WADA’s annual violations report:
are we winning or losing?

Lane One

WORLD ANTI-DOPING AGENCY
play true

Policing international sport isn’t easy, but with all the attention given to WADA, are we winning or losing the fight?

Canada vs. USA for this World Champs trophy

John Shuster leads U.S. to the medal round, and to PyeongChang!

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The World Anti-Doping Agency released its third annual “Anti-Doping Rule Violations” Report, covering the calendar year 2015, with 2,522 problem cases and 1,649 sanctions.

Is that good or bad?

The statistics and explanations fill 61 pages, but the central question of whether the fight against doping is being won or lost is not discussed anywhere in the report.

So let’s take a look and see.

One of the elements missing from the report altogether is a listing of how many tests were carried out in prior years, so let’s start there:

- **2013:** 207,513 samples taken 1,953 violations 1,687 analytical 266 non-analytical
- **2014:** 217,762 1,693 1,462 231
- **2015:** 229,412 1,929 1,649 280

These statistics are for the total number of samples taken (not the number of athletes tested, as many athletes were tested more than once), the total number of verified violations (of any kind) and the number from analytical testing (blood or urine) or evidence-based tests based on investigations. On a percentage basis, the number of violations based on testing has varied only a little:

- **2013:** 0.81% 1,687 testing violations out of 207,513 samples taken
- **2014:** 0.67% 1,462 out of 217,762
- **2015:** 0.72% 1,649 out of 229,412

So, in three years, we can see that for all the excitement about “clean sport,” we have witnessed:

- A 10.5% increase in the number of tests between 2013 and 2015;
- Fewer total violations in 2015 than in 2013;
- After a dip in 2014, about the same number of violations of both types in 2013 and 2015.

In other words, if there is any progress, it is modest at best.

Let’s compare the sports and countries with the most violations:
• 2013: Top sports: 1. Athletics, 293  
   2. Weightlifting, 287  
   3. Cycling, 278  
   4. Bodybuilding, 179  
   5. Football, 140  
Top offenders: 1. Russia, 225  
   2. Turkey, 188  
   3. France, 108  
   4. India, 95  
   5. Belgium, 94

• 2014:  
   1. Athletics, 248  
   2. Bodybuilding, 225  
   3. Cycling, 168  
   4. Weightlifting, 143  
   5. Powerlifting, 116  
   1. Russia, 148  
   2. Italy, 123  
   3. India, 96  
   4. Belgium and France, 91

• 2015:  
   1. Bodybuilding, 270  
   2. Athletics, 242  
   3. Weightlifting, 239  
   4. Cycling, 200  
   5. Powerlifting, 110  
   1. Russia, 176  
   2. Italy, 129  
   3. India, 117  
   4. France, 84  
   5. Belgium, 67

(What about the U.S.? The reports show 43 total violations in 2013, 27 in 2014 and 50 in 2015, mostly due to more positives in cycling and weightlifting.)

Finally, which countries are doing the most testing?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Violations</th>
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<td>Russia</td>
<td>14,582</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>China</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Italy</td>
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<td>2014</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>13,180</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>12,556</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>9,073</td>
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<td>7,434</td>
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<td></td>
<td>USA</td>
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<td>2015</td>
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<td>13,802</td>
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<td>Germany</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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</table>

So, what does all this tell us? That for all the bravado about the fight against doping, there has been very little progress. The number of tests, the top sports for doping and the top national offenders remain about the same.

In a corporate environment, this would be called stagnation and substantial pressures would be felt from internal and external sources to improve performance. How much pressure is being applied to WADA and to the national anti-doping agencies of not just Russia, but Italy, India, France and Belgium, four countries who with Russia have been in the top five the past two years?

The clear worldwide leader against doping is Germany, which has had total violations of 29-20-31 over the three years and whose anti-doping agency has increased its tests by nearly 76% during the same period. Maybe something can be learned from them?

Could it be they take the issue seriously? It’s clear that not everyone does and that’s a good place to start.

Rich Perelman
Editor
The U.S., undefeated thus far in the tournament at 4-0, pummeled the surprise team of the tournament – Germany – 11-0 on Thursday to land in the final and try to extend the American gold-medal streak at the World Championships to four. Nicole Hensley recorded her second shutout of the tournament for the U.S.

Canada had some trouble on the way, losing to the U.S. and Finland in group play, but they were much better last night with a 4-0 shutout of the Finns. Sarah Potomak tipped home a rebound to give Canada a 1-0 lead, extended to 3-0 in the second period and one third-period goal made the final, 4-0.

The last five World Championship finals have been close, all within two goals. The U.S. won last year, 1-0 in overtime on an Alex Carpenter goal after 12 and a half minutes extra minutes, and thanks to a shutout from Alex Rigsby.

With one game to go, Brianna Decker of the U.S. took over the tournament scoring lead, 10-9, over teammate Kendall Coyne, who has the most goals (5), including two against Germany. Finland’s Susana Tapani has eight points for third. In the classification game on Friday, Russia defeated Sweden, 4-3, to finish fifth overall.

Today’s games include the bronze-medal match between Germany and Finland at 3:30 p.m. Eastern time and the goal-medal match at 7:30 p.m. Eastern. The U.S. tournament games are being shown on the NHL Network (live or delayed) and live online at NHL.com.
2.

Curling:
Shuster pilots red-hot U.S. into medal round at Worlds

Ford Men’s World Curling Championship:
Edmonton (CAN) ~ 01-09 April 2017.

After a 1-2 start, things had to get better quickly for the U.S. quartet skipped by John Shuster.

They did and by winning seven of their last eight games, the Americans not only advanced to the Ford Men’s World Championships medal-round playoffs against Switzerland, but also clinched a spot for the U.S. in the 2018 Olympic Winter Games in PyeongChang.

With an 8-3 round-robin mark, the U.S. finished fourth, behind Canada (11-0), Sweden (9-2) and the Swiss (8-3). Canada and Sweden will play tomorrow (7 p.m.) and the U.S. and Swiss will play Saturday (2 p.m.). Then:

- The winner of the Canada-Sweden game advances to the gold-medal final.
- The winner of the Switzerland-U.S. game plays the Canada-Sweden loser, with the winner of that game moving on to the gold-medal match.
- The losers of the Switzerland-U.S. match and of the game above play for the bronze medal.

The U.S., with Shuster, won the bronze medal last year over Japan. The American results so far in the 2017 Championships:

- 01 April: Russia (won, 9-2) and Switzerland (lost, 7-4)
- 02 April: Scotland (lost, 9-4)
- 03 April: Italy (won, 8-6) and Canada (lost, 8-2)
- 04 April: Norway (won, 9-3) and Japan (won, 7-6)
- 05 April: Germany (won, 8-5) and China (won, 8-2)
- 06 April: Netherlands (won, 6-5) and Sweden (won, 7-3)

Skip Brad Gushue of Canada has the only undefeated team left, but Sweden’s Niklas Edin was actually ranked first (ahead of Gushue) in the World Curling Tour coming into the tournament. Not any more; Gushue is back on top, with Edin fifth and Shuster up from 25th to 16th (so far).

The worlds will be extensively shown on NBCSN, Universal HS and online: the schedule is here. For more details, including game-by-game scoresheets, click here.
Women’s friendly: Russia @ United States  
Frisco, Texas (USA) ~ 06 April 2017.

The U.S. women’s national team lost its last two games coming into last night’s friendly against Russia in Frisco, Texas, but was already on a winning streak.

The players and U.S. Soccer reached agreement on a five-year labor agreement earlier in the week that will last through the 2019 World Cup and 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo, settling that issue before play started at Toyota Stadium.

The American squad, still ranked second in the world, crushed Russia, 4-0, with three first-half goals and many near-misses in the second half. Crystal Dunn scored in the 10th minute on an assist from Carli Lloyd and Allie Long followed up eight minutes later on a header off a corner kick from Rose Lavelle.

Dunn scored against before halftime (41st minute) and Long added the last goal in the 70th minute. Goalie Alyssa Naeher collected her eighth shutout, but didn’t have much to do as the U.S. outshot Russia, 33-5.

Lavelle dazzled spectators and the television audience with her dribbling, runs and passing that created chance after chance for the U.S. In only her third match for the U.S. national squad, she brought life to the U.S. attack and will be a player to watch – along with Mallory Pugh – into the future.

The U.S. women improved to 8-0-1 against Russia. The next match will be on Sunday, April 9 in Houston, televised on ESPN beginning at 1 p.m. Central time.

• Scene & Heard •  
News from the worldwide circus of sport

Anti-Doping

The International Olympic Committee announced three athletes were disqualified from the 2008 and 2012 Olympic Games and must return their medals and diplomas. They include:

- 2008: Artur Taymazov (UZB): Gold in Men’s Freestyle Wrestling -120 kg class; Vasyl Fedoryshyn (UKR), Silver in Men’s Freestyle Wrestling -60 kg class;
- 2012: Svetlana Tzarukaeva (RUS), Silver in Women’s -63 kg Weightlifting class.

The tally now stands at an astonishing 65 retroactive sanctions (40 medalists) for the 2008 Games and 45 more (20 medalists) for 2012, a total of 110. And the re-testing is not yet completed.

**Athletics**

- Correcting a problem which has been out in the open for years, the IAAF finally re-engineered its Diamond League program to make the final competitions meaningful.

In past seasons – including 2016 – athletes who won many of the early meets could wrap up the seasonal titles and the cash bonuses that came with them before the “final” meets at the Weltklasse im Zurich (SUI) and the Van Damme Memorial (BEL). So there was no reason to go ... and many didn’t.

Now that’s not possible, as the season has been reconfigured to quality athletes to the finals and then decide the titles there. Amazing!

The IAAF explained the details [here](#), but the short version is that in each of the 12 “preliminary” meets, events will be scored 8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1 and the top scorers in each event – seven, eight or 12, depending on the event format – will qualify to that event’s final in Zurich or Brussels.

Each early meet will carry, as in the past, prize money for that meet, now to eight places: $10,000-6,000-4,000-3,000-2,500-2,000-1,500-1,000.

At the two final meets, each Diamond League event championship will be decided with payouts of $50,000-20,000-10,000-6,000-5,000-4,000-3,000-2,000, or $100,000 per event across 32 events or $3.2 million in total.

The Diamond League season gets underway on 05 May in Doha (QAT).

**Basketball**

- FIBA [announced](#) a new continental competition for men’s national teams in 2017 to replace the old FIBA Americas Championship.

The AmeriCup Tournament will be held in cities in Argentina, Colombia and Uruguay from 25 August-03 September with 12 teams involved, including the U.S., Canada, Mexico and Puerto Rico.

Teams will be split into three groups of four and play a round-robin schedule within the group in Bahia Blanca (ARG) or Medellin (COL) or Montevideo (URU). The group winners will advance to Cordoba (ARG) for the final round, at which stage Argentina – as organizer – will join in.
It’s an interesting concept; as it comes just before the collegiate and NBA seasons get going, it will be fascinating to see what kind of team the U.S. will field.

- The women’s FIBA AmeriCup will also take place in Argentina, but only in Argentina from 07-13 August this year, against replacing the old FIBA Americas Championship.

**Football**

- The 2022 FIFA World Cup assigned to Qatar is starting to get some common sense.

Continuously pilloried for human rights violations with regard to labor laws and practices in the country, the stadium authority **announced** that eight stadiums will be used instead of 12. Seven stadia are being built with one being refurbished.

Qatari officials said the total expenditure on preparing for the World Cup will now cost between $8-10 billion (U.S.), a reduction of 40 percent. Its bid proposed 12 stadia, as was used by Brazil in 2014 and is planned for Russia in 2018.

But there is no need for 12 stadiums for the World Cup, with a format of eight groups of four for the 32 teams. It’s about time; good for the Qataris.

**On Deck**

*Previews of upcoming international competitions of note*

*For our detailed calendar of events, click here*

**Badminton**

- The **Celcom Aziata Malaysia Open**, the third of 12 events in the Badminton World Federation’s Metlife World SuperSeries is on in Kuching, with semifinals on Saturday and finals on Sunday.

  - **Men’s Singles:**

    A rematch of the Olympic gold-medal match from Rio is in the works, with gold winner **Long Chen** of China moving through the bracket to face Malaysia’s three-time Olympic silver medalist and defending champion **Chong Wei Lee** once again, in the semifinals. Lurking in the lower half of the bracket is China’s 34-year-old **Dan Lin** – 2008 and 2012 Olympic champ and five-time World Champion.

  - **Men’s Doubles:**
Last week’s winners, Indonesia’s Marcus Fern Gideon and Kevin Sanja Sukamuljo may be heading for a showdown with Rio gold medalists Haifeng Fu and Siwei Zheng of China. Both are in the quarterfinals, on opposite sides of the bracket. For Gideon/Sukamuljo, however, they will have to get by last week’s bronze winners, Jinhui Li and Yuchen Liu, who could make it an all-China final.

- **Women’s Singles:**

Olympic gold medalist Carolina Marin of Spain – second last week – and Japan’s Nozomi Okuhara are in the bottom half of the bracket and could meet in the semis. Korea’s Ji Hyun Sung, a bronze medalist last week, could meet top-seeded Tzu Ying Tai (TPE) for the right to get to the final.

- **Women’s Doubles:**

The two Rio finalists are on a collision course once again. Gold medalists Misaki Matsumoto and Ayaka Takahashi (JPN) are in the quarterfinals, with silver medalists Kamilla Rytter Juhl and Christinna Pedersen (DEN) on the other side of the bracket. The best chance for an upset might in an all-Japan semi, with Matsumoto/Takahashi facing last week’s bronze medalists, Yuki Fukushima and Sayaka Hirota.

- **Mixed Doubles:**

Last week’s final in New Delhi might be replayed in Kuching, as winners and current world no. 1 Kai Lu and Yaqiong Huang of China and Siwei Zheng and Qingchen Chen (CHN) are working their way through the brackets. Lu/Huang will have to deal with Danish veterans Joachim Fischer Nielsen/Christinna Pedersen, while Zheng/Chen will have their hands full with 2016 Olympic gold medalists Tontowi Ahmad/Liliyana Natsir of Indonesia in potential semifinals.

Live scores and video highlights are [here](#).

### Golf

- The first men’s major of the year – The Masters – is underway in Augusta, Georgia with plenty of pomp and ceremony, as always. No need for us to fill you in; watch ESPN or CBS – depending on the round – for full coverage in the U.S.; live scoring and updates are [here](#).

### Gymnastics

- The final World Cup for Artistic Gymnastics for 2017 will be held at the iPro World Cup in London...
(GBR) this weekend, with the top three male and female gymnasts in the three-meet seasonal scoring to receive 25,000, 15,000 or 10,000 Swiss francs (~U.S. $ 24,876-14,925-9,950).

Among the men, Ukraine’s Olympic silver medalist **Oleg Verniaiev** is the prohibitive favorite, having been first and second in the two prior meets for 115 points (scoring 60-55-50-45-40-35-30-25 for eight places). Only China’s **Wei Sun** is close (85, but not competing) with Germany’s **Lukas Dauser** (60) and **Yul Moldauer** of the U.S. (60, but not competing) leading a large group for third. **Bart Deurloo** of the Netherlands has 50 points, third-most among competitors this weekend. Britain’s **Sam Oldham**, a member of the 2012 Olympic bronze medal team, is also entered.

The American entry is **Donnell Whittenburg**, the 2015 U.S. silver medalist in the All-Around and two-time World Championships bronze medalist in the Vault (2014) and Team (2015).

Only two of the top ten women scorers are scheduled to compete: co-leader **Tabea Alt** of Germany, who has 60 points after winning in Stuttgart in March, and Russia’s **Angelina Melnikova** (55, second in Stuttgart). But local fans will be cheering for Britain’s **Amy Tinkler**, who won a Rio bronze in Floor Exercise and **Ellie Downie**, 13th in the All-Around. The U.S. is sending 16-year-old **Victoria Nguyen**, who will make her World Cup debut.

Prize money for this event will also be available to the top eight finishers in the men’s and women’s All-Around, distributed: 12,000-10,000-8,000-6,000-5,500-5,000-4,500-4,000 Swiss francs (55.00 CHF per gender) plus payments of CHF 1,200-1,000-800 to the coaches of the top three placers in each division.

The first of four World Cups in 2017 in Rhythmic Gymnastics will be held in Pesaro (ITA) – the site of this year’s World Championships – with a new set of contenders following retirements of the top stars from Rio.

Russia has dominated the sport, winning the last 10 team titles in the World Championships and the last six individual titles. **Anastasia Bliznyuk**, a member of the 2012 and 2016 Olympic gold-medal Group All-Around, leads the delegation. The new Russian national champion is **Dina Averina**, who will be competing with teammate **Aleksandra Soldatova**, a member of Russia’s 2015 team gold medalists.

Three more standouts from Rio are entered, including **Katsiaryna Halkina** from Belarus (sixth in the Rio All-Around), **Neviana Vladinova** (BUL, seventh) and **Kseniya Moustafaeva** (FRA, 10th).

Rio Olympian **Laura Zeng**, 17, and 16-year-old **Evita Griskenas** will compete for the U.S. The two-time defending U.S. All-Around champ, Zeng finished 11th in the qualifying and missed the final by 0.141 points. She’s the only American to win a medal in FIG Rhythmic World Cup competition, taking two bronzes in the 2016 Minsk World Cup in hoop and ribbon! Griskenas was fourth in the U.S. All-Around championships in 2016 and won individual medals in Ribbon (silver) and Hoop (bronze); she also competed in FIG World Cups in 2016.
The top eight in the All-Around competition will proceed to Saturday’s apparatus finals in Hoop, Ball, Clubs and Ribbon. Prize money will be paid for places 1-8 for the All-Around (CHF 2,000-1,500-1,000 down to 100), each apparatus (CHF 1,000-750-500 down to 100), and for the top three in the Group All-Around (CHF 2,000-1,000-500) and Group Routines (CHF 2,000-1,000-500).

**Judo**

The International Judo Federation World Tour moves to Turkey this week for the Antalya Grand Prix, the fifth edition of a Grand Prix event in that country.

Some 253 competitors from 34 countries are entered, with intriguing potential match-ups in multiple divisions:

- **Men’s -66 kg**: A possible clash of two judokas ranked in the IJF top 10, with third-ranked Tumurkhuleg Davaadorj (MGL) – runner-up in Tbilisi (GEO) last week – and sixth-ranked countryman Altansukh Dovdon.

- **Men’s -100 kg**: The 2013 World Champion, Elkhan Mammadov (AZE), currently ranked sixth worldwide, could face ninth-ranked Soyib Kurbonov (UZB), a Grand Prix winner in Tashkent last season.

- **Men’s +100 kg**: Rio -100 kg gold medalist Lukas Krpalek (CZE) is moving up in weight and is only ranked 58th in the world in the unlimited division. But he will draw considerable attention, especially from top-seed (and world-ranked third) Barna Bor (HUN).

- **Women’s -48 kg**: Rio bronze medalist Otgonsetseg Galbadrakh (KAZ) heads this division, currently ranked third in the world. Her most likely challengers are Israelis Shira Rishony and Noa Minsker, both previous World Tour medalists.

- **Women’s +78 kg**: Another potential top-10 match-up, with sixth-ranked Kayra Sayit of Turkey, runner-up in the Baku Grand Slam earlier this year and seventh-ranked Larisa Ceric (BIH), third in the Dusseldorf Grand Prix in February.

As usual, each weight class carries a prize purse of $3,000-2,000-1,000 for the top three finishers, with 20% of each award reserved for the athlete’s coach. For results as they happen, click here.

**Rugby**

The HSBC World Sevens Series is in Hong Kong this week for both men’s and women’s competitions as the series moves into its final four rounds for men.
The United States Eagles were shaky at the start of the Series, but have moved up to fifth overall (67 points) after second- and fourth-place finishes in Las Vegas and Vancouver. The American squad is the top seed in Pool D, with Argentina (7th place: 57 points), Scotland (8th: 53) and Russia (14th: 18). The U.S. is led in scoring by Madison Hughes (137) and Perry Baker (120), with Baker currently third in tries scored in the Series with 24. You can follow the Hong Kong Round in detail here.

The women’s competition is a Series qualifier for teams which are not currently competing on the tour. The U.S. is part of the current Series and is standing sixth at present after three of six rounds. They will next be in action in Kitakyushu (JPN) from 22-23 April.

**Sport Climbing**

- The 2017 Sport Climbing season opens in Meiringen (SUI) this weekend with a Bouldering competition, on the way to the sport making its Olympic debut in Tokyo in 2020.

Last year’s World Champion Tomoa Narasaki (JPN) will lead the field, facing the winners of the 2014 and 2015 World Cup season – Jan Hojer (GER) and Jong-won Chon (KOR) – plus 2012 World Cup seasonal champ Rustam Gelmanov (RUS).

On the women’s side, British star Shauna Coxsey was cruising through the World Cup season and won the seasonal title before injury kept her out of the World Championships. She will be back in action, but against World Champion Petra Klinger (SUI), 2011-12-13 World Cup champion and twice World Champion Anna Stohr (AUT), plus rising star Megan Mascarenas of the U.S., fourth in the World Championships in 2016.

**Synchronized Swimming**

- The 2017 United States national championships in Synchro take place this weekend in Oro Valley, Arizona, with competitions for 13-15 year-olds, Junior (15-18) and Seniors (15+, in Solo, Duet and Team). The meet program is here.

Five-time national champion and London Olympian (with Mariya Koroleva) Mary Killman and her Lindenwood University teammates swept the 2016 championships:

- **Solo Technical/Free/Aggregate:** Mary Killman
- **Duet Technical/Free/Aggregate:** Mary Killman/Vasilisa Mironova
- **Team Technical/Free/Aggregate:** Lindenwood University (St. Charles, MO)

Killman has, for now, moved on, so we’ll have a new national champ for 2017. To follow the competition, click here for detailed start lists and results.
After a month's rest, the World Triathlon Series resumes with a Sprint – 750 m swim, 20 km bike phase and 5 km run – on Saturday in Gold Coast, Australia, sponsored by Jewel.

The defending champion in this race is Spain’s **Mario Mola**, who was chased home by countryman **Fernando Alarza**. Combined with South Africa’s **Henri Schoeman** – the Rio bronze medalist – the trio won six of the nine World Triathlon Series races in 2016.

The favorite, however, still might be Spain’s **Javier Gomez Noya**, the five-time World Champion and London 2012 Olympic silver medalist, who has 14 World Cup victories on his resume. He will have start no. 1.

Gomez Noya won the first WTS race for 2017 in Abu Dhabi (UAE) in March, 14 seconds clear of Britain’s **Roger Murray** and France’s **Vincent Luis**.

Asked about how he sees this season – at age 34 – Gomez Noya told reporters, “I still enjoy it. I’m still doing well. So why not, what else would I do that’s better than this? I think the races are getting better, the rivalries are becoming stronger, faster, there are more sprint races – that I am not a big fan of – but these young kids are really fast at this kind of different racing. So it’s a challenge for me, I’m older and trying to get faster as well. I still enjoy it.

“This year I want to do ITU World Triathlon Series and also 70.3 worlds and then after that I need to decide if I go for Tokyo [2020 or if I set different goals.”

Murray was asked about the Sprint distance and noted “I think it’s more of a fast-twitch race than an Olympic distance race. So I think the small mistakes become bigger at Olympic distance than Sprint distance, you can make a tiny little mistake in transition when you changing shoes or going out on the bike, or on the run, you can miss the bunch when you start running. I think it’s definitely it features more towards younger guys, as does the team relay, with the natural speed. But obviously the [Commonwealth] Games will be like that, so it will be good to test the course out this weekend.”

**Andrea Hewitt** of New Zealand won the women’s Abu Dhabi race to open the season and told reporters that “I hadn’t been on the top of the podium in a while, so it was nice in the first race of the season too, not knowing how the training had been going over the summer. Going from New Zealand to win in Abu Dhabi was a perfect start.”

Hewitt outleaned 2011 World Champion **Jodie Stimpson** (GBR) to win in Abu Dhabi and this race could be just as close. Stimpson’s been winless on the Series since winning in Abu Dhabi in 2016, a string of nine races. Both Hewitt and Stimpson will be challenged by 2016 Series medalists **Rachel Klamer** (NED) – fourth in Abu Dhabi – and 2014 Asian Games champ **Ai Ueda** (JPN).

The U.S. women, even without Gwen Jorgensen (on maternity), have a strong entry with Rio
Olympians **Katie Zeferes** and Sarah True, plus WTS ‘16 Edmonton winner **Summer Cook**. Zeferes has been training in Australia and is enjoying her time there.

"I feel like when I'm doing my best is when I am appreciating everything around me, so it's something I'm trying to get back to more this year,” she told reporters. “I felt like a lost a little last year. So just enjoying every location that we go too, it just makes training a lot more enjoyable and makes you feel lucky for the life that we get to live.”

As to the American team without Jorgensen, she said “I think it's just based on chasing the best. Gwen set the bar so high and that was the bar, so we are all chasing the bar and just trying to be as good as her. I think that's just what makes the U.S. so good - is we have such a high place to go.”

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**Scoreboard**

**Summaries of major international & U.S. competitions**

**Cycling**

The Tour of the Basque Country – **Vuelta Ciclista al Pais Vasco** as it is known locally – is continuing through northeastern Spain through Sunday.

Spanish riders have dominated this race over time, and have won eight of the last 11. For the 57th running, Spain’s **David de la Cruz** leads by only a second with the decisive stage today.

This fifth, mountainous stage is just 139.8 km in length from Bilbao to Elbar, includes six major climbs and finishes with a rise from 85 m to 580 m (~279 to 1,903 feet!) over the final two climbs before ending in the Arrate Preserve. Ouch!

Given the history of the race, leaders de la Cruz and Slovenia’s **Primož Roglič** will be watching out for former winners like defending champ **Alberto Contador**, **Samuel Sanchez** and star climber **Alejandro Valverde** (second in 2006 and 2010 [later wiped out by a doping ban]). Summaries:

UCI World Tour/Tour of the Basque Country: Spain ~ 03-08 April 2017. (Full results [here](#)).


Stage 5 (139.8 km, mountains): Friday.

Stage 6: 27.7 km, time trial): Saturday.
# Agenda:
## Competition Calendar

Highlights of the top-level (Championships ~ Grand Prix ~ World Cup ~ National Teams) competitions in Olympic sports for the coming weeks:

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<td>AUS</td>
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### 09-15 April 2017

| Cycling     | 09 Apr        | MWT: Paris-Roubaix                                | FRA        |
| Football    | 09 Apr        | USA Women vs. Russia                               | USA        |
| Badminton   | 11-16 Apr     | OUE Singapore Open                                | SIN        |
| Curling     | 11-16 Apr     | M&W World Tour: Westjet Players Champ             | CAN        |
| Cycling     | 12-16 Apr     | UCI World Track Championships                     | HKG        |
| Diving      | 12-15 Apr     | U.S. National Synchro Championships               | USA        |
| Ice Hockey  | 13-23 Apr     | IIHF Men's U-18 World Championships               | SVK        |
| Swimming    | 13-15 Apr     | Arena Pro Swim Series 3                           | USA        |
| Karate      | 14-16 Apr     | WKF Karate 1 Premier League 4                     | MAR        |
| Beach Vlybl | 15-16 Apr     | World Tour 1-star                                 | MAS        |
| Rugby       | 15-16 Apr     | Men's HSBC Sevens Series Rd 8                     | SIN        |

### 16-22 April 2017

| Cycling     | 16 Apr        | MWT/WWT: Amstel Gold Race                         | NED        |
| Athletics   | 17 Apr        | World Marathon Major: Boston                      | USA        |
| Table Tennis| 18-23 Apr     | ITTF World Tour 4: Korea Open                     | KOR        |
| Curling     | 19-22 Apr     | M&W World Tour: European Masters                  | SUI        |
| Cycling     | 19 Apr        | WWT: La Fleche Wallonne Feminine                  | BEL        |
| Cycling     | 19 Apr        | MWT: La Fleche Wallonne                           | BEL        |
| Equestrian  | 19-23 Apr     | Dressage World Cup CDI-W                          | BLR        |
| Beach Vlybl | 20-23 Apr     | World Tour 3-star                                 | CHN        |
| Figure Skate| 20-23 Apr     | ISU World Team Trophy                             | JPN        |

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Diving  21-23 Apr  NVC Diving World Series 4  CAN  Windsor
Football  21 Apr-07  CONCACAF Men’s U-17 Championship  PAN  Panama
Gymnastics  21-23 Apr  Rhythmic World Cup 2  UZB  Tashkent
Athletics  22-23 Apr  World Relays  BAH  Nassau
Curling  22-29 Apr  World Mixed Doubles Championships  CAN  Lethbridge
Rugby  22-23 Apr  Women’s HSBC Sevens Series Rd 4  JPN  Kitakyushu
Sport Climb  22-23 Apr  World Cup: Bouldering/Speed  CHN  Chongqing
Synchro.  22-24 Apr  Synchro World Series 2: China Open  CHN  Taiyuan

23-30 April 2017

Athletics  23 Apr  World Marathon Major: London  GBR  London
Cycling  23 Apr  MWT: Liege-Bastogne-Liege  BEL  Liege
Cycling  23 Apr  WWT: Liege-Bastogne-Liege Femmes  BEL  Liege
Sailing  23-30 Apr  Sailing World Cup II  FRA  Hyeres
Badminton  25-30 Apr  Pan American Championships  COL  Bogota
Curling  25-30 Apr  M&W World Tour: Humpty’s Champions Cup  CAN  Calgary
Cycling  25-30 Apr  U.S. Arena National Championships  USA  Notre Dame
Cycling  25-30 Apr  MWT: Tour de Romandie  SUI  Suisse
Equestrian  27-30 Apr  Dressage World Cup CDI-W  USA  Del Mar
Equestrian  27-30 Apr  Eventing CCI-4*  USA  Lexington
Wrestling  27-29 Apr  U.S. National Championships  USA  Las Vegas
Athletics  28-29 Apr  World Combined Events Challenge 1  ITA  Florence
Equestrian  28 Apr-01  Dressage World Cup CDI-W  HUN  Mariakalnok
Fencing  28 Apr-01  W Foil World Cup 5  GER  Tauberbischofsheim
Gymnastics  28-30 Apr  Rhythmic World Cup 3  AZE  Baku
Judo  28-30 Apr  Pan American Championships  PAN  Panama City
Shooting  28 Apr-08  ISSF World Cup (shotgun)  CYP  Larnaka
Synchro  28-30 Apr  Synchro World Series 3: Japan Open  JPN  Tokyo
Cycling  29-30 Apr  Mtn. Bike World Cup: Downhill  FRA  Lourdes
Sport Climb  29-30 Apr  World Cup: Bouldering/Speed  CHN  Nanjing
About The Sports Examiner

The Sports Examiner was created to cover championship-level international sports – with a special emphasis on those sports and events that are part of the Olympic/Winter Games programs. You can get it sent directly to your e-mail inbox by signing up at www.TheSportsExaminer.com.

These athletes deserve the comprehensive coverage given to a fairly small number of sports which are the most popular in individual countries, such as baseball, basketball, football (several kinds), ice hockey and others. Why not offer an all-in-one briefing, available online, which can provide fans with a 360-degree view of the top-level meets, matches and tournaments in world sport?

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About the Author

Rich Perelman has been a bid developer, planner and/or operator of 20 multi-day, multi-venue events, including five Olympic/Olympic Winter Games, in the U.S., Canada and Europe. In addition to nearly 100 books, event and statistical guides, he has written for the Los Angeles Times, Track & Field News, Universal Sports and many other publications. He is a longtime member of the Association of Track & Field Statisticians (ATFS), International Society of Olympic Historians (ISOH) and the Track & Field Writers of America (TAFWA).

Archives

If you’re looking for previous issues, you can find them here (scroll to the bottom of the page to the Archives header and pick the month you want to access). All editions are in PDF format of 1-5 MB each and may be viewed or downloaded directly to your device.

You can also sign up to receive The Sports Examiner by e-mail at TheSportsExaminer.com.

Codes and Symbols

It wouldn’t be sports without symbols, right? First and foremost, we use the International Olympic Committee’s three-letter country codes; the complete list can be found here. Other common symbols:

dnf = did not finish

dns = did not start

dsq = disqualified

HS = hill size in ski jumping (always in meters)

kg = kilograms

m = meters

w = wind-aided