



## FIVB Men's Club World Championship: Foolad remains unbeaten, marches into last four



Foolad Sirjan players celebrate a point during a straight-set victory over Praia Clube in Uberlândia, Brazil, on December 12, 2024.

● FIVB

### Sports Desk

Foolad Sirjan continued its perfect run at the FIVB Men's Club World Championship with a straight-set victory (25-16, 25-13, 25-21) over host Praia Clube in Uberlândia, Brazil.

Outside hitter Alireza

Abdolhamidi delivered another strong performance, leading the team with 18 points (16 attacks, one block, one ace) as the reigning Asian and Iranian champion cruised into the semifinals as the Pool A winner.

Opposite spiker Ali Ha-

jipour contributed with 14 points (12 attacks, two blocks), while veteran middle blocker Seyyed Mohammad Mousavi chipped in 10 points.

Outside hitter Maicon França and middle blocker Pietro Santos topped the scoring chart for the Bra-

zilian club with eight points apiece.

This was a third successive win for ex-Iran head coach Behrouz Ataei's men in the competition.

Foolad began its campaign with a sensational five-set victory over Cucine Lube Civitanova, coming from

behind to beat the Italian heavyweight 3-2 (25-21, 14-25, 24-26, 25-23, 16-14).

Foolad again had to fight back to defeat Egyptian side Al Ahly in four sets (19-25, 25-15, 25-21, 25-19).

Ataei's side will be looking to become the first Iranian club to lift the

world club trophy in the 19th edition of the competition.

The best result for the country came in the 2010 edition in Doha, Qatar, where Paykan walked away with the bronze medal after a win against Argentine club Bolivar.

## Tractor lands Bahrain's Al Khaldiya in ACL Two knockouts

### Sports Desk

Iranian club Tractor will continue its quest for a maiden Asian glory with a last-16 tie against Al Khaldiya of Bahrain at the AFC Champions League Two.

The draw for the first knockout round took place in the AFC headquarters in Kuala Lumpur on Thursday, where the 16 remaining teams discovered their fate in the continent's second-tier club competition.

The Bahraini club – runner-up to Saudi side Al Taawoun in Group B – will host the Persian Gulf Pro League leader in first leg on February 11, with the second leg to be played in Tabriz's Yadegar-e Imam Stadium seven days later.

Tractor was the comfortable winner of Group A with 10 points.

The winner of the tie will take on Al Taawoun or Qatari side Al Wakrah, which stood behind Tractor in the group table, in the quarterfinals.

Elsewhere in the last 16, Group C winner Sharjah FC was drawn against Al Hussein of Jordan, the Group D runners-up.

Spearheaded by Iranian striker Sardar Azmoun, Shabab Al Ahli, the second side from the UAE to advance to the knockout stage after sealing the Group D top spot, will meet Group C runners-up Al Wehdat – also from Jordan.

In the East matchups, Group E winner Sanfrecce Hiroshima of Japan will face Vietnam's Nam Dinh FC, which completed its Group G campaign in the second spot, while Singapore's Lion City Sailors FC, which topped a thrilling Group F, will square off against regional rival Muangthong United of Thailand, the Group H runners-up.

Group G winner Bangkok United of Thailand was drawn against Australia's Sydney FC, which finished second in Group E, while two-time AFC Champions League winner Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors FC of South Korea will meet Group F runner-up Port FC of Thailand.

The last-16 round will be followed by the quarterfinals in March and semifinals in April, before the tournament culminates in a single-leg final on May 17, 2025.

## Weightlifting World Championships: Iranians off the mark with triple medals



Iranian weightlifter Alireza Moeini won the men's 96kg snatch silver at the IWF World Championships in Manama, Bahrain.

● IWF

### Sports Desk

Iranian weightlifters Alireza Moeini and Ali Alipour bagged first medals for the country at the IWF World Championships in Manama, Bahrain, collecting a silver and double bronzes in the men's 96kg weight class. Moeini lifted 176kg, before failing with the 179kg attempt twice, but the first effort was enough for the Iranian to win the snatch silver, finishing behind Georgian Revaz Davitadze, who stood on the top podium with 177kg. China's Qian Feixiang took the bronze of the discipline with 175kg.

A tight clean & jerk contest later in the day saw the top three finish with a best lift

of 214kg, only to be separated by the different body weights.

Alipour, 20, began with a 205kg lift and then made the biggest jump of the session with a successful effort of 214kg, though he still had to settle for the bronze medal behind South Korean gold medalist Won Jong-beom and Nurgissa Adiletuly of Kazakhstan.

An overall tally of 387kg helped Alipour grab a second bronze medal of the afternoon, with Adiletuly (388kg) and Davitadze (387kg) taking the total gold and silver.

Moeini, meanwhile, finished 10th in the C&J standings with 202kg and stood seventh in the total table with 378kg.

Thursday's medals for Iran came after Reza Baghi had stood 14th in the men's 81kg contests with a 149kg-184kg-333kg record in Group B session, while North Korean dominated the weight class with a clean sweep of three golds. For Mirmostafa Javadi – a winner of five world medals, including last year's double golds in Riyadh – the men's 89kg competition was one to forget after he managed to register a single successful lift (162kg in snatch) and missed out on spot in the table.

Elaheh Razzaqi, the only Iranian in the women's competitions, recorded 95kg-125kg-220kg to finish 10th in the 76kg weight division.

● AFC