

# Matic hits out at FIBA Asia over non-Asian players

**Tehran Times Sports Desk**  
**TEHRAN** — Iran's basketball coach Veselin Matic hit out at FIBA officials over non-Asian players who have recently acquired new nationality in the Asia Championship in China.

Iran will take part in the 25th FIBA Asia Championship for men which will be held from August 6 to 16 in Tianjin City, China.

"I've talked to FIBA officials about non-Asian players representing



teams in the Asian competitions. I am looking forward to seeing Asian countries protest against this law that allows others to strengthen themselves with European or American players," Matic said.

Iran, the defending champion, has been drawn along with Uzbekistan, Kuwait and Taiwan in Group B. Iran is scheduled to play Taiwan in its opener on August 6.

The tournament's top three

teams qualify automatically for the 2010 FIBA World Championship in Turkey, while at least three more can be selected as wild cards by FIBA to complete the 24-team cast.



## Phelps bags fifth gold to confirm supremacy

**ROME (Reuters)** — Michael Phelps conquered Rome with a fifth gold medal in the men's 4x100 meters medley relay on Sunday when the American team closed an extraordinary world championships with a 43rd world record.

Phelps, who arrived under-prepared after taking six months off following his record eight golds at last year's Beijing Olympics, ended up with the biggest collection of wins over the week's competition to confirm his supremacy of men's swimming.

"I think it's not how you start, it is how you finish," the 24-year-old told reporters having lost the 200 freestyle on Tuesday before adding 100 and 200 butterfly golds to two freestyle relay victories.

The United States blasted through the open air pool in three minutes 27.28 to obliterate their previous world record of 3:29.34 set when winning gold in Beijing.

New polyurethane swimsuits have been partly responsible for the record amount of records at the championships but they will be banned from January after criticism about how easy it has been for times to be smashed.

The next long-course worlds in Shanghai in 2011 will struggle to match Rome with future textile-only suits not expected to give swimmers an advantage.

Germany's Britta Steffen broke one of the four world records of Sunday's closing session to seal the women's 50 freestyle gold having credited her suit for Friday's victory in the 100 with another record.

Russia's Yuliya Efimova surged to a world record of 30.09 in the 50 breaststroke final to turn the tables on Rebecca Soni of the US.

Soni had beaten the Russian into second place in the 100 final on Tuesday.

Britain's Liam Tancock earlier carried on where he left off in Saturday's semis by shattering the world record again to steal the glory in the men's 50 backstroke.

"That was pretty perfect, I am very pleased as I was amongst class opponents tonight," the twice bronze medalist in the event told reporters.

"It may sound strange but there are still a few things I think I can improve on, however, I have another world record and now I am the world champion."

The noisy crowd at the Foro Italico really took to the quick sprints and the red line showing world record pace on the giant screens made them even more exciting during the championships.

One fan was especially delighted to catch Ryan Lochte's swimcap after the jubilant American had hurled it into the stands following his victory in the 400 individual medley.

Lochte, who broke Phelps' 200 medley world record on Thursday with his compatriot not competing, led an American one-two with Scott Tyler Clary beating third-placed Hungarian Laszlo Cseh. Tunisia's sporting hero Oussama Mellouli was too tired for a big celebration after adding world championship gold to his Olympic 1,500 freestyle title after outlasting Canada's Ryan Cochrane in the epic race.

Australian Stephanie Rice, another Olympic champion with a big reputation, has had a competition to forget and could only finish third behind 400 individual medley winner Katinka Hosszu of Hungary despite qualifying quickest.

### NEWS IN BRIEF



#### Bent undergoes medical



Darren Bent is undergoing a medical at Sunderland ahead of his proposed move from Tottenham.

Sunderland moved for the England striker more than a week ago, after they missed out on the signing of Peter Crouch - ironically to Spurs.

But Steve Bruce has become increasingly frustrated at the lack of progress and made his feelings known over the weekend.

Interest from the likes of Hull City and Stoke has delayed talks, but Bent has always made it quite clear that his heart was set on a move to Wearside.

(Source: Skysports)

#### Massa on his way home



Felipe Massa has left the Hungarian hospital in which he was recuperating and boarded a private jet to fly home to Brazil.

Massa, who has made a steady recovery from his horrific Hungarian qualifying accident, was seen smiling and shaking hands with officials at Budapest's Ferihegy International Airport.

From there the 28-year-old, accompanied by his wife Rafaela and personal doctor Dino Altman, will fly home to Sao Paulo, stopping over in Dakar, Senegal.

His left eye was badly bruised but slightly open and there were no bandages over the line of stitches on his left temple.

(Source: Skysports)

#### Reds confirm Real talks



Liverpool have confirmed they are in talks with Real Madrid over the proposed transfer of Xabi Alonso, with the Spain international welcoming the discussions over his future.

Alonso has been a long-term target of the La Liga giants, who have been restructuring their squad with a number of high-profile big-money signings throughout the summer.

Rafa Benitez was initially unwilling to part company with the talented midfielder, but his stance softened when the former Real Sociedad man handed in a written transfer request.

The Spanish giants have so far been unwilling to meet Liverpool's asking price for the Euro 2008 winner, which is believed to be in the region of £30million.

(Source: Skysports)

#### Davydenko wins in Croatia



Top seed Nikolay Davydenko claimed a 16th career ATP title with a one-sided victory over Juan Carlos Ferrero in the final of the Croatia Open in Umag.

The Russian won 6-3 6-0 against the Spanish former world number one to pick up

his second title in two weeks.

Davydenko won the German Open in Hamburg last week after returning to action after missing nearly four months of the season due to injury. The world number nine is now 18-3 since the French Open.

It took Davydenko just 51 minutes to beat the fifth-seeded Ferrero, who was playing in his first event since reaching the Wimbledon quarter-finals.

(Source: Skysports)

## Iran draws with Brazil in FIVB Junior World Championship

**Tehran Times Sports Desk**

**PUNE, India** - Iran has been drawn along with defending champion Brazil in the 2009 FIVB Men's Junior Volleyball World Championship in Pune, India.

Iran, who advanced to the next round after three victories against Belgium, China and Egypt in Pool B, was drawn in Pool F along with powerhouse Brazil, Cuba and the U.S. Russia, Argentina, India and Belgium have been drawn in Pool E.

Iran will play Cuba on Tuesday in the quarter-final first match.

## Mazandaran to Participate in Oumakhanov Wrestling Championships

**Tehran Times Sports Desk**

**TEHRAN** — Mazandaran freestyle wrestling team will represent Iran in the Shamil Oumakhanov International Championships, slated for October 17 to 19 in Khasavyurt, Russia.

Mazandaran, which could not take part in the Heydar Aliyev Memorial in July, will represent Iran in the tournament.

The tournament is held as a memorial to Shamil Oumakhanov, a talented Russian freestyle wrestler who was killed in a collapse of the gymnasium during the Russian National Championships a few years ago.

## Cabrera hits for cycle as Yankees beat Chicago

**CHICAGO (Reuters)** — Melky Cabrera drove in four runs and became the first New York Yankee to hit for the cycle in 14 years in an 8-5 win over the Chicago White Sox on Sunday.

Cabrera had a home run, triple, double and single as the Yankees ended a three-game skid to the White Sox and hung on to first place in the American League East, a half-game in front of the Boston Red Sox. Chicago remained 1 game behind leader Detroit in the Central Division.

Cabrera launched the win with a three-run homer in the second inning and added a run-scoring single in the fifth. He had a double in the fourth and a triple in the ninth.

"I feel really happy, but I'm more happy because we won the game," Cabrera told reporters, speaking through an interpreter.

No Yankee had hit for the cycle since Tony Fernandez in 1995.

"He got us started with that three-run homer, and to be able to end it with that cycle is really special," Yankees manager Joe Girardi said.

Cabrera needed to dive head first into third base to beat Gordon Beckham's tag for his triple.

"It's great," Yankees closer Mariano Rivera said. I don't remember seeing one....I was telling him, 'Go! Go! Don't stop at second base. Whatever happens, go!'"

Cabrera's team mates cheered wildly in the dugout after the hit that completed the cycle.

"Everyone was jumping up and down, clapping, cheering," Nick Swisher said.

"We're just really happy for him. Not many people get a chance to do that. That's the first time I've ever seen (a cycle) in person. It's just an awesome thing."

The first three hits came off Chicago starter and loser Mark Buehrle (11-5) who gave up 12 hits and seven runs in four-plus innings in his first start at home since pitching a perfect game against Tampa Bay on July 23.

"I made a bad pitch on a hanging changeup on the home run," Buehrle said. "It was just one of those days."

Chicago bounced back from a 3-0 deficit with four runs in the third inning. But the Yankees took control with two runs each in the fourth and fifth.

Yankees starter CC Sabathia (11-7) held on for seven-plus innings for the win, but was charged with 10 hits and five runs.

## Van der Vaart: I will quit Real

Rafael van der Vaart is expecting to leave Real Madrid after learning he is not in new coach Manuel Pellegrini's plans for the season.

The Holland international only joined Real from Hamburg last summer, but has been deemed surplus to requirements following the big-money arrivals at the Bernabeu.

Chelsea have previously been linked with a bid for the midfielder, while former clubs Ajax and Hamburg are also reportedly keen. Van der Vaart confirmed Pellegrini has told him he will be on the periphery this term and revealed Real want to recoup the 16m euros (£13.5m) paid to



Hamburg 12 months ago.

"The coach told me I won't get much chance to play, so it's not an option to stay here," Van der Vaart told De Telegraaf. "Real want to get my transfer fee back. I completely understand that clubs want to wait."

The 26-year-old would be prepared to return to Hamburg and admits his priority is to find a club where he will play regular first-team football.

He added: "Of course I am interested in HSV, but it's not the only option for me."

The most important thing is that I will play at a new club."

(Source: Skysports)

## Writers go for Grafite



**BERLIN (AFP)** — Wolfsburg's Brazilian striker Grafite has been voted Germany's footballer of the year by the country's football writers and sports magazine Kicker.

The Brazilian earned 331 votes cast thanks to his 28 goals in 25 Bundesliga matches last season which contributed to his team winning the league title.

German international Mario Gomez, who transferred this summer to Bayern Munich from Stuttgart, came second with 171 votes, with Wolfsburg's Bosnian striker Edin Dzeko, voted player of the year by his peers in June, coming third with 169.

Wolfsburg manager Felix Magath earned the coach of the year award for the third time in his coaching career.

He first won in 2003 while in charge of Stuttgart before winning it again two years later after leading Bayern Munich to a league and cup double.

The 55-year-old achieved 778 votes with second-placed Markus Babel of Stuttgart earning 65, and Hertha Berlin's Lucien Favre, who came third, achieving a mere 23.

## Woods wins Buick

**GRAND BLANC, Michigan (Reuters)** — Tiger Woods captured the Buick Open title for a third and possibly final time on Sunday, cruising to a three-shot victory at an event that looks set to become the latest victim of the economic downturn.

The troubled Detroit automaker is expected to pull its sponsorship next season, meaning the tournament will disappear from the PGA Tour calendar. If Sunday was indeed the tournament's final bow, then it could not have wished for a better send-off, the world number one delighting the fans at one of his favorite venues with a clinical, and at times emotional, victory.

"I've never played in front of fans like this," Woods told reporters after a bogey-free final round of 69.

"This has been incredible, especially what's going on here in the area, for everyone to come out, it just makes it that much more special for all of us."

"I've been here since '99, and I've always enjoyed coming here. Only two years I haven't played here is because of the birth of my child, and my knee wasn't very good last year."



"So that's the only two times I haven't played here."