

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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Sports shorts

Winston to enter the NFL Draft

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — Florida State quarterback Jameis Winston is going to the NFL.

The 2013 Heisman Trophy winner announced his decision to forgo his final two years of eligibility and enter the 2015 draft in a statement released to ESPN by The Legacy Agency

Wednesday. Winston was the most successful quarterback in college football the last two seasons, but also faced lengthy sexual assault investigations.

He was not charged by police and was cleared by the university.

The Seminoles went 26-1 with Winston starting and won the 2014 national championship.

Winston is expected to be one of the first quarterbacks selected, but faces questions about his off-the-field incidents.

Winston wrote that it would be difficult "to say goodbye to my family at Florida State."

Cavs land center Timofey Mozgov

CLEVELAND (AP) — A person familiar with the trade says the Cavaliers acquired center Timofey Mozgov from the Denver Nuggets for two future first-round draft picks.

The Cavs have targeted Mozgov for several months and reached agreement in principle on the deal Wednesday, said the person who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the NBA still has to approve the trade.

Mozgov will fill the Cavs' major need for a rim-protecting center. They lost starting center Anderson Varejao last month for the season with a torn Achilles tendon.

The 7-foot-1 Mozgov played for Cavs coach David Blatt on the Russian national team. He's averaged 8.5 points and 7.8 rebounds in 35 games for the Nuggets.

The deal for Mozgov comes two days after the Cavs acquired guards J.R. Smith and Iman Shumpert from the New York Knicks.

"I've faced a lot of Hall of Fame hitters, and my gosh, Edgar is the best hitter that I ever saw."

— **Randy Johnson**
Newly inducted Major League Baseball Hall of Fame pitcher on former Seattle Mariner teammate Edgar Martinez. Johnson went a step further, stating that if he had a vote Martinez would be the first name he'd check. Martinez has not been voted in despite multiple ballot appearances.

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1972 — The NCAA announces freshmen will be eligible to play on varsity football and basketball teams starting in the fall.

2007 — Second-ranked Florida dominates Heisman Trophy winner Troy Smith and No. 1 Ohio State for a 41-14 in the BCS National Championship Bowl. The Gators become the first Division I school to hold football and basketball titles at the same time.

Contact us at 541-966-0838 or sports@eastoregonian.com

College Football



LEFT: Oregon quarterback Marcus Mariota throws against Florida State during the first half of the Rose Bowl NCAA college football playoff semifinal in Pasadena, Calif. RIGHT: Ohio State running back Ezekiel Elliott losing his shoe as he runs for a 60-yard gain during the second half of the Big Ten Conference championship NCAA college football game against Wisconsin in Indianapolis.



AP Photos

Cut from the same cloth

Ducks, Buckeyes employ mirroring offensive styles

By DOUG LESMERISES
Northeast Ohio Media Group

COLUMBUS, Ohio -- Chip Kelly studied Urban Meyer's spread offense. Urban Meyer and Tom Herman studied Kelly's up-tempo ideas. Now the College Football Playoff National Championship on Monday is Ohio State's up-tempo spread vs. Oregon's up-tempo spread, a mind meld that created two sides of the same quickly moving coin.

"There's a lot of similarities between the two programs as far as how you go target a defense," Meyer said Tuesday. "We run similar offenses, a lot of similar plays."

Spread 'em out, speed 'em up and attack. It's not an unusual idea anymore. But the expected high-flying affair to determine college football's best team will be different than when the Buckeyes and Ducks last faced off five years ago, in the Rose Bowl after the 2009 season.

The question then, before Ohio State's 26-17

National Title Game



- Monday, 5:30 p.m.
- at AT&T Stadium
- TV on ESPN

victory, was whether the defense-first Buckeyes could stop Oregon. They did. The idea now is more whether Ohio State's No. 5 offense (45 points per game) can keep up with Oregon's No. 2 offense (47.2 points per game).

Neither offense should be stopped, though the Ducks are now led by second-year coach Mark Helfrich and offensive coordinator Scott Frost, since Kelly left for the NFL. But the efforts to slow each other down might be helped by each defense understanding how the opposing offense works, thanks to facing their own offense in practice.

"It's very similar in a lot of ways," Ohio State linebacker Darron Lee said. "They have speed athletes, they like to work space and like to work their athletes in space. Whatever way they can get their athletes the ball in space, it's just like our offense. That helps us for our defense because we see it every day so it's not like we'll be seeing anything new too much."

Oregon averages 311 passing yards per game (11th in the nation) and 242 rushing (18th), while Ohio State averages 248 passing (52nd) and 262 rushing (10th.) So they are not carbon copies, with Ohio State more run-first.

But by adding an up-tempo component when he came to Ohio State, which he didn't have at Florida, Meyer took the final step that brought a spread style more in line with the wave that Oregon was riding. Hiring offensive coordinator Tom Herman, a coach that Meyer called "a disciple" of Kelly, was part of that move.

And Meyer and Kelly still talk now. Meyer so admired the Oregon style, not just the up-tempo idea but the entire program philosophy, that he had to stop himself Tuesday is the middle of what sounded like a free commercial for the Ducks.

See DUCKS/3B

NFL

Unger's return helps solidify O-Line

Center back with Seahawks after six games with injured ankle

By TIM BOOTH
Associated Press

RENTON, Wash. — Of all the positions on the offensive line, center is the one most needing continuity. And it's been the one most like a revolving door for the Seattle Seahawks this season.

Four different players have started at least three games at center this season. But just in time for Saturday's NFC divisional playoff game against Carolina, veteran Max Unger is expected to return after missing the final six games of the regular season because of an injury.

"What he brings is his experience, and comfort level, and knowledge in the system and targeting," Seattle offensive line coach Tom Cable said. "Just being that much more right, whether it's run or pass I don't think it really matters. Just kind of being on the same page. Being able to help the quarterback where he needs to go. Just the background, that's great experience we're getting back."

Unger's entire season has been littered with injuries. He played the first four games but suffered a foot injury against Washington. After sitting out four weeks, Unger returned for a pair of games in November only to suffer a high-ankle sprain late in Seattle's 24-20 loss at Kansas City.



Seattle Seahawks center Max Unger takes part in practice drills Wednesday in Renton, Wash.

The ankle injury sidelined Unger for the rest of the regular season.

"Nothing you can do about it," Unger said. "(This is) stuff that's kind of out of my control."

Unger's injuries led to the long list of replacements Seattle has used. First up was Stephen Schilling, who made three starts around midseason before ending up on injured reserve. Next in line was Patrick Lewis, who started games in Week 9, 11, 16 and 17. Also thrown in was former Seattle backup Lemuel Jeanpierre, who

was re-signed before Week 12 and made three starts.

"We have rotated a lot of guys but everybody who has stepped up has done a great job," guard J.R. Sweezy said. "We may have been a little off here and there but for the main whole we've really worked at getting our communication down with whoever is in there and being on top of it and knowing where we're going."

While Seattle has received serviceable play from Schilling, Jeanpierre and Lewis, there is no

See UNGER/2B

College Basketball

Ducks add Israeli forward

By STEVE MIMS
The Register-Guard

The Oregon men's basketball team added some size and depth on Tuesday.

Oregon signed 6-foot-10 freshman Roman Sorkin to a financial aid agreement and the Israeli junior national team member is eligible to play for the Ducks immediately. He enrolled at the school on Tuesday afternoon and his addition was announced by the Ducks later in the day.

Sorkin, 18, gives Oregon 10 scholarship players and he joins junior center Michael Chandler as the tallest players on the team.

Sorkin's size will be a boost for the Ducks if he can pick up coach Dana Altman's system quick enough to contribute this season.

Chandler has been limited to just 44 minutes in five games this season due to a knee injury.

"Michael can help us, but he has a lot of work to do on his conditioning," Altman said after Chandler played six minutes in Saturday's 71-59 win over Oregon State. "He's a good athlete,

See ISRAELI/2B