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Martina Navratilova blasts US Tennis Association after transgender star Alicia Rowley won women's national tournament and claims the sport is 'not for failed male athletes'

- Martina Navratilova criticised the USTA for its stance on transgender athletes
- The ex-pro who won 167 singles titles added that 'it was not right and not fair'
- It comes as Alicia Rowley reportedly won the women's National Championships

By [ED CARRUTHERS FOR MAILONLINE](#)

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Martina Navratilova has criticised the US Tennis Association (USTA) for its stance on **transgender** athletes competing in women's tennis tournaments.

It comes as transgender tennis star Alicia Rowley reportedly became the latest player to win a Women's National Tennis Championship and 'the coveted Golden Ball'.

The Independent Council On Women's Sports (ICONS) **posted the news on Twitter**, stating that Rowley recently won the women's 55+ Grass Court National Championship and National Indoor Singles and Doubles Championship.

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SPORTS DIGEST

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Came under heavy fire



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The USTA states in its **Transgender Inclusion Policy** that trans athletes should be included and not blocked from playing the sport.

The document states: 'It is necessary to ensure, insofar as possible, that transgender athletes are not excluded from the opportunity to participate in sporting competitions.'



Martina Navratilova (right) has criticised the US Tennis Association (USTA) for its stance on transgender athletes

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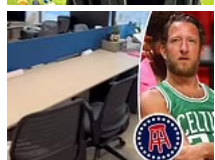
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Male tennis player, Alicia Rowley is the latest Women's National Tennis Champion and winner of the coveted "golden ball"

Rowley has recently won the women's 55+:

- Grass Court National Championships
- National Indoor Singles and Doubles

usta.com/en/home/play/p...



USTA

10:00 PM · Aug 5, 2023 · 97.3K Views

+6 View gallery

It comes after transgender tennis player Alicia Rowley became the latest Women's National Tennis Champion



Kim Shasby Jones @KimJonesICONS

Hey @USTA @WTA @Martina @ChrissieEvert

Women's tennis is turning into a laughing stock because of these terrible policies prioritizing the mental health and identity of men over women who have discovered a love of tennis.

The women are calling us and begging for help to be allowed to play fairly. They have complained; they don't know where else to turn.

Men are winning national titles, taking the place of women on team tennis, and competing in women's tournaments across the country. We need to let the women and girls playing tennis know that they deserve to be treated fairly and recognized for their accomplishments no matter when they pick up the sport. They do not have to reach any kind of elite status.

There is already a category for male athletes to enjoy this privilege. Let female athletes enjoy the game of tennis too.

Change the policy and @BillieJeanKing change your stance - do abandon these women and this sport any longer.

+6 View gallery

ICON's co-founder Kim Shasby Jones called on the US Tennis Association to 'change their policy' that says trans athletes should not be blocked from playing the sport

TRENDING

▶ marijuana with Tyson to 2017 coma

'I thought I died,' the legendary wrestler said after the encounter



▶ Sacramento Republic announces deal for 13-year-old prospect Kimbrough

Club says forward is the youngest pro athlete in US team sports history

▶ Orioles fans call on Baltimore owners to reinstate suspended announcer Brown

Supporters chanted and brought signs to Camden Yards

▶ Rodgers star-struck by 'Voice of God' Schreiber before Jets QB tells Gardner he will be a Hall Of Famer

Hard Knocks is back with a new series

▶ Ivanka Trump and Jared Kushner take in the New York Mets' 3-2 loss to the Chicago Cubs... sitting behind home plate at Citi Field

Joined by their sons

▶ Inter Miami TERMINATES goalkeeper Nick Marsman's contract

Just weeks after he questioned Lionel Messi signing

▶ Phillies' Bryce Harper adorably reunites crying boy with his brothers before taking heartwarming selfie

Found seven-year-old Caleb distressed

▶ Hilarious moment female baseball fan risks injury to dive over seats and beat her male rivals to ball in the crowd

During Mets-Cubs

▶ Alex Morgan has 'NEVER been a superstar' and the USA's 'vibe was off' as soon as they wore matching Nike suits, Bill Simmons claims

▶ Colin Cowherd includes Dwayne Haskins on his list of quarterbacks that won't win a Super Bowl

16 months after he died in an automobile crash

▶ Boone hilariously mocks umpire Diaz after the Yankees manager is ejected for arguing balls and strikes

Boone's side lost to Chicago White Sox

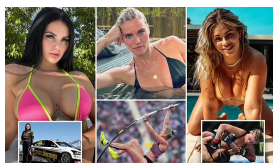
▶ Beckham leaves staff at BBQ joint 'shaking' after Inter Miami co-owner picks up brisket and ribs ahead of Lionel Messi-inspired win

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Tottenham accept offer worth over £95m from Bayern for Harry Kane

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Lauren James is banned for TWO games by FIFA

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'The overriding sporting objective is and remains the guarantee of fair competition. Restrictions on participation are appropriate to the extent that they are necessary and proportionate to the achievement of this objective.'

But following the news that Rowley had won the National Tennis Championship, ICONS Co-founder, Kim Shasby Jones tagged Navratilova and Chrissie Evert in a Tweet, and claimed the USTA's transgender policy should be changed.

AD

Advertisement for a website featuring a couple embracing. Includes 'Visit Site' and 'Skip Ad' buttons.

'Hey @USTA @WTA @Martina @ChrissieEvert,' Shasby Jones wrote. 'Women's tennis is turning into a laughing stock because of these terrible policies prioritising the mental health and identity of men over women who have discovered a love of tennis.'

'The women are calling us and begging for help to be allowed to play fairly. They have complained; they don't know where else to turn. Men are winning national titles, taking the place of women on team tennis, and competing in women's tournaments across the country.'

'We need to let the women and girls playing tennis know that they deserve to be treated fairly and recognised for their accomplishments no matter when they pick up the sport.'

Staff were shocked



Ramirez claims he has tried to apologize to Anderson over Guardians-White Sox brawl... but shortstop is apparently ignoring him

Former NFL Draft bust Leaf shows off incredible 'summer transformation' Ex-quarterback has dropped 56 pounds in just a few months

Sherman 'to join Bayless on Undisputed following Sharpe's exit from Fox Sports show' The pair had an infamous clash on 'First Take' many years ago

Lionel Messi is hailed by hobbled MLS fan... after Inter Miami star helped to pay for her knee surgery But did not spend a single dime on the procedure

Carson Wentz bizarrely wears Eagles, Colts and Commanders gear for offseason workout Unemployed QB continues search for new team

Lionel Messi fan brawls at Inter Miami game against FC Dallas as man in an Argentina jersey takes on TWO others Texas cops make arrest

Jake Paul's girlfriend Jutta Leerdam celebrates Nate Diaz win by telling partner she is 'so so proud' Paul returned to winning ways on Saturday night

NFL linebacker-turned-millionaire Pokemon card dealer Blake Martinez is booted off marketplace His employee is accused of defrauding collectors

Beckham mobbed by supporters after watching Messi lead Inter Miami to victory over Dallas Fans lined the streets in Texas to greet him

Paul's win over Diaz marred by brawl among fans in Dallas... staff try to intervene after chaos breaks out and punches are traded in the arena Violence after the bell

Messi is like Brady... opponents 'see ghosts' when he is on the pitch, says Taylor Twellman Compared Inter Miami hero to Patriots' iconic QB after Dallas win



TSEMENT

Martina Navratilova @Martina

Come on @USTA- women's tennis is not for failed male athletes- whatever age. This is not right and it is not fair. Would this be allowed at the US Open this month? Just with self ID? I don't think so...

Kim Shasby Jones @KimJonesICONS · 8h

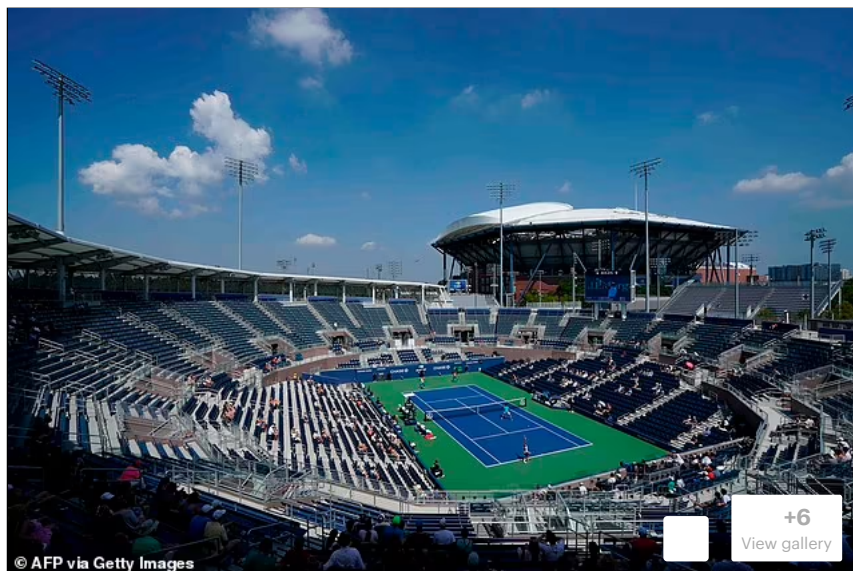
Hey @USTA @WTA @Martina @ChrissieEvert

Women's tennis is turning into a laughing stock because of these terrible policies prioritizing the mental health and identity of men over women who have discovered a love of tennis.

The women are calling us and begging for help to be... twitter.com/icons_women/st... [Show more](#)

7:03 AM · Aug 6, 2023 · 64.3K Views +6 [View gallery](#)

And Navratilova responded to the ICONS co-founder on Twitter stating 'This is not right and it is not fair'



In their Transgender Inclusion Policy, the USTA says: 'It is necessary to ensure, insofar as possible, that transgender athletes are not excluded from the opportunity to participate in sporting competitions.'

'They do not have to reach any kind of elite status. There is already a category for male athletes to enjoy this privilege. Let female athletes enjoy the game of tennis too.'

'Change the policy' she added, addressing the governing bodies. 'And change your stance @BillieJeanKing - don't abandon these women and this sport any longer.'

In response, 16-time Grand Slam champion, Navratilova, wrote: 'Come on @USTA - women's tennis is not for failed male athletes- whatever age.'

'This is not right and it is not fair. Would this be allowed at the US Open this month? Just with self ID? I don't think so...'

For league and recreational purposes, the USTA does not require transgender athletes to confirm their gender identity status but does require those playing professionally to meet certain conditions.

Their Transgender Inclusion Policy reads: 'On the league and recreational side of the equation, the USTA takes the position that we do not require confirmations of gender identity status. Above all, we do not want to be an obstacle to recreational participation.'

▶ **WWE's first transgender star Tuft calls out McMahon as she reveals she was 'blocked' from going backstage at MSG**
She was at Smackdown



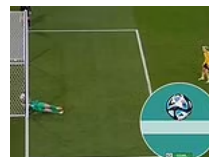
▶ **McGregor mocks Paul's 'garbage' fight with Diaz... branding it 'p*** and s*** in a ring'**
Foul-mouthed verdict from the MMA star after Paul's victory



▶ **Megan Rapinoe slammed by USA fans for LAUGHING after missing a crucial penalty in World Cup shootout vs Sweden**
It ended in tears



▶ **Incredible moment Sweden win World Cup shootout against USA after penalty was ruled to be over the line by MILLIMETRES**
Agonizing way to lose



▶ **USWNT's World Cup exit will have been filmed by Netflix - with a film crew following Megan Rapinoe and the team in the tournament**
A hard watch



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Got a knockdown in the fifth - and then won on points



▶ **Biles makes triumphant return to gymnastics after two years out for 'mental health break' as she wins three titles**
In front of sell-out crowd



▶ **Outrage as Maple Leaf Mel - the horse owned by legendary NFL coach Parcells - suffers catastrophic leg injury just meters from finish**
Euthanized after race



▶ **Boxing cult hero Butterbean Esch, 57, shows off incredible 200-pound weight loss transformation... and reveals how he did it**
Did weigh 515 pounds



▶ **Pro Football Hall of Fame Class of 2023 including Revis, Ware and Klecko are enshrined in Canton**
Emotional day for all those involved



▶ **Golf glamor girl Paige Spirnac left stunned by fans telling her she looks like Jacksonville Jaguars quarterback Trevor Lawrence!**
She takes to Twitter



▶ **Tom Brady cheers Birmingham on from SAFARI in Africa as his new team ties its first game of the new English soccer season**
A1-1 tie vs. Swansea

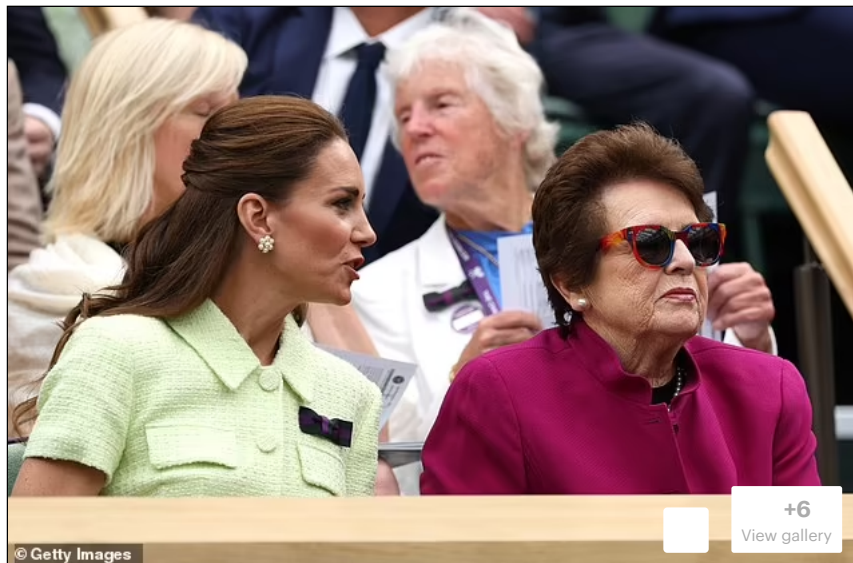


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'We seek to respect all individuals, and we take it on faith that players who compete under these rules are doing so not to gain a competitive advantage, but to enjoy participating in a manner in which they are comfortable.'

For professional competitions it adds: 'Those who transition from male to female are eligible to compete in the female category under the following conditions: The athlete has declared that her gender identity is female. The declaration cannot be changed, for sporting purposes, for a minimum of four years.'

'Hormonal therapy appropriate for the assigned sex has been administered in a verifiable manner and for a sufficient length of time to minimise gender-related advantages in sport competitions.'



Last year she challenged Billie Jean King (right) on Twitter, after the American had expressed her support for wrote on Twitter 'Trans youth deserve to play and thrive.'

It comes after the president of a Wyoming tennis association, Jackie Fulkrod, **resigned last week** in protest against a decision to allow a transgender female player, Brooklyn Ross, to participate in the women's singles category of the Governor's Cup.

Fulkrod said to **Cowboy State Daily**: 'I think a man playing against a woman is a very unfair matchup when it's specifically meant for women in that specific draw,' she told Cowboy State Daily.'

'My decision to resign was solely based on the fact that we didn't have any way to protect our organisation or protect our female athletes that are going to be playing in the tournament,' Fulkrod added.

This is not the first time that Navratilova has published her views on transgender athletes competing in female sporting categories.

In March she said the **World Athletics' decision to ban transgender athletes** from competing in women's categories was **'a step n the right direction'** before calling for an 'open category for all-comers'.

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Scathing



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Canadian is a regular sports bettor



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Jets' reigning Rookie of the Year can be 'special for a long time'



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Timberwolves icon



▶ **Paul says he will 'dog walk' Diaz on Saturday night as bitter rivals weigh in ahead of blockbuster Dallas bout**
Both men appear to be eyeing McGregor



▶ **Kitna - son of ex-NFL star Jon - breaks his silence after child porn charges against him were dropped: 'I am not the person portrayed'**
Former Florida QB



▶ **Biles practices before competing for the first time since suffering 'the twisties' at Olympics**
Superstar will quietly return at the US Classic in Illinois this weekend



▶ **Koepka and his wife Jena's son in intensive care after being born six weeks early**
The couple announced the birth of their baby boy, Crew, on August 3



▶ **Arteta reveals Jesus' injury was not as bad as feared and says forward 'will be back SOON'**
Arsenal are preparing to take on Manchester City in the Community Shield



▶ **Brady could bring his notorious TB12 diet - which avoids peppers, tomatoes and even strawberries! - to Birmingham City**
Has a stake in the team



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Martina Navratilova
@Martina · Follow

Replying to @shrnkld and @joannaccherry

Nobody is banning trans people from competing- they just need to compete in the biological category rather than a self ID category. Either one day have three categories or two categories- one open to all and one for biological women only. But they are allowed to compete now

9:54 AM · Dec 23, 2022

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In December 2022 the 66-year-old also responded to a Tweet from Billie Jean King, who had expressed her support for trans athletes.

Jean King had written: 'The Federal Appeals Court just upheld Connecticut's trans-inclusive athletics policy.' She added: 'Trans youth deserve to play and thrive.'

'I couldn't disagree more, inclusion at the cost of exclusion is not inclusion,' Navratilova responded.

'Nobody is banning trans people from competing - they just need to compete in the biological category rather than a self ID category.'

'Either one day have three categories or two categories: one open to all and one for biological women only. But they are allowed to compete now.'

British rowing last week announced that it would be prohibiting trans athletes from competing in female sporting competitions and followed the UCI, cycling's world governing body, who also **restricted trans athletes from competing in female events in July.**

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He treats himself to a soccer team!



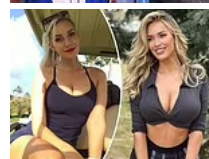
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'I want it on record... it's science' she says after round in Jersey



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A controversial move in NBA



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'You have no idea'



► **David Beckham larks around with Lionel Messi's sons following rain delay before Inter Miami's win**

Kick off delayed an hour and a half



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Attends Inter Miami's clash to watch Lionel Messi in action



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Nick Kyrgios is OUT of the U.S. Open

Sport



USWNT triggers Aussie football fans by calling Melbourne 'Melby'

Sport

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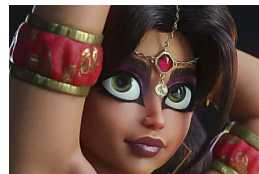
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Megyn Kelly claims Megan Rapinoe has 'POISONED' the USWNT as she blasts 'morons' for 'embarrassing us' After the team mostly didn't sing the anthem

NBA star Jonathan Isaac launches faith-based brand as alternative to Nike Three years after not kneeling for national anthem

Carli Lloyd rages at USWNT and Megan Rapinoe for DANCING on World Cup field after 0-0 Portugal tie Team scraped through to knockouts



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Doris Burke 'set to be promoted by ESPN to lead NBA analyst with Doc Rivers' Big change after Mark Jackson and Jeff van Gundy moved on

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Damar Hamlin is 'a little scared' as the Buffalo



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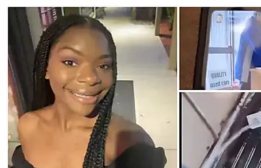
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Seven months after

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As he prepares for on-field reunion with Messi

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Forced to retire

▶ [Lionel Messi is joined by his stunning wife Antonela and their eldest son Thiago, 10, for a house-hunting trip in Boca Raton](#)
EXCLUSIVE PHOTOS

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Can she lead the USWNT to more glory?

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'Send the chef to the transfer portal,' one supporter joked.

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Admits he had a 'lot of alcohol' and 'accidentally' posted the footage

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Before he has thrown a single NCAA pass

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Time is against him and rivals are running out

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And fellow NBA stars were there

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It was the Argentine icon's last World Cup

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An incredible recovery

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Jumped to the defense of his long-time offensive coordinator

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He was quickly chased down and got a taste of his own medicine

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Bonded in Maryland

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'Getting cradled with your balls in the air - not a vibe'

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welterweight champion
A brutal, brilliant, historic performance

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Later admits he has to be a better teammate

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Seven months after release from Russian penal colony

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He said sorry on social media

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Threatened to 'eliminate' those responsible

▶ **Bronny James is videoed playing the piano by NBA icon father LeBron just days after suffering cardiac arrest in USC practice**
'You are amazing'

▶ **Atlanta Falcons' Koo bizarrely accepts fan's offer of nicotine pouch while signing autographs at training camp**
Very trusting of the gift

▶ **Jordan and wife Prieto enjoy a coffee on their yacht... before NBA legend takes a stroll on the sand in St Tropez with bodyguards in tow**
Still enjoying vacation

▶ **Rapinoe, Morgan and Co wrap up against the New Zealand chill as the USWNT train ahead of crunch final Women's World Cup group game**
Four points in two games

▶ **Weather delays Wrexham's final pre-season game against Philadelphia Union II as lightning strikes nearby**
It's (not) Always Sunny in Philadelphia!

▶ **Bronny James is seen for the first time since shock cardiac arrest as he heads out to dinner with LeBron and family**
Just FOUR DAYS after being taken ill

▶ **Boxer Felix Verdejo found guilty of the murder of his pregnant girlfriend Keishla Rodriguez**
A Puerto Rico jury ruled on former Olympic boxer

▶ **NBA star Devonte Graham is placed on unsupervised probation for 12 months after pleading to guilty to 2022 DUI arrest**
Jail sentence suspended

▶ **Newcastle 2-1 Brighton: Elliot Anderson's late brace gives Magpies win, as Harvey Barnes cramps up in final minutes**
Geordie joy in Jersey!

▶ **Lionel Messi, David Beckham and Sergio Busquets enjoy dinner with their wives at Bad Bunny's steakhouse**
After Inter Miami's recent winning form

▶ **Meet the nutritionist who helps Errol Spence Jr, Gervonta Davis and Anthony Joshua prepare for boxing's biggest fights**
EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

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▶ **Colts owner Jim Irsay insists his running back comments were not aimed at Jonathan Taylor**
 Claimed 'some agents are selling bad faith'

▶ **Lionel Messi's model wife reveals his Inter Miami celebration was inspired by his sons' love of Thor**
 Was not a 'hold my beer' gesture with Beckham

▶ **LeBron James is back in the gym after Bronny's cardiac arrest as he works out with teen basketball prodigy**
 Same day his son is discharged from hospital

▶ **Beckham's Messi bromance hits new heights as he drinks mate tea like Inter Miami's new star**
 'If it's good enough for Leo' he says

▶ **EXCLUSIVE: Bronny James' little brother Bryce out in LA after it emerged LeBron's son is out of hospital after his cardiac arrest**
 Good news for the family

▶ **Joe Burrow goes down at Bengals camp with a calf injury after coming up limp during non-contact scrimmage**
 Huge concerns all across Cincinnati

▶ **Michael Jordan's iconic 1996 Mercedes-Benz - seen in The Last Dance - for sale for \$23!**
 Michael Jordan memorabilia usually sells for thousands

▶ **NBA superstar Kevin Durant hints he was STONED when he met Adam Silver to discuss cannabis policy**
 'Everyone is doing it - it's like wine'

▶ **Damar Hamlin nears NFL comeback at Bills training camp following cardiac arrest**
 Hamlin offered prayers for Bronny James earlier in the week

▶ **Stephen A. Smith says Bronny James' cardiac arrest 'scares you to death' and labels the shock incident an 'anomaly'**
 Now in stable condition

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