

Iran Greco-Roman team edges out Russia in PWL7



Sports Desk

Iranian Greco-Roman team walked away with a 21-19 victory over Russia at the Poddubny Wrestling League 7 in Moscow.

It all went down the wire at the superheavyweight contest, where reigning world champion Amin Mirzazadeh beat the host's Sergey Semenov to make it tied at 5-5, though it was enough to give Hassan Rangraz's 10-man squad a technical-point edge in the friendly head-to-head – named after late Soviet wrestler Ivan Poddubny.

Russians got off to a flying start on home soil, taking a 2-0 advantage through Emin Sefershaev and Dinislam Bammatorov.

Sefershaev defeated Pouya Dadmarz 2-1 in the 55kg bout, making amends for the last-four loss to the Iranian in October's World Championships, while world under-23 silver medalist Bammatorov came out victorious over Ali Ahmadi Vafa – a winner of double world age-group titles this year – 7-1 in the 60kg contest.

Former world U23 and junior champion Iman Mohammadi got Iran off the mark, thanks to a 4-0 win over

Anvar Allakhiarov in the 63kg clash, before Saeid Esmaeili produced another thrilling performance, reminiscent of his gold-winning campaign at the Paris Olympics, to outclass Ruslan Bichurin by technical superiority (9-1) in the 67kg bout. Representing Iran in the 72kg event, Mohammadreza Geraei gave the country a first overall advantage of the evening with a criteria win (1-1) against European bronze medalist Narek Oganian, but Sergey Kutuzov defeated Ali Oskou 6-2 in the 77kg class to draw the host level.

A controversy-ridden 82kg contest, which was interrupted by lengthy video reviews on a couple of occasions, saw world champion Mohammadali Geraei rally past Islam Aliev 7-6.

An Olympic silver medalist in August, Alireza Mohmadi was stunned 5-2 by Milad Alirzaev in their 87kg encounter, and Artur Sargsian out-muscled Mahdi Bali 7-1 in the penultimate bout (97kg) to put Russia in front.

The visitors, however, had the last laugh when Mirzazadeh came from behind to defeat the European 130kg champion on criteria (2-2) and secure the team triumph for Iran.

● IAWF

Iran crowned IFCPF World Cup champion

Sports Desk

Iran's seven-a-side football team defeated Ukraine 3-0 to lift the men's trophy at the 2024 IFCPF World Cup in Salou, Spain.

Mahdi Bakhshi gave Iran the lead over the defending champion seven minutes into the game, before Hossein Tizbor and Mahdi Shokouhi found the net inside five minutes in the second half (43' and 48') to round off an emphatic run for Ali Raadi's men in the 16th edition of the flagship international event for cerebral palsy football.

Iran began its campaign with a 4-0 victory

over Venezuela and then came out victorious over Ireland (3-0) and Germany (4-0) to win Group D and progress into the quarter-finals.

Tizbor and Bakhshi were on scoresheet in each half with Philip Pincince scoring an own goal as Iran beat the United States 3-0 in the last eight.

In the semifinals, Bakhshi and Shokouhi bagged a couple of goals in the first-half stoppage time, before Moslem Mehrbani and Amirhossein Qorbani doubled the scoreline in the second period to steer Iran to a 4-0 triumph against Brazil for a place in the final showdown.



● IFCPF

Iranian Hazfi Cup: Tractor crashes out; Carteron off to winning start on Sepahan bench

Sports Desk

Tractor was stunned by Golgozar Sirjan in the round of 32 in the Iranian Hazfi Cup – the Memorial of Khorramshahr Liberation – falling to a 2-1 defeat against Mahdi Tartar's men in Tabriz.

Albanian striker Sokol Cikalleshi gave Dragan Skocic's side an 18th-minute lead from the spot, only to see his strike canceled

out by Mahdi Tikdari, whose deflected effort from the edge of the box went past Hossein Pourhamidi with four minutes from halftime.

Pourhamidi, who filled in for Iranian international keeper Alireza Beiranvand, then made a mess of Pouria Latifipour's long-range low drive in the 64th minute as the visitors took a surprise lead and held out for a place in the last 16.

Elsewhere, French head coach Patrice Carteron, who replaced Portuguese Jose Morais last week, celebrated his debut on Sepahan bench with a 2-0 away win against second-tier club Pars Jonoubi Jam.

Kaveh Rezaei put the Persian Gulf Pro League leader in front 12 minutes into the game, before Javad Aqaiepour came off the bench to seal the victory in the third minute of added time. Kheybar Khorramabad progressed with a 1-0 win at Fard Alborz, courtesy of Mehrdad Qanbari's strike in the 43rd minute, while Mes Rafsanjan defeated Shenavarsazi Qeshm by the same scoreline, with Mahdi Sharifi finding the net in the 77th minute.



◀ Golgozar Sirjan's Pouria Latifipour (99) celebrates his goal with teammates during a 2-1 victory over Tractor in the Iranian Hazfi Cup in Tabriz, Iran, on November 22, 2024.
● FFIRI

Antetokounmpo stars as Bucks win again in NBA Cup

BBC – Giannis Antetokounmpo recorded his second triple-double of the season as the Milwaukee Bucks led wire-to-wire to beat the visiting Indiana Pacers.

The NBA's two-time Most Valuable Player claimed 37 points, 10 rebounds and 11 assists as the Bucks won 129-117 on Friday to improve to a 2-0 record in the NBA Cup. Damian Lillard added 24 points and 13 assists for his third straight double-double, and the result means Milwaukee have won five of their last six since opening the season with a 2-8 record.

Jaylen Brown had 31 points and 11 rebounds to lead the Boston Celtics to a 108-96 win at the stubborn Washington Wizards.

Jayson Tatum and Jrue Holiday added 16 points each for last season's NBA champions, who have won three straight overall and are 2-1 in the NBA Cup. James Harden had 22 points and nine assists as the Los Angeles Clippers extended their winning streak to four games

with a 104-88 victory against the visiting Sacramento Kings. Last season's MVP Nikola Jokic returned for the Denver Nuggets after missing three games for the birth of his second child and had a triple-double of 33 points, 17 rebounds and 10 assists.

However, that was not enough to stop the Nuggets losing 123-120 at home to the Dallas Mavericks, for whom Naji Marshall scored a career-high

26 points.

Jared McCain declared to the crowd that he is "the rookie of the year" after scoring a three-pointer in the Philadelphia 76ers' 113-98 win over the visiting Brooklyn Nets.

The 20-year-old, who was the 16th overall draft pick in June, scored 30 points as the Sixers halted a five-game losing streak, despite playing without Joel Embiid and Paul George.

