

Female athletes to be in majority at 2028 Los Angeles Olympics

BY GRAHAM DUNBAR
ASSOCIATED PRESS

GENEVA — Female athletes will be in the majority at an Olympics for the first time at the 2028 Los Angeles Summer Games thanks to a big win for women's soccer.

The Olympic women's soccer tournament will be bigger than the men's edition for the first time in 2028, the International Olympic Committee decided Wednesday, with 16 teams for women and now just 12 for men — flipping the gender imbalance at the Paris Olympics which had 16 men's teams and 12 in the women's tournament.

That decision by the IOC executive board helped push the core quota of athletes for LA to 50.7% women and 49.3% men — 5,333 for women and 5,167 for men, the IOC said.

The gap is closed slightly when athletes for the sports being added specially to the LA program — involv-



AP Photo/LAURENT GILLIERON

International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach, right, speaks next to the president-elect of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Kirsty Coventry, left, at the opening of the executive board meeting of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), at the Olympic House, in Lausanne, Switzerland on Wednesday.

ing 322 female and 376 male competitors — are included. Those sports include cricket, flag football and lacrosse.

The landmark progress for women athletes was made at an online board meeting Wednesday co-chaired in Laus-

anne for the first time by Kirsty Coventry as president-elect since her win last month. In June she will formally replace her mentor Thomas Bach and become the IOC's first female leader in its 131-year history.

Two more women's

teams were added in water polo so that tournament in Los Angeles will be equal with the men's event with 12 nations each. Boxing will have one extra women's weight class to equal the men's lineup of seven medal events.

"The message of gender equality is a really important one for us," IOC sports director Kit McConnell said. "We really thank LA 28 for supporting this. It's central to their vision as well."

THE CASE FOR CHANGE

The IOC's headline decision was redressing an inequality since women's soccer debuted at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics with just eight teams — half as many as the men's tournament.

The board confirmed a proposal revealed last Thursday by FIFA President Gianni Infantino when he spoke at the annual meeting of European soccer body UEFA.

The case for change was made more compelling because the women's soccer tournament is a top-tier title with national teams sending their best players.

The men's tournament, however, only rarely attracts the best players because of selec-

tion conflicts with clubs worldwide and is mostly for players aged 23 or under. The French men's team which took silver in Paris last year was unable to select Kylian Mbappé who had just signed for Real Madrid.

There were 16 men's soccer teams at every Summer Games since Moscow in 1980 through Paris last year.

The women's lineup increased to 10 teams at the 2004 Athens Olympics then to 12 four years later in Beijing.

FIFA and Infantino had repeatedly called for equality with a 16-team women's tournament, which would have added about 70 extra players, plus team officials, to push the limits on athlete accommodation quotas for Olympics organizers.

The solution found was to favor the women's edition over the men's and further drive the IOC's policy of gender parity at the Olympics that was first reached in Paris.

classifieds

to advertise, visit our website: kinston.com
 ■ classifieds phone: **252-527-3191**
 ■ classifieds/auto/real estate email: classified@kinston.com
 ■ public notices/legals email: legals@kinston.com
 ■ business & services email: classified@kinston.com
 ■ jobs email: classified@kinston.com phone **252-527-3191**



All classified ads are subject to the applicable rate card, copies of which are available from our Advertising Dept. All ad are subject to approval before publication. The Free Press reserves the right to edit, refuse, reject, classify or cancel any ad at any time. Errors must be reported in the first day of publication. The Free Press shall not be liable for any loss or expense that results from an error in or omission of an advertisement. No refund for early cancellation of order.

0100 ANNOUNCEMENTS

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



Auction
AUCTION! RM Harrison Mechanical Corporation retirement auction featuring equipment and trucks. April 16 at 10 am. Bid online at VAAL#16.

Home Improvement
 Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. Plus 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-877-649-1190

Home Improvement
BATH & SHOWER UPDATES in as little as ONE DAY! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & Military Discounts available. Call: 1-877-560-1844

Miscellaneous
HEARING AIDS!! High-quality rechargeable, powerful Audien hearing aids priced 90% less than competitors. Tiny and **NEARLY INVISIBLE!** 45-day money back guarantee! 888-970-4637

Miscellaneous
GOT TAX PROBLEMS? OWE UNDER 10K TO THE IRS? GET AFFORDABLE TAX HELP YOU DESERVE! START FOR JUST \$49/MO. CALL TAX RESPONSE CENTER 877-824-1321

Miscellaneous
 Get a break on your taxes!

0100 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Donate your car, truck, or SUV to assist the blind and visually impaired. Arrange a swift, no-cost vehicle pickup and secure a generous tax credit for 2025. Call Heritage for the Blind Today at 1-855-869-7055 today!

Miscellaneous
TOP CASH PAID FOR OLD GUITARS! 1920-1980 Gibson, Martin, Fender, Gretsch, Epiphone, Guild, Mosrite, Rickenbacker, Prairie State, D'Angelico, Stromberg. And Gibson Mandolins / Banjos. 1-833-641-6577

Miscellaneous
Safe Step. North America's #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-855-931-3643

Miscellaneous
 Replace your roof with the best looking and longest lasting material — steel from Erie Metal Roofs! Three styles and multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer — up to 50% off installation + Additional 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-855-585-1815

Miscellaneous
Denied Social Security Disability? Appeal! If you're 50+, filed SSD and denied, our attorneys can help! Win or Pay Nothing! Strong, recent work history needed. 877-553-0252 [Step-pacher Law Offices LLC Principal Office: 224 Adams Ave Scranton PA 18503]

Sale
 Get DISH Satellite TV + Internet! Free Install, Free HD-DVR Upgrade, 80,000 On-Demand Movies. Plus Limited Time Up To \$600 In Gift Cards. Call Today! 1-877-920-7405

Time Share
 Wesley Financial Group, LLC Timeshare Cancellation Experts. Over \$50,000,000 in timeshare debt and fees cancelled in 2019. Get free informational package and learn how to get rid of your timeshare! Free consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. Call 844-213-6711

Miscellaneous



0100 ANNOUNCEMENTS

We Buy Houses for Cash AS IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy three step process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Get your fair cash offer today by calling Liz Buys Houses: 1-888-247-1189

0200 EMPLOYMENT

Can You Write Well? Take Great Photos?

Do you have an interest in sports? If so we would like to talk to you about some freelance sports writing opportunities for the newspaper.

If this sounds of interest, contact asmolka@newsargus.com or rmoore@newsargus.com. 919-739-7833

Now **HIRING** for A+ Painting & Home Improvement. **MUST HAVE** reliable transportation. Able to travel up to 50 miles. M-F 8am-4pm Off Major Federal Holidays. Paid upon experience. Call 910-389-6212

0500 MERCHANDISE

16.3 foot alumacraft canoe excellent shape \$500 call (252)361-2557

0600 REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

1,2 & 3 BEDROOM APARTMENTS & HOMES AVAILABLE! Newly remodeled. Great neighborhood! (252) 523-2701

Rental property
 2br 1 ba closed in front porch on 1/2 acre fenced in land exactly 3 miles from Cherry Point \$875/month \$500 deposit **NO PETS** will be ready 5/1/2025 call if interested(252)571-4601

0900 LEGALS

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION 2025 E 000121
 Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of Jesse Lee Cobb in Lenoir County, NC, this is to notify all persons having claims against the Estate to present them to the undersigned on or before July 8, 2025, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All per-

0900 LEGALS

sons indebted to said Estate, please make immediate payment.

Donna Francis, Administrator
 Karen R. Carnegie, Attorney
 300 George Washington Highway N
 Chesapeake, Virginia 23323
 April 10, 17, 24, May 1, 2025

18103.26528.119
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF LENOIR IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION 23SP57

IN THE MATTER OF THE FORECLOSURE OF A DEED OF TRUST EXECUTED BY AGNES MARIE ERVIN-JONES AND MICHAEL A. JONES DATED FEBRUARY 13, 2004 RECORDED IN BOOK NO. 1366, AT PAGE 315 IN THE LENOIR COUNTY PUBLIC REGISTRY, NORTH CAROLINA

NOTICE OF SALE

Under and by virtue of the power and authority contained in the above-referenced deed of trust and because of default in payment of the secured debt and failure to perform the agreements therein contained and, pursuant to demand of the holder of the secured debt, the undersigned will expose for sale at public auction at the usual place of sale at the Lenoir County courthouse at 1:30 PM on April 22, 2025, the following described real estate and any improvements situated thereon, in Lenoir County, North Carolina, and being more particularly described in that certain Deed of Trust executed by Agnes Marie Ervin-Jones; Michael A. Jones, dated February 13, 2004 to secure the original principal amount of \$63,000.00, and recorded in Book No. 1366, at Page 315 of the Lenoir County Public Registry. The terms of the said Deed of Trust may be modified by other instruments appearing in the public record. Additional identifying information regarding the collateral property is below and is believed to be accurate, but no representation or warranty is intended.

Address of property: 521 Larkspur Road, Kinston, NC 28501 Tax Parcel ID: 7339
 The record owner(s) of the property, according to the records of the Register of Deeds, is/are Agnes Marie Ervin-Jones and Michael A. Jones. The property to be offered pursuant to this notice of sale is being offered for sale, transfer and conveyance AS IS, WHERE IS.

0900 LEGALS

Neither the Trustee nor the holder of the note secured by the deed of trust being foreclosed, nor the officers, directors, attorneys, employees, agents or authorized representative of either the Trustee or the holder of the note make any representation or warranty relating to the title or any physical, environmental, health or safety conditions existing in, on, at or relating to the property offered for sale. Any and all responsibilities or liabilities arising out of or in any way relating to any such condition expressly are disclaimed. This sale is subject to all prior liens and encumbrances and unpaid taxes and assessments including any transfer tax associated with the foreclosure. A deposit of five percent (5%) of the amount of the bid or seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750.00), whichever is greater, is required from the highest bidder and must be tendered in the form of certified funds at the time of the sale. This sale will be held open ten days for upset bids as required by law. After the expiration of the upset period, all remaining amounts are **IMMEDIATELY DUE AND OWING.** Failure to remit funds in a timely manner will result in a Declaration of Default and any deposit will be frozen pending the outcome of any re-sale.

If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagee, the Substitute Trustee or the attorney of any of the foregoing.

SPECIAL NOTICE FOR LEASEHOLD TENANTS residing at the property: be advised that an Order for Possession of the property may be issued in favor of the purchaser. Also, if your lease began or was renewed on or after October 1, 2007, be advised that you may terminate the rental agreement upon 10 days written notice to the landlord. You may be liable for rent due under the agreement prorated to the effective date of the termination. The date of this Notice is 13th day of February, 2025.

Grady I. Ingle, Attorney for Substitute Trustee Ingle Law Firm, PA 13801 Reese Blvd West

0900 LEGALS

Suite 160
 Huntersville, NC 28078
 (980) 771-0717

Posted: _____
 By: _____
 Ingle Case Number: 18103-26528

04-10-2025
 04-17-2025

NORTH CAROLINA LENOIR COUNTY

Special Proceedings No. 24 SP 95
 Substitute Trustee: Philip A. Glass

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

Date of Sale: April 17, 2025
 Time of Sale: 2:30 p.m.
 Place of Sale: Lenoir County Courthouse

Description of Property: See Attached Description
 Record Owners: Heirs of Lucy G. Dudley
 Address of Property: 307 Her-ring Road
 La Grange, NC 28551

Deed of Trust:
 Book: 1335 Page: 0800
 Dated: July 15, 2003
 Grantors: Lucy G. Dudley and husband

Leamon Dudley
 Original Beneficiary: State Employees' Credit Union

CONDITIONS OF SALE:
 This sale is made subject to all unpaid taxes and superior liens or encumbrances of record and assessments, if any, against the said property, and any recorded leases. This sale is also subject to any applicable county land transfer tax, and the successful third party bidder shall be required to make payment for any such county land transfer tax.

The property to be offered pursuant to this Notice of Sale is being offered for sale "AS IS, WHERE IS." **THERE ARE NO REPRESENTATIONS OR WARRANTIES** relating to the title or to any physical, environmental, health or safety conditions existing in, on, at or relating to the property being offered for sale, and any and all responsibilities or liabilities arising out of or in any way relating to any such condition are expressly disclaimed.

A cash deposit of 5% of the purchase price will be required at the time of the sale. Remote bidding will not be accepted pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes Section 45-21.25 (a). Credit bids on behalf of the Noteholder will be accepted. Any successful bidder shall be required to tender the full balance of the purchase price so bid in cash or certified check at the time the Substitute Trustee tenders to him a deed for the

