

## Forgotten Fawad Alam named in Pakistan 20-member Test squad

# Warner determined to lead Sunrisers to another IPL title

BRISBANE, Australia, July 28, (AP): David Warner isn't going back to the Indian Premier League for redemption. In a delayed and disrupted season caused by the coronavirus pandemic, Warner wants to return in a bid to lead Sunrisers Hyderabad to another title.

A 12-month ban from Cricket Australia for his role in a ball-tampering scandal during a Test series in South Africa in 2018 cost Warner any chance of ever leading his national team, and also led to him being dropped as captain of the Sunrisers.

He returned from the ban last season to lead the IPL in scoring with 692 runs, and then returned to full



In this Jan 14, 2020 file photo, Australia's David Warner celebrates after scoring a hundred during the first one-day international cricket match between India and Australia in Mumbai, India. (AP)

### CRICKET

international cricket for Australia in the one-day format at the World Cup in England.

"I don't see it as a redemption tale," Warner said in a teleconference Tuesday, answering a question about the club's decision to restore him to the captaincy for the 2020 tournament which is expected to be staged in the United Arab Emirates. "I just see it as an honor to captain the Sunrisers."

Warner led the Sunrisers to the IPL title in 2016 and played at the club last year under New Zealander Kane Williamson.

"It's great to be back and leading, but everyone in that team is a leader in their own right," Warner said, adding that he and Williamson regularly bounce ideas off each other. "From where I sit, nothing is different. I still considered myself as a leader when I was there last year. It doesn't matter whether you've got a 'C' next to your

name or not."

Warner's return to Test cricket was last August, and he initially struggled as Australia held onto the Ashes in England. But he returned to his run-scoring best on home soil, posting three centuries including a career-high 335 not out, as Australia dominated Test series against Pakistan and New Zealand in the southern summer.

But then his career was put on hold again when international cricket went into shutdown in March as the COVID-19 outbreak spread.

After another enforced break, the 33-year-old opener is desperate to get back and play as much cricket as he can. And that's important, because the end of 2020 is likely to be a crush of cricket in all formats starting with a limited-overs series in England.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India is planning on staging the IPL in the UAE, likely starting Sept 19 and running into early November. Warner is confident the Australian and English players involved in the ODI series can be ready to play in the IPL from about Sept 25, depending on what regulations are in place for the bio-security bubble planned amid COVID-19.

Australia is then set to host India for a four-Test series, but the schedule may have to change depending on the different regulations in states across the country during the pandemic. Melbourne has gone back into lockdown because of a recent surge in COVID-19 infections, already putting the city's status as host of the annual Boxing Day Test in some doubt.

## Caribbean Premier League to start next month in Trinidad

TAROUBA, Trinidad, July 28, (AP): A 33-game Caribbean Premier League Twenty20 tournament will kick off next month with defending champion Barbados Tridents against St. Kitts and Nevis Patriots and Guyana Amazon Warriors taking on the Trinbago Knight Riders. CPL chief executive Damien O'Donohoe said the Aug. 18-Sept. 10 tournament would be staged in two venues in Trinidad and Tobago, with the Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Tarouba hosting 23 games, including the semifinals and final, and Queen's Park Oval at Port of Spain hosting 10 games.

The West Indies team contested the first international cricket since the lockdown for the coronavirus pandemic when it beat England in the first test at Southampton earlier this month. England won the second test and the series is poised with the third test in Manchester going to the final day.

The West Indies players, who had to go into two weeks of quarantine after arriving in Britain last month in preparation for the test series, will return to the Caribbean and have to adapt quickly to the T20 format.

Just like the test series in

England, the six-team CPL will be played in empty stadiums and in a bio-secure environment with strict protocols in place to protect players and the public from the spread of COVID-19.

"We have seen the appetite for live sport since it has returned after a prolonged absence, and the interest in CPL will be higher than ever with it being the first franchise T20 tournament to return," O'Donohoe said.

Organizers worked with the government of Trinidad and Tobago to ensure the tournament could be staged this year.

### Also:

**ISLAMABAD:** Middle order batsman Fawad Alam could make a Test comeback after nearly 11 years as the left-hander was named in Pakistan's 20-member squad for three-match series against England.

The 34-year-old Alam played his last Test match against New Zealand in November of 2009 and is a strong candidate for the first Test. It starts at Old Trafford on Aug 5. Selectors left out Iftikhar Ahmed.

Pakistan had named an extended squad of 29 players for the tour of England, but Fakhar Zaman, Haider Ali, Iftikhar Ahmed, Imad Wasim, Khushdil Shah, Mohammad Hafeez, Mohammad Amir, Mohammad Hasnain and Musa Khan, all will come into contention for the Twenty20 series against England, starting on Aug 28.

The 20-man Test squad also include former captain Sarfaraz Ahmed and

left-arm fast bowler Wahab Riaz, who had opted out of Test cricket indefinitely last year, but expressed his willingness to return to red ball cricket.

Sarfaraz has been picked as the second choice wicket-keeper after Mohammad Rizwan, who played against Australia last year and also during the home series against Bangladesh.

Fast bowler Sohail Khan also found a place in the probables after the right-arm fast bowler impressed during the two intra-squad matches of the Pakistan team.

**Pakistan Test Squad:** Azhar Ali (captain), Babar Azam, Abid Ali, Asad Shafiq, Faheem Ashraf, Fawad Alam, Imam-ul-Haq, Imran Khan Sr, Kashif Bhatti, Mohammad Abbas, Mohammad Rizwan, Naseem Shah, Sarfaraz Ahmed, Shadab Khan, Shaheen Afridi, Shan Masood, Sohail Khan, Usman Shinwari, Wahab Riaz, Yasir Shah.

## Irving commits \$1.5 million

### Liberty, Nets owner wants WNBA and NBA teams on equal ground

NEW YORK, July 28, (AP): Coming from the business world, Liberty owner Joe Tsai didn't understand why his WNBA franchise didn't have a CEO similar to the team's NBA counterpart the Brooklyn Nets — which Tsai also owns.

For Tsai, it was about equality; so he did something about it.

Tsai promoted Keia Clarke to the position last week — making her the first CEO in team history. The WNBA veteran became the third Black woman to currently be in

### BASKETBALL

charge of a franchise in the league, joining Los Angeles Sparks President Danita Johnson and Washington's Sheila Johnson. The Mystics president is also the managing partner of the team and doesn't deal as much in the day-to-day activities as the other two women.

"For us, part of our mission to promote the WNBA and also the New York Liberty is to put women's professional basketball on the same footing as the men's basketball team," Tsai said in a zoom interview Monday. "We own the Nets and also have the Liberty and it doesn't make sense for us to treat them as one subsidiary of the other. They should be co-equals."

Clarke is a 10-year veteran of the organization and one of the few holdovers from the team that was formerly owned by James Dolan. She has served in a variety of senior leadership positions in her with the franchise, including being the Chief Operating Officer for the past few years.

"I think it just happened naturally since she's the right person for the job," said Tsai, a 56-year-old Taiwanese-born Canadian billionaire businessman and philanthropist. "She's already been running the business as the senior member of the executive team. The fact she's female and Black it's great. That wasn't the first thing in picking a CEO for the New York Liberty. She's there and happens to be a minority woman and that's a great thing for us."

Besides Washington, New York and Los Angeles, two other WNBA teams — Seattle and Indiana — have female presidents or CEOs. That translates to nearly half the league's teams have females in charge.

The top three positions in the WNBA front office are held by women, which is one of the reasons the league consistently gets good report cards from The Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport

(TIDES) at Central Florida.

Clarke knows how important her role is and hopes to inspire others.

Clarke added that for her personally, she is incredibly proud to show her two children, a son and daughter, that through hard work and dedication anything is possible. In her new role she'll manage all business aspects of the Liberty organization, including strategic planning and revenue.

Tsai sees a bright future for the Liberty with Clarke running the show. While the team is playing its games at a single site in Florida this season because of the coronavirus pandemic, Tsai envisions them doing well at Barclays Center in the future.

Meanwhile, Kyrie Irving is making sure WNBA players can sit out the season and not stress about a paycheck. The Brooklyn Nets star is committing \$1.5 million to supplement the income of players who choose not to play this season, whether it be because of coronavirus concerns or social justice reasons.

The funds will come from the KAI Empowerment Initiative that Irving launched Monday. It will also provide players with a financial literacy program created by UBS.

Irving said that with the help of WNBA players Natasha Cloud — who chose to sit out — and Jewell Loyd, he connected with several WNBA players who discussed with him the challenges they faced in deciding whether to play. The season began Saturday and will be played entirely at the IMG Academy in Bradenton, Florida.

He decided to help with the financial burden in a league where the top annual salary is a little more than \$200,000.



New York Liberty forward Sabrina Ionescu (20) pushes the ball up the court during the first half of a WNBA basketball game against the Seattle Storm, on July 25, in Ellenton, Florida. (AP)

# Flyers, Bruins battle for East 'supremacy' in round-robin

### Hurricanes aim to end struggles vs Rangers

PHILADELPHIA, July 28, (AP): The sweetest sound of the NHL break for the Flyers didn't come from the first bite of the skate blade into the ice or a horn that ended a long-overdue scrimmage. It was the ringing of a bell inside a Philadelphia hospital that signified Oskar Lindblom had completed radiation treatments for a rare form of bone cancer.

Just 23, Lindblom's season was essentially over in December, his fight with cancer the priority over playing for the Flyers.

The Flyers promised they'd be there

### ICE HOCKEY

every step of the way in Lindblom's recovery and have dedicated the season him. They made their playoff push with him in mind, surging under first-year coach Alain Vigneault toward one of their best records in years.

There was a nine-game winning streak that ended in the final game before the hiatus. There was newcomer Kevin Hayes becoming an instant fan favorite and the Flyers going 19-0-1 when he scored. And Carter Hart, just 21, played every bit like the franchise goalie the Flyers expected.

Had the Flyers made a run in May and June at their first Stanley Cup championship since 1975, Lindblom would have watched it from a seat. While the pandemic break derailed the momentum of the hottest team in the Eastern Conference, it gave Lindblom time to beat cancer and make the playoff roster.

Lindblom not only was rewarded with a three-year contract extension, he was among the 31 Flyers cleared to enter the NHL bubble in Toronto. From cancer to contract to Cup? Maybe. Lindblom was cleared to practice but has yet to leave his native Sweden and join the Flyers.

Meanwhile, the Carolina Hurricanes are determined to make a second straight deep run in the Stanley Cup playoffs. That can only happen if they



In this Jan 16, 2020 file photo, Toronto Maple Leafs center Auston Matthews (34) hits Calgary Flames left wing Andrew Mangiapane (88) during the first period of an NHL hockey game in Toronto. (AP)

do something they have rarely done over the past decade: beat the New York Rangers.

The teams meet Saturday in Toronto to open a best-of-5 series in the Eastern Conference's expanded qualifying round, marking the first game of the NHL's return to play after shutting down in March due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The sixth-seeded Hurricanes — who ended a nine-year playoff drought by reaching last year's Eastern Conference finals — lost all four regular-season meetings to New York. The Hurricanes led for 11:16 in 240 combined minutes in those games, all coming in the Dec 27 matchup, according to SportRadar.

Not only that, the Rangers have won 31 of 37 meetings dating to February 2011.

The 11th-seeded Rangers built momentum through February to secure one of the last spots, including a run of nine straight road wins.

## Islanders ready to face high-scoring Panthers

NEW YORK, July 28, (AP): The New York Islanders beat the Florida Panthers in all three meetings during the season. However, the last one was way back in December — three months before the NHL paused play due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Now, the teams will face off in their first meaningful game in 4-1/2 months when they open a best-of-five elimination series Saturday in Toronto.

Islanders forward Jordan Eberle believes shaking off the rust quickly will be crucial for any team with aspirations of a deep playoff run.

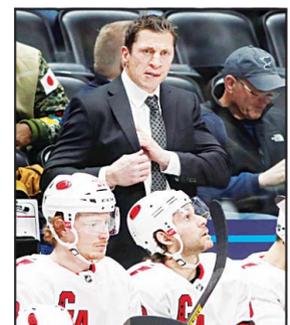
"It's whoever is going to be mentally ready quick enough, whoever's

team is playing at the right time," he said. "The one that adapts the quickest, the one that's going to play a good system the quickest."

New York were rolling along in the early part of the season, and their 3-2 win at Florida on Dec 12 came in the midst of a stretch of six wins in eight games that improved their record to 22-7-2. They struggled with consistency after that and went 0-3-4 before the pause to sit at 35-23-10.

The Panthers, who dropped to 15-11-5 after that loss to New York, got hot the following week and won 13

### ICE HOCKEY



In this Dec 19, 2019 file photo, Carolina Hurricanes coach Rod Brind'Amour stands behind players during the second period of an NHL hockey game against the Colorado Avalanche in Denver. (AP)

of 17 heading into the All-Star break. They hit a skid of their own before winning their final two games to move to 35-26-8.

Brock Nelson led the Islanders with 26 goals, and Mathew Barzal was tops with 41 assists and 60 points. Jean-Gabriel Pageau also had 26 goals — all but two coming before being acquired from Ottawa near the trade deadline.

The Panthers were led by Jonathan Huberdeau (23 goals, 55 assists), Aleksander Barkov (25 goals, 42 assists) and Mike Hoffman (29 goals, 30 assists).

The Islanders are in the postseason for the second straight year. They swept Pittsburgh in the first round a year ago before being swept by Carolina in the Eastern Conference semifinals.

## Brazil sets Olympic camp in Portugal due to pandemic at home

SAO PAULO, July 28, (AP): Brazil has set up its Olympic training camp in Rio ... Rio Maior that is, a relatively small Portuguese city of 21,000 residents outside Lisbon.

The Olympic committee feared its team would lag before the Tokyo Games next year after months of inactivity at home. So since mid-July, 72 high-performance swimmers, judokas, boxers and gymnasts have been training at the Rio Maior Sports Center to try to catch up to rivals who started earlier.

Altogether, the camp involves more than 100 Brazilians, all of whom had to test negative for the coronavirus before leaving home, and on arriving in Portugal. It was timed so they could

get started last Thursday, exactly one year out from the Olympics.

The camp will eventually feature more than 200 Brazilian athletes and staffers in 16 sports until December.

There is no Copacabana Beach or Sugar Leaf Mountain but, more importantly, this Rio is free of COVID-19.

### OLYMPICS

Rio de Janeiro's 2016 Olympics infrastructure is mostly closed, with only a handful of athletes able to work out for the Tokyo Games. Even if training facilities were to reopen soon, the athletes fear they would quickly close again due to Brazil's poor efforts

to contain the virus.

Brazil has officially recorded nearly 90,000 deaths and more than 2.4 million cases, second only to the United States.

Rio Maior, a quiet city 46 miles (75 kilometers) north of the Portuguese capital, has zero cases.

"Rio Maior gives us a bubble," Marco La Porta, deputy chairman of Brazil's Olympic Committee, says.

"All workers at the sports center live in the city. And that gives the athletes a very big assurance. In Brazil, they just don't know who has had some contact with the coronavirus. We are trying to close a gap."

They expect Rio de Janeiro's facilities to be safe to use by the end of the

year. In the meantime, 120 more Brazilian Olympians will arrive in Portugal over the next few months to train in track and field, wrestling, diving, taekwondo, triathlon, sailing, handball, rugby and table tennis.

They are all receiving special permission to enter the country with help from Portugal's Olympic Committee, their presence excused as performing professional activities. Tourists from Brazil are barred from entering the European Union because of their trouble with the coronavirus.

Brazilian Olympians discovered Rio Maior 10 years ago, preparing for other events. There are ongoing negotiations for it to become the team's base ahead of the Paris Olympics in 2024.