

SPORTS

Rockies down Giants, end 8-game skid

No 'one size fits all' solution: Bach

IOC resists change to Olympic rule limiting athlete 'sponsors'

LAUSANNE, Switzerland, April 15, (AP) Amid IOC resistance to athlete activism, Olympic competitors have been urged to negotiate with national officials directly if they want to gain freedoms to promote their personal sponsors during Summer and Winter Games.

IOC President Thomas Bach's comments to an invited audience of athletes on Sunday confirmed the Olympic body will not extend worldwide the concessions won by German athletes in a recent federal government ruling.



Bach

"There is no 'one size fits all' solution," Bach said when asked by a Canadian delegate about changing Olympic Charter Rule 40, which limits athletes' commercial rights during official games periods.

Rule 40 states "no competitor ... may allow his person, name, picture or sports performances to be used for advertising purposes during the Olympic Games" without an official exemption.

The German anti-trust office in February described the rule as "too far-reaching ... abusive conduct" when the Olympic Games represented the most marketable time in many athletes' careers.

The rule protects exclusivity for Olympic sponsors, such as Coca-Cola, Procter & Gamble and Toyota, and drives up the IOC's revenues, which were \$5.7 billion in the 2013-16 commercial cycle.

The IOC argues this is crucial to help fund games organizers, national Olympic committees (NOCs) and sports' international governing bodies. A total of \$540 million was shared among 28 summer sports federations from the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics, and the NOCs also shared the same amount.

However, the IOC has resisted growing calls to pay athletes directly, including by the Athletes Deutschland group which gets funding from the federal government in Germany,

Bach's home country.

"You do not need others who pretend to speak on behalf of you," Bach had said Saturday, opening the IOC-hosted conference. The audience was drawn from approved athlete panels in around 185 national Olympic bodies plus sports governing bodies.

Independent representatives, such as trade unions and the Global Athlete network launched this year and staffed by former World Anti-Doping Agency executives, were not invited.

Growing activism among athletes saw two speed skaters defeat the International Skating Union's restrictive practices in a European ruling. Swimming body FINA increased prize

OLYMPICS

money and created a new top-tier series after a privately owned competition was launched and three elite swimmers filed an anti-trust case in a Californian court.

"You must have legitimacy," Bach said Sunday in a two-hour session answering questions from delegates. "You have to be accountable to somebody, and that means you have to be elected."

Asked about possible changes to Rule 40, Bach advised talking with a national Olympic body or sports federation.

"Then you can negotiate and establish a fair balance between giving and taking," the IOC president said, cautioning that those national organizations could also rely on protecting their sponsors' exclusive rights. "The money is not falling from heaven."

Five-time Olympian Natalie Cook, who represented Australia in beach volleyball, proposed the IOC could pay 1% of its four-yearly revenues into a \$50 million retirement fund for athletes.

Bach said the IOC had decided the best way to pay participants was directly funding national Olympic bodies which were "in the best position to decide what they need to do for their athletes."

"This is sometimes not easy to understand for an individual athlete," he acknowledged.



Colorado Rockies pitcher German Marquez throws against the San Francisco Giants during the third inning of a baseball game in San Francisco on April 14. (AP)

London to host 2019 world para swim championships

LONDON, April 15, (RTRS): The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) on Monday awarded London the right to host the rearranged 2019 world para swimming championships in September.

The move follows IPC's decision to strip Malaysia's hosting rights after the country failed to provide the necessary guarantees that Israeli athletes could participate, free from discrimination, and safely in the championships.

"We are delighted to announce London as the host city of the World Para Swimming Championships,"

IPC president Andrew Parsons said in a statement.

"I cannot thank the Mayor of London, UK Sport and British Swimming enough for their outstanding efforts stepping in to stage and support this Championships, a key Tokyo 2020 qualifier, at such short notice."

The London event, which is also a key qualifier for the Tokyo Paralympic Games in 2020, marks the second time the biennial event has been staged in Britain following the 2015 edition in Glasgow.

IBAK organizes Junior Badminton Championship 2019

KUWAIT CITY, April 15: The Indian Badminton Association Kuwait (IBAK) opens new horizons for young talents through Junior Badminton Championship 2019, according to a press release issued by IBAK.

Termed the first of its kind in Kuwait with the aim to develop a stream of young competent players who can showcase their badminton skills and talent, IBAK is deeply engaged in scouting and promoting

BADMINTON

badminton talent throughout the country. In recent times, the association has been identifying many sports prodigies (boys/girls) and has been providing sustainable support to young talent in the country.

IBAK coaching has designed a series of badminton tournaments in Kuwait for schoolchildren to help them participate and develop a sports culture. After winning many successes and accolades in recent times, currently the association is organizing the much awaited national open tournament for young broods 'IBAK Junior Badminton Championship 2019'.

It's a sports league where every child gets to learn about their game by playing against the best

players in the country. It's a platform for our future stars to showcase their ultimate skills. More than 200 participants have registered for the tournament displaying huge excitement and response among the young badminton playing community.

IBAK Junior Badminton Championship 2019 will begin on April 25, 2019 from 6:30 pm onwards and will continue on April 26, 2019 from 9:30 am onwards at the IBAK Salwa Saad Al Awzi School.

The tourney invites badminton enthusiasts of all age groups in a wide span of eight categories – Under-10 Boys Singles and Doubles, Under-10 Girls Singles and Doubles, Under-13 Boys Singles and Doubles, Under-13 Girls Singles and Doubles, Under-16 Boys Singles and Doubles, Under-16 Girls Singles and Doubles, Under-19 Boys Singles and Doubles and Under-19 Girls Singles and Doubles.

The entry fee is KD 1 per category. One player can participate in a maximum of two categories (1 singles and 1 doubles)

The IBAK tournament will witness nail-biting matches where young and talented 'shuttlers' will fight it out for the top positions. Registration closes April 21, 2019 (12 midnight).

For details contact Ramesh Chandra (97889437), Prasad Thandachery (50124151), Mohammed Siraj (60034300)

IBAK COACHING

IBAK JUNIOR BADMINTON CHAMPIONSHIP 2019

25 APRIL - 26 APRIL

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LAST DATE OF REGISTRATION : 21 APRIL 2019



Seattle Mariners' Tim Beckham, (right), slides into the tag of Houston Astros shortstop Carlos Correa as Beckham is thrown out on an attempted steal of second base in the second inning of a baseball game on April 14 in Seattle. (AP)

Astros sweep Mariners, stretch win streak to 9

SAN FRANCISCO, April 15, (AP): German Marquez pitched a one-hitter, nipped only by Evan Longoria's single with one out in the eighth inning, and the Colorado Rockies ended an eight-game losing streak by beating the San Francisco Giants 4-0 Sunday.

Marquez (2-1) struck out nine and walked none while throwing 105 pitches in the first complete game in the majors this season. It was the first-ever complete game for Marquez in 156 pro starts, including 69 in the big leagues.

Marquez had allowed just one runner, hitting Kevin Pillar with a pitch to begin the sixth inning, and was in complete control heading into the eighth. Brandon Crawford opened the eighth with a hard, one-hopper that deflected off third baseman Nolan Arenado's glove. Arenado quickly grabbed the ball out of the air and zipped a throw to retire Crawford.

Longoria followed with a grounder in the hole, just beyond Arenado's dive. The Gold Glover took off his mitt and slammed it to the ground, shouting in frustration that the no-hit bid had been broken up.

Arenado hit a three-run homer, his first this season. The four-time Silver Slugger entered the day batting .246 with six RBIs.

BASEBALL

Derek Holland (1-2) allowed four runs on six hits in six innings.

Red Sox 4, Orioles 0

In Boston, David Price pitched seven stellar innings with seven strikeouts, Xander Bogaerts hit a three-run homer and drove in every run, and Boston beat Baltimore.

Boston's big starting foursome of Price, Chris Sale, Rick Porcello and Nathan Eovaldi entered Sunday 0-7 with an 8.43 ERA in 11 starts. Price (1-1) responded with clearly their best outing, mixing his mid-90s fastball with a sharp changeup and cutter to allow just three hits without issuing a walk.

Baltimore's Chris Davis went 0 for 4 with two strikeouts a day after ending his record 0-for-54 stretch.

Ryan Brasier escaped a jam in the eighth, and Matt Barnes worked the ninth, closing out the combined five-hitter.

John Means (1-2) gave up a run and four hits in five innings, striking out three and walking one in just his second big league start. He made his first career appearance in Fenway Park last Sept 26, allowing five runs over 3-1/3 innings.

Phillies 3, Marlins 1, 14 Innings

In Miami, Jean Segura's two-run homer to left in the 14th inning put Philadelphia on top, and the Phillies beat Miami in the longest game of the young season for either team.

Andrew McCutchen tripled to the wall in left-center, and Segura followed with his first home run of the season. Cesar Hernandez also got his first homer of the season for the Phillies. Brian Anderson hit his second for Miami.

Wei-Yin Chen (0-1) came on to pitch the 14th, was charged with both runs and his ERA actually dipped from 24.75 to 23.40. Chen – the highest-paid Marlins player this season, making \$20 million – has allowed 12 runs over three innings of relief in his last two



Los Angeles Dodgers' Alex Verdugo hits a two-run single during the first inning of a baseball game against the Milwaukee Brewers on April 14 in Los Angeles. (AP)

appearances.

Miami batters struck out 18 times, tied for the fourth-most in franchise history. Victor Arano (1-0) pitched the 12th and 13th for Philadelphia, getting all six outs by strikeout. Jose Alvarez worked the 14th, gave up a leadoff single but finished out his first save.

Dodgers 7, Brewers 1

In Los Angeles, Ross Stripling tossed eight strong innings to rescue an overworked bullpen. Joc Pederson and Alex Verdugo homered, and Los Angeles routed Milwaukee to snap a six-game skid.

The Dodgers avoided back-to-back sweeps, something they haven't had since 2017 when they last dropped seven games in a row.

Stripling (1-1) earned his first win in his fourth start of the season. The right-hander didn't record his first strikeout until the sixth inning and instead retired 14 of his first 17 batters on flyouts or grounders.

The Dodgers jumped on Jhoulys Chacin (2-2) in the first inning, taking a 2-0 lead on a two-out RBI single by Verdugo.

White Sox 5, Yankees 2

In New York, Tim Anderson hit his first career grand slam and Carlos Rodon pitched Chicago over scuffling New York.

José Abreu nearly had a grand slam as well – to almost the same spot in the ballpark – but settled for a sacrifice fly when right fielder Aaron Judge made a jumping catch in front of the wall. Held to one hit Saturday in a 4-0 loss, Chicago chased Masahiro Tanaka (1-1) with nobody out in the fifth and won for only the second time in eight games.

Yoan Moncada had three hits and a walk for the White Sox (5-9), who stole five bases in the last five innings – several of them uncontested. Chicago won two of three to take consecutive series in the Bronx for the first time since 2002-03. Before last August, the White Sox hadn't captured a series at Yankee Stadium since 2005.

Rodón (2-2) allowed three hits in six innings and struck out five, improving to 3-0 in three starts at Yankee Stadium. Four relievers finished a four-hitter, with Alex Colomé getting three quick outs for his third save.

Royals 9, Indians 8

In Kansas City, pinch-runner extraordinaire Terrance Gore stole a base and then scored on Hunter Dozier's single in the ninth inning, lifting Kansas City over Cleveland to complete a three-game sweep of the AL Central favorites.

Ryan O'Hearn led off the ninth with a walk against Brad Hand (0-1) and was replaced by Gore. The speedster swiped second and advanced to third on a throwing error by catcher Roberto Perez. Dozier then singled to left for Kansas City's first walk-off win of the season.

The Royals roughed up two-time Cy Young Award winner Corey Kluber, who allowed 11 of his 18 batters to reach base safely. He gave up six runs, six hits and a career-most five walks in just 2-2/3 innings. The five walks doubled Kluber's season total – he didn't walk more than three batters in any game in 2018.

Braves 7, Mets 3

In Atlanta, Julio Teheran outpitched Jacob deGrom, Josh Donaldson and Nick Markakis homered, and Atlanta beat New York.

Teheran gave up one run and six hits in six innings.

It was a second straight losing performance for deGrom, who has allowed five homers in his last two starts. The reigning NL Cy Young Award winner gave up 10 homers all of last season.

Markakis went deep in the second and Donaldson added another solo shot in the fifth as the Braves won for the fifth time in their last seven games. Charlie Culberson's two-run drive made it 5-1 in the sixth. It was Culberson's fifth career pinch-hit homer.

J.D. Davis' third homer gave the Mets a 1-0 lead in the second. New York got RBI singles by Amed Rosario and Keon Broxton in the eighth.

Astros 3, Mariners 2

In Seattle, Gerrit Cole struck out 11 in six innings. Aledmys Diaz homered and Houston completed a three-game sweep of Seattle.

Cole (1-2) gave up two runs on four hits, including a leadoff home run to Mitch Haniger, and did not walk a batter. Cole has pitched at least six innings in each of his four starts.

Haniger's homer, his fifth, extended the Mariners' major league record streak of 18 games with a home run to start the season. Brandon Brennan (1-1) ended his season-opening scoreless streak at 11-1/3 innings.

Hector Rondon, Ryan Pressly and Roberto Osuna each pitched a perfect inning in relief for Houston, with Osuna working the ninth for his seventh save.

Cardinals 9, Reds 5

In Monterrey, Mexico, Marcell Ozuna hit two home runs and Matt Carpenter connected for a tie-breaking drive in the seventh inning that sent St. Louis over Cincinnati for a split of their two-game series in Mexico.

Tyler O'Neill also homered for St. Louis. Yasiel Puig hit his first home run for the Reds and Jesse Winker hit his second in two days at Estadio de Beisbol de Monterrey.

The Cardinals saluted the fans after the win and gave away their hats. The Houston Astros and Los Angeles Angels will play twice at this stadium in early May - Major League Baseball has committed to bring regular-season games to Mexico until 2021.

MLB Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, April 15, (RTRS): Results and standings from the MLB games on Sunday.

Boston	4	Baltimore	0	Texas	8	Oakland	7
Chic W. Sox	5	NY Yankees	2	Colorado	4	San Francisco	0
Tampa Bay	8	Toronto	4	LA Dodgers	7	Milwaukee	1
Philadelphia	3	Miami (14 Inns)	1	St Louis	9	Cincinnati	5
Pittsburgh	4	Washington	3	Arizona	8	San Diego	4
Minnesota	6	Detroit	4	Houston	3	Seattle	2
Kansas City	9	Cleveland	8	Atlanta	7	NY Mets	3

American League				National League			
East Division				East Division			
W	L	PCT	GB	W	L	PCT	GB
Tampa Bay	12	4	.750	Philadelphia	9	5	.643
NY Yankees	6	9	.400	NY Mets	9	6	.600
Boston	6	10	.375	Atlanta	9	6	.600
Baltimore	6	10	.375	Washington	7	7	.500
Toronto	5	11	.313	Miami	4	12	.250
Central Division				Central Division			
W	L	PCT	GB	W	L	PCT	GB
Minnesota	8	4	.667	Milwaukee	10	6	.625
Cleveland	8	7	.533	St Louis	9	6	.600
Detroit	8	7	.533	Pittsburgh	8	6	.571
Chic W. Sox	5	9	.357	Chic Cubs	5	9	.357
Kansas City	5	10	.333	Cincinnati	5	9	.357
West Division				West Division			
W	L	PCT	GB	W	L	PCT	GB
Seattle	13	5	.722	San Diego	11	6	.647
Houston	11	5	.688	LA Dodgers	9	8	.529
LA Angels	8	7	.533	Arizona	7	9	.438
Oakland	10	9	.526	San Francisco	7	10	.412
Texas	7	7	.500	Colorado	4	12	.250