EAST OREGONIAN

SPORTS

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2015 FOLLOW US ON TWITTER @EOSPORTS

Sports shorts

Under Armour to sponsor NBA Draft Combine in 2016

NEW YORK (AP) — Under Armour signed a multiyear deal Monday to sponsor the NBA's draft combine.

Financial terms weren't disclosed.

The athletic gear maker said it will begin outfitting athletes at the combine in 2018. The NBA draft combine brings together college basketball players every year to take physical tests, give interviews and compete in games ahead of the NBA draft.

The Baltimore-based company said it will also sell combine apparel for fans. It's been a partner of the league since 2011.

Shares of Under Armour Inc. rose $1.03 to $98.96 in afternoon trading.

NFL Draft stays in Chicago for 2016

SCHAUMBURG, Ill. (AP) — The NFL draft is returning to the Windy City for the second straight year after a long run at Radio City Music Hall in New York. The location has not been finalized, but it will be near Grant Park and run from April 28-30.

FACES

Goodell

"We're thrilled. They have earned it," Commissioner Roger Goodell said Tuesday at the owners' meetings. "The success that we've had last year set a new bar for the draft."

The league also announced plans to create a selection process for future draft sites. There was no commitment made to Chicago beyond 2016, but the NFL says it will be considered for future drafts.

"The NFL draft is world-class event, and I'm proud they picked a world-class city like the city of Chicago," Mayor Rahm Emanuel said.

"Fighting doesn't work in football. You get ejected from the game. So it shouldn't be an issue."

— Marvin Lewis
Cincinnati Bengals head coach following a joint practice in Cincinnati with the New York Giants. Much scrutiny was given to this practice after a joint practice witht the Texans and Redskins earlier this summer resulted in three seperate scuffles throughout the practice.

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1994 — Major league baseball players strike in the sport's eighth work stoppage since 1972.

2000 — Evander Holyfield scores a 12-round unanimous decision over John Ruiz in Las Vegas to win the vacant WBA heavyweight title.

2008 — Michael Phelps wins the 200-meter freestyle for his third gold medal at the Beijing Games. It's his ninth career gold, matching the record total of Mark Spitz, Carl Lewis, Soviet gymnast Larysa Latynina and Finnish runner Paavo Nurmi.

2012 — The U.S. men's basketball team fights off another challenge from Spain, pulling away in the final minute for a 107-100 victory.

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

NFL

Jets QB punched by teammate, out 6-10 weeks

By DENNIS WASZAK JR.
Associated Press

FLORHAM PARK, N.J. — Geno Smith's hopes for a breakout season with the New York Jets took a major blow — to the jaw.

The quarterback will be sidelined at least 6-10 weeks with a broken jaw after being punched by teammate Ikemefuna Enemkpali in the locker room Tuesday morning. Smith, entering his third season, will require surgery to repair the injuries. He hadn't yet undergone the procedure as of late Tuesday afternoon.

Coach Todd Bowles made the stunning announcement in an impromptu news conference before training camp practice was scheduled to start.

Enemkpali (EN-um-PAL-ee), an outside linebacker in his second season, was immediately released

See JETS/2B

AP Photo/Seth Wenig, File

New York Jets quarterback Geno Smith sits on the bench during the first half of a game against the Buffalo Bills on October 26, 2014 in East Rutherford. Geno Smith's hopes for a breakout season with the New York Jets took a major blow _ to the jaw. The quarterback will be sidelined at least 6-10 weeks with a broken jaw after being punched by teammate Ikemefuna Enemkpali in the locker room Tuesday morning.

SEAHAWKS

Okung walks alone in search of extension with Seahawks

Veteran says no thanks to agents

By TIM BOOTH
Associated Press

RENTON, Wash. — Russell Okung is often asked to go it alone. It's the nature of his position as the Seattle Seahawks' left tackle.

So perhaps it should be no surprise that Okung is venturing out on his own when it comes to handling the details of his football future.

Okung, the first draft pick made by Pete Carroll and John Schneider in 2010, is entering the final season of his rookie contract. And instead of relying on an agent to handle any future contract negotiations, whether with the Seahawks or another franchise, Okung is going to handle the proceedings himself.

"I wasn't necessarily the first guy to do it and I hope I'm not the last either. I do want this to be memorable," Okung said. "If you remember anything, remember Seattle won a Super Bowl and remember I did this. That I wanted to take the reins of my life and make the decisions as well."

Bettina Hansen/The Seattle Times via AP

Seattle Seahawks tackle Russell Okung teaches a kid a drill during training camp Tuesday in Renton, Wa.

Okung first wrote about his decision in The Players' Tribune before the start of training camp. And while he's trying to keep it from being a lingering topic, it's a reality Okung is facing.

"It's been kind of a year and a half in the making and I've been thinking about it and really trying to learn more about the decision and try and get educated from every standpoint I possibly could," Okung said. "I want to know each perspective whether I'm open, that side or this side, or even from the front offices perspective, too. Once I had all that information I made my decision and sometimes the general assumption is I won't have any counsel at all. I have plenty counsel that are backing me and people that have a background in negotiation."

The decision to handle his own negotiations falls in line with Okung's general interest in business outside of football. He's been an active participant in NFL-sponsored business seminars during the offseason. This past offseason, Okung began working on an executive MBA from the University of Miami. He's also been forthright in meeting

See OKUNG/2B

Jeanpierre, Nowak battle for No.1 on depth chart

With Unger traded, former backups trying to win job

By CURTIS CRABTREE
Associated Press

RENTON, Wash. — Acquiring Jimmy Graham this season came with the realization that the Seattle Seahawks would need a new starting center for the first time since 2009.

Seattle traded Max Unger to New Orleans in exchange for Graham this offseason and the search for his replacement is one of the more heated battles of training camp.

Lemuel Jeanpierre and Drew Nowak have been splitting first-team reps on a daily basis for the majority of the first two weeks of camp.

"It's still very competitive," head coach Pete Carroll said. "Drew is a little bit ahead right now. (Jeanpierre) is ahead in all of the assignments and all that stuff. Drew looks really good physically. We're just going to keep working it and see what happens."

Jeanpierre had been Unger's backup for the last four seasons and was re-signed to compete for the starting job. Nowak, a former defensive lineman, began taking snaps at center during OTAs and has taken a slight lead over Jeanpierre as the team prepares for the preseason opener on Friday.

"I just think we're kind of creating as much competition as we can with it," offensive line coach Tom Cable said. "(Nowak) has been in the first huddle a little more the last couple days, but that will even out."

Jeanpierre was placed on injured reserve and released with an injury settlement after injuring his neck at the end of the preseason last year. He returned to the team midseason and started three games in place of Unger down the stretch. He's played in 53 games for Seattle with 11 starts over the last four seasons.

Despite getting one of his first opportunities to start in his career, Jeanpierre has been instructing Nowak and rookie Kristjan Sokoli — another defensive line to offensive line convert — regularly during practices.

"I'm trying to help them out. I'm wanting to bring them along. I want them to be at my level of knowledge," Jeanpierre said. "If I compete and I win, whoever I compete against I want them to be at their best. That's how you want it. If I win, when I win, it was at their best. It wasn't a fluke."

See CENTER/2B

Mariners use extra-inning magic in victory over Orioles

By JOSH LIEBESKIND
Associated Press

SEATTLE — Austin Jackson hit a bases-loaded single in the 10th inning to give the Seattle Mariners a 6-5 victory over the Baltimore Orioles on Tuesday night, marking the first time since baseball expanded to 30 clubs that all 15 home teams won on the same day.

Nelson Cruz and Mark Trumbo homered for the Mariners. Cruz extended his hitting streak to a career-high 21 games, matching Troy Tulowitzki for the longest streak in the majors this season, but exited before the seventh with neck spasms.

Jackson's single off reliever T.J. McFarland (0-2) down the right-field line scored Logan Morrison from third and finished off the major league schedule for the night.

The last time home teams went undefeated on a day with more than one game was an 8-0 record on Aug. 28, 2008 — although road squads were 7-0 on April, 2, 2013, according to STATS.

Arizona and Tampa Bay joined the majors in 1998, bringing the total to 30 teams.

STATS said previously the best performance by home teams had been 11-0, accomplished six times — three in the 1800s. The most recent occasion was Sept. 16, 1989.

Morrison led off the 10th with a bloop double down the left-field line. Brad Miller followed with a single that put runners at the corners.

Fernando Rodney (5-4) pitched a perfect inning for the win.

Adam Jones and Chris Davis hit back-to-back homers to tie the game in the eighth.

Jones' two-run shot chased reliever Tom Wilhelmsen. Davis greeted Joe Beimel with a towering drive to right that made it 5-all.

Seattle had a 4-2 lead after the first thanks to two homers. Cruz hit a solo shot with two outs and Trumbo added a three-run drive later in the inning.

Kyle Seager added another run for Seattle with a second-inning sacrifice fly to score Miller, who doubled leading off the inning and moved to third on Jackson's single.

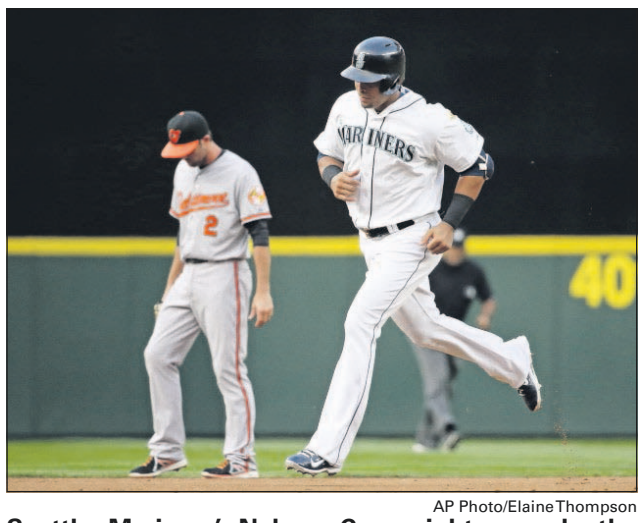
The Orioles took a 2-0 lead in the top of the first on a two-run single by Jonathan Schoop.

Baltimore loaded the bases with two outs before Schoop's hit, but Mariners starter Taijuan Walker quickly rebounded and later retired 11 straight.

Walker allowed two runs in six innings. He struck out six and walked one.

Chris Tillman gave up five runs and eight hits over 2 1-3 innings in an unusually rough outing against the Mariners. The former Seattle second-round draft pick entered 6-0 with a 2.09 ERA in seven career appearances against his former club.

Tillman was struck on the back of his right arm by a line drive off the bat of Robinson Cano in the first inning. After a brief delay and a few warmup pitches, Tillman was cleared by a trainer to continue.



AP Photo/Elaine Thompson

Seattle Mariners' Nelson Cruz, right, rounds the bases on a home run past Baltimore Orioles shortstop J.J. Hardy in the first inning of Tuesday's game in Seattle.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Mariners: LHP Charlie Furbush (biceps) is not quite ready to begin a rehab assignment and will throw another bullpen Saturday with the team in Boston. The reliever has no structural damage, but does feel a slight pinching sensation when he throws.

Orioles: RHP Chaz Roe is expected to get a cortisone shot for his shoulder inflammation, but is still on track to return from the disabled list Aug. 25, manager Buck Showalter said.

UP NEXT

Mariners: RHP Hisashi Iwakuma pitches Wednesday afternoon against Baltimore as the Mariners close out a six-game homestand.

Orioles: Baltimore wraps up a nine-game road swing, sending Kevin Gausman to the mound looking to improve his 2-3 record and 4.56 ERA.