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Sexual abuse in sport: The notorious cases



Former Michigan State University and USA Gymnastics doctor Larry Nassar appearing at I on Nov 22. PHOTO: AFP

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LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Former USA Gymnastics doctor Larry Nassar accused of sexually assaulting more than 100 young girls Thursday (Dec 7) on child pornography charges.

Here is a look at notorious abuse cases to rock the world

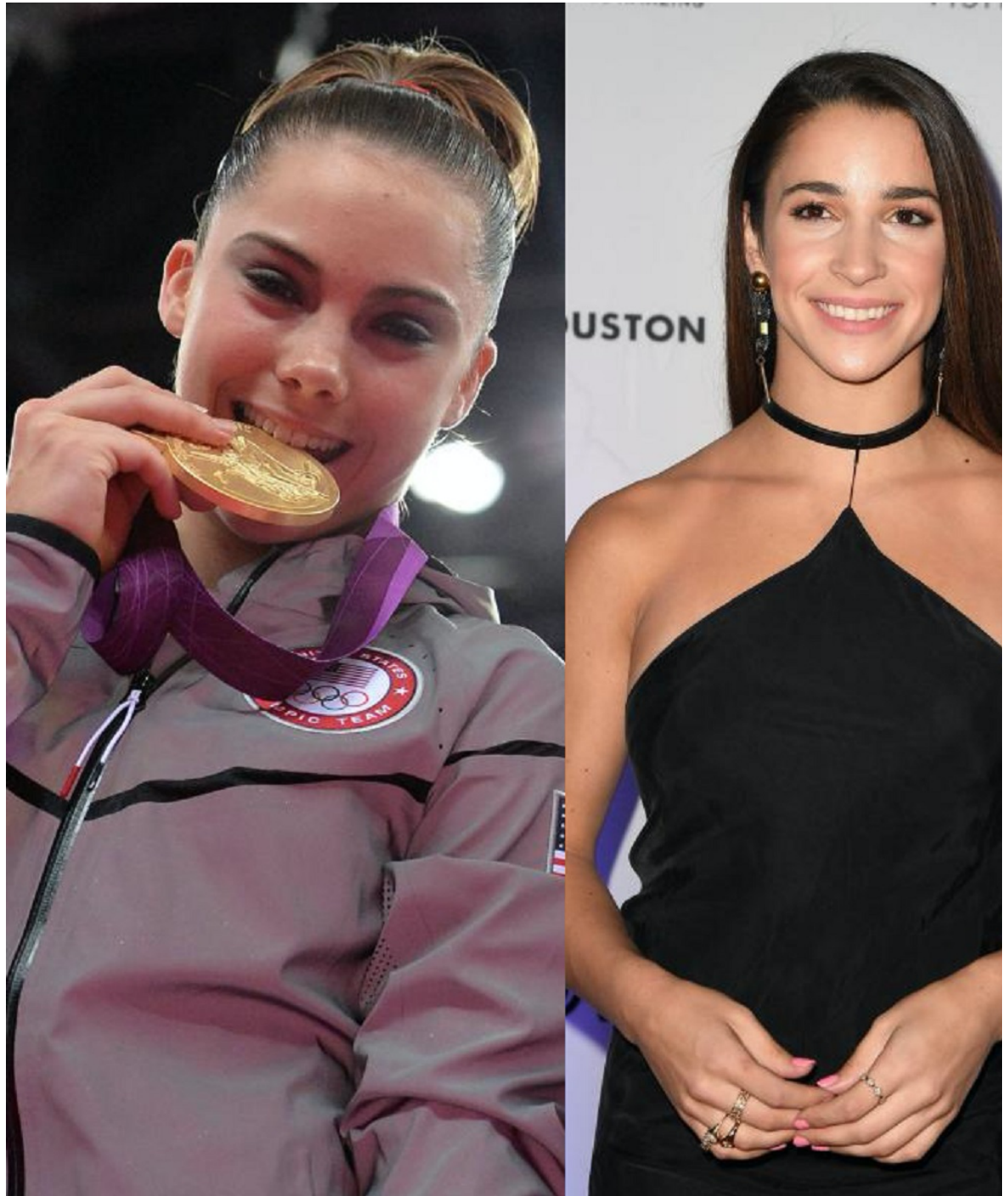
USA GYMNASTICS

Nassar, the former USA Gymnastics doctor, could face life in prison if sentenced on sexual assault charges next month.

He has been accused of molesting more than 100 female gymnasts over decades he worked with USA Gymnastics.

Olympic gold medallists McKayla Maroney, Aly Raisman and others among the members of the USA Gymnastics team who have been assaulted by Nassar.

Nassar's case was part of a wide-ranging scandal which forced USA Gymnastics chief Steve Penny to resign in March. Penny was accused of failing to quickly notify authorities about abuse allegations.



(Left to right) Olympic gold medallists McKayla Maroney, Aly Raisman and Gabby Douglas.

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Maroney calls for Larry Nassar to receive a life sentence sexual abuse.

A civil lawsuit has been filed by 100 of Nassar's victims. Manly, estimated that the total number could be as high as 1,000.

ENGLISH FOOTBALL

English sport has been rocked by a wave of allegations of sexual abuse affecting football.

According to figures released in July by the National Police, more than 1,000 victims have come forward to detail allegations against sportsmen. This is based on information obtained in Britain's inquiry into child sexual abuse, Operation Hydrant.

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Football is at the centre of the scandal with some 328 clubs at professional and amateur level being investigated.

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English football's governing body, the Football Association, announced an independent review into its handling of abuse allegations in 2005.

Although football is the main focus of the British probe, it also implicated in 27 referrals. These include basketball, rugby, tennis, wrestling, golf, sailing, athletics, cricket and swimming.

USA SWIMMING

USA Swimming was engulfed in scandal in 2010 when a federal investigation revealed myriad cases of sexual misconduct by coaches.

Cases uncovered included Andy King, a coach who was sent to prison after authorities discovered a pattern of sexual abuse over three decades at clubs up and down the West Coast and in teenaged female victims - one of whom said she had an abortion pregnant when she was 14.

Another case involved a coach who installed a secret camera in swimmers showering.

While more than 100 coaches were eventually banned from USA Swimming-affiliated clubs, the federation was blasted for ignoring complaints that in some cases allowed coaches to evade punishment.

authorities, moving to new cities and gaining coaching jobs, but continued predatory behaviour.

King, who was sentenced in 2010, had passed a USA Soccer background screening in 2008.

PENN STATE SCANDAL



Convicted child molester Jerry Sandusky (centre), a former assistant football coach at Penn State University, is seen during a hearing at the Centre County Courthouse in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania on Oct 29, 2015.

The world of college American football was rocked in 2011 when Penn State University assistant coach Jerry Sandusky was indicted on charges of child molestation.

Sandusky, who coached one of America's most illustrious
recruited his young victims through a charity he founded

The case scandalised the United States and tarnished the

It led to the sacking of Penn State's legendary head coach
icon, just weeks before his unexpected death from lung c
the age of 85.

Paterno was fired for failing to notify authorities when he
been seen molesting a boy in the shower. The university'
Spanier, was also sacked.



Former Penn State University head coach Joe Paterno watches his team before the start of a game at the University of Illinois in Champaign, Illinois on Oct 3, 2009. PHOTO: REUTERS

Sandusky was given a 30- to 60-year prison sentence after being convicted of 45 counts of abuse relating to 10 boys.

Penn State later paid out US\$60 million (S\$81 million) in abused by Sandusky. Although his crimes related to a pei 2009, prosecutors suspect his abuse may have begun in t

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