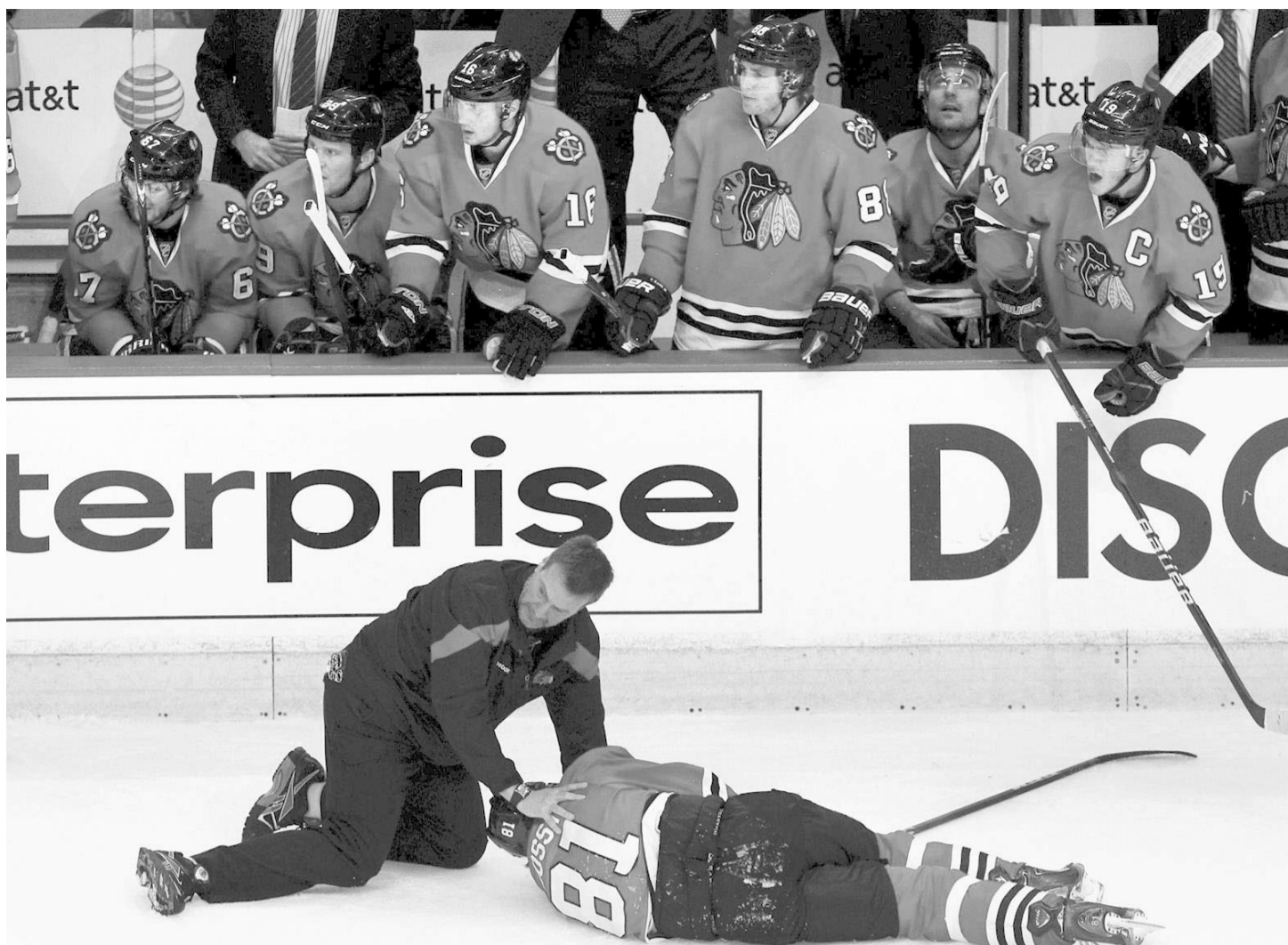


HOCKEY



JIM YOUNG/REUTERS

The Blackhawks' Marian Hossa after being injured Tuesday on a hit by the Coyotes' Raffi Torres in Game 3 of their series.

Hit on Hossa Adds to Concerns About Safety

By BEN STRAUSS

CHICAGO — The Chicago Blackhawks and the Phoenix Coyotes have played three overtime thrillers in the first three games of their series, but the focus at the United Center on Wednesday — as it has been across the N.H.L. throughout the playoffs — was on suspensions, illegal hits and player safety.

The league announced an indefinite suspension for the Coyotes' Raffi Torres after he leveled Marian Hossa with a shoulder to the chin during a Game 3 win Tuesday night that gave Phoenix a 2-1 series lead. Torres is the ninth player suspended in the postseason and the second in this series, prompting questions about dangerous play and whether the league should better police it.

"A lot of these hits are getting out of control," the Blackhawks' Dave Bolland said. "It's hurting guys, and you just never know what's going to happen."

Torres appeared to leave his feet before his open-ice hit on Hossa, who lay still for several minutes before he was carried to the locker room on a stretcher. After Hossa was released from the hospital, he texted with teammates. A team statement announced his condition as encouraging but gave no timetable for his return.

Blackhawks Coach Joel Quenneville said there was no further update a day later and ruled Hossa out for Thursday night's Game 4. Torres will meet with the league Friday to determine the full extent of his punishment.

When the two teams face off for Game 4, the Blackhawks, too, will be missing a player to suspension. Andrew Shaw will serve the second game of a three-game ban after he collided with goalie

The Suspension Postseason

Brendan Shanahan, the N.H.L.'s chief disciplinarian, has been busy during the first round of the playoffs. Here are the suspensions he has handed down so far, including some explanation from his player safety videos on NHL.com.

APRIL 12 Byron Bitz of Vancouver was suspended for two games for boarding Los Angeles's Kyle Clifford on April 11, hitting him "on the shoulder and the head with significant force."

SUNDAY The Rangers' Carl Hagelin was suspended for three games for a "reckless strike" to the head of Ottawa's Daniel Alfredsson on Saturday.

SUNDAY Ottawa's Matt Carkner was suspended for one game for being "the aggressor in an altercation with a defenseless opponent," the Rangers' Brian Boyle, on Saturday.

SUNDAY Craig Adams of Pittsburgh received an automatic one-game suspension for instigating a fight with Philadelphia's Scott Hartnell in the final five minutes Sunday.

Mike Smith behind the Phoenix net in Game 2.

"The playoffs are always going to bring emotion out, and they're always going to bring intensity," said the Phoenix captain Shane Doan, attributing the increased disciplinary action in his series and around the league to a new N.H.L. philosophy, not anything on the ice.

"No one's going out there trying to hurt anyone," Doan said. He added, "The league is trying to change."

TUESDAY Andrew Shaw of Chicago was suspended for three games for "a forceful blow" with his shoulder to Phoenix goalie Mike Smith's chin on Saturday.

TUESDAY Pittsburgh's James Neal was suspended for one game for leaping to hit Philadelphia's Claude Giroux "in the back and head area" Sunday.

TUESDAY Pittsburgh's Arron Asham received a four-game suspension for cross-checking Philadelphia's Brayden Schenn in the throat Sunday. "The violent, vengeful nature of the high stick is unacceptable," Shanahan said.

TUESDAY Nicklas Backstrom of Washington was suspended for one game for cross-checking Boston's Rich Peverley in the face Monday, a reaction Shanahan called "excessive and reckless."

WEDNESDAY Raffi Torres of Phoenix was suspended indefinitely, pending a hearing Friday, for charging Chicago's Marian Hossa on Tuesday. Hossa was taken from the ice on a stretcher and briefly hospitalized.

Torres called his actions Tuesday night a "hockey play" after the game, and Phoenix Coach Dave Tippett attempted to explain the hit, although he declined to call it clean.

"I've seen a lot of other hits like it," Tippett said. "I don't think there was a malicious intent like you see some of the cross checks to the face."

The Blackhawks vehemently disagreed about Torres, a player with a history of suspensions after questionable hits. Exactly a

year ago to the day of Hossa's injury, a Torres hit on Blackhawks' defenseman Brent Seabrook forced him out of Games 6 and 7 of last year's first-round series against the Vancouver Canucks.

"There's no remorse at all with a guy like that," the Blackhawks captain Jonathan Toews said. "Have a guy carried off on a stretcher, and he probably doesn't feel bad about it at all. That's not hockey to me."

Torres has served two previous suspensions from the league for illegal hits. Last season, he elbowed Edmonton's Jordan Eberle in the head and was given a four-game suspension. Earlier this season, he missed two games for charging Nate Prosser of the Minnesota Wild.

This postseason was first marred by dirty play and ensuing suspension decisions when Shea Weber of the Nashville Predators smashed the face of the Detroit Red Wings' Henrik Zetterberg into the glass. Weber was fined \$2,500 but not suspended.

Players and coaches in Chicago were not sure whether that precedent was to blame for increased violence, but Sharp said players must respect the safety of other players, regardless of what the league does, and Bolland expressed grave concern about the direction these playoffs are headed.

"You take a bad hit, that could be the end of your career," he said. "It could be fatal."

Sharp pointed out the impulse for retribution will be easier to ignore without Torres on the ice in Game 4.

"You have to remember you're in a playoff game," Sharp said. "And as much as you love your teammate, you wish him the best — but you have to play the game."

BASEBALL

ROUNDUP

Lawyers for Clemens Want to Restrict Testimony by Pettitte

By JULIET MACUR

WASHINGTON — The lawyers for Roger Clemens are seeking to limit the testimony of Yankees pitcher Andy Pettitte at Clemens's perjury trial, according to a document filed Wednesday in United States District Court.

Pettitte, one of the government's key witnesses, is expected to tell jurors that Clemens told him in 1999 that he had used human growth hormone. Pettitte is also expected to talk about his own use of H.G.H. in 2002, and that he received the drug from Brian McNamee, Clemens's former trainer.

The defense is asking the judge to bar Pettitte from saying that McNamee gave him H.G.H. because it would be unfair guilt by association.

During a break from jury selection Wednesday, prosecutors argued to the judge that omitting the McNamee connection would give the jurors a "completely distorted picture" of the government's story. "You simply cannot strip half of the narrative and have it make any sense whatsoever," Steven Durham, an assistant United States attorney, said.

The judge said he would welcome additional arguments on the issue. Still, he does not have to rule until Pettitte testifies.

Clemens, 49, is charged with lying to Congress in 2008 about his suspected use of performance-enhancing drugs. If convicted on all charges, he faces a maximum of 30 years in prison. Opening statements are expected early next week.

DYKSTRA SENTENCED The former Mets and Phillies outfielder Lenny Dykstra was sentenced to nine months in jail after he pleaded no contest to charges that he exposed himself to women he met on Craigslist and assaulted one. Dykstra entered his plea in a Los Angeles courtroom to one count each of assault with a deadly weapon and lewd conduct. He also received three years' probation.

In March, Dykstra was sentenced to three years in prison after pleading no contest to grand theft auto and providing a false financial statement. He is awaiting trial on federal bankruptcy charges. (AP)

INDIANS PITCHER SUSPENDED The Cleveland right-hander Jeanmar Gomez was suspended for five games and fined by Major League Baseball, which concluded that he intentionally threw at the Royals' Mike Moustakas in a game Saturday. Gomez hit Moustakas in the third inning of Cleveland's 11-9, 10-inning win at Kansas City. (AP)



MANUEL BALCE CENETA/ASSOCIATED PRESS
Roger Clemens on Tuesday.

BRAVES 14, METS 6 Atlanta, one day after battering Johan Santana, pummeled R.A. Dickey for nine extra-base hits, including three home runs, in a rout of the visiting Mets.

Dickey gave up two-run homers to Juan Francisco in the second inning and Dan Uggla in the third. His day ended in the fifth after Freddie Freeman hit a two-run homer for an 8-4 Braves lead.

"They were doing what they do with B.P. fastballs," said Dickey, who struggled with wet conditions at Turner Field.

"It's like throwing water bal-

loons," Dickey said of gripping a knuckleball in the rain. "But I was getting dry balls, too, and throwing poor knuckleballs with them. So it wasn't just the weather. It was poorly executed pitches, too."

The Mets had 14 hits to the Braves' 16, but they were 7 for 18 with runners in scoring position and left 11 runners on base. Ike Davis hit a solo home run.

ANDREW KEH

PIRATES 2, DIAMONDBACKS 1 Neil Walker's two-out bloop single drove in Clint Barmes with the go-ahead run in the eighth inning as Pittsburgh defeated host Arizona.

Barmes and Andrew McCutchen hit two-out singles off Diamondbacks starter Daniel Hudson before Walker's hit off reliever David Hernandez.

Pittsburgh's Chris Resop and Tony Watson combined to pitch a scoreless eighth inning, and Juan Cruz earned his second straight save after allowing a leadoff single in the ninth.

The Diamondbacks took a 1-0 lead after the leadoff man Willie Bloomquist tripled and scored on Jason Kubel's single in the first inning.

Hudson (1-1) allowed both Pirates runs on six hits, including a solo home run by Pedro Alvarez in the top of the seventh. (AP)

PRO BASKETBALL

N.B.A. Takes a Look At Jersey Sponsorship

By RICHARD SANDOMIR

Six mannequin torsos — three wearing Chicago Bulls jerseys and three with Boston Celtics jerseys — sat on tables in front of N.B.A. owners in a meeting room at the St. Regis hotel in Manhattan.

The jerseys were unlike any that the Bulls and the Celtics wear. All had a corporate name or logo — and were sartorial harbingers of the N.B.A.'s future.

The presentation to the league's board of governors last Thursday night strongly suggested that the N.B.A. might be the first of the four more established major leagues in the United States to allow its players to wear advertising. If the N.B.A. agrees, its players will join golfers, soccer players around the world, including those in Major League Soccer, and Nascar and IndyCar drivers.

And some W.N.B.A. players have worn corporate logos or names since 2009.

Jeanie Buss, the Los Angeles Lakers' executive vice president for business operations, said that adding advertising to uniforms was worth discussing in part because other leagues had embraced the practice. "I like tradition and I actually still miss the short shorts of the '80s," she said in an e-mail, "so perhaps it is better the Lakers management fully discuss the subject internally and come to a consensus."

For years, N.B.A., M.L.B., N.F.L. and N.H.L. teams have changed their uniform styles and designs to increase merchandise sales, keep up with fashion trends or herald a new era, as the Miami Marlins just did. But advertising has not broken through. After Major League Baseball considered putting logos on players' sleeves in 1999, Commissioner Bud Selig rejected the idea.

Adam Silver, the N.B.A.'s deputy commissioner, said in an e-mail: "If we add sponsor logos to jerseys, we recognize that some of our fans will think we've lost our minds. But the N.B.A. is a global business and logos on jerseys are well established in other sports and commonplace outside the U.S."

At last Thursday's presentation, jerseys for the Bulls and the Celtics displayed three variations: a jersey with the team name stripped away and replaced by a corporate name; a second with a company name beneath the uniform number; and a third with the corporation's logo on the jersey strap. In addition, owners were briefed on the finances of deals between English Premier League soccer teams and jersey sponsors. A four-year, \$120 million sponsorship between Manchester United and Aon includes the right to put the global financial services firm's name on the club's jerseys, replacing A.I.G.

Manchester United's global popularity — about two-thirds of its fans are in Asia — appealed to Aon. "Job applications in India have doubled and tripled because of our sponsorship, and traffic to our Web site jumps 500 percent on match days," said David Prosser, a spokesman for Aon. "Fifty years from now, after our sponsorship is over, kids around the world will be wearing the Man U jersey with Aon it."

Other jersey-front sponsors in the Premier League include Emirates, the fast-growing airline based in Dubai, which pays Arsenal \$9 million a year, and Samsung, which pays Chelsea \$22.5 million annually, according to Sports Business Journal.

With millions of dollars potentially at stake — and the possibility of a backlash from fans who see their teams' jerseys as sa-

cred real estate — N.B.A. owners are expected to take their time before making a deal.

Last week, at a news conference, Silver said, the owners' reactions to the presentation ranged from "Let's not do anything like that" to "Why aren't we considering it for next season?"

Russ Granik, the league's former deputy commissioner, who is vice chairman of Galatioto Sports Partners, said: "I don't view this as one of the great moral issues of our time. I think they'll be careful not to mess up the uniform in a way that will detract from business."

The W.N.B.A. has served as a uniform advertising laboratory for nearly three years.

In 2009, the Phoenix Mercury signed a three-year deal worth at least \$1 million annually with LifeLock, the identity theft protection company, to replace the name on its jersey with the company's name. It has since been renewed. At the time of the first deal, Rick Welts, then the president of the Phoenix Suns, who own the Mercury, offered a ratio-



RALPH LAUER/ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Nascar driver Greg Biffle sporting corporate logos.

nale that would apply to sponsors looking for a new way to advertise in the N.B.A.

"Every photograph, every piece of game footage, becomes part of the picture," he said.

Four teams followed the Mercury-LifeLock deal with similar ones: the Liberty, with Foxwoods Resort; the Los Angeles Sparks (Farmers Insurance); the Seattle Storm (Bing); and the Washington Mystics (Inova Health System). Then, last season, Boost Mobile acquired the rights to add its logo beneath the players' numbers on the jerseys of 10 of the 12 W.N.B.A. teams.

The N.B.A. Development League has also moved into uniform advertising. Three teams have sponsor logos beneath jersey numbers. And starting Monday, the Development League's playoff teams began to wear the logo of BBVA, the N.B.A.'s official bank, on the back of their jerseys, above the numbers.

At Major League Soccer, the Los Angeles Galaxy last month signed a 10-year, \$44 million extension of its sponsorship with Herbalife — a club record for the league — which includes jersey fronts. M.L.S. teams have had jersey front sponsors since 2006, when Red Bull acquired the MetroStars.

Today, 15 of the league's 19 teams have corporate names or logos on their jersey fronts.

"We didn't look at whether or not the American fan would accept it, but whether or not the soccer fan would accept it," said Kathy Carter, president of Soccer United Marketing, which oversees revenue for M.L.S. "There are other sports in the U.S. that are held to a different standard because of the history of their games. But we're part of a global sport. Soccer fans look at this through a different lens."

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