

Senators' Tkachuk says TikTok 'fake,' AI-generated

Field Level Media

Ottawa Senators captain Brady Tkachuk set the record straight Thursday on an AI-generated video posted on the White House TikTok account that appeared to show him dissing the Canadian hockey team.

Tkachuk, who helped lead the U.S. to its first men's hockey gold medal since 1980 with a 2-1 win over Canada on Sunday in the Milan Cortina Olympics, discussed the video published the day of the final that showed him during a 4 Nations Face-Off press conference last year saying, "They booed our national anthem, so I had to come out and teach those maple syrup eating

f---s a lesson."

"Well, it's clearly fake, because it's not my voice, not my lips moving," Tkachuk told reporters in Ottawa ahead of the Senators' first game back from the Olympic break against the Detroit Red Wings. "I'm not in control of any of those accounts. I know that those words would never come out of my mouth. So, I can't do anything about it."

The video, which amassed over 11 million views on TikTok, discloses that it uses AI generation. The song "Free Bird" underscored Tkachuk's fake quote before the video transitioned to highlights of the American victory.

"It's not my voice. It's not what I was saying,"

Tkachuk said. "I would never say that. That's not who I am, so I guess I don't like that video because that would never come out of my mouth and (I) never had that thought."

Tkachuk also said he wasn't the person who shouted, "Close the northern border," during the American players' congratulatory phone call with President Donald Trump.

"I've been seeing stuff that people think it's me. But if you watch the video, it's not my voice," Tkachuk said. "I don't know how that took a storm on its own when I give everything I have here. It's crazy when things go on social media, how fast they go. I would never say



AMBER SEARLS | Imagn Images

Team USA's Brady Tkachuk celebrates after defeating Canada in the gold-medal game at the Winter Olympics on Sunday.

anything like that."

Upon its return to the U.S., the men's hockey team visited the White House on Tuesday for Trump's State of the Union speech. Trump created controversy during the

postgame call when he told the U.S. men he would likely be impeached if he didn't also invite the gold medal-winning U.S. women's team.

Tkachuk, 26, was a first-time Olympian and

produced three goals with two assists in six games. He's tallied 37 points (14 goals, 23 assists) in 37 games for the Senators this season.

Reports: Scherzer signs 1-year deal with Blue Jays

Field Level Media

Veteran Max Scherzer is rejoining the Toronto Blue Jays on a one-year, \$3 million deal, multiple outlets reported early Thursday.

The contract contains incentives totaling \$10 million and a no-trade clause, per The Athletic.

Despite bolstering the starting rotation with Dylan Cease and Cody Ponce in the offseason, the Blue Jays still had a pitching need. Shane Bieber has forearm fatigue that has slowed his spring training work and fellow right-hander Bowden Francis is out for the season following Tommy John surgery.

The 41-year-old Scherzer is entering his 19th



JAYNE KAMIN-ONCEA | Imagn Images

Blue Jays pitcher Max Scherzer is entering his 19th MLB season and has a career record of 221-117 with a 3.22 ERA in 483 games (474 starts).

MLB season and has a career record of 221-117 with a 3.22 ERA in 483 games (474 starts). His 3,489 strikeouts are 11th on the all-time list.

The three-time Cy Young Award winner played for the Blue Jays last season and was 5-5

with a 5.19 ERA in 85 innings over 17 games (all starts). He made three key starts in the postseason, defeating the Seattle Mariners in Game 4 of the American League Championship Series.

In the World Series, he started two games against

the Los Angeles Dodgers and kept the Blue Jays in both games, despite them turning into extra-inning losses. Overall, he pitched 14½ innings, giving up six runs on 12 hits and striking out 11. His ERA was 3.77.

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