

IWF World Youth & Junior Championships:

Heavyweight dominance
as Iran seals men's junior title

Iranian weightlifter Hamidreza Mohammadi-Tanha competes in the men's junior +109kg event at the IWF World Youth & Junior Championships in Lima, Peru, on May 5, 2025.



Iran's Alireza Nasiri is seen in action in the men's junior 109kg contests at the IWF World Youth & Junior Championships in Lima, Peru, on May 5, 2025.

Sports Desk

A medal-laden final day of the IWF World Youth & Junior Championships saw Iranian weightlifters grab three golds and double silvers to complete one-two finishes in the men's junior 109kg and +109kg contests in Lima, Peru. Monday's heroics took Iran's haul to eight gold and silver medals apiece, plus triple bronzes as Sohrab Moradi's 10-man squad won the team title with 725 points, with Colombia and Venezuela in the following spots, respectively. Hamidreza Mohammadi-Tanha

brought the curtain down on a glittering campaign for the country by making a clean sweep of three superheavyweight (+109kg) golds. The Iranian had three successful attempts in the snatch event with a final lift of 181kg giving him the edge over compatriot Taha Ne'mati-Moqaddam, who took the silver with 180kg, while Russian Georgii Myand, competing as a neutral, settled for the bronze with 175kg. Mohammadi had a rather shaky clean & jerk event later in the day, failing with two attempts, though a 213kg lift was still enough to secure a second gold

for the Iranian young gun, who went on to clinch the total title with a 181-213-394 record. Ne'mati again finished one kilogram shy of his fellow-Iranian in the C&J contest, before collecting a third silver with 392kg in total. Polish weightlifter Marek Mateusz Gugala won the C&J bronze with 208kg, while Myand took his second bronze medal with 382kg in total. Earlier on Monday, Iranian Alireza Nasiri was in a league of his own in the 109kg contests, dominating with three gold medals. Nasiri has been making 230kg clean and jerks in training – enough for the junior world re-

cord – but he declined his final attempt after five successful lifts and finished 30kg clear in total on 180-220-400. "I was tired and because it was one lift straight after the other I didn't feel ready for the world record today – but I know I can do it," Nasiri said. Nasiri competed at 102kg last year, when he was second in the Asian Juniors to the junior world record holder Shahzadbek Matyakubov on 171-218-389. "I felt better at 102 but I wanted to come up in weight because I want to be going for gold at the Los Angeles Olympics," said the Iranian. "The category will be

110 there. I am 19 and I can improve a lot in three years." Meanwhile, Nasiri's compatriot Farhad Qolizadeh, who won the Asian youth title on his last international appearance two years ago, had a slow start in the 109kg event, finishing fourth in snatch, but still managed to finish on 165-205-370 for the C&J and total silvers. Monday's medals came after Abolfazl Zare' had registered a 176-210-386 tally to walk away with the snatch gold, plus double silvers, in the 102kg event on the preceding night. Hamidreza Zarei lifted 203kg for the clean & jerk gold in the

96kg event, while Amirhossein Sepah collected the snatch and C&J bronzes, before winning the total silver of the weight class with 165-199-364. Iliya Salehipour added a bronze medal to Iran's junior haul when he raised 195kg above his head in the 89kg C&J category. Hossein Yazdani was the only Iranian in the men's youth competitions, grabbing double golds and a snatch bronze (144-190-334) in the +102kg division. Iran was also represented by three girls in the Peruvian capital, with Alma Hosseini winning the clean & jerk silver and total bronze in the youth 64kg contests.

Sports Desk

Iran suffered a 7-5 defeat against Portugal at the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup in Victoria, Seychelles, on Monday to finish runner-up to the two-time champion in Group B with six points. Having already secured a last-eight spot – thanks to victories over Mauritania (5-4) and Paraguay (5-1) – Ali Naderi's men started on the front foot at the Paradise Arena as goals from Mohammadali Nazarzadeh and Reza Amiri, either side of an Andre Lourenco's equalizer, gave the Asian champion a 2-1 lead by the end of the first period. The European powerhouse, however, dominated in the second period, with Coimbra, Jordan, Lourenco, and Be Martins on target. Be Martins netted his second of

the night early in the third period, before Mohammadali Mokhtari pulled one back in style, only for Miguel Pintado to restore Portugal's four-goal cushion. Nazarzadeh and Mokhtari reduced the deficit in the closing stages, but the late rally proved too little, too late for the Asian powerhouse, which finished third in its last two World Cup appearances in 2019 and 2024. "We were mentally prepared for this match. We had analyzed Portugal well and started the match well with two goals. Ultimately though, we let ourselves down defensively with some individual and some team mistakes, but it's not the end for us," Nazarzadeh, the youngest player in the Iranian squad, said after the game. The defeat meant Iran will take on Belarus in the quarterfinals

on Thursday – a repeat of last year's third-place contest, which Iran won 6-1 in Dubai. Belarus routed Guatemala 12-3 earlier on Monday to finish the group campaign with a clean sweep of three victories, beating Japan to the top spot in Group C. The loss to Portugal may ultimately prove to be a blessing in disguise for Naderi's men, as it saw them avoid defending champion Brazil in the knockout stages until the final. The most decorated team in the competition with six trophies, Brazil defeated Iran 3-2 in the semifinals last year.

Portuguese skipper Coimbra (red) scores during a 7-5 victory over Iran at the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup in Victoria, Seychelles, on May 5, 2025.

● FIFA

FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup:

Iran beaten by Portugal

in final group game, gets Belarus in last eight



Shahrdari Gorgan captain Arsalan Kazemi hold aloft the Iranian Basketball Super League trophy after a Game 3 victory over Tabiat in the Finals in Gorgan, Iran, on May 5, 2025.

● MOHSEN VANAEI/IRNA

Iranian Basketball Super League Finals:

Shahrdari Gorgan crowned champion after Game 3 victory

Sports Desk

Shahrdari Gorgan claimed the Iranian Basketball Super League title, thanks to a 98-95 home victory over Tabiat Eslamshahr in the second overtime in a thrilling Game 3 on Monday. Arsalan Kazemi stole the show with a double-double (14 points and 24 rebounds) as Shahrdari won the best-

of-five series 3-0 to send a packed home arena into frenzy and make up for last year's loss to Tabiat in the Finals. Desperate for a lifeline in the third game, Tabiat got off to flying start and won the first quarter 23-20 before leading by 60-54 at halftime. Shahrdari rallied from behind to take a 76-74 lead

with 14 seconds remaining, before a couple of free throws with seven seconds left helped Tabiat force the game into overtime. The first overtime finished at 85-85, but Mobin Sheikhi dropped a three-pointer with 31 seconds left in the second OT to open a five-point gap for the host, which held on to win 98-95.

Shahrdari had won the first game of the finals 81-78 last Wednesday, before routing Tabiat 100-73 in Game 2 on Friday – with both games staged at Tehran's Mahmoud Mashhoun Arena. Having finished fourth in the regular season standings, Shahrdari eased past Golnour Isfahan 3-0 in the first round of the playoffs,

and then came from behind to beat Kaleh Mazandaran 3-1 in the best-of-five semifinal series. Tabiat, meanwhile, stood runner-up to Kaleh in the 11-team table and went on to beat Payesh Part Shahrud for a last-four spot. Mehran Shahintab's men won the semifinal series 3-1 against Palayesh Naft Abadan.