

FIBA West Asia Super League:

Tabiat hold on late to edge Sageesse in thriller

FIBA – Tabiat Basketball secured a second-place finish in Group A of the FIBA West Asia Super League after escaping past Lebanese champion Sageesse SC, 75-73, at the Stade Nouhad Naufal Saturday night.

The defending Iran Basketball League champions almost squandered a lead as big as 14 points when the opposition got to within one, 74-73, with 25.1 seconds left, but the breaks of the game went in their favor. Perry Petty got fouled by Shabazz Muhammad near mid-court with 19.8 seconds left and went on to give his side a bit more breathing room with a split from the line, settling as well what would be the final count. A missed layup by Jad

Khalil after an attempt to take matters in his own hands just before time expired was all that Tabiat needed to come away with the victory, leaving the Green Castle settling for third.

“We are happy we got second place in this tournament,” expressed head coach Mehran Shahintab as the club secured another top two finish for Iran in the pan-regional competition’s Sub-Zone League.

A total of five players finished in double figures in the victory, with Croatian big man Ivan Buva leading the balanced attack with 16 points alongside 15 rebounds for yet another double-double performance.

Sina Vahedi had 13 points before fouling

out. Stedmon Lemon supplied 12 points, 3 rebounds, and 3 assists. Rasoul Mozafari nailed three triples and made 11 points while Perry finished with 10 points and 6 assists.

The victory saw Tabiat improve to a 5-2 record in the group.

Marc Khouiery, on the other hand, led Sageesse with 19 points and 8 rebounds in the rally that fell just short.

Omar Jamaledine supplied 18 points as the locals tried to carry the fight on a night star guard Zach Lofton got hurt after suffering an apparent injury while making a layup at the 7:20-mark of the third quarter.

The former NBA pro’s limited time and pro-

duction (11 points) did affect the home team’s chances, yet the remaining players showed grit down the stretch by chopping down a 70-62 lead inside the game’s final 4:30.

Jamaledine himself pulled his side to within a field goal, 72-70, and it did not help Tabiat’s cause that Vahedi got fouled out as he and Khouiery got called for a double foul after getting a bit physical near center court.

It was also Jamaledine who cut the gap to a solitary point by following up Khalil’s floater, but Tabiat showed better poise when the going got tough – and some aid from Lady Luck – to withstand the fightback.



Tabiat’s Ivan Buva (25) goes up for a layup during a victory over Sageesse SC in the FIBA West Asia Super League in Zouk Mikael, Lebanon, on April 12, 2025.

● FIBA

Iran beats host to finish runner-up in Thailand futsal tourney



Sports Desk

Iran settled for a runner-up finish at the SAT Men’s Futsal Championship in Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand, thanks to a 6-2 victory over the host on the final day of the four-team tournament. Russia had routed Kuwait 10-1 earlier on Saturday to secure the title with a clean sweep of three victories.

In a repeat of the final showpiece in last year’s Asian Cup, Sarawut Phalpruek put Thailand in

front with 10 minutes into the game but Iran restored parity through Mohammad-Hossein Derakhshani seconds later, and then Hossein Sabzi and Hossein Tayyebi got on the scoresheet to steer the Asian powerhouse to a 3-1 lead at halftime.

Iranian keeper Saeid Momeni produced several fine saves to deny the host after the break before Mohammad-Hossein Bazyar extended the advantage for Vahid Shamsaei’s

men in the 27th minute. Iranian skipper Tayyebi, who went on to pick up the tournament’s best player prize, found the net from his own half for his second of the night three minutes later.

Ronachai Joongwongsuk reduced the deficit to three with two minutes left on the clock, before Amirhossein Gholami’s strike right at the death rounded off the victory for the 13-time Asian champion, which is preparing for the Futsal Asian Cup qualifiers in

September.

Iran suffered a 2-1 loss to Russia on the opening day of the tournament but bounced back to defeat Kuwait 5-0 – courtesy of goals from Tayyebi and Sabzi, as well as Masoud Yousef, Mahdi Karimi, and Behrouz Azimi.

Iranian captain Hossein Tayyebi (10) is seen in action during a win against Thailand at the SAT Men’s Futsal Championship in Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand, on April 12, 2025.

● FFIRI

ISF U15 Gymnasiade:

Iranian students collect 86 medals to stand fifth in table

Sports Desk

Iranian boys and girls grabbed 86 medals to finish fifth in the overall standings at the ISF U15

Gymnasiade in Zlatibor, Serbia.

The final day of the event saw Iranians grab five golds, plus three silver and bronze medals apiece

across boxing, archery, table tennis, and judo competitions, as the country finished with 29 golds, 28 silvers, and 29 bronze medals.

Organized by the International School Sport Federation, the biennial games featured 25 sporting events, participated by under-15 students.



Flick to focus on recovery as Barca lead LaLiga race

REUTERS – Barcelona coach Hansi Flick is focusing on his side’s recovery ahead of the season’s final stretch, in which they lead LaLiga and are still in contention for the Copa del Rey and Champions League.

Barcelona extended their advantage in the Spanish top flight with a 1-0 win at Leganes on Saturday, completing a 12-match unbeaten run and moving seven points clear of second-placed Real Madrid.

“We have to focus on recovery, recovery, recovery. That’s the way it is. We will arrive in Barcelona tonight, train tomorrow and fly to Dortmund on Monday,” Flick told reporters.

“We have no excuses – we have to recover, but that’s our job,” he added.

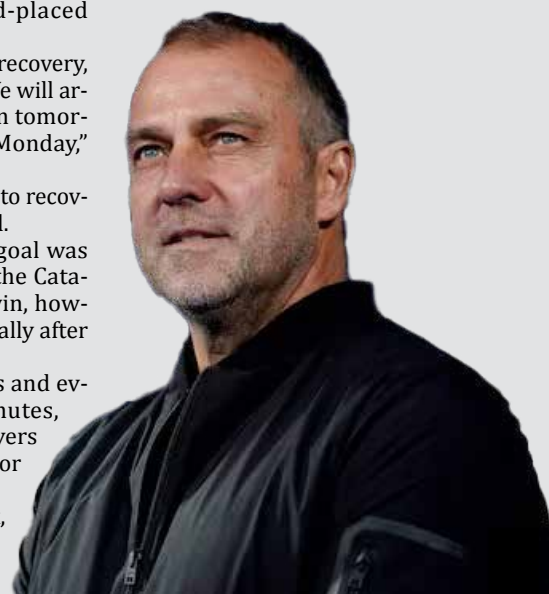
Defender Jorge Saez’s own goal was enough to secure victory for the Catalans, and Flick added that a win, however it came, was a win, especially after their packed calendar.

“Three points are three points and every game we fight for 90 minutes, when you see the load the players have had in the last few weeks or days, it’s unbelievable.

“After the international break, you see what my players have

done, my team’s performance has been unbelievable. I’m very proud of them.”

Barca, who are unbeaten in 24 games across all competitions, visit Borussia Dortmund in their Champions League quarter-final second leg on Tuesday, having won the first game 4-0. They will then host Celta Vigo in LaLiga on Saturday.



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