

THEIR VIEW

Which NFL team is going to LA? The envelope, please ...

Forget the Oscars. These days, Hollywood's most riveting drama is still in development, playing out among three NFL teams.

At some point in the not-so-distant future, Commissioner Roger Goodell will have to decide which of these projects gets the green light.

Rams? Raiders? Chargers? But first, the commissar will have to navigate some tense, back-room negotiations involving hundreds of millions of dollars and the future of the nation's second-largest television market, which has somehow gone without a pro football team for the past two decades.

How Goodell handles this plot twist will go a long way toward determining whether he's worth that \$44 million annual salary to the people who pay it — his bosses, the 32 NFL owners.

"The primary thing that a commissioner is charged with doing is asset appreciation," said Rick Burton, a professor of sports management at Syracuse University and former commissioner of the Australian National Basketball League. "An owner wants to be able to say, 'If I buy my team for \$500 million and hold on to it, I will double, triple or even quadruple my investment.'"

"That's your job, Roger. Grow my asset."

Maybe this will actually be a welcome respite for Goodell, who hasn't exactly shown a deft touch with horrific problems such as concussions and domestic violence (or even the still up-in-the-air DeflateGate).

Los Angeles seems to be a can't-miss blockbuster in waiting.

But Goodell could still get it wrong.

The envelope, please ... "The bottom line is: the NFL wants a team in LA," Burton said, "for the ratings and for what it means to the broadcast contracts and packages. But picking the right team to go to LA is about a lot of potential lawsuits."

For those who are unfamiliar with the script so far, here's a recap:

— The Rams and the Raiders both flee Los Angeles after the 1994 season, dashing off to St. Louis and Oakland when those cities flash wads of cash.

— While La La Land seems to get along just fine without an NFL team, apparently distracted by the beaches and paparazzi, the NFL works incessantly behind the scenes to get another franchise into the City of Angels. Unfortunately for the league, this is the one municipality that seems to have no interest in using the public's money to fund a stadium for billionaires.

— Then, the NFL realizes it has quite the bargaining chip out on the West Coast. By simply invoking the threat of moving a team to Los Angeles, one team after another gets

a new stadium, a long-running scam would've made a good sequel to "The Sting."

"It always seemed to me the league was better off not having a team in LA than having a team," said Andrew Brandt, executive director of Villanova's Jeffrey S. Moorad Center for Sports Law.

In the meantime, Los Angeles created a whole new industry built around elaborate stadiums renderings. A proposed downtown stadium seemed the most likely destination for a new team, even giving itself a name (Farmers Field) before one shovel of dirt was turned.

But along comes St. Louis Rams owner Stan Kroenke, stealing the lead by announcing plans to build a new stadium on the site of the old Hollywood Park race track in suburban Inglewood, presumably to serve as the new home for his team, which hasn't been able to persuade the good folks in Missouri to provide a new stadium.

Not so fast, Stan. On Friday, city leaders in suburban Carson began the push for a new stadium to serve as home for both the Oakland Raiders and San Diego Chargers, assuming those AFC West rivals can't work out new stadium deals in their current cities sometime this year.

Now, what's Goodell to do? While the two-team option would seem the most prudent from a financial standpoint — after all, they could share the building costs and the stadium would get twice as much use — Burton said those sort of arrangements normally get messy.

"One team is going to believe they're a second-class citizen," he said. "You're never going to have both teams treated identically."

Since the Raiders don't have the money to build a stadium on their own, and it's not known if the Chargers would be willing to go that route, the Carson proposal looks like two teams or bust. Burton, therefore, thinks Kroenke's plan is the most likely to win the league's approval, though it could get messy trying to pacify the other two teams (especially the Raiders, who were moved twice by the late Al Davis without league approval and are now owned by his son, Mark).

In the end, the NFL will probably use the hefty relocation fee it charges the team that moves to settle with the teams that are forced to stay put. If the NFL plays its cards right — and it usually does in matters of the wallet — everyone gets richer.

The team that moves, because its value increase two- or three-fold. The teams that remain where they are, because of their hush money. The other 29 teams, because the TV deals are likely to grow even bigger with LA in the fold.

"At the end of the day," Burton said, "money is going to solve this problem."

And the winner is ... the NFL.



PAUL NEWBERRY Sports

NFL

Carroll remains hopeful Lynch will return to Seahawks

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Seahawks coach Pete Carroll put the ball right in Marshawn Lynch's hands Friday.

Yes, he wants his top runner to come back and make another Super Bowl run next season.

A day after general manager John Schneider said he wouldn't be "shocked" if Lynch retired, Carroll put on a full-court press.

"He has been an integral part of our program for five years and loved the contribution he has brought," Carroll said. "We would really like to move at that swiftly, it's such a big deal as it has always been to get our lead

players intact so we are working at that now."

The 28-year-old running back is reportedly contemplating retirement despite having one more year on his contract at \$7 million.

Why would he leave? Lynch wants a long-term deal in a league that doesn't put much value in running backs over 30 years old.

Then, in this month's Super Bowl loss to New England, the Seahawks threw the ball in a goal-line situation rather than give it to their big back and the pass was picked off, sealing Se-

attle's fate.

Carroll tried to turn the page on that chapter at the NFL's annual scouting combine in Indianapolis and thanked Patriots coach Bill Belichick for offering his support on the decision.

"I care. We all care about that. And Bill is an extraordinary coach, anything he says people should listen to," Carroll said. "In this case, he's just respecting coaching. He understands the game. He knows what was going on, exactly. ... For him to take the moment to do that, it's very gracious of him."

SCOREBOARD

Sports slate

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL
Saturday
 Big Sky League district tournament (Hermiston HS), TBD
 Old Oregon League district tournament (Baker HS), TBD
Irrigon vs. Heppner (Pendleton Convention Center), 5:30 p.m.
PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL
Saturday
 Big Sky League district tournament (Hermiston HS), TBD
 Old Oregon League district tournament (Baker HS), TBD
Pilt Rock vs. Weston-McEwen (Pendleton Convention Center), 4 p.m.
PREP WRESTLING
Saturday
 Riverside, Echo at Special District 1 Tournament (Armand Larive IHS, Hermiston), 10 a.m.
 Heppner, Irrigon at Special District 4 Tournament (Enterprise), TBD
PREP SWIMMING
Saturday
 Pendleton at State Championships (Gresham), 6:45 p.m.
PREP RODEO
Saturday
 Intermountain Team at Eugene doubleheader, 6 p.m.
Sunday
 Intermountain Team at Eugene doubleheader, Noon

NCAA

Top 25 Schedule
Saturday's Games
 No. 1 Kentucky vs. Auburn, 4 p.m.
 No. 3 Gonzaga at Saint Mary's, 7 p.m.
 No. 4 Duke vs. Clemson, 1 p.m.
 No. 5 Wisconsin vs. Minnesota, 9 a.m.
 No. 6 Villanova at Marquette, 12:30 p.m.
 No. 7 Arizona vs. UCLA, 6 p.m.
 No. 8 Kansas vs. TCU, 1 p.m.
 No. 10 Notre Dame at Boston College, 1 p.m.
 No. 11 Northern Iowa vs. Bradley, 1 p.m.
 No. 12 Louisville vs. Miami, 11 a.m.
 No. 14 Iowa State at Texas, 11 a.m.
 No. 15 North Carolina vs. Georgia Tech, 9 a.m.
 No. 17 Oklahoma at Texas Tech, 9 a.m.
 No. 18 Arkansas at Mississippi State, 1 p.m.
 No. 19 Butler at Xavier, 11 a.m.
 No. 20 Baylor vs. Kansas State, 10 a.m.
 No. 22 Oklahoma State vs. No. 23 West Virginia, 11 a.m.
Sunday's Games
 No. 2 Virginia vs. Florida State, 3:30 p.m.
 No. 9 Utah at Oregon, Noon
 No. 13 Wichita State vs. Evansville, 1 p.m.
 No. 24 Ohio State at Michigan, 10 a.m.

Boston at L.A. Lakers, 6:30 p.m.

Hockey

NHL
EASTERN CONFERENCE
Atlantic Division

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Montreal	58	37	16	5	79	154	130
Tampa Bay	60	36	18	6	78	195	160
Detroit	56	32	14	10	74	163	143
Boston	58	28	21	9	65	151	154
Columbus	57	28	19	12	64	141	157
Ottawa	56	23	20	10	56	159	160
Toronto	59	23	31	5	51	163	180
Buffalo	59	17	38	4	38	109	200

Metropolitan Division

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
N.Y. Islanders	59	39	19	1	79	193	165
N.Y. Rangers	57	35	16	6	76	181	142
Washington	59	32	17	10	74	176	147
Pittsburgh	58	32	17	9	73	163	146
Philadelphia	58	24	23	11	69	155	170
Columbus	56	26	27	3	55	149	173
New Jersey	58	23	26	9	55	130	157
Carolina	57	21	29	7	49	129	155

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Central Division

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Nashville	58	39	13	6	84	177	137
St. Louis	58	38	16	4	80	184	142
Chicago	59	35	19	5	75	175	138
Winnipeg	60	30	20	10	70	166	162
Minnesota	59	30	21	7	67	162	154
Dallas	58	27	23	8	62	181	185
Colorado	59	25	23	11	61	154	166

Pacific Division

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Anaheim	59	36	16	7	79	176	167
Vancouver	58	33	22	3	69	165	155
Calgary	59	32	23	4	68	171	156
San Jose	60	30	22	8	68	170	172
Los Angeles	57	27	18	12	66	159	151
Arizona	58	20	31	7	47	131	194
Edmonton	60	17	33	10	44	139	203

 NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.
Friday's Games
 New Jersey 4, Vancouver 2
 Carolina 2, Toronto 1
 N.Y. Rangers 3, Buffalo 1
 St. Louis 5, Boston 1
 Colorado 4, Chicago 1
 Anaheim 6, Calgary 3
 Minnesota 4, Edmonton 0
Saturday's Games
 N.Y. Islanders at Washington, 9:30 a.m.
 Nashville at Philadelphia, 10 a.m.
 Winnipeg at Toronto, 4 p.m.
 Columbus at Montreal, 4 p.m.
 Florida at Ottawa, 4 p.m.
 Carolina at New Jersey, 4 p.m.
 Anaheim at Edmonton, 4 p.m.
 Pittsburgh at St. Louis, 5 p.m.
 Detroit at Dallas, 5 p.m.
 Tampa Bay at Arizona, 5 p.m.
 Los Angeles vs. San Jose at Santa Clara, CA, 7 p.m.
Sunday's Games
 Washington at Philadelphia, 9:30 a.m.
 Boston at Chicago, 12:30 p.m.
 Nashville at Buffalo, 3 p.m.
 Vancouver at N.Y. Islanders, 3 p.m.
 Florida at Pittsburgh, 3 p.m.
 Tampa Bay at Colorado, 4 p.m.
 Columbus at N.Y. Rangers, 4:30 p.m.
 Dallas at Minnesota, 5 p.m.

NBA
EASTERN CONFERENCE
Atlantic Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Toronto	37	17	68.5	—
Brooklyn	22	31	41.5	14½
Boston	20	32	38.5	16
Philadelphia	12	42	22.2	25
New York	10	44	18.5	27

Southeast Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Atlanta	43	12	78.2	—
Washington	33	22	60.0	10
Miami	23	30	43.4	19
Charlotte	22	30	42.3	19½
Orlando	18	39	31.6	26

Central Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Chicago	34	21	61.8	—
Cleveland	34	22	60.7	½
Milwaukee	31	23	57.4	2½
Detroit	22	33	40.0	12
Indiana	22	33	40.0	12

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Southwest Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Memphis	39	14	73.6	—
Houston	36	18	66.7	3½
Dallas	37	20	64.9	4
San Antonio	34	21	61.8	6
New Orleans	27	27	50.0	12½

Northwest Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Portland	36	18	66.7	—
Oklahoma City	29	25	53.7	7
Denver	20	34	37.0	16
Utah	20	34	37.0	16
Minnesota	12	42	22.2	24

Pacific Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Golden State	43	9	82.7	—
L.A. Clippers	36	19	65.5	8½
Phoenix	29	26	52.7	15½
Sacramento	19	34	35.8	24½
L.A. Lakers	13	41	24.1	31

Friday's Games
 Indiana 106, Philadelphia 95
 Orlando 95, New Orleans 84
 Toronto 105, Atlanta 80
 Detroit 100, Chicago 91
 Miami 111, New York 87
 Minnesota 111, Phoenix 109
 Cleveland 127, Washington 89
 Dallas 111, Houston 100
 Milwaukee 89, Denver 81
 Utah 92, Portland 76
 Sacramento 109, Boston 101
 Golden State 110, San Antonio 99
 Brooklyn 114, L.A. Lakers 105
Saturday's Games
 Oklahoma City at Charlotte, 4 p.m.
 New Orleans at Miami, 4:30 p.m.
 Phoenix at Chicago, 5 p.m.
 Toronto at Houston, 5 p.m.
 Sacramento at L.A. Clippers, 7 p.m.
Sunday's Games
 Cleveland at New York, 10 a.m.
 Atlanta at Milwaukee, 12:30 p.m.
 Washington at Detroit, 12:30 p.m.
 Philadelphia at Orlando, 3 p.m.
 Golden State at Indiana, 3 p.m.
 Denver at Oklahoma City, 4 p.m.
 Charlotte at Dallas, 4:30 p.m.
 Memphis at Portland, 6 p.m.

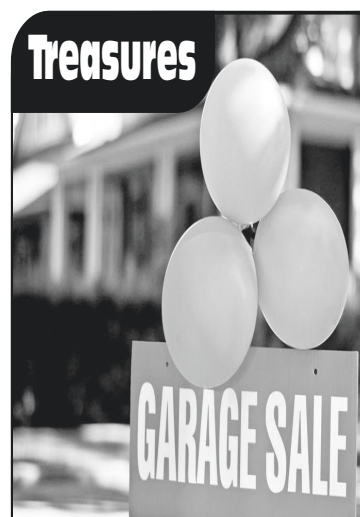
Basketball

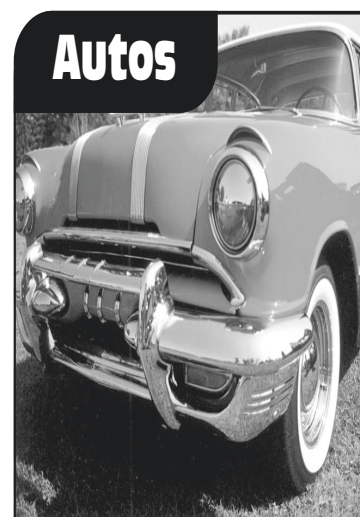
OSAA
Boys
Friday
5A Columbia River Conference:
 Pendleton 48, THE DALLES 25
EOL District Tournament:
 NYSSA 65, Umatilla 40
CBG District Tournament:
 IRRIGON 88, Pilot Rock 27
 HEPPNER 59, Stanfield 58
Old Oregon District Tournament:
 JOSEPH 52, Echo 50
 NIXYAAWII 92, Powder Valley 50
Big Sky League District Tournament:
 SHERMAN 53, Dufur 44
 HORIZON CHRISTIAN 58, South Wasco County 23
Girls
5A Columbia River Conference:
 PENDLETON 47, The Dalles 39
Hermiston 59, HOOD RIVER VALLEY 27
EOL District Playoffs:
 VALE 56, Umatilla 42
Columbia Basin Conference Tournament:
 Pilt OT ROCK 34, Stanfield 18
WESTON-McEWEN 56, Heppner 39
Big Sky District Tournament:
 SHERMAN 42, Dufur 31
CONDON / WHEELER 59, Ione 26
Old Oregon District Tournament:
 ECHO 55, Wallowa 25
 Powder Valley 54, NIXYAAWII 46 (OT)
CCC
Friday
 Men's basketball
 Eastern Oregon 78, Northwest 72 (OT)
Women's basketball
 Eastern Oregon 64, Northwest 56
NWAC
Friday
 Wenatchee Valley 70, Blue Mountain 49
Women's basketball
 Blue Mountain 71, Wenatchee Valley 69 (OT)

Weekend Classifieds

eomarketplace.com

Homes


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Autos


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 Gray Pit male,
 found 412 SW 37th

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 auctions with door
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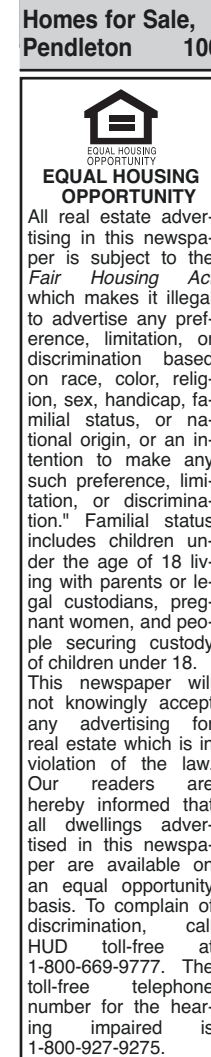
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