

SPORTS

Jones threatens lawsuit if kept from Athens Olympics

NEW YORK (AP) - With each question Marion Jones gets about steroids, her denials become more emphatic. She took everything a step further Sunday, saying she would go to court if the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency bars her from competing in the Athens Olympics without a positive drug test.

USADA has the power to bring a drug case against an athlete in lieu of a positive test when the agency has "other reason to believe that a potential doping violation has occurred, such as admitted doping," according to its rules.

Jones, speaking at the U.S. Olympic Team Media Summit that also featured swimmers Michael Phelps, Gary Hall Jr., and Jenny Thompson during several sessions Sunday, was one of several athletes who testified before a grand jury in the BALCO investigation.

"If I make the Olympic team, which I plan to do in Sacramento, and I'm held from the Olympic Games because of something that

somebody thought, you can pretty much bet there will be a lawsuit," said Jones, who won five track and field medals at the 2000 Olympics.

"I'm not going to sit down and let someone or a group of people or an organization take away my livelihood be-

cause of a hunch, because of a thought, because of somebody who's trying to show their power."

The U.S. Olympic track and field trials are in Sacramento, Calif., from July 9-18.

Not everyone believes USADA's rules are unfair. Hall, who has won eight Olympic medals, says Jones needs to be more forthcoming.

At the request of her lawyers and management team, Jones refuses to comment on how she became involved with BALCO and its founder, Victor Conte.

"Marion Jones and her involvement with the THG scandal, I frown on that," Hall said. "I think that she needs to address it. Her competitors, the people that she beat, deserve an explanation as to why she's being called to testify in front of a federal grand jury on the THG investigation. And that's all I'm saying."

U.S. Olympic Committee vice president Herman Frazier said there would have to be definitive evidence to bar anyone from the games without a positive test. The USOC has until July 21 to submit its Olympics roster to the International Olympic Committee.

"When you talk about taking away an opportunity from somebody, especially something that comes around every four years, you have to have some really concrete evidence," Frazier said Sunday.

This month, the Senate agreed to release to Olympic officials evidence that a committee collected on use of banned performance-enhancing drugs among athletes.

Officials wanted the Senate committee to turn over information received from the Justice Department regarding the BALCO steroids so they could be sure to field a clean team in Athens.

Jones is among several star athletes, including Barry Bonds, who appeared before a grand jury focusing on possible tax and drug violations by BALCO, a California lab.

An appearance before the grand jury, or being subpoenaed to testify, doesn't mean an athlete is a target of the probe. Jones knows her testimony could be used against her.

"I've known this for a while," she said. "But I think for someone to be found guilty or condemned without any form of investigation because some company or a group of people say, 'We think ...' for whatever reason - I think that's unfair."

Jones and Hall agree there should be blood testing instead of urine testing to get the most accurate results.

"Until the end of time there will be people trying to beat the system," Jones said. "I know what one person is doing and one person only. I know I have always been drug free and I will continue to be."

Jones' boyfriend, sprinter Tim Montgomery, was scheduled to be at the media session but he wasn't feeling well and stayed

home in North Carolina.

Also Sunday, the USOC announced new inductees to the U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame. Swimmers Janet Evans and Matt Biondi, track and field standouts Jackie Joyner-Kersey and the late Florence Griffith Joyner, and speedskaters Dan Jansen and Bonnie Blair headline the first new class since 1992.

The others to be inducted: the 1996 women's soccer team, paralympian Randy Snow, veteran inductee Alice Coachman Davis and special contributor Bud Greenspan.

As for Phelps, the swimming phenom refused to say whether he will attempt to break Mark Spitz's record of seven gold medals set at the 1972 Munich Games. For now, the 19-year-old Phelps is being coy about his plans for Athens.

"The goal I've put out there is the goal of one Olympic gold," Phelps said. "It's not going to be easy."

In 2003, Phelps became the first man to win five U.S. titles at one meet, setting a world record in the 200 individual medley. At the worlds, he also set five records.

Hall has a unique perspective on what Phelps will try to do. "If you're going to win seven gold medals, you might as well win eight," he said. Thompson, like Hall, has plenty of experience to lend younger swimmers. The 31-year-old Thompson will try to qualify for her fourth Olympics after coming out of retirement two years ago.

"I had a lot left to give," she said. "I felt a little bit unfulfilled. This being my last go at it, this is something I want to enjoy."



Track star Marion Jones makes a point as she talks to reporters during a U.S. Olympic Team, media summit news conference Sunday in New York. The sprinter-long jumper is expected to compete in the Olympics this summer.



Former South African President Nelson Mandela (right, holding the World Cup trophy) human rights activist and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, left, and other members of the South African delegation celebrate on Saturday after it was announced that South Africa will host the 2010 soccer World Cup. FIFA's executive committee on Saturday picked South Africa ahead of Morocco and Egypt for the first World Cup to be staged in Africa.

South Africa finally gets World Cup

ZURICH, Switzerland (AP) - A triumphant Nelson Mandela was draped in his national flag, while back home bells tolled and crowds sang in the streets. The World Cup, finally, is headed to South Africa. Mandela's country was awarded the 2010 tournament Saturday, the first time soccer's treasured prize will be played in Africa.

South Africa beat Morocco and Egypt in a vote by the executive committee of the sport's governing body, FIFA. In balloting four years ago for the 2006 World Cup, South Africa lost to Germany by one vote.

"We can all applaud Africa," FIFA president Sepp Blatter said. "The victor is football. The victor is Africa."

South Africa received 14 votes during the first round, while Morocco had 10, and Egypt none. As part of a new plan to rotate the event among continents, FIFA decided only African nations could contend for this World Cup.

Tunisia, which wanted to co-host with Libya, withdrew its bid Friday. Libya was eliminated by FIFA on Saturday.

South Africa, rated the best candidate in a report by FIFA, has nine stadiums in place and four more to be refurbished. It hosted last year's cricket World Cup and the 1995 Rugby World Cup. The country's high crime rate was considered the biggest drawback.

This was one of the final public appearances for the frail, 85-year-old Mandela, who championed South Africa's bid. He has said that during the apartheid era one of his few joys in prison was listening to World Cup soc-

cer games on radio.

"I feel like a young man of 50," said Mandela, who hoisted the World Cup trophy after South Africa's victory was announced. Fellow Nobel Peace Prize winner Archbishop Desmond Tutu embraced Blatter.

Even before Blatter could declare the winner, the words "South Africa" were drowned out by supporters who saw what was written in large letters on the card. Mandela sat in the front row, draped by his flag, as South Africans chanted "Madiba, Madiba," his tribal name.

In South Africa, the announcement was broadcast live on outdoor screens. Champagne corks popped at soccer stadiums, public squares and community centers as Blacks and Whites united in jubilation.

"Let's all go out and celebrate," President Thabo Mbeki, raising a champagne glass, told a crowd of dancing, singing fans in the capital, Pretoria.

The vote culminated a seven-year campaign to bring the world's biggest event in

team sports to a nation once plagued by apartheid and sports boycotts.

"Members of the executive committee, I hope you understand what you have done for so many people in South Africa - unemployed, no food, but now with hope," said Danny Jordaan, who led the unsuccessful 2006 bid and was also part of this team. "You have turned a dream into hope and that dream has come true today."

The South African bid committee has estimated the World Cup will be worth \$3.1 billion to the nation's economy and create 160,000 jobs.

South Africa was favored in the 2006 vote. But on the third ballot, Germany won 12-11 when New Zealand's Charles Dempsey unexpectedly abstained after his confederation told him to vote for South Africa.

FIFA then decided to rotate World Cup sites by continent, designating 2010 for Africa and 2014 for South America. Brazil, whose federation has its centenary that year, is the main candidate.

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