

SPORTS

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SPORTS
IN BRIEFOlympian sues
USA Swimming,
saying it failed
to protect her

SEATTLE — Olympic swimmer Ariana Kukors Smith sued USA Swimming on Monday, alleging the sport's national governing body knew her former coach sexually abused her as a minor and failed to protect her while shielding him.

Kukors Smith alleges Sean Hutchison, who began coaching her at a swim club near Seattle, groomed her for sexual abuse when she was 13, started touching and kissing her when she was 16, and engaged in sexual activity with her when she was 17.

"This lawsuit is about holding people accountable who should have protected a 15-year-old girl," Kukors Smith told reporters, adding, "I needed help and there were people in positions of power that could have helped me."

Hutchison has denied the allegations, which emerged earlier this year when Kukors Smith, now 28, posted an emotional essay online. Hutchison, assistant coach on the 2008 U.S. Olympic team, has not been charged with a crime. The office of his attorney, Brad Meryhew, said he had no comment on the lawsuit.

The case marked another scandal for USA Swimming and for the sports world.

Caps rough up
Lightning 3-0 to
force Game 7

WASHINGTON — Facing elimination at home, the Washington Capitals looked determined to hit everything that moved in Game 6 of the Eastern Conference final.

The goal was to finish checks on Tampa Bay Lightning players as much as possible, though at one point Devante Smith-Pelly decked Dan Girardi and took teammate Jay Beagle down with him.

"I apologized to him," Smith-Pelly said. "I said sorry. He didn't seem to care."

Sorry, not sorry.

The Capitals made no apologies for taking the body and grinding out a physical 3-0 victory Monday night that tied the playoff series and set up a deciding Game 7. T.J. Oshie had a goal on the power play and into an empty net, Smith-Pelly scored a back-breaker and Braden Holtby stopped all 24 shots, but it was the bruising style that kept the Capitals alive and could still pay more dividends.

19-year-old Soto
hits 3-run HR in
1st start for Nats

WASHINGTON — Juan Soto, the youngest player in the majors at 19, hit a three-run homer in his first career start as the Washington Nationals defeated the San Diego Padres 10-2 on Monday night.

Mark Reynolds had two solo home runs for the Nationals, who snapped a three-game losing streak. Bryce Harper had a homer and an RBI double.

Soto's drive highlighted a five-run second inning. The promising outfielder, who played for three minor league teams this season, connected off Robbie Erlin (1-3). Soto also singled.

Soto's homer traveled an estimated 442 feet. He earned a standing ovation and responded by taking a curtain call. Per Baseball-Reference.com, Soto became the first teenager to hit a home run in a major league game since Harper on Sept. 30, 2012.

— Associated Press

SCOREBOARD

PREP SPORTS SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY

Baseball — 4A state playoff: Madras at Astoria, 4 p.m.; **3A state playoff:** Warrenton at Cascade Christian, 4:30 p.m.; **2A/1A state playoff:** Riddle at Knappa, 4 p.m.

Softball — 2A/1A state playoff: North Douglas at Knappa, 4:30 p.m.

FISHERMEN REEL
IN STATE TITLE

Walt Postlewait/For The Daily Astorian

Astoria's fishermen, Michael Postlewait, left, and Leo Matthews, during their last competition at The Dalles.

By WALT POSTLEWAIT
 For The Daily Astorian

Astoria High School proved to have the best fishermen in the state May 12 at The Dalles, during the second and final leg of the Student Angler Federation's Oregon State Bass Fishing Championship.

Leo Matthews and Michael Postlewait won the 2018 state championship by beating the 2017 champions, Thurston High School, in both legs.

"The fish were very active today," Matthews said. "We had some big fish in the boat early and continued to catch fish all day."

McMinnville High School won the day with a bag of five fish weighing 18.50 pounds,

compared to Astoria's 14.07 pounds. But with Astoria winning the first leg, and then placing second Saturday, Astoria had the points to bring the title to the school of the Fishermen.

"It's awesome that we finished where we did," Postlewait said. "Both tournaments we had a plan and they came through. Bass fishing is very technical, and takes a lot of work to find and catch fish. We're just two guys that love to fish and it's great that it's finally going somewhere."

With the win, the team qualifies for the 2018 SAF National Championship, held June 26-30 on Pickwick Lake in Florence, Alabama.

SAF is the student-focused arm of The Bass Federation, which is partnered with Fish-

ing League Worldwide. FLW is the world's largest tournament-fishing organization. Each year, FLW offers anglers of all skill levels the opportunity to compete for millions in prize money across the globe.

Matthews and Postlewait will begin defending their state championship July 28, when the 2018-19 State Championship Series kicks off its first of four legs at Silcoos Lake near Florence.

The series is scheduled to conclude May 11, 2019 at Cascade Locks, with stops at Ten-mile Lake and Celilo Pool (Columbia River above The Dalles dam) along the way.

For more information regarding the Astoria High School bass fishing team email ahs-bassfishingteam@gmail.com.

All tied up: LeBron's 44 leads Cavs past Celtics

By TOM WITHERS
 Associated Press

CLEVELAND — LeBron James knows the path to the NBA Finals better than anyone in today's game.

And unless the Boston Celtics do something soon, he'll get there again.

James bullied his way to 44 points, surpassed Kareem Abdul-Jabbar atop a postseason list and helped the Cleveland Cavaliers even the Eastern Conference finals at 2-2 on Monday night with a 111-102 victory over the Celtics, who are looking forward to getting home before their adoring fans.

Pushed by a raucous crowd that wasn't so confident a few days ago, the Cavs held off Boston's comeback in the fourth quarter and squared a tight series that is now a best-of-three.

Cleveland is trying to become the 20th team — out of 300 — to overcome a 2-0 deficit and James, who has already orchestrated two such ral-



AP Photo/Tony Dejak

Cavaliers' LeBron James, right, drives to the basket against Celtics' Marcus Morris Monday in Cleveland. The Cavaliers won 111-102.

lies and is seeking his eighth straight finals, is a step closer to a third.

To do it again the Cavs will have to win in Boston, where the Celtics

are 9-0 this postseason.

"We know it's going to be a hostile environment," James said. "We know their fans are going to be very

energetic. But we have to just have our same mindset we had when we came home for these two games. If our minds are there, we put ourselves in a position to be victorious."

Game 5 is Wednesday night at TD Garden, and Celtics coach Brad Stevens is trying to stay positive with a team that has given up a 2-0 lead and fell to 1-6 on the road in these playoffs.

"It's the best two out of three to go to the NBA Finals. Doesn't get better than that," he said. "Ultimately, anybody that didn't think this was going to be tough, I mean, everything is tough. In this deal, it's a blast to have to grit your teeth, get up off the mat and go after it again."

Kyle Korver added 14 points and Cleveland's sharp-shooting 37-year-old added three blocks and several hustle plays, outrunning three Celtics in one sequence and diving for a loose ball.