

AFTER RIO SCANDAL, LOCHTE TO APPEAR ON US REALITY SHOW

NEW YORK: Disgraced Olympic swimmer Ryan Lochte is joining the "Dancing With the Stars" cast, ABC television announced yesterday, as the gold medalist said he thought reaction to his tale about being held up at a Rio de Janeiro gas station had been blown out of proportion.

Lochte, 32, was dropped by four of his major sponsors after admitting he "overexaggerated" a tale about being robbed and held at gunpoint with three other swimmers after a party during the Rio Olympics. Brazilian authorities say the group destroyed a bathroom and urinated in public, and

have recommended that Lochte be charged with falsely reporting a crime.

The swimmer, who was also vilified in the media over the incident, did not say whether he planned to return to Brazil to face the charges.

"I think it's everyone blowing this way out of proportion. I think that's what happened," Lochte told ABC television's "Good Morning America" on Tuesday, when asked whether he had embarrassed the United States with his actions.

"Like I said, I did lie about that one part," said Lochte, referring to his claim that a gun was held to

his head. "I take full responsibility. I'm human. I made a mistake. A very big mistake."

"Everyone has got to be sick and tired about hearing about this. I just want to move forward," added Lochte, his silver-dyed hair now returned to a more natural brown. The 12-time Olympic medalist said his appearance on the 23rd season of "Dancing With the Stars," was under discussion before he went to the Rio games. After the London Olympics in 2012 he was given his own, short-lived, TV reality show "What Would Ryan Lochte Do?"

Other "Dancing With the Stars" contestants in the

season starting on Sept. 12 will include 16-year-old U.S. Olympic gymnast Laurie Hernandez, former Texas governor Rick Perry, and rapper Vanilla Ice.

"Dancing With the Stars," in which celebrities are paired with professional ballroom dancers and voted off by the public, has been a popular venue for those seeking a comeback or trying to change their public image. Past contestants have included Bristol Palin, daughter of the 2008 Republican vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin, singer Donny Osmond, and retired Olympic speed skater Apolo Ohno. — Reuters



Tomas Lavanini

PUMAS LOCK LAVANINI OUT FOR SEASON WITH LIGAMENT INJURY

BUENOS AIRES: Argentina lock Tomas Lavanini will require surgery on a damaged knee ligament and will be out of action until next year, missing the remainder of the Rugby Championship and the Pumas' tour of Europe in November.

Lavanini picked up the injury in Argentina's 26-24 victory over South Africa in Salta on Saturday and was not included in the tour party for the Pumas' Oceania leg of the championship when they face New Zealand and Australia.

"Unfortunately, we have just confirmed Tomas Lavanini's injury," team doctor Guillermo Botto said.

"It's a cruciate ligament injury and we expect to do surgery in three to four weeks and then he'll have an estimated recovery time of six months." The tour squad, posted on the Argentine Rugby Union website (www.uar.com.ar) on Monday, is also missing wing Manuel Montero, who tore a thigh muscle against the Springboks.

Coming into coach Daniel Hourcade's 28-man squad is number eight Leonardo Senatore, who has served a 10-week suspension for biting handed out during the Super Rugby competition in May.

Matias Moroni returns from the Pumas Olympic rugby sevens team and fellow

centre Jeronimo de la Fuente, who also missed Argentina's two matches against the Springboks, is included after recovering from injury.

Felipe Ezcurrea was named as a third scrumhalf. Botto said flyhalf Nicolas Sanchez and centre Juan Martin Hernandez were recovering from head injuries and all being well would be available for selection for both matches.

Argentina face world champions New Zealand, who top the standings after home and away wins over Australia, in Hamilton on Sept. 10 and the Wallabies in Perth a week later.

Squad: Forwards: Nahuel Tetaz Chaparro, Felipe Arregui, Agustin Creevy (captain), Lucas Nogueira Paz, Julian Montoya, Ramiro Herrera, Enrique Pieretto, Matias Alemanno, Guido Petti, Marcos Kremer, Juan Manuel Leguizamón, Pablo Matera, Javier Ortega Desio, Leonardo Senatore, Facundo Isa.

Backs: Martin Landajo, Tomas Cubelli, Felipe Ezcurrea, Santiago Gonzalez Iglesias, Nicolas Sanchez, Santiago Cordero, Ramiro Moyano, Jeronimo de la Fuente, Juan Martin Hernandez, Matias Moroni, Matias Orlando, Lucas Gonzalez Amoroso, Joaquin Tuculet. — Reuters



Lwazi Mvovo

MVOVO RECALLED TO SOUTH AFRICA SQUAD

CAPE TOWN: South Africa have recalled winger Lwazi Mvovo to their tour squad for the Rugby Championship matches in Australia and New Zealand next month.

Mvovo replaced Ruan Combrink after he was ruled out for six weeks having fractured his fibula in the 26-24 loss to Argentina in Salta on Saturday.

Scrumhalf Francois Hougaard, named in the squad for the Southern Hemisphere championship but not considered for the two matches against Argentina due to a knee injury, has also rejoined the squad.

Flyhalf Elton Jantjies left the field early in the second half in Salta with a bruised thigh muscle but has been cleared to tour, though he remains a doubt for the test against Australia in Brisbane on Sept. 10.

The Springboks travel to Christchurch to face tournament leaders New Zealand a week later.

Squad:

Backs: Damian de Allende, Juan de Jongh (Stormers), Faf de Klerk (Lions), Johan Goosen (Racing Metro), Bryan Habana (Toulon), Francois Hougaard (Worcester), Elton Jantjies (Lions), Jesse Kriel (Bulls), Lionel Mapoe (Lions), Lwazi Mvovo (Sharks), Rudy Paige (Bulls), Morne Steyn (Stade Francais).

Forwards: Lourens Adriaanse (Sharks), Lood de Jager (Cheetahs), Pieter-Steph du Toit, Eben Etzebeth (Stormers), Steven Kitshoff (Bordeaux), Vincent Koch (Stormers), Jaco Kriel (Lions), Francois Louw (Bath), Malcolm Marx (Lions), Bongani Mbonambi (Stormers), Teboho Mohoje (Cheetahs), Franco Mostert (Lions), Tendai Mtawarira (Sharks), Trevor Nyakane (Bulls), Adriaan Strauss (Bulls), Warren Whiteley (Lions). — Reuters

WESTWOOD, KAYMER, PIETERS GET CAPTAIN'S PICKS FOR RYDER CUP

VIRGINIA WATER: Europe captain Darren Clarke opted for a mix of form and experience in his picks for the Ryder Cup yesterday, with Thomas Pieters, Lee Westwood and Martin Kaymer joining a team seeking an unprecedented fourth straight victory.

Clarke said Westwood and Kaymer, both former top-ranked players and Ryder Cup veterans, were "very obvious" choices, but he had sleepless nights over his final selection. It boiled down to Pieters vs. Russell Knox, players who have won events on different sides of the Atlantic this month. Pieters, who won the Made in Denmark on Sunday in front of Clarke, got the nod.

"It's one of the most difficult periods in the whole of my golfing career," said Clarke, who added that the phone call to let down Knox was "one of the toughest I have ever had to make."

The addition of Pieters meant the European team will have six Ryder Cup rookies in Hazeltine next month. Masters champions Danny Willett, Chris Wood, Rafa Cabrera-Bello, Andy Sullivan and Matt Fitzpatrick also will sample golf's biggest team event for the first time. They qualified automatically along with four-time major winner Rory McIlroy, British Open champion Henrik Stenson, Olympic gold medalist Justin Rose, and Sergio Garcia.

That partly explains Clarke's desire for more balance to the team, and therefore his call for Westwood - a longtime friend - and Kaymer.

It will be the 43-year-old Westwood's 10th straight Ryder Cup, while two-time major champion Kaymer has played in the last three Ryder Cups and made the putt that ensured Europe would retain the cup at Medinah in 2012. They will offer experienced voices in the team room.

"Because all our rookies are playing frequently in America now, it's not quite what it used to be," Clarke said. "That being said, the Ryder Cup is not like any other event."

Clarke said Luke Donald - another former No. 1 and a four-time Ryder Cup winner - and Graeme McDowell would also have been in contention to join Westwood and Kaymer, if their form was better. In the end, it was a straight shootout between Knox and Pieters. The US-based Knox is a two-time winner on the US PGA Tour this season, including at the Travelers



WENTWORTH: European Ryder Cup captain Darren Clarke smiles during a press conference at Wentworth Golf Club, Virginia Waters, England yesterday. Lee Westwood, Martin Kaymer and Thomas Pieters will fill out the European team as Darren Clarke's captain's picks for the Ryder Cup against the United States at Hazeltine from Sept 30-Oct 2. Clarke announced his choices at the European Tour's headquarters at Wentworth yesterday. — AP

Championship this month, and ranked No. 20 - the sixth highest position for a European. His win at a WGC event in Shanghai last year didn't count toward Ryder Cup qualification because he wasn't a member of the European Tour at that stage. If he had been, Knox would be an automatic qualifier.

Pieters stood out, though, after an impressive run of finishes over the past month: Fourth place at the Olympics, second place at the Czech Masters, and then a third victory in the past year at the Made in Denmark where he birdied the last three holes to win. Pieters was grouped with Clarke for the first two rounds.

"He has the talent to go all the way to the top

of the world," Clarke said of Pieters, a big-hitting Belgian who played college golf at Illinois and won the NCAA individual title in 2012 at Riviera. "He brings a bit more of the X-factor. He is going to blossom. He will be a star."

Clarke said he recently set up a WhatsApp group with his vice-captains regarding the captain's picks. "Anyone who's been playing well, it's been on there," Clarke said.

Pieters' name will have popped up more than anyone else. "It's been a little bit crazy," Pieters said. "I was playing well but the results weren't there and I guess I had to step it up at the end. I can't wait to get on that plane and be with the team the whole week." — AP

RAFAEL NADAL'S WRIST NEEDS 'A LITTLE MORE TIME' AT US OPEN

NEW YORK: As Rafael Nadal stood near the net at the US Open after winning his first Grand Slam match in three months Monday, he unraveled the thick wrap of white tape protecting his all important left wrist and then clutched at that arm with his right hand.

Sure, there were matches that provided more drama or surprises on Day 1 at Flushing Meadows.

There was 20th-seeded John Isner's comeback from two sets down to edge 18-year-old Frances Tiafoe before a rowdy, standing-room-only crowd at the new Grandstand.

A first-round loss by Rio Olympics gold medalist Monica Puig. French Open champion Garbine Muguruza's complaints about having trouble breathing after dropping the first set of a match she would go on to win in three.

Nothing, though, was as meaningful when it comes to what could go on over the next two weeks as how 14-time major champion Nadal's wrist felt during and after a relatively straight-forward 6-1, 6-4, 6-2 victory over Denis Istomin.

The match was played at Arthur Ashe Stadium, where the new \$150 million retractable roof remained open under a blue sky, but still offered some extra shade on a day when the temperature reached 90 degrees.

The good news, Nadal said afterward, is that the pain is gone from the part of his body that whips those violent, topspin-heavy forehands that are the key to his success - 14 of his 21 winners came off that wing.

THE BAD NEWS FOR NADAL?

He still is working on feeling comfortable hitting down-the-line forehands, in particular, after sitting out - not just zero real matches, but barely any practice, either - from his withdrawal at the French

Open in late May to the Olympics this month. "Not easy to go 21/2 months out of competition, in the middle of the season, without hitting a forehand," Nadal said. "I need to have the confidence again with my wrist."

Both Nadal and his coach, Uncle Toni, described the way Rafael changed the way he hits a forehand during the Rio Games to try to avoid pain. Both said things are improving.

But as Toni noted: "We need a little time." Istomin, who is from Uzbekistan and is ranked 107th, was not exactly likely to give Nadal much of a test. He entered the day 0-4 against the two-time U.S. Open champion, having dropped 10 of the 11 sets they'd played. He had lost his past 20 matches against top-10 opponents. Plus, he's been dealing with an injured right hamstring lately.

So what did he think of Nadal's play Monday? "For the first set, I was feeling that he was not hitting hard," Istomin said. "A lot of short balls." Nadal's summation of his day: "Not very good; not very bad." Uncle Toni's take? "I hope every



NEW YORK: Rafael Nadal of Spain returns a shot to Denis Istomin of Uzbekistan during his first round Men's Singles match on Day One of the 2016 US Open at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center on Monday in the Flushing neighborhood of the Queens borough of New York City. — AFP

day we can play a little bit better."

There were other folks feeling that way, too, for varying reasons. Isner, for one, had to be rather relieved to escape with a 3-6, 4-6, 7-6 (5), 6-2, 7-6 (3) victory over Tiafoe in their all-American matchup. Tiafoe first built his big lead, let it slip away, then served for the match after breaking Isner for a 5-3 lead in the fifth set. But Isner broke there.

"Probably played the best return game I played all match," Isner said. "Even though I was pretty haggard out there, I got a jolt of energy when I got it back to 5-4." And then the winner of the longest match in tennis history - 70-68 in the fifth set at Wimbledon in 2010 - took advantage

of the U.S. Open's fifth-set tiebreaker to close it out in about 31/2 hours. Afterward, an exhausted Tiafoe leaned into Isner's chest when they met at the net. "The last thing I heard him say is, 'Don't let this get you down,'" Tiafoe recalled.

Puig was seeded at No. 32, and was back on court a little more than two weeks after becoming the first athlete representing Puerto Rico to earn a gold medal in any sport at any Olympics.

"A lot of pressure," she said. "A lot of expectation." She exited the US Open quickly, beaten 6-4, 6-2 by Zheng Saisai of China. "You know what?" Puig said afterward. "This isn't going to be the last of me." — AP

GIRL FINDS STOLEN OLYMPIC GOLD MEDAL

ATLANTA: An Atlanta girl is thanking a 7-year-old Atlanta girl who found his gold medal in a pile of trash weeks after it got stolen.

Joe Jacobi won the medal in men's canoe double slalom at the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona. Jacobi says it was stolen when somebody broke into his car in June. Weeks later, Chloe Smith was walking with her father

when she spotted the gold medal discarded in a pile of garbage. Chloe returned the medal to Jacobi, who had posted about the theft on social media. The former Olympian then promised to visit Chloe's school and let her classmates know about her good deed.

Jacobi spoke Monday to Chloe's first-grade class at Woodson Park Academy. — AP