

College Football

# Beavers building position identities in spring practices

By KEVIN HAMPTON  
Albany Democrat-Herald

CORVALLIS — There's a new look to the helmets worn by the Oregon State football team this spring.

On one side, players are wearing patches that represent their position group. Each group came up with the design.

When coach Gary Andersen was at Utah State and traveled to take on Air Force, he noticed that those players took a lot of pride in representing various groups.

He brought the idea to the Beavers this spring.

"Position identity was a big thing for us," Andersen said. "We talked long and hard about culture change, which we needed. There's a reason why at the end of the year we took the amount of

kids we took to the Oregon game.

"We were in a major spot that we had to make a decision as a team, as group of coaches, as a group of players, that we had to change the culture or stay where we are and we didn't want to stay where we were."

There are also stickers for the back of the helmets to award players for community involvement and accomplishments in the weight room and on the football field.

Andersen said the team will not get stickers during the season.

"It's just one small part that we're trying to get better every day," he said.

**GAME DAY EVERY DAY**

Each practice this spring replicates the length of a



Godofredo Vasquez/The Corvallis Gazette-Times via AP

In this photo taken Tuesday, March 29, 2016, Oregon State freshman quarterback Mason Moran (15) evades linebacker Kyle Haley (5) during spring NCAA college football practice in Corvallis, Ore.

game, so the players are out on the field for about three and a half hours.

It's a different approach, but one that Andersen felt was necessary.

"We're squeezing every minute that the NCAA will allow us to squeeze out of these kids, which is different for me as a coach to have kids out on the field for that

long. But we discussed it since January 4th that we are going to take every minute that we possibly can because we need every single minute," Andersen said.

"The kids haven't batted an eye. They've battled very hard through some pretty aggressive time frames as far as what we've asked them to do."

**OFFSEASON EXODUS**

Several players have left the program during the offseason, including quarterback Seth Collins, linebacker Rommel Mageo and safety Justin Strong.

Andersen stressed that the players all have different reasons.

"There's no reason to point fingers or look at kids in a different way," he said. "Every kid that's left this program, for whatever

reason they've left this program, has made a decision and you have to want to be where you're at.

"I wouldn't say there was a bunch of surprises. The key thing there is you have to want to be where you're at. If you don't want to be where you're at, then that's fine.

"And we say that in recruiting all the time. There's a fit for every young man, there's a fit for every type of player and if it's not your fit, don't sit here and be miserable. But we are going to hold you accountable to a high level, so if you don't want to be held to a high level of accountability on the field, off the field, in your social life, your academic life, then you better run away because you'll get caught."

MLB

# Baseball's boom-bust payroll cycle illustrated during offseason

RONALD BLUM  
AP Baseball Writer

Practically neighbors, the Chicago Cubs and Milwaukee Brewers illustrate baseball's boom-bust cycle.

At Wrigley Field, the Cubs have boosted payroll by about \$50 million this year in an effort to win their first World Series title since 1908.

At Miller Park, the Brewers overhauled their roster after finishing last in the NL Central and cut their big league player budget to under \$60 million. That's the lowest in the major leagues, according to a review of contracts by The Associated Press. Just eight of the Brew Crew make over \$525,000, which is barely above the big league minimum.

They're many rungs below pitchers Clayton Kershaw, Zack Greinke and David Price, the first trio to reach \$30 million in the same season.

"I think we're underdogs," Brewers manager Craig Counsell said. "Tampa is a great example,

where it's proven that payroll isn't everything. The payroll figure to me is not important because teams have had great seasons without payroll."

Chicago is now among the biggest spenders, with an opening-day payroll in the \$170 million range. After losing to the New York Mets in the NL Championship Series, the Cubs went on a free-agent spending spree that added outfielder Jason Heyward, infielder Ben Zobrist and pitcher John Lackey to a roster that already included Jon Lester and young stars Kris Bryant and Kyle Schwarber.

"The pressure is going to be possibly greater, and I want us to embrace the pressure," Cubs manager Joe Maddon said.

The Los Angeles Dodgers remain baseball's biggest spender, but their opening-day payroll of around \$230 million will be a drop of \$40 million from the record they set last year. And the total could climb, with Japanese pitcher Kenta Maeda alone able to earn \$10.15 million in roster and performance bonuses.

The New York Yankees, who

**2016 Projected Payrolls**

1) Dodgers	\$234 million
2) Yankees	\$225 million
3) Tigers	\$195 million
4) Red Sox	\$190 million
5) Giants	\$173 million
12) Mariners	\$142 million

topped the majors in spending for 15 straight seasons before the Dodgers leapfrogged them a year ago, raised their opening payroll by \$5 million to about \$223 million.

Based on rosters as of Thursday, the average salary will rise about 4-6 percent to approximately \$4.4 million, according to the AP's projections. Teams have until noon EDT Sunday to get down to 25 active players, and the opening-day average will depend on how many players are put on the disabled list.

With several teams in rebuilding mode, the number of \$100 million payrolls could decline from 22 at the start of last season to 19.

Milwaukee is at the bottom of the payroll list for the first time since 2004, the last season before

Mark Attanasio bought the team from Bud Selig's family. Other small spenders include the Florida pair of Tampa Bay (about \$65 million) and Miami (approximately \$73 million).

Other retooling teams made huge cuts. Philadelphia dropped about \$40 million to around \$90 million and Cincinnati sliced about \$30 million to \$90 million.

"You have to continuously develop a pipeline of young talent that's going to power your organization, especially if your goal is to compete year after year," new Brewers general manager David Stearns said. "That emphasis becomes accentuated when you're in a middle or a smaller market.

Kansas City raised its payroll by around \$20 million to the \$135 million range in an effort to become the first repeat World Series champion since the 1998-00 Yankees. The Mets, who lost to the Royals in a five-game Series, upped payroll by nearly \$40 million to almost \$140 million. That includes \$3.5 million for outfielder Michael Cuddyer, who retired.

The Los Angeles Angels' \$165 million payroll includes \$24 million for outfielder Josh Hamilton, who is playing for Texas. As part of last year's trade, Los Angeles agreed to pay the Rangers the entire cost of Hamilton's 2016 salary. That's not the only subsidy for the Rangers, who are receiving \$35 million in all this year: \$4 million from Detroit as part of the November 2013 deal to acquire Prince Fielder and \$7 million from Philadelphia stemming from last July's deal to obtain Cole Hamels.

The AP's figures include salaries and prorated shares of signing bonuses and other guaranteed income for players on active rosters, disabled lists and those on the restricted list whose actual 2016 pay has been calculated. For some players, parts of deferred money are discounted to reflect current values.

Payroll numbers factor in adjustments for cash transactions in trades, signing bonuses that are the responsibility of the club agreeing to the contract, option buyouts, and termination pay for released players.

**SCOREBOARD**

**Local slate**

**PREP BASEBALL**

Today  
Pilot Rock at Irrigon (DH), 11 a.m.  
Umatilla at Stanfield (DH), 1 p.m.  
Riverside at Elgin/Timber (DH), 1 p.m.  
Heppner at Weston/McEwen (DH), 2 p.m.  
Hermiston vs. Rex Putnam (DH), 4 p.m.

**PREP SOFTBALL**

Today  
Riverside at Elgin/Timber, 1 p.m.  
Weston/McEwen at Nyssa (DH), 1 p.m.  
Heppner at Grant Union (DH), 1 p.m.  
Umatilla at Echo (DH), 1 p.m.  
Hermiston at Reynolds (DH), TBD  
Saturday  
Mac-Hi vs. Yamhill-Carlton, Noon  
Mac-Hi vs. Banks, 2:30 p.m.

**PREP TRACK & FIELD**

Today  
Pendleton, Mac-Hi, Umatilla, Riverside, Pilot Rock, Weston/McEwen, Irrigon, Helix, Echo at Mac-Hi Carnival of Speed, Noon  
Hermiston at Gresham, 4 p.m.  
Saturday  
Ione, Stanfield at Sherman, 11 a.m.

**PREP GOLF**

Today  
Pendleton, Hermiston at Eagle Ridge GC, 8 a.m.  
Heppner at Pendleton CC, 9 a.m.  
Mac-Hi at Milton-Freewater Municipal GC, Noon

**PREP TENNIS**

Today  
Stanfield at Condon, 3 p.m.  
Pendleton (boys) at Mac-Hi, 4 p.m.  
Pendleton (girls) vs. Mac-Hi, 4 p.m.  
Ione at Weston/McEwen, 4 p.m.

**PREP LACROSSE**

Saturday  
Hermiston at Mt. Spokane (WA), 1 p.m.

**COLLEGE BASEBALL**

Saturday  
Blue Mountain at Walla Walla (DH), 1 p.m.

**COLLEGE SOFTBALL**

**Today**

Blue Mountain at Columbia Basin (DH), 2 p.m.  
Saturday  
Blue Mountain at Big Bend, 2 p.m.

**Baseball**

**NCAA Men's Tournament**

FINAL FOUR  
At NRG Stadium  
Houston  
Saturday  
Villanova (33-5) vs. Oklahoma (29-7), 3:09 p.m. (TBS)  
North Carolina (32-6) vs. Syracuse (23-13), 5:49 p.m. (TBS)

**NCAA Women's Tournament**

FINAL FOUR  
At Indianapolis  
Sunday  
UConn (36-0) vs. Oregon State (32-4), 3 p.m. (ESPN)  
Washington (26-10) vs. Syracuse (29-7), 5:30 p.m. (ESPN2)

**NBA**

**EASTERN CONFERENCE**

**Atlantic Division**

W	L	Pct	GB
x-Toronto	50	24	676
Boston	43	32	573 7½
New York	30	46	395 21
Brooklyn	21	54	280 29½
Philadelphia	9	66	120 41½

**Southeast Division**

W	L	Pct	GB
x-Atlanta	45	31	592
Miami	43	31	581 1
Charlotte	43	31	581 1
Washington	36	39	480 8½
Orlando	32	43	427 12½

**Central Division**

W	L	Pct	GB
y-Cleveland	53	22	707
Detroit	40	35	533 13
Indiana	39	36	520 14
Chicago	38	37	507 15
Milwaukee	31	44	413 22

**WESTERN CONFERENCE**

**Southwest Division**

W	L	Pct	GB
y-San Antonio	63	12	840
Memphis	41	34	547 22
Dallas	37	38	493 26
Houston	37	39	487 26½
New Orleans	28	47	373 35

**Northwest Division**

W	L	Pct	GB
y-Oklahoma City	53	23	697
Portland	40	36	526 13
Utah	37	38	493 15½
Denver	32	45	416 21½
Minnesota	25	50	333 27½

**W**

**Today**

y-San Antonio 63 12 840 —  
Memphis 41 34 547 22  
Dallas 37 38 493 26  
Houston 37 39 487 26½  
New Orleans 28 47 373 35

**Metropolitan Division**

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
z-Washington	76	54	16	6	114	237 177
Pittsburgh	77	44	25	9	96	224 192
N.Y. Rangers	77	43	25	9	95	222 203
N.Y. Islanders	76	42	25	9	93	214 196
Philadelphia	76	38	25	13	89	198 200
Carolina	78	34	28	16	84	191 211
New Jersey	78	37	33	8	82	175 197
Columbus	77	30	39	8	68	198 241

**WESTERN CONFERENCE**

**Central Division**

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
x-Dallas	78	47	22	9	103	256 221
x-St. Louis	77	46	22	9	101	206 186
x-Chicago	77	44	26	7	95	213 192
Nashville	78	39	26	13	91	217 204
Minnesota	78	38	29	11	87	212 193
Colorado	77	39	34	4	82	205 218
Winnipeg	77	31	39	7	69	195 225

**Pacific Division**

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
x-Los Angeles	77	46	26	5	97	211 180
x-Anaheim	76	43	23	10	96	204 181
x-San Jose	78	43	29	6	92	230 203
Arizona	77	34	36	7	75	200 230
Calgary	78	40	4	6	70	213 251
Vancouver	77	28	36	13	69	176 223
Edmonton	79	30	42	7	67	194 234

**x-clinched playoff spot**

**z-clinched conference**

**Thursday's Games**

Buffalo 4, Toronto 1  
N.Y. Islanders 4, Columbus 3  
Pittsburgh 5, Nashville 2  
Carolina 4, N.Y. Rangers 3  
Montreal 3, Tampa Bay 0  
Florida 3, New Jersey 2  
Ottawa 3, Minnesota 2  
Dallas 4, Arizona 1  
Los Angeles 3, Calgary 0  
Vancouver 4, San Jose 2

**Today's Games**

Minnesota at Detroit, 4:30 p.m.  
Boston at St. Louis, 5 p.m.  
Chicago at Winnipeg, 5 p.m.  
Washington at Colorado, 6 p.m.  
Vancouver at Anaheim, 7 p.m.

**Today's Games**

Minnesota at Detroit, 4:30 p.m.  
Boston at St. Louis, 5 p.m.  
Chicago at Winnipeg, 5 p.m.  
Washington at Colorado, 6 p.m.  
Vancouver at Anaheim, 7 p.m.

**Hockey**

**NHL**

**EASTERN CONFERENCE**

**Atlantic Division**

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Florida	77	43	25	9	95	221 191
Tampa Bay	77	44	28	5	93	214 185
Boston	77	40	29	8	88	223 209
Detroit	77	38	28	11	87	198 212
Ottawa	78	36	33	9	81	222 237
Montreal	78	36	36	6	78	208 224

**W**

**Soccer**

**MLS**

**EASTERN CONFERENCE**

W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Montreal	2	1	0	6	6 4
Philadelphia	2	1	0	6	5 3
Orlando City	1	0	2	6	4 3
New York City FC	1	1	2	5	7 7
Toronto FC	1	1	4	4	3
New York	1	2	0	3	4 8
New England	1	3	3	4	7
Chicago	0	1	2	2	4 5
D.C. United	0	2	2	2	8
Columbus	0	2	1	2	4

**WESTERN CONFERENCE**

W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Sporting K.C.	3	0	0	9	4 1
FC Dallas	3	1	0	9	7 5
Los Angeles	2	1	0	6	7 3
Vancouver	2	2	0	6	6 6
San Jose	2	1	0	6	4 4
Real Salt Lake	1	0	2	5	6 5
Houston	1	2	1	4	11 8
Portland	1	1	4	5	5
Colorado	1	1	4	2	2
Seattle	0	3	0	2	5

**NOTE:** Three points for victory, one point for tie.</