

## Russian track federation board resigns over doping impasse

## WADA asks sports court to open Russia case to public hearing

GENEVA, Feb 4, (AP) — The World Anti-Doping Agency wants a rare public hearing for sport's highest court to judge a four-year slate of punishments faced by Russia for persistent cheating.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport is preparing a hearing expected within weeks for the blockbuster case in Switzerland.

"It is WADA's view — and that of many of our stakeholders — that this dispute at CAS should be held in a public forum to ensure that everybody understands the process and hears the arguments," the Montreal-based agency's director general, Olivier Niggli, said in a statement.



Niggli

Urged on by President Vladimir Putin, Russia's anti-doping agency, known as RUSADA, is formally challenging a WADA ruling in December to declare it non-compliant after key data from the Moscow testing laboratory was corrupted.

The CAS panel of three judges will have power to enforce WADA-recommended sanctions including a ban on Russia's team name, flag and anthem at Olympic Games and world championships.

WADA also wants Russian athletes to compete as neutrals at the Olympics and major events only if they pass a vetting process which examines their history of drug testing and possible involvement in lab cover-ups of positive tests.

CAS hearings can be opened to media and public observers in some cases when both parties consent.

The court held its first public hearing for 20 years in November when WADA appealed a ruling by swimming's world body not to ban China's three-time Olympic gold medalist Sun Yang for alleged doping rule violations.

Evidence was heard over almost 10 hours in a lakeside hotel ballroom at Montreux, Switzerland, with media attending and proceedings streamed live

on the court's website. A verdict is expected this month.

However, it is unclear if the WADA vs. Russia case fits the limited scope of CAS cases which can be heard in public.

The Sun Yang case is a more traditional appeal in a disciplinary case involving a single athlete.

The latest Russian case is an arbitration dispute between two institutions.

The years-long saga of Russian state-backed doping was intended to make a big step toward being resolved when Russia handed over the Moscow lab's doping data archive in January. That was a central demand in exchange for WADA sanctions against RUSADA being lifted in September 2018.

However, WADA investigators found evidence Russia edited the data in the weeks before the handover to remove signs of failed drug tests, and detailed an apparent attempt to smear former lab director Grigory Rodchenkov. He has become a key witness for WADA since leaving Russia to enter a United States witness protection program.

Russia has produced its own report arguing that any editing was the result of illicit changes made from abroad, or the instability of the lab software.

A verdict in the CAS process is due in May, about two months before the Tokyo Olympics begin.

Also:

MOSCOW: The entire board of the Russian Athletics Federation resigned on Monday as Russia faces another ban from Olympic track and field.

The federation, known as RusAF, said the board stepped down after a meeting with new Russian Sports Minister Oleg Matytsin, citing its failure to resolve Russia's track's long-running difficulties with the world governing body.

The federation has been suspended by World Athletics since 2015 over widespread doping, but the crisis has deepened in recent months.

In November, the federation's then-president, Dmitry Shlyakhtin, was among seven people issued disciplinary charges of obstructing an anti-doping investigation using fake documents.



Winners celebrate on the podium during the Arab Shooting Championship and ISSF International Moroccan Grand Prix awarding ceremony. KUNA photo

## Kuwait win men's trap team event at Arab shooting competition in Morocco

Kuwait clinched the men's trap team event gold medal at the Arab Shooting Championship and ISSF International Moroccan Grand Prix.

Talal Al-Terji, Nasser Al-Miqled and Abdulrahman Al-Faihan scored an accurate 357 points to open up a 12-point gap over Egypt with Morocco

trailing with 338 points.

The accomplishment was praised by Kuwait Shooting Club Chairman Duaji Al-Otaibi, who said the marksmen fought bravely for their country to reach the podium.

## Pysyk scores hat trick as Panthers top Maple Leafs

Emotional Johns nets 1st goal, Stars beat Rangers 5-3

TORONTO, Feb 4, (AP) — Mark Pysyk scored three times in his first career hat trick, and the Florida Panthers beat the Toronto Maple Leafs 5-3.

Mike Hoffman had a goal and an assist for Florida, which trailed 3-1 early in the third period. Mike Matheson had three assists, and Sergei Bobrovsky made 31 saves in the Panthers' seventh win in eight games.

## ICE HOCKEY

Frederik Andersen started for Toronto and stopped seven of eight shots before departing with an upper-body injury after a collision with Panthers center Frank Vatrano. Michael Hutchinson came in and allowed three goals on 13 shots.

Auston Matthews, William Nylander and John Tavares scored for Toronto, which had won three in a row. Mitch Marner had two assists.

Matthews' 37th goal of the season made it 3-1 38 seconds into the third. But Pysyk and Huberdeau scored 58 seconds apart, tying it at 3 at 3:18.

Hoffman put the Panthers ahead to stay when he banked his 19th off-leaf defenseman Cody Ceci and through Hutchinson's pads at 10:30.

Florida, which beat Toronto 8-4 in Sunrise on Jan. 12, weathered a late surge by the Maple Leafs before Pysyk completed his hat trick with an empty-netter.

The Panthers were without Aleksander Barkov, who was sidelined by a lower-body injury. The star center got hurt during Saturday's 4-0 loss at Montreal in Florida's first game back after the All-Star break and bye week. Leafs defenseman Travis Dermott



Florida Panthers left wing Jonathan Huberdeau (11) scores past Toronto Maple Leafs goaltender Michael Hutchinson (30) during the third period of an NHL hockey game on Feb 3, in Toronto. (AP)

returned to the lineup after missing Saturday's 2-1 overtime win against Ottawa with an illness, while winger Kasperii Kapanen was also back following a one-game banishment to the press box for being late to Friday's practice.

Andersen, who watched Hutchinson pick up the victory Saturday, was injured when Vatrano slid into the goaltender off the rush. He didn't appear to be favoring anything as he got to his feet, but Hutchinson took over to start the second.

## Stars 5, Rangers 3

In New York, Joe Pavelski scored power-play goals 16 seconds apart, leading Dallas to the victory.

Stephen Johns and Blake Comeau scored 4:04 apart in the second period for Dallas, which improved to 30-18-4 with its second straight win. Corey Perry also scored, and Anton Khudobin stopped 33 shots.

Pavel Buchnevich and Brett How-

den scored power-play goals for the Rangers in the first, and Brendan Lemieux added another with the man advantage in the third. New York had won two straight coming out of the All-Star break and a bye week as the front office weighs its options ahead of the Feb. 24 trade deadline.

## Flyers 3, Red Wings 0

In Detroit, Brian Elliott made 16 saves for his 40th career shutout, helping Philadelphia to the road win.

Scott Laughton, Kevin Hayes and defenseman Matt Niskanen scored for Philadelphia, which won for the fourth time in five games. It was Elliott's second shutout of the season.

The goals by Hayes and Niskanen were short-handed.

Detroit was shut out for the second straight game. The Red Wings have lost nine straight overall.

Jonathan Bernier stopped 28 shots for Detroit, which was blanked for the sixth time this season.

## NHL Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, Feb 4 (AP) — Results and standings from the NHL games on Monday.

Dallas 5 NY Rangers 3  
Florida 5 Toronto 3  
Philadelphia 3 Detroit 0

## Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division  
GP W L OT Pts GF GA  
Boston 53 31 10 12 74 177 137  
Tampa Bay 52 32 15 5 69 188 145  
Florida 51 29 17 5 63 188 170  
Toronto 53 28 18 7 63 191 176  
Montreal 54 24 23 7 55 167 166  
Buffalo 52 23 22 7 53 150 161  
Ottawa 52 18 24 10 46 142 176  
Detroit 54 12 38 4 28 111 207

## Metropolitan Division

GP W L OT Pts GF GA  
Washington 53 35 13 5 75 193 158  
Pittsburgh 52 33 14 5 71 176 142  
Columbus 53 28 16 9 65 143 135  
Philadelphia 53 29 17 7 65 170 157  
NY Islanders 50 29 15 6 64 146 136  
Carolina 52 24 23 7 55 167 139  
NY Rangers 51 25 22 4 54 166 166  
New Jersey 51 18 24 9 45 137 185

## Western Conference

Central Division  
GP W L OT Pts GF GA  
St. Louis 53 31 14 8 70 168  
Dallas 52 30 18 4 64 139 132  
Colorado 50 28 16 6 62 182 149  
Chicago 52 25 21 6 62 158 163  
Winnipeg 53 26 23 4 56 156 164  
Nashville 51 24 20 7 55 169 171  
Minnesota 51 23 22 6 52 157 172

## Pacific Division

GP W L OT Pts GF GA  
Vancouver 53 30 18 5 65 177 159  
Edmonton 52 28 18 6 62 170 162  
Vegas 54 27 20 7 61 168 162  
Calgary 53 27 20 6 60 146 163  
Arizona 54 26 21 7 59 152 148  
San Jose 53 22 27 4 48 136 177  
Anaheim 52 21 26 5 47 134 161  
Los Angeles 53 19 29 5 43 131 167

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

## MLB Roundup

## Astros hire Rays exec Click as GM

## Gonzales, Mariners agree to \$30 million deal for 2021-24

SEATTLE, Feb 4, (AP) — Left-hander Marco Gonzales and the Seattle Mariners agreed to a \$30 million contract covering 2021-24, a deal that includes a club option and could be worth \$45 million over five seasons.



Gonzales

Gonzales is about to begin his third full season with the Mariners after arriving in 2017 via a trade from St. Louis. Gonzales gets \$1 million this year in the final season of a \$1.9 million, two-year deal.

His new contract calls for a \$1 million signing bonus and salaries of \$5 million in 2021, \$5.5 million in 2022, \$6.5 million in 2023 and \$12 million in 2024, when he would have been eligible for free agency. The Mariners' 2025 option is for \$15 million with no buyout.

Right-hander Brandon Kintzler and the Miami Marlins have finalized a one-year contract that guarantees \$3,275,000.

Miami also completed a \$1.5 million, one-year deal with outfielder Matt Joyce, who can earn an additional \$250,000 in performance bonuses.

Kintzler, 35, gets a \$3 million salary next year, and the Marlins have a \$4 million team option for 2021 with a \$275,000 buyout. If he is traded, the option price would escalate to \$5 million with a \$500,000 buyout.

The Houston Astros hired James Click as their new general

manager, taking the Tampa Bay Rays executive and putting him in charge of the scandal-ridden team a week before the start of spring training.

Click succeeds Jeff Luhnow, who along with manager AJ Hinch was suspended by Major League Baseball in the wake of a sign-stealing scam and then fired by the Astros.

The AL champion Astros hired Dusty Baker last week as manager.

The Arizona Diamondbacks signed four players to minor league contracts, including outfielder Jon Jay and pitcher Edwin Jackson.

The other two were catcher John Hicks and outfielder Trayce Thompson. All four have experience in the majors and were invited to big league camp this month.

The 34-year-old Jay spent part of the 2018 season with the Diamondbacks and played last year for the Chicago White Sox. He has a .285 batting average over 10 seasons and will compete for a spot on the Arizona roster as a versatile player who can handle all three outfield spots.

Jhoulys Chacin finalized a minor league contract with the Minnesota Twins after a miserable 2019 season that saw him go from an opening day start to an August release.

The 32-year-old right-hander was 15-8 with a 3.50 ERA for Milwaukee in 2018 after signing a \$15.5 million, two-year deal with the Brewers.

Michael Pineda will miss the first 36 games while completing a suspension for a positive test for a banned diuretic, and Rich Hill is not expected back until June following elbow surgery.

## Kuwait Stars clinch 2nd consecutive win at Arab ice hockey event

KUWAIT CITY, Feb 4, (KUNA) — Kuwaiti side, Stars, clinched their second consecutive victory at the Arab Ice Hockey Men's Club Championship, beating Egypt's Pharaohs, 5-1.

With today's victory in the event hosted by Kuwait's Winter Games Club Complex, the host team boost their position, adding to a four-point tally.

## ICE HOCKEY

Henrik Nielsen, member of the International Ice Hockey Federation's executive committee praised the hosting venue as a distinguished facility in line with international standards.

Kuwait is now able to host major international tournaments, added Nielsen, who is also President of the Danish Ice Hockey Federation.



Action shot during the match between the Kuwaiti (Stars) and Egyptian (Pharaohs) club in the Arab Ice Hockey Clubs Championship.

## Canada beat US in OT, pull within 2-1 in Rivalry Series

VICTORIA, British Columbia, Feb 4, (AP) — Victoria Bach scored 3:22 into overtime to lift Canada over the United States in the third game of the Rivalry Series.

Bach's backhand off a 2-on-1 pass from Blayne Turnbull beat goalie Nicole Hensley, who faced a Canadian onslaught in the extra frame.

## ICE HOCKEY

The Canada-US Rivalry Series was at full intensity. Canada's Brigette Lacquette tied it for Canada with just under seven minutes left in the third period with a wrist shot from just inside the blue line during an intense scramble for the puck.

Canada had a two-player power-play advantage for more than a minute and Lacquette's goal came with the Americans down one player but facing fierce

pressure from the Canadians, who held possession for much of the penalties.

The teams traded goals in the second, with Brienne Jenner scoring short-handed for Canada early in the period.

Jenner had a clear breakaway and scored when she bobbed the puck and it squeezed through Hensley's pads.

Hilary Knight scored on the power play for the Americans with a blast from the right face-off circle the 12:01. It was her 200th career point with the US team.

This was coach Troy Ryan's first game behind the bench after replacing former coach Perry Pearn last month.



Bach