

US MMA fighter in Russia council

Moscow, Russia

The American professional mixed martial arts fighter Jeff Monson, who was granted Russian citizenship this year, has been elected to the local council of a small town near Moscow.

Elena Prochakovskaya, an official for the ruling United Russia party in the Krasnogorsk district, confirmed the MMA star's win to Russian news agencies Tuesday.

Despite not being a member of the Kremlin-aligned party, local United Russia members chose him as a candidate through an internal election.

"Actually I was invited to run by United Russia but I ran as an independent," he wrote on his Twitter account following nationwide local elections at the weekend.

The 47-year-old heavyweight fighter, who describes himself as an "anarcho-communist" and has anti-capitalist tattoos, was once drawn to the Russian Communist Party but has since distanced himself.

"Unfortunately I learned there are no communists in communist party in Russia," wrote Monson, who has fought under the nickname 'The Snowman'.

President Vladimir Putin officially bestowed Russian nationality on Monson this summer.

Maradona seeks rebirth in Mexican club

Osaka, Japan

Argentine legend Diego Maradona described his decision to coach second-division Mexican club Dorados as a rebirth after years battling addictions, as he officially became the team's new manager Monday.

Maradona, who has publicly struggled with drug addiction, alcoholism and obesity, raised eyebrows with the decision to accept a job in the heart of Mexican drug cartel country -- the rough-and-tumble state of Sinaloa.

But in his first press conference for Dorados, he described the job as a healthy new beginning after a long "sickness," alluding to the excesses of his past.

"I want to give Dorados what I lost when I was sick," he told the 200 journalists who packed the hotel conference room in Culiacan, the state capital, where he was officially presented as the struggling club's new coach.

"I was sick for 14 years. Now I want to see the sun, I want to go to bed at night. I never even used to go to bed. I didn't even know what a pillow was. That's why I accepted the offer from Dorados," he said.

Mexico was the scene of Maradona's greatest triumph as a player: leading Argentina to the 1986 World Cup title -- almost single-handedly, according to some.

Navratilova: Even if guys do it, it's wrong

New York, United States

Martina Navratilova, an 18-time Grand Slam singles champion, says Serena Williams was wrong in her outburst at the US Open women's finals even though she agreed there is a double standard.

Writing in an opinion article for the New York Times, the 61-year-old Czech-born American said a higher standard needed to be observed when Williams called chair umpire Carlos Ramos a "thief" and was penalized a key game in the second set.

"We cannot measure ourselves by what we think we should also be able to get away with," Navratilova wrote. "In fact, this is the sort of behaviour that no one should be engaging in on the court."

Williams, who was thwarted in her bid for a record-tying 24th Slam singles crown in losing to Japan's Naomi Osaka, said she was punished for saying something where men have said far worse without incurring such a penalty.

"Serena Williams has part of it right. There is a huge double standard for women when it comes to how bad behaviour is punished -- and not just in tennis," Navratilova said.

"But in her protests... she also got part of it wrong. I don't be-



Serena Williams of the US argues with chair umpire Carlos Ramos while playing Naomi Osaka of Japan during their 2018 US Open women's singles final match

lieve it's a good idea to apply a standard of, "If men can get away with it, women should be able to, too.

"Rather, I think the question we have to ask ourselves is this: What is the right way to behave to honour our sport and to respect our opponents?"

Williams was issued a warning for coaching, something her

coach sitting in the stands, Patrick Mouratoglou, admitted to doing.

Williams was unhappy at the violation call and complained to Ramos she hadn't taken any signals.

Williams later smashed her racquet, resulting in a code violation and a point deduction, which she argued over with

Ramos.

"Ramos, effectively, had no choice but to dock her a point," Navratilova said.

"It was here that Ms. Williams really started to lose the plot. She and Mr. Ramos were, in effect, talking past each other.

"She was insisting that she doesn't cheat -- completely believable, but besides the point



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NAVRAILOVA

-- while he was making a call over which he, at that point, had little discretion."

Matters escalated and Williams called Ramos a "thief," incurring the crucial game penalty.

"It's difficult to know, and debatable, whether Ms. Williams could have gotten away with calling the umpire a thief if she were a male player," Navratilova wrote.

"But to focus on that, I think, is missing the point. If, in fact, the guys are treated with a different measuring stick for the same transgressions, this needs to be thoroughly examined and must be fixed."

Mancini defiant as Italy crisis deepens



Italy's coach Roberto Mancini

Milan, Italy

Roberto Mancini remains defiant his strategy will reap rewards after a 1-0 defeat to Portugal in the Nations League piled pressure on the Italy coach as the country craves a victory to ease the pain of their World Cup absence.

An Andre Silva strike just after the break ensured Portugal -- even without star striker Cristiano Ronaldo -- went top of their Nations League Group 3 with three points from their first game in Lisbon.

Italy have just one point from two games after being held 1-1 by Poland.

After the four-time champions' failure to qualify for the World Cup for the first time

in 60 years, relegation in the Nations League now looks a real possibility.

"We must grow," said Mancini. "If a young player doesn't play at a high level then it's clear that they'll struggle in the first few games.

"I didn't enjoy the defeat, but I did like the team's desire to keep trying right until the end, even if they were at risk of conceding a second goal.

"This was the right attitude to have. We don't want to be relegated and we still want to finish among the top teams in the group.

"Poland and Portugal have three matches left and we have two.

"We'll wait and see, but our objective is to form a squad for Euro 2020."

Bradley capture BMW crown

Philadelphia, United States

American Keegan Bradley snapped a six-year US PGA winless skid on Monday, paring the first playoff hole to defeat new world number one Justin Rose for the BMW Championship crown.

Bradley won his fourth career title, his third in a playoff, to deny Rose his third triumph of the season even though the runner-up effort was enough to see the Englishman atop the rankings for the first time in his career.

Rose lipped out a 15-foot par putt at the 72nd hole to shoot three-under par 67 and match Bradley, who closed with a 64, on 20-under 260 at rain-softened Aronimink in a final round delayed a day by showers. Bradley, the 2011 PGA Championship winner, had not won since taking the WGC Bridgestone Invitational. It was also his first title since abandoning the controversial belly putter.

"A lot has happened to me over these six years," Bradley said. "The belly putter was a tougher transition than I thought, and I kind of fell off the radar there for a little while.

"It has been tough to go from being on Ryder Cup teams, being on Presidents Cup teams, to outside the top 100 in the world. That was difficult."

Bradley responded by regrouping with coach Darren May and slowly revamping his



Keegan Bradley holds the championship trophies after winning the BMW Championship in a playoff on Monday at Aronimink

game to its peak form.

"I felt so calm today. It was really kind of strange because I don't normally look at leaderboards, but I looked all day and I felt so solid," Bradley said.

"It's so gratifying to get what comes with hard work. Sometimes you never even get it. To be back here and win this tournament is just incredible."

Rose, unlike Bradley, will be among five players who can capture the US PGA \$10 million season playoff crown by winning in two weeks at the season-ending Tour Championship in Atlanta.

"I'd love to go the Tour Championship winning because obviously I want to get to number one by winning golf tournaments, but today was fun," Rose said.

"I birdied 16 and 17. I knew Keegan was ahead of me doing the same thing, so I kind of was responding to that. Hit a great putt in regulation to (try and) win it, but then it was a poor playoff putt from me."

Americans Billy Horschel and Xander Schauffele shared third on 261 with Northern Ireland's Rory McIlroy on 262.

- Tiger shares sixth -

Tiger Woods, a 14-time major champion in his comeback season from spinal fusion, produced a closing 65 to share sixth place on 263 and ensure himself a spot in the 30-man finale. Jordan Spieth is likely to be fined \$20,000 for failing to play the minimum 25 tour events after failing to reach the Tour Championship.