

RODRIGUEZ: Football practice held to one day a week

Continued from 1B

Rich Harshberger was concerned about exposure to injuries. Though Rodriguez exclusively kicks — just place kicking and kick-offs — the possibility exists for the junior to come up hobbled. But Harshberger ultimately let Rodriguez make his own decision.

“The football team did approach me before they talked to Freddy, and I gave them my blessing,” Harshberger said. “In my mind, it wasn’t Freddy that they were going after. I had some other names on my list, and so when they came back to me and said, ‘Oh hey, Freddy is the one we’re looking at,’ there was definitely some concern there. And I understand that he’s just kicking, but he’s out there on the field and contact happens in football.”

As evidence, Rodriguez has one tackle this season.

He doesn’t get much time per week to practice kicking. With a

full soccer schedule that always takes priority over football, he uses Wednesdays as his practice day. That’s when he meets with holder and good friend Tucker Salinas to hone the timing-centric and often overlooked snap-hold-kick process.

But though that practice time is limited and Rodriguez’s experience and comfort is growing, there wasn’t much of a learning curve and he and Salinas had a good relationship from the start.

“Me and Tucker, we’ve been really good friends since sixth grade,” he said.

That close relationship helped immediately. There were no hang-ups or struggles in the beginning. Rodriguez trusted Salinas to get it down, and Salinas trusted Rodriguez to not kick his hand.

Still, though, when given the opportunity to kick a field goal or beat a keeper in soccer, the answer was simple and quick. “Soccer.”

NFL Brady, Patriots rout Dolphins

Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — Even when they look sluggish, Tom Brady and the New England Patriots still dominate.

Brady threw for 356 yards and four touchdowns — two to Julian Edelman — and the Patriots beat the Miami Dolphins 36-7 on Thursday night to become the first of the NFL’s five unbeaten teams to reach seven wins.

Stephen Gostkowski broke Adam Vinatieri’s franchise record for consecutive field goals by connecting from 52 and 36 yards to make it 26 in a row. Rob Gronkowski had 113 yards receiving and a touchdown, and Dion Lewis had 93 yards receiving and one score.

The loss was the first for Miami (3-4) under interim coach Dan Campbell. The Dolphins scored 82 points in wins over the lowly Titans and Texans in Campbell’s



New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady (12) scrambles away from Miami Dolphins defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh (93) in the first half of an NFL football game, Thursday, Oct. 29, 2015, in Foxborough, Mass.

first two games after replacing Joe Philbin.

But they were completely overmatched against the defending Super Bowl champions.

It could be an even bigger loss for the Dolphins because four-time Pro Bowl defensive end Cameron

Wake was carted off the field with an Achilles tendon injury.

The Patriots are 7-0 for the second time in franchise history and first time since going 16-0 in 2007. They’ve scored at least 28 points in every game and 30 or more in six straight.

QUINN: Humble leader started grooming successor this season

Continued from 1B

Through eight weeks Quinn has completed 52 percent of his passes for 1,529 yards and nine touchdowns, as well as gaining more than 430 yards on the ground with six more touchdowns.

When asked to reflect back on his career, Quinn heavily praised the likes of Johnson, McCoy and all of the Buckaroos who came before him in helping him progress to where he is today.

“It’s amazing all the tradition here,” he said. “I got to see Conner Johnson and Chad McCoy play, so playing behind them and trying to take as many things as I could from them. It was great.”

When Bucks coach Erik Davis took over prior to the 2012 season, he could see

the amount of potential that Quinn — a freshman at the time — had from the start.

“You could see he was a great athlete no matter what,” Davis said. “Good upside, good arm strength, and you could just tell he was a true gamer.”

As he has progressed in the ranks from freshman team up to varsity, Quinn possessed a quality that Davis emphasized was a big reason for the improvements he made to become the player he is today.

“He’s a coach’s kid, so he can take criticism and learn from it and not be down on himself,” said Davis. “To have a quarterback like him has been a blessing and I’ve loved working with him.”

When asked to pick one moment that defines Quinn’s

career as the Bucks quarterback for him, Davis did not hesitate to reveal it.

“One of my fondest memories will be the game against Bend, even though (Bend) ended up winning late,” said Davis. “But our last-minute drive to go ahead. Kai looked me in the eyes and said, ‘I want the football and we’re going to score,’ and he did exactly what he said he would because he’s a leader and a kid that doesn’t want to lose.”

Becoming that type of a leader is something that Quinn said took a little bit of time to get used to, but it’s something he enjoys now.

“It’s a whole lot of pressure, but I like that,” he said. “I like being able to go to my friends and make sure they’re good and feeling OK. I want

to be there for them, and they know that I am.”

Perhaps the biggest sign of Quinn’s leadership and maturity on the field happened during the Bucks’ most recent game against The Dalles this past Friday. Davis gave Quinn the power to audible out of play calls if he recognized certain defensive fronts, and he used that power several times in the game — most notably on the 97-yard touchdown pass to Nick Lani on the Bucks’ first play from scrimmage.

“I think that shows a lot of growth as a quarterback to be able to make decisions at the line,” Davis said following the win against The Dalles. “He made the right read, made the right change at the line of scrimmage and made a good throw and it worked out.”

With Quinn finishing up his career, the next Buckaroos quarterback is already in waiting. Sophomore Nick Bower has played a little in mop-up duty this season, but has had some opportunities to show off his potential as the Bucks have utilized him in some double-pass trick plays.

Throughout the season Quinn has pretty much become another coach for Bower, teaching him and showing him what it takes to be a varsity quarterback — starting with leadership.

“You have to have that quality as a quarterback since everybody comes to you,” said Quinn. “You have to have confidence, too, and pick little things that you can always get better off of. Not every practice is going to be a great one, but you have to be

able to find the little things to improve with.”

As for what he has planned after high school, well, it’s still up in the air. Right now, Quinn has one thing on his mind that would leave a perfect mark on his legacy — a win over Hermiston.

“This is it, this is our chance,” he said. “We’ve always talked about our goal coming into the season to be CRC champions, and it might not be how we wanted to picture it, but as crazy as it sounds it’s still possible. We just have to come out and play football like we know how.”

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