

## Russia's flag banned but national colors on Oly uniforms

## Officials say Olympic cancellation, no fans still an option



A model displays the Olympic uniforms for Russian athletes in Moscow, Russia, on April 14. (AP)

## 'Distance makes sense'

## Semenya pins Olympic 'hopes' on 5,000-meter

PRETORIA, South Africa, April 15, (AP): Caster Semenya won the 5,000-meter race at the South African national championships on Thursday in a personal-best time and then said she's likely to focus on long-distance events for the rest of her career.

That could be her best hope of running at this year's Tokyo Olympics after being barred from defending her 800-meter title.

The two-time Olympic champion won the 5,000 in 15 minutes, 52.28 seconds at Tuks Athletics Stadium at the University of Pretoria.



Semenya

That was outside the Olympic qualifying standard of 15:10.00 but Semenya has until the end of June to qualify for Tokyo.

Although the nationals are South Africa's main trials for the Olympics, athletes only need to register a qualifying time once at any recognized

meet before the June 29 cutoff.

It's still a long shot for the 800-meter specialist, but Semenya's time on Thursday was more than 22 seconds faster than her last outing in the 5,000.

Semenya's participation in the event at the nationals was confirmed the day before the meet started and is a departure from her previous plans after announcing last year that she would attempt to qualify for the Tokyo Games in the 200 meters.

## ATHLETICS

"We had to look into, can we do 200 for the next five years? It was not really in our favor," the 30-year-old Semenya said Thursday. "I'm getting old, I'm scared to tear my muscles. We had to sit down and make sure that the decision that we make makes sense. Distance makes sense."

Semenya is barred from running in events from 400 meters to one mile at top track meets under World Athletics' testosterone rules. She has refused to bow to those rules and take medication to lower her natural testosterone levels, calling the regulations unfair and discriminatory.

She can now only run in the 100 and 200 meters, or in long-distance races. All of those events are unfamiliar to her.

Semenya also hasn't given up on getting the rules overturned in court. She said in February she was challenging the testosterone policy at the European Court of Human Rights in her third legal appeal against them. Semenya has previously lost court cases against World Athletics at the Court of Arbitration for Sport and at the Swiss supreme court. No date has been set for her case at the human rights court but it's highly unlikely it would be heard before the Tokyo Games open on July 23.

Semenya's story has been one of sport's most contentious since she arrived as an unknown teenager and won the 2009 world title in the 800 in a blisteringly fast time.

It was then announced she had undergone sex verification tests during those championships and her career has been submerged in a complex argument over sex and gender since.

Semenya was assigned female at birth and has identified as female her whole life. But World Athletics argued in court that she is "biologically male" with the typical male XY chromosome pattern, and her testosterone level is higher than the typical female range. That gives her an unfair advantage over other female runners, the track and field body says. World Athletics said it would allow Semenya to run in female competitions if she reduces her testosterone level through medical intervention.

TOKYO, April 15, (AP): Two officials in Japan's ruling LDP party on Thursday said changes could be coming to the Tokyo Olympics. One suggested they still could be canceled, and the other said even if they proceed, it might be without any fans.

Toshihiro Nikai, the No. 2 and secretary general of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, suggested the cancellation only a day after Tokyo reached the 100-days-to-go mark on Wednesday.

He made his comments in a show recorded by Japan's TBS TV.

"If it seems impossible to go on with the games, they must be definitely canceled," Nikai said. "If there is a surge in infections because of the Olympics, there will be no meaning to having the Olympics."

Asked if a cancellation was still an option, Nikai said: "Of course."

But he also added: "It is important for Japan to have a successful Olympics. It is a big opportunity. I want to make it a success. We will have many issues to resolve and prepare, and it is important to take care of them one by one."

Tokyo organizers said they, the IOC and the International Paralympic Committee "are fully focused on hosting the games this summer." They said Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga "has repeatedly expressed the government's commitment" to holding the Olympics.

COVID-19 cases have been surging across Japan. On Wednesday, Japan's second-largest metropolitan area of Osaka recorded more than 1,100 new cases, its highest total since January. Japan recorded more than 4,000 new cases. The country has attributed 9,500 deaths to COVID-19, good by world standards but poor by results in Asia.

Taro Kono, the government minister in charge of Japan's vaccine rollout, said even if the Olympics go on, there may be no fans of any kind in the venues. He said it's likely that the Olympics will have to be held in empty venues, particularly as cases surge across the country.

That means only television cameras and still cameras will be around to record the action, joined by some reporters, judges and match officials.

The delayed Tokyo Olympics are

## OLYMPICS

to open in just over three months on July 23, and the Paralympics follow on Aug. 24. Fans from abroad have already been banned. Now even Japanese spectators could be kept away.

"I think the question is how to do the Olympics in a way that is possible in this situation," Kono said Thursday on a television talk show. "That may mean there will probably be no spectators."

Kono did not suggest the Olympics would not go ahead, but he said they could be held under only "certain conditions."

"The way these Olympics will be held will be very different from past ones," he said.

Tokyo organizers have said they expect to announce a decision this month on the number of fans allowed into each venue.

Organizers had expected to receive about \$800 million from ticket sales, their third-largest source of income. Any shortfall will have to be made up by Japanese government entities, which are already footing most of the bills.

The official cost for the Olympics is \$15.4 billion, but several government audits have suggested it might be twice that much, and all but \$6.7 billion is public money.

## Also:

**MOSCOW:** The Russian flag is barred from the Olympics in a doping dispute. You wouldn't know it to look at the Russian uniforms.

The International Olympic Committee told The Associated Press that Russian athletes in Tokyo will be allowed to wear a range of uniforms in national colors unveiled by models in a runway show in Moscow.

That unveiling show included polo shirts and jackets with white shoulders above thick bands of blue and red - the colors of the Russian flag, in the same order.

"You don't really need to have a strong imagination. In those uniforms that you saw, our national flag can be seen really obviously," Russian Olympic Committee president Stanislav Pozdnyakov said.

The logo on the uniforms is that of the ROC, not the national coat of arms. That's because of a Court of Arbitration for Sport ruling from December which barred Russia's name, flag, anthem and other national symbols in a package of sanctions over what it deemed Russia's failure to turn over accurate data from the Moscow drug-testing laboratory.

## Zuccarello scores twice, leads Wild past Coyotes



Minnesota Wild defenseman Carson Soucy, left, and Arizona Coyotes defenseman Ilya Lyubushkin battle for control of the puck as Coyotes center Clayton Keller (9) looks on during the first period of an NHL hockey game on April 14, in St. Paul, Minn. (AP)

## Avalanche use 3 goals in 2nd period to beat Blues 4-3

## ST. PAUL, Minn., April 15, (AP): Mats Zuccarello scored twice and Nick Bonino had a goal and two assists to lead the Minnesota Wild past the Arizona Coyotes 5-2.

It was the Wild's first game since the death on Sunday of 20-year-old Daunte Wright, a Black man fatally shot by police during a traffic stop. The Wild's game on Monday against St. Louis was postponed until next month, and this game was moved to 1 p.m. local time.

Both of Zuccarello's goals came on Minnesota's resurgent power play, which converted all three of its opportunities in the game. The Wild have 12 power-play goals in their past seven games.

Zach Parise and Jared Spurgeon also scored and Cam Talbot made 28 saves for Minnesota, which beat Arizona for the fifth time in six games this season and solidified its hold on third place in the West Division.

Jakob Chychrun and Phil Kessel scored for the Coyotes, who wrapped up a nine-game road grip with their fifth straight loss. Anti Raanta, who had been out since March 22 because of an injury, stopped 17 of 22 shots.

## Avalanche 4, Blues 3

In St. Louis, Mikko Rantanen and J.T. Compher each had a goal and an assist and Colorado won its fourth straight.

## ICE HOCKEY

Pierre-Edouard Bellemare and Brandon Saad also scored, and Liam O'Brien had two assists as the Avalanche improved to 17-1-2 since March 10, setting a mark for the best 20-game stretch in franchise history.

Devan Dubnyk made 31 saves in his Avalanche debut after being acquired from San Jose on Saturday.

Mike Hoffman had two goals and an assist, Vince Dunn scored, and Jordan Binnington made 24 saves for the Blues, who had their three-game winning streak snapped.

St. Louis remained one point ahead of Arizona with two games in hand in the race for the final playoff spot in the West Division.

## Ducks 4, Sharks 1

In San Jose, California, Anthony Stolarz made 27 saves, Ryan Getzlaf scored his first goal in more than a month and Anaheim completed a two-game sweep of San Jose.

Stolarz followed up a 46-save performance in a 4-0 win Monday night with another strong performance against the struggling Sharks. He came within 2:16 of becoming the first Ducks goalie with shutouts in back-to-back games since John Gibson in December 2015.

Derek Grant, Alexander Volkov and Jakob

## NHL Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, April 15, (AP): Results and standings from the NHL games on Wednesday.

Minnesota	5	Arizona	2	Colorado	4	St. Louis	3
Winnipeg	3	Ottawa	2	Vegas	6	Los Angeles	2
Calgary	4	Montreal	1	Anaheim	4	San Jose	1

East Division							West Division								
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA		
Washington	43	28	11	4	60	152	127	Colorado	43	30	9	4	64	154	101
NY Islanders	42	27	11	4	58	125	98	Vegas	42	29	11	2	60	138	96
Pittsburgh	42	27	13	2	56	146	118	Minnesota	41	25	13	3	53	124	111
Boston	40	22	12	6	50	112	106	St. Louis	42	19	17	6	44	122	132
NY Rangers	42	20	16	6	46	136	112	Arizona	44	19	20	5	43	118	139
Philadelphia	42	19	17	6	44	123	154	San Jose	42	18	20	4	40	114	141
New Jersey	41	14	21	6	34	103	135	Los Angeles	42	16	20	6	38	114	127
Buffalo	42	10	25	7	27	100	147	Anaheim	44	14	23	7	35	101	138

Note: Two points for a win one point for overtime loss. The top four teams in each division will qualify for playoffs under this season's temporary realignment.



San Jose Sharks center Dylan Gambrell (7) fights with Anaheim Ducks defenseman Josh Manson (42) during the third period of an NHL hockey game, on April 14, in San Jose, California. (AP)

Silfverberg also scored for Anaheim.

## Golden Knights 6, Kings 2

In Los Angeles, Max Pacioretty and Tomas Nosek each had a goal and two assists, Marc-Andre Fleury made 21 saves and Vegas beat Los Angeles. Fleury got his 485th win, breaking a tie with Ed Belfour for fourth place in NHL history.



Shaheen celebrate after winning the Silver Cup of KVCC 2nd edition against KVE.

## Best of the Rest

**Vini Zabù withdraw from Giro:** Italian cycling team Vini Zabù withdrew from the Giro d'Italia on Thursday while awaiting a decision from the UCI over a possible suspension because of two doping cases.

The team said the decision comes "despite showing to the relevant bodies (we) have adopted the most strict measures" to fight doping.

It adds that an "internal investigation has confirmed" the innocence of its athletes and the entire team regarding "any unfair practice." (AP)

**Super-G ace Weibrecht back on skis:** It's been three years since Andrew Weibrecht retired from the U.S. Ski team, but the mountains always beckon.

So, the two-time Winter Olympic medalist is back on his skis for a unique fundraising event - he's skiing the summits of all 46 high peaks in the Adirondack Mountains for the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Northeastern New York.

The Albany-based organization was forced to cancel a fundraising ski event in 2020 because of the coronavirus pandemic. When it happened again this year, Weibrecht moved forward with his own "Do it Yourself, Ski-For-

Wishes COVID-19 Edition." (AP)

**Baumann leads Australian swimming:** Two-time Canadian Olympic gold medalist Alex Baumann has been named chief executive of Swimming Australia, moving up from his current position as chief strategist at the sport's governing body Down Under.

Baumann, who won gold medals in the 200- and 400-meter individual medley for Canada at the 1984 Los Angeles Games, replaces Leigh Russell after she vacated the role in November. The 56-year-old Baumann will begin his new duties in May. (AP)

**Huston, Zeuner head US nat'l team:** Nyjah Huston and teenager Brighton Zeuner head the 2021 USA Skateboarding National Team announced.

A total of 22 skaters in men's and women's park and street were chosen based on performance in international and national championship events during the Olympic qualifying process that began in 2019.

The Olympic team will be named in July following the conclusion of the qualification process. (AP)