did not have to wait too long for a first medal at the Paralympic Games in the French capital.

Representing the country in the taekwondo competitions, teenage sensation Zahra Rahimi enjoyed an emphatic run to the first day of action in Paris, only to fall short against Mongolian Surenjav Ulambayar.

Rahimi, 15, began her campaign in Grand Palais with a 13-2 vic-

tory over China's Shao Qian and then defeated Brazilian Maria Machado Stumpf 6-4 to reach the last four.

A 6-0 triumph over Georgian Ana Japaridze sent the Iranian to the final showdown, where she was beaten 5-2 and settled for the silver.

"I'm so thrilled to have won a first medal for the country in Paris, though I would have been much happier if it was a gold," Rahimi said after the final.

"I had to face some tough opponents today. The Mongolian was surely more experienced and

made the most of it to win the bout. I had a knee injury before the final and was not in my best form," added the Iranian girl.

"I'm young and will definitely set sights on the gold medal in the next Paralympics," said Rahimi, who will still be a teenager for the next edition of the Games in Los Angeles in four-years' time. Maryam Abdollahpour was the other Iranian girl in action in the taekwondo contests but was unlucky to miss out on the -47kg podium after a defeat in the third-place matchup. Abdollahpour was beaten by de-



Iranian girl Zahra Rahimi (red) is seen in action against Brazilian Maria Machado Stumpf in the women's taekwondo -52kg contests at the Paris Paralympics on Aug. 29, 2024.

WORLD TAEKWONDO

fending champion Leonor Espinoza 19-9 in the quarterfinals but when Peruvian reached the final she was given a second chance in the repechage, where she was handed a walkover before falling

to Thailand's Khwansuda Phuangkitcha in the bronze-medal battle. "Our girls had some grueling bouts today. Abdollahpour had to face an Olympic champion in the first round, while Rahimi fought

the world number two and four. She was brilliant and I'm delighted she won a precious medal," head coach Atefeh Keshavarz said of the two Iranians' campaign in Paris.

Yazdani set for up 18 months out with shoulder injury

Sports Desk

Iranian wrestling great Has-san Yazdani will have to undergo a second surgery on his injured shoulder in a year and could face up to 18 months on the sidelines, Dr. Sohrab Kayhani, the head of the national squad's medical team said.

Yazdani, who had been out of action for eight months before June's Ranking Series event in Budapest, chased a second Olympic gold in Paris earlier in August, but had to settle for the silver after a 7-1 loss to Bulgarian Magomed Ramazanov in the 86kg final.

Yazdani showed no signs of an injury on his to final way but the problem flared up again in the final as the Iranian struggled with the problem from the get-go, calling for treatment on several occasions throughout the six minutes of action.

"Yazdani could be out for 12

to 18 months to have a full recovery," Dr. Kayhani told IRNA on Thursday, adding: "We're going to decide in the coming days if he should undergo the second surgery in Iran or overseas."

Asked if Yazdani had to have

more time of rehabilitation before making his return to action, Dr. Kayhani said: "His surgeon had cleared him to take part at the Games and his situation had been fully assessed in Budapest to make sure he wouldn't have any problem in Paris.

"I'm sure he will be fit and ready to compete again in the World Championships in two years," added Dr. Kayhani.



IAWF

Alcaraz makes no excuses after shock U.S. Open exit

REUTERS - Carlos Alcaraz made no excuses for his shock second round exit at the U.S. Open on Thursday after the former champion crumbled to a 6-1 7-5 6-4 defeat at the hands of Dutchman Botic van de Zandschulp. Unseeded Van de Zandschulp was a huge underdog against a player who had won 15 straight Grand Slam matches and fans inside Arthur Ashe Stadium could scarcely believe their eyes as Alcaraz dished out error after error in the shock loss.

"I think my level stayed at the same point all the match, and it wasn't enough to win the match or to give

myself the chance to getting into the match or trying to give myself chances," he said.

"So, you know, what can I say? I didn't feel well hitting the ball. I think I made a lot of mistakes. When I wanted to come back or I think I wanted to come back, it was too late."

Alcaraz, winner of the last two Grand Slams at Roland Garros and Wimbledon, had made it to at least the quarter-final stage at every major in which he has competed since winning the U.S. Open two years ago.

But there were warning signs the 21-year-old, who won silver at the

Paris Olympics, was not firing on all cylinders in the run-up to Flushing Meadows, losing to Gael Monfils in the second round of the Cincinnati tune-up tournament.

"I came here with not as much energy as I thought that I was going to come. But, I mean, I don't want to put that as excuse," he told reporters.

"Probably I'm a guy or I'm a player that needs more days or more break coming into the good tournaments or the important ones. So I have to think about it, and I have to learn about it."

Van de Zandschulp will next face Britain's Jack Draper.

Volleyball U17 World Championship:

Iran routs Brazil for consolation after last-eight heartbreak

Sports Desk

Iran is on course for a fifth-place finish in the FIVB U17 World Championship after an emphatic victory over Brazil in Sofia, Bulgaria, on Friday.

Having suffered a five-set defeat against Italy in the quarterfinals on the preceding night, Arash Sadeqiani's boys bounced back in style against the South American side, coming victorious in straight sets (25-9, 27-25, 25-15).

Outside-hitter Kamyab Abdollahifar chipped in a game-high 16 points for Iran, with middle-blocker Armin Asiaei contributing with 15 - including two aces.

"It was really tough for these young players to recover mentally in such a short time after a devastating loss to Italy, so they deserve credit for their performance today. Brazil has also been a decent team at this tournament and even led the Chinese Taipei by four points



volleyball.ir

at one stage in the fifth set of their quarterfinal game," Sadeqiani said.

This was a fourth victory for Iran in Bulgaria.

Iran defeated Libya and Tunisia in three sets but a controversial 3-2 loss to Egypt saw the Asian

head into last 16 as the Pool B runner-up.

Iran then came out on top against Chile 3-0 (25-14, 25-16, 25,12) before Italy came from behind twice to beat Sadeqiani's side 20-25, 25-18, 21-25, 27-25, 15-9.



GEOFF BURKE/USA TODAY SPORTS