

NFL

Coming off best season, Avril ready to face former team

By TIM BOOTH Associated Press

RENTON, Wash. — At this point, enough time has passed and enough turnover has taken place that most of the players Cliff Avril knew in Detroit have moved on.

That part of Avril's career seems a lifetime ago. Back when he was on the other end of the spectrum from what he's experienced in Seattle, going to the playoffs in each of his four seasons since landing with the Seahawks.

"A lot of guys are spoiled here," Avril said. "A lot of these guys have been every year they've been in the league. You may take it for granted from time to time. But I've been at the very bottom where you have no chance. You're probably packed up and gone home already at this point. So I definitely appreciate it for sure."

Avril's past and present will clash this week when the Seahawks host the Lions in the wild-card round of the NFC playoffs. It's another chapter in a career during which Avril has experienced the lowest of lows — a 0-16 season as a rookie in 2008 with the Lions — and the ultimate success of winning a Super Bowl title in his first year



AP Photo/Scott Eklund, File

Coming off the best regular season of his career, Avril's past and present clash this week with the Seahawks hosting the Lions in the NFC playoffs.

after signing with the Seahawks in 2013.

This meeting with his former team comes after the best regular season of Avril's career. He finished with a career-best 11 1/2 sacks, tied for sixth best in the NFL. He was selected for the Pro Bowl for the first time. He also discovered his philanthropic side.

It's been a year of growth for

Avril that now gets connected to his past.

"Detroit was a cool city to be in. I have nothing but love for the people of Detroit," Avril said Tuesday. "But football-wise we were just never able to win anything. But I had a great (defensive) line coach and I attribute a lot of the stuff I'm doing to him, helping me get the foundation of being able to rush

NFC Wildcard logo featuring the Detroit Lions and Seattle Seahawks logos.

• Saturday, 5:15 p.m.
• at Century Link Field
• TV: NBC

and understanding how to rush."

Since arriving in Seattle, Avril has steadily seen his play time, production and impact increase. During the 2015 season, Avril set a career high with 47 tackles in the regular season. This season it was the increase in sacks, teaming with Michael Bennett and Frank Clark as the Seahawks tied with Denver for the third-best pass rush in the NFL with 42 sacks.

"I wish I had his speed," Bennett said. "He's super-fast. I wish I could do the things he could do around the edge and that's pretty cool."

The philanthropic part of Avril's career season came with the decision to build a house in Haiti for every sack he made in the wake of Hurricane Matthew, which blew through the island country in the early fall. Avril, whose family is

of Haitian decent, had previously given back by helping to rebuild an elementary school through his charity. He added the housing project — roughly \$6,000 to \$6,500 per house — after being contacted by Baltimore's Elvis Dumervil, another player with Haitian heritage.

"They're mostly built and made to be able to shelter for a hurricane, and earthquakes as well," Avril said. "The process of building it actually is local workers and basically kind of stimulates the economy a little bit as well, by doing it that way. ... It's a pretty cool little process. I can't wait to go out there next offseason to see the progression."

NOTES: Seattle signed long snapper Tyler Ott and placed long snapper Nolan Frese on injured reserve. Frese suffered a high-ankle sprain in Sunday's win over San Francisco, but coach Pete Carroll said Tuesday the team needed to make a move for this week. ... RB C.J. Prosise had a "positive scan" on his fractured shoulder blade, an injury suffered in November, Carroll said. The hope is that Prosise may be able to practice next week if Seattle wins this weekend.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard table listing various sports events including BOYS PREP BASKETBALL, PREP SWIMMING, MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL, WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL, COLLEGE WRESTLING, GIRLS PREP BASKETBALL, and FOOTBALL.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard table listing NFL games, including the Detroit Lions vs Seattle Seahawks game, and other NFL matchups.

Advertisement for Eastern Oregon Marketplace, featuring the logo and contact information for classified ads.

CLASSIFIED INDEX table listing various categories of classified ads such as Homes for Sale, Storage Units, and Jobs.

Real estate advertisements for Eastern Oregon Real Estate, including listings for homes for sale in Meacham, Pendleton, and Hermiston.

CLASSIFIED LINE AD DEADLINES section listing submission times for different publications.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR AD ON THE FIRST DAY OF PUBLICATION section with contact information for classified ads.

PERSONALS section listing personal services and contact information.

Equal Housing Opportunity logo and text regarding real estate advertising regulations.