

SPORTS

CONTACT US
Gary Henley | Sports Reporter
ghenley@dailyastorian.com

FOLLOW US
facebook.com/
DailyAstorianSports

Seahawks' secondary possibly down 2 vs. Falcons

By **TIM BOOTH**
Associated Press

RENTON, Wash. — Bobby Wagner knows he won't have Richard Sherman chirping in his ear from the Seattle Seahawks secondary the rest of the season.

Wagner may not have Kam Chancellor to rely on as protection for at least this week either.

"I've never played a game without Richard, he's definitely going to be missed, but to have both of those guys missing in action is not something that we have ever had to deal with," Wagner said Thursday. "I think it's something that we're prepared for if we can hold it down until at least one of them gets back. The other one might take a while."

Seattle's standout secondary could possibly be without another of its founding members Monday night when the Seahawks host the Atlanta Falcons. Sherman is done for the season following an Achilles tendon injury for which he underwent surgery this week. Seattle is being coy about the status of Chancellor, who suffered a stinger late in the victory over Arizona on Nov. 9. While Chancellor has not been ruled out of the Atlanta game, he was still undergoing tests Thursday.

"He's still getting some work done, tests done," coach Pete Carroll said. "Don't have anything updated yet."

The one bright spot for Seattle is optimism that safety Earl Thomas will return this week after missing the past two games with a hamstring injury. Thomas' return would be key for the continuity of the secondary. Much of what Seattle does in its coverages is predicated on Thomas being at free safety and his ability to cover so much ground.

If Chancellor can't go, the drop off may not be as severe as in the past. Bradley McDougald, who started the past two games at free safety with Thomas out, would slide over to strong safety if Chancellor is unavailable. The Seahawks have raved about McDougald's versatility since he was signed in the offseason as a free agent.

"He has been a fantastic addition and ... a little bit of an unsung hero at this time for this season, that he has been able to be so versatile and be so successful at what he is doing," Carroll said.

CCC hosts sports fest, charity drive

The Daily Astorian

Clatsop Community College students will host a multi-day intramural sports festival and charity drive in the new gym of Patriot Hall later this month.

Nov. 28 will be dodgeball, followed by basketball Nov. 29, indoor soccer Nov. 30 and capture the flag Dec. 1. All activities run from 6 to 8 p.m. and are open to people age 16 and up. Parental guardians must sign a liability form for participants younger than 18.

Suggested donation for entry is \$2 or a donated item. The classes will work with Clatsop Community Action Regional Food Bank, Astoria Warming Center and Head Start to collect donations of canned food, coats, jeans, underwear, socks, blankets or new toys for children ages 3 to 5. Participants will be entered to win prizes in a raffle.

The festival is a combined effort of the college's four leadership classes, providing students with the opportunity to learn leadership skills and participate in a service-learning project. Patriot Hall is located on the college's main campus at 1651 Lexington Ave.



Ilwaco senior running back Brandon McMullen.

Damian Mulinix/For EO Media Group

Ilwaco's McMullen named Offensive MVP

The Daily Astorian

The Lower Columbia region has a third player of the year for the 2017 high school football season.

Ilwaco senior running back Brandon McMullen was named as the Southwest Washington 2B League Offensive Player of the Year, as voted on by the league's coaches.

McMullen was also a first team linebacker, joining teammates Alex Kaino (wide receiver/defensive back), Marcus Connor (offensive line) and Royce Murry (offensive and defensive line) on the first team.

McMullen was also one of two Ilwaco players to earn academic all-league honors, along with Jeb Sheldon.

McMullen joins Seaside's Alex Teubner and Knappa's Kaleb

Miller as other area players of the year.

SWW 2B All-League
Offensive Player of the Year: Brandon McMullen, Ilwaco
Defensive Player of the Year: Ben Byington, South Bend
Coaches of the Year: Shane Byington, South Bend; Luke Abbott, Raymond
First Team Offense
QB: Drew Rose, Jr., South Bend
RB: Tyson Nissell, Sr., Pe Ell/Willapa Valley
RB: Ben Byington, Sr., South Bend
RB: Peter Hamilton, So., Pe Ell/Willapa Valley
WR: Ryan Shepherd, Sr., Pe Ell/Willapa Valley
WR: Raul Mora, Sr., South Bend
WR: Alex Kaino, Jr., Ilwaco
OL: Brad Prestegord, Sr., Pe Ell/Willapa Valley
OL: Marcus Connor, Sr., Ilwaco
OL: Josiah Markwell, Sr., South Bend
OL: Taevon Hubbard, Sr., Raymond
OL: Royce Murry, Sr., Ilwaco
OL: Austin McDonald, So., Ocosta
K: Raul Mora, Sr., South Bend

All-Purpose: McCartney Maden, So., Raymond

First Team Defense
DL: Royce Murry, Sr., Ilwaco
DL: Joe Wardlow, Sr., Ocosta
DL: Michael Oropeza, Sr., South Bend
DL: Brad Prestegord, Sr., Pe Ell/Willapa Valley
DL: Christian Anderson, Jr., Raymond
LB: Tyson Nissell, Sr., Pe Ell/Willapa Valley
LB: Brandon McMullen, Sr., Ilwaco
LB: Taevon Hubbard, Sr., Raymond
LB: Josiah Markwell, Sr., South Bend
LB: Grant Reid, Sr., Ocosta
DB: Alex Kaino, Jr., Ilwaco
DB: Cub Bair, Sr., Pe Ell/Willapa Valley
DB: Ryan Shepherd, Sr., Pe Ell/Willapa Valley
DB: Raul Mora, Sr., South Bend
P: Raul Mora, Sr., South Bend
P: Tyson Nissell, Sr., Pe Ell/Willapa Valley Sr.
Other Ilwaco selections:
Second Team Offense
WR: Jeb Sheldon, Jr.
Second Team Defense
LB: Allen Chetwood, Sr.
Honorable Mention
Trenton Cox, Jr.

Earnhardt ready to say a final goodbye

By **DAN GELSTON**
Associated Press

HOMESTEAD, Fla. — Dale Earnhardt Jr. bounded out of the media center and was instantly swarmed by fans snapping photos and shoving Sharpies in his face. Earnhardt was tailed until he walked through the garage gate and up the steps to another interview.

"Did you see him?" a man yelled as more fans scammed toward NASCAR's most popular driver.

The chance to catch him is all but over.

Earnhardt is at peace with his decision to retire as he straps into the No. 88 Chevrolet for the final time in his NASCAR Cup career on Sunday. The 43-year-old Earnhardt has Homestead-Miami Speedway stamped as the final spot in his farewell tour.

His one wish is to end on his terms. "It would be a bit of a heartbreaker if we have the kind of issue that would take us out of an event and we couldn't finish," he said.

Earnhardt, dressed in a red T-shirt and red cap of his race sponsor, was at ease as he reflected on the end of a 19-year career; he cracked jokes, asked the media questions and reflected on some of the misspent years early in his career. The video tributes from race teams, tracks and sponsors have traced the usually laid-back driver. Some of them have brought his pregnant wife, Amy, to tears.

"Amy's the one that's most emotional with being pregnant and everything," he said. "They've really been hitting her."

Earnhardt hired a personal photog-



AP Photo/Ross D. Franklin

Dale Earnhardt Jr. smiles as he waves to cheering fans during driver introductions prior to Sunday's NASCAR Cup Series auto race.

rapher to document the final weekend and he's had a camera crew filming in preparation for a possible documentary. Earnhardt has a photo shoot set for Friday with long-time friend Matt Kenseth. Earnhardt and Kenseth broke in together and leave the series together.

While the rest of the sport has all eyes on Earnhardt, he is rooting for his hunting buddy, Martin Truex Jr., to win the Cup championship on Sunday.

"I'm Team Martin this weekend, for sure," he said.

The Kannapolis, North Carolina, native made his 600th career series start earlier this year. He has 26 career Cup victories and is a two-time Daytona 500 champion. But the son of the late champion has never won a Cup title.

Earnhardt has driven for Hendrick Motorsports since 2008 after a split with Dale Earnhardt Inc., the team founded by his father but run by his stepmother. He was unhappy with the direction of DEI since his father's 2001 death in a last-lap accident at the Daytona 500, and a frosty relationship with his stepmother led him to bolt to NASCAR's most powerful team.

His mother, sister and a few close friends were invited down on his plane for Sunday's race. He joked he had hundreds of friends that probably want to come but, hey, there's only nine seats on the plane.

He'll have hundreds of thousands more fans pulling for Junior one final time in the 88.

"We want to enjoy this weekend," Earnhardt said, "but we want to end well."

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Coach Porter parts ways with Portland Timbers

PORTLAND — Coach Caleb Porter has parted ways with the Portland Timbers after five seasons with the team, including an MLS Cup championship.

The team made the move official Friday morning.

The 42-year-old Porter compiled a 68-50-52 record and guided the team to the league title in 2015. He was named the MLS Coach of the Year after his first season with the team in 2013.



Caleb Porter

In a lengthy statement released by the Timbers, Porter thanked the organization.

"My goal in taking the Timbers job was to lead the club to new heights and to win things that had never been done by the organization," Porter said. "Looking back and reflecting on my time with the Timbers, I am very proud of the results we all achieved and I know that joining the club in 2013 was one of the best decisions of my life."

Hebard helps No. 10 Oregon beat No. 19 Texas A&M 83-68

COLLEGE STATION, Texas — Late in No. 10 Oregon's rout of No. 19 Texas A&M, Ducks forward Ruthy Hebard never slowed enough to consider keeping her perfect shooting night intact.

"I was just playing and having fun," Hebard said with a grin and a shrug.

That was evident, considering Hebard scored a season-high 24 points on 10-for-10 shooting in the 83-68 victory Thursday night in the semifinals of the preseason WNIT.

"We've come to expect that from her," Oregon coach Kelly Graves said about Hebard working hard in the low post. "She's a great finisher."

Down six at the half, the Ducks (3-0) scored the first seven points of the third quarter to grab a 35-34 lead. After A&M (2-1) briefly led once more, Oregon, which will play at Louisville on Sunday in the preseason WNIT final, began running away late in the period.

Astros' Altuve wins AL MVP, Marlins' Stanton earns NL honor

NEW YORK — Jose Altuve and the Houston Astros have grown together, enduring an arduous rebuild and coming out the other side among baseball's best.

These days, nobody is standing taller.

Altuve won the American League MVP award Thursday, towering over New York Yankees slugger Aaron Judge by a wide margin and capping Houston's championship season with another piece of hardware.

Giancarlo Stanton won the NL MVP, edging Joey Votto of the Cincinnati Reds in the closest vote since 1979.

The 5-foot-6 Altuve drew 27 of the 30 first-place votes in balloting by members of the Baseball Writers' Association of America.

"I was surprised that I won it," Altuve said. "I wasn't expecting this."

It was a landslide long in the making. Altuve has been in Houston since general manager Jeff Luhnow took a scorched earth approach to developing a winner. The Astros lost 100-plus games in each of Altuve's first three seasons, beginning in 2011.

Houston won its first World Series earlier this month, and it needed its longest-tenured player to get there.

—Associated Press