

BRIEFLY

Clemson makes big winners out of bettors

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Bookmakers were feeling so good about things with Alabama up 14-0 midway through the second quarter of the College Football Championship that they offered 19 points to get bettors to wager on Clemson.

They weren't feeling so good later when Clemson's comeback win made big losers out of sports books up and down the Las Vegas Strip.

"It was a terrific college football season for the books," said Jay Kornegay, oddsmaker at the Westgate Las Vegas. "But it certainly ended on a sour note for us."

Bettors scored a rare victory in a big game, jumping on Clemson when betting opened a week earlier and staying with the Tigers until finally bookmakers stopped taking bets in the second half of Monday night's game.

Northwestern player's death ruled suicide

EVANSTON, Ill. (AP) — The Cook County medical examiner says Northwestern women's basketball player Jordan Hankins killed herself in her dorm room earlier this week.

The office released the results of an autopsy on Tuesday, a day after the body of the 19-year-old Hankins was found.

Hankins was recruited out of Lawrence North High School in Indianapolis. She averaged 3.6 points in 11 games this season.

Coach Joe McKeown called the 5-foot-8 sophomore a "remarkably dynamic young woman." Because of the tragedy, Northwestern's game against Minnesota on Wednesday has been canceled.

Michigan's Peppers to enter NFL draft

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (AP) — Jabrill Peppers has decided to enter the NFL draft and skip his senior season at Michigan.

The Heisman Trophy finalist announced his plans Tuesday. The 6-foot-1, 205-pound Peppers is projected to be a first-round pick in April.

He did not play for the sixth-ranked Wolverines in a 33-32 loss to No. 10 Florida State on Dec. 31 in the Orange Bowl because of an injured left hamstring.

Peppers usually played linebacker, one of 15 positions the team says he played last season on defense, offense and special teams. Peppers won the Hornung Award as the nation's most versatile college football player.

Michigan (10-3) finished No. 10 in the final Associated Press college football poll.

Knicks fine Rose for missing game

NEW YORK (AP) — Derrick Rose has returned to practice with the New York Knicks after missing their game the night before for what he described as family reasons.

The Knicks' public relations department posted a photo on Twitter on Tuesday that showed Rose in his No. 25 practice jersey, standing with his teammates at their training facility in Greenburgh, New York.

The team later announced he had been fined for missing the 110-96 loss to New Orleans on Monday and said he was expected to be in uniform Wednesday night in Philadelphia.

Rose told reporters he had returned to Chicago for family reasons and that his absence had nothing to do with basketball. He said he apologized to his teammates and Knicks management, telling them it wouldn't happen again.

NFL

Falcons' Ryan looking to fill void on resume

By CHARLES ODUM
Associated Press

FLOWERY BRANCH, Ga. — Matt Ryan's poise under pressure has produced 25 fourth-quarter comebacks, a "Matty Ice" nickname and his first All-Pro selection.

The Atlanta Falcons' quarterback also is a leading MVP candidate.

The glaring void on Ryan's resume is his 1-4 postseason record. At 31, Ryan may not have many more chances to change his reputation as a quarterback who comes up short in the playoffs.

Ryan's only playoff win came against Seattle after the 2012 regular season, and he'll have another shot at the Seahawks in Saturday's NFC divisional round game.

Ryan said Tuesday he has never been better prepared for the playoffs.

"I feel like as you get experience throughout your career, you try to learn from all of it and you try to use it to make you better," Ryan said. "I feel like I've done that throughout my career. Both positive and negative, I've learned from all of those experiences and ... I feel like I'm just playing my best and playing better than I ever have."

No matter his stats, Ryan ultimately will be judged by his team's success. The Falcons led the NFL in scoring while winning the NFC South, but a loss in their playoff opener would lead some critics to conclude they were just another regular-season fad that was not built



AP Photo/David Goldman, File

In this Sunday, Jan. 1, 2017, file photo, Atlanta Falcons quarterback Matt Ryan, right, huddles with his teammates before an NFL football game against the New Orleans Saints in Atlanta.

for the postseason.

A loss also would leave an even larger void on Ryan's record.

Falcons coach Dan Quinn said he talked with Ryan about the extra playoff pressure placed on the quarterback.

Quinn said this is a different Ryan than the one who lost to the 49ers in the NFC championship game after the 2012 season and also suffered one-and-done playoff losses to Arizona in his 1998 rookie season, to Green Bay in 2010 and to the Giants in 2011.

Quinn believes Ryan is ready for postseason success.

"For him I think you can't truly be relentless until you've been right close to it and you didn't get it," Quinn said Tuesday. "I know from my experience you learn so much from a loss and what you gain from it. What I can tell you is Matt's a far different quarterback today than he was a few years ago."

Quinn said Ryan's "ability to attack, his ability to be ready" in this season's offense "has nothing to do with" past playoff failures.

BLAZERS: Head home to host Cleveland

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Luol Deng led the Lakers with 14 points, but did not make a field goal after the first half.

Russell was 4 of 14 on the night, finishing with nine points, eight rebounds and six assists.

"A little incident happened and then they turned up the pressure," he said. "They started making shots, started getting stops and we didn't."

The Blazers shot 50.6 percent. Harkless hit all but one of his six field goal attempts and blocked three shots. Al-Farouq Aminu had 15 rebounds, and Evan Turner added seven assists off the bench.

"I was really pleased with our defensive effort in the second half," Portland coach Terry Stotts said. "Particularly in the third quarter, we did a really nice job in a lot of different areas."

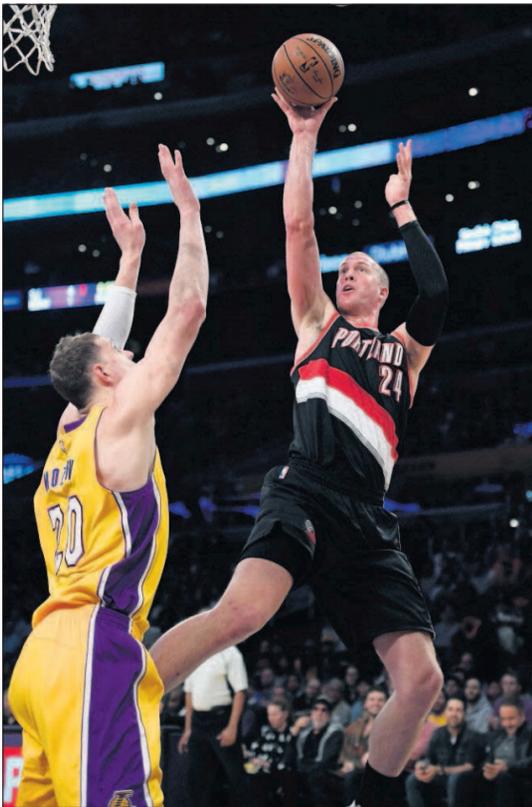
TIP-INS

Trail Blazers: When guard Allen Crabbe scored 30 points Sunday against Detroit, he became the first Portland player to score 30 off the bench since Jamal Crawford went for 34 on April 11, 2012. ... Mason Plumlee's 10 rebounds and 12 assists vs. the Pistons made him the first Blazers forward or center to have a double-double in those categories since Mychal Thompson on Jan. 6, 1984.

Lakers: G Lou Williams leads the team in scoring (17.9 points per game) off the bench. He could become only the second Lakers reserve to lead the club in scoring. The other was Nick Young, three seasons ago. ... Los Angeles' bench remains the NBA's best offensive unit (49.1 points per game).

UP NEXT

Trail Blazers: Play on back-to-back nights when they host Cleveland on Wednesday. The Blazers have won the last three matchups in Portland.



AP Photo/Mark J. Terrill

Portland Trail Blazers center Mason Plumlee, right, shoots as Los Angeles Lakers center Timofey Mozgov, of Russia, defends during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2017, in Los Angeles.

Men's College Basketball

West Virginia upsets Baylor

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. (AP) — Baylor's euphoria over its ascent to the No. 1 ranking lasted just one day.

Nathan Adrian broke out of a shooting slump with a career-high 22 points, and No. 10 West Virginia beat the sloppy Bears 89-68 on Tuesday night in the program's first game with the top ranking.

Baylor defeated Iowa State and Oklahoma State last week by a combined six points at home to overtake Villanova for the No. 1 spot when the AP poll came out on Monday.

Against West Virginia, Baylor (15-1, 3-1 Big 12) committed a season-high 29 turnovers the school record is 31 and never led in its second true road game of the season. The loss means No. 5 Gonzaga is the only remaining unbeaten team in Division I.

"They just took us out of everything," Baylor coach Scott Drew said. "We weren't overconfident. They just kicked our butt."

West Virginia (14-2, 3-1) started the second half with an 11-3 run and kept pouring it on, leading by as many as 26 points down the stretch.

OSAA: Mac-Hi, Pilot Rock could move down in football

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"From our perspective, football is something we will have to look at sooner or later," he said. "We are having more and more schools having trouble fielding teams at all levels, and with that plus injury concerns, I think we have to look at it separately and try to even the playing field."

In this football-only proposal, which can be found at OSAA.com, schools were evaluated by various criteria such as total games played, games won, winning percentage, and average number of participants. Two local teams would be affected, as Mac-Hi was bumped down to the 3A level and Pilot Rock to the 1A level after scoring near the bottom in each of their respective classifications for those criteria.

Of course, nothing is final as of now as the OSAA committee has seven remaining meetings remaining before a final proposal

will be made to the OSAA Executive Committee in October, so a lot can change. The next meeting is scheduled for Jan. 30 at the OSAA offices in Wilsonville.

Here is a rundown of the current proposals on the table from the December meeting:

• **SIX CLASSIFICATIONS:**

With Hermiston moving up to 6A, Pendleton will be the lone 5A school in Eastern Oregon. The Buckaroos would move into the six-team Intermountain Conference made up of Crook County, Hood River Valley, Redmond, Ridgeview and The Dalles. At the 2A level, the Columbia Basin Conference combines with the Wapiti League to form an eight-team league comprising of Enterprise, Grant Union, Heppner, Imbler, Pilot Rock, Stanfield, Union, and Weston-McEwen. The 4A Greater Oregon League, 3A Eastern Oregon League, 1A Big Sky League and 1A Old Oregon League remain intact.

• **FIVE CLASSIFICATIONS:**

With 5A becoming the highest class, Pendleton moves into the 4A Intermountain Conference with five other teams including Crook County, Madras, Redmond, Ridgeview and The Dalles. Mac-Hi would move down to the 3A level and join Baker, Burns, La Grande, Nyssa, Ontario, Umatilla and Vale in the Greater Oregon League. At the 2A level, the Wapiti League is comprised of 10 teams including Enterprise, Grant Union, Heppner, Imbler, Irrigon, Pilot Rock, Riverside, Stanfield, Union, and Weston-McEwen. Everything at the 1A level remains the same.

• **FOOTBALL-ONLY SIX CLASSIFICATIONS:**

At the 6A level, Hermiston goes into Special District 1 with the likes of Barlow, Centennial, Central Catholic, Clackamas, David Douglas, and Liberty. At the 5A level, Pendleton moves into the 10-team Special District 1 with Century, Glencoe,

Gresham, Hillsboro, La Salle, Putnam, Redmond, Reynolds, and Sandy. Mac-Hi drops into Class 3A in this proposal, and joins 3A Special District 3 with Burns, Irrigon, La Pine, Nyssa, Umatilla, and Vale.

At 2A, Special District 3 is comprised of Culver, Enterprise, Grant Union, Heppner, Imbler, Riverside, Stanfield, Union, and Weston-McEwen. Pilot Rock is a notable mover, dropping down to the 1A level in this proposal due to lack of recent success as well as lower average turnout compared to the rest of the class. The Rockets would join 1A Special District 1 with the likes of Echo, Cove, Enterprise, Powder Valley, and Wallowa, while Lone, and Arlington/Condon's Special District 4 remains intact.

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SEAHAWKS: Wagner says loss gave team the motivation to work even harder

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left after a 2-yard TD run by Marshawn Lynch.

Wilson finished that day throwing for 385 yards, still a career best, but Atlanta hit two long pass plays in the final 30 seconds and Matt Bryant's 49-yard field goal with 8 seconds left won the game for the Falcons.

"We felt like we were far, but we still had a long way to go," Seattle linebacker Bobby Wagner said. "Kind of like

woke us up, but it definitely made us hungry too because when you feel like you have a great team that should win it all and you lose ... and you sit there in the offseason and watch the other teams win, it gives you that hunger to come into the next season prepared and I think that's what happened."

K.J. Wright echoed Wagner's feeling about the game. Wright is among a handful of key players that remain on Seattle's

roster despite the Seahawks constant churn. He believes Seattle doesn't get to a Super Bowl without that loss.

"I believe that we weren't quite ready yet to take it all the way," Wright said. "I'm kind of glad that happened to us because we learned from it. We won the Super Bowl the following year so we learned from that moment."

While their experience and knowledge has grown in the seasons since, the memory of that game

remains fresh, especially this week when the scenario is very similar.

Atlanta is again the higher-seeded team with a multifaceted offense that was among the best in football, and Matt Ryan directing the charge. The Falcons are the rightful favorites then and now.

But the situation is significantly different for Seattle.

The Seahawks were the upstarts then; young, brash and looking to prove they

belonged.

Now, they're trying to continue their legacy and prove even with a resume that includes five straight appearances in the divisional round of the playoffs, they are still the powerhouse of the NFC.

"I still remember that game, me and (Bruce Irvin) sitting at the end, watching," Wagner said. "It wasn't a great feeling. We want to make sure that doesn't happen again."

NOTES: RB C.J. Proise

practiced on Tuesday for the first time since suffering a broken shoulder blade in November. Carroll said it would go all week before a decision is made if Proise will play. "He's going to have to go full speed and let it rip. If he's holding back, he won't play," Carroll said. ... FB Marcel Reese should be able to play after suffering a foot injury in the opening-round win against Detroit.