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Los Angeles poised to take another step toward 2028 Olympic Games

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Los Angeles appears poised to take another step toward bringing the 2028 Olympics to the city, despite questions about future costs.

The City Council is expected today to endorse documents at the heart of its plan to stage the Summer Olympics for the third time since 1932. The contract outlines Los Angeles' financial responsibility in hosting the games, although a budget for the proposed 2028 Games has not been completed.

The vote will take place less than two weeks after the city

announced an agreement with international Olympic leaders ceding the 2024 Games to rival Paris, while opening the way for Los Angeles to host the 2028 Games.

Los Angeles City Council President Herb Wesson has called the agreement a "win-win-win scenario."

The deal comes with millions of dollars of financial sweeteners for accepting the later date. However, the extra four years pose challenges for Los Angeles from maintaining public interest to rewriting deals for stadiums, arenas and housing that were all hooked to 2024.

City analysts have recommended the council approve the contract, which faces an Aug. 18 deadline, but also emphasized a revised budget for 2028 could take months to complete.

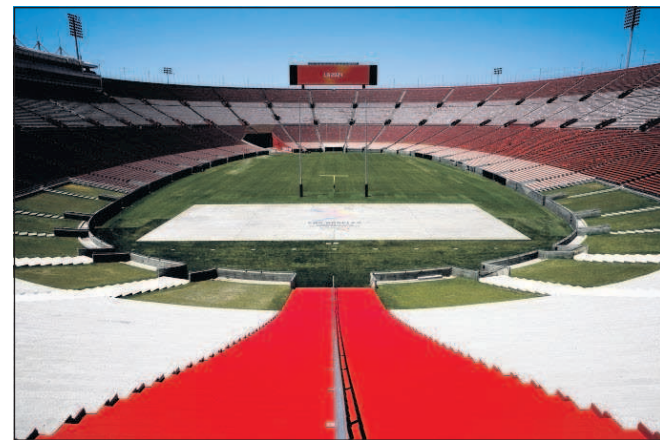
"There are inherent risks to hosting such major events so far into the future," city analysts noted in a report on the agreement.

LA will need to recast financial guarantees approved by the city and state to cover potential shortfalls connected with the 2024 bid. Gov. Jerry Brown signed legislation last September that puts California taxpayers on the hook for up to \$250

million if Los Angeles was awarded the 2024 Games and they ran over budget. The city had matched the amount.

Those reserve costs would apparently go up for 2028. And city analysts say the question of state support might not be resolved until 2018, though legislative leaders have expressed support.

The Olympics have a notorious history of runaway costs, but city officials have argued their plan will stay in the black by relying on the region's many existing stadiums and arenas, including the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum and the Staples Center. State analysts



AP Photo/Jae C. Hong

Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, the venue proposed for Olympic opening and closing ceremonies and track and field events, stands in Los Angeles.

previously concluded the 2024 plan carried relatively low risk, because it avoided major new construction projects.

The 2028 plan is expected to remain largely unchanged, without building any new, per-

manent venues.

The U.S. Olympic Committee board of directors must also approve the deal.

The International Olympic Committee vote is scheduled for September, in Lima, Peru.



AP Photo/Elaine Thompson

Seattle Mariners relief pitcher Edwin Diaz looks out from the dugout after being removed during the ninth inning against the Los Angeles Angels during a baseball game Thursday in Seattle. Diaz gave up three runs in the inning and the Angels won 6-3.

Trout comes through in 9th as Angels get past Mariners

By **TIM BOOTH**
 Associated Press

SEATTLE — Mike Trout provided the capper to a miserable night for the Seattle Mariners.

Trout looped a three-run double just inside the left-field line with two outs in the ninth inning, and the Los Angeles Angels cooled off the Mariners with a 6-3 victory on Thursday night.

Trout's bases-clearing hit off Seattle closer Edwin Diaz (2-5) came after the Mariners staged a three-run rally of their own in the eighth inning to tie the game at 3-all. And it all seemed secondary for the Mariners compared to the concern over the health of lefty James Paxton, who left in the seventh inning with a strained pectoral muscle.

Paxton is hopeful it's a minor injury, but will have an MRI on Friday that should provide the Mariners more clarity how long they could be without their ace in the middle of the playoff chase.

"It hurts. He's been our guy. He's been awesome. He really has," Seattle manager Scott Servais said. "Don't want to get too far ahead of it but fingers crossed that he doesn't miss too much time."

The Angels took advantage of major control problems in the ninth from Diaz, who walked three batters, including Cameron Maybin on a 3-2 pitch to bring Trout to the plate. The reigning MVP pulled a 1-1 breaking ball and just kept it fair and clearing the bases.

"There were a couple walks, so I was assuming I'd take a strike," Trout said. "I was looking for a pitch to hit. But I was kind of undecided on the first pitch, so I just wanted to see one. After that, I saw the slide pop up and hit a double."

The surging Mariners were coming off a 6-3 road trip to move into the second wild-card spot in the American League and used the long ball to rally in the eighth inning after getting nothing going against Angels starter Tyler



AP Photo/Elaine Thompson

Los Angeles Angels' Mike Trout swings for a three-run double against the Seattle Mariners during the ninth inning of the baseball game.

UP NEXT: MARINERS

- Los Angeles Angels (58-58) at Seattle Mariners (59-57)
- Tonight, 7:10 p.m. TV: RTNW

Skaggs. Making his second start since coming off the disabled list, Skaggs pitched shutout ball into the seven, allowing five hits and striking out five.

But the Mariners got to reliever Bud Norris in the eighth. Jean Segura hit his seventh home run of the season and the duo of Robinson Cano and Nelson Cruz continued to come through for the Mariners. Cano drove a two-out double off Norris (2-5) and Cruz followed with his 27th homer of the season and fifth in the past five games to pull Seattle even.

That was it for the Mariners and after Trout came through Cam Bedrosian pitched the ninth for his fourth save.

"He's the best player in the game. You wouldn't want anybody else up," Skaggs said of Trout. "He put the team on his back. Very simple. It's a pleasure playing with him."

C.J. Cron hit a solo homer in the second inning and Andrelton Simmons added a two-run shot in the fourth, both off of Paxton. It was the first homers allowed by Paxton since June 27 against Philadelphia and the first time he allowed multiple homers in a game since June 1, 2016.

Paxton had tied a franchise record by winning his previous seven starts dating to July 2, when he beat the Angels. But he was not sharp in his attempt at No. 8 and could be headed to the disabled list for the second time this season.

"I don't think it's anything too serious, but obviously don't want to miss time right now," Paxton said. "Hopefully it's nothing big."

Injury woes

The latest injury to Paxton only adds to a season of setbacks among Seattle's starting rotation. Drew Smyly never pitched for the Mariners this season. Hisashi Iwakuma has been out since early May with shoulder troubles, Felix Hernandez is in his second stint on the disabled list and Paxton could be joining him.



AP Photo/Gus Ruelas

Dallas Cowboys running back Ezekiel Elliott, shown here in July, has been suspended for six games under the NFL's personal conduct policy following the league's yearlong investigation into the running back's domestic violence case out of Ohio.

Dallas RB Elliott suspended 6 games in domestic case

Off-field issues trouble Cowboys star

By **SCHUYLER DIXON**
 Associated Press

Dallas Cowboys running back Ezekiel Elliott was suspended for six games Friday after a yearlong NFL investigation of his domestic violence case in Ohio.

The 2016 NFL rushing leader was suspended despite prosecutors in Columbus, Ohio, deciding a year ago not to pursue the case involving Elliott's girlfriend at the time in the same city where Elliott starred for Ohio State.

The league said there was "substantial and persuasive evidence" that Elliott had physical confrontations last summer with his then-girlfriend, Tiffany Thompson. Elliott will be eligible to return to the active roster on Oct. 23.

Elliott has three days to appeal the ruling. One of his agents didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

The NFL Players Association said it was review-

ing the decision and had been in touch with Elliott's representatives.

The league revised its personal conduct policy in 2014 following sharp criticism of a case involving former Baltimore running back Ray Rice. The policy gave Commissioner Roger Goodell authority to suspend players for at least six games in domestic cases, with or without a conviction.

In a letter to Elliott informing him of the league's decision, NFL special counsel for conduct Todd Jones said advisers brought in by the league "were of the view that there is substantial and persuasive evidence supporting a finding that (Elliott) engaged in physical violence against Ms. Thompson on multiple occasions during the week of July 16, 2016."

The Ohio case was the first in a series of off-field incidents involving Elliott in his first year after the Cowboys made him the fourth overall pick in the 2016 draft. He finished with 1,631 yards rushing in helping the Cowboys to the best record in the NFC at 13-3 before a divisional playoff loss to Green Bay.

First US woman to summit K-2 in Pakistan says she is 'proud'

Associated Press

ISLAMABAD — The first American woman to scale Pakistan's dangerous K-2 summit says it was a "proud moment" when she hoisted the U.S. and Pakistani flags at the top of the mountain.

The 52-year-old Vanessa O'Brien achieved her mountaineering feat on July 28.

K-2 is the world's second-highest mountain, at 28,251 feet or 8,610 meters. For mountain climbers, it is also considered particularly

difficult, after Mount Everest

O'Brien said Friday she hopes her achievement will promote people-to-people contacts between the two countries. She says her 12-member team of international climbers was grateful to Islamabad for facilitating their endeavor.

It was O'Brien's third attempt at conquering K2, after being unsuccessful in 2015 and 2016 when an avalanche buried all of her equipment and strong winds forced her team to return to base camp.