

Russia's track federation suspended by governing body

By **STEPHEN WILSON**
Associated Press

LONDON — Russia's track and field federation was provisionally suspended Friday by the sport's governing body, keeping the country out of international competition for an indefinite period — possibly including next year's Olympics in Brazil.

The suspension was approved by a 22-1 vote during a teleconference of the 27-member council of the IAAF.

IAAF President Sebastian Coe convened the meeting after Russia was accused of widespread, systematic doping in a report released Monday by a World Anti-Doping Agency commission. Coe was under heavy pressure to take tough action, despite efforts by Russian officials to avoid a blanket ban by agreeing to cooperate and make reforms in their anti-doping system.

The suspension will take

effect immediately, barring Russian athletes from all international track and field events until the country can prove it has put its house in order. It's the first time the International Association of Athletics Federations has ever banned a country over its doping record.

The Russian federation is likely to be given a month or so before appearing at a disciplinary hearing, where the IAAF could then elevate the sanction to a full suspension.

The IAAF and WADA will need to set out the terms for what the Russians need to do to get a suspension lifted, including complying fully with the global anti-doping code.

With the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro nine months away, the big question is whether Russia's track team will be allowed to compete in the games. Some Olympic officials have said Russia should have enough time to take the necessary steps to make it



AP Photo/Pavel Golovkin
All-Russia Athletic Federation general secretary Mikhail Butov speaks to the media the Russian Olympic Committee building in Moscow, Russia, Saturday, Nov. 14, 2015.

to the Olympics, which run from Aug. 5-21.

Russian Sports Minister Vitaly Mutko said Friday he is "completely sure" that Russia will be able to compete at the Olympics. Speaking before the IAAF meeting, he said he thought any suspension would be short.

"We may miss one or two

competitions, but for athletes with clean consciences to miss the Olympics or a world championships would be real stupidity," he said in Moscow.

In the short term, the suspension will keep Russian out of a dozen or so international events the rest of this year, including the European cross-country championships

in France on Dec. 13. The athletes could then miss the indoor season, including the world indoor championships in Portland, Oregon, from March 17-20.

Other big events that Russian runners could be ineligible for include the Boston and London Marathons in April.

Russia also faces being stripped of the hosting rights of three IAAF events — the Moscow indoor meet on Feb. 14, the world race walking championships in Cheboksary from May 7-15, and the world junior championships in Kazan from July 19-24. Russia has been the dominant force in world race walking.

Russian athletes would be eligible to compete in their own national events during a ban, which only covers international competition.

Some officials, including IAAF vice president Sergei Bubka, the pole vault great from Ukraine, had argued against a blanket ban, saying

it would penalize "innocent" athletes who haven't been found guilty or implicated in doping.

However, the report by the WADA panel outlined a deep-rooted, systematic doping system that cast doubt on the entire Russian athletics program, making it difficult to judge which athletes are clean or not.

The IAAF council met by teleconference, chaired by Coe in London.

Russia's IAAF council member, Mikhail Butov, presented his federation's position at the start of the meeting, but then recused himself from the debate and the vote.

Russia's initial reaction to Monday's doping report was one of indignation and that the allegations were politically-motivated. However, in recent days, the tone shifted as President Vladimir Putin acknowledged the gravity of the problem and ordered an investigation by Russian sports leaders.

RUGBY: Girls will play in 16-team league

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was excited to see not only quantity but quality.

"I just looked across the room and there was this great mix of size and some girls that you just look at them and you go, 'Athlete, flat out. She can do something. I don't know what it is but she can do something,'" he said. "One of the first questions I asked was, 'How many of you grew up wanting to play football, but you weren't able to because of the taboo of girls playing football?'"

"And probably three quarters of them raised their hands, and I was like, 'Well now you get to hit someone.' And they were like, 'Yes!'"

Bailey Deming, a sophomore, was one of them.

"I'd been thinking about doing football, but football is for guys here and we don't have a girls' team. I wouldn't belong. I wouldn't get enough of a chance," she said of the reasons holding her back. "I wanted to play rugby and actually tackle somebody and have some fun with that."

Deming and Rinehart were part of a mixed group taking part in Gabriel's rugby passing camp on Wednesday morning at Pendleton High. Pendleton junior Kristina Hardy was also in attendance, and after a few drills capped by a makeshift scrimmage she said she'll definitely be back when practices begin in January.

"I kind of wanted to do it and was thinking a lot about it," she said. "I had done some soccer but that was about it. It's usually not as tackley. It's the adrenaline rush to it that is really kind



Staff photo by E.J. Harris
Pendleton Sasquatch coach Eric Gabriel goes over form with Bayley Deming, 16, during a passing clinic Wednesday in Pendleton.

of fun.

"I really liked it, I thought it was really fun."

The girls will compete in a 16-team league with most of their opponents residing in Portland, which currently boasts some of the best girls rugby sides in the nation.

"We've got some teams in the Portland area that are nationally ranked, top 15 and stuff like that, with some big Polynesian girls," Gabriel said.

He likes the way his "strong looking farm girls" stack up, though, and the turnout at the team's first meeting only confirmed what he'd come to believe shortly after moving to the area.

"I work out on the rez and I was seeing girls out there playing basketball, the dance team, and the softball,

and I knew as soon as I got here the girls were flat out the best athletes in this area," he said. "We're starting from ground zero but they're all decent athletes and they have the passion to do something physical, and that's all it takes."

The boys and girls teams will have independent schedules, but Gabriel said he still plans to have them practice together, which should benefit everybody.

"Automatically, the girls have someone to go against that's already going to be experienced. Not that they'll be tackling each other, but they'll always have a good opponent to go against," he said. "Same thing with the boys. The boys will have an opponent to go against, which is always great because in the past when

we try to run live drills we only have two or three extra players, and we can't get a really good look with two or three extra players."

"It can only help both sides."

Gabriel said there is still plenty of time for interested girls to get involved.

"The best thing to do right at this point is to like (Pendleton Sasquatch Rugby) on Facebook," said Gabriel, "and go to RugbyOregon.com to get some information about registration."

Gabriel said prospective players shouldn't let registration fees deter them, and payment plans as well as financial assistance are available.

Contact Matt Entrup at mentrup@eastoregonian.com or (541) 966-0838.

SENIORS: Excitement high, but still just another game

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Hepner is the place to play football and we have a great crowd every game.

"It's going to suck, being the last game, but we've got to play regardless. Last game or not. We've got to show up to play and do our job. I'm excited for this weekend."

Also playing their final home games alongside Kindle will be quarterback Kaden Clark, lineman Patrick Collins, receiver/linebacker Weston Putman, running back/linebacker Tommy Bredfield, lineman Saul Erickson, receiver/defensive back Ryan Smith, and lineman Tre Cimmiyotti.

"We don't really have any captains because we're all just expected to be leaders," Collins said. "We all take that role and it's really nice that it's spread out, nobody has complete control over everything."

The group accounted for 11 of Hepner's 19 all-league roster selections with Kindle, Collins, Clark, Putman and Bredfield taking two each, and have been the backbone of the team's 10-0 season that has seen them outscore opponents 50-10 on average.

Clark is enjoying his best season in his third year as the starting quarterback and has completed 57 percent of his



Staff photo by E.J. Harris
In this 2014 file photo, Hepner's Saul Erickson and Patrick Collins (67) wrap up Central Linn's Jesse Wibbens during a playoff game at Morrow County Fairgrounds. Hepner won the game 45-8.

passes for 1,025 yards and has thrown only one interception to 17 touchdowns. He's added 369 yards rushing with a 7.4 per-carry average with 10 more touchdowns.

Bredfield has added 574 yards rushing and eight touchdowns on a surgically repaired knee and is second on the defense with 61 tackles.

Putman has chipped in 553 all-purpose yards and five touchdowns while also leading the team with seven interceptions and four fumble recoveries.

Collins, last year's 2A Defensive Player of the Year, is first on the team with six sacks, to which he's added 57 tackles, three fumble

recoveries, two interceptions and a blocked kick.

Erickson was an all-league pick on the offensive line, and Smith and Cimmiyotti have played in every game on offense or defense.

"Just being my last home game win or lose, I want to go out there and make it my best and play as great as I can," Cimmiyotti said. "I think I'm pretty lucky to be on this team. Not a lot of teams get to play this long."

"We can't get too excited, just go in and play it as a normal game," Erickson said. "But being in the playoffs, it definitely gets your drive going."

Grant said he understands if there are a few extra

emotions going into Saturday's pregame warm-ups, but once the whistle blows he knows where his team's focus will be.

"They started to talk about it a little bit last week but one thing that I think they've learned to do is, 'What am I doing right now, what's my first step?'" Grant said. "Stay in the process and don't look at the big picture, because anybody that looks at the big picture is going to miss a couple steps along the way. We're constantly reminding them."

"These guys are pretty mature competitors and I think they get it."

Hepner is 6-1 at home in the playoffs the last four seasons, their only loss coming in the 2012 quarterfinals to Portland Christian when this year's seniors were freshmen.

"The motivation is just to keep going each week, just get that extra game, get that longer season," Bredfield said. "Just to keep playing because this is the greatest sport in the world and I love it and I don't want to stop playing."

Hepner and Reedsport kick off at 1 p.m.

Contact Matt Entrup at mentrup@eastoregonian.com or (541) 966-0838.

Soccer

Altidore scores twice as US routs St Vincent

By **R.B. FALLSTROM**
Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Jozy Altidore scored twice as the United States bounced back from an early deficit and routed tiny St. Vincent and the Grenadines 6-1 Friday night in the Americans' opening qualifier for the 2018 World Cup.

Oalex Anderson, a member of the third-division Seattle Sounders 2 who turned 20 on Wednesday, took advantage of defensive confusion by Gyasi Zardes and DeAndre Yedlin to put 129th-ranked St. Vincent ahead in the fifth minute.

But Bobby Wood tied the score in the 11th, Fabian

Johnson put the 33rd-ranked Americans ahead in the 29th and Altidore scored two minutes later, becoming the fifth U.S. player to reach 30 international goals.

Geoff Cameron and Zardes boosted the lead to 5-1 early in the second half, and Altidore added his second goal in the 74th.

The Americans are unbeaten in 10 straight World Cup qualifying openers and extended their home unbeaten streak in qualifying to 28 games (26-0-2) since 2001.

Portland midfielder Darlington Nagbe and New York Red Bulls defender Matt Miazga made their national team debuts midway through the second half.



TIGERS: Stanfield blocks two kicks, including potential game-winner

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team, 'Let's go out there and make our way back home winners.'"

And they did just that despite being down 14 points at halftime on the road to No. 1 Central Linn, but erased the deficit with two Dylan Grogan touchdown passes, blocked the potential game-winning field goal, then stopped the Cobras on a two-point conversion in overtime.

Stanfield used its power running game to wear down the Cobras. Junior running back Thyler Monkus, who has been banged up in recent weeks but was close to 100 percent Friday night, carried 27 times for a quiet 218 yards.

Quiet, because classmate Grogan was wonderful.

The lanky junior carried 21 times for 114 yards and two scores, and also completed seven of 17 pass attempts for 117 yards and two more scores.

"I train my kids every day to run," Salas said. "We don't stop running. They take their running and training seriously. In that fourth quarter, we were able to move the ball pretty easily. It's a testament to their training and keeping their head in the game."

Central Linn (9-2) led 20-6 at the break after Andre Holmes picked off a wayward Grogan pass and took it 30 yards for a score. Central Linn had just fumbled, and Stanfield gave the ball right back, and some points, too.

But Grogan hit Enol Angel for a 12-yard score with four seconds left in the third quarter, then hit a diving Justin Keeney for a 9-yard scoring pass with 2:40 in the final frame to tie. Grogan also ran in a 13-yard score in the first half.

Central Linn, led by quarterback Jesse Wibbens and running backs Pettner and Chandler Jeppsen, marched right down the field and had a chance to win with a 30-yard field goal, but Stanfield blocked it to force overtime.

It was the second blocked kick by the Tigers, who had blocked a point after in the first half.

Central Linn took control in the first half, partially on Stanfield mistakes. The Tigers' first two drives ended on downs, but the Cobras couldn't do much in the first quarter, either.

But a drive that snaked into the second quarter ended shortly thereafter when Pettner bulldozed in from a yard out with 11:40 on the clock. After a couple exchanges of possession, including a Cobras fumble with which Stanfield did nothing, Central Linn went on another methodical drive on the legs of Pettner and Chandler Jeppsen.

Pettner, who fumbled earlier, made up for it with an easy 10-yard scoring run to double Central Linn's lead. The point after was blocked, though, and that point proved huge.

Grogan hurdled a defender with 4:28 left and scored on the play from 13 yards out to halve Central Linn's lead, then Holmes extended the lead with his pick-six.

But Grogan hit Angel, then Keeney to force overtime. He then powered in for a 6-yard score before Stanfield's defense send the Tigers to the semis.

"We're just excited to take care of two big games on the road," first-year head coach Davy Salas said. "They gave us an opportunity to go play two league champs and were still playing."