

Leader Receives Iran's National Men Futsal Team



TEHRAN – Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei on Wednesday received the Iran's national men's futsal team who won the championship title in the 2024 AFC Futsal Asian Cup.

Earlier on April 28, Iran beat hosts Thailand 4-1 in the final match of the continental tournament, reclaiming its position as Asia's dominant futsal powerhouse.

Mehdi Karimi, Saeid Ahmad-Abbasi, Ali Asghar Hassanzadeh and Bagher Mohammadi scored for Iran in the match that was held in Bangkok Arena where Iranian sports minister Kiumars Hashemi and chairman of the country's football federation Mehdi Taj were also present.

Iran has won 13 championship titles in 17 editions of AFC Futsal Asian Cup.

Iran's Women Football Team to Play Belarus



TEHRAN – Iran's women's football team will play two friendly matches with Belarus in Tehran.

The women's football team of Iran is scheduled to play against a European team on May 30 and June 2 in Tehran.

In recent years, the performance of Iran's women's football team has significantly improved.

Previously, Team Melli has played matches against Belarus in both Tehran and Minsk.

Dortmund Beat PSG 1-0 to Reach Champions League Final

PARIS (AP) — London's calling, but not for Kylian Mbappé.

When Borussia Dortmund's players rushed over to their fans wearing yellow "London 24" T-shirts and joined in the celebrations after knocking out Paris Saint-Germain to reach the Champions League final on Tuesday, Mbappé had long left the field.

Wembley Stadium on June 1 is the final stop on Dortmund's quest for the Champions League trophy, by which time Mbappé will have played his last game for PSG having failed to win the trophy the club's cash-rich Qatari owners so crave.

Central defender Mats Hummels headed Dortmund into the final as the German team won 1-0 at PSG.

Moments after Warren Zaïre-Emery missed an open goal for PSG, Hummels rose unchallenged to head in Julian Brandt's corner from the left in the 50th minute.

Dortmund advanced 2-0 on aggregate and largely contained Mbappé, who is leaving at the end of the season.

Goalkeeper Gregor Kobel palmed away Mbappé's low shot, then pushed Mbappé's deflected close-range effort onto the crossbar with a superb one-handed save. The Parc des Princes crowd groaned when midfielder Vitorinha's thumping 25-meter strike rattled the woodwork.

Coach Edin Terzić's team will play either record 14-time champion Real Madrid or



Borussia Dortmund players celebrate at the end of the Champions League semifinal second leg soccer match between Paris Saint-Germain and Borussia Dortmund at the Parc des Princes stadium in Paris, France, Tuesday, May 7, 2024.

six-time winner Bayern Munich on June 1 at Wembley Stadium. Madrid and Bayern drew 2-2 in the first leg and play on Wednesday.

Dortmund is on course for its second Champions League trophy after winning in 1997 and a third European trophy, having won the now defunct UEFA Cup Winners' Cup in 1966. Dortmund also reached the Champions League final in 2013, losing to Bayern.

For PSG, it's another season ending without raising the trophy its cash-rich Qatari owners have chased after by spending huge amounts on star players like Zlatan Ibrahimovic, Neymar, Lionel Messi and Mbappé. PSG lost its only Champions League final in 2020 to Bayern.

As Dortmund's players celebrated, Mbappé looked dejected as he trudged for the last time in a Champions League game

wearing a PSG jersey. He is widely expected to join Madrid.

Moments before Dortmund's goal, Zaïre-Emery somehow hit the post from two meters out after Gonçalo Ramos flicked on Mbappé's cross from the left.

On Hummels' goal, PSG goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma again did not move off his line to claim the ball, having not done so when Barcelona scored on a corner from the left in the first leg of the quarterfinals.

Coach Luis Enrique's players seemed nervous, playing cautiously and defending too deeply in the first half, allowing Dortmund to settle into a comfortable rhythm.

Mbappé was ineffective in attack when PSG lost the first leg and, despite their speed, Mbappé and Ousmane Dembélé struggled to find space behind a well-organized Dortmund defense with midfielder Emre Can

offering good protection.

It took 30 minutes before Mbappé and Zaïre-Emery freed Dembélé on the right of the penalty area, but he failed to hit the target.

Speedy left winger Karim Adeyemi did so for Dortmund five minutes later when a rapid counter-attack exposed PSG's defense, but Donnarumma rescued PSG with a fine low save.

Hummel's goal at least woke up PSG's attack, but Ramos missed the target when well-placed either side of a stinging shot from left back Nuno Mendes hitting the left post.

Dembélé then cut inside Hummels, who was perhaps unfortunate not to concede a penalty midway through the second half. Referee Daniele Orsato awarded a free kick.

PSG president Nasser Al-Khelaifi pointed to the amount of times PSG hit the post or crossbar over both legs.

But in reality PSG again fell short, despite boasting one of the world's best players in Mbappé.

PSG only qualified for the knockout stage in the last round of group games, losing at Newcastle and AC Milan and finishing second behind Dortmund. Overall, PSG lost five games in the competition.

Mbappé's last home game for PSG — which has already clinched the French league title — will be Sunday against Toulouse, and his last game for the club May 25 in the French Cup final against Lyon.

Brunson Brilliance Fires Knicks Past Pacers



New York Knicks' Jalen Brunson (11) drives past Indiana Pacers' Myles Turner (33) and Aaron Nesmith (23) during the first half of Game 1 in an NBA basketball second-round playoff series on May 6, 2024, in New York.

NEW YORK (Reuters) — Jalen Brunson doesn't go into a game aiming to score 40 points more consistently than anyone in the postseason since Michael Jordan.

He only cares about winning games, so a late defensive stop is just as important to him as any of his shots.

"The little things can go a long way," Brunson said. "So yeah, the 40 points are cool and all, but it's the little things that help us win games like that. So I'm just happy to have the group of guys that I do."

And the New York Knicks are sure thrilled to have him.

Brunson scored 43 points, becoming the fourth player in NBA history with four straight 40-point games in the postseason, as the Knicks beat the Indiana Pacers

121-117 on Monday night in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference semifinals.

Brunson, who had 21 in the fourth quarter, rallying the Knicks after they trailed by nine early in the period, joins Hall of Famers Jerry West, who had six consecutive 40-point games in the postseason, and Michael Jordan and Bernard King (both with four). Jordan did it in the 1993 NBA Finals.

Donte DiVincenzo hit the tie-breaking 3-pointer with 40 seconds remaining and scored 25 for the Knicks, who opened the second round with the type of close finish indicative of their first-round victory over Philadelphia.

The Pacers then cut it to one, but Myles Turner was called for an offensive foul when DiVincenzo ran into him.

AI-Enabled System to Protect Athletes From Online Abuse During Paris 2024



The Olympic flag flies during the handover ceremony of the Olympic Flame for the Paris 2024 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games at Panathenaic stadium in Athens on April 26, 2024.

GENEVA (Reuters) - The International Olympic Committee (IOC) said that a new AI-powered monitoring system will protect athletes and officials from online abuse during the 2024 Paris

Olympic and Paralympic Games.

"Paris 2024 will mark the first time that AI will be in use to provide safe online spaces for such a large number of athletes competing in so many

sports at the same time," according to an IOC statement.

The IOC said the AI-powered system will monitor thousands of accounts on all major social media platforms and in over 35 languages in real time, and any identified threats will be flagged.

The IOC said the system was successfully piloted during Olympic Esports Week in 2023, analyzing more than 17,000 public posts, flagging 199 potentially abusive messages from 48 authors targeting accounts from a study set of 122 players and two official IOC accounts.

A joint project developed by the IOC Athletes' Commission and the IOC Medical and Scientific Commission, the system will also help the IOC better understand the challenges that athletes face in relation to online abuse, enabling it to further enhance athlete protection at future events.

Maradona's Golden Ball Trophy Goes to Auction

PARIS (AFP) - Diego Maradona's Golden Ball trophy won for being named the best player at the 1986 World Cup will be auctioned in France in June, the Aguttes auction house said.

This is the first Golden Ball to go for auction and while the value is still to be confirmed, the auction house expects it to fetch millions on June 6.

Maradona, who died in 2020, won the award after leading Argentina to World Cup victory in Mexico, scoring five goals at the finals where he captained his country and played every minute of the tournament.

That tournament is probably best remembered for Maradona's two goals against England in the quarter-finals.



In this file photo dated March 22, 2023, flags, banners and a mural depicting late Argentinian football legend Diego Armando Maradona decorate the Spanish quarters as Naples paints the town for its potential first Scudetto championship win in 33 years, in Naples, Italy.

Maradona outjumped England keeper Peter Shilton as he thumped in the first goal with

a raised fist, which he later dubbed as being scored by the "Hand of God".