

Iran named Top Greco-Roman Team of 2025

Sports Desk

Iran was named the Top Greco-Roman Team of 2025 by United World Wrestling.

The recognition came after Iran completed a clean sweep of four world team titles across all age groups over the past 12 months. A prolific international season saw Iranian Greco-Roman wrestlers medal in 29 of the 40 possible weight categories, collecting 10 golds, six silvers, and 13 bronzes.

Iran won a single gold through Amirsam Mohammadi (92kg) at July's U17 World Championships in Athens, but one silver and four bronze medals helped the country claim its fourth successive team title with 125 points – seven clear of second-placed Uzbekistan.

The Iranian Greco-Roman team again managed only one gold at the U20 World Championships in August, with lightweight prodigy Payam Ahmadi claiming the top prize in the 55kg class. Two additional silver and bronze medals apiece saw the wrestling powerhouse lift a fourth consecutive team trophy in Samokov, Bulgaria. The pinnacle of Iran's inter-



Iranian Greco-Roman wrestler Mohammad-Hadi Saravi celebrates with his coach Hassan Hosseinzadeh after winning the 97kg gold at the World Championships in Zagreb, Croatia, on September 16, 2025.

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national season came at September's Senior World Championships in Zagreb, where a remarkable haul of four golds, along with two silvers and two bronzes, led Iran to only its sec-

ond team title – and first since 2014 – in the history of the competition. Reigning Olympic gold medalists Saeid Esmaili (67kg) and Mohammad-Hadi Saravi (97kg), alongside

defending champion Amin Mirzazadeh and debutant Gholamreza Farrokhi (82kg), captured gold in their respective categories. Meanwhile, Ahmadi and Alireza Mohammadi settled for silver in the 55kg

and 87kg events, respectively.

Mohammad-Mahdi Keshtkar (63kg) and Danial Sohrabi (72kg) added two bronze medals as Hassan Rangraz's 10-man squad dominated the team standings

with a record-breaking 180 points – 91 clear of runners-up Azerbaijan.

At the U23 World Championships in October in Novi Sad, Serbia, Farrokhi once again struck gold after moving up to the 87kg class, joining Iman Mohammadi (72kg) and Fardin Hedayati (130kg) atop the podium to spearhead Iran's title-winning campaign.

Sajjad Abbaspour claimed silver in the 60kg category, while Ahmadrza Mohsennejad (67kg) and Abolfazl Mohammadi (82kg) secured bronze medals, as Iran topped the team standings with 143 points and lifted its fourth Greco-Roman trophy since the competition's introduction in 2017.

Iranian Greco-Roman wrestling continued its dominance at the Asian Championships and the Islamic Solidarity Games. After winning a sixth Asian title in seven editions – courtesy of five golds and three silvers – in March, Iran capped off the international season with an emphatic showing at the Islamic Solidarity Games in November, collecting four golds, one silver, and one bronze across six divisions in Riyadh.

Iranian Wrestling Premier League:

Yazdani makes emphatic comeback but Bank Shahr wins freestyle trophy



Hassan Yazdani is pictured after his victory over Mojtaba Goleji in the Iranian Freestyle Wrestling Premier League final in Tehran on December 12, 2025.

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Iranian wrestling sensation Hassan Yazdani made his long-awaited return to action in dominant fashion, but his Esteghlal Juybar team fell short in the final as Bank Shahr claimed the freestyle title at the Iranian Wrestling Premier League.

A star-studded showdown – featuring top Iranian and Russian wrestlers – at a jam-packed 7th Tir Indoor Hall in Tehran saw Bank Shahr prevail 4-1 to lift its second freestyle league trophy in three years.

All eyes were on Yazdani – winner of a national-record 10 world and Olympic medals – who made his first competitive appearance in 489 days after undergoing shoulder surgery following his 86kg final defeat at last year's Paris Olympics.

Moving up to the 97kg class in a bid to win an elusive second Olympic gold at Los Angeles 2028, Yazdani began the day with a superiority win (10-0) over former U20 world champion Abolfazl Babloo during his team's 7-3 semifinal victory over Khaybar in the morning session.

Then, with his team trailing 5-3, Yazdani defeated 2021 world bronze medalist Mojtaba Goleji 4-0 in the penultimate bout of the final to give Esteghlal a lifeline.

However, super-heavyweight prodigy Amirali Ma'soumi sealed the title for Bank Shahr in the 125kg decider after Amirreza Sahraei withdrew with an injury while trailing 7-0 in the first period.

Russian Akhmed Idrisov gave Esteghlal a winning start in the final by defeating 2022 world silver medalist Reza Atri 5-1 in the 57kg bout. Bank Shahr responded through former world champion Abasgadzhi Magomedov (61kg) and Abdulmazhid Kudiev (65kg), who beat Ali Qolizadegan by technical superiority (10-0) and Payman Nemati 6-4, respectively.

Mohammad Bakhshi leveled the scoreline with a 4-3 win over Ebrahim Elahi in an all-Iranian 70kg clash, but Russian great Zaurbek Sidakov – an Olympic champion and three-time world gold medalist holder – restored Bank Shahr's lead with a commanding 7-0 victory over Amirhossein Hosseini at 74kg.

Five-time world medalist Mohammad Nokhodi edged Mohammad Sheik Azami 4-3 at 79kg to extend Bank Shahr's advantage, before Russian two-time world junior champion Ibragim Kadiev narrowed the gap with a 5-4 win over Ezzatollah Akbari at 86kg.

A controversy-laden 92kg bout saw Bank Shahr's Mohammad-Mobin Azimi – the reigning U23 world champion – defeat senior world bronze medalist Amirhossein Firouzpour 5-3.

Firouzpour appeared to have scored a dramatic last-second single-leg takedown with two seconds remaining, but a successful video challenge awarded Azimi two additional points, leaving Bank Shahr on the brink of victory.

Asian Youth Para Games:

Iran wins goalball, table tennis golds on Day 4

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The fourth day of competition at the Asian Youth Para Games saw Iran collect two gold medals in goalball and table tennis in Dubai on Saturday.

The Iranian women's team defeated Thailand 6-2 to win the goalball gold, improving on their silver-medal finish at the 2021 edition in Manama.

Raheleh Bakhshi, Zahra Mousavi, Saba Dehqani, Paria Dehqani, Fahimeh Deldadeh, and Mahtab Zandiyeh represented Iran, which had beaten South Korea and Thailand twice apiece in the preliminary round.

In the boys' goalball competition, Iran defeated Thailand 15-7 to claim the bronze medal.

Elsewhere, Ali Rasti and Arsham Ramezani teamed up to win gold in the boys' doubles table tennis event. The Iranian duo produced a sensa-



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tional comeback, rallying from two games down to defeat Chinese Taipei in the final.

Saturday's triumph brought Iran's table tennis medal tally in Dubai to three golds and six bronzes.

ISF U15 World School Volleyball Championship:

Iran rallies past Chinese Taipei to defend boys' title

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Iran successfully defended its boys' title at the ISF U15 World School Volleyball Championship, defeating Chinese Taipei 3-1 in the final in Shangluo, China.

The Iranian boys got off to a slow start in Friday's showdown, suffer-

ing a 25-15 loss in the opening set before bouncing back to win the next three sets 25-18, 25-22, and 25-17.

Iran opened its campaign with a 2-0 victory over Nigeria in a best-of-two-sets contest, followed by a 2-1 triumph over China 2, and then saw off Saudi Arabia in straight sets

last Monday to top Pool B with seven points and advance to the quarterfinals.

A straight-sets win (25-17, 25-15) against the host nation sent Iran into the semifinals, where Arash Sadeqiani's team came from behind to beat India 3-1 (20-25, 25-15, 25-13, 25-23) to secure a place in the final.

Aydan Poozesh, Farham Baqeri, Shahdad Alizadeh, Radan Salehi, Mobin Alizadeh, Amirreza Faramarzi, Parsa Maqsoodi, Arouzhan Namazi, Yazdan Abdi, Arash Asharafi, Maziar Fallah, Yassin Asadizadeh, Akam Enbrahimnejad, and Sina Hazrati represented Iran in the boys' competition in Shangluo.

In the girls' competition, meanwhile, Iran secured four successive 2-0 victories over India 1, Uganda 2, Bulgaria, and Chile to top Pool D with 12 points, but relinquished a one-set lead in a 2-1 (26-28, 25-22, 15-13) quarterfinal defeat to Brazil.



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