

College Football Preview

OSU has high hopes with Garretson

By ANNE M. PETERSON
Associated Press

After last season's quarterback carousel at Oregon State, Darell Garretson heads into this season as the established starter.

Garretson sat out last season under NCAA rules after transferring from Utah State. For the Aggies in 2014, he threw for 1,140 yards and eight touchdowns in five games when starter Chuckie Keaton was injured. Garretson himself missed seven games that season with a wrist injury.

Garretson emerged in the Beavers' spring game and coach Gary Andersen didn't waste time, naming him as starter shortly thereafter.

"On the field, I think he handled spring well. He's progressed. How good a Pac-12 quarterback is he going to be? We'll see. We're not real interested in talking about a lot of things, we're interested in getting out and executing and moving forward," Andersen said.

Garretson said he felt the year off learning the system was beneficial.

Seth Collins, Nick Mitchell and Marcus McMaryion all saw time at starter for the Beavers, who went 2-10 last season in Andersen's first with the team.

Mitchell has since transferred. Collins announced that he was leaving, too, but then returned to Oregon State. McMaryion remains, and looks to be Garretson's backup heading into the season.

COLLINS' RETURN: Collins started at quarterback in seven games last season as a freshman but

In this April 16, 2016, file photo, Oregon State quarterback Darell Garretson throws the ball during the spring game in Corvallis.

Godofredo Vasquez/
The Corvallis Gazette-Times
via AP



was hampered by injury. In the season-ending Civil War, he lined up at quarterback, receiver and running back.

Collins announced after the season that he intended to transfer but he remained enrolled at Oregon State. This spring, Andersen said Collins was taking steps to rejoin the team. He's listed at receiver for the Beavers, although Andersen said he could fill a variety of roles.

"He's done a great job. When he came back, it was — he was very excited to get back into the mix. He went through the procedures that we laid out for him as a team to get him back into the mainstream. He accomplished those goals very quickly, in a timely manner," Andersen said.

SPEAKING OF CHUCKIE KEATON: Andersen has named Keaton to his coaching staff, along with former Aggies offensive lineman Funaki Asisi. But they're not the only newcomers. Oregon State's new defensive coordinator is

Kevin Clune, while the new co-offensive coordinators are Kevin McGiven and T.J. Woods.

RECEIVERS: Face it, much of Garretson's success is going to depend on his receivers.

Jordan Villamin led the Beavers last season with 660 yards receiving and five touchdowns. Victor Bolden, now a senior, caught 46 passes for 461 yards and three touchdowns while also spending time on special teams, where he was Oregon State's go-to on kick returns with 580 yards and a score.

Bolden will fill a similar role this season.

"I believe he will be a difference-maker in this league. He holds himself at a high regard of being a tremendous player within our league, and hopefully elite within the country, and that's his expectations if we can get him the ball the right way, he should do some fantastic things," Andersen said.

BIG REMODEL:

This season will debut a \$42 million remodel of the Valley Football Center and the north end of Reser Stadium. The "Victory Through Valley" campaign expanded the locker rooms and other player and coach facilities, and created a new fan area called the Terrace which will highlight local food and drink.

BEND VISIT: Because of the construction project, Oregon State moved the start of fall practice off campus for the first time ever to the central Oregon city of Bend, about 125 miles southeast of Corvallis. The Beavers had to get permission from the NCAA to hold the first six days of fall practice at Summit High School before returning to campus on Aug. 11.

SEASON OPENER: The Beavers open at Minnesota on Sept. 1.

PREDICTION: The Beavers were picked to finish last in the Pac-12 North in the conference's preseason poll.

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Freeman ready to be Oregon's every-down running back

By ANNE M. PETERSON
Associated Press

party — when Allen runs in Rio.

Royce Freeman is understandably getting some preseason Heisman buzz. As a sophomore last season he broke LaMichael James' single-season rushing record with 1,836 yards. He's currently 1,881 yards away from James' career record (5,082) at Oregon.

"I want to make bigger plays and go for longer rushes," he said at the Ducks' annual media day to open fall camp. "I want to be out there every down if I can."

BEST EXCUSE EVER: Wide receiver Devon Allen will miss fall camp. But he's got a good excuse: He's at the Rio Olympics where he's competing in the 110-meter hurdles. Allen won a spot on the team in Brazil by winning the event at the U.S. track trials in Eugene.

Helfrich said football is the furthest thing from his mind when it comes to the speedy junior. "His focus and our focus is him winning the gold medal, and we'll figure it out from there," the coach said.

Helfrich planned a team meeting — aka a watch

ADDRESSING THE D: Hoke is installing a new 4-3 scheme, hoping to improve a unit that gave up an average of 37.5 points, a school record, and 485.3 yards per game.

"Obviously, from a defensive standpoint — just too many points, too many yards, too many explosive plays," Helfrich said. "Our two big keys are explosive plays and taking care of the football on offense, and explosive plays and taking the football away on defense."

SEASON OPENER: Hosting UC Davis on Sept. 3.

PREDICTION: Oregon has too many question marks — the competition at quarterback and the adjustment to a new defensive scheme — to suggest that they might overcome Stanford in the Pac-12 North. But the very fact that the Ducks get both the Cardinal and Washington at Autzen Stadium goes in their favor, at least in terms of conference play. Oregon again plays a challenging non-conference schedule, including a visit to Nebraska. Look for the Ducks to finish 9-4 again.

NFL

Replacing Lynch about more than yards and TDs for Seattle

By TIM BOOTH
Associated Press

RENTON, Wash. — When Marshawn Lynch posted that photo of his cleats hanging from a wire, the Seattle Seahawks' task became about more than finding a replacement for the yards and touchdowns he provided over the course of six seasons.

Along with Lynch's retirement came the challenge of trying to replace what he meant to the Seahawks in terms of style and attitude.

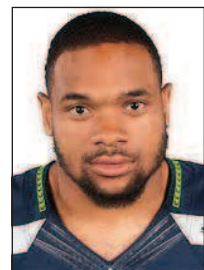
"We're not going to be able to replace him. Point blank," wide receiver Doug Baldwin said. "Not his personality, his attitude, his leadership in the locker room and on the field. We're not going to be able to replace that."

Lynch was not an ordinary running back. He was attitude in green cleats. The Seattle

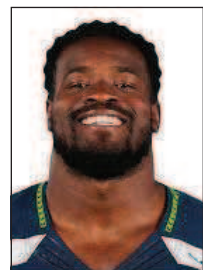
swagger that led to two Super Bowl trips was amplified by the likes of Richard Sherman and Baldwin, but it was first created by Lynch when he arrived via trade early in the 2010 season.

Now the Seahawks go into a season for the first time during their rise to prominence without Lynch on the roster. It may seem a minuscule worry with all the other challenges the Seahawks face, but there is a lingering question about whether Seattle needs to replace the personality Lynch provided.

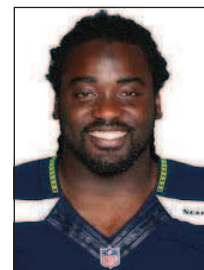
"Who he was in the locker room, it's people like him that gel the team together. He was glue. He didn't speak out, he wasn't the guy to get in front and do rah-rah speeches but the few times he did, everyone shut ... up and listened because it was Marshawn Lynch," Baldwin said. "To that degree it is what it is. He wasn't the



Rawls



Michael



Collins

rah-rah leader, he wasn't always saying stuff but when he spoke it meant volumes. We don't really have a guy like that who commands the respect and attention at that level. There are only a handful of guys in the league who do anyway. We have the leaders like Richard Sherman, like Russell Wilson that can still carry that weight across the team."

The process of finding Lynch's replacement begins Saturday when the Seahawks face Kansas City in their preseason opener. The expectation is that Thomas Rawls

will be Lynch's heir based on his performance last season as Lynch's backup.

Rawls rushed for 830 yards and four touchdowns, and averaged 5.6 yards per carry last season, but suffered a serious ankle injury in December against Baltimore that required surgery and a lengthy rehab. Rawls was only activated from the physically unable to perform list earlier this week and may not even see the field during the preseason.

So while Rawls seems the likely replacement, there are questions surrounding

his health, leaving the likes of Alex Collins, Christine Michael, Zac Brooks and others to spend the next four weeks trying to take advantage of the opportunity.

They all seem to know what being a running back for Seattle entails.

"I'd say definitely toughness. Our (running backs) coach (Sherman Smith) likes to look at it as we set the tone and the tempo for the team. Everyone feeds off the running backs," Collins said. "We've got to run down the field and get the defense chasing. You know, we set the tone so I embrace that and our group embraces that. That's just what we try to do every day."

Seattle got a taste of life without Lynch last season when he missed nine games due to hamstring and abdominal injuries. He rehabilitated away from the team for the latter of the two injuries,

spending the final weeks of the regular season mostly absent from the team's facility.

During that period, the Seattle offense became even more about Wilson. That evolution will continue this season because no one can completely replace Lynch.

"Our style is who we are. Marshawn just took that to a whole other level," offensive line coach Tom Cable said. "What you hope is Thomas (Rawls) and Christine (Michael) and C.J. (Proise) and Alex (Collins), all these kids can find their niche in it or their role in it or their style in it if you will. But our style is what we have here, what coach has laid out, and finding the runner that can lift that up. That's certainly what Marshawn did."

AP NFL website: www.pro32.ap.org and www.twitter.com/AP-NFL

LEDECKY:

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to the vision that Bruce and I had three years ago when we set these goals, and we weren't going to stop until we met them."

As was the case in the 400 free, where she also broke her own world record, Ledecky was merely racing the clock as she powered away from the field to touch in 8 minutes, 4.79 seconds, eclipsing the mark of 8:06.68 that she set at a grand prix meet in Texas back in January.

"The goal was 8:05 or better," she said.

Naturally, she was better. Then, Ledecky played the waiting game, hanging on the rope for a while to let the rest of the field finish.

Jazz Karlin finally touched in 8:16.17 to claim the silver, just ahead of Hungary's Boglarka Kapas grabbing the bronze in 8:16.37.

Some 23 seconds after Ledecky touched the wall, the last of the eight finalists chugged to the end of the grueling race.

Ledeky was barely breathing hard.

On the medal stand, though, the emotions swept over her.

She broke down in tears, relishing her accomplishments and surely thinking about all the work she put in to make it there.

"The Olympics are the pinnacle of our sport and I have to wait another four years to have that moment and I just wanted to enjoy it," Ledeky said. "The memories mean more than the medals to me."

FARM-CITY: Rodeo concludes tonight at 7:45 p.m.

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turned his steer in 5.1 to move into a tie for fourth in the first round, then had a 6.6 in the performance to give him 11.7 on two for a tie in fourth in the aggregate with Taz Olson. Clayton Hass continued to lead with 10.3 on two head.

The leaderboards for each of the bronc riding events remained largely intact as only bareback rider Evan Jayne was able to position himself for a check with 80.5 points on Calgary Stampede's Walleye Rocket.

"I asked several guys and he was just kind of this mystic horse that nobody could really give you a straight answer on," said Jayne, the world's No. 7 bareback rider from Marseille, France. "He felt awesome. He had a lot of things going on, and he just kind of let you do your thing."

Walleye Rocket came out of the chute with a huge crowhop before settling into a steady rhythm of high bucks.

"It's big and showy and the crowd loves it, and I believe that the crowd can have some influence on the judges," he said. "That helped out as well."

Jayne is in pursuit of his second Wrangler National Finals Rodeo qualification, and took his third victory lap in Hermiston for posting the performance's highest score.

He expects to get bumped down the leaderboard during Saturday's fourth and final performance.



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Steer wrestler Mike McGinn, of Haines, turns his steer in 4.1 seconds Friday at the Farm-City Pro Rodeo in Hermiston.

"I'll catch a check, but look for (Saturday) the scores to be out of this world good," he said. "There's a lot of good guys and a lot of good horses (Saturday) so it's not going to hold for third, but hopefully it'll hold for a check."

Jake Vold's 87 from Thursday continues to be the highest bronc score of the week, and Sterling Crawley and Tyrell Smith held onto the top spot with 83.

Jesse James Kirby of Dodge

City, Kansas, and Layton Green of Meeting Creek, Alberta, tied for the top saddle bronc score in the performance with 76.5.

Tyler Prein's aggregate lead in tie-down (16.7) also held up, but not without taking on a few serious challengers.

Rhen Richard of Roosevelt, Utah, had the quickest performance time with an 8.5 that he paired with an 8.9 in slack to move into second place in the aggregate with 17.4.

The 2014 Farm-City all-around champion was right on the NFR bubble at No. 15 in the world entering the week.

"I've had a crappy last couple weeks so I need to get back on the winning ways for sure," he said. "I drew pretty good here ... so I'm hoping to get a little money in each round plus the average."

World No. 8 Reese Riemer of Stinnett, Texas, had an 8.0 in his slack run to take over the lead in Round 1, but had 11.1 in the performance to slide into third in the aggregate.

Team roping got a new overall leader when Arizona's Erich Rogers and Cory Petska caught two steers in 10.4 seconds on Friday.

The No. 13 team in the world had a 5.3 in slack to move into fifth in the first round, then had the fastest time of the performance with a 5.1 that is third in the second round.

Kimmie Wall's 17.09 continues to lead barrel racing as the performance yielded no times in the top six, and Garrett Smith's 83 from Thursday's bull riding is the score to beat in that event.

Lon Daley of Tularosa, New Mexico, had the highest score of three qualified rides on Friday with a 76.5 on Kesler Rodeo's Excelsior Force. He's third.

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