

Kickboxing: Nazri Earns First Ring Sport Medal at Balkan Open



This is Nazri's first medal in the Ring Sport discipline since he started the sport in 2019

1. Muhammad Nazri Sutari ended his competition season on a high note, after earning his first Ring Sport medal in Kickboxing under the World Association of Kickboxing Organizations (WAKO). He earned a bronze medal at the 16th WAKO Balkan Open, held on 22 October 2022 in Tesnaj, Bosnia and Herzegovina. The competition saw 446 competitors across 16 countries in the 1-day international kickboxing cup.
2. Kickboxing under WAKO comprises of 7 disciplines across 2 environments; Ring and Tatami. Nazri competed in the Ring, Senior Men 71kg Low Kick category, where he first faced Albanian Lekaj Rikard in the quarterfinals. His 8-week training camp paid off, when he comfortably defeated Rikard with flurries of combinations to win via points. Usually Nazri would have a day to recover before his next fight on the next day, however, at the Balkan Open such reprieve was a luxury as the competition is packed into a single day affair. After a 3-hour recovery period, Nazri faced Serbian Ilic Ilija in the semi-final. In a match that pushed Nazri to his limits, he fought valiantly and loss narrowly by 1 point per judge.
3. Bowing out from the semi-final to earn a joint bronze, Nazri considers the loss to be a monumental milestone for him. Nazri shares, *"Medalling in a WAKO ring sport discipline is one of my biggest goals this year. I keep telling myself that this year, I have to accomplish something in the ring. So it does feel amazing that I could finally see some fruits of my labour. I have sacrificed so much and put so many things aside to dedicate my time and effort for the sport. A gold medal would've been nice, but this bronze represents the blood sweat and tears that me and my team have put in. I owe this medal to my coach, teammates and the kickboxing federation of Singapore."*
4. **Among Southeast Asia, Nazri is the first Southeast Asian and Singaporean male athlete to earn a Ring Sport medal in a WAKO International Kickboxing Cup.** He also remains to be the first Southeast Asian and Singaporean male athlete to have won medals in both Tatami and Ring Sport environments in a WAKO International Kickboxing Cup, a feat only few have achieved.
5. 5 months after his heartbreaking loss at the Hanoi 2021 Southeast Asian Games in the same 71kg Low Kick category, Nazri felt a deep sense of fulfilment. He says, *"To be honest, I have already moved on from my SEA Games outcome and I stopped thinking about it. I don't let my past define my potential so even if I started with the same position as SEA Games, the outcome was totally different. My opponent in the semi finals is relentless and really tough. The fight was really close but it was a clean and fair fight. It could've gone either way actually. As much as I wanted to win and advance to the finals to earn my goal, I am really happy and pleased with how well I have fought today. The standard of kickboxing in Europe is really high and these guys are tough. This competition just showed me where I am right now and a glimpse of my fullest potential."*
6. Jason Lim, president of KFS shares, *"What Nazri has accomplished, I very proud. He fought to the best of his abilities and represented our nation with excellence at the global stage. He has a deep passion for Ring Sport and I am ecstatic that he earned his first medal in that environment. He is an achiever of many 'firsts' and I am sure he has the potential to accomplish more."*
7. Aleksandar Topic, Nazri's coach in Serbia remarks, *"Nazri's performance at this competition has improved by leaps and bounds since SEA Games. He was composed, clean and technical. Considering this is his first outing in Ring Sports at a WAKO International Cup and to have attained a medal, I would say it's fantastic."*
8. Nazri will cap off his overseas training stint with a visit to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland, from 27 to 29 October as part of his graduation from the inaugural WAKO GameChanger program.

KICKBOXING FEDERATION OF SINGAPORE
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About Kickboxing Federation of Singapore

Kickboxing Federation of Singapore (KFS) is the appointed national representative of the World Association of Kickboxing Organizations (WAKO) – the world’s sole governing body for the sport.

KFS is the governing body for the sport of Kickboxing in Singapore, and is recognized as a National Sports Association (NSA) by Sport Singapore (SportSG) – the Sport Ministry in Singapore.

In addition, KFS is a recognised member of Singapore National Olympic Council (SNOC).

KFS’s SNOC membership can be found on their official directory: <http://www.singaporeolympics.com/members/>

Mission

To be the beacon for Kickboxing in Singapore, promoting it as a wholesome sport for ALL and nurturing those with the attributes for “competitive Kickboxing” to realise their maximum potential.

Vision

- To become one of the leading nations in the sport; at SEA Games, Asian Games and World Level.
- To develop, groom and nurture talent; and to consistently compete and perform at the highest levels across the national squad, and all major international championships.
- To become a regional hub for Kickboxing in South East Asia.

Objective

We aim to develop the sport of Kickboxing in Singapore by providing:

- Kickboxing as a Sport and/or Fitness activity to everybody regardless of age, gender and race.
- Competition opportunities at National, South-East Asia, Asian and International Levels.
- An avenue to reach out to at-risk youths.

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