

Iranian wrestlers win four freestyle medals at U17 Worlds

Sports Desk

The penultimate day of the U17 Wrestling World Championships in Athens, Greece, saw Iranian boys collect four medals across five freestyle divisions.

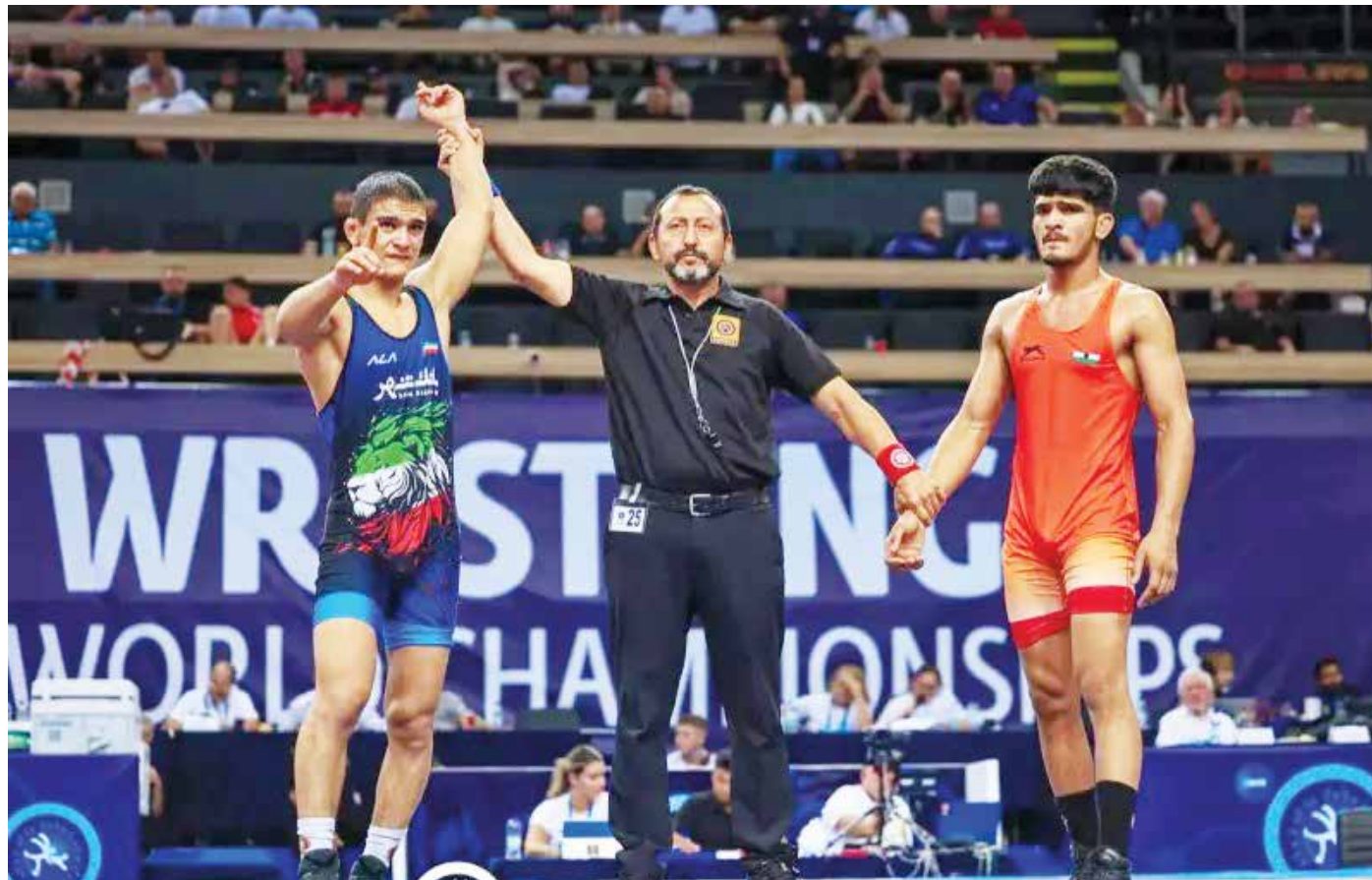
Mohammadreza Barari, meanwhile, finished his 55kg campaign empty-handed after a 4-0 loss to American Greyton Fredrick Burnett in the bronze-medal contest on Saturday, though he still contributed 10 points to Iran's bid for the team title.

Sina Boustani had a decent run in the 48kg event, beating opponents from Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine, and Japan, but was outclassed by American Ariah Mills in the final showpiece and settled for the silver.

Mills gave up an activity clock point in the first period and as Boustani was setting up a leg attack, the American hit a counter and scored the takedown to lead 2-1 at the break.

Boustani had his chance to score and reclaim the lead but Mills, who kept his distance, perhaps to have space to counter, got another takedown after a scramble. The American wrestler managed to score a go-behind and two turns to win 12-1 and get the first gold medal in freestyle for the United States.

Mohammadparsa Karami added a second silver to Iran's medal haul, courtesy of a final setback against Ukraine's Artur Kostiuik



Iranian Greco-Roman wrestler Morteza Hajmollamohammadi (L) has his hand raised as the 65kg bronze winner against Indian Gourav Punia at the U17 World Championships in Athens, Greece, on August 2, 2025.

UWW

securing a superiority win (11-0) in the first period, to finish with a consolation bronze in the 110kg category.

Saturday's results came after Iran had lifted a fourth successive team trophy in the Greco-Roman competitions last week in the Greek capital.

Represented by nine wrestlers after Abolfazl Shiri (65kg) was denied an entry visa by the host country, Iran had only two finalists across 10 classes but still managed to pip Uzbekistan to the team title.

Amirsam Mohammadi won the 92kg gold, while Yazdan Delrouz settled for the 110kg silver, with Mohammadhossein Kazemi (71kg), Amirmohammad Hajivand (48kg), Abolfazl Zare' (60kg), and Amirreza Tahmasbpour (55kg) collecting four bronzes as Iran stood atop the table with 125 points.

Uzbekistan impressed with four gold medals but had to settle for a runner-up finish with 118 points.

Kazakhstan finished third with 113 points, with Kyrgyzstan and Azerbaijan – tied on 100 points – in fourth and fifth, respectively.

Esteghlal signs Albania international Asani

Sports Desk

Persian Gulf Pro League club Esteghlal signed Albanian international winger Jasir Asani on a year-and-a-half contract.

Joining as a free transfer from Gwangju FC, Asani, 30, enjoyed an impressive campaign with South Korean club last term, bagging 17 goals – including eight in the K League 1 – and three assists in 32 appearances for the K League 1 outfit across all competitions.

He also netted nine goals in 10 games to help Gwangju FC reach the last eight at the AFC Champions League Elite quarterfinals – before suffering a 7-0 humiliation against Al Hilal – and finish joint-second to Saudi Salem Al-Dawsari in the competition's leading marksmen chart – alongside Riyadh Mahrez and Brazilian Anderson Lopes. Born in Skopje, North Macedonia, Asani left his birth country to join FK Partizani in the Albanian Superliga, where he

contributed 27 goals and 19 assists in 123 outings – either side of a loan spell at Swedish club AIK.

He also spent two seasons at Hungarian top-flight side Kisvárda FC, bagging 10 goals and 11 assists in 52 games, before signing for Gwangju FC in January 2023.

A former player of North Macedonia U19 and U21 teams, Asani made his senior international debut with Albania in March 2023 – a cameo appearance during a 1-0 loss at Poland in the Euro 2024 qualifiers – and went on to find the net on five occasions in 23 caps.

The left-footed Albanian is the sixth summer signing for the Tehran Blues, who finished ninth in the 16-team table of the Iranian league last season but managed to win the Hazfi Cup trophy in May and secure a place in the AFC Champions League Two for the upcoming season, before bringing back Portuguese Ricardo Sa Pinto as the head coach last month.



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FIVB Boys' U19 World Championship: Iran beaten by Spain, misses out on bronze

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Iran had to settle for a fourth-place finish at the FIVB Boys' U19 World Championship, after a 3-2 loss (23-25, 25-23, 15-25, 25-21, 15-10) to Spain in Sunday's bronze-medal contest in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

Spanish opposite César Irache Camacho stole the show with a remarkable 38 points, while outside-hitter Mario García Domínguez added 10 as Spain – runner-up in 2011 – celebrated a second victory over the two-time champion following a 3-2 triumph on the opening day of competition. Mohammad-Amin Rahimi chipped in 20 points for Iran, with fellow-outside hitter Amirmohammad Rafiei (16 points), opposite Amir Naderi (13), and middle-blocker Mohammad-Nima Bateni (10) also finishing in double figures.

Iran had a mixed campaign in the group stage earlier in the Uzbek capital, suffering two defeats in five outings in Pool C.

Adel Gholami's boys recovered from the first-day setback to beat Poland, which defeated Spain in the last four, in five sets and then walked away with comfortable straight-set wins against Egypt and Tunisia. A 3-1 loss to Italy on the final day of the group phase saw Iran finish third in the six-



Iranian opposite-spiker Amir Naderi (11) hits a spike during a 3-2 loss to Spain at the FIVB Boys' U19 World Championship in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, on August 3, 2025.

FIVB

team group and land Belgium in the round of 16.

Iran overcame Belgium in four sets before defeating surprise package Finland – the only team with a perfect record in the group stage – 3-1 to set last-four date with

defending champion France in a repeat of the 2023 final in San Juan, Argentina.

However, Iran's bid for a first world under-19 title since 2017 ended in vain after France recovered from a first-set defeat to win 3-1 (14-25, 25-14, 25-22, 25-19) on Saturday.

United striker Hojlund available for £30m

BBC – Manchester United are prepared to sell striker Rasmus Hojlund for £30m.

The Denmark striker scored twice against Bournemouth in Chicago on Wednesday. Immediately after the game he sought out waiting journalists to say his intention was to remain at United despite their ongoing interest in signing RB Leipzig's Slovenia forward Benjamin Sesko.

However, the situation is not straightforward. Newcastle are also keen on Sesko but are yet to strike a deal with RB Leipzig for the 22-year-old.



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United are waiting to decide their next move and there have been reports the player would prefer a switch to Old Trafford. United sources are adamant they could do a

deal before selling players.

But it is accepted that there would have to be exits to ensure they remain compliant with the Premier League's profit and sustainability rules.

And, if Sesko arrived, Hojlund would be marginalised.

If Hojlund was sold for £30m, it would be a loss for United given the forward's 'book value' is £43m as he is two years into the five-year contract he signed.

United have spent almost £130m this summer on Bryan Mbeumo and Matheus Cunha.