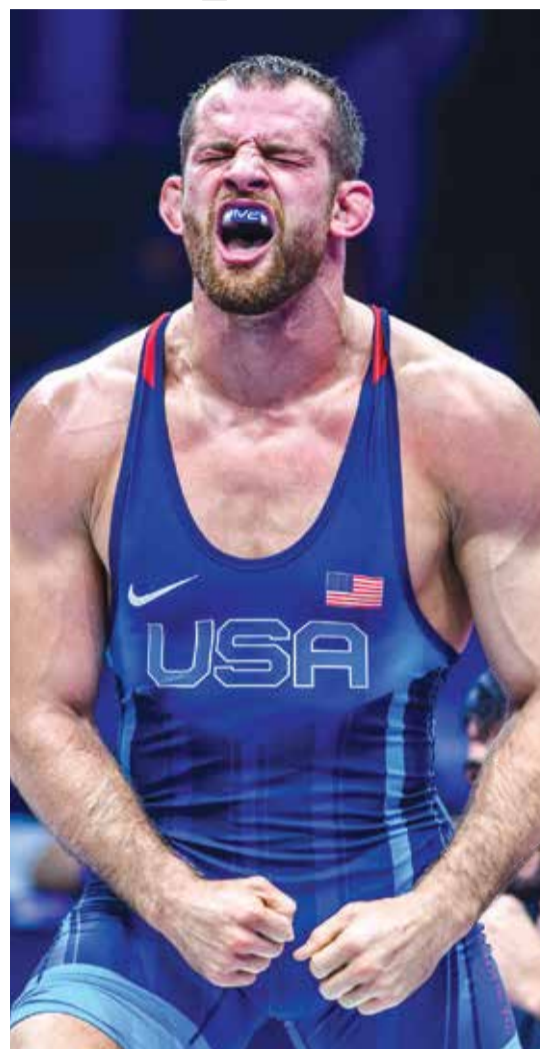


# Three-way battle to headline Wrestling World Championships



The 27-year-old appeared to be a shadow of himself in January's Ranking Series event in Zagreb, where he was out-muscled by American Kyle Snyder, but seemed to have regained his form in the Iranian national team trials in September, comfortably beating Amirhossein Firouzpour – a winner of four world age-group titles – to secure a place in Tirana.

Two-time Olympic champion Sadulaev missed out on defending his 97kg title in Paris after he was ruled ineligible to compete in the European OG qualifiers in April for what was deemed by the international governing body of the sport as "his support of the Ukraine-Russia war." Nicknamed 'the Russian Tank', Sadulaev was given the go-ahead by the UWW to participate as a neutral athlete in the upcoming event and he has wasted no time in pursuing a sixth world title. former Russian head coach Dzhambolat Tedeyev, however, maintained last week that Sadulaev will return to the 97kg class for the future competitions.

## New rivalry?

Wrestling fans may have already seen the last chapter of the rivalry between Taylor and Hassan Yazdani, with the American holding a 3-1 head-to-head advantage against the Iranian in four major finals, including the 86kg showdown at the Tokyo Olympics three years ago. Iranians are now eager to see another one of their countrymen lock horns with Taylor, who also failed to make it to the Games in Paris after a shock defeat against Aaron Brooks in the US Olympic trials.

In a press conference that introduced him as the new head coach at Oklahoma State University back in May, the 33-year-old said his "competition career" was over, but made a U-turn on his decision to compete in September's trials for the World Championships, where he cemented his Team USA spot thanks to a victory over Zahid Valencia in a best-of-three series.

## Sports Desk

All eyes will be on the freestyle 92kg contests when the Wrestling World Championships – featuring non-Olympic weight categories – get underway in Tirana, Albania, on October 28. Having been absent at the Paris Olympics earlier in the summer for different reasons, three of the sport's greatest in Russian sensation Abdurashid Sadu-

laev, American David Taylor, and Iranian Kamran Qasempour will make their long-awaited return to the global stage in the Tirana Olympic Park. Sadulaev and Taylor, who have won a remarkable 11 world and Olympic golds between them in the 97kg and 86kg contests, will be looking to add further glory to their already-impressive medal haul, though Qasempour will be out to prove the weight class remains his territory.

World champion in 2021 and 2022, Qasempour dominated the 92kg event for two years before a groin injury ruled him out of last year's World Championships in Belgrade. Qasempour then switched his weight class in a bid to compete in the Paris Games, but he eventually stood behind Amir-Ali Azarpira, who went on to win the Olympic bronze, in the pecking order of the Iranian 97kg berth.



L-R: Iranian Kamran Qasempour, Russian Abdurashid Sadulaev, and American David Taylor will compete in the freestyle 92kg competitions in October's Wrestling World Championships in Tirana.

## Iranian archers win four medals in Asian Youth Championship

### Sports Desk

Iranians won a silver as well as three bronze medals at the inaugural edition of the Asian Youth Archery Championships in Taipei City, Chinese Taipei. The Iranian trio of Amirreza Azizi, Ehsan Sha'bani Bahar, and Abolfazl Soltaninejad settled for a runner-up finish in the boys' junior compound team event after a 221-208 loss to India in the final. In the cadet age category, Mahdi

Asheqzadeh, Farhang Khodaparast, and Moein Karimi won the boys' compound bronze, courtesy of a 215-204 win against South Korea. Khodaparast won his second bronze when he teamed up with Ronia Razaivi to edge out the South Korean duo 152-151 in the mixed team event. Iranians Faez Mohammadi and Maryam Mousavi bounced back from a last-four defeat against South Korea to beat India 5-4 in the third-place matchup of the cadet recurve mixed team contests.

Monday's medals came after Mohammad-Hossein Golshani had opened the account for Iran on the preceding day with a bronze medal in the men's under-21 recurve contest. Golshani came out on top against opponents from Hong Kong (6-2), Vietnam (7-1), and Kazakhstan (6-5), before a 7-1 loss to a Bangladeshi archer sent him into the third-place encounter against another Kazakhstani athlete, whom the Iranian defeated 7-1 to finish his campaign with a bronze.



ISNA



## Simeone says players who provoke fans should be punished

REUTERS – Atletico Madrid manager Diego Simeone said on Sunday fans that hurled objects onto the pitch causing their derby against Real Madrid to be suspended for over 20 minutes should be punished, as well as players who he suggested encourage such action. While Real players celebrated Eder Militao's opener in the 64th minute, Atletico ultras Fondo Sur, who are located in the south lower stands, threw objects towards visiting keep-

er Thibaut Courtois, who alerted the referee and he decided to temporarily halt the match. After the delay, Angel Correa equalised deep in added time as the game ended with a 1-1 draw. "My opinion is that people who have committed incidents should be sanctioned by the club. We don't need these people. We need the people who accompany and support us. They harm the club, but be careful: that does not justify generating situations that we,

the protagonists, generate," Simeone told DAZN. "We all have to help. The people who have thrown those lighters, it's not right. But maybe it doesn't help when us, the protagonists, undermine people, charge against people, provoke people and then people get angry. "People have no other way of doing it, in a bad way, which is not right, but we also have to try to be calm, to understand the situations, that you can celebrate a goal by celebrating

it, but not by celebrating it by staring at the stands, charging against the stands, making gestures... because then people get angry. "Of course it's not justified, but neither is the initial thing justified because otherwise we'll always be victims. The one who throws the cigarette lighter should be sanctioned and the one who provokes should also be sanctioned. This way there is no more laughter and things like that, as you are not sanctioned, you are allowed to do things."

EPA