

SPORTS

Seahawks, Are Definitely Looking Good

He is 5-foot-11. He wears No. 84. He is as fast as, and perhaps even faster than, anyone in the NFL. But at times in his first three seasons with the Seahawks, Joey Galloway would disappear.

Not in the physical sense. Not in the supernatural sense. Not in the David-Copperfield-will-now-make-the-Seahawks-leading-receiver-vanish sense.

It was more subtle. But equally effective.

Just when it appeared Galloway was on his way to a huge day, the ball would stop going his way. Opponents would make adjustments to double-team Galloway and the Seahawks also would adjust — by going elsewhere with the ball.

There were several reasons. Rick Mirer was the Seahawks' starting quarterback in Galloway's rookie season (1995) and for nine games in his second season.

And earlier in his career, when the ball wasn't coming Galloway's way on a certain play, he didn't always sell the routes as well as he could have. Mirer is gone, and so are Galloway's bad habits.

They have been replaced by Warren Moon and Galloway's determination to make the leap into the elite class of receivers in the league.

It sounds strange to say that about

someone who caught 72 passes for 1,049 yards and 12 touchdowns last year, but all the talk concerning Galloway is centering on whether this will be his breakthrough season.

If the first two games are any indication — and what better indicator is there — the answer is yes. In the opener at Philadelphia, he abused a couple of cornerbacks playing in their first NFL games to catch six passes for a career-high 162 yards and two TDs. Sunday against the Cardinals, Galloway matched up with Aeneas Williams. Galloway caught just two passes for 20 yards, but one went for an 11-yard TD and he also drew a 41-yard pass interference penalty against Williams to setup another TD pass.

But then Galloway always seems to play his best against the best. That is good for the Seahawks because Sunday will bring the Redskins' Darrell Green, and later in the season Galloway will face the Chiefs' Dale Carter (twice) and the Cowboys' Deion Sanders.

Williams, Green, Carter and Sanders. They have 21 Pro Bowls between them. Bring 'em on, says the smile on Galloway's face.

"I look forward to playing teams like Kansas City and I know I get to see Dale Carter for a whole game. That's fun to me," Galloway said. "When I looked at our schedule this year, my

thought was, 'I'll finally get to see Deion. I get a chance to go against Aeneas Williams.' It's going to be fun. It's going to be a challenge."

The real challenge, of course, will be to continue to produce as teams continue to use two defensive backs to cover him.

"I don't think Warren is going to let that happen," Galloway said. "He's doing a great job this year of when he can come my way, he's getting me the ball. When you throw the ball as well as he does, a lot of times when it looks like he can't come to me he can because he throws the ball so well."

When it comes to backup cornerbacks, the Seahawks have given a twist to the Statue of Liberty's invitation to immigrants: Give us your over-the-hill, lost-a-step, nobody-else-wants-'em corners.

First, it was Mark Collins, the former Giant, Chief and Packer who was signed just after the draft. It took the Seahawks a while to figure out what to do with Collins, but he is now a whirling dervish of a role player, lining up here, there and seemingly everywhere.

Collins, 34, is the weakside line-backer in the nickel and "Okie" defenses and the fifth defensive back in the 4-5 alignment. The additions of Collins and linebacker Darrin Smith in free agency have given the Seahawks two more fast, experienced players,

and it is allowing them to play more aggressively and blitz from more directions and more alignments.

Last week, the Seahawks took another chance on another supposedly washed-up veteran when they signed ex-Raider Terry McDaniel to be their No. 4 cornerback. If nothing else, McDaniel brings an encyclopedic knowledge of the receivers in the AFC West — something starters Willie Williams and Shawn Springs still are compiling in their second season in the division.

GOAL-LINE STAND

Two off-seasons of extravagant spending to acquire five starters in free agency and two more in the draft has left the Seahawks' salary cap so snug it could cause headaches in free agency after this season.

The club recently signed fullback Mack Strong to a three-year contract extension and would like to do the same with backup quarterback Jon Kitna and defensive end Phillip Daniels.

One problem: There's no money to do it this year. Kicker Todd Peterson also becomes a free agent after the season.

The last time a Seahawks kicker was in this situation, John Kasay jumped to the Carolina Panthers and Peterson was signed.

The Stingrays



Bottom Row-left to right: Scottie Roberts, Freddie Douglas, Tonya Brown (Marge Schott, statistician), Maurice France, Ellis Pendergrass and Ed Andrada.

Top Row-left to right: Ervin Brown (aka George Steinbrenner), Ryan King, David Lomax, Bruce Olsen, Charles (Hendu) Henderson, Ronald Holley, Stetson James and Greg Brinkley.

Not pictured: Thomas Channel and Willie Davis.

The Stingrays are sponsoring a car wash on September 19th to help fund their trip to Lancaster, California later this month, they will be participating in the National Softball Championship, on September 25-27th.

On September 20th they will be having a Dominoes and Bid Whisk Party at the House of Sound between 8 pm and 11 pm. The team is selling raffle tickets, which are also the admission to the party. The raffle tickets are \$5. Music will be provided by the Disc Master.

For further information, please contact Greg Brinkley at 313-3456, and/or Porkey's Pub at 283-9734.

U.S. Open Can Only Mean Rafter

NEW YORK — If all tennis tournaments were played on hard courts similar to those at the U.S. Open, Patrick Rafter would be nearly unbeatable. Since they're not, he must diversify his game to dethrone Pete Sampras as the world's No. 1 player.

Rafter, who won his second straight U.S. Open title Sunday with a 6-3, 3-6, 6-2, 6-0 victory over fellow Australian Mark Philippoussis, has been dominant during the hard-court season this summer. He has a 25-2 record since Wimbledon.

Perhaps the quickest player in tennis, Rafter used his speed on the ultra-fast Arthur Ashe Stadium court to nullify Philippoussis' power. Rafter is undefeated on that court since it debuted two years ago.

"When I move well, I play well, and I move so well on this kind of surface," Rafter said. "My game goes hand in hand with my move-

ment."

The win moved Rafter past Marcelo Rios to No. 2 in the world, but Rafter knows overtaking Sampras for the top spot will not be possible unless he improves his game on other surfaces.

"To be No. 1 in the world, you can't play on this surface all the time," he said. "I've adapted my game to this surface. I have to get that out of my mindset if I want to rival Pete at the top."

Rafter defeated Sampras, who was hobbled by a strained quadriceps for the second half of the match, in five sets in the semifinals. He also defeated Sampras earlier this summer in a hard court tournament at Cincinnati.

"Patrick's one of the best serve and volleyers we have in the game," Sampras said. "He moves very well. He's tough to break."

Rafter's victory means four different men and four different women won the Grand Slam titles

this year — showing the depth of talent in tennis.

"The most amazing thing is that it happened on the women's side," Rafter said. "It's starting to become a bit more competitive on the women's side."

By losing in the semifinals, Sampras failed to match Roy Emerson's record of 12 Grand Slam singles titles and Jimmy Connors' mark of five U.S. Open titles.

Sampras, who won at Wimbledon this summer, was the only American man to reach the quarterfinals of a Grand Slam tournament this year. For the second straight year, he also was the only American men's quarterfinalist at the U.S. Open. Before last year, that had not happened since 1986.

Andre Agassi's comeback stalled at the U.S. Open, where he lost in the fourth round to Karol Kucera. The future hope of American men's tennis, Jan-

Michael Gambill, lost in the third round.

On the women's side, the outlook is much brighter for Americans. Lindsay Davenport won her first Grand Slam title with a 6-3, 7-5 victory over top-ranked Martina Hingis and moved back to No. 2 in the world.

Davenport had defeated fifth-seeded Venus Williams in the semifinals. Serena Williams also continues to improve and move closer to the elite ranks of women's tennis.

"A lot of people have said for a lot of years, 'Oh, American tennis, especially women's tennis, there's no hope, there's no future,'" Davenport said.

"I think it's looking better than ever. It's a tremendous accomplishment for me to win here, and I think there's going to be many more American champions in the next year with the Williams sisters and so many great players coming up."



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Mark McGuire & Sammy Sosa

ST. LOUIS (Sept. 15) - It took Mark McGuire only one at-bat to regain the lead in the home-run derby.

McGuire, pinch-hitting in the ninth inning, hit his 63rd home run Tuesday night to move ahead of Sammy Sosa in the great race. He ended a six-game homer drought with a solo shot off Jason Christiansen in St. Louis' 8-6 loss to Pittsburgh in the first game of a doubleheader.

"He's been doing it for a year and two months, people cheering 'C'mon Mark, we want you to hit one,'" Cardinals manager Tony La Russa said. "Boom, he hits one! How does he do it? I have no idea, except that he's remarkable."

McGuire's swing had been out of sync after he hit his 62nd home run Sept. 8, and he was 3-for-18 with three singles in six games before hitting his sixth career pinch homer.

He had an RBI double and a bases-loaded walk in the Cardinals' 9-3 victory in the second game, and just missed on a couple of other at-bats, hitting

high fly balls to right in the third and center in the fifth. He also walked twice, extending his NL record to 154 walks.

McGuire did not start the opener as a precaution for his ailing back, and to allow more fans a chance to see him play. The games were sold out, but only about 10,000 fans were watching when the first game began at 5:10 p.m. CDT.

The ballpark was filled and everyone was standing when McGuire, batting for leadoff hitter Delino DeShields, made his third pinch-hit appearance of the season with one out and nobody on in the ninth. On a 1-0 fastball that was down and in, he hit a towering drive measured at 385 feet into the bleachers in left-center field for his sixth career pinch-hit homer.

It was a gratuitous appearance given the Cardinals were down three runs, but La Russa said this was a special case. He would have liked to have had McGuire hit for reliever Jeff Brantley, who was up fifth that inning, but didn't know if it would last that

long.

"You sit around and wait for that, you may not get there," La Russa said. "I gave him a shot." Pirates manager Gene Lamont had no complaints.

"Under ordinary circumstances, you wouldn't send McGuire up in that situation," Lamont said. "But I understood why Tony did it. It was a good idea."

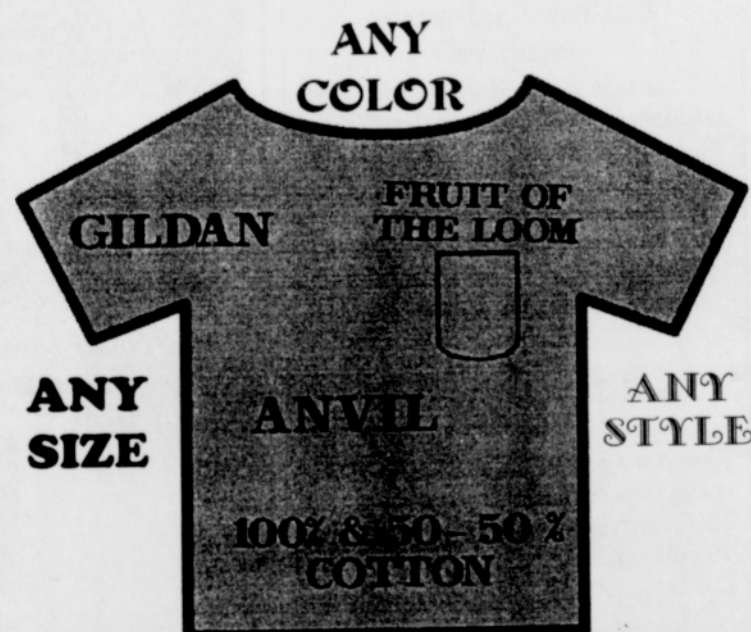
McGuire has three homers against Pittsburgh pitching and is 13-for-27 with seven RBIs, but none of the homers hurt the Pirates. "I've enjoyed all three because they didn't affect the games," Lamont said.

The fan who caught the ball had no immediate plans to give it back. McGuire has received every ball from homer No. 56 on, but John Grass, 46, was looking to cash in.

"The ball is worth something to someone and I'd like to have something for it myself," Grass said. "He makes millions of dollars, I don't think there is anything wrong with something coming to me."

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