

Track & Field

IAAF execs explored hush up of Russia doping bans

By JOHN LEICESTER
AP Sports Columnist

PARIS — Six years before the IAAF banned Russia, track and field's governing body knew of doping so out of control it feared Russian athletes could die from abusing blood-boosting drugs and transfusions, and officials considered collaborating with Russians to hide the extent of cheating before the 2012 London Olympics, according to internal documents obtained by The Associated Press.

When the massive scandal of state-sponsored doping and cover-ups in Russia finally erupted in 2015, IAAF leaders acted as though blindsided. "This has been a shameful wake-up call," said Sebastian Coe, the British Olympian and new president of the International Association of Athletics Federations.

But as a sophisticated new blood-testing program was launched in 2009, IAAF tests were already providing shocking insight into the scale and gravity of Russian doping, according to six years of emails, letters and reports the AP received from a person intimately involved in the IAAF's anti-doping program. The person requested anonymity because he wasn't allowed to release the documents.

At that stage, the test results weren't enough on their own to sanction athletes, but they raise questions about why the organization waited six years before suspending Russia, which could see its athletes miss the Rio de Janeiro Olympics in August.

"Not only are these athletes cheating their fellow competitors but at these levels are putting their health and even their own lives in very serious danger," Pierre Weiss, the IAAF general secretary from 2006-11, wrote in an Oct. 14, 2009, letter to Valentin Balakhnichev, the Russian athletics president banned for life from the sport last week. Russians "recorded some of the highest values ever seen since the IAAF started testing."

Tests at the 2009 world championships, where Russia won 13 medals, "strongly suggest a systematic abuse of blood doping or EPO-related products," Weiss added.

Athletes are banned from using transfusions and the hormone EPO, which boosts levels of oxygen-carrying red blood cells, artificially improving performance. They can increase the risk of clots, strokes and heart attacks.

The documents reveal how the IAAF cajoled Russian officials to act, but also used advances in blood testing against offenders. They shed light on key junctures in the crisis, which has been muddied by allegations that IAAF and Russian officials took bribes from athletes to hide doping.

Other findings: — Internal IAAF papers before the London Olympics proposed hiding doping sanctions for lesser-known Russians. An April 2012 note said this approach couldn't be used for Russia's best athletes because that would allow them to keep "11 world titles and numerous European titles acquired under the influence of doping." The elite athletes could not be discreetly removed from major competitions.

— A Sept. 28, 2012, internal brief for then-IAAF President Lamine Diack estimated 42 percent of tested Russian elite athletes doped.

— After the 2009 worlds, Weiss told Balakhnichev that seven Russians — including two gold medalists — would have been forced to sit out the competition if the IAAF had had the same rules as some other sports.

By 2011, the IAAF's new testing regime was flagging so many suspected Russian dopers that officials explored breaking their own rules and those of the World Anti-Doping Agency by dealing with some cases privately, two notes show.

The notes proposed by-the-book sanctions for elite Russians likely to win in London, but "rapid and discreet" handling for lesser-known athletes whose disappearance from competition would probably go unnoticed.

For athletes who agreed, the IAAF would "undertake not to publish the sanction," which would be shortened to two years from four, according to a Dec. 5, 2011, brief that spokesman Chris Turner said was sent by IAAF anti-doping director Gabriel Dolle to Diack's legal counsel, Habib Cisse.

The IAAF's ethics commission has banned Dolle for five years for what it called an "inexcusable lack of due care and diligence" involving Liliya Shobukhova, a marathoner who blew the whistle on blackmail, bribery and doping cover-ups involving Balakhnichev and others.

A second round of findings are due Thursday from a WADA probe led by International Olympic Committee veteran Dick Pound, who told AP that documents indicating IAAF officials contemplated not disclosing doping bans were surprising and "not exactly in line with our rules."

Still, the documents show the IAAF long worked behind the scenes with Russia before its Nov. 13 about-face, when IAAF Council members voted 22-1 to suspend all Russian athletes. Russia must convince the IAAF it is changing to be reinstated.

PIONEERS: Girls breeze to ninth win of season

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he still wants to see his team forcing the issue inside more on offense, but was happy with the defensive effort.

"I think our toughness is getting better, our effort is getting better," he said. "Defensively we're there. We're holding teams to under 50 points a game, that's good by my standards, but we've got to put the ball in the hole to win some games."

Delgado led the Pioneers with 12 points, scoring nine in the fourth quarter, and tied for the team high with five rebounds. Zaragoza added six points to go with three assists.

It was a completely different story in the girls game, which was the first played of the evening.

Both teams came out looking determined to give the game away as turnovers marred the first quarter, but the Pioneers quickly nipped their ball handling issues and pulled away for a 23-7 lead at halftime.

Mac-Hi (9-5) scored 10 of their 15 second-quarter points off Waitsburg (2-8) turnovers



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Mac-Hi's Samantha Tveidt wrestles for control of the ball with Waitsburg's Ariel Sandau in the Pioneers' win against the Cardinal on Tuesday in Milton-Freewater.

and never allowed the Cardinals to entertain thoughts of a comeback.

Their lead ballooned to 27 points midway through the fourth quarter before Cardinals freshman Devin Harshman got hot and made the score look

more respectable. She scored 11 of her game-high 14 points in the final eight minutes and finished with a double-double adding 10 rebounds.

Sam Tveidt paced the Pios with 11 points and Shannon Carter added seven points to go with her team-high seven steals. The Pioneers finished the game with 23 steals and held the Cardinals to 10-for-38 (26.3 percent) field goal shooting while connecting on 17-of-36 (47.2 percent).

That was without senior post Sydney Richwine, who routinely leads the team in scoring.

"Sydney tweaked her knee (Monday) in practice and we're hoping she'll be back soon, we just didn't want to push it tonight with our first league game coming up," said Mac-Hi coach Brooke Garton. "I have some other really great posts and they stepped up and played well tonight. The best part about this group is they play well as a team and they're pretty cohesive, so if one girl can't play or gets into foul trouble there's other girls that can step in and do a great job."

Tveidt, a four-year varsity player, said that great team chemistry has her excited to get into GOL play and see what they can do. "Before (this year), we really didn't really have that strong of team chemistry and now we do and it shows it out there," she said. "I feel like we're ready (for league), we just have to keep working on the stuff that we know we can do and not get out of our element."

The Pioneers open GOL action Saturday at Ontario with girls tipping off at 4 p.m. (MT) and the boys at 5:30 p.m.

Girls	
WHS (2-8)	5 2 4 17 - 28
M-H (9-5)	8 15 13 12 - 44
WAITSBURG — D. Harshman 14, T. Jones 4, A. Sandau 4, A. Araya 4, T. Hays 3, D. Williams, L. Brannock, M. Forney, G. Pope, C. Mohney, C. Pearson. (10-38)	
MAC-HI — S. Tveidt 11, B. Smiley 7, S. Carter 7, B. Erb 5, M. Yensen 5, B. Hernandez 4, A. Biggs 3, K. Crisman 2, R. Jones. (17-36)	
3-pointers — WHS 2, M-H 0. Free throws — WHS 6-13, M-H 10-19. Fouls — WHS 18, M-H 15.	
Boys	
WHS (6-5)	9 10 9 13 - 41
M-H (4-11)	3 6 8 17 - 34
WAITSBURG — J. Dunn 12, M. Montgomery 12, K. Gradwohl 7, L. Callas 6, J. Carter 4, T. Potts, B. Penner, L. Hatfield. (17-39)	
MAC-HI — A. Delgado 12, A. Zaragoza 6, B. Debord 6, H. Yensen 5, L. Garcia 3, M. Garcia, A. Martinez, A. Garcia, E. Garcia, R. Walton. (12-33)	
3-pointers — WHS 2, M-H 10. Free throws — WHS 5-11, M-H 0-0. Fouls — WHS 2, M-H 12.	

STANFIELD: Girls fall just short against Cougars

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absolute control of the ballgame. Flores hit a 3-pointer during the run, Brody Woods scored four points, and Grogan had five points in the deciding run.

Echo's offense got going a bit in the second quarter, but Stanfield was too much. Chris Medrano and Chavez each hit 3-pointers — on back-to-back possessions — in the second frame, but those were answered with buckets by the Tigers.

The Tigers finished the game shooting 42 percent (28-67) from the field and 37 percent (7-19) from 3-point range. The shooting percentages tailed off in the second half, with Stanfield shooting 53 percent (18-34) and 66 percent (6-9) in the first half.

Echo, meanwhile, had a tough time against Stanfield's athleticism. The Cougars shot just 24 percent (11-46) and 18 percent (3-17) from deep. They didn't shoot a free throw until the third quarter.

Stanfield jumps back into Columbia Basin Conference play Friday with a 4:30 p.m. in Stanfield against Culver. Echo gets back into Old Oregon League play with a Friday evening contest at Powder Valley scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

SHS (9-2)	24	22	17	6	-	69
EHS (4-11)	5	12	5	6	-	28
Stanfield — D. Grogan 20, R. Bailey 15, B. Woods 11, A. Flores 6, J. Carrillo 4, E. Angel 4, J. Garcia 4, T. Monkus 3, A. Nunez 2, L. Moreno, J. Galarza, N. Sanchez, D. Brooks.						
Echo — M. Thompson 9, C. Chavez 8, B. Gibbs 4, C. Medrano 3, J. Dorn 2, B. Moffit 2, H. Gerkhe, N. Scott, Z. Gerkhe, D. Craig, J. Medrano, T. Mulder.						
3-pointers — SHS 7, EHS 3. Free throws — SHS 6-9, EHS 3-4. Fouls — SHS 8, EHS 10. Technical fouls — B. Gibbs (EHS).						

Girls Basketball

ECHO 30, STANFIELD 26 — The Echo Cougars nearly blew a nine-point lead with two minutes left Tuesday against

Stanfield, but two Hannah McCarty free throws iced the Cougars 30-26 win with less than a minute left in the fourth quarter in a game Stanfield led 10-9 after a quarter of play.

"I think this was good test for staying mentally in the game and abdicating adversity," Echo coach Michael Swanson said. "They did well."

Kelsey Ranger led the Cougars (7-8, 1-3) with 12 points and six rebounds, and Stanfield's Yazzmin Chavez led all scorers with 13 points.

Though Stanfield (5-6, 1-1) outrebounded Echo 35-31, Echo's defense proved won the game forcing 32 Stanfield turnovers — 16 of which were steals. But a defensive lapse almost completed Stanfield's nine-point comeback in the final minutes.

Down 25-16 with four minutes and change to go in the final period, Chavez hit her only 3-pointer of the night to pull Stanfield within six at 25-19. Erika Parks then hit a free throw and made a layup after an Echo timeout, extending the Cougar lead back to nine.

Then Brittin Braithwaite completed a three-point play and Chavez made two free throws and Stanfield was down just four with a minute left. Stanfield coach Daniel Sharp took time to draw up a play which didn't work, forcing Stanfield to take another timeout to avoid a five-second turnover. This time, the play he drew up worked perfectly as Chavez curled around the entire court running through three screens to get an open layup she made with 1:10 left to cut Echo's lead to two at 28-26. The play was designed to perfectly beat Michael Swanson's defense.



Staff photo by Kathy AneyTaylor Swaggart (22), of Echo, eyes the basket as Stanfield's Yazzmin Chavez (23) defends Tuesday in Echo.

After an Echo turnover, Stanfield had a chance to tie, but the Tigers gave it right back and McCarty made both to put it away.

Stanfield hosts Culver on Friday at 6 p.m. and Echo heads to Powder Valley for a 6 p.m. tip on Friday.

SHS (5-6, 1-1)	10	2	2	12	-	26
EHS (7-8, 1-3)	9	6	7	8	-	30
Stanfield — Y. Chavez 13, B. Braithwaite 5, M. Griffin 2, S. Cornell 2, G. Chavez 2, N. Esquivel 2, A. Lemmon, C. Curriel, A. Carrillo, M. Banderas, C. Hopper.						
Echo — K. Ranger 12, T. Swaggert 6, E. Parks 5, H. McCarty 3, L. Cox 2, L. Wiggins 2, D. Tarvin, S. Stone.						
3-pointers — SHS 1, EHS 3. Free throws — SHS 7-13, EHS 9-19. Fouls — SHS 15, EHS 13.						

PREPS: Ten Buckaroos pitch in for win over Baker

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IHS (5-8, 1-1)	15	18	12	15	-	60
HCHR (2-6, 0-2)	6	4	4	6	-	20
IRRIGON — J. Burns 23, T. Davis 9, B. Aguilera 5, Ramirez 5, Romero 4, Vera 4, McLaughlin 4, Zaccarino 2, Luna 2, Rice, Gale.						
HORIZON CHRISTIAN — Ruiz 6, Finn 5, Becnel 4, Wenz 2, Hicks 2, Carter 1, Stevens, Ryan						
3-pointers — IHS 2, HCHR 0.						

Boys Basketball

PENDLETON 82, BAKER 60 — At Baker, the Pendleton Buckaroos used a complete team effort to put away the Baker Bulldogs on Tuesday night.

Ten players saw action in the game on Tuesday and all ten players scored, led by Caden Smith with 27 points.

All of Smith's 27 points came in the first half, which was a key to getting the Bucks (5-6) going. "We started slow ... an early 6-0 deficit," said Pendleton coach Kyle Tedder. "Then (Caden) heated up and we kept feeding the ball to him and he led the way with 14 points in that quarter."

The Buckaroos next play on Thursday night when they host

La Grande at 7 p.m..

PHS (5-6)	20	29	15	17	-	82
BHS (6-9)	11	15	13	18	-	60
PENDLETON — C. Smith 27, J. Bradt 13, D. Adams 12, M. Foreman 8, J. Stuvland 8, W. Morris 6, J. Peterson 3, R. Russell 2, K. Quinn 2, D. Roe 1.						
BAKER — L. Sand 22, B. Zemer 15, B. Smith 7, D. Villalobos 5, T.J. Dunn 4, Team 3, T. Taylor 2, W. Akers 1, G. Berry 1.						
3-pointers — PHS 10, BHS 4. Free throws — PHS 10-19, BHS 11-24. Fouls — PHS 19, BHS 17.						

SUNNYSIDE 81, HERMISTON 71 — At Sunnyside, Wash., the Hermiston Bulldogs failed to put together its third-straight win, falling on the road to Sunnyside on Tuesday night

in a non-league game.

No details were reported. Hermiston (7-7) finishes up non-league play on Friday when they host La Salle Prep at 7 p.m.

IRRIGON 67, HORIZON CHRISTIAN 35 — At Hood River, the Irrigon Knights finished up its non-league schedule with a blowout win on the road on Tuesday night.

No details were reported. Irrigon (10-4, 2-0 CBC) next plays at Pilot Rock on Friday at 6 p.m.

SCOREBOARD

Correction

Pendleton wrestler Jacob Banks also placed first in the 285 pound bracket at the Riverside Rumble on Saturday, and his name was omitted from Tuesday's story.

Local slate

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL	
Thursday	La Grande at Pendleton, 7 p.m.
Friday	Culver at Stanfield, 4:30 p.m. Weston-McEwen at Heppner, 6 p.m. Irrigon at Pilot Rock, 6 p.m. La Salle Prep at Hermiston, 7 p.m. Vale at Riverside, 7 p.m. Nysa at Umatilla, 7:30 p.m. Helix at Nixyaawii, 7:30 p.m. Echo at Powder Valley, 7:30 p.m. Arlington at lone, 7:30 p.m. South Wasco vs. Condon/Wheeler (at Fossil), 7:30 p.m.
Saturday	Pilot Rock at Weston-McEwen, 3 p.m. Heppner at Culver, 4 p.m. Vale at Umatilla, 4:30 p.m. Nysa at Riverside, 4:30 p.m. Stanfield at Irrigon, 5:30 p.m. Pine Eagle at Nixyaawii, 5:30 p.m. Helix at Joseph, 5:30 p.m. Wallowa at Echo, 5:30 p.m. Horizon Christian at Arlington, 5:30 p.m. Condon/Wheeler at Mitchell/Spray (at Mitchell), 5:30 p.m. lone at Dufur, 5:30 p.m. Mac-Hi at Ontario, 6:30 p.m.
PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL	
Today	Hermiston at Sunnyside (WA), 5:45 p.m. Waitsburg (WA) at Mac-Hi, 6 p.m.

Stanfield at Echo, 6 p.m.	Irrigon at Horizon Christian, 6 p.m.	Pendleton at La Grande, 7 p.m.
Friday	Irrigon at Pilot Rock, 3 p.m.	Nysa at Umatilla, 6 p.m.
Culver at Stanfield, 6 p.m.	Helix at Nixyaawii, 6 p.m.	Echo at Powder Valley, 6 p.m.
Arlington at lone, 6 p.m.	South Wasco vs. Condon/Wheeler, 6 p.m.	Vale at Riverside, 7 p.m.
Weston-McEwen at Heppner, 7:30 p.m.	Saturday	Pilot Rock at Weston-McEwen, 1 p.m.
Heppner at Culver, 2:30 p.m.	Vale at Umatilla, 3 p.m.	Nysa at Riverside, 4 p.m.
Pine Eagle at Nixyaawii, 4 p.m.	Helix at Joseph, 4 p.m.	Wallowa at Echo, 4 p.m.
Horizon Christian at Arlington, 4 p.m.	Condon/Wheeler vs. Mitchell/Spray, 4 p.m.	lone at Dufur, 4 p.m.
Mac-Hi at Ontario, 5 p.m.	Stanfield at Irrigon, 5:30 p.m.	

PREP WRESTLING	
Thursday	Pendleton at Ridgeview, TBD
Friday	Pendleton, Hermiston, Mac-Hi, Riverside, Heppner at Oregon Classic (Redmond), 10 a.m.
Saturday	Pendleton, Hermiston, Mac-Hi, Riverside, Heppner at Oregon Classic (Redmond), 10 a.m.
PREP SWIMMING	
Saturday	Pendleton at Madras, 10 a.m. Hermiston at La Grande, Noon
COLLEGE MEN'S BASKETBALL	

Friday	Oregon Tech at Eastern Oregon, 7:30 p.m.	Big Bend at Blue Mountain, 8 p.m.
Saturday	Spokane at Blue Mountain, 4 p.m.	Southern Oregon at Eastern Oregon, 7:30 p.m.

COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL	
Friday	Oregon Tech at Eastern Oregon, 5:30 p.m.
Saturday	Spokane at Blue Mountain, 2 p.m.
NBA	Southern Oregon at Eastern Oregon, 5:30 p.m.

Football

NFL	Divisional Playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 16	Kansas City at New England, 1:35 (CBS)
Sunday, Jan. 17	Seattle at Carolina, 10:05 a.m. (FOX)
NBA	Pittsburgh at Denver, 1:30 p.m. (CBS)

NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL TOP 25	
Tuesday	1. Kansas (14-2) lost to No. 11 West Virginia 74-63. Next: vs. TCU, Saturday.
	3. Maryland (15-2) lost to Michigan 70-67. Next: vs. Ohio State, Saturday.
	7. Xavier (15-1) beat DePaul 84-64. Next: at Marquette, Saturday.
	8. Miami (13-2) lost to No. 13 Virginia 66-58. Next: at Clemson, Saturday.
	11. West Virginia (15-1) beat No. 1 Kansas 74-63. Next: at No. 2 Oklahoma, Saturday.
	12. Providence (15-2) beat Creighton 50-48. Next: vs. Seton Hall, Saturday.
	13. Virginia (13-3) beat No. 8 Miami 66-58.

Next: at Florida State, Sunday.
14. Kentucky (13-3) beat Mississippi State 80-74. Next: at Auburn, Saturday.
15. Texas A&M (14-2) beat Florida 71-68. Next: at Georgia, Saturday.
17. Iowa State (12-4) lost to Texas 94-91, OT. Next: at Kansas State, Saturday.

Tuesday's Games	
Indiana 116, Phoenix 97	San Antonio 109, Detroit 99
New York 120, Boston 114	Oklahoma City 101, Minnesota 96
Milwaukee 106, Chicago 101	Houston 107, Memphis 91
Cleveland 110, Dallas 107, OT	L.A. Lakers 95, New Orleans 91
Today's Games	Milwaukee at Washington, 4 p.m.
	Atlanta at Charlotte, 4 p.m.
	New York at Brooklyn, 4:30 p.m.
	Minnesota at Houston, 5 p.m.
	Dallas at Oklahoma City, 5 p.m.
	Indiana at Boston, 5 p.m.
	Golden State at Denver, 6 p.m.
	New Orleans at Sacramento, 7 p.m.
	Utah at Portland, 7 p.m.
	Miami at L.A. Clippers, 7:30 p.m.

Hockey

Tuesday's Games	
N.Y. Islanders 5, Columbus 2	Carolina 3, Pittsburgh 2, OT
St. Louis 5, New Jersey 2	Buffalo 3, Minnesota 2
San Jose 4, Winnipeg 1	Chicago 3, Nashville 2
Tampa Bay 4, Colorado 0	Arizona 4, Edmonton 3, OT