

NFL

Judge erases Brady's 'Deflategate' suspension, NFL appealing decision

Appeal necessary to 'protect integrity of the game' says Goodell

By LARRY NEUMEISTER AND TOM HAYS
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Tom Brady learned Thursday he will start the season on the field after a judge lifted the league's four-game suspension of the star quarterback for a scandal over deflated footballs, saying he was treated unfairly by NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell. The league quickly appealed.

U.S. District Judge Richard M. Berman criticized Goodell for dispensing "his own brand of industrial justice" as he found multiple reasons to reject the suspension one week before New England's Sept. 10 opener against the Pittsburgh Steelers.

The Super Bowl MVP has insisted he played no role in a conspiracy to deflate footballs below the allowable limit at last season's AFC championship game, a 45-7 rout of the Indianapolis Colts.

The judge cited "several significant legal deficiencies" in the league's handling of the controversy, including no advance notice of potential penalties, a refusal to produce a key witness and the apparent first-ever discipline of a player based on a finding of "general awareness" of someone else's wrongdoing.

"Because there was no notice of a four-game suspension in the circumstances presented here, Commissioner Goodell may be said to have 'dispensed his own brand of industrial justice,'" Berman wrote, partially citing wording from a previous case.

He said a player's right to know what constitutes violations and what penalties are was "at the heart" of the collective bargaining agreement "and, for that matter, of our criminal and civil justice systems."

"The court finds that Brady had no notice that he could receive a four-game suspension for general

awareness of ball deflation by others," the judge wrote.

Goodell said it was necessary to appeal "to uphold the collectively bargained responsibility to protect the integrity of the game."

He called the need to secure the game's competitive fairness "a paramount principle."

Hours after Goodell issued his statement, the league appealed to the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Manhattan with a one-page notice from NFL attorney Daniel Nash.

NFL spokesman Brian McCarthy said the league would not seek an emergency stay, freeing Brady to play while the case is appealed. It could be months before the court considers the case, since the league would have to show it would suffer irreparable harm to speed up the timetable.

Goodell will also skip the Steelers-Patriots opener next week, opting instead to watch the game on TV and attend another opener over the weekend, McCarthy said. McCarthy said Goodell wants the focus to be on the game itself and New England's celebration of its Super Bowl win.

Berman said the league was wrong to discipline Brady as if a deflating ball accusation was equal to using performance enhancing drugs.

Brady was also denied equal access to investigative files, including witness interview notes, and wasn't permitted to question one of two lead investigators, the judge said.

The Patriots, who were fined \$1 million and stripped of two draft picks, posted a celebratory photo on Twitter of Brady pumping his fist and screaming at the Super Bowl last season.

The ruling was a surprise to some legal experts who believed Berman was merely pressuring the league to settle at two hearings when he criticized its handling of the investigation over the last eight months.

The league brought the case to court within minutes of Goodell upholding Brady's suspension, blasting the quarterback for arranging the destruction of his cellphone and its nearly 10,000 messages just before he was interviewed for the NFL probe. The union countersued.

The league spent more than \$3 million for its investigation by prominent attorney Ted Wells, who had previously conducted NFL probes. While Wells' 243-page report found it was "more probable than not" that two Patriots ball handling employees deliberately released air from Patriots game balls at the AFC championship game, it cited no direct evidence that Brady knew about or authorized it.

Goodell, though, went "far beyond" Wells' report, Berman said, finding in late July that Brady conspired with the ball handlers and tried to obstruct the league's probe, including by destroying his cellphone.

The commissioner said he concluded Brady "knew about, approved of, consented to, and provided inducements and rewards" to ensure balls were deflated.

Berman attacked the league while questioning one of its lawyers at two hearings. He had repeatedly urged both sides to settle and tone down rhetoric. At a hearing Monday attended by Brady and Goodell, the judge announced that both sides had "tried quite hard" unsuccessfully to reach a deal.

NFL

Mariota tosses first TD

By TERESA M. WALKER
Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Marcus Mariota finally showed he could start a game in style, and now the warmup act is over for the rookie quarterback.

Mariota threw a 59-yard touchdown pass to cap his only series, and the Tennessee Titans wrapped up the preseason by beating the Minnesota Vikings 24-17 on Thursday night.

The No. 2 overall pick out of Oregon played only four snaps for the Titans (2-2). He proved very efficient as he was 2

of 3 for 74 yards, and he concluded the preseason 21 of 30 for 326 yards with one interception and a 102.9 passer rating.

"It's really exciting to be part of this offense," Mariota said. "Guys are continuing to get better, and I feel that we built a solid foundation throughout the preseason. Now it's time to go."

Mariota's next game will be the Titans' season opener: Sept. 13 at Tampa Bay and the quarterback selected first overall, Jameis Winston.



College Football

Mountaineers ready for trip to Sacramento State

East Oregonian

The No. 13 ranked Eastern Oregon Mountaineers (0-1, 0-1) began its season with a tough 40-28 loss on the road at the College of Idaho.

Week two doesn't look any easier for the Mountaineers, as they hit the road again for a Saturday evening battle with NCAA Div. I opponent Sacramento State Hornets. It is the first time the two teams have met on the gridiron in

both schools' history.

Saturday will be the season opener for Sacramento State, who turned in a 7-5 season in 2014 playing in the Big Sky conference within the Football Championship Subdivision.



EOU Mounties (0-1)

• Saturday, 6:05 p.m.

• at Hornet Stadium



Sac. State Hornets (0-0)

• Saturday, 6:05 p.m.

• at Hornet Stadium

where he tossed for 146 yards and a touchdown while also

leading the team with 136 yards on the ground, including a 97-yard touchdown run in the second quarter.

EOU will need a better effort from its defense, however, as the unit gave up 419 total yards to College of Idaho, and allowed the Yotes to convert on eight of 13 third-down opportunities.

The game will be streamed on WatchBigSky.com, but viewers must register a free account before viewing.

BUCKS: Umatilla up next

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the grass before we put shots, we were a little more aggressive when we got into the 18," said first-year head coach Jeremy Talbot of the second-half improvements. "And then our leadership. Flavio stepped up, Jonathan Wolotira stepped up, and Lincoln Johnson from the back (line) stepped up. We just got those guys overcoming some adversity and playing the way they can play."

Much like it had to start the game, Pendleton (0-1-1) came out of halftime and controlled the tempo with its quick passes and a slight size advantage. But unlike the first half, the Bucks were able to sustain that control long enough for a break to finally go their way.

Having already been denied on a direct kick and four corners, Pendleton finally broke onto the scoreboard when Milwaukie's Seth Atkerson was whistled for a handball on a cross in front of the goal.

Going against his momentum, Betancourt used his right instep to place the ensuing penalty kick into the upper right corner of the goal. Even a sloppy shot would have sufficed as Inzunza dove the opposite direction.

"I just know that sometimes the goalies pick to where the player is looking at, that's what I go for," he said of the pre-shot mental game that occurs in those situations.

He wasn't done there, and a minute later scored on a volley from just outside the box. When a Milwaukie (0-1) defender attempted to head the ball away from the goal, Betancourt never let it bounce and beat Inzunza on the near post with a low drive.

"I was actually placing that one, because we were down 2-1 and we had to be mentally tough like Coach always says," Betancourt said. "That shot, I just took it with heart and it went in."

No Buckaroo was happier to see Betancourt's second goal than keeper Grant Banister.

The senior had spent much of the first half beating himself up over a pair of Mustang goals that were a bit on the fluky side.

The first came in the 21st minute when Banister deflected a corner kick by Milwaukie's Han Helfrich

into the net. Then he dove over a crossing shot from Helfrich in the 36th minute, and showed visible signs of frustration afterward.

"That first cross, it was a good cross right there. He put it under the (crossbar) and I just put it in. That was just a mental lapse on my part," he said. "The second one, we had pressure on it and we were right up in there. So I couldn't see (the ball), and then I see it pop out and I just wasn't quite there."

Banister said a halftime speech from his coaches was all it took to get him straightened out, and the second half was much more indicative of what the Bucks are capable of this season.

"During halftime our coaches gave a good talk and basically I just needed to hear someone," he said. "The talk really helped and when we came back out we were strong. Everybody was making runs and everyone was playing their best."

"We can go beyond (that). On Tuesday in Lewiston (Idaho) we played above that level for the entire game. So we have it, we just need to capitalize on it and get it going quicker."

The Bucks will look for a more complete outing on Tuesday when they play at Umatilla in a 4:30 p.m. game, but Talbot said Thursday was a step in the right direction for a team looking to shake out of a seemingly perpetual winless streak.

Pendleton's two goals on Thursday gave it four on the season, more than halfway to last season's total of seven. The last time the Bucks won more than one game in a season was 2009, with two, and their last winning season was 2008.

"We're trying to learn how to win, so any close game that we can play in is going to help us get over the hurdle of becoming winners," Talbot said. "I think we have to learn the steps of playing close games so we can get mentally tough."

"Even at the end of the game when we drew even with these guys I would say that we got a little too excited, and that's another step we've got to take. So it's definitely a positive thing, but we're expecting more because we know we can do more."

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OSU: Black unis for opener

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Weber State is Hill's first job as a head coach.

"In a way he's like a father figure to me," Hill said this week. "He was the one who gave me my first big break as a player, and he was also the one when I wanted to get into coaching, (he) helped me along the way."

LOOKING BACK: Oregon State went 5-7 — out of the bowl picture — under Riley last season. Weber State, which plays in the Big Sky Conference, went 2-10 last season in Hill's first year as head coach.

SCOUTING THE WILDCATS: Weber State offense is led by junior quarterback Jadrian Clark, who took over for the Wildcats' last five games last season and threw for 902 yards and seven touchdowns. His top target this season will be junior Cam Livingston, who caught 57 passes for 856 yards.

ISAAC'S BACK:

Beavers center Isaac Seumalo is finally healthy after missing all of 2014 with a foot injury. Seumalo started 27 games in his first two seasons at Oregon State and has made the Outland Trophy preseason watch list.

"Boy is he a special player," Baldwin said. "I can see why a lot of people think he's been an NFL player. He could start at three different positions for us, center guard and tackle, but because we want him to be able to play, we've limited him to center — because then you've got to take every snap in practices. ... The kid's a player. He makes a difference up front."

IT'S BLACK AND WHITE: Oregon State will wear a black and white uniform combination for the first time since the team's re-branding in 2013: Black jerseys, white pants and white helmets. The helmet will feature a red, white and blue Beaver logo in tribute to

PAC-12: Wazzu, Cal ready

Continued from 1B

State's Mike Bercovici and Texas A&M's Kyle Allen, and could be a springboard for the rest of the season to the team that wins.

BEST MATCHUP: Washington at No. 23 Boise State, Friday. The Broncos lined up the game in 2013, expecting it to be one of the most anticipated nonconference games in school history. It certainly is now. Former coach Chris Petersen will be returning to the blue turf Friday night, this time with the Washington, the team he left the Broncos for two seasons ago. This could get real interesting.

INSIDE THE NUMBERS: California's Jared Goff is the Pac-12's leading returning passer with 3,973 yards last season. USC's Cody Kessler was the leader in touchdown passes

with 39 a year ago. ... The Pac-12 had six teams ranked in the AP Top 25 preseason poll: Oregon, USC, UCLA, Arizona State, Stanford and Arizona.

IMPACT PLAYER: Oregon QB Vernon Adams. Talk about scheduling quirks. Adams had one of the most talked-about math tests in the history to complete his degree at Eastern Washington, allowing him to transfer to Oregon after three seasons leading the Eagles. He won the job to replace Heisman Trophy winner Marcus Mariota in Eugene and will lead the seventh-ranked Ducks against, you guessed it, Eastern Washington.

Compiled by AP College Football Writer John Marshall.

COLLEGE: EOU

remains unbeaten

Continued from 1B

wins coming at the Spokane Invitational beginning today. They open against Wenatchee Valley at 9 a.m. and will face Bellevue at 3 p.m.

Yotes (2-7, 0-1).

Eastern will remain in CCC play the rest of the season. Its next game is Tuesday when it hosts Walla Walla University at 7 p.m.

EASTERN OREGON 3, COLLEGE OF IDAHO 1

— At Caldwell, Idaho, Isabelle Statkus and Emily Nay led the Mountaineers in their Cascade Collegiate Conference opener on Thursday.

Statkus finished with 12 kills and nine blocks while Nay added 13 kills and eight blocks as EOU won by scores of 25-19, 26-24, 22-25, 25-20.

Amanda Miller tied Nay with 13 kills and setter Rachele Chamberlain had 49 assists.

Piper Cantrell led the Mountaineers (6-1, 1-0 CCC) with 22 digs and Tylo Colflesh added 16.

Three players finished with 11 kills to lead the

WOMEN'S SOCCER

EASTERN OREGON 10, SIERRA NEVADA 0 — At Incline Village, Nev., for the second time in a week the Mountaineers whalloped the Eagles in non-conference play.

Zoe Anderson had a hat trick for her second multiple-goal game and added two assists. Amanda Durrant and Morgan Delay each added two goals.

EOU (5-0) outshot Sierra Nevada (0-3) 47-2.

Eastern's next game is Sep. 18 when it opens Cascade Collegiate Conference play by hosting Evergreen State.

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