

Sports shorts

Johnny Manziel enters treatment

CLEVELAND (AP) — Johnny Manziel has sought help to change his off-field lifestyle.

Following a rough rookie season in the NFL, Manziel has entered a treatment program for unspecified reasons, an adviser for the Browns quarterback said in a statement released by the team on Monday.

“Johnny knows there are areas he needs to improve on to help him be a better family member, friend and teammate, so he decided to take this step in his life during the offseason,” Manziel adviser Brad Beckworth said. Beckworth said the former Heisman Trophy winner entered the unnamed facility last week. He said Manziel’s family is asking for privacy until he rejoins the team.



Manziel

Falcons hire Dan Quinn

ATLANTA (AP) — The Atlanta Falcons’ long wait for new leadership on the field finally ended Monday when Seattle defensive coordinator Dan Quinn was named the team’s coach.

The Falcons said Quinn will be introduced at a news conference on Tuesday. Quinn replaces Mike Smith, who was fired following a 6-10 finish in 2014.



Quinn

The team did not release details of the deal, but a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press earlier Monday that Quinn agreed to a five-year contract.

Falcons owner Arthur Blank said he was impressed by Quinn’s “definitive plan for our football team and what it will take to win on a consistent basis.”

“He also has a proven ability to develop players by maximizing their individual strengths,” Blank said.

The Falcons exercised patience while waiting for Quinn, who could not be offered a job until after Seattle’s 28-24 Super Bowl loss Sunday night to the New England Patriots.

Quinn, 44, helped Seattle reach back-to-back Super Bowls. Seattle beat Denver in last year’s championship.

His strong record in his two years with Seattle won over the Falcons, who have struggled on defense while finishing a combined 10-22 the past two seasons.

“I am still kind of in the midst of my career.”

— Tom Brady
37-year-old Patriots quarterback with three MVPs and four titles

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1944 — Syd Howe of the Detroit Red Wings scores six goals in a 12-6 victory over the New York Rangers.

1980 — Larry Bird hits the first 3-point shot in the history of the NBA All-Star Game. Bird’ 3 came in overtime as the East team out-scores the West 16-8 in the overtime for a 144-136 win.

2000 — World Wrestling Federation mastermind Vince McMahon unveils his latest creation: the XFL, a new pro football league.



Seattle Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson reacts after throwing an interception to New England Patriots strong safety Malcolm Butler during the second half of NFL Super Bowl XLIX football game Sunday in Glendale, Ariz.

AP photo by David Goldman

TITLE PLUCKED FROM SEAHAWKS

By EDDIE PELLIS / AP NATIONAL WRITER

GLENDALE, Ariz. — Because they didn’t go into Beast Mode, the Seattle Seahawks found themselves in Spin Mode.

They were left to explain why they turned Marshawn Lynch — the running back known as “The Beast” — into a decoy with the game on the line and chose instead to pass the ball on second-and-goal from the 1.

Malcolm Butler intercepted that pass with 20 seconds left to preserve New England’s 28-24 Super Bowl victory.

Within moments, the second-guessing had begun on what will surely be one of the most debated calls in NFL history.

“I made the decision. I said, ‘Throw the ball,’” coach Pete Carroll said. “Nobody to blame but me.”

But there was plenty of blame to go around. It started with offensive coordinator Darrell Bevell, who may have gotten too cute and, as a result, found his name was a top trend on Twitter.

And the receiver, Ricardo Lockette, who Bevell said, “could have done a better job staying strong on the ball.”

Quarterback Russell Wilson wishes he had that pass back.

See SEAHAWKS/3B

POST-GAME

Carroll stands by decision to pass

PHOENIX (AP) — Less than 16 hours later, Seahawks coach Pete Carroll was still stunned by the outcome while defending the decision to call a pass from the 1-yard line in the Super Bowl’s closing seconds, a choice that will long be debated.



Carroll

So close to another celebration. So close to becoming the next NFL dynasty.

“The shock of disappointment that this game gets away from us and goes another way right at the finish line,”

a somber Carroll said Monday, before Seattle returned to the Pacific Northwest after the 28-24 loss to New England. “It’s something that we have to deal with that in the long run of it will make us stronger, and we’ll be able to put it in some kind of perspective. It’s pretty hard right now.”

Carroll stood by the decision for Russell Wilson to throw from the New England 1 with 26 seconds left, a pass that was intended for Ricardo Lockette and intercepted by Malcolm Butler.

Carroll also defended offensive coordinator Darrell Bevell, who was widely criticized for calling a pass with Marshawn Lynch in the Seattle backfield.

“We’re so lucky to have him. He’s been absolutely instrumental in everything that we have done,” Carroll said. “There is no reservation in that thought, and don’t make it out like there is, because he is an awesome guy on our staff, and he is crucially important to our future as well.”

Carroll said the clock and the Seahawks’ timeout situation dictated they would have to throw once and possibly twice from the 1. He gave credit to Butler for making the interception and fellow cornerback Brandon Browner for jamming up wide receiver Jermaine Kearse on the play, creating open space for Butler to break on the ball.

Legion of boom to the operating room

PHOENIX (AP) — Seattle Seahawks cornerback Richard Sherman played the Super Bowl with torn ligaments in his left elbow and will likely need Tommy John surgery in the offseason.

Seattle coach Pete Carroll said Monday before the team left Arizona that it was his understanding that Sherman would need the surgery after the All-Pro cornerback was injured in the NFC championship game against Green Bay.

“I’m just telling you, his will to play through that in this game a couple of weeks ago and take it all the way through this game, never wavered. Never wavered,” Carroll said.

Sherman played in the Super Bowl without a brace on the elbow and did not appear to be impeded by the injury. Sherman was asked after the game if he was 100 percent healthy.

“In football you’re never 100 percent. We were good enough to go. We went out there and played. There is no excuse,” he said.

Sherman is not the only Seattle star who could be facing offseason surgery.

All-Pro safety Earl Thomas may need to have the labrum in his left shoulder repaired and strong safety Kam Chancellor may need knee surgery.



Sherman

Vale pulls away from Umatilla

By ERIK SKOPIL
East Oregonian

Umatilla got a firsthand glimpse Saturday at what a championship basketball team looks like.

Facing the reigning Class 3A state champion Vale Vikings, seventh-ranked Umatilla sparred with the champs for three quarters before the visiting Vikings wore them down and then out to extend their win streak with a 51-40 victory at Umatilla High School.

A veteran ball club, third-ranked Vale (16-1, 5-0 EOL) kept its composure and weathered several Umatilla (16-3, 4-1 EOL) surges to win its ninth straight game and 40th in 42 outings.

The final answer came in an

BASKETBALL

Vale 51

Umatilla 40

For more prep results from Saturday, see 2B.

18-5 second half counterpunch that put Umatilla’s upset intentions to bed.

“If we know we can play with Vale, there’s not a team in this state that we’re worried about it,” said Umatilla coach Scott Bow.

Due to a previous postponement, Bow’s team will have ample opportunity to prove they can in the coming weeks. The Vikings will square off again in Umatilla on Thursday,

a third time on Valentine’s Day at Vale, and possibly again in the EOL district title game the following week.

The step up in competition comes at a perfect time for Umatilla. Winners of seven consecutive entering Saturday, Umatilla had begun to “coast” against weaker competition, Bow said, something a team with playoff aspirations cannot afford.

“If we do get a playoff berth, seeing Vale this many times in a row is only going to make us stronger,” he said.

A Sidney Webb jumper placed Umatilla down three with 3:21 left in the third period. But teammate Kasandra Gailbrath was whistled for her third

See UMATILLA/2B



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Sidney Webb (23), of Umatilla, drives the key Saturday in Umatilla as Vale’s Kimber Hawkins (1) pursues.