

Russia's anti-doping agency reinstated

By EDDIE PELLIS
AP National Writer

The World Anti-Doping Agency declared Russia's scandal-ridden drug-fighting operation back in business Thursday, a decision designed to bring a close to one of sports' most notorious doping scandals but one bitterly disputed by hundreds of athletes and described as "treachery" by the lawyer for the man who exposed the corruption.

On a 9-2 vote, the executive committee took the advice of the agency's compliance review panel and declared RUSADA as having satisfied conditions of reinstatement that were gradually softened over the summer.

In most tangible ways, the decision doesn't change much: RUSADA has been up and running for a while, bringing one of the world's largest testing programs back on line with the help of officials from Britain and elsewhere. And Russia's Olympic committee was brought back into the fold after the Pyeongchang Olympics, where athletes who could prove they were clean were able to compete as "Olympic Athletes from Russia."

But RUSADA's reinstatement, after nearly a three-year suspension, now clears the country to again bid for major international events — although soccer's World Cup was held there this summer despite that restriction.

It also clears a major hurdle for Russia's track team to be declared compliant by that sport's international governing body (IAAF) — one of the few to take a strong, consistent stand against the doping — though IAAF released a statement saying there were other milestones still unmet and its next update isn't due until December.



AP Photo/Ron Schwane

WON, WON AND WON!

Browns beat Jets for first win since 2016

By TOM WITHERS
AP Sports Writer

CLEVELAND (AP) — For the first time in 635 days, the Cleveland Browns found a way to win.

Baker Mayfield showed them how. The No. 1 overall pick replaced injured starter Tyrod Taylor and sparked the Browns, who got two 1-yard touchdown runs from Carlos Hyde and beat the New York Jets 21-17 on Thursday night for their first win since Dec. 24, 2016.

And so ends Cleveland's 19-game winless streak, the NFL's second-longest

since the 1970 AFL-NFL merger.

The Browns (1-1-1) trailed 14-0 in the first half before Mayfield came in for Taylor and led four scoring drives while winning an unexpected matchup against Jets rookie quarterback Sam Darnold. Cleveland passed on taking Darnold in the draft and instead chose Mayfield, the Heisman Trophy winner from Oklahoma.

Mayfield finished 17 of 23 for 201 yards in a little more than a half after coming in after Taylor suffered a concussion.

Darnold had one last chance, but was intercepted by Terrence Mitchell with 11 seconds left.

PAC-12: Stanford at Oregon is game of week

Continued from 1B

nation. The Ducks have allowed just 1.96 yards per carry.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Stanford: Love. The Heisman finalist sat out of Stanford's victory last weekend over UC Davis with an unspecified injury. The week before he ran for 136 yards and a touchdown in the team's 17-3 victory at home over USC. In the past two meetings against the Ducks, he has 220 yards and averaged 10.4 per carry.

Oregon: Herbert. The junior has been mentioned as a preseason Heisman candidate and has thrown at least three touchdowns in each of the Ducks' first three games. Oregon is averaging 42.9 points

when Herbert plays.

FACTS & FIGURES

Oregon has had a four-game home stand to open the season. ... The Ducks have won 10 of their last 13 at home against opponents ranked in the top 10.

... The last time the two teams met Stanford won 49-7 in Palo Alto. ... Twelve different Ducks have scored an offensive touchdown this season, best in the nation.

... Stanford has allowed just 23 points and two touchdowns in its first three games.

... Both teams are among 35 at the FBS level without a loss. ... JJ Arcega-White has five TD receptions for the Cardinal through three games, ranking him third in the nation. It's also the most for a Stanford receiver in 20 years.

Slumping USC faces Friday showdown with high-octane Cougars

By GREG BEACHAM
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Slow starts and early-season upset losses are all-too-familiar occurrences for Southern California in recent years.

A September showdown with dangerous Washington State on a short week seems awfully familiar, too.

When the Cougars (3-0) visit the Coliseum on Friday night, the Trojans (1-2, 0-1 Pac-12) realize they're playing for more than their first conference victory and a chance to avoid their first three-game losing streak in a single season since 2012. Just three games into their first year after winning the Pac-12, the Trojans already need a win to counter mounting criticism of coach Clay Helton and a struggling offense.

"We've been here before," running back Aca'Cedric Ware said. "We've just got to keep going. We can't let that start, this 1-2 start bother us. We've just got to keep getting better, keep going."

Ware is referring to 2016, when the Trojans started 1-3 before Sam Darnold took over and led them to the Rose Bowl. His thoughts also apply to last season's meeting with the Cougars, who welcomed the unbeaten Trojans to Pullman on a Friday night and then gritted out a 30-27 upset victory.

This time it's the Cougars who are unbeaten, albeit against a modest nonconference schedule of Wyoming, San Jose State and Eastern Washington. The Cougars' Pac-12 play opens with a quantum leap forward in competition, but coach Mike Leach's players already know they can play with the Trojans.

"I'm glad we are 3-0," Leach said. "I think we have to improve, and I think we

SPORT



Wash. State Cougars
(3-0)



USC Trojans
(1-2)

Today, 7:30 p.m., on ESPN L.A. Memorial Coliseum

have to improve a lot this week, quickly."

USC quarterback J.T. Daniels has spent much of the past two games playing catch-up after the Trojans fell behind at Stanford and Texas. The freshman is eager to play a game that will show the full range of his offense's abilities when the Trojans host their first Friday night home game since 1999, before he was born.

"We are very close," Daniels said. "There's a lot of things that when we watch film, we're really annoyed about and upset. If only that one guy did that one thing on that one play, you know."

BIG ARM

The Trojans are impressed with Gardner Minschew, the graduate transfer quarterback who has seamlessly taken over for Pac-12 career passing leader Luke Falk. Minschew leads the nation with 401 yards passing per game while completing 70.9 percent of his throws. "Looks the same," USC defensive coordinator Clancy Pendergast said. "For them to get a guy like that to come in and execute that offense in three games, he's very, very impressive. The ball is out quick. He sees the field well. He looks to his first, second, third progressions probably as good as any quarterback that Coach Leach has had that I've seen. He's very impressive."

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