

U17 Wrestling World Championships:

Rezaei gives Iran Greco-Roman consolation with 80kg gold

Sports Desk

Alireza Rezaei won the Greco-Roman 80kg gold medal, offering Iran some relief after a shaky start to its bid for a fifth consecutive team title at the U17 Wrestling World Championships. Ali-Akbar Akou provided further consolation later on Tuesday by claiming bronze in the 110kg class, while three other Iranians missed out on podium finishes in their respective weight categories by the end of Day 2 in Baku, Azerbaijan. Rezaei enjoyed a comfortable run to the final, outscoring his opponents 26-1 across four bouts, but had to dig deep against Azerbaijan's Isfahan Hasanov, rallying from behind to secure a nervy 2-1 victory over the home favorite. Rezaei was put in par terre first but defended the position to keep Hasanov's lead at 1-0 at the break.

In the second period, Rezaei got his chance from par terre and, although he could not execute a big move, lifted Hasanov and forced him out of bounds for a step-out point to take a 2-1 lead. Hasanov then needed at least one point to regain the lead on criteria, but the Iranian avoided any such situation to walk away with the gold medal. Akou, meanwhile, bounced back from a 5-4 quarterfinal defeat to Ukraine's Tymofii Prykhodko by beating Georgia's Saba Takidze 7-3 before edging Russia's Fedor Sukharev 1-1 on criteria in the bronze-medal bout. Elsewhere, Ali Esmaili – the U17 Asian champion in May – opened his 48kg campaign with an 11-1 technical superiority victory over Algeria's Houssein Eddine Bouha but suffered a 6-1 quarterfinal defeat to Azerbaijan's Omar Salmanov. He was denied a place in the repechage after the Azerbaijani failed to reach the final.

Vahid Ashiri, another reigning U17 Asian champion, suffered a shock first-round exit in the 55kg division after a 5-3 defeat to Georgia's Giorgi Kedelidze. Armin Qoli Galeh also saw his 65kg campaign end after a single bout, losing 7-4 to Armenia's Vazgen Mnatsakanyan. Meanwhile, the Russian squad, which is eligible to earn team points for the first time since 2021, built early momentum in its pursuit of a first Greco-Roman team title in nine years, collecting two gold medals through Soltan Iusupov (48kg) and Shamil Labazanov (65kg), as well as a bronze courtesy of Edem Paiziev in the 55kg category.



Iran's Alireza Rezaei (blue) attempts a throw against Azerbaijan's Isfahan Hasanov during the Greco-Roman 80kg final at the U17 Wrestling World Championships in Baku, Azerbaijan, on July 28, 2026.

● KADIR CALISKAN/UWW



WSPS World Cup Novi Sad 2026:

Javanmardi, Galavi shatter world record to win gold

Sports Desk

Iranian shooters Sareh Javanmardi and Ali Galavi produced a record-breaking performance to win the mixed 10m air pistol SH1 (P6) gold medal at the first WSPS World Cup event of the season in Novi Sad, Serbia, on Tuesday. Having finished empty-handed in their respective individual events the previous day, Javanmardi and Galavi teamed up to top the qual-

ification standings with a score of 565 and advance to the final.

The Iranian pair then set a new world record with a score of 465 to defeat their Indian opponents and claim the title, while Kazakhstan took the bronze medal. The gold marked a statement return for four-time Paralympic champion Javanmardi, who announced in June that she would come out of retirement to pursue a second

Asian Para Games gold medal in October.

Nicknamed the "Pistol Queen," Javanmardi, who appeared to have brought the curtain down on her illustrious career after winning the women's 10m air pistol title at the Paris 2024 Paralympics, had to settle for fourth place in the 50m pistol SH1 event on Monday. The 41-year-old shooter still did enough to secure qualification for September's World

Championships in Changwon, South Korea, where she will make her first appearance in seven years, as well as the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Para Games, which begin on October 18.



Iran's Sareh Javanmardi (L) and Ali Galavi pose with their gold medals after winning the mixed 10m air pistol SH1 title at the WSPS World Cup in Novi Sad, Serbia, on July 28, 2026.

● ISSF

AVC Women's Volleyball Continental Championship:

Iran drawn against China, Chinese Taipei, Iraq in pool phase

Sports Desk

Iran has been drawn alongside host China, Chinese Taipei and Iraq in Pool A of the AVC Women's Volleyball Continental Championship, which will get underway on August 21 in Tianjin, China. The draw for the 23rd edition of the tournament was held on Tuesday, with the 12 participating teams divided into three preliminary pools. This year's tournament will mark Iran's ninth appearance. The team finished 10th at the previous edition in Thailand in 2023, with its best-ever result coming in 2019, when it placed seventh. With the champion securing direct qualification for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games, China – runner-up in 2023 – will be eager to claim a record-extending 14th continental title and its first since 2015 on home soil.

Chinese Taipei, meanwhile, will look to improve on its ninth-place finish in 2023, while Iraq is set to make its tournament debut. Elsewhere, defending champion Thailand has been drawn in Pool B alongside Kazakhstan, Indonesia and Australia, while five-time champion Japan joins Vietnam – winner of the AVC Women's Nations Cup in June – South Korea and Hong Kong in Pool C. The top two teams from each pool will advance to the quarterfinals, while the remaining two knockout berths will go to the two best third-placed teams. Unlike previous editions, the quarterfinal matchups will be determined using the AVC's Combined Team Ranking System rather than teams' finishing positions in their respective pools. As a result, a runner-up from



● CAVA

one pool could be seeded higher than the winner of another based on its overall performance during the preliminary round. Iran's 21-player squad is currently holding a training camp in Tehran, with South Korean head coach Lee Do-hee overseeing preparations remotely, ahead of what will be the national team's third

major international tournament of the season. Iran retained its CAVA Championship title in June, thanks to a final victory over Kazakhstan, before enduring a disappointing campaign at the AVC Women's Nations Cup, where it finished seventh in the 12-team tournament in Candon, Philippines.

Aichi-Nagoya 2026 Asian Games:

Iranian teams learn fate in 3x3 basketball draw

Sports Desk

Iran's men's and women's teams have learned their opponents for the 3x3 basketball competition at the upcoming Aichi-Nagoya 2026 Asian Games. Iran's men's team, looking to build on last year's silver-medal finish at the Islamic Solidarity Games, has been drawn alongside China, Malaysia and Hong Kong in Pool B of the 16-team tournament. In the women's competition, meanwhile, Iran has been drawn against Japan – bronze medalist at the previous edition – Chinese Taipei and Uzbekistan in Pool B. Elsewhere in the men's draw, Mongolia – the bronze medalist at Hangzhou 2022 – has been joined in Pool A by the Philippines, Kazakhstan and Sri Lanka, while Pool C features Chinese Taipei, Qatar – the gold and silver medalists in Hangzhou, respectively – Indonesia and Bahrain. Japan, Singapore, South Korea and Thailand complete the lineup in Pool D. Reigning champion China has been drawn in Women's Pool A alongside Kazakhstan, Qatar and Sri Lanka, while Pool C features Mongolia, the Philippines, Malaysia and Macau.



● ISNA

Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand and South Korea complete the lineup in Women's Pool D. Named "Angels of Minab" in memory of the 168 victims, including 120 schoolchildren, killed in a U.S.-Israeli airstrike on Shajareh Tayyebbeh Elementary School in Minab, southern Iran, on February 28, the Iranian delegation will comprise 214 men and 94 women competing across 36 sports at this year's Asian Games. The 20th edition of the continental multi-sport event will open at Paloma Mizuho Stadium in Nagoya, Japan, on September 19.