

# NASCAR chairman dismisses reports of possible sale

*Associated Press*

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — NASCAR Chairman Brian France insisted Wednesday that his family is dedicated to its racing properties despite a report the business is for sale.

France was asked on SiriusXM NASCAR Radio about a potential sale of NASCAR. Reuters reported in May the France family was exploring a sale of NASCAR’s sanctioning body. Forbes last month said the France family was seeking only minority investors.

Both reports cited unidentified sources, and France referred to them as “rumors.”

“The France family is locked and loaded in its dedication to NASCAR,” France said. “We’re focused on ruling and managing NASCAR. There’s nothing to report on that. Rumors

are always interesting, but they’re seldom right.”

France has not made himself available to reporters since the Reuters report. He occasionally calls unprompted into one of Sirius’ NASCAR shows and his brief segment Wednesday covered several topics pertaining to the series his grandfather founded.

Brian France is the CEO and chairman of NASCAR. Jim France, his uncle, and Lesa France Kennedy, his sister, are executive vice presidents. France Kennedy is also the CEO of International Speedway Corp., and Jim France is the chairman. ISC owns 13 of the tracks on which NASCAR hosts 19 major racing events.

Jim France also heads IMSA, the sports car series, and was instrumental in NASCAR’s recent acquisition of ARCA, a low-level stock car series.



AP Photo/Mary Schwalm

**Aric Almirola (10) races ahead of Paul Menard, top left, and Kevin Harvick during the NASCAR Cup Series auto race Sunday, July 22, 2018, at New Hampshire Motor Speedway in Loudon, N.H.**

France used a portion of his call to Sirius to laud both IMSA and his uncle’s vision.

“I think we’re the best road racing show in town,” France said. “I will tell you that road racing in general is more popular than ever. IMSA, our brand of road racing that we’ve been trying to do for a number of years, is more popular than ever, more manufacturers are participating and I’m excited about it. My uncle has done an incredible job. He’s put his heart and soul into this thing and it pays off.”

France said he doubted NASCAR will entertain Tony Stewart’s push to add either a Cup or Xfinity Series race to Eldora Speedway, the dirt track in Ohio owned by the retired NASCAR star. Eldora currently hosts a popular Truck Series event, but Stewart wants more NASCAR action.

## PAC-12: OSU’s Smith has tough task

Continued from 1B

Oregon coach Mario Cristobal said Wednesday at Pac-12 media day in Hollywood.

“Football is cyclical,” Cristobal added. “Sometimes conferences run into that when you have a good number of coaches that are new in the conference. I look at the level and their pedigree and where they’ve been and what they’ve done, and you’re looking at competitive guys that know how to bring it and want to establish championship programs.”

The new blood could energize struggling programs and alter the league hierarchy — or it could clear the way for Washington, Southern California and Stanford to continue to dominate their less-experienced foes.

While Kelly got the most attention Wednesday in his return to the Pac-12 after a remarkable tenure at Oregon, many coaches and players speculated that Sumlin’s Wildcats could have the quickest opportunity for success among the newcomers.

But most coaches are hoping the moves will raise

the overall level of play in the Pac-12, creating a higher standard that could translate into the postseason and the national title race after the league’s disappointing performance last winter.

“I think it’s an impressive group of coaches in their records and track records of winning games, championships (and) developing players,” said Smith, who left Chris Petersen’s staff at Washington to take over his alma mater. “I think we’ve got some great personalities that can sell this conference, because there is a bunch of good coaches right now in this league to make it competitive. I’m just excited to be a part of it.”

Kelly, Sumlin and Edwards are all taking over programs with measures of stability in recent seasons, even if the three schools didn’t pile up enough wins to satisfy boosters.

Smith has a tougher task in restarting the Beavers after the abrupt exit of Gary Andersen last season — and Cristobal is Oregon’s third head coach in three seasons, following the firing of Mark Helfrich and the one-season tenure of Willie Taggart.

“I think all five guys new to the conference are tre-

mendous football coaches,” said Kyle Whittingham, who’s heading into his 14th season at Utah. “I think there are just a bunch of great coaches in this league, and that’s something that will enhance the league. But it still boils down to players. Players are what it’s all about. I’m more interested in what players are on which teams rather than who is coaching them.”

Some of the new coaches are more fortunate than others in those inherited rosters. For instance, Kelly has only eight seniors at UCLA, and he lost star quarterback Josh Rosen to the Arizona Cardinals.

“We didn’t have a lot of guys in spring ball,” Kelly said. “There’s going to be some guys playing for us who just showed up.”

Cristobal and Sumlin are grateful to inherit two of the Pac-12’s eight returning starting quarterbacks. Oregon’s Justin Herbert and Arizona’s Khalil Tate provide a measure of security for their new bosses.

“It didn’t hurt, let’s put it that way,” Sumlin said with a grin when asked how Tate’s presence affected his decision to move to Tucson.

## MARINERS: Healy adds his 21st HR

Continued from 1B

Seattle is in the midst of an offensive swoon, scoring three runs or fewer in 11 of the past 14 games. Trying to rediscover the offense of May and June has been a struggle, both going into and coming out of the All-Star break, which puts more an emphasis on winning games like Wednesday.

Segura had a first-inning sacrifice fly and two of Seattle’s three RBIs. Ryon Healy added his 21st home run, a solo shot in the second inning.

“You go through these stretches during the course of the season. It’s tough,” Seattle manager Scott Servais said. “It’s not like these guys aren’t trying or trying to make adjustments or whatnot. It’s just the ball-games we’re playing in right now. We’ve got to get it going offensively.”

Managing a lagging offense is easier when Seattle gets the kind of pitching it received from starter Mike Leake and Edwin Diaz closing it out. Leake pitched into the seventh before giving way to the bullpen. Alex Colome (3-5) pitched the eighth inning and Diaz struck out the side

in the ninth for his league-best 38th save in 41 chances. Leake cruised through the first five innings on just 51 pitches and one hit allowed. San Francisco threatened in the sixth thanks to an error on Hunter Pence’s groundball and a single by Nick Hundley to open the inning. The runners advanced to second and third with one out, but Leake responded with his first two strikeouts. He got Alen Hanson swinging over a slider before watching Andrew McCutchen miss swinging at a cutter.

San Francisco got to Leake an inning later when Brandon Crawford’s bloopier fell in for a double off the sliding glove of Denard Span in left to score pinch-runner Chase d’Arnaud. Hunter Pence followed with a two-out broken-bat single off reliever Juan Nicasio to score Crawford with the tying run.

“We just have to get this offense clicking and moving,” San Francisco manager Bruce Bochy said. “They’re fighting. We’ve been down almost every game and they’re coming back to tie it and take the lead. That is such a great sign of how hard they are fighting. We just couldn’t put it away.”

## Mariners acknowledge harassment allegations against team executive

SEATTLE (AP) — The Seattle Mariners say they have “made amends” with former female employees who made allegations of harassment against current team president and CEO Kevin Mather.

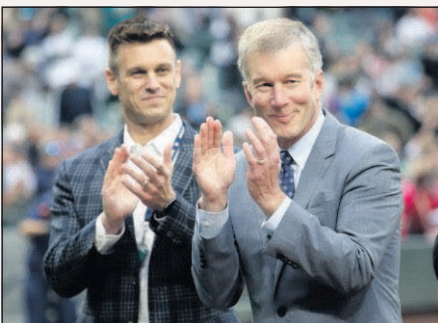
The club issued statements from majority owner John Stanton and Mather on Wednesday. Stanton said two female employees complained more than 10 years ago of inappropriate language and treatment by executives. Stanton said an outside expert conducted an investigation and “we imposed appropriate discipline, management and sensitivity training, and other corrective actions.”

The statements were in response to a story published by *The Seattle Times* detailing some of the allegations against Mather and two other former executives.

The newspaper reported the club had made settlement payments of about \$500,000 to two former female executive assistants, including one who worked for Mather and another who worked for then-Executive Vice President Bob Aylward. The newspaper also reported that there was another settlement with a third woman, who said she felt pressured to kiss then-team President Chuck Armstrong.

Aylward and Armstrong declined to comment. Both had already retired from their formal roles.

The Mariners didn’t deny but also didn’t specifically address the settlements in question. Instead, the organization’s lawyer, Fred Rivera, issued a written statement noting broadly that the



AP Photo/Elaine Thompson

**Seattle Mariners President Kevin Mather, right, allegedly harassed former female team employees.**

team on rare occasions has “made financial compensation to employees and exacted financial compensation from employees to remedy” violations.

Mather said it was a humbling experience for him to “confront some unpleasant realities” about himself. He took responsibility for his actions and apologized for his behavior that he described as intimidating, mean and inappropriate in the workplace.

“I was grateful for the opportunity to change my behavior and the management training I received,” Mather said in the club’s statement.

The Mariners also praised Mather, saying that they took the issue into consideration when deciding to promote him to president in 2014 and to chief executive in 2017.

The statement said: “Kevin learned from the experience and has since been an outstanding manager and executive.

## UW picked by media to win PAC-12

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Washington is the overwhelming favorite to win the Pac-12 in the annual preseason poll of media members, receiving 37 of 43 votes.

The Huskies and defending Pac-12 champion Southern California were picked to win their respective league divisions in the poll released before Pac-12 media day in Hollywood.

Washington’s returning talent and sustained excellence in the conference are obvious reasons to make it the big favorite heading into fall. Two seasons after their run to the College Football Playoff, the Huskies are led again by veteran quarterback Jake Browning and running back Myles Gaskin.

Stanford was picked second behind Washington in the Pac-12 North, followed by Oregon, California, Washington State and Oregon State.

Defending league champion USC edged Utah as the Pac-12 South favorite, getting 22 first-place votes and 225 total points to the Utes’ 14 first-place votes and 209 points.



AP Photo/Jae C. Hong

**Washington senior quarterback Jake Browning is a big reason why the Huskies are Pac-12 favorites.**

Arizona and new coach Kevin Sumlin were picked third in the South, followed by UCLA, Colorado and Arizona State. Every team except the Sun Devils got at least one first-place vote in the South, reflecting the lack of an overwhelming favorite with the powerhouse Trojans still figuring out who will succeed New York Jets rookie Sam Darnold at quarterback.

## SCOREBOARD

### Baseball

| MLB                                 |    |    |      |     |
|-------------------------------------|----|----|------|-----|
| AMERICAN LEAGUE                     |    |    |      |     |
| East Division                       |    |    |      |     |
|                                     | W  | L  | Pct  | GB  |
| Boston                              | 71 | 32 | .689 | —   |
| New York                            | 64 | 36 | .640 | 5½  |
| Tampa Bay                           | 52 | 50 | .510 | 18½ |
| Toronto                             | 46 | 55 | .455 | 24  |
| Baltimore                           | 29 | 73 | .284 | 41½ |
| Central Division                    |    |    |      |     |
|                                     | W  | L  | Pct  | GB  |
| Cleveland                           | 55 | 46 | .545 | —   |
| Minnesota                           | 47 | 53 | .470 | 7½  |
| Detroit                             | 44 | 60 | .423 | 12½ |
| Chicago                             | 36 | 65 | .356 | 19  |
| Kansas City                         | 31 | 70 | .307 | 24  |
| West Division                       |    |    |      |     |
|                                     | W  | L  | Pct  | GB  |
| Houston                             | 67 | 37 | .644 | —   |
| Seattle                             | 61 | 41 | .598 | 5   |
| Oakland                             | 60 | 43 | .583 | 6½  |
| Los Angeles                         | 51 | 52 | .495 | 15½ |
| Texas                               | 42 | 61 | .408 | 24½ |
| Wednesday's Games                   |    |    |      |     |
| Tampa Bay 3, N.Y. Yankees 2         |    |    |      |     |
| Cleveland 4, Pittsburgh 0           |    |    |      |     |
| Detroit 8, Kansas City 4            |    |    |      |     |
| Seattle 3, San Francisco 2          |    |    |      |     |
| Minnesota 12, Toronto 6, 11 innings |    |    |      |     |
| Boston at Baltimore, ppd.           |    |    |      |     |
| Oakland 6, Texas 5                  |    |    |      |     |
| Colorado 3, Houston 2               |    |    |      |     |
| L.A. Angels 11, Chicago White Sox 3 |    |    |      |     |
| Thursday's Games                    |    |    |      |     |

| Chicago White Sox (Covey 4-5) at L.A. Angels (Tropiano 3-5), 1:07 p.m. |    |    |      |     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|----|------|-----|
| Kansas City (Junis 5-10) at N.Y. Yankees (Gray 7-7), 4:05 p.m.         |    |    |      |     |
| Tampa Bay (TBD) at Baltimore (Cobb 2-13), 4:05 p.m.                    |    |    |      |     |
| Minnesota (Gibson 4-7) at Boston (Johnson 1-3), 4:10 p.m.              |    |    |      |     |
| Oakland (Cahill 1-2) at Texas (Colon 5-8), 5:05 p.m.                   |    |    |      |     |
| NATIONAL LEAGUE                                                        |    |    |      |     |
| East Division                                                          |    |    |      |     |
|                                                                        | W  | L  | Pct  | GB  |
| Philadelphia                                                           | 57 | 44 | .564 | —   |
| Atlanta                                                                | 54 | 44 | .551 | 1½  |
| Washington                                                             | 50 | 51 | .495 | 7   |
| Miami                                                                  | 44 | 59 | .427 | 14  |
| New York                                                               | 42 | 57 | .424 | 14  |
| Central Division                                                       |    |    |      |     |
|                                                                        | W  | L  | Pct  | GB  |
| Chicago                                                                | 59 | 42 | .584 | —   |
| Milwaukee                                                              | 58 | 46 | .558 | 2½  |
| Pittsburgh                                                             | 53 | 50 | .515 | 7   |
| St. Louis                                                              | 51 | 51 | .500 | 8½  |
| Cincinnati                                                             | 45 | 57 | .441 | 14½ |
| West Division                                                          |    |    |      |     |
|                                                                        | W  | L  | Pct  | GB  |
| Los Angeles                                                            | 56 | 46 | .549 | —   |
| Arizona                                                                | 56 | 47 | .544 | 1   |
| Colorado                                                               | 54 | 47 | .535 | 1½  |
| San Francisco                                                          | 52 | 51 | .505 | 4½  |
| San Diego                                                              | 42 | 63 | .400 | 15½ |
| Wednesday's Games                                                      |    |    |      |     |
| N.Y. Mets 6, San Diego 4                                               |    |    |      |     |
| Cincinnati 7, St. Louis 3                                              |    |    |      |     |
| Philadelphia 7, L.A. Dodgers 3                                         |    |    |      |     |

| Cleveland 4, Pittsburgh 0                                         |   |   |       |    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|-------|----|
| Washington 7, Milwaukee 3                                         |   |   |       |    |
| Chicago Cubs 2, Arizona 1                                         |   |   |       |    |
| Seattle 3, San Francisco 2                                        |   |   |       |    |
| Colorado 3, Houston 2                                             |   |   |       |    |
| Thursday's Games                                                  |   |   |       |    |
| Arizona (Godley 11-6) at Chicago Cubs (Chatwood 4-5), 11:20 a.m.  |   |   |       |    |
| N.Y. Mets (Matz 4-8) at Pittsburgh (Kingham 5-4), 4:05 p.m.       |   |   |       |    |
| Philadelphia (Suarez 0-0) at Cincinnati (Mahle 7-8), 4:10 p.m.    |   |   |       |    |
| Washington (Strasburg 6-7) at Miami (Straily 4-4), 4:10 p.m.      |   |   |       |    |
| L.A. Dodgers (Hill 3-4) at Atlanta (Sanchez 5-2), 4:35 p.m.       |   |   |       |    |
| Milwaukee (Miley 1-1) at San Francisco (Rodriguez 5-1), 7:15 p.m. |   |   |       |    |
| MLB                                                               |   |   |       |    |
| NORTHWEST LEAGUE                                                  |   |   |       |    |
| Second Half                                                       |   |   |       |    |
| North Division                                                    |   |   |       |    |
|                                                                   | W | L | Pct.  | GB |
| Spokane (Rangers)                                                 | 2 | 0 | 1.000 | —  |
| Vancouver (Blue Jays)                                             | 1 | 1 | .500  | 1  |
| x-Everett (Mariners)                                              | 1 | 1 | .500  | 1  |
| Tri-City (Padres)                                                 | 0 | 2 | .000  | 2  |
| South Division                                                    |   |   |       |    |
|                                                                   | W | L | Pct.  | GB |
| Boise (Rockies)                                                   | 1 | 1 | .500  | —  |
| Salem-Keizer (Giants)                                             | 1 | 1 | .500  | —  |
| Eugene (Cubs)                                                     | 1 | 1 | .500  | —  |
| x-Hillsboro (D-Backs)                                             | 1 | 1 | .500  | —  |
| x-first half winner                                               |   |   |       |    |
| Wednesday's Games                                                 |   |   |       |    |
| Spokane 7, Tri-City 1                                             |   |   |       |    |

| Eugene 4, Salem-Keizer 1           |    |    |   |     |
|------------------------------------|----|----|---|-----|
| Hillsboro 5, Boise 4, 10 innings   |    |    |   |     |
| Everett 6, Vancouver 5, 10 innings |    |    |   |     |
| Thursday's Games                   |    |    |   |     |
| Vancouver at Everett, 11:05 a.m.   |    |    |   |     |
| Tri-City at Spokane, 6:30 p.m.     |    |    |   |     |
| Salem-Keizer at Eugene, 7:05 p.m.  |    |    |   |     |
| Boise at Hillsboro, 7:05 p.m.      |    |    |   |     |
| Soccer                             |    |    |   |     |
| MLS                                |    |    |   |     |
| EASTERN CONFERENCE                 |    |    |   |     |
|                                    | W  | L  | T | Pts |
| Atlanta United FC                  | 13 | 4  | 5 | 44  |
| New York                           | 13 | 5  | 2 | 41  |
| New York City FC                   | 12 | 4  | 4 | 40  |
| Columbus                           | 9  | 7  | 6 | 33  |
| Montreal                           | 9  | 12 | 1 | 28  |
| New England                        | 7  | 7  | 7 | 28  |
| Philadelphia                       | 8  | 10 | 3 | 27  |
| Chicago                            | 6  | 11 | 5 | 23  |
| Orlando City                       | 7  | 12 | 1 | 22  |
| Toronto FC                         | 5  | 11 | 4 | 19  |
| D.C. United                        | 3  | 9  | 5 | 14  |
| WESTERN CONFERENCE                 |    |    |   |     |
|                                    | W  | L  | T | Pts |
| FC Dallas                          | 11 | 3  | 6 | 39  |
| Los Angeles FC                     | 10 | 5  | 5 | 35  |
| Sporting K.C.                      | 9  | 6  | 6 | 33  |
| LA Galaxy                          | 9  | 7  | 4 | 31  |
| Portland                           | 8  | 7  | 3 | 28  |
| Real Salt Lake                     | 9  | 9  | 3 | 30  |
| Minnesota United                   | 9  | 11 | 1 | 28  |
| Houston                            | 7  | 7  | 6 | 27  |
| Vancouver                          | 7  | 9  | 5 | 26  |
| Seattle                            | 6  | 9  | 5 | 23  |

| Colorado                                           |  |  |  |  |
|----------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| San Jose                                           |  |  |  |  |
| NOTE: Three points for victory, one point for tie. |  |  |  |  |
| Wednesday's Games                                  |  |  |  |  |
| New York 1, D.C. United 0                          |  |  |  |  |
| Philadelphia 3, Houston 1                          |  |  |  |  |
| Seattle 1, San Jose 0                              |  |  |  |  |
| Thursday's Games                                   |  |  |  |  |
| New York City FC at Orlando City, 5 p.m.           |  |  |  |  |
| LA Galaxy at Los Angeles FC, 7:30 p.m.             |  |  |  |  |
| Saturday's Games                                   |  |  |  |  |
| Atlanta United FC at Montreal, 4 p.m.              |  |  |  |  |
| Chicago at Toronto FC, 4 p.m.                      |  |  |  |  |
| Columbus at New York, 4 p.m.                       |  |  |  |  |
| Colorado at D.C. United, 5 p.m.                    |  |  |  |  |
| FC Dallas at Sporting Kansas City, 5:30 p.m.       |  |  |  |  |
| Houston at Portland, 6 p.m.                        |  |  |  |  |
| Minnesota United at Vancouver, 7 p.m.              |  |  |  |  |
| Real Salt Lake at San Jose, 7:30 p.m.              |  |  |  |  |
| Sunday's Games                                     |  |  |  |  |
| New York City FC at Seattle, 2 p.m.                |  |  |  |  |
| Orlando City at LA Galaxy, 6:30 p.m.               |  |  |  |  |

(Golf Channel); 12-3 p.m. (CBS Sports).  
Defending champion: Jhonattan Vegas.  
FedEx Cup leader: Dustin Johnson.  
Last week: Francesco Molinari won the British Open and Troy Merritt won the Barbasol Championship.

**LPGA TOUR**

**Upcoming Schedule**

**LADIES SCOTTISH OPEN**  
Site: Gullane, Scotland.  
Course: Gullane GC. Yardage: 6,390. Par: 72.  
Purse: \$1.5 million. Winner's share: \$225,000.  
Television: Thursday-Sunday, 6:30-8:30 a.m. (Golf Channel); Saturday-Sunday, 12-3 p.m. (Golf Channel-tape delay).  
Defending champion: Mi Hyang Lee.  
Race to CME Globe leader: Ariya Jutanugarn.

**Auto Racing**

**NASCAR CUP SERIES**

**Upcoming Schedule**

**GANDER OUTDOORS 400**  
Site: Long Pond, Pennsylvania.  
Schedule: Saturday, practice, 6 & 8:40 a.m. (CNBC), qualifying, 1:10 p.m. (NBCSN).  
Sunday, race, 11:30 a.m., NBCSN.  
Track: Pocono Raceway (oval, 2.5 miles).  
Race distance: 400 miles, 160 laps.