

FIVB Boys' U19 World Championship:

Iran eases past Tunisia in straight sets



Sports Desk

Iranian boys celebrated a second successive victory at the FIVB U19 World Championship in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, by sweeping Tunisia in straight sets (25-20, 25-15, 25-20) in Pool C on Saturday.

Amirmohammad Rafiei chipped in a game-high 14 points for Iran, with fellow-outside hitter Mohammad-Amin Rahimi contributing 12 points.

Omar Hfaiedh was the Tunisian top scorer with 10 points.

Chasing a third world under-19 title, and first since 2017, Iran got off to losing start in the Uzbek capital, suffering a shock 3-2 defeat against Spain, before bouncing back to defeat Poland in a five-set thriller on Friday.

"We knew Tunisia would struggle with spikes and reception, which is why we played it safe with our serves, focusing more on targeted-zone serving," Iran head coach Adel Gholami said after the game. "We performed well on defense, cov-

ering the backcourt effectively. We also did much better on transition plays in zone four, and it worked out really well for us," added the former international middle blocker.

Runner-up to France in the previous edition in 2023, Iran will face another African test in Egypt on Monday, before squaring off against Italy in the final round of the group fixtures on Tuesday.

The top four in each of the three six-team groups will progress to the round of 16.

"We'll have a full day of recovery tomorrow, so the players will peak their fitness for the game against Egypt," added Gholami.

"We're taking it one step at a time in our group, but we'll also have a look at the teams in other pools, so that the players get accustomed to their style of play."

Elsewhere on Saturday, Pakistan, the surprise package in Tashkent, continued its impressive run with a third straight-set win in Pool A, beating Turkey 25-17, 25-19, and 25-19.

China, which defeated Iran to the Asian U18 crown last year, stunned defending champion France in Pool B, coming out victorious in a thrilling five-set showpiece (37-35, 25-22, 20-25, 20-25, 15-12) at the Sport University Center 1.



Iranian middle-blocker Nima Bateni goes up for a spike during a 3-0 victory over Tunisia at the FIVB Boys' U19 World Championship in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, on July 26, 2025.

● FIVB

Asian Junior Wushu Championships:

Iran's Siahmoshtei grabs taolu gold, Ramian bags bronze



Sports Desk

Iran collected a couple of taolu medals through Ramtin Siahmoshtei and Saba Ramian on the first day of the 12th Asian Junior Wushu Championships in Jiangyin, China. Siahmoshtei – a world gold and silver medalist last year – tallied 9.253

points to beat opponents from Vietnam and Indonesia to the ultimate prize in the men's nanquan contest on Saturday.

Elsewhere, Iranian girl Ramian had to settle for a third-spot finish in the nanquan event, courtesy of a 9.236-point performance. Hasti Askari, Narges Shahbazi, Younes Khodaei, Mohammadreza Madadi, and Mohammad-Taha Sadri were the other Iranians competing across different taolu categories on Saturday, but missed out on podium finish.



Iran's Ramtin Siahmoshtei won a taolu gold on the first day of the Asian Junior Wushu Championships in Jiangyin, China.

● iranwushufed.ir

Iran beats Jordan in final warmup game in Beirut

Sports Desk

Iranian men's basketball team defeated Jordan 70-61 in its final friendly outing in Beirut on Friday.

Navid Rezaeifar chipped in 16 points – coupled with three rebounds and assists apiece – as Iran bounced back from back-to-back losses to Egypt and Lebanon.

Iran had suffered a 60-59 defeat against Egypt before falling to a 105-89 setback against the host country on Thursday.

Next for Iran is a visit to Moscow for a couple of friendly games against Russia ahead of the 2025 FIBA Asia Cup – starting August 5 in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

Iran will begin its bid for a fourth Asian title with a game against Guam in Group B on the opening day of the competition, before tak-

ing on Japan two days later – in a repeat of a group encounter between the two teams in the 2022 edition, which Iran won 88-76. The final round of the group fixtures will see Greek head

coach Sotirios Manolopoulos's men play Syria on Aug. 9. The winners of the four groups in Jeddah will be handed direct qualification for the quarterfinals, with the second and third teams head-

ing into a playoff round for a place in the last eight.

Australia will enter the flagship continental event as the defending champion after beating Lebanon in the 2022 final.



● DANIAL AHMADI/IRIBF



● taekwondo.ir

Asian Junior Taekwondo Championships:

Iranians collect six medals on Day 1

Sports Desk

Iranian boys and girls bagged six medals, including double women's golds, on the first day of junior contests at the Asian Junior, Cadet & Para Taekwondo Championships in Kuching, Malaysia.

Elina Alipour defeated opponents from Lebanon, India, and Uzbekistan before coming out on top in straight rounds against South Korean Kim Borim to walk away with the ultimate prize of the women's +68kg weight class.

Saina Khan-Ali rounded off an emphatic run in the women's -59kg class by defeating Kazakhstan's Togzhan Kaznabek 2-0 in the final showpiece.

There were further medals for the Iranian girls on the first day of action in Kuching as Negar Mozaffari and Rozhan Goudarzi finished their campaigns with a silver and a bronze, respectively.

Mozaffari overcame contestants from Lebanon, Uzbekistan, and Thailand for a place in the -42kg final, only to suffer a 2-0 loss to

Aiym Serikbayeva of Kazakhstan and finish on the second podium.

Having beaten Uzbek and Indian practitioners, Goudarzi had to settle for a joint-third finish in the -52kg event following a last-four loss to Kim Siwoo of South Korea.

Mohammad-Mahdi Sa'adati and Iliya Shahbazi, meanwhile, added a couple of silver medals to Iran's medal haul in the men's competitions.

Representing the country in the -63kg division, Sa'adati beat opponents from Mongolia, the Chinese Taipei, and the Philippines but fell short in straight rounds against Thanapoom Fuangnoi in the final. Shahbazi settled for a runner-up finish behind South Korean Eom Simok following a 2-1 defeat in the +78kg showdown.

Pouya Ojaqlou (men's -45kg), Taha Javadi (men's -48kg), Radin Zeinali (men's -73kg), and Baran Ne'mati (women's -63kg) were the other Iranians in action on Day 1, finishing empty-handed in their respective classes.