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Court: China's sea actions violate law

BY ERIK SLAVIN
Stars and Stripes

China's actions in the South China Sea violate international law and prevent other nations from exercising their rights, an international court ruled Tuesday in a unanimous landmark decision that bolsters arguments by nations critical of Beijing's military moves in the Asia-Pacific region.

The Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague ruled in favor of most of the Philippines' claims against China, while determining that historical claims to 90 percent of the South China Sea — labeled “indisputable” by Beijing — had no legal justification.

“There was no evidence that China had historically exercised exclusive control over the waters of the South China Sea or prevented other States from exploiting their resources,” the tribunal wrote in a statement accompanying the 479-page ruling.

China's state media quickly dismissed the ruling, and the Foreign Ministry repeated Beijing's claim to the area. The Foreign Ministry said the Philippines' move to take the issue to court without Beijing's consent was in “bad faith” and violated international law.

The court determined that all of the land in the Spratly Islands chain — where U.S. ships and aircraft have traversed in accordance with international law despite Chinese warnings — are rocks, not islands. The court doesn't have jurisdiction to award the rocks to any one country, as China argued when it declined to participate in the case, which the Philippines first brought to the tribunal in 2013.

However, defining the land as rocks prevents China or any other country from claiming a 200-nautical-mile exclusive economic zone around them.

Subi Reef and Mischief Reef, which China has topped with landfill and military resources, are “low-tide elevations” and not claimable as land, the court also ruled.

The U.S. State Department said the ruling was an important contribution to peacefully resolving South China Sea disputes, The Associated Press reported. John Kirby, State Department spokesman, said the U.S. expected China and the Philippines to comply with their obligations under the ruling.

A ‘milestone decision’

In Manila, Philippine Foreign Secretary Perfecto Yasay called the ruling a “milestone decision” and affirmed the government's commitment to “the peaceful resolution and management of disputes” in the region.

China has constructed military-grade runways and added radar stations and self-propelled artillery to reefs throughout the South China Sea. The U.S. Navy has sailed close by these artificial islands on freedom-of-navigations operations under Chinese protest.

China's claims to 90 percent of the South China Sea, along with its waters and hundreds of land features — nearly all of which are too small to be called islands — conflict to some degree with claims by the Philippines, Malaysia, Vietnam, Taiwan, Brunei and Indonesia.

China's sea claims also create conflict with positions maintained by the U.S., which insists on freedom of navigation for its ships and aircraft under international norms. About \$5 trillion in trade sails through the sea annually, including \$1.2 trillion in U.S. trade.

Reflecting past statements, Chinese state media said Beijing “does not accept or acknowledge” the tribunal. Chinese officials and media outlets sharply

criticized the court in the week prior to the decision, with one spokesman labeling the ruling “a piece of trash” last week.

Xinhua, China's official news agency, put out a story with a headline, “Law-abusing tribunal to issue award” about five hours before the ruling was released.

Although China has ratified the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea — which includes a clause that allows nations to abide by the ruling of the arbitral tribunal — China has repeatedly stated it would ignore the ruling. Nevertheless, China issued a position paper online, which the court considered in its deliberations, on whether it had jurisdiction to consider the case. The court ruled in 2015 that it did have jurisdiction.

The U.S. and the court have said any decision is binding under international law.

The arbitral court also criticized Chinese ships that “unlawfully created a serious risk of collision when they physically obstructed Philippine vessels” during encounters in the Philippines' exclusive economic zone.

‘Irreparable harm’

China took control of Scarborough Shoal, about 130 miles from the Philippine main islands, after a sea showdown in 2012. It has since prevented Philippine fishermen from accessing the area, which the court found unlawful.

Meanwhile, Chinese fishing vessels have harvested coral and other marine life from waters entitled to Philippine vessels under international law.

“China has inflicted irreparable harm to the marine environment, built a large artificial island in the Philippines' exclusive economic zone, and destroyed evidence of the natural condition of features in the South China Sea that formed

part of the parties' dispute,” according to the statement that accompanied the court's ruling.

Since the case was filed, the United States has signed a defense agreement with the Philippines that gives it use of Philippine bases near the disputed areas.

Although the case represents a victory for the Philippines, the military strength of which is far lesser than China's, it remains unclear how Manila will respond. Newly elected President Rodrigo Duterte said last week he is open to talks on sharing the resources of the Philippines exclusive economic zone with China.

U.S. officials have repeatedly criticized China for what analysts term “salami slicing,” or taking small steps that don't create a reason for war but that add up to domination of one of the world economy's most critical areas.

“China's actions in the South China Sea are isolating it at a time when the entire region is coming together and networking,” Defense Secretary Ash Carter said at a June summit in Singapore.

China has flipped U.S. arguments that they are destabilizing and militarizing the region back on Washington, using much of the same language. It has particularly criticized freedom-of-navigation operations, during which the U.S. has transited within 12 nautical miles of Chinese-occupied reefs.

“Such activities by the U.S. are meant to make a show of force and to weaken the determination and will of China to protect national sovereignty and security,” Defense Ministry spokesman Col. Wu Qian told reporters June 30. “It is an act of militarization in the South China Sea and it endangers regional peace and stability.”

Sanders endorses Clinton, stresses unity

Associated Press

PORTSMOUTH, N.H. — Bernie Sanders, whose calls for a political revolution energized millions of voters, bestowed his long-awaited endorsement on Hillary Clinton on Tuesday, the Democratic former rivals embracing and praising each other before a cheering crowd.

Just two weeks shy of the Democratic National Convention, Sanders, a Vermont senator and self-described democratic socialist, congratulated Clinton for winning the nomination and vowed to do everything he could to help her beat presumptive Republican

nominee Donald Trump.

"It is no secret that Hillary Clinton and I disagree on a number of issues — that's what this campaign has been about," Sanders said.

But he added, "This campaign is not really about Hillary Clinton or Donald Trump or Bernie Sanders, or any other candidate who sought the presidency. This campaign is about the needs of the American people and addressing the very serious crises that we face."

Clinton told the crowd, which included some Sanders supporters who have been slow to come to Clinton's side, that she was overjoyed to welcome

"friends, old and new."

With the convention approaching, Sanders said "there has been a significant coming together between the two campaigns and we produced, by far, the most progressive platform in the history of the Democratic Party. Our job now is to see that platform implemented by a Democratic Senate, a Democratic House and a Hillary Clinton president — and I am going to do everything I can to make that happen."

Democrats have coalesced around Clinton's candidacy since she defeated Sanders in primaries last month in California and five other states.

Sanders has spent the past month seeking to influence the party's platform and promote reforms including allowing independents to participate in primaries. The platform includes many of his proposals, including a \$15 an hour minimum wage and tougher restrictions on Wall Street.

The event sought to project unity before Republicans formally nominate Trump next week but some Sanders supporters did not appear to be ready to move on. Chants of "Bernie" broke out while opening speakers addressed the crowd, prompting Clinton's faithful to chant, "Unity."

At least 22 killed in Italy as trains collide

MILAN — Two Italian commuter trains collided head-on Tuesday in the southern region of Puglia, killing at least 22 people and injuring scores more, officials said. At least two passengers were pulled alive from the crumpled wreckage as the rescue operation took place in scorching heat.

Railway police Cmdr. Giancarlo Conticchio told Sky TG24 said the number of injured is 43, and that there could be changes in the final toll.

The two trains, each with four cars, collided head-on at midday in an olive grove on flat terrain between the towns of Andria and Corato on a line with just a single track. The accident occurred around 11:30 a.m. some 30 miles northeast of the Puglia regional capital, Bari.

"It's a disaster as if an airplane fell," local Mayor Massimo Mazzilli said on his Facebook page, where he posted photos of the crash.

Italian Premier Matteo Renzi pledged a thorough investigation.

A still photo of the crash showed cars crumpled together like an accordion and forced off the tracks at sharp angles.

From The Associated Press

Iranian ships approach vessel hosting Votel

By CHRIS CHURCH

Stars and Stripes

MANAMA, Bahrain — Ships from Iran's elite Revolutionary Guard Corps approached a U.S. warship hosting a top U.S. general while it transited the Strait of Hormuz on Monday, U.S. Navy officials said.

Gen. Joseph Votel, who oversees U.S. Central Command, was on board the USS New Orleans as five Iranian vessels — four fast inland attack craft

and one larger fast attack craft — approached the New Orleans and guided-missile destroyer USS Stout.

U.S. Naval Forces Central Command characterized the interaction as safe, routine and professional and said that was true of most interactions. But the incident indicated how quickly naval vessels have to decide whether foreign vessels are a threat.

"As you've seen in a relatively compressed space here, there

is a great opportunity for miscalculations," Votel was quoted as saying by the Reuters news agency. "We don't always have a lot of time to deal with those interactions. I think what we've probably learned today is that it's measured in minutes."

In January, two U.S. Riverine command boats were captured by the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps when they strayed close to Iran's Farsi Island. Ten sailors were detained overnight.

Missing Aviano airman's body found in river

By NANCY MONTGOMERY

Stars and Stripes

VICENZA, Italy — The body of Staff Sgt. Halex Hale, the airman who went missing 10 days ago near Aviano Air Base, has been found in a river near where he disappeared, officials said Tuesday.

His body was found about 9:30 a.m. in the Livenza River near the town of Sacile, where Hale lived and where he went missing after leaving an evening cookout on July 2, Air Force officials at Aviano Air Base said

in a statement.

The body was identified by Hale's father, who arrived in Italy on Friday, and colleagues from the air base, The Associated Press reported, citing an official with the Italian police. He was wearing only a swimsuit, the AP reported. Hale's father and uncle traveled to Italy last week to aid in the search.

"We are deeply saddened by this tragic loss of life," said Brig. Gen. Lance Landrum, commander of the 31st Fighter Wing, to which Hale was as-

signed. "Our thoughts and prayers are with his family, fellow airmen and friends."

Hale, of Middletown, Ind., was a member of the wing's communications squadron, the wing said.

Police had searched the area for three days with the help of dogs, divers, helicopters and volunteers, but they called off the search Sunday. The police official told the AP that the body may have been caught in vegetation and thus was not visible to searchers and that it may have been freed by the current.

Stanton powers way to HR Derby title

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Giancarlo Stanton wore out Petco Park with a record display of power in the All-Star Home Run Derby on Monday night, peppering every landmark from the left field corner to center field.

Stanton hit 20 homers in the final round to best defending champion Todd Frazier of the Chicago White Sox.

Overall, the Miami Marlins slugger hit a record 61, shattering the single-night mark of 41 by Bobby Abreu in 2005.

Stanton's impressive shots hit the top level of the Western Metal Supply Co. Building in the left-field corner and the top of the batter's eye in center field. He sent several balls just below the giant scoreboard high atop the left-field stands and several over the bullpens in left-center.

"For sure being on the West Coast and taking the flight out here just for this, you know. I figure it's a waste if I don't bring

this bad boy home," Stanton said, hoisting the trophy.

The three-time All-Star is not on the National League roster for Tuesday night's game after batting .233 with 20 homers and 50 RBIs before the break.

"I had a great time. I had a blast."

Literally.

His longest shot was estimated at 497 feet. He hit the eight longest homers of the competition and 20 of the 21 deepest drives.

"When I get a few in a row I would kind of bump it up 5 to 10 percent," he said. "But most the time I stuck at 80-90 percent. I knew I could do it endurance-wise. I was just hoping my swing didn't fall about."

Stanton can defend his title at home next year when the Marlins host the All-Star Game.

"That is where I got my childhood memories, watching the Home Run Derby as a kid," said Stanton, who's from Los

Angeles. "Maybe some kids are watching me. I would like to return that."

Stanton is baseball's highest-paid player with a \$325 million, 13-year deal. His new hitting coach is home run king Barry Bonds.

Frazier, who's not on the AL All-Star team, hit 13 in the final round. He was a hometown winner last year while with the Cincinnati Reds. He was traded to the White Sox in December.

The Western Metal Supply Co. Building served as one of the better Derby targets, joining the Warehouse at Baltimore's Camden Yards in 1993 and McCovey Cove outside San Francisco's AT&T Park in 2007. Those were both targets for lefty hitters.

Stanton hit 24 homers in the first round to eliminate the Seattle Mariners' Robinson Cano (seven) and 17 in the semifinals to knock out Mark Trumbo (14) of the Baltimore Orioles.

Frazier hit 13 in the first round to beat

Carlos Gonzalez (12) of the Colorado Rockies, and 16 in the semifinals to eliminate Adam Duvall (15) of the Cincinnati Reds.

Trumbo, who leads the majors with 28 homers, had two of the most impressive shots of the night, off the scoreboard in left field and onto the top of the Western Metal Building in his semifinal matchup against Stanton.

Wil Myers of the San Diego Padres tried to become the second hometown player to win the Derby. With younger brother Beau — an infielder-outfielder at Appalachian State — pitching to him, Myers hit 10 homers in the first round and was eliminated by Duvall with 11.

Beau Myers even hit his brother with a pitch early in the four-minute period, and nearly nicked him another time.

All-Star locale reminds Cubs of painful past

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Goose Gossage keeps a bottle of Weibel Vineyards champagne with "Cubs" on the label perched on a shelf in his pantry, a reminder of when Chicago arrived in San Diego needing one victory to reach the 1984 World Series and wound up crushed yet again.

This year's All-Star Game is a mini-Cubs celebration, with seven players on the NL roster, including the entire starting infield, after a remarkable half-season. But a summer slump serves as a reminder: A good start is a long way from Chicago winning its first championship since 1908 or even bringing the World Series to Sheffield and Waveland avenues for the first time since 1945.

"Everyone crowned us the World Series champion in December, which is unfair to the whole organization," first baseman Anthony Rizzo said Monday. "Everyone put this high expectation on us, and we lived up to it."

When Chris Sale of the South Side's White Sox throws the first pitch to the Cubs' Ben Zobrist on Tuesday night, the All-Star Game will be back in San Diego for the first time since 1992 at Jack Murphy Stadium, where Ken Griffey Jr. batted seventh for the AL between another pair of juniors — Cal Ripken and Sandy Alomar. Griffey was the MVP, going 3-for-3 and falling a triple short of the cycle. Tony Gwynn — the Padres' Hall of Famer who died of salivary gland cancer in 2014 — had two assists in right field.

A new generation has taken over, led by Washington's Bryce Harper, the Los Angeles Angels' Mike Trout and Cubs third baseman Kris Bryant — who is happy to see old friends from his University of San Diego days. The Nationals' Stephen Strasburg also is having a reunion; he played for San Diego State.

"He probably did more at San Diego State

than I did for USD," Bryant said.

Chicago has become a favorite second team, longtime losers trying to win the North Side's first championship in 108 years.

"The Cubs are like the Cowboys. Wherever you go in the country, there's fans there," reigning NL Cy Young Award winner Jake Arrieta said about his team. "You go as far as you can west and as far as you can east, there's Cubs fans, and anywhere in-between."

Boston also has its supporters around the world.

The Red Sox, who ended an 86-year title drought in 2004 and have added two more, put six players on the AL team and four of them are starters. Designated hitter David Ortiz is retiring at the end of the season and will be making his 10th and final All-Star appearance, Steven Wright, a 31-year-old knuckleballer, could follow the flame-throwers to the mound in the middle-to-late innings.

San Francisco's Johnny Cueto starts for the NL, which has lost three in a row and 10 of 13 since the All-Star winner determined home-field advantage for the World Series. That served Cueto well last fall, when he pitched a two-hitter for host Kansas City in Game 2 for a 2-0 lead of the New York Mets, who never recovered.

San Diego hasn't won the World Series during its 48-year existence, but the Padres are a team of distinction: the only one not to have thrown a no-hitter, and famous for their golden yellow and brown color scheme in the 1970s under owner Ray Kroc, who also headed McDonald's. Players wore jerseys in the vintage Padres mustard-and-mud style for Monday's Home Run Derby.

Of course, San Diego has been cruel to the Cubs. Back in 1984, they left Wrigley Field to the sound of Van Halen's "Jump" and headed west convinced they would play Detroit or Kansas City for the title.

Cellar-dweller All-Stars treated to rare spotlight

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — For Adam Duvall, Jay Bruce, Julio Teheran and Eduardo Nunez, the All-Star Game is as close to the spotlight as they're likely to get this season.

Their teams are far from contention, on track to lose 100 or more games.

"Obviously it means a lot. But it would be better if we were winning or playing better as a team," said Duvall, whose Cincinnati Reds are 32-57.

"But this is where we are in this stage of the process. We are rebuilding, and Cincinnati has been very vocal about that. I think we have a lot of the pieces of the puzzle. We have a very good foundation and we are doing the things necessary to be successful in the future," he said.

Bruce is also on the Reds, who haven't won a title since the 1990 Nasty Boys team and seem years from contending again.

"I will consider myself a Red until I am no longer in uniform," he said. "Remember, I was traded last year and it didn't happen and here I am an All-Star with the Reds. If the Reds think it is in the best interest of the organization, that they can maybe get

better, they will do it."

Teheran's Atlanta Braves are 31-58, the worst record in the majors, a team that stripped down in preparation for next year's move to suburban SunTrust Park.

"It's kind of been a hard year. We have been an up-and-down team," the pitcher said. "But it's something you don't think about it. You only control what you can control. I know I don't have a lot of wins but I'm going to keep doing what I do and that is to go out there and get people out. It doesn't matter if you have run support or not. You have to help your team win."

Nunez plays for the Minnesota Twins, who are 32-56 and far from the power that won titles in 1987 and 1991.

"We are struggling, we know that. But we have to see the good side and I'm here trying to represent my team and my fans in Minneapolis," he said. "Yes this is the highlight. I was very excited. I didn't expect it. I went from looking for more playing time to making the All-Star team is amazing."

The former Yankees infielder has 12 homers and 40 RBIs.

MLB scraps plans to play in London in 2017

SAN DIEGO — London is not calling for Major League Baseball next year.

MLB has given up plans to play regular-season games in the British capital in 2017.

Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred said in January that his staff was working hard at playing in London, and MLB officials looked at the renovated Olympic Stadium as a possible venue. The Red Sox likely would have been one of the teams

involved.

"There was discussion about London early on," union head Tony Clark said Monday. "Unfortunately there were a number of moving pieces related to London that shortened our window in an effort to try to find common ground on that happening, and we weren't able to get it done in time."

Dan Halem, MLB's chief legal officer, said that ongoing collective bargaining negotiations and next spring's World Baseball Classic kept the league from pursuing a London series for next year.

— The Associated Press



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Z. Johnson eager to get claret jug back

Associated Press

TROON, Scotland — Zach Johnson faced the inevitable rite that goes with being a British Open champion.

After 51 weeks in possession of the claret jug, it was time to let it go Monday.

"Not pleasant," he said, managing a weak smile.

Now, Johnson wants to get it back.

After winning a three-man playoff at St. Andrews last summer, the 40-year-old American arrived at Royal Troon looking for any motivational edge he could find.

His sports psychologist, Morris Pickens, suggested that Johnson focus on the painful ritual of returning the cherished silver prize to the Royal & Ancient. If it was tough giving up the jug, imagine how sweet it would be to claim it for another year.

"Use it as a positive, find motivation there, find it as an opportunity," the golfer said.

Johnson hasn't won a tournament since his triumph at the birthplace of golf, but he has hardly dropped off the map. The two-time major champion reached the Tour Championship last fall, led the triumphant U.S. team at the Presidents Cup, and has five top-10 finishes in 2016.

He certainly has plenty of passion for the sport's oldest major championship.

"My love for it was immense and immediate," Johnson said. "It's my favorite to play. I mean, I just appreciate it.

I love it. I think I've embraced it. You have to. I mean, the conditions are what they are."

Players got an idea of the challenge they're likely to face during Monday's practice round. A stiff breeze whipped across the seaside course in western Scotland. Dark, gray clouds lingered overhead, doling out an occasional smattering of showers just to make things a bit more unpleasant.

Bring it on, said Johnson.

Growing up in Iowa, he learned to play in conditions that weren't always pristine. And given his diminutive stature — he's generously listed at 5-foot-11 and 164 pounds — he's never been one of those guys who can simply overpower a course with his booming shots. He'd rather rely on a wide variety of shots, get a chance to show off his entire repertoire.

"A mudder," he said. "I'm not saying it defines me, but I think I fall into that category. I mud it out, yeah. That's all I know. Maybe it's where I grew up, in the sense that the weather's not always terrific in Iowa."

Indeed, his first major title came in bitterly cold conditions at the 2007 Masters.

"Maybe," Johnson went on, "it's something that's just innately in me. I enjoy and love embracing difficult, challenging conditions. It's just something that I consider part of my talent, if that makes sense."

Before leaving his home on Georgia's St. Simons Island,

Johnson, his wife Kim and their three young children all posed with the claret jug one last time, each of them showing off their best pouty faces on Twitter.

That said, Johnson sure got the most out of his limited time with the trophy. One of his favorites was a ceremony on the 50-yard line at Kinnick Stadium, home of the University of Iowa football team. He showed it off plenty in his hometown of Cedar Rapids, both at the foundation that bears his name and the club where he grew up learning the game. Other stops are marked by stickers plastered on the outside of the jug's protective case, including Old Rip Van Winkle, a bourbon distillery in Kentucky, and Fox Bros., a famed barbecue joint in Atlanta.

"Just seeing family and friends and sponsors and fans of golf embrace it has been pretty awesome," he said. "The thing has a lot of weight to it, in the sense that it represents golf and sports as far as I'm concerned."

Once he arrived in Scotland, Johnson spent one more night enjoying the jug with several of his best friends.

"We had a glass of wine out of it," he said, before correcting himself. "Well, we didn't have a glass of wine, we had wine out of it. It is a claret decanter, so it serves its purpose in that regard."

He'd like to get a bit more use out of it, that's for sure.

Gay gets chance to reclaim relay medal

Associated Press

EUGENE, Ore. — Consider this a second chance for Tyson Gay. Maybe his last one, too.

The 33-year-old sprinter was handed a spot on the U.S. Olympic track team as a relay runner Monday, more than two years after his doping positive cost the Americans their silver medal from the 2012 Games.

Gay dominated the sprints for a time before Usain Bolt burst onto the scene in 2008. The American is still ranked second all-time behind Bolt with a time of 9.69 seconds in the 100.

But the last several years have been a struggle, filled with injuries and setbacks — none bigger than a positive doping test in 2013 that cost him one year out of the sport and forced the relay team to surrender its medal.

Gay finished fifth in the 100 and sixth in the 200 at the recently completed Olympic trials, but coaches stuck to the order of finish for the 100 meters, taking Gay and sixth-place finisher Christian Coleman, along with Mike Rodgers, whose spot was locked in thanks to his fourth-place finish.

In Gay, the U.S. gets a two-time Olympian and 2007 world champion at both 100 and 200 meters — choosing him over high-schoolers Noah Lyles and Michael Norman, who finished 4-5 in the 200 at trials.

Asked before the trials what it would mean to make the team, Gay said: "A hell of a lot. I'm considered the old one of the bunch now. It definitely means a lot to me to still keep up with these young guys here, use some of my veteran skills to my advantage."

Also added for relays on the 127-person team, which includes 84 first-time Olympians, were Arman Hall, Tony McQuay and Kyle Clemons (men's 4x400), Ariana Washington (women's 4x100) and Francena McCorory and Courtney Okolo (women's 4x400).

Some other things to know about Olympic track and field:

Like a fine wine: At 41, Bernard Lagat is still going strong — making his fifth Olympic team. The ageless 5,000-meter runner showed just about everyone that age is merely a number. "I don't believe I'm old," Lagat said. "If you believe you're old — I'm going to run like an old man."

Just a kid: For a few days, 18-year-old high jumper Vashti Cunningham was set to be the youngest to compete for the U.S. Olympic track team in four decades. That lasted until 16-year-old Sydney McLaughlin came along and made the team in the 400-meter hurdles and took that distinction. To think she had a little case of stage fright to begin the trials. It hardly showed as she set the world junior record to finish third and earn her place in Rio. "This has to be the icing on the cake," the prep star from New Jersey said. "Regardless of what happens in Rio, I made it here and I'm just so thankful for all of that."

Bolt back: Bolt's quest for more Olympic gold is back on, as expected.

The Jamaican Olympic Committee released its delegation for next month's Rio Games on Monday, and Bolt is among the selections even though an injury kept him from formally qualifying at his country's national championships.

Bolt is listed as a qualifier in the 100-meter dash, 200-meter dash and 4x100-meter relay. He has six Olympic gold medals, sweeping those events at the Beijing Games in 2008 and the London Games in 2012.

Bolt withdrew from Jamaica's national meet on July 1 with a slight tear in his left hamstring, doing so just before the 100-meter final. The 100 and 200 world-record holder is scheduled to compete in London on July 22 to confirm his fitness level for the Rio Games.

Warriors' Green arrested on assault charge in Mich.

Wire reports

Warriors forward Draymond Green was arrested on an assault charge in East Lansing, Mich., on Sunday after he allegedly slapped a Michigan State football player, according to sources.

The East Lansing Police Department arrested Green in connection with the altercation that took place at 2:28 a.m., and he was released on \$200 bond, according to a district court document released Monday. The victim was not injured.

"I will tell you, Draymond is completely innocent — 'completely' should be capitalized," James Heos, Green's attorney said by phone before declining further comment.

Heos filed a waiver of arraignment, and the player does not need to attend it in person.

Green, 26, was an All-American player at Michigan State who became an All-Star this season while on the Warriors' record-setting 73-win team and has previously won an NBA championship.

His ties to Michigan State run deep, as he donated \$3.1 million to his alma mater last year after signing a new five-year, \$82 million contract with the Warriors. Hours before the incident, he attended the wedding of a former Michigan State football player.

But in the wee hours of the morning, Green was arrested near campus shortly after leaving Conrad's Grill, East Lansing Police Department public information officer Scott Wigglesworth told the Detroit Free Press. The restaurant serves no alcohol, keeping its doors open until 2:45 a.m. to cater to a college town crowd that enjoys night life in the area. A video obtained by TMZ.com showed Green with his hands behind his back walking with two officers as they escorted him to a police vehicle.

East Lansing Police Lt. Scott Wigglesworth said the alleged victim, an adult, was not injured and did not flag down an officer after the incident.

"We typically have numerous cops out

when the bars let out," Wigglesworth said.

The Warriors released a statement Monday.

"We are aware of 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."

USA Basketball released a similarly worded statement, as Green is a member of the U.S. Olympic team that will compete next month in Rio de Janeiro. The team begins training in Las Vegas on July 18 and will play in a July 26 exhibition at Oracle Arena.

Along with his stellar play, Green has previously apologized for lapses in judgment this season.

He did so after putting himself in the position to accumulate enough postseason flagrant fouls to be suspended for Game 5 of the NBA Finals — a game and series the Warriors went on to lose.

In February, Green apologized after going on a halftime tirade in the locker room at Oklahoma City that was directed at coach Steve Kerr but could be overheard by a television reporter.

In March, Green said he used "poor judgment" after a video was posted to his Snapchat account showing a car occupant's view of the speedometer reaching 118 mph.

Green lives in the Bay Area, but often returns to East Lansing. He grew up about an hour's drive away in Saginaw and has said he wanted to be a positive role model.

"I try to be a bright spot for the city, keep my nose clean," Green said in January. "I'm trying to show kids that, 'Hey man, he's from Saginaw, he's doing this, why can't they?' Staying clean is a part of that. I just think it's very important to not only have success on the court. Keep playing as well as I've been playing, but also continue to carry myself the right way. I think that's more important than anything."