

## OLYMPIC SWIMMING CHAMP LE CLOS SAYS BOTH PARENTS HAVE CANCER

**CAPE TOWN:** South African Olympic swimming champion Chad le Clos, who beat Michael Phelps in one of the upsets of the 2012 London Games, announced Monday that both his parents are fighting cancer.

Le Clos said in a statement that his father Bert, who himself became a global celebrity for his exuberant celebrations and animated interviews in London, has prostate cancer and

underwent surgery last month.

His mother Geraldine has breast cancer, had a double mastectomy, and is undergoing chemotherapy, Le Clos said. Le Clos' mother had been in remission since 2010, but the cancer had returned, Le Clos said.

"It has not been an easy time but I am training hard for Rio," Le Clos said in his brief statement. "More than anything else I want them to win their

battles. I also hope that they will be in Rio." Le Clos asked for privacy for his family and said he would not be doing any interviews ahead of the Rio de Janeiro Olympics, which open on Aug. 5. Le Clos, just 20 at the time, beat his childhood hero Phelps to win gold in the 200-meter butterfly in London, a big surprise that gained added attention because of his father's heartwarming and humorous

TV interviews. Admiring his son with a gold medal around his neck, Bert said in an interview with the BBC soon after the race: "Look at him! And he's beautiful! Look at this. What a beautiful boy!"

The father then asked if the interview was going out live. When told that it was, Bert apologized for being so excited. Fans loved Bert so much that the BBC asked him to return for a

second interview. Chad le Clos, now 24, is due to defend his 200 butterfly title in Rio, and also compete in the 100-meter butterfly, where he won silver in London just behind Phelps. He could come up against Phelps again in those two events. He could also swim in the 200 freestyle. Le Clos is also a three-time world champion and a six-time winner at the world short-course championships. —AP

## AUSSIE WOMEN EYE US UPSET IN RIO

**SYDNEY:** Three-time Olympic medallist Suzy Batkovic was yesterday left out of Australia's women's basketball squad for the Olympic Games as the Opals look to make the podium for a sixth successive time in Rio de Janeiro.

The 35-year-old, a team regular for over a decade, was one of three players to miss the cut in coach Brendan Joyce's final roster alongside Tess Madgen and Rebecca Allen.

They were already without star centre Lauren Jackson, who retired in March because of injury after an almost 20-year international career. The world number two Australians have won either silver or bronze at every Olympics dating back to Atlanta in 1996, with the irrepressible US team their long-time nemesis.

Laura Hodges, Elizabeth Cambage and Rachel Jarry return from the London 2012 line-up that won bronze, while Erin Phillips and Penny Taylor make their return to Olympic competition. They are joined by

Olympic debutants Marianna Tolo, Katie-Rae Ebzery, Natalie Burton, Tessa Lavey, Leilani Mitchell, Stephanie Talbot and Cayla George. Rio will be Taylor's third Games after missing London with injury, and she believes that the strength, determination and focus of the current side will give them every chance of upsetting the Americans. "Gold is always the goal at an Olympic Games but we know there is a long way to getting the chance to play for that gold medal," she said. "We have a strong team and a very similar team to what we had at the 2014 World Championships and I think Brendan has done a wonderful job implementing a system that we love being a part of."

"We play Brazil first up and playing the home side in the first game is always going to be a huge challenge in itself." The Opals wrap up a camp on Australia's Gold Coast shortly before heading to America for warm-up matches against the USA, Canada and France. —AFP

## NSW OUT TO SALVAGE PRIDE IN ORIGIN DEAD RUBBER

**SYDNEY:** New South Wales are desperate to salvage some pride and send retiring captain Paul Gallen out in style in the third and final State of Origin match of this year's series today against Queensland.

The Maroons have already sealed their 10th rugby league series title in 11 years after a 26-16 win in Brisbane last month, which followed a 6-4 triumph in the opener in Sydney. After yet another failed campaign, New South Wales have added James Tedesco, Wade Graham and Josh Dugan to a freshened side as they look to avoid a series whitewash.

Tedesco replaces Matt Moylan at full-back, while Dugan returns from injury. Graham has received his Origin call-up at the expense of Greg Bird, after returning from suspension.

The long-serving Gallen will line-up for his 24th and last Origin match, with a special video tribute set to be aired immediately before the game at ANZ Stadium. Coach Laurie Daley said his captain would leave a legacy "of giving his best".

"I don't think anyone could ever question that. He goes out there and leaves nothing in the tank," Daley said.

"He's been a true warrior through difficult times but he's aimed up every time he's pulled on a sky blue jersey which I think the boys appreciate. "They know how much this game means to him personally and it'll be great for them to not only win for Gal but win for the state because it'll give

everyone a great deal of optimism."

But Queensland captain Cameron Smith is keen to spoil Gallen's party, adamant there will be no let up from his side with a 3-0 whitewash the aim to ensure New South Wales do not carry self belief into next year's series. "There is no lack of motivation. We spoke about our mindset towards this match and where it needs to be at and I don't see any issues," he said. "We can't afford not to put in a good performance because that can give them a bit of self belief and momentum into next series." Queensland have made two changes from the Brisbane match with Gavin Cooper set to make his Origin debut, while Nate Myles has recovered from injury, with Michael Morgan and Josh Papalii unavailable due to injuries.

### Teams:

Queensland (from) - Darius Boyd, Gavin Cooper, Cooper Cronk, Dane Gagai, Matt Gillett, Aidan Guerra, Greg Inglis, Jacob Lillyman, Josh McGuire, Nate Myles, Corey Oates, Justin O'Neill, Corey Parker, Matt Scott, Cameron Smith (capt), Johnathan Thurston, Sam Thaiday.

New South Wales (from) - James Tedesco, Blake Ferguson, Michael Jennings, Josh Dugan, Josh Mansour, Jack Bird, James Maloney, Aaron Woods, Robbie Farah, Paul Gallen (capt), Wade Graham, Josh Jackson, Tyson Frizell, Matt Moylan, James Tamou, David Klemmer, Andrew Fifita. —AFP



Indian hockey team.

## INDIA CHANGE SKIPPER AHEAD OF OLYMPICS

**NEW DELHI:** India's hockey coach Roelant Oltmans said yesterday that skipper Sardar Singh had been replaced as captain for the Olympics as he backed the sport's one-time giants to continue their recent revival in Rio.

After unveiling the 16-strong men and women's squads which will travel to Brazil, Oltmans said that goalkeeper Sreejesh Ravindran would lead the men's team under a new "rotational captaincy" programme. Singh, who has been captain of the team for the last few years, was picked in the squad and Oltmans insisted he remained a key player. But the move comes after he was accused in February of sexually harassing a woman who claims to have been his former girlfriend, accusations that Singh has strenuously denied.

"I have been here for a three and a half years now and what I observed is a fairly hierarchic structure and when there is only one captain for long then the players shy away from responsi-

bility," said Oltmans. "In a team, during a game, I need players who take responsibility. Changing the captaincy on the pitch gives far more responsibility. "Sardar is an important player but I am sure this (rotational captaincy) will help the team and it will help him as well," he added at a press conference in New Delhi.

India once dominated the men's game at the Olympics and has won a total of eight golds. However the last of these was in Moscow back in 1980 and they finished last at the London games four years ago. Although not one of the favourites at next month's Olympics in Brazil, there have been encouraging signs for India of late and they were runners-up in the recent Champions Trophy.

"You have seen in the last couple of years that we are getting better and better," said the 62-year-old Dutchman.

"If that's enough already to get medals at the Olympics that's something we have to prove.

India's strong showing at last month's Champions Trophy in London has seen it rise a couple of spots to fifth in the world rankings, still some way behind Australia at the top of the chart.

"It's clear from where we are, winning a couple of medals in FIH (International Hockey Federation) tournaments, look at the world rankings at the moment," said Oltmans.

"It is all signals of revival but nothing more than that. It is up to us to prove it during the Olympics that we are there for a longer time," added the coach, who is also the team's high performance director. The Indian men's team has been drawn in Group B alongside Argentina, Canada, Germany, Ireland and Netherlands.

The women's team, which is making its first appearance at an Olympics for 36 years, has been grouped with Argentina, Australia, Great Britain, Japan and the United States. —AFP

## WARRIORS' STAR GREEN ARRESTED FOR ASSAULT

**LOS ANGELES:** Golden State Warriors star Draymond Green, who is expected to represent the United States in the Rio Olympics, has been arrested for an alleged misdemeanor assault. According to court documents obtained by ESPN, the 26-year-old Green was detained in the early morning hours on Sunday following an altercation at Conrad's Grill restaurant in East Lansing, Michigan where Green played four seasons of college basketball.

Police said that Green was arrested for misdemeanor assault and battery. Green has not been charged and police said no one was injured. He was released on a \$200 bond and is scheduled to be back in court on July 20. "It was basically an altercation between two guys," police told the US sports broadcaster on Monday. There were no injuries reported. If convicted, he could face a maximum \$500 fine and 93 days in jail. The Warriors said they are trying to learn more about the incident. "We are aware of the news involving Draymond Green in Michigan over the weekend. At this point, we are collecting information and will have no further comment until we have a better understanding of the situation," the Warriors said in a statement.

Green is among a dozen players who are expected to make up the US team for the Rio Summer Games and he is scheduled to attend the men's Olympic basketball camp in Las Vegas on July 18-21.

"We are still awaiting details. No comment at this time," USA Basketball managing director Jerry Colangelo told ESPN.

He averaged 14.0 points, 9.5 rebounds and 7.4 assists per game last season in helping Golden State reach the National Basketball Association finals.

In the finals, the controversial Green got into a heated altercation with Cavaliers star LeBron James and missed game five of the championship series for an accumulation of flagrant fouls throughout the play-offs. The Cavaliers won the championship in game seven. — AFP



Paul Gallen



Draymond Green