

HORNETS CO-OWNER HITS OUT AT ALL STAR GAME MOVE

CHARLOTTE: Hornets co-owner Felix Sabates has blasted the NBA's decision to move the 2017 All Star Game out of Charlotte, North Carolina due to its objections to a state law decrying as discriminatory against the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community.

The NBA has been opposed to House Bill 2, or HB2, since it was passed in March and tried to work with local governments to change the law before ultimately making a decision of relocating

its mid-February exhibition.

The law made North Carolina the first US state to require transgender people to use restrooms in public buildings and schools that match the sex on their birth certificate rather than their gender identity. In an email obtained on Friday by the Charlotte Observer, Sabates said the decision was "short sighted" and hit out at the city council, who he said was responsible for the game being taken away from Charlotte.

"Shame on those responsible for such a shortsighted decision to take the NBA All Star (Game) away from Charlotte," Sabates wrote. "I always thought this was a country that ALL peoples not just a few can determine our future."

Following Thursday's decision, the Hornets issued a statement saying they understood the decision. "We understand the NBA's decision and the challenges around holding the NBA All-Star

Game in Charlotte this season," it read. "There was an exhaustive effort from all parties to keep the event in Charlotte, and we are disappointed we were unable to do so."

Sabates, however, said the mayor had "opened a can of worms" and that a minority of people had forced "our supposed city leaders into creating a problem that never really existed." "This is plain wrong. This could cause irreparable damages to children that don't

understand why they have to see what God did not mean for them to witness.

"We have some very confused business as well as political humans that frankly have made this a political issue rather than moral issues. SHAME ON THEM." The NBA has said that the All Star Game, which generates millions of dollars in economic activity, could be rescheduled for Charlotte in 2019 if there was an "appropriate resolution to this matter." — Reuters

MLB results/standings

Baltimore 5, Cleveland 1; Philadelphia 4, Pittsburgh 0; San Diego 5, Washington 3; NY Yankees 3, San Francisco 2; Seattle 2, Toronto 1; Cincinnati 6, Arizona 2; Minnesota 2, Boston 1; NY Mets 5, Miami 3; Chicago Cubs 5, Milwaukee 2; Detroit 7, Chicago White Sox 5; Houston 2, LA Angels 1; St. Louis 4, LA Dodgers 3 (16 innings); Kansas City 3, Texas 1; Colorado 4, Atlanta 3; Oakland 1, Tampa Bay 0 (13 innings).

American League

Eastern Division

	W	L	PCT	GB
Baltimore	55	40	.579	-
Boston	54	40	.574	0.5
Toronto	54	43	.557	2
NY Yankees	49	47	.510	6.5
Tampa Bay	38	58	.396	17.5

Central Division

Cleveland	56	39	.589	-
Detroit	51	46	.526	6
Kansas City	48	47	.505	8
Chicago White Sox	46	50	.479	10.5
Minnesota	36	60	.375	20.5

Western Division

Texas	55	42	.567	-
Houston	52	44	.542	2.5
Seattle	49	47	.510	5.5
LA Angels	43	53	.448	11.5
Oakland	43	54	.443	12

National League

Eastern Division

Washington	57	40	.588	-
Miami	52	44	.542	4.5
NY Mets	51	44	.537	5
Philadelphia	45	53	.459	12.5
Atlanta	33	64	.340	24

Central Division

Chicago Cubs	58	37	.611	-
St. Louis	52	44	.542	6.5
Pittsburgh	49	47	.510	9.5
Milwaukee	40	54	.426	17.5
Cincinnati	37	59	.385	21.5

Western Division

San Francisco	57	39	.594	-
LA Dodgers	54	44	.551	4
Colorado	45	51	.469	12
San Diego	42	55	.433	15.5
Arizona	40	56	.417	17



MIAMI: New York Mets second baseman Neil Walker (20) tags out Miami Marlins' Giancarlo Stanton, who tried to stretch a single into a double during the sixth inning of a baseball game, Friday, in Miami. The Mets defeated the Marlins 5-3. — AP

REYES' 3 HITS HELP METS EDGE MARLINS

MIAMI: Jose Reyes had his first three-hit game since joining New York early this month and scored twice to help New York beat the Miami Marlins 5-3 on Friday night. Reyes drove in a run, stole a base and scored on two sacrifice flies by Yoanis Cespedes. The game was Reyes' first at Marlins Park since he played for Miami in 2012. Reyes signed with the Mets after being released by Colorado following a domestic violence suspension. The Mets' James Loney entered the game as a defensive replacement and hit a two-run homer into the upper deck in the ninth inning. Logan Verrett and three relievers combined on a seven-hitter for the Mets. They closed within a half-game of second-place Miami in the NL East. Verrett took a shutout into the sixth for New York but departed after giving up a two-run homer to Christian Yelich, his 10th. Hansel Robles (5-3) pitched 1 2/3 scoreless innings. Jeury's Familia gave up an RBI single by pinch-hitter Martin Prado in the ninth before retiring Adeiny Hechavarria with two on for his 50th consecutive save, including 34 this season to lead the majors. David Phelps (4-5) took the loss. Florida's Ichiro Suzuki struck out on three pitches in the eighth inning as a pinch-hitter and remained four hits shy of 3,000.

PADRES 5, NATIONALS 3

Matt Kemp homered twice and drove in four runs, rookie Luis Perdomo pitched seven solid innings and San Diego beat Washington to snap a four-game losing streak. Kemp hit a solo shot in the first inning and gave San Diego the lead for good with a three-run homer in the fifth. He has six homers in his last six games and the Padres have homered in 20 straight, the longest streak in the National League this season. Perdomo (4-4) gave up two first-inning runs, then limited the National to two hits over the final six innings of his longest outing. Brandon Maurer pitched 1 1/3 innings for his fourth save. Jayson Werth and Daniel Murphy homered for Washington. The Nationals have lost four of five. Tanner Roark (9-6) was the loser.

CUNTS 5, BREWERS 2

Dexter Fowler led off the first with a homer and drove in three runs in his first game back from the disabled list, powering Chicago past Milwaukee. Fowler went 3 for 4 with a walk and scored twice after being sidelined more than a month with a strained right hamstring. His two-run double to left with the bases loaded in the second drew rousing cheers from the bevy of Cubs fans visiting Milwaukee.

Jason Hammel (9-5) allowed four hits and two runs over five-plus innings for his second victory since the All-Star break for NL Central-leading Chicago. He never trailed after Fowler slugged a 3-1 pitch from Jimmy Nelson (6-8) over the center-field wall to lead off the game. Hector Rondon pitched a scoreless ninth for his 17th save. Hernan Perez had a run-scoring double for the Brewers, and Ryan Braun hit a solo homer.

YANKEES 3, GIANTS 2

San Francisco Gold Glove shortstop Brandon Crawford made three errors for the first time in his career, with his wild throw in the eighth inning helping give New York a victory that sent the Giants to their season-worst sixth straight loss. Masahiro Tanaka shut out San Francisco for six innings, giving up four singles. Giants ace Madison Bumgarner went seven innings, allowing

two runs. The Giants nipped Dellin Betances in the seventh, pulling within 2-1 on a walk, a double by Denard Span and a wild pitch. That ended a streak of 31 scoreless innings by Yankees relievers. A double by Giants pinch-hitter Mac Williamson off Andrew Miller (6-1) tied it in the eighth. Chase Headley opened the eighth with a swinging bunt for a single off Josh Osich (1-2), and Mark Teixeira walked. Austin Romine followed with a grounder to Crawford, who tagged second, spun around and made a hard, high throw that glanced off first baseman Brandon Belt's glove. Headley kept running and beat Belt's throw home. Aroldis Chapman closed for his 20th save.

ROYALS 3, RANGERS 1

Danny Duffy scattered four hits while pitching into the seventh inning, and Kansas City scratched out three runs off Texas' Yu Darvish. The only run Duffy (6-1) allowed came on Rowned Odor's homer in the fourth inning. The left hander struck out four and walked two on a steamy evening where the heat index at first pitch was 108 degrees. Luke Hochevar wiggled out of Duffy's jam to end the seventh, Kelvin Herrera pitched a perfect eighth and Wade Davis worked around a two-out single in the ninth for his 21st save. The victory, one day after the Royals (48-47) visited the White House to celebrate their World Series title, kept them from dropping below .500 for the first time since beating Boston on May 17. Darvish (2-2) was making his third start off the disabled list. He allowed single runs in each of the first three innings, struck out 11 and made only one big mistake - Cheslor Cuthbert's home run.

ORIOLES 5, INDIANS 1

Mark Trumbo hit a three-run homer, Manny Machado added a solo shot and Baltimore beat Cleveland for rookie Dylan Bundy's first major league victory as a starter. Trumbo launched his 29th home run in the first inning and Machado made it 5-0 in the third. Both drives came off Trevor Bauer (7-4). Bundy (3-2) allowed five hits and an unearned run in five innings. Odrisamer Despaigne followed Bundy with 3 2/3 innings of three-hit ball before Zach Britton got the final out for his 31st save. The game had a scary moment in the seventh inning when Despaigne's fastball struck Juan Uribe in the batting helmet around the left ear. Uribe stood bent over near the plate for several minutes before leaving. The team said Uribe had a head contusion.

ASTROS 2, ANGELS 1

Lance McCullers struck out 10 in eight-plus solid innings and Will Harris finished off the ninth to lead Houston past Los Angeles. McCullers was lifted for Harris after walking Kole Calhoun and Mike Trout with no outs in the ninth. Carlos Correa saved a run when he dived to stop a grounder hit by Daniel Nava and tossed the ball to second for a force for the second out. An RBI single by Andrelton Simmons came next to get the Angels within one, but Harris struck out Ji-Man Choi for his 10th save. McCullers (5-4) allowed four hits, his 10 strikeouts tied a season-high and he fanned Trout three times in his longest outing of the season. Matt Shoemaker (5-10) took the loss. Los Angeles had won a season-high six straight.

MARINERS 2, BLUE JAYS 1

James Paxton pitched seven strong innings to

win for the first time in three starts, Seth Smith doubled home the go-ahead run in the sixth inning and Seattle beat Toronto. Seattle won consecutive games for the first time since a four-game run from June 30 to July 3. The Mariners have won five straight and 14 of 20 against AL East opponents this season. Paxton (3-4) allowed one run and three hits. He walked one and struck out nine. Edwin Diaz worked the eighth, and Steve Cishek finished for his 23rd save. Paxton retired 16 of the first 17 batters he faced. The only blemish was Michael Saunders's one-out homer in the second.

PHILLIES 4, PIRATES 0

Zach Eflin pitched his first major league shutout in his eighth start and Philadelphia beat Pittsburgh. Eflin (3-3) had six strikeouts, allowed three hits and did not walk a batter as he threw 100 pitches for his second complete game this month. In the majors for just 39 days, the 22-year-old is one of only seven pitchers to have multiple complete games this season. Cameron Rupp had a home run and three RBIs, and Odubel Herrera had three hits and scored twice for the Phillies, who entered having lost four of five. Gerrit Cole (5-6) was the loser.

REDS 6, DIAMONDBACKS 2

Joey Votto extended his post-All Star break surge with a three-run homer, and Dan Straily pitched six innings in Cincinnati's victory over Arizona. Votto connected in the first inning off Archie Bradley (3-6). Votto has hit safely in all seven games since the All-Star break, going 12 for 23 with a double, three homers, eight RBIs and seven walks. Tucker Barnhart added a solo homer in the sixth off Randall Delgado. Brandon Phillips later singled home a run, extending his hitting streak to 10 games. Straily (5-6) gave up five hits in six innings. The Diamondbacks began the day with second-year manager Chip Hale hearing reports that the team had considered changing managers. Arizona has dropped 16 of 20.

TWINS 2, RED SOX 1

Kyle Gibson put an end to Boston's two-game hitting outburst, allowing just a pair of hits in the first inning and none over the next seven in Minnesota's victory. Brian Dozier hit a solo home run for the Twins in the second inning and Miguel Sano added an RBI single in the sixth. It was all the scoring Minnesota needed for Gibson (3-6). The Red Sox got a leadoff homer from Mookie Betts and a one-out single by Xander Bogaerts in the first, then went hitless until the bottom of the ninth against closer Brandon Kintzler. Kintzler got his seventh save, preserving the lead in a wild bottom half of the ninth. Eduardo Rodriguez (2-4) took the loss.

TIGERS 7, WHITE SOX 5

Miguel Cabrera tied a season high with four hits, including a go-ahead two-run single in the seventh, to lead Detroit past Chicago. Cabrera's two-run single against Nate Jones put Detroit back on top after the Tigers blew a three-run lead in the fifth and sent Chicago to its eighth loss in nine games. Ian Kinsler scored three runs, and Kyle Ryan (4-2) pitched a scoreless inning in relief after a rare shaky start by Michael Fulmer. Francisco Rodriguez worked the ninth for his 27th save in 29 chances. Chicago's Justin Morneau hit his first home run in more than 14 months. Carson Fulmer (0-1) struggled in relief.

ROCKIES 4, BRAVES 3

Jon Gray pitched seven strong innings, Nolan Arenado and Trevor Story hit two-run homers off relievers after starter Julio Teheran left because of an injury, and Colorado beat Atlanta. Gray (6-4) allowed one run and six hits with eight strikeouts, helping the Rockies hand the Braves their eighth straight loss at Coors Field. Teheran left the game after facing one batter in the fifth with what the team said was right lat tightness. His status was described as day to day. De La Cruz (0-3) was the loser. Jace Peterson hit a two-run homer for the Braves. Carlos Estevez finished for his eighth save.

CARDINALS 4, DODGERS 3, 16 innings

Matt Adams homered in the 16th to lead the Cardinals to a season-best fifth straight victory. It was the second consecutive game the Cardinals won in their final at-bat. They beat the Padres on Thursday after scoring a run in the ninth inning. Adams' homer came with one out off Bud Norris (5-9), who gave up six runs as a starter in an 8-1

loss at Washington on Wednesday. Seth Maness (1-2) picked up the win with a scoreless inning of relief for St. Louis, which played its longest game of the season. Jedd Gyorko hit a two-out homer off closer Kenley Jansen in the ninth to tie the game 3-3. Justin Turner and Howie Kendrick homered for the Dodgers, who have lost four of six.

ATHLETICS 1, RAYS 0, 13 innings

Oakland's Coco Crisp singled home the winning run in the 13th inning for his eighth career game-ending RBI. Ryon Healy doubled to start the rally against Dylan Floro (0-1), and both Healy and Crisp tossed their batting helmets in the air after the win that took 3 hours, 31 minutes. John Axford (4-3) pitched the 12th and 13th innings for the win. A's rookie Sean Manaea struck out seven and didn't give up a walk in eight innings. Rays starter Jake Odorizzi, who snapped a six-start winless streak last Sunday against Baltimore for his first win since June 8, matched his career high with eight innings. He allowed five hits in eight innings and didn't walk a batter for the third time this year. — AP

KANE CHARGED WITH HARASSMENT AT BAR

BUFFALO: Sabres forward Evander Kane was arrested by Buffalo police Friday, and faces numerous charges for allegedly grabbing three women by the neck, hair and arms during an altercation at a downtown bar last month.

The 24-year-old Kane was handcuffed after turning himself in outside the police department's downtown booking facility. Kane was processed and released, and is scheduled to make his first court appearance on Aug. 1. He faces four counts of non-criminal harassment, one count of disorderly conduct and a count of misdemeanor trespass as a result of the altercation that happened in the early hours of June 24 - the same day the NHL's two-day draft opened in Buffalo. The arrest was made a day after investigators informed the player's lawyer of the charges and requested Kane surrender himself, Buffalo police downtown district chief Joseph Gramaglia said.

Kane's lawyer Paul Cambria told The Associated Press by phone that his client denies the charges. Cambria questioned why Kane was charged with trespassing when he was invited to the bar by the establishment's owner.

Cambria was also surprised police handcuffed Kane outside the facility, when his client voluntarily surrendered. "Obviously, it wasn't necessary," Cambria said. "But we don't govern their actions."

Gramaglia said it is police policy to handcuff all suspects upon entering the secure facility regardless of who they are or the charges. Gramaglia said the charges are based on allegations made by three women, who said they were grabbed by Kane inside and outside the bar. A male bar employee, who forcibly removed Kane from the establishment, also filed a complaint which led to

the disorderly conduct and trespass charges, Gramaglia said. He said no one was injured.

The Sabres and the NHL both issued statements saying they are aware of Kane's arrest. The NHL said it will monitor the legal proceedings before determining whether Kane will face disciplinary action. The league added, if necessary, it could determine to have Kane directed to the NHL/NHL Players' Association's behavioral health professionals for evaluation and counselling.

The arrest is the latest in a string of off-and-on ice troubles for Kane, who has two years remaining on his contract.

In March, prosecutors announced after a three-month investigation that Kane would not face a sexual assault charge stemming from a December incident because there was no evidence to support the allegation.

Kane also ran into trouble with the Sabres, who suspended him for one game in February after he slept in and missed practice. It happened a day after pictures surfaced on social media of Kane celebrating in Toronto after attending the NBA All-Star game. Three weeks ago, Sabres general manager Tim Murray expressed concern about Kane by saying the player needs to behave better.

"He's going to have to pick and choose his spots when he goes out a lot better than he does," Murray said. "Whether he has done these things or not, or he is guilty of these things or not, it's not something I like getting up in the morning and reading about that's for sure."

The fourth player selected in the 2009 draft, Kane completed his first season in Buffalo after being acquired in a multi-player trade with Winnipeg in February 2015. He scored 20 goals and added 15 assists in 65 games last season. — AP