

## SPORTS

## USOC moving fast in replacing Ward

DENVER (AP) - The last time a U.S. Olympic Committee chief executive resigned, it took a year to find a replacement. The organization can't afford that kind of delay now.

"We need to move quickly to fill the CEO position, but we must find the right person," USOC vice president Frank Marshall said. "At this point, who would want this job?"

Lloyd Ward's departure Saturday - after months of turmoil sparked by a conflict-of-interest investigation - brings the total to eight CEOs and presidents for the USOC since 2000. Colorado Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell pressed for more resignations Sunday.

Campbell, part of a Senate committee investigating the USOC, called on chief operating officer Fred Wohlschlaeger and human resources manager Rick Mack to step down, saying they didn't stop Ward's questionable behavior. Both were hired by Ward.

"To me, they've been a party to the indiscretion," Campbell said. "They go back with Lloyd Ward a long time before he came here. They were either a party to it or they should have stepped up and said 'We shouldn't be doing this.'"

As for Ward's replacement, interim USOC president Bill Martin will work with the USOC's executive committee to find an interim CEO, perhaps as soon as this week. Martin himself only



Former U.S. Olympic Chief Executive Officer Lloyd Ward speaks with other USOC members before their meeting in Chicago, in this Feb. 8, 2003, file photo.

came aboard last month, when president Marty Mankamyer quit under pressure.

Jim Scherr, the USOC's chief of sport performance, will handle the day-to-day operations until an interim CEO is named, Martin said late Sunday. Scherr will continue serving his current position and his title and compensation will remain the same, Martin said.

The early list of candidates for the interim CEO role includes former USOC president Bill Hybl, Salt Lake City Organizing Committee executive Fraser Bullock, USOC vice president Paul George, and former USOC executive director Harvey Schiller.

Donald Fehr, head of baseball's union, 1984 Los

Angeles Games organizing chief Peter Ueberroth, and New York Yankees owner George Steinbrenner also have been mentioned as potential USOC saviors.

Steinbrenner wasn't available Sunday to comment on the USOC, and phone calls to Fehr and Ueberroth weren't immediately returned.

Campbell called Hybl his choice for CEO.

"This is going to have to be a person that can command trust from the employees that are down there, from the executive board, from the athletes themselves, and more importantly than that, from the U.S. Congress. I think Bill has all that," Campbell said Sunday. "I think he would see the bigger picture."

Hybl's name pops up every time a president steps

down, but he has repeatedly said that he is not interested. USOC president from 1991-92 and 1996-00, he is now CEO of the Olympic Foundation, a nonprofit organization that supports U.S. athletes with grants.

With the Athens Games less than 1 1/2 years away and a Senate committee calling for a major restructuring, USOC officials want to put the past three months of inquiries and resignations behind.

The International Olympic Committee would like that, too. The IOC leadership, in Denmark for an antidoping conference, has been monitoring the USOC situation closely.

"It's starting to look at little bit like the Keystone Cops," senior IOC member Dick Pound said Sunday.

The crisis has raised questions about the USOC's privileged revenue-sharing status with the IOC and cast a cloud over New York City's bid for the 2012 Summer Games.

"It's not good for the Olympic movement in the United States, and if it's not good for the Olympic movement in the United States, it's a big concern for all of us," IOC vice president Kevan Gosper said.

Ward's downfall began late last year, when he was accused of trying to steer Olympic business to a company with ties to his brother. No deal was completed, but Ward was reprimanded and stripped of a \$184,000 bonus following an investigation.

## Woods pulls out of Dubai Desert Classic

CARLSBAD, Calif. (AP) - Tiger Woods has won more than \$2 million the last three weeks, an amount he could receive just by showing up at the Dubai Desert Classic. Instead, the world's No. 1 golfer is playing it safe. He's staying home.

"It's just not a safe environment over there right now," Woods said Sunday after his victory over David Toms in the Match Play Championship. "I don't think it would be wise for me to over there at this particular time."

Dubai is in the United Arab Emirates, about 900 miles from Iraq.

Some players already have withdrawn from the popular European tour event because of concerns about war breaking out. One of them, Colin Montgomerie, has decided instead to play in Miami next week on the PGA Tour.

Among those playing are Ernie Els, the No. 2 player in the world. Els is the defending champion at Dubai, and will get an appearance fee said to be nearly \$300,000.

Also going is Woods' best friend on tour, Mark O'Meara, who will get a little more than \$200,000 to play.

It was O'Meara who helped persuade Woods to play in Dubai in 2001, when Woods made double bogey on the 72nd hole and lost to Thomas Bjorn.

"I had a great time the last time I went two years ago," Woods said. "If it's safe next year, I'll go, because I wanted to go back."

Woods said he would not play the Ford Championship at Doral in Miami out of respect to tournament officials in Dubai.

"Losing Tiger from this week's lineup will be disappointing to his many fans in this part of the world, but we reluctantly have to respect his decision not to compete," said Mohamed Ali Alabbar, vice chairman of the tournament.

Woods declined to speculate about his other overseas plans, such as the Deutsche Bank-SAP Open in Germany in May, which he has won three times.

Deutsche Bank also will sponsor a PGA Tour event in Boston, with the proceeds benefiting the Tiger Woods Foundation.

Woods didn't have a problem with going to England for the British Open in July.

"If I can walk, if I can play golf, I'll be there," he said.

Woods said his high profile presented him with a different set of circumstances than other top players, particularly in a region so close to Iraq.

## Roy Jones

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1897.

"It's bigger than me. I wanted to do something great for the sport of boxing," Jones said. "C'mon, baby. One hundred years? It's time for somebody else to do that."

After joining Michael Spinks as the only light heavyweights to win the heavyweight title, Jones suddenly has a lot of options.

His win over a surprisingly outclassed Ruiz didn't just earn him \$10 million and the gaudy WBA belt he held over his head afterward. It also had people talking with excitement about Jones for the first time in years.

"Hopefully, now Roy is thinking, 'This heavyweight stuff is easy,'" said Byrd, the IBF champion who would like nothing more than a lucrative fight with Jones.

It certainly looked easy at times when Jones stood flat-footed and outpunched Ruiz in a fight that wasn't always as entertaining as it was historic.

Ruiz had been a suspect champion at best, in a division still ruled by WBC champ Lewis. And, against a fighter many consider the best pound-for-pound boxer in the game, he looked befuddled.

Jones won eight rounds on one scorecard, nine on a second and 10 on a third, though he never came close to putting Ruiz down in a

bout fought mostly at a strategic distance.

"There's nothing wrong with John Ruiz's style," Jones said. "He's just a little slower than me, and I kind of outthought him."

Jones bulked up to 193 pounds at Thursday's weigh-in - and was 199 in his dressing room before the fight - while Ruiz had dropped from 226 pounds on Thursday to 224 in his dressing room.

Jones not only looked the part of a heavyweight, but he acted like one, too. Instead of dancing and moving about the ring, he spent most of the fight throwing jabs and left hooks at Ruiz while standing in front of him in the center of the ring.

Ruiz landed a good right hand in an action-filled first round, but his punching slowed and he landed an average of less than seven punches a round for the entire fight.

"He could have hit me 100 more times. I wasn't going away," Jones said. "Then he ran into one of mine, and I touched him, and he was like, 'That's why them guys be going down!'"

Ruiz had taken a big gamble to fight Jones, risking his title and not getting a lot in return. While Jones made \$10 million, Ruiz was working off of profits from pay-per-view buys and the best guess was he might make \$2 million or he might make nothing.

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