

SPORTS

SAILING: AMERICA'S CUP

Remaining teams reply to dropouts

HAMILTON, Bermuda (AP) — The America's Cup teams that voted this week to downsize the catamarans for the 2017 regatta have hit back at unhappy squads Team New Zealand and Luna Rossa Challenge, suggesting hypocrisy.

In a joint statement from cup holder Oracle Team USA and challengers Artemis Racing (Sweden), Ben Ainslie Racing (Britain) and Team France on Friday, they expressed disappointment at Team New Zealand's reaction to rule changes, some of which were "insisted upon by Luna Rossa."

Italian team Luna Rossa, a challenger in the past four cups, pulled out Thursday, criticizing the teams that agreed to downsize the boats. It called the decision unprecedented, the process illegitimate, and added the rules were disrespected.

The America's Cup class rules were amended last week so a change no longer needed unanimous consent of all teams, only a majority vote.

Team New Zealand CEO Grant Dalton said they were in "disbelief" at "the self-serving maneuvering of rules."

But the four teams that decided to downsize the boats to reduce costs said Friday all the teams, including Luna Rossa and Team New Zealand, agreed on the move in discussions last month.

They said the new rule was written in consultation with all teams, and a draft was sent to all teams for feedback.

"We are disappointed to see how Team New Zealand are characterizing the rule changes that reflect the collective will of the America's Cup teams," their statement said.

"Taking these important decisions by a majority vote is something that was insisted upon by Luna Rossa, and written into the rules of the event."

"Regrettably, abiding by the results of the majority vote appears to be something neither they, nor Team New Zealand, are willing to do... unless they are part of the majority."

The four hoped Team New Zealand "can see a way forward, as we all have."

Meanwhile, Luna Rossa boss Patrizio Bertelli said pulling out has meant throwing \$21.6 million "down the drain."

In the Italian daily La Repubblica on Friday, Bertelli said the cup organizers, led by Oracle Team USA, were "imperialists."

He was upset the rules agreed to last July for the 2017 regatta in Bermuda, which set in motion the millions invested, were changed again to trim the boat from 62 feet to 48 feet.

"A protocol is a protocol. The winner of a competition launches the challenge and proposes rules. The challengers accept it, and sign a document. Everyone. Then at a certain point they take it and change the rules," he said.

"You want to know what the crazy thing is? That when they showed us the first protocol — the one we all conformed to and invested in — we screamed to the entire world that it was wrong and cost too much, and we proposed 55-foot boats."

"But they kept going straight ahead, forcing us to invest in these projects that they want to throw away now. They're not serious people and I don't want to have anything to do with them."

"As far as I'm concerned, the America's Cup ends here. Forever. Irrevocably."

PRO BASEBALL

Could six-man rotation be next?

A diminished workload for a starting pitcher might keep him healthy and more fresh.

Associated Press

Now this was definitely a deep rotation.

In manager Joe Girardi's office at spring training, the March calendar was posted on a big whiteboard. Inside each box, he wrote the initials of the starting pitcher that day.

At one point, the succession of New York Yankees arms stretched past a week: Chase Whitley, Chris Capuano, Masahiro Tanaka, Adam Warren, Michael Pineda, Esmil Rogers, Nathan Eovaldi, CC Sabathia.

Eight games, eight different starters.

OK, maybe not so strange in exhibition play. Still, in this era when big league teams are trying to protect their pitchers from tight triceps, twisted shoulders and Tommy John surgery, could it be time to consider a six-man rotation?

"In a perfect world, it's something that's a great concept," Yankees general manager Brian Cashman said. "You hear many times the interest level in having a six-man rotation, and there's a lot of positives from that. But it's hard to pull off."

For more than three decades, a five-man rotation has been the standard in the majors. The Los Angeles Dodgers often are credited with doing it first in the early 1970s with a staff that, ironically, included Tommy John.

Over the years, there have been exceptions.

Jim Tracy tried a four-man rotation — with a 75-pitch limit — for a while with Colorado in 2012. The Rockies set a franchise record for losses and Tracy lost his job.

In 2011, Chicago White Sox manager Ozzie Guillen briefly went with a six-man rotation. His team finished with a losing record and he, too, was gone.

Truth is, most teams have trouble finding just a few solid starters. And



Associated Press

Boston starter Clay Buchholz, who missed significant time during the 2011 and 2013 seasons with injuries, might be a player who would benefit from a six-man rotation.

keeping them healthy, that's a whole other story.

Yu Darvish and Zack Wheeler already are out for the season, Cliff Lee and Justin Verlander are ailing and Matt Harvey and Jose Fernandez are coming back after major surgery.

Could an extra starter mean extra rest and a diminished workload, and possibly fewer injuries?

"There's no guarantee that a six-man rotation, for example, which implies fewer innings pitched with more days off, is going to have any impact on certain cases," Mets general manager Sandy Alderson said after Wheeler's damaged elbow was diagnosed. "Six-man rotations, more days off, more spot starts by pitchers in your minor league system, there are lots of ways it can be addressed but ultimately some elbows are going to break down and some are not."

To Toronto knuckleballer R.A. Dickey, a six-man setup "would certainly cut down wear and tear on pitchers."

"But it's hard enough to find five starters right now that can do the job.

It's very difficult to start," he said. "I think that would mean giving some of your best guys less opportunity to help win games, and I don't think anybody is going to do that."

Put Baltimore opening day starter Chris Tillman in that camp.

"It's like the more off days you have, the rustier you get," he said. "We did it a little bit last year. At first it got to me a little bit. I wasn't a fan, but we pitched well, and we kind of got it going, so you can't hate it. If it was my preference, I would not have it."

Even so, the idea of six starters is "a very strong trend," St. Louis manager Mike Matheny said.

"There are a lot of pitchers, ours included, that don't like the thought of it at all. But this game is constantly evolving," he said.

Change certainly doesn't come swiftly on the field.

It took more than 100 years before pronounced defensive shifts became commonplace. The concept of one-out relievers or pitchers batting eighth or five-man rotations also took a while.

In 1971, 13 pitchers made at least 38 starts, with Mickey Lolich leading the way with 45 (and 376 innings).

No one has made as many as 37 starts in the majors since Greg Maddux in 1991. Dickey and Tillman were among 10 pitchers who tied for the major league lead with 34 starts last season.

Tanaka's first season in the majors was interrupted by a small tear in his right elbow. He started his pro career in Japan, where six-man rotations are the norm.

"If you have six days in between starts, needless to say you get to have more rest time, so that's always a plus for a pitcher," he said through a translator.

The Yankees have a string of 30 games in 31 days, beginning in mid-April, and are looking at using a sixth starter during that period.

"I think it's a result of some of the stuff that's gone on over the last few years. Not just here but everywhere," pitching coach Larry Rothschild said.

Washington pitching coach Steve McCatty remembers playing for Oakland under Billy Martin. In 1980, McCatty and four other starters combined for 93 complete games.

The pitching-rich Nationals might have the talent to use six starters, but McCatty isn't sure it would be worthwhile.

"I know everybody talks about it, but you want to take away, what, four or five starts from your No. 1 and No. 2 guys by having that?" he said. "Sure, it would make some guys a little fresher at the end, but is that better than being able to use your guys more often?"

Chicago Cubs manager Joe Maddon has never shied away from trying something new. He wouldn't mind seeing a six-man rotation — on the opposing team, that is.

"The groups that are going for the six-man rotation, that's great, if you get six guys you dig," he said. "I mean because I tell you what, from the other dugout, when you're playing the other team and here comes 5 and 6, and they're not like 1, 2, 3, 4, I'd like to be the team that's grabbing those guys all the time."

PRO SOCCER

U.S. goalie Solo: 'I feel just in a happier place'

Teammates have supported the star player, who recently came off a suspension.

ST. LOUIS (AP) — These days, Hope Solo is projecting calm confidence in net. She's working hard at putting distance on a recent suspension and leading the way for U.S. women's soccer team preparing for the World Cup.

"I feel better, I feel a little bit lighter, like a weight's been taken off my shoulders," Solo said a few days before today's exhibition against the New Zealand national team at Busch Stadium.

"I feel just in a happier place, a bit more relaxed with my defenders, which is more fun for them to play

with me when I'm not on edge."

The team worked out at Busch in 55-degree chill on Friday, a day ahead of a test some players have likened to an opening-round opponent in the World Cup, which begins in June in Canada. The game will help coach Jill Ellis sort out final adjustments to a 23-player roster, with two cuts to be made, and work on problem areas while keeping everyone involved.

"It's not about locking players into 90 minutes for every match," Ellis said.

Solo was suspended in January after her husband, former NFL tight end Jerramy Stevens, was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence in a U.S. Soccer federation van. That incident came shortly after domestic violence charges against Solo were dismissed.

The star goalkeeper came back strong in the recent victory in the Algarve Cup. Teammates have been supportive.



Solo

Wambach said. "We're all human beings, we all have things that are going on in our personal lives, myself included."

Solo likes how the team seems to be coming together with plenty of time still before the World Cup.

"A couple months ago, I would say 'Oh gosh, the wheels are falling off,'"

Solo said. "We still have a lot to do and we don't have a set starting lineup, so there's a couple times, but I think we're gunning for it, I really do."

Temporary sod covers the mound, plate and base paths at Busch, well ahead of the Cardinals' April 13 home opener. The game is already a huge success at the box office with more than 32,000 tickets sold — more than double the usual draw.

Having a couple local products on the roster doesn't hurt. Defender Becky Sauerbrunn and midfielder Lori Chalupny are both from St. Louis and Chalupny threw out the first pitch at a Cardinals game at Busch in 2009.

"It's amazing," Sauerbrunn said. "I had no doubt we'd get a really good reception, but this is a bit beyond our wildest dreams."

Southern Rhode Island's CLASSIFIED MARKETPLACE

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Public Notice
Church Community Housing Corp. of Newport is hereby providing Notice of a Public Meeting per RIGL Chapter 23-19.14 (The Industrial Property Remediation and Reuse Act) and more specifically Section 23-19.14-5 (Environmental Equity and Public Participation). The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the proposed environmental investigations associated with the Former Coffey's Texaco Service Station and to solicit information from the meeting attendees relative to any information that may pertain to environmental conditions at the property. The record for the public meeting shall be open for ten (10) business days after the meeting and will close at 4:00 PM on May 13, 2015. Public comments relative to the environmental investigation may be submitted in writing to: Brian M. Menard, Sanitary Engineer / Project Manager, RIDEM - Office of Waste Management, 235 Promenade Street, Provi-

3-Legals

dence, RI 02908 or by telephone at (401) 222-2979 ext. 7163 or email to: brian.menard@dem.ri.gov
The meeting will be held on:
Date: April 29, 2015
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Time: 6:00 pm

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10-Help Wanted

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