

## Horton won't defend 400-meter gold medal

## 4 more divers earn berths on US team for Tokyo Olympics



In this July 28, 2014 file photo, Maddie Groves of Australia swims to win silver in the Women's 200m Butterfly final at the Tollcross International Swimming Centre during the Commonwealth Games 2014 in Glasgow, Scotland. Cody Simpson was dominating attention ahead of Australia's Olympic swimming trials, until Groves pulled out of the six-day meet following a series of social media posts condemning 'misogynistic perverts' in the sport. (AP)

# Blues & Highlanders to meet in Super Rugby trans-Tasman final

Chiefs hand Waratahs their 13th loss in a row

**AUCKLAND, New Zealand, June 12, (AP):** The Auckland-based Blues will play the Dunedin-based Highlanders in the final of Super Rugby trans-Tasman next weekend after New Zealand champions the Crusaders fell short of a finals place in the tournament's final round.

The Blues, who led the competition for most of the five-round season, beat the Western Force 31-21 to clinch their finals place on Saturday while the Highlanders unexpectedly claimed a place a day earlier with a bonus-point win over the ACT Brumbies.

## RUGBY

The Highlanders' win meant the Christchurch-based Crusaders had to win their last match against the Melbourne Rebels on Saturday with a bonus point and a margin of at least 33 points to join the Blues in the final.

But while they won 52-26 and by eight tries to four, they fell seven points short of the necessary 33 point margin.

That threw the spotlight on several crucial incidents in the match, especially in the 40th minute when Crusaders center Braydon Ennor dropped the ball with the goal line open, not a defender in sight. The Crusaders had broken out from near their own line and Ennor had exchanged passes with winger

Manasa Mataele before breaking into the open field.

With the goal line beckoning, Ennor tried to adjust the position of the ball and managed only to drop it cold, meaning a vital seven points went begging.

There were other pivotal moments: in the 74th minute, winger Leicester Fainga'anuku appeared to have scored the vital try but saw it disallowed for a double movement; and in the 42nd minute, fullback Will Jordan was tackled into touch in the right corner by Rebels center Andrew Kellaway.

Jordan also received a contentious yellow card for a deliberate knock on in the 26th minute and in his



In this June 6, 2021 file photo, Chiefs Zane Kapeli runs at the defense during the Super Rugby Trans-Tasman game between the Chiefs and the Rebels at the Leichhardt Oval in Sydney, Australia. (AP)

absence the Rebels scored a try through scrumhalf Joe Powell which made the Crusaders' winning equation more complex.

In the end, the Crusaders had only themselves to blame. They had chances to win the match but left too many points on the field.

They started well with tries to scrumhalf Mitch Drummond and Jordan in the first five minutes, which should have been the launching pad they needed for a 33-point win. But in their desperation to achieve that margin, they departed from the usual precision of their game plan and made too many errors.

"Our plan was to be patient, hold the ball and not force the issue," Crusaders lock Sam Whitelock said. "But it was a little bit disappointing, we didn't quite get there. We had it in our hands tonight and unfortunately we came up short."

The Blues started strongly but finished poorly in their win over the Force which brings a Super Rugby final to Eden Park for the first time since 2003.

In the first half, they kicked accurately to pin the Force in their own half, plundered the Force's lineout and built up patiently, working the middle of the part before using flyhalf Otere Black's long pass to probe on the outside.

Backrower Hoskins Sotutu scored two first half tries, helping the Blues to a 28-0 lead at halftime.

The Blues then faltered, scoring only three points in the second half while the Force scored tries through hooker Feleti Kaitu'u, center Tevita Kuridrani and former Ireland international Rob Kearney.

In the final match on Saturday, New Zealand's Chiefs beat New South Wales 35-7 to hand the Waratahs their 13th loss in a row. Winger Sean Wainui scored four tries to lead the Chiefs.

INDIANAPOLIS, June 12, (AP): Michael Hixon and Andrew Copobianco earned berths for the Tokyo Olympics in men's 3-meter synchronized diving at the U.S. trials on Friday night. Jessica Parratto and Delaney Schnell won the women's 10-meter synchro to claim spots on the team.

Hixon, a silver medalist at the 2016 Rio Games, and recent NCAA champion Copobianco won handily with 1,289.27 points. Greg Duncan and Grayson Campbell took second at 1,168.80.

Hixon and Copobianco capped off their list with a forward 4 1/2 somersault tuck that earned 90.6 points for a dive with a 3.8 degree of difficulty.

Parratto, a 2016 Olympian, and Schnell were consistent throughout the final round, finishing with 930.00 points. Katrina Young, who made the Olympic team in 2016, and Murphy Bromberg finished second at 888.54.

Krysta Palmer and Alison Gibson made the U.S. team by winning the women's 3-meter synchro on Thursday.

## OLYMPICS

Meanwhile, the question of allowing any fans into Tokyo Olympic venues is still being debated with a decision unlikely to be announced before the end of the month.

This would be just a few weeks before the Olympics are to open on July 23. Fans from abroad have already been banned in what is shaping up as a largely made-for-television Olympics.

Tokyo and several prefectures are under a state of emergency until June 20. Infections have slowed recently, but the spread of variants is still a concern that could put pressure on already stressed medical facilities.

Dr. Nobuhiko Okabe, director general of the Kawasaki City Institute for Public Health, suggested on Friday he would lean toward few fans. He spoke on a panel put together by the Tokyo Olympic organizing committee.

"Thinking in a different way, I think it's an option to suggest to people to enjoy the games on TV - like teleworking," he said. "We could suggest a different way of enjoying the games."

Okabe said it was not just a matter of fans in the venues, but what they do after leaving - heading to bars or restaurants.

"We don't want people to move much," he said. "That's our wish as we think about anti-virus measures."

Organizing committee president Seiko Hashimoto originally said she would announce a decision in April about local fans but has repeatedly postponed it.

Ticket sales were to account for \$800 million in income for the orga-

nizing committee. Much of that will be lost and has to be made up by Japanese government entities.

## Also:

**ADELAIDE, Australia:** Mack Horton won't defend his Olympic 400-meter freestyle title in Tokyo after failing to make the Australian team for the event.

Horton finished third in the final on the first night of the Australian selection trials on Saturday. Only the top two — **Elijah Winnington** and **Jack McLoughlin** — gained selection for the Tokyo games beginning July 23.

The opening night of the trials featured Australian records for **Emma McKeon** in the 100-meter butterfly and **Brendon Smith** in the 400-meter individual medley.

Winnington won in 3 minutes, 42.65 seconds, ahead of McLoughlin (3:43.27). Horton, who clocked 3:43.92, can still earn selection in the 200-meter freestyle to be contested Sunday.

Earlier, McKeon broke her own national 100-meter butterfly record and was on a world-record pace until fading in the last five meters. McKeon, who could race as many as eight events in Tokyo, won in 55.93 seconds, bettering her previous Australian record of 56.18.

McKeon won four medals — gold and two silvers in relays and a bronze in the 200 freestyle — at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics.

At Tokyo, the medal races will be held in the morning with heats at night.

But Australia's selection trials have switched that around to the traditional morning heats and night finals, after all previous domestic meets this year raced to the Tokyo schedule.



Oregon's Cole Hocker celebrates his win in the men's 1,500 meters, ahead of Notre Dame's Yared Nuguse during the NCAA Division I Outdoor Track and Field Championships, on June 11, at Hayward Field in Eugene, Ore. (AP)

# LSU wins men's NCAA track and field 'championships' team title

EUGENE, Ore., June 12, (AP): Oregon freshman Cole Hocker won the 1,500 at the NCAA track and field championships, and LSU took the men's team title.

Hocker bested collegiate record holder and defending champion Yared Nuguse of Notre Dame with a finish in 3 minutes, 35.35 seconds at his home stadium at Oregon's Hayward Field.

The showdown between Hocker and Nuguse was one of the most anticipated races of the meet. Hocker then finished fourth in the 5,000.

LSU won its first title since 2002. Oregon was second.

The top-ranked Tigers were boosted by sprinter Terrance Laird, who ran the 100 in 10.02. Micah Williams of Oregon posted the top time in the heats, running in similar cool conditions, but finished third behind Houston's Shaun Maswanganyi.

Florida's Joseph Fahnbulleh won the 200 in 19.91. Randolph Ross of North

Carolina A&T won the 400 in 43.85 and USC's Isaiah Jewett claimed the 800 in 1:44.68.

Oregon's Cooper Teare won the 5,000 in 13:12.27, setting a school record for the Ducks while also beating the qualifying time for the Olympics.

Earlier this week, LSU's JuVaughn Harrison won the long jump with a leap

## TRACK AND FIELD

of 27 feet, 1 3/4 inches. On Friday, he took high jump at 7-7 3/4.

Harrison won both events in pulling off a rare double at the NCAA Indoor championships. He hopes to qualify for the Olympic team this summer.

LSU won the 400 relay in 38.48 seconds. The Tigers did not qualify for the men's 1,600 relay, which was the final event of the day Friday.

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**NOTICE** June 1, 2021

Mr. Tijo Joseph, son of Mr. Joseph Arakkathil Varghese, resident of Jyothibhavan, Tholoor, Aryanad PO, Trivandrum, Kerala-695542 and Ms. Jasmine James, daughter of Mr. James Chacko, Choorapuzhayil, Ettumanoor P O, Kottayam, Kerala-686631 both Indian nationals presently residing in Kuwait, have given notice of intended marriage between them under the Foreign Marriage Act, 1969. If anyone has any objection to the proposed marriage, he/she may file the same with the undersigned according to the procedure laid down under the Act/Rule within thirty days from the date of publication of this notice. Communications in this regard can be made by ° Email (cw2.kuwait@mea.gov.in) / letters / telephonic calls (00965 - 22550171, 00965 - 22533125).

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