

North Korea says it won't participate in Tokyo Games

Tokyo Olympics to call off water polo test event

TOKYO, April 6, (AP) — Tokyo Olympic organizers have called off a water polo test event set for this weekend, Japanese media reported Tuesday.

National broadcaster NHK and national news agency Kyodo both cited unnamed officials. Organizing committee officials declined to confirm the reports.

The reports said technical officials were unable to go to Japan because of strict procedures to enter the country.

The news comes less than four months before the opening of the postponed Olympics and could be a setback as organizers and the IOC attempt to hold the Tokyo Games in the middle of a pandemic. The Olympics open on July 23.

Two other test events also appear to be off.

Swimming governing body FINA said on its website that a diving World Cup event set for April 18-23 in Tokyo had been canceled, and it reported the same for an artistic swimming event for May 1-4.

FINA said it would issue a complete statement later this week. FINA said the "decision of re-allocating the FINA Olympic qualifiers planned in Japan is under review."

Tokyo organizers did manage over the weekend to pull off a test event for Paralympic wheelchair rugby.

The BBC reported last week, citing a letter from FINA it had viewed, that the diving event was canceled because it "will not properly ensure" athletes' safety.

OLYMPICS

Japan has attributed about 9,200 deaths to COVID-19. It has handled the pandemic better than many countries, but not as well as most in Asia.

The Olympics and Paralympics will involve 15,400 athletes entering the country, and tens of thousands of officials, judges, media and broadcasters. Fans from abroad have been banned from attending.

North Korea on Tuesday became the first country to drop out of the Tokyo Games because of coronavirus fears, a decision that underscores the challenges facing Japan as it struggles to stage a global sporting event amid a raging pandemic.

A website run by North Korea's Sports Ministry said its national Olympic committee decided during a meeting on March 25 not to participate in the games to protect athletes from the "world public health crisis caused by COVID-19."

Last week the city of Osaka asked organizers to cancel a leg of the torch relay that is to go through the city on April 14. The city is experiencing a spike in COVID-19 cases. The torch relay started on March 25 from northeastern Japan. It is circulating the country and is to reach Tokyo on July 23. It involves about 10,000 runners.

Meanwhile, North Korea said it will not participate in the Tokyo Olympics because of the coronavirus pandemic.

A website run by the North's sports ministry said the decision was made during a national Olympic Committee meeting on March 25 where members prioritized protecting athletes from the "world public health crisis caused by COVID-19."

South Korea's Unification Ministry on Tuesday expressed regret over the North's decision, saying it had hoped that the Tokyo Olympics would provide an opportunity to improve inter-Korean relations, which have declined amid a stalemate in larger nuclear negotiations between Washington and Pyongyang.



In this Feb 10, 2018 file photo, IOC President Thomas Bach, (second from left), and Kim Yo Jong, (right), sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, talks with players after the preliminary round of the women's hockey game between Switzerland and the combined Koreans at the 2018 Winter Olympics in Gangneung, South Korea. (AP)

Jets trade QB Darnold to Panthers for 3 draft picks

NEW YORK, April 6, (AP) — The New York Jets traded quarterback Sam Darnold to the Carolina Panthers, ending a stint that was marked by a few flashes of brilliance, inconsistent play and unfortunate injuries.

And with the Jets holding the No. 2 overall pick in the NFL draft, they're likely moving on to another young signal-caller who they hope will deliver the team back to respectability. New York announced it acquired a sixth-round pick in this year's draft and second- and fourth-round picks in the 2022 draft.

The 23-year-old Darnold was considered an untouchable player on the roster in his second season, but it became clear the Jets could move on when general manager Joe Douglas backed off that stance in March. Douglas praised Darnold, but acknowledged he would answer calls from teams interested in acquiring him.

The speculation only grew when Douglas, new coach Robert Saleh and offensive coordinator Mike LaFleur all

Stanton's 471-foot grand slam helps Yankees hand O's 1st loss of season



New York Yankees designated hitter Giancarlo Stanton (right), hits a grand slam during the fifth inning of a baseball game against the Baltimore Orioles, on April 5, at Yankee Stadium in New York. Orioles catcher Pedro Severino, (left), looks on. (AP)

Japanese Olympic Minister Tamayo Marukawa told reporters she was still confirming details and couldn't immediately comment on the matter.

North Korea sent 22 athletes to the 2018 Winter Olympics in South Korea, along with government officials, performance artists, journalists and a 230-member all-female cheering group.

At the Pyeongchang Games, the North and South Korean athletes jointly marched under a blue map symbolizing a unified Korean Peninsula, while the red-clad North Korean cheerleaders captivated global attention. The Koreans also fielded their first combined Olympic team in women's ice hockey, which drew passionate support from crowds despite losing all five of its games with a combined score of 28-2.

Those games were also much about politics. The North Korean contingent included the powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, who conveyed his brother's desire for a summit with South Korean President Moon Jae-in, a move which helped it initiate diplomacy with South Korea and the United States.

NEW YORK, April 6, (AP): Giancarlo Stanton hit a grand slam over the visitors' bullpen that landed in the left-bleachers 471 feet from home plate, helping New York hand Baltimore its first loss this season.

New York was ahead 1-0 on Aaron Judge's fourth-inning homer when starter Jorge López (0-1) walked the bases loaded in the fifth, and Shawn Armstrong forced in a run with a walk to slumping Aaron Hicks.

Stanton sent a 92 mph fastball soaring for the longest home run of the young major league season and his eighth career slam.

New York improved to 8-0 when Judge and Stanton homered in the same game, including three postseason wins.

Left-hander Jordan Montgomery (1-0) allowed four hits in six innings with seven strikeouts and no walks.

Dodgers 10, Athletics 3

In Oakland, California, Will Smith homered off the left-field foul pole, Corey Seager and Zach McKinstry each drove in three runs, and Los Angeles pounded winless Oakland.

Justin Turner also went deep as the defending World Series champions provided plenty of support for starter Dustin May (1-0). Seager hit a three-run double, and McKinstry had two RBI singles and a sacrifice fly.

BASEBALL

May struck out eight and walked two over six scoreless innings. He allowed only two hits.

Angels 7, Astros 6

In Anaheim, California, Mike Trout hit his first home run of the season and Shohei Ohtani came off the bench to score the go-ahead run during an eighth-inning rally that sent Los Angeles past Houston.

The Angels scored four times in the eighth to hand Houston its first loss of the year following a four-game sweep at rival Oakland. Trout's solo shot in the fourth began the comeback from a 4-0 deficit.

Los Angeles is 4-1 for only the second time in 30 years, and first since 2007.

Giants 3, Padres 2

In San Diego, pinch-hitter Mike Yastrzemski connected for a go-ahead homer in the seventh inning to lead San Francisco over San Diego, which lost star shortstop Fernando Tatis Jr. to a partially dislocated left shoulder.

Tatis was injured taking a hard swing for strike three in the third inning. He winced in pain as he fell to the ground and cradled his left arm. Padres manager Jayce Tingler and a trainer held Tatis' left arm against his body as he walked off the field.

Tatis signed a 14-year, \$340 million contract on Feb. 22, the longest deal in big league history. Darin Ruf and Evan Longoria also went deep for the Giants. Yastrzemski was scratched from the starting lineup with a sore left hand but batted in the pitcher's spot and homered

Dodgers rout winless A's 10-3

MLB Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, April 6, (AP) — Results and standings from the MLB games on Monday.

Twins	15	Detroit	6	LA Angels	7	Astros	6
KC Chiefs	3	Cleveland	0	St Louis	4	Miami	1
Toronto	6	Texas	2	Cincinnati	5	Pittsburgh	3
NY Yankees	7	Baltimore	0	Phillies	5	NY Mets	3
Boston	11	TB Rays	2	Chic Cubs	5	Brewers	3
LA Dodgers	10	Oakland	3	SF Giants	3	SD Padres	2
Chic W. Sox	6	Seattle	0				
East Division				East Division			
Baltimore	3	1	.750	Philadelphia	4	0	1.000
Toronto	3	1	.750	Washington	0	0	.000
New York	2	2	.500	New York	0	1	.000
TB Rays	2	2	.500	Miami	1	3	.250
Boston	1	3	.250	Atlanta	0	3	.000
Central Division				Central Division			
Kansas City	3	1	.750	Chicago	3	1	.750
Twins	3	1	.750	Cincinnati	3	1	.750
Detroit	2	2	.500	St Louis	2	2	.500
Chicago	2	3	.400	Milwaukee	1	3	.250
Cleveland	1	3	.250	Pittsburgh	1	3	.250
West Division				West Division			
Houston	4	1	.800	Los Angeles	4	1	.800
Los Angeles	4	1	.800	San Diego	3	1	.750
Seattle	2	2	.500	SF Giants	1	2	.333
Texas	1	3	.250	Arizona	1	3	.250
Oakland	0	5	.000	Colorado	1	3	.250

off Craig Stammen (0-1).

Blue Jays 6, Rangers 2

In Arlington, Texas, Steven Matz struck out nine in his Toronto debut, Marcus Semien and Cavan Biggio hit back-to-back homers and the Blue Jays spoiled Texas' home opener before the largest MLB crowd since the pandemic.

Toronto, 3-1 for the first time since 2015, went ahead 4-0 in the second after Biggio's solo homer followed a two-out, two-run shot by Semien off Texas starter Mike Foltyniewicz (0-1).

The Rangers announced a sellout crowd of 38,283 for their 50th home opener in Texas, the second in the \$1.2 billion retractable-roof stadium that has a listed capacity of 40,518 - the announced attendance doesn't include complimentary tickets. They played all 30 home games in the stadium's debut season without fans last summer.

Cubs 5, Brewers 3

In Chicago, Willson Contreras, Javier Báez and David Bote homered during a four-run fourth inning to lift Chicago over Milwaukee.

Trevor Williams pitched perfectly until Omar Narváez's leadoff single in the

sixth - Narváez also broke up a no-hit bid in the eighth inning Saturday against Minnesota. Narváez added a three-run homer in the seventh.

Williams (1-0) was making his Cubs debut after five seasons with Pittsburgh. He pitched into the seventh, allowing two runs, two hits and two walks while striking out six. Alec Mills, who no-hit Milwaukee as a starter last September, pitched the ninth for his first save.

Phillies 5, Mets 3

In Philadelphia, a throwing error by New York third baseman Luis Guillorme allowed the go-ahead runs to score, and Philadelphia used a five-run eighth inning to rally past New York after Jacob deGrom dominated through six.

Francisco Lindor was 1 for 4 with a single and a walk in his debut with the Mets, which was delayed after a three-game series against Washington got wiped out because of a coronavirus outbreak among the Nationals.

DeGrom was spectacular, striking out seven and allowing three hits. Miguel Castro pitched the seventh for the Mets but newcomer Trevor May (0-1) only got one out in the eighth, when Guillorme's errant throw helped Philly take a 5-2 lead.



Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Dustin May throws against the Oakland Athletics during the sixth inning of a baseball game in Oakland, California, on April 5. (AP)

Reds 5, Pirates 3

In Cincinnati, Nick Castellanos hit a go-ahead homer in the seventh inning hours after deciding to appeal a two-game suspension for his part in a brawl, and Cincinnati beat Pittsburgh.

Mike Moustakas tied it at 2 in the fifth with his first home run of the season, a solo shot to right field off Luis Oviedo. Moustakas also doubled and scored in the eighth. Sean Doolittle (1-0) struck out two in a perfect seventh, and Amir Garrett allowed a run but completed his first save.

Castellanos connected off Sam Howard (0-1) for his third homer of the season. He admired the shot as he walked out of the box, whipped his bat toward the home dugout and yelled toward teammates as he shuffled toward first.

Red Sox 11, Rays 2

In Boston, Xander Bogaerts had four hits, including a Little League home run - a double, with two ill-advised throws that allowed him to score - and Boston got on the board with 16 hits and its first win of the season.

J.D. Martinez banged a three-run homer halfway up the Pesky Pole in the eighth, and Franchy Cordero, Alex Verdugo and Hunter Renfroe all had two hits apiece after coming into the game batting .000.

Royals 3, Indians 0

In Cleveland, Danny Duffy pitched six innings of two-hit ball to beat a longtime nemesis and Whit Merrifield drove in all of Kansas City's runs with a homer and sacrifice fly.

Duffy (1-0) came in with 12 career losses against the Indians - his most against any team. But the left-hander was in control from the outset and beat them for the fifth time. Scott Barlow pitched two perfect innings and Jesse Hahn put two on in the ninth before completing Kansas City's three-hit shutout and getting the save.

Twins 15, Tigers 6

In Detroit, Nelson Cruz hit a grand slam after a near miss and added a solo homer and a double, Matt Shoemaker held Detroit hitless into the fifth inning and Minnesota rolled.

Akil Baddoo hit a grand slam for the Tigers. He made his big league debut Sunday and homered on the first pitch thrown to him. José Ureña (0-1) lasted only three innings in his Tigers debut.

Cardinals 4, Marlins 1

In Miami, Yadier Molina hit a bases-loaded double during a three-run first inning, and Daniel Ponce de Leon and St. Louis bullpen protected the lead.

Ponce de Leon (1-0) allowed one run and three hits in five innings. The right-hander struck out three, walked one and hit Starling Marte twice. St. Louis got a perfect sixth from Jordan Hicks and two scoreless innings from Giovanni Gallegos. Alex Reyes closed it with a scoreless ninth for his first save.

White Sox 6, Mariners 0

In Seattle, Yermín Mercedes continued his early tear with three more hits, Carlos Rodon struck out nine and Chicago held Seattle to three hits.

Mercedes became the first player since at least 1900 to total 12 hits in his first four career starts - all in the first week of this season. He also was the first player in the modern era to start a season 8 for 8. The 28-year-old designated hitter is up to 12 of 18.