

Women's World Cup: U.S., Sweden Play To 0-0 Group-Stage Draw

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WINNIPEG, Manitoba (AP) — The United States played to a 0-0 tie with Sweden and former coach Pia Sundhage Friday night in one of the most anticipated matches of the group stage at the Women's World Cup.

Abby Wambach came off the bench in the second half, but her header in the 72nd minute was popped up and over the crossbar by Swedish goalkeeper Hedvig Lindahl.

A win would have assured the United States a spot in the knockout round as the Americans seek their third World Cup title, but first since 1999. The U.S. women advanced to the final four years ago in Germany, but fell to Japan on penalty kicks.

The United States, ranked No. 2 in the world, has one more group stage match, on Tuesday in Vancouver, British Columbia, against Nigeria. Sweden heads to Edmonton,

Alberta, for its final group match with Australia. The monthlong tournament, with an expanded field of 24 teams, is being played across six Canadian cities.

The U.S. leads the Group D standings with four points, following a 3-1 victory over No. 10 Australia in the opener. Sweden was surprised in its opener by No. 33 Nigeria, which erased a 2-0 deficit at the half for a 3-all tie.

Earlier Friday the Matildas defeated Nigeria 2-0.

U.S. coach Jill Ellis tinkered with her lineup for the match against Sweden, starting 22-year old Morgan Brian while Wambach was on the bench.

Wambach did give the U.S. an immediate boost after entering in the 68th minute, but Lindahl kept the match scoreless. Liddahl was named the player of the match.

Some five mintues after Wambach's chance, Caroline Seger's hard shot from far out was saved by

defender Meghan Klingenberg, who deflected the ball to the crossbar. Goal-line technology was used to make sure the ball never crossed the line on its descent.

The United States had a good chance in the 34th minute when Ali Krieger charged into the box but her shot to the far post went wide. Shortly after Hope Solo punched away Therese Sjogran's corner kick into a crowded box, Megan Rapinoe's free kick in the 39th minute sailed well over the goal.

Lindahl came up with her first big save of the match when she leaped to pop Carli Lloyd's shot up and over the bar early in the second half.

Solo leaped to stop Sjogran's hard shot from far out in the 54th minute but it sailed over her fingertips and over the bar.

Solo started in goal for the United States as off-field incidents continue to haunt her. The United States opened played the day

after an ESPN report revealed new details about her arrest last June in Washington state on domestic violence charges. The charges were dismissed earlier this year.

Sundhage was head coach of the United States for five years, guiding the team to two Olympic gold medals and the World Cup final in Germany. It was the first time the Americans had advanced to the final since winning it all in 1999.

Sundhage left after the 2012 London Games and returned home to coach her native Sweden's national team.

Adding to the buildup for the match, one of the most anticipated of the group stage, was a story about Sundhage earlier in the week in The New York Times. In it, Sundhage was quoted as saying that Lloyd was a challenge to coach and she suggested she wouldn't start Wambach at this point in the popular veteran's career. She said Solo was one of the most challenging

players she'd coached, "especially when it comes to trouble."

She talked about those statements before the match, saying the interview occurred back in April and she certainly was not trying to taunt the U.S. team. She called Solo "a piece of work," but went on to also call her the "the best goalkeeper in the world." She also said she would start Wambach on Friday night.

The World Cup is being played as FIFA deals with an ongoing corruption scandal sparked by the U.S. Department of Justice indictment of 14 people with racketeering, wire fraud, money laundering and other offenses. Swiss prosecutors are leading a separate probe into the 2018 and 2022 World Cup bidding contests.

FIFA President Sepp Blatter, who is not at the tournament, announced last week that he plans to step down once an election is held for a successor.

Defensemen Starring In A Tight, Tense Cup Final

BRANDON, Fla. (AP) — After Steven Stamkos stepped off the Lightning's practice rink on a 90-degree June day, the Tampa Bay captain calmly made it clear he is well aware that he hasn't scored a goal yet in his first Stanley Cup Final.

"Keep playing the game the right way, and eventually you're going to get rewarded," Stamkos said Friday.

When Jonathan Toews and the Blackhawks flew through a Florida rainstorm and landed in Tampa several hours later, the Chicago captain placidly confirmed that he and Patrick Kane also know they have one combined goal.

"We just know you've got to keep working, keep finding ways to create chances, and eventually believe that a bounce is going to go your way," Toews said.

The captains are mirrors of calm in an increasingly tense situation, accepting the spotlight that comes in those inevitable stretches when their outsized skills don't light up scoreboards. They're determined to preserve their teams' cool and focus when this exceptionally even series begins its sprint to the finish in Game 5 on Saturday night.

After all, somebody will get a big goal this weekend at Amalie Arena, where either the Lightning or the Blackhawks will end the 2-2 series tie and move one win away from a title. Why not them?

"You don't get this far without having that character, and I think this is where it has to come out as much as possible," Chicago defenseman Duncan Keith said.

The Lightning and the Blackhawks realize the enormous stakes on every shift of Game 5 in a series that still hasn't featured a two-goal lead. The captains and the coaches are attempting to direct that excitement into motivation instead of intimidation.

"You've got to get caught up in the moment," Tampa Bay coach Jon Cooper said. "You have to embrace where we are. It's the middle of June, and we're still playing hockey. The Stanley Cup is up for grabs in the best-two-out-of-three. I don't think we should be afraid of that. I don't think we should walk around being tense and looking at the magnitude of where we are, being afraid of the moment. This is the time of our lives."

Keith and Tampa Bay's Victor Hedman have embraced this moment better than anyone. Stamkos, Kane and Toews have been upstaged through four games by their star defensemen, who are both turning in dominant playoff performances.

In a postseason missing a breakout offensive performance or a dominant goal-tending run, Keith or Hedman are the odds-on favorites to

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from 2002-04 and is now with the Minnesota Twins. Suzuki caught 21 of 73 stealers as a collegian, 28.7 percent.

"He catches, he handles the pitchers, he's done a fantastic job of it," Vanderhook said. "He's not Suzuki, but he's good."

SEC PRIDE: The Southeastern Conference had the



This archer from Japan celebrates with her teammates during Friday's recurve women's match against the United States at the World Archery Youth Championships in Yankton.

WAYC

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to the recurve gold medal matches this weekend.

"It's the best archery here," Naploszek said. "It's good to know what other people can shoot and 'where am I in this.'"

Poland sent 12 archers to the WAYC in Yankton, and although no Polish archers advanced to this weekend's finals, there's plenty they can take back home with them.

"It's very good experience," said Magdalena Smialkowska, an 18-year-old from Poland. "I love when we can

see (Korea) shoot; they're really good.

"We can learn about how they do it and what they do."

Regardless of the tournament they shoot at, Polish archers can use the experience they got this week in Yankton.

"The stress and everything was very good for me," Smialkowska said.

In Naploszek's case, this week was her first WAYC, and her assessment was positive when asked Friday.

"It's the best organization for a tournament," she said. "The previous ones were not as good. This is my first time here, and I have big emotions. I really like it."

Boston 2024 Tries To Reboot Bid For Olympic Games

BOSTON (AP) — The planned Olympic sailing venue relocated from Boston Harbor to the working class former whaling capital of New Bedford.

Tennis dropped out of Harvard and moved to the inner city.

Boston 2024 organizers are trying to revive their struggling Olympic bid by sprinkling proposed venues to more distant — and more diverse — communities, partially sacrificing their original vision of a compact, walkable games in the hope that spreading the potential benefits will get them to the finish line.

"We listened," Boston 2024 CEO Rich Davey said on Thursday after announcing that the tennis venue originally slated for the Harvard University athletic fields is now planned for the neighborhood of Dorchester at the nation's first African-American tennis club.

"I don't think we need to sell the magic of the Olympics — although we want to talk about it," he said. "People want to see a big vision, but they also want to see a 'what's in it for them,' and for their communities."

Ever since the USOC, in a secretive process with a sur-

prising result, chose Boston as the American nominee to bid for the 2024 Summer Games, the effort has struggled to find support locally. A recent poll by WBUR showed 39 percent of the state's residents supported hosting the games, with 49 percent against, though the numbers are essentially flipped if the events are spread across the state.

The International Olympic Committee is scheduled to pick a host for the 2024 Summer Games in 2017, with Boston expected to compete against Hamburg, Germany, and Budapest, Hungary, as well as Rome and Paris.

But there are doubts whether Boston will even make it to this September, when the USOC must decide whether to stick with the Athens of America as its bid city, ditch it for the safer bet of Los Angeles or just sit this one out entirely.

Boston 2024 organizers have scheduled a series of venue announcements this month to talk about the how an Olympics would benefit local communities. And the communities aren't the same as the original plans.

"We just didn't get it right the first time," said Davey, who called the new series of

Long Travel For Guatemala

As Jose Andres Del Cid Carrillo tested out a few bows on display Friday at the Easton Yankton Archery Complex, it perhaps reminded the 16-year-old from Guatemala of traveling with such equipment.

One of Guatemalan archers in Yankton this week, Del Cid Carrillo said despite the lengthy travel — 16 hours in all — to reach the WAYC, he has enjoyed his stay.

"I like it here," he said. "It's very calm; very secure."

"All these volunteers, you don't always see that. This is the first one (tournament) I've seen with this much

help."

The Guatemalan team had flights from their home country to Houston, to Denver (where the team had to wait six hours) and then to Sioux Falls, followed by a bus trip to Yankton.

Then came the varying extremes of South Dakota weather: From 90-plus degrees early in the week to rainy and cold conditions Thursday.

"I don't like the weather. (Thursday) was difficult," Del Cid Carrillo said. "The wind was hurting me. I usually don't shoot in the rain."

"But it's good experience."

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announcements "Bid 2.0."

"And just because it's 'Bid 2.0' doesn't mean it's 'Bid Last.0,'" he said.

Last week, bid organizers were in New Bedford to announce plans to put the sailing competition in the southeastern corner of the state. On Thursday, Davey was talking about bringing jobs from a \$33 million to \$37 million tennis complex to the Sportsmen's Tennis and Enrichment Center, which has been working with inner city kids since 1961.

Once the games are gone, organizers said, the area would be left with a lighted, 2,500-seat stadium that could be used to host USTA Pro Circuit events like the ones that saw rising tennis stars like Sloane Stephens, Madison Keys and Alison Riske come through Boston. The nearby Harambee Park would also benefit, Davey said, with backboard-less basketball hoops getting an upgrade and possible improvements to the soccer and baseball fields as well.

"This isn't just a moment nine years from now to welcome the world for four weeks," he said. "This has to be what's right for the city."

Although many of the most vocal Olympic opponents support similar projects, they say that hosting the games is an expensive and inefficient way to get it done. (Boston 2024 has pledged to stage the

games without direct public funding — infrastructure, land acquisition and issuing bonds have not been ruled out; opponents note that the taxpayers would ultimately be at risk for billions in potential cost overruns.)

But Davey said the Olympics are necessary to bring in the money for the projects.

"I haven't heard of another way to get that done," he said. "What I know is that with the Olympics, we can get that done."

Olympian Tim Mayotte was less concerned with jobs than the chance to encourage young American athletes. A Western Massachusetts native who brought with him the silver medal he won in 1988, Mayotte reminisced about going to the Longwood Cricket Club as a 10-year-old and seeing Rod Laver and Arthur Ashe.

"I just want you to keep in mind the impact on a young kid who has the opportunity to do something great in sports," he said.

Sportsmen's executive director Toni Wiley agreed.

"What would be so exciting for us would be to have our youth see people striving to be their very best," she said. "Our families that cannot necessarily buy a plane ticket and drive around the world to see the Olympics need to have the opportunity to see this taking place in their own neighborhoods."

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MLB: Texas Topples Twins

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Elvis Andrus had a career-high four RBIs and Texas got the tiebreaking runs on a two-out error by Minnesota center fielder Aaron Hicks as the Rangers beat the Twins 6-2 on Friday night.

The Rangers had the bases loaded in the eighth with the game tied when Mitch Moreland hit a fly ball to straightaway center. Hicks was drifting back and reached up, but the ball ricocheted off his glove and allowed two runs to score in Minnesota's fourth consecutive loss.

After the Twins went to their fourth pitcher of the inning, Andrus had a two-run hit to make it 6-2 before he was out trying to make it a double.

Andrus' two-run homer in the seventh ended a 20-inning scoreless streak for the Rangers and put them up 2-1.

Leadoff hitter Brian Dozier scored both runs for Minnesota. Dozier walked to start the game, and his 12th homer of the season leading off the eighth made it 2-2 off reliever Tanner Scheppers (3-0).

Aaron Thompson (1-2) took over to start the eighth and the Twins, allowing a walk and a fielder's choice, made three more pitching changes in the inning.

Minnesota lefty Tommy Milone struck out eight and limited the Rangers to three hits over seven innings.

Milone had retired 12 straight and allowed only one hit before AL batting leader Prince Fielder's leadoff single in the seventh. Two batters later, Andrus hit his third homer of the season — three innings after the Rangers shortstop slammed down his bat in frustration after striking out to end the fourth.

After Minnesota loaded the bases without an out in the first, Rangers starter Wandy Rodriguez retired 18 straight batters.

Twins cleanup hitter Trevor Plouffe, whose sacrifice fly made it 1-0 in the first, ended Rodriguez's streak with a leadoff single in the seventh. Rodriguez left with the bases loaded and two outs after the lefty's 122nd pitch, the last of a 10-pitch walk by Eduardo Escobar.

Rodriguez struck out six and walked three while throwing the most pitches by a Texas pitcher since Yu Darvish's 126 in a near no-hitter against the Boston Red Sox on May 9, 2014.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Rangers: Slugger Josh Hamilton is doing a "brisk jog" on a treadmill, but still has not swung a bat since straining his left hamstring May 31. He said the tightness in his left hamstring has subsided, but still has general soreness in both hamstrings. ... LHPs Matt Harrison (spinal fusion surgery) and Martin Perez (Tommy John surgery) are both set for starts for Triple-A Round Rock, Harrison makes his third rehab start Sunday in Memphis and Perez his second next week when the Express are back home. ... LHP Derek Holland (left shoulder strain) will get another MRI next Friday.

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