

Qolizadeh scores stunner to give Lech Poznań title momentum

Sports Desk

Ali Qolizadeh scored a sensational goal as Lech Poznań secured a massive 1-0 victory at Legia Warszawa to move atop the Polish Ekstraklasa table with two rounds of fixtures left to play. The Iranian wizard winger showed magnificent footwork to go past his marker before his left-footed curling effort from the edge of the box found the top corner 13 minutes from normal time at the Polish Army Stadium. The victory left Lech Poznań on top of the Polish league table with 66 points – one point clear of Raków Częstochowa, which fell to a 2-1 defeat against third-placed Jagiellonia Białystok at home on the preceding night. Lech Poznań will play away to GKS Katowice next Sunday before hosting Piast Gliwice on the final day of the season. Raków, meanwhile, will be next in action at Korona Kielce, followed by a

home game against Widzew Łódź on May 24. Sunday's strike – Qolizadeh's fifth in eight games – took the Iranian international's tally to eight goals and six assists in 31 league outings. Having joined from the Belgian top-flight club Royal Charleroi for a club-record €1.80m fee in July 2023, Qolizadeh missed the best part of last season with two lengthy injury spells, raising doubts over his future at the club. His contribution was often limited to cameo appearances in the early stages of the ongoing season, before he found his way into the starting XI in late October and went on to play a pivotal part in the club's title run-in.



Lech Poznań's Ali Qolizadeh scores the winner during a 1-0 victory over Legia Warszawa in the Ekstraklasa league in Warszawa, Poland, on May 11, 2025.
● lechpoznan.pl



FIBA West Asia Super League:

Lemon writes history, powers Tabiat past Qadsia in Final 8 debut



Tabiat winger Stedmon Lemon dunks the ball during a victory over Qadsia at the FIBA WASL Final 8 in Zouk Mikael, Lebanon, on May 11, 2025.
● FIBA

FIBA – Stedmon Lemon rewrote the FIBA WASL Final 8 history books in leading Iran's Tabiat past Qadsia of Kuwait, 112-85, for a stupendous start to their campaign Sunday night at the Stade Nouhad Naufal in Zouk Mikael, Lebanon. The American winger erupted for 45 points, resetting the competition's record for most points in a game which was previously held by Markell Johnson when he had 42 to lead Astana past Manama, 122-117, last year. He broke the record with a jumper off an Ivan Buva dime with 3:43 left to play, and then capped off his performance with a jam during the closing moments to help his side get

the early lead in Group B. Lemon was also pivotal in their third-quarter breakaway, scoring 10 in the Iran Basketball League outfit's decisive 17-2 run to turn a narrow three-point lead to a wide 80-64 advantage to close the said chapter. All in all, the 32-year-old shot an excellent 17-of-22 from the floor, including a 4-of-6 clip from three, and also collected 6 rebounds, 8 assists, and 4 steals to finish with an efficiency of 52 – a record in itself. He was 10 rungs clear of the old mark set twice last year as well, first by Johnson in that same game mentioned above and then by Clint Chapman when he led Kazma to a 102-

96 win over Tamil Nadu. "Glory to god," said Lemon. "My teammates trusted me, and I just made shots."

It wasn't just him who made a record, though, as Tabiat as a whole wrote an accomplishment as well. They finished with a total of 30 assists, which is now the most by any team in a single game in the Final 8. "The players got their chemistry better and we made a lot of shots," offered head coach Mehran Shahintab. "And, we controlled the fastbreak. We were sharing the ball, that's why the second half was easier for us." The team also drew a stellar showing from lead playmak-

er Sina Vahedi, who registered 31 points on 11-of-17 shooting from the floor, 5 rebounds, and 10 assists, plus a steal to net an efficiency of 40. Vahedi shot five treys as he and Lemon accounted for nine of Tabiat's 12 shots from deep. It was practically the same tandem that joined hands in putting together the third-quarter surge to capture control. Ivan Buva was the only other double-digit scorer with 14 points in the triumph. Tabiat will look to finish the group stage unbeaten – and more importantly reach the Semi-Finals – when they take on Shabab Al Ahli on Thursday.

Iranian weightlifters lined up for world event, Islamic Solidarity Games

Sports Desk

Iran head coach Behdad Salimi named a 14-man weightlifting squad ahead of preparations for this year's IWF World Championship and Islamic Solidarity Games. The world event will be staged in Førde, Norway, from October 1-10, followed by the sixth edition of the Islamic Solidarity Games, which will kick off on November 7 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Former Olympic silver medalist Ali Davoudi headlines the list and is joined by Ayat Sharifi in the superheavyweight category. Iranian prodigy Alireza Yousefi, who beat Davoudi to the world clean & jerk title last year, missed the call-up as he has yet to recover

from knee surgery. Alireza Nasiri, Abolfazl Zare', Amirhossein Sepah, and Iliya Salehipour received a seniors' callout after they bagged 10 medals – including four golds – between them to lead the country to the men's junior crown at the IWF World Youth & Junior Championships in Lima, Peru, last week. Alireza Moeini and Ali A'lipour will also be aiming high at the World Championships, following their medal-winning 96kg campaign at the competition in Manama last December. Also on the list are 2023 Asian champion Hossein Soltani, Mahdi Karami, Reza Hassanpour, four-time world medalist Reza Dehdar, Abdollah Beiranvand, and Asian junior gold med-

alist Mehrab Davasari. A superheavyweight gold medalist at London 2012 Olympics and a winner of four world titles, new coach Salimi took over from Navvab Nasir-Shalal in January. Nasir-Shalal led his team to a runner-up finish behind China in December's world event in Manama, Bahrain, though his squad managed to win a single gold across 10 weight classes through Yousefi.

Former Olympic silver medalist Ali Davoudi has been named in the Iranian weightlifting squad for the upcoming two major events.
● [MAHMOUD KHAKBAZI/IRNA](https://www.mahmoudkhakbazi.ir)

