

What the Muslim Ban Means for Sports + How Justin Bieber Saved the Weekend

1 message

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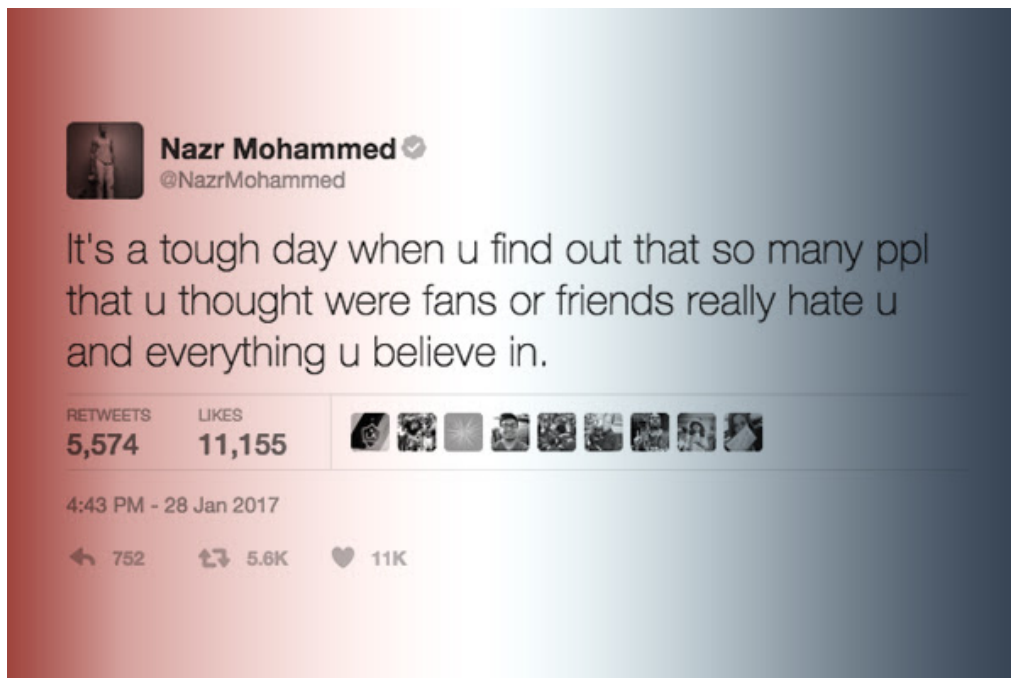
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SERVING UP SPORTS FOR FEMALE FANS



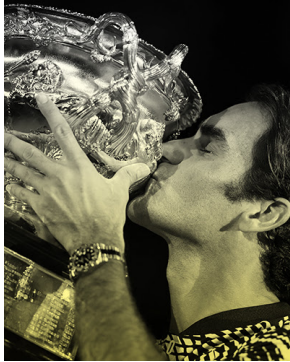
“Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free...” — the poem printed on the Statue of Liberty now has a big asterisk added to it that says something like, *Oh, everyone except for Muslims. ICYMI: **President Donald Trump**'s latest executive order bans refugees and citizens of seven majority-Muslim countries from entering the United States. In addition to disrupting the lives of the most vulnerable and potentially denying immigrants their constitutional rights, the order has wrecked [major havoc in the sports world](#) too.

Iran announced that American citizens were no longer welcome to enter the country, throwing USA wrestling's participation in the Iran-hosted Freestyle World Cup into question. The [NBA immediately reached out](#) to the State Department in order to understand how the new ban would affect the travel and participation of Los Angeles Lakers **Luol Deng** and Milwaukee Bucks **Thon Maker**, both of whom were born in Sudan.

Olympic gold medalist **Mo Farah**, who was born in Somalia, [opened up about his fears](#) of being separated from his US-based family while he trains in Ethiopia. [US officials later clarified](#) that as a UK passport holder, Farah would not be affected by

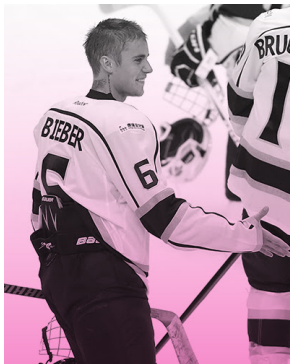
the ban, but other international athletes training in the US might not be so lucky. And while there's still a lot of uncertainty about what will happen *tomorrow*, looking ahead it's likely the ban will also affect America's chances of landing the 2024 Summer Olympics or the 2026 World Cup.

But remember "when they go low, we go high"? It's true here too; take some comfort in the athletes, coaches and sports leaders who are voicing their opposition and promising to be allies to those facing discrimination (pls see: **Nazr Mohammed's** Tweet above). An NBA vet and practicing Muslim, Mohammed followed up that sad statement the next day with a sliver of positivity: "appreciate all the love and support. It has exceeded my expectations and definitely outweighs the ignorance of the few."



#TBTENNIS

Roger Federer and **Serena Williams** heard our desperate pleas for good news this weekend and seriously delivered. In what felt like a #TBT lineup, Serena battled sister, **Venus Williams**, to [win the 2017 Australian Open title](#). Of course, there were no hard feelings after the match — Venus told her, "Your win has always been my win." Federer's insanely suspenseful triumph over **Rafael Nadal** was similarly heartwarming. His win makes him the fourth-oldest Grand Slam winner ever. Get it, gramps!



ALL-STAR > PRO BOWL

It's not just you: The NFL Pro Bowl is a maj snoozefest and we're giggling too as said pros [struggle to hide their junk](#) in those godawful uniforms. Thankfully, [NHL All-Star Weekend](#) was here with the best musical lineup ever (**Carly Rae Jepsen** AND **Nick Jonas**?!), **Justin Bieber** in the celeb game and crazy skills challenges that earned the Atlantic Division its top pick for the All-Star Game. Sunday, the Metropolitan Division emerged as All-Star champs, with Philadelphia Flyers' winger [Wayne Simmonds](#) [earning MVP cred](#). So, the most talented hockey player is also one of the [most handsome](#)? We're cool with that.

6 LAWSUITS (+ HOPEFULLY NOT COUNTING)

File this under terrible news that somehow finds ways to get worse: [Baylor University's football program is responding](#) to yet another Title IX lawsuit, bringing their federal lawsuits to a grand total of six. The details are grim, alleging coaches encouraged female students to have sex with recruits and players. We're looking at 52 alleged acts of rape by 31 Baylor football players from 2011 to 2014, 35 more than the school reported in their internal investigation.



WE'RE DONE HERE

On the surface, the [Cherokee Nation's new lawsuit](#) has nothing to do with sports: They're opposing the trademark of a rock band's name ("The Slants") on the basis that it's "disparaging" to people of Asian descent. The Slants' legal team? They're the lawyers for the Washington Redskins. Yep, it's a proxy lawsuit and a win for the Cherokee Nation could force the Redskins to finally change their very racist team name. (Suddenly all those hours spent watching *The Good Wife* are coming in handy for us!)



THERE'S MORE :(

Guys. Bad news is... we have more bad news. In November, former professional soccer player [Andy Woodward came forward](#) with accusations against **Barry Bennell**, his youth soccer coach who Woodward says sexually abused him and dozens of other boys at elite youth soccer programs. In the three months since Woodward went public, 248 youth athletic clubs, across multiple sports, have faced similar accusations of rampant sexual abuse and cover ups.

SPORTS SHORTS >>

Kansas City Royals pitcher [Danny Duffy](#) has been buying Yordano Ventura memorabilia on eBay as a gift for the late player's mother :(

An under-the-radar Ronda Rousey and Olympic judo athlete [Pauline Macias](#) delivered food and other supplies to DAPL protestors at Standing Rock.

There's a petition to [replace Lady Gaga with Migos](#) at the Super Bowl halftime show. May we suggest a Bad (Romance) and Boujee remix? Eh?



Sports and tech may *traditionally* be men's worlds, but there are women (Like today's Power Player! And us!) dunking on those glass ceilings/backboards daily. **Sarah Kunst** is Founder + CEO of [Proday](#), an app that lets you get your fitness on alongside pro athletes. "It's never great to be the only woman in the room because it means the room is unbalanced," Sarah says. "My



career in tech, investing and now sports is full of those moments. I pull in other women — I hire, collaborate, invest in and support women." Touchdown.

Take us through a day in the (work) life for you...

6:00am: Wake up and do a quick email check to see what the east coast and my European office are up to. If nothing's urgent, back to sleep for an hour or two.

8:00am: Emails, emails, emails! Startup founder life is 90% emails and

10% running the rest of the company. Then I move on to breakfast. Chia seed, Acai, Quest Protein Powder smoothie. My kitchen looks like a Smoothie King kiosk, I'm so into super foods and Ayurvedic herbs that I buy in bulk on Amazon.

10:00am: Meet with my content team and catch up with any other team members who need me.

11:00am: Calls from late morning until they're done. Athletes and agents and partners are all over the country so I work across time zones.

3:00pm: Hit the gym! I either go for a run, workout at home with my Proday app or walk to the gym and do some heavy lifting or yoga. Making time for it on a regular basis keeps me sane — and doing it before happy hour keeps me social.

4:00pm: Back at it; one last phone call or late day meeting, analytics checks and dig into strategy or recruiting work. Often I'll work until bed time when I'm at home but if I'm traveling or have plans, I try to wrap up by 8pm.

8:00pm: Drinks and dinner for work or pleasure. I try to make it out a couple times a week while I'm at home and every night when I travel. It's a great way to catch the game at a local sports bar (Mauna Loa is my favorite in San Francisco) or catch up with industry friends. Sometimes I even head to the local Warriors post game meet up spot and congratulate them on a win or well-placed point.

11:00pm: Check in with my European office. We do a daily catch up and discuss any issues and I get to visit Prague a few times a year to see them in person. I'll usually check up on late night scores and news, send notes to my content team for the morning, then try to get to sleep by 1am.

Your essential apps:

Proday to say in shape, Listen to manage my work phone calls and Bumble because, sadly, I can't date athletes.

This weekend is the Super Bowl! What would you bring to my hypothetical party?
Queso and skinny mezcal margaritas! Gallons of both. Homemade.

If you could brunch with anyone from the sports world, who would be on your dream team:

Magic Johnson, Serena Williams, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Allyson Felix, Marshawn Lynch and Draymond Green coming in as the 6th man. #oneteamonedream

Who needs to be permanently benched?

Trump. He cheats at golf.

Give props to a fellow #girlboss (or two) in the sports world:

Cathy Horton is a fellow female founder with the LA Dodgers and the creator of Sweatx it's a laundry detergent that removes the disgusting rotten gym smell from clothes wash after wash. Let's just say that anyone who is or loves an athlete owes her a big thank you!



**YOU'RE
UP!**

6 MORE SLEEPS 'TIL SUNDAY!!!!

In the words of Beyoncé: "H, H-town, town, I'm coming down." The Relish is coming to Houston this week. Do you and your Super Bowl-bound squad love sports as much as we do? We want to feature you in a video (or two). Shoot us an email: hello@therelish.com

(Images via Getty: TBD Stephen Lam, Clive Brunskill, Molly Riley, Tom Pennington, Guang Niu + Sarah Kunst/Proday)



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