

Water quality concern moves to pools

REUTERS

RIO DE JANEIRO — Concerns over water quality at the Olympics have been swirling for months for sailors and rowers, but this week they moved into swimming pools, in the latest embarrassment for Games organizers.

Untreated sewage, the presence of dangerous bacteria, and garbage floating in Rio's Guanabara Bay and lagoon waters have long unsettled many water-sport competitors at the Games.

But few expected the diving pool at the Maria Lenk aquatic center to turn a mysterious, translucent green on Wednesday.

World swimming governing body FINA said the color was the result of a failure by Games organizers to sufficiently treat the water, after tanks at the pools had run out of pool chemicals.

The resulting abnormal pH levels in the diving and water polo pool next door would be quickly remedied, organizers said, adding that the water posed no health risk.

Their solution — adding more chlorine, a chemical that kills algae and helps keep pool waters blue — kept the complaints rolling in.

After the U.S. men's water polo team beat France on Wednesday, U.S. captain Tony Azevedo emerged from the pool red-eyed, bemoaning the pool water that was stinging players' eyes.

"What's ridiculous is not the green water. I've played in plenty of pools with green water. The problem is they put way too much chlorine in," Azevedo told reporters. "I could barely open my eyes for the final quarter."

Azevedo added: "This is the Olympic Games and they are putting so much chlorine in the water that people can't see. You can't have that."

According to water treatment experts, such problems are easily avoidable with proper maintenance by pool-keepers.



Murray reaches quarterfinals

RIO DE JANEIRO — Defending champion Andy Murray survived a scare to reach the quarter-finals of the men's Olympic tennis tournament with a three-set victory over Fabio Fognini on Thursday.

Murray won 6-1 2-6 6-3 after rallying from a 3-0 third-set deficit against the Italian, who won eight straight games before the Briton regained control.

Spain's Rafa Nadal also booked his spot in the last eight with a 7-6(5) 6-3 win over Frenchman Gilles Simon.

The Olympic tennis tournament has been marked by some major upsets in the opening rounds and both Murray and Nadal were tested on Thursday, in gusty conditions after rain delays had cancelled play on Wednesday.

The momentum shifts in Murray's match were striking. The Italian mounted an aggressive counter-attack after Murray won the first set easily, repeatedly wrong-footing the Briton on the baseline, or drawing him in with drop shots. But Murray turned it around to win the last six games.

"It wasn't pretty, but I won," he told reporters. "The wind was swirling everywhere, so it was just really tough conditions for us to play well."

Murray, who now faces Steve Johnson of the United States, is favourite to clinch a second straight gold medal following the first-round exit of world number one Novak Djokovic to Argentina's Juan Martin Del Potro.

U.S. men relish marathon Italy match

United States gold-medal hopes Nicholas Lucena and Phil Dalhausser relished Thursday's marathon victory against Italy's Paolo Nicolai and Daniele Lupo, a performance they said put them in good stead for the knockout rounds in men's volleyball.

With the sun setting over a windy Copacabana beach, the U.S. won 21-13, 17-21, 24-22 after both teams successfully defended match points in a third set that usually only goes to 15.

Medals tally

Current top 20 by total medals won - After Day 5

COUNTRY				TOTAL
United States	11	11	10	32
China	10	5	8	23
Japan	6	1	11	18
Russia	4	7	4	15
Australia	5	2	5	12
Great Britain	3	3	6	12
Italy	3	6	2	11
Korea	4	2	3	9
Hungary	5	1	1	7
Kazakhstan	2	2	3	7
France	2	3	1	6
Canada	0	1	5	6
Thailand	2	1	1	4
Germany	1	2	1	4
Netherlands	1	1	2	4
DPR Korea	0	2	2	4
Sweden	1	2	0	3
Belgium	1	1	1	3
Taiwan	1	0	2	3
Ukraine	0	2	1	3

Note: Some countries tied in 20th position may be excluded from the table.
Source: Infostrada
Staff, 11/08/2016

REUTERS

"It was a good test. They are one of the top five teams in the world, they're the future of this sport," Lucena said.

Nicolai and Lupo are 28 and 25 respectively, while veterans Dalhausser and Lucena are both 36.

Lucena and Dalhausser now move into the last 16. Their opponents will be decided by matches later on Thursday.

Britain win gold in men's team sprint

Britain won the men's track cycling team sprint gold for the third consecutive Olympics after defeating New Zealand on Thursday, with Callum Skinner anchoring them

Americans Manuel, Phelps make history

REUTERS

RIO DE JANEIRO — Michael Phelps of the United States won the Olympic 200-meter individual medley on Thursday night to capture the 22nd gold medal of his career and become the first swimmer to win the same event at four consecutive Games.

Japan's Kosuke Hagino won silver and Wang Shun of China took bronze, both moving dramatically through the field on the final length after turning in fifth and seventh place.

Earlier, Simone Manuel became the first African-American to win gold in an individual swimming event when she and Canada's Penny Oleksiak dead-heated for the 100 meters Olympic swimming freestyle gold.

They both touched the wall in 52.70 seconds.

Sweden's Sarah Sjöström took the bronze in 52.99.

It was yet another extraordinary swim for Phelps, 31, who has now won two individual and two relay golds at his fifth Olympics, two years after coming out of retirement.

His total medal haul has now risen to 26, including two silvers and two bronzes, with the 100 meter butterfly still to come.

Brazil's Thiago Pereira went off

fastest, leading from Phelps after the butterfly leg, with Ryan Lochte and Hagino neck-and-neck just behind.

With the Rio crowd's excitement mounting, the three turned almost together after the backstroke, with Lochte a fraction ahead.

Phelps led from Pereira and Lochte at the final turn and powered on as the other two faded, opening the way for Hagino and Wang to grab the two other medals.

Phelps' four consecutive golds in the same event are unique for a swimmer, and place him in the same Olympic pantheon as Al Oerter in the discus and Carl Lewis in the long jump.

American Ryan Murphy completed a backstroke double and extended a U.S. winning streak, adding the Olympic men's 200-meter gold to the 100 title he won earlier in the week.

The U.S. men have now won the event for six successive Olympics dating back to Atlanta in 1996.

World champion Mitch Larkin, who had hoped to become only the second Australian to win a backstroke gold and the first since 1960, took the silver medal while Russian Evgeny Rylov clinched bronze.

"There's a lot of pressure. Unfortunately Ryan came over the top of me," said Larkin.

Murphy, a 21-year-old first time



STEFAN WERMUTH | REUTERS

Ryan Murphy of the United States competes in the 200-meter backstroke final Thursday night at Olympic Aquatics Stadium in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Olympian, trailed Larkin over the first 50 meters but took the lead after the turn and stayed ahead to touch out in one minute, 53.62 seconds — the fastest time of the year.

He will be heavily fancied to take his third medal of the Games in Saturday's medley relay, having set an Olympic record in winning the 100 backstroke.

"That one was very painful but I wanted it bad. The 100 backstroke comes more naturally for me," said Murphy.

"The 200 back is an event I really have to dig deep for. This medal means a little more to me."

Larkin finished in 1:53.96, beating world junior champion Rylov (1:53.97) by the closest of margins.

Tyler Clary, the gold medallist

at London 2012, was unable to defend his title after failing to be selected at the U.S. trials.

In the 50-meter men's freestyle heats, Olympic champion Florent Manaudou qualified fastest for Friday's final.

In a fast and furious burst of whitewater, France's Manaudou clocked 21.32 seconds, narrowly edging out Ukraine's Andrii Govorov and Anthony Ervin of the United States, who swam in the second semifinal and finished in a dead heat in 21.46 seconds.

Nathan Adrian of the United States, Benjamin Proud of Britain, Bruno Fratus of Brazil, Simonas Bilis of Lithuania and Brad Tandy of South Africa rounded out the qualifiers.

Australia's Cameron McEvoy, who had qualified for the Games with the second fastest time in the world this year with a time of 21.44 seconds at the Australian championships, was 11th fastest in 21.89 seconds.

Earlier, Japan's Rie Kaneto won the Olympic gold medal in the women's 200-meter breaststroke, edging out controversial Russian Yulia Efimova who won her second silver of the Games.

Shi Jinglin of China took the bronze.

In the 800-meter women's freestyle heats, Katie Ledecky put another golden, and late, night behind her and focused on winning a fourth title at the Rio Games in her favorite event.

Ortiz returns to lineup after injury scare

WIRE SERVICE REPORTS

BOSTON — Boston Red Sox slugger David Ortiz was listed as a starter in the lineup for Thursday night's game against the New York Yankees one night after fouling a 99-mph fastball from Dellin Betances off the mid-point of his right shin.

X-rays and a fluoroscan taken following the game were negative.

"My heart sunk a little bit when I saw it, but fortunately, I just saw him back there," Red Sox president of baseball operations Dave Dombrowski told redsox.com. "He's doing much better. It's not broken. He looks like he's moving around pretty good right now, considering how he was. Before, we had to carry him off, basically, but he's now walking. He's standing around on his own. It hit off him solid, but he's doing much better."

The team was concerned Ortiz may have suffered a

significant injury as he was in a lot of pain and had to be helped back to the dugout by manager John Farrell and a member of the training staff.

The Red Sox did lose a starter for Thursday night's game, however, as right fielder Mookie Betts was sidelined due to right-calf tightness. He is listed as day-to-day.

The team also announced that knuckleball pitcher Steven Wright would miss Thursday night's start due to right shoulder inflammation.

On Thursday, the Red Sox activated righthander Sean O'Sullivan from the 15-day disabled list. He was 2-0 with a 6.75 ERA for Boston before suffering from left knee patellar tendinitis.

The team also recalled lefthander Roenis Elias from Triple-A Pawtucket and sent outfielder Bryce Brentz back to Pawtucket.

Elias has compiled an 8-4 record and 3.72 ERA with Pawtucket.

Brentz hit .279 with three doubles and a home run in 25 games for the Red Sox.

Yanks rally in 8th, top Sox

BY GETHIN COOLBAUGH
THE SPORTS XCHANGE

BOSTON — Jacoby Ellsbury hit a two-run double during a three-run Yankees

MAJOR LEAGUES

Yankees eighth inning, and New York came back to beat the Boston Red Sox 4-2 Thursday night at Fenway Park.

Austin Romine added a solo home run, his fourth of the year for New York, which won two of three games in Boston and improved to 6-4 in August.

Alex Rodriguez, batting cleanup in his final road start with the Yankees at Fenway Park, was vigorously booed as he stepped to the plate for the first time in the second inning.

The 41-year-old slugger, who will be released after New York's game against the Tampa Bay Rays at Yankee Stadium on Friday, hit a light popout to second following a six-pitch at-bat.

Rodriguez finished 0-for-4 with a strikeout, sending a dribbler in front of the pitcher in his final at-bat in the eighth inning to plate the

Yankees' final run.

New York starter Michael Pineda allowed two runs on eight hits and two walks with three strikeouts over six innings.

Luis Cessa (2-0) earned the win with two scoreless innings, and Dellin Betances survived a rocky ninth for his third save.

Hanley Ramirez drove in both runs for Boston (61-52), which lost for the fourth time in five games and dropped below .500 for the first time since July 8.

Red Sox starter Eduardo Rodriguez lasted seven innings, giving up a run on three hits and a walk with six strikeouts.

Brad Ziegler (0-3) surrendered all three runs in the eighth, though only one was earned.

Trailing 2-1, New York (58-56) loaded the bases for Ellsbury with one out in the eighth.

Ellsbury hit a line drive to rookie Red Sox left fielder Andrew Benintendi, who lost a catchable ball in the lights and let it roll to the wall. Two runs scored on the play.

Sandy Leon's leadoff double and Benintendi's walk put runners on the corners for Dustin Pedroia with one out in the Boston ninth. However, Pedroia and Xander Bogaerts both struck out.

Ramirez was shaken up after colliding with Gary Sanchez at first base during Sanchez's eighth-inning single. Sanchez sent a grounder to a shifted Pedroia, playing over at shortstop. Pedroia made a sliding stop but fired an off-target throw to Ramirez at first.

While he was backing up to make the play, Ramirez was bowled over by Sanchez at the bag.

Ramirez stayed in the game after being checked out. David Ortiz roped a ground-rule double and rumbled home on Ramirez's ensuing RBI single in the first inning.

Ramirez snapped an 0-for-16 spell in the process, collecting his first hit since tripping down the dugout stairs on Aug. 2 at Seattle.

Romine tied it with his homer in the third, crushing a 1-0 slider from Eduardo Rodriguez over the Green Monster in left field.

Medals

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A vocal critic of Russia's exclusion, which she says punishes clean athletes like herself who have never failed a doping test, Isinbayeva has said any medals won in Rio will be illegitimate.

"Let all these foreign pseudo-clean sportspeople sigh with relief and win their pseudo-gold medals in our absence," she wrote on Instagram after CAS upheld the Russian team's ban in July. "They have always feared (our) strength."

In the men's events, Russian hopes were resting on hurdler Shubenkov, who pulled off a shocking win at the world championships in Beijing last year with a top-20 time of 12.98 seconds.

"As an athlete you ... always want to compete against the best," U.S. rival Devon Allen told reporters. "The defending world champion is Russian so, as a competitor, it is disappointing because obviously I want to compete against him."

"But on the other side, I don't make the rules. I just show up and compete."

RED SOX NOTEBOOK