

MLS
Timbers add goal scorers

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — The MLS champion Portland Timbers selected forward/winger Ben Polk from Syracuse University and midfielder/winger Neco Brett from Robert Morris University in the first two rounds of the 2016 MLS SuperDraft Thursday.

Polk, 23, was selected with the No. 20 overall pick in the first round. He helped lead Syracuse to the NCAA College Cup, tallying 12 goals and four assists in 22 matches.



A 2015 NSCAA First-Team All-South Region selection, Polk was named Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) Tournament MVP and finished the season ranked 17th in the nation in goals (12) and led the Orange in points (28).

Syracuse saw their season end in a penalty kick shootout in the national semifinals.

Brett, 23, is a native of Kingston, Jamaica, who has garnered experience with the Jamaica U-17 and U-20 Men's National Team. He was selected in the second round with the 40th overall pick.

He registered 42 goals and 16 assists in four seasons with Robert Morris University, including tallying 13 goals and five assists during his senior season in which he ranked tied for seventh in the nation in goal scoring and was named an NSCAA Third-Team All-American and the Northeastern Conference Player of the Year.

On Wednesday the Timbers acquired forward Jack McNerney from the Columbus Crew in exchange for both general and targeted allocation money.

McNerney, 23, is a six-year veteran of Major League Soccer. Drafted in 2010 by Philadelphia, he has made 143 career appearances with 87 starts. He was named to the MLS All-Star team in 2013.

He is the youngest MLS player with at least 38 career goals.

The final two rounds of the MLS SuperDraft will be held Tuesday by conference call.

BRIEFLY

Harlem Globetrotters to perform at Toyota Center

KENNEWICK, Wash. — Hermiston resident Mark Gomolski is organizing a group with Our Lady of Angels Catholic church to attend the game and maybe meet a few of the Globetrotters themselves.

Prospective participants do not have to be members of Our Lady of Angels and can contact the church at 541-567-5812, or visit the building at 565 W Hermiston Ave. The project is a fundraiser for the church's building fund.

Hermiston Booster Club steak feed scheduled

HERMISTON — The Hermiston Booster Club's annual steak feed and primary fundraiser is scheduled for March 5 at 5:30 p.m. at the Hermiston Conference Center.

Tickets for the dinner are \$40 with a silent auction, raffle and live auction, which begins at 7 p.m. Items are still being secured and donated, but they are expected to be similar to last year's event which featured Seahawks and Ducks tickets plus other enticing possibilities. To reserve a seat, contact Paul Barnett at (541) 567-5215.

— East Oregonian

NFL
49ers hire Chip Kelly as new coach

By JANIE MCCAULEY
Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — Chip Kelly is the offensive-minded, experienced head coach the San Francisco 49ers have long sought, and now he needs to win — right away.

The 49ers hired the former Eagles coach on Thursday, finding the leader CEO Jed York is counting on to turn things around for his once-proud franchise.

Kelly faces the daunting challenge of transforming the Niners into an immediate contender again.

"We are thrilled to announce Chip Kelly as the new head coach of the San Francisco 49ers," York said in a statement.

"Chip has a proven track record at both the college and NFL levels that speaks for itself. We believe strongly that he is the right man to get this team back to competing for championships. I look forward to watching Trent (Baalke) and Chip work closely to build a team that will make us all proud."

Kelly, who had personnel control with the Eagles and frustrated some of his players, won't be introduced in a news conference until next week at Levi's Stadium based on scheduling conflicts and Kelly working to immediately build his staff.

"As one of the most historic franchises in the National Football League, I realize the high standards and expectations that this position demands and I embrace the challenges ahead," Kelly said in a statement.

"My immediate focus is to build the best coaching staff



AP Photo/Bob Leverone, File

In this Oct. 25, 2015, file photo, Philadelphia Eagles head coach Chip Kelly watches the action from the sidelines in the first half of an NFL football game against the Carolina Panthers in Charlotte, N.C.

possible, one that will maximize the abilities of each of our players and put us in the best position to win football games."

Kelly replaces fired coach Jim Tomsula, promoted from his defensive line duties last January to succeed Jim Harbaugh before going 5-11 — a move Baalke has said earlier this month wound up to be the wrong one, in hindsight.

With his 26 years of coaching experience, Kelly emerged as the favorite among several candidates, including former Raiders, Broncos and Redskins coach Mike Shanahan, ex-Giants coach Tom Coughlin and former Raiders coach Hue Jackson, who was hired Wednesday to coach the Cleveland Browns.

The 52-year-old Kelly was fired by Philadelphia after Week 16 with one game left in his third season as coach. The former University of Oregon coach was

6-9 in 2015 following two 10-6 seasons, prompting Eagles CEO Jeffrey Lurie to make a change.

The 49ers jumped right into the mix last week to talk to him.

"Chip possesses all the qualities we were looking for in our next head coach," Baalke said. "He has demonstrated the ability to be innovative everywhere he has coached and has had great success throughout his career."

"Chip's passion for the game and vision for the future of this team clearly stood out to us during the search process. He is an extremely driven individual that I look forward to working with."

Kelly becomes just the second coach the franchise has ever hired with previous regular NFL head coaching experience along with Dennis Erickson ahead of the 2003 season — excluding Tomsula's single game as interim

Doping report: Corruption was 'embedded' in IAAF

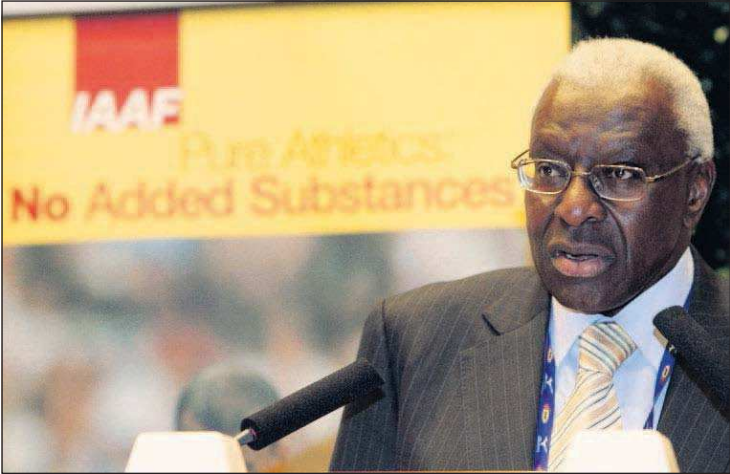
By JOHN LEICESTER
Associated Press

MUNICH — Track and field's governing body was corrupted from the inside by a "powerful rogue group" led by its president, and they conspired to extort athletes and allow doping Russians to continue competing, a World Anti-Doping Agency probe reported Thursday.

Other IAAF leaders were at fault, too, the WADA panel's damning report said. They must have known of the nepotism that allowed Lamine Diack to turn the International Association of Athletics Federations into a personal fiefdom during his 16-year reign as president, it said.

"It is increasingly clear that far more IAAF staff knew about the problems than has currently been acknowledged," said the report, written by former WADA president Dick Pound and presented at a news conference in Munich.

A key question raised by the report is whether alleged corruption under Diack went beyond extorting doped athletes and infected other areas of IAAF business. WADA's investigators called for a detailed follow-up probe of all world championships awarded by the ruling body for 2009-19, due to evidence they found of possible wrongdoing.



AP Photo/Keystone/Salvatore Di Nolfi, File

In this Sept. 30, 2006 file picture Lamine Diack of Senegal, then president of the International Association of Athletics Federation (IAAF), speaks during the opening ceremony of the IAAF World Anti-Doping Symposium in Lausanne, Switzerland.

That included an indication that Diack, a former IOC member, was prepared to sell his vote in the 2020 Olympic hosting contest won by Tokyo in exchange for sponsorship of IAAF events.

The report made further uncomfortable reading for Sebastian Coe, the British middle-distance running great who took over from Diack in August. Coe was in the audience as Pound sifted through the grim findings and asserted that the IAAF remains an organization in denial.

"The corruption was embedded in the organization. It cannot be ignored or dismissed as

attributable to the odd renegade acting on its own," the report said.

Coe is not accused of corrupt wrongdoing. But, as an IAAF vice president under Diack, he was part of its Council, its oversight body, that took a hammering from the investigators' report. The Council "could not have been unaware of the extent of doping" and the breaking of anti-doping rules and "could not have been unaware of the level of nepotism" under Diack, it said.

"It is not credible that elected officials were unaware of the situation affecting ... athletics in Russia. If, therefore, the circle

"Guess I might have to start running right now to get in shape."

— Torrey Smith, 49ers wide receiver after it was announced Kelly was hired as the team's coach. The former Oregon coach has a reputation for running strenuous practices and a fast tempo offense.

coach to end the 2010 season after Mike Singletary was fired.

Hiring the offensive-minded Kelly could give the 49ers a reason to keep quarterback Colin Kaepernick to work his way back into the dominant, dynamic quarterback he was a few years back with his legs and strong arm.

There has been thought that Kaepernick could be the kind of mobile quarterback Kelly likes running his fast-paced offense and a good fit.

"Guess I might have to start running right now to get in shape," wide receiver Torrey Smith posted on Twitter shortly after the announcement.

San Francisco has missed the playoffs the past two seasons, going 8-8 in 2014 in now-Michigan coach Harbaugh's final season before what the team called a "mutual decision" to part ways with one year remaining on his contract.

The 49ers reached three straight NFC championship games and a Super Bowl under Harbaugh, losing by three points to his older brother, John, and the Baltimore Ravens in the championship after the 2012 season to miss the franchise's sixth Lombardi Trophy.

of knowledge was so extensive why was nothing done? Quite obviously there was no appetite on the part of the IAAF to challenge Russia."

With a "close inner circle" including two of his sons, Papa Massata and Khalil, and his personal legal counsel, Habib Cisse, Diack led an "informal illegitimate" government that took over the handling of Russian doping cases, opening the door for athletes to then be blackmailed, the report said.

Diack "was responsible for organizing and enabling the conspiracy and corruption that took place," the report said. "He sanctioned and appears to have had personal knowledge of the fraud and the extortion of athletes."

Installing Diack's sons as IAAF consultants "helped to conceal their clandestine corruption," it added.

Diack also "inserted" his lawyer, Cisse, "into the day-to-day operations" of the anti-doping department's work on Russia. That gave the lawyer access to sensitive information about which Russian athletes were suspected of doping, based on their blood testing results.

That information became "the fundamental building block for the corruption and conspiracy that subsequently consumed the IAAF," the report said.

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