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SPORTS

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Athletes of the Week

(FOR THE WEEK OF AUG. 28-SEPT. 2)



SOPHIE LONG
 Astoria

Submitted Photo



TREVOR BYRD
 Astoria

The Daily Astorian/File Photo

The freshman made her high school cross country debut a successful one Sept. 2, in the "Ultimook Race Nike Invitational," at Hydrangea Ranch in Tillamook. Out of 127 runners in the varsity 5,000-meter race, Long finished 13th in 23 minutes, 54 seconds — the best finish for the Lady Fishermen, who placed third in the team standings. It was the first time Long had run a 5,000-meter race. **Teammate McKenzie Burnett (pictured on the left)** was 15th in 24:11.

The 2017 boys soccer season opener was a memorable game for Astoria's Trevor Byrd. Facing the Corbett Cardinals, the senior forward scored three goals — all in the first half — in a 6-1 Fishermen victory at Volunteer Field. Byrd's hat trick was a big positive for Astoria, which must replace a handful of scorers lost to graduation in 2016.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Gaston spikers sweep Knappa

The Daily Astorian

GASTON — In a late match Tuesday, Gaston swept Knappa in a Northwest League volleyball opener, 25-12, 25-16, 25-12, in a sweltering hot Gaston gymnasium.

The defending league champion Greyhounds are coming off an undefeated league season in 2016, and are the favorites to repeat this year.

"The final scores were not reflective of the Logger effort," said Knappa coach Jeff Kaul. "Gaston is just a really good team right now, with strong serving, speed, and some very good hitters. The Loggers played hard, but it's tough to get rolling when you never know where the ball is going to come from next."

Paris Vanderburg had five assists and four kills, and Kaitlyn Truax was 6-for-6 from the service line for Knappa. Jaden Mieth finished with eight digs, and Aiko Miller added four digs and three kills.

Maybin's homer in 9th lifts Houston past Seattle 5-3

Associated Press

SEATTLE — Cameron Maybin hit a two-run homer in the ninth inning to lift Houston past the Seattle Mariners 5-3 on Wednesday night, helping the Astros complete a three-game sweep to extend their winning streak to seven.

It was the second consecutive game-winning homer for Maybin, claimed off waivers last week from the Los Angeles Angels.

Mariners move

INF Shawn O'Malley was outrighted to Triple-A Tacoma. O'Malley hit .229 in 89 games with Seattle in 2016, but spent most of 2017 on the disabled list. He hit .205 in 20 games at Tacoma.

SCOREBOARD

PREP SPORTS SCHEDULE

TODAY

Volleyball — Astoria at Cascade, 6 p.m.; Clatskanie at Warrenton, 6 p.m.; Delphian at Knappa, 5:30 p.m.
Girls Soccer — St. Helens at Astoria, 7:15 p.m.; Seaside at Corbett, 4:15 p.m.
Boys Soccer — Astoria at St. Helens, 7 p.m.; Corbett at Seaside, 6 p.m.

Seahawks' Michael Bennett says he feared death by Las Vegas police

By **KEN RITTER**
 Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Seattle Seahawks defensive end Michael Bennett accused Las Vegas police on Wednesday of racially motivated excessive force, saying he was threatened at gunpoint and handcuffed following a report of gunshots at an after-hours club at a casino-hotel.

Police said they're investigating, but that Bennett failed to stop for officers searching a crowded casino for what they believed to be an active shooter just hours after the Aug. 26 boxing match between Floyd Mayweather Jr. and Conor McGregor.

"I believe this case will become completely clear as all the available video is reviewed for evidentiary purposes," Clark County Undersheriff Kevin McMahill told reporters. "We'll see very, very clearly exactly what happened on this incident."

Bennett said on a Twitter message titled "Dear World," that police "singled me out and pointed their guns at me for doing nothing more than simply being a black man in the wrong place at the wrong time."

McMahill aired a lengthy video clip taken from a police sergeant's body camera during a search of the Cromwell casino after a report of gunfire at the Drai's nightclub. But he said at least one officer who encountered Bennett didn't have his body camera on at the time.

Bennett isn't seen until the very end of the clip — being handcuffed as he lies prone in a traffic lane on Las Vegas Boulevard.

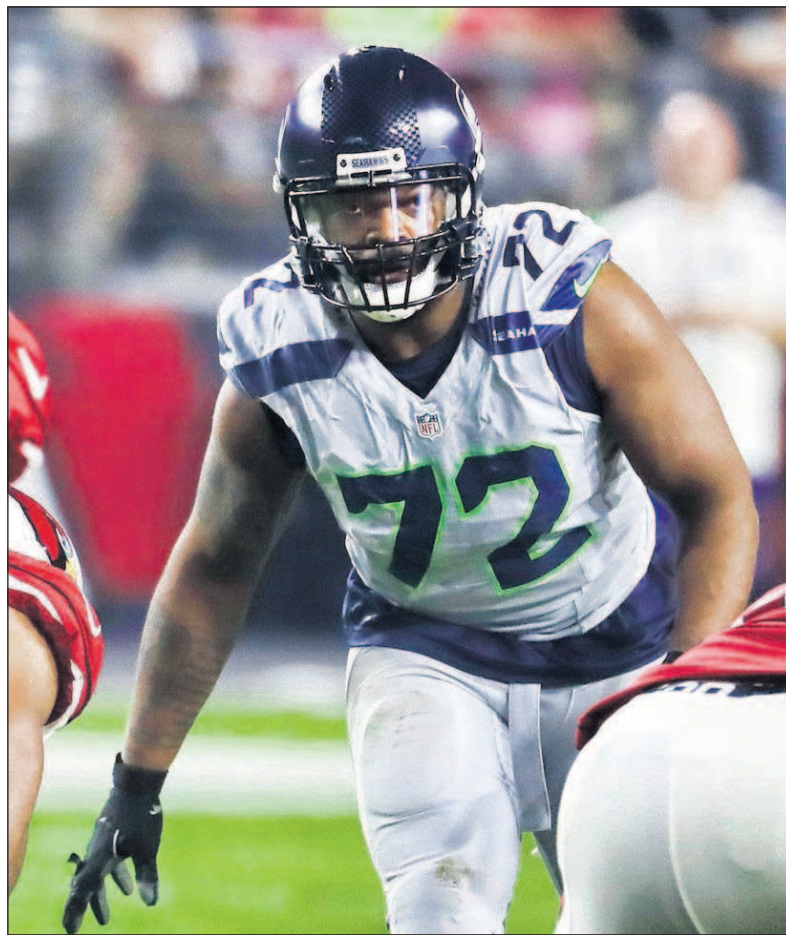
McMahill said that with an internal affairs investigation just beginning, he saw "no evidence that race played any role in this incident."

Police and casino officials later attributed the report of gunfire to the sharp sound of velvet rope stands being knocked to a tile floor.

Bennett, during a brief appearance Wednesday at the Seahawks' practice facility in Renton, Washington, described the incident as "traumatic" but declined to go into specifics about it.

"It's a traumatic experience for me, my family and it sucks that the country that we live in now sometimes you get profiled for the color of your skin," Bennett said. "Do I think every police officer is bad? No, I don't believe that. Do I believe there are some people out there that judge people by the color of their skin? I do believe that."

"I'm just trying to focus on the game, focus on the task at hand and let everything take care of itself," Bennett said. "But like I said this is a tragic situation for me, I hate to be up here at this moment. There is a lot of people who experienced what I experienced at that point, at that moment



AP Photo/Rick Scuteri

Seattle Seahawks defensive end Michael Bennett.

UP NEXT: SEAHAWKS

• Seattle Seahawks (0-0)
 at Green Bay Packers (0-0)
 • Sunday, 1:25 p.m. TV: FOX

and they're not here to tell their story."

Bennett, a 6-foot-4 defensive end who has been a leader of the national anthem protests started by former 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick, said he was among several hundred people running away.

In his Twitter message, Bennett said he was handcuffed face-down on the ground after an officer held a gun to his head saying he would blow his head off if he moved.

"All I could think of was 'I'm going to die for no other reason than I am black and my skin color is somehow a threat,'" he wrote. He said he thought of his wife and children.

Bennett said he was taken to the back of a police car "until they apparently realized I was not a thug, common criminal or ordinary black man but Michael Bennett a famous professional football player." He was released without charges.

Las Vegas police Officer Jacinto Rivera said police were checking for casino and police body camera video and written reports. He said the department couldn't immediately verify Bennett's account or identify the officers involved.

A video posted by celebrity news site TMZ shows a view from a bal-

cony as a police officer kneels on the back of a man who looks like Bennett. Protests are heard, including, "I wasn't doing nothing," and, "I was here with my friends. They told us to get out and everybody ran."

Bennett's attorney, John Burris in Oakland, California, confirmed the words were Bennett's. The attorney said he believed the 30-second video clip showed some of how his client was treated.

"We think there was an unlawful detention and the use of excessive force, with a gun put to his head," Burris told The Associated Press. "He was just in the crowd. He doesn't drink or do drugs. He wasn't in a fight. He wasn't resisting. He did nothing more or less than anyone in the crowd."

Burris said Bennett waited to make public his account of the incident until after Burris contacted Las Vegas police last week by letter and email, seeking police records of Bennett's detention.

McMahill said he had no knowledge of any letter or email last week from Bennett or Burris.

Bennett's brother, Martellus Bennett, who plays for the Green Bay Packers, posted an Instagram account of a telephone call he said he got from Michael Bennett. He said he heard fear in his brother's voice.

"The emotion and the thought of almost losing you because of the way you look left me in one of the saddest places ever," Martellus Bennett said.

Seahawks teammates throw support behind Bennett

By **TIM BOOTH**
 Associated Press

RENTON, Wash. — Cliff Avril said he'd never seen teammate and friend Michael Bennett as shaken as he was in the early hours of Aug. 27 in Las Vegas.

"When I actually walked up and he opened the door I was like 'Whoa, they really did get after you a little bit. They really did rough you up a little bit,'" Avril said Wednesday. "Then just talked to him for a couple of hours trying to calm him down more so than anything."

Bennett received significant support from his Seattle Seahawks teammates on Wednesday, hours after his statement alleging racially motivated excessive force by the Las Vegas police.

Seattle coach Pete Carroll read a statement supporting Bennett and said he learned about the incident the morning after.

"He's been anxious to take this next step. He's been holding on to this for a while," Carroll said. "I think this will help him at this point to make sure it's out there and he's made his statement. It's been a topic for us. You can tell it's hanging with him."

Avril and Bennett had gone to Las Vegas for the fight between Conor McGregor and Floyd Mayweather during a break from training camp. They separated following the fight and it was about an hour after Bennett was detained that Avril heard from his teammate.

"That was the biggest thing with him. I wanted him to call his family ... where his mind was and what he could have done, I didn't want him to make the wrong move," Avril said. "That was my advice to him. Just let's think this thing through, talk to your wife and come up with a game plan on how you want to approach this."

Bennett spoke with some teammates regarding what happened, but others did not know until his Bennett released his statement on Twitter on Wednesday morning.

Center Justin Britt was one of those who has supported Bennett, who has sat during the national anthem during the preseason. During each of the final three preseason games, Britt stood next to Bennett with his hand on Bennett's shoulder for the anthem.

"Money doesn't change the fact that it still happens," Britt said. "The fact that Mike believes in equality for all and justice and liberty, it's just another statement of what is going on in the world."