

# EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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1B

NFL

## Falcons' Jones gets playoff rematch with Seahawks' Sherman

Sherman got last laugh in October battle

By CHARLES ODUM  
Associated Press

FLOWERY BRANCH, Ga. — Julio Jones simply shrugged instead of screaming and shouting following a costly no-call against Richard Sherman three months ago.

By contrast, Sherman had a meltdown in the same Falcons-Seahawks game when things didn't go his way.

On Saturday, the two stars will meet again in a high-profile matchup when Seattle visits Atlanta in a NFC divisional playoff game.

Seattle beat the Falcons 26-24 on Oct. 16. The Falcons' hopes for a late comeback ended on an incompletion from quarterback Matt Ryan to Jones. Sherman hooked Jones' right arm as he was draped over the receiver, but

there was no call on the apparent pass interference.

Jones, who had seven catches for 139 yards and a touchdown, explained Wednesday why he quickly moved past the play.

"At the end of the day, one play doesn't define a game," Jones said. "It's everything. ... My job is to go out there and compete for the ball and it's the referee's job to call whatever they see."

"That's how I get over it. I went See REMATCH/2B



AP Photo/Elaine Thompson, File  
In this Oct. 16, 2016, file photo, Seattle Seahawks cornerback Richard Sherman, right, and Earl Thomas (obscured) break up a pass intended for Atlanta Falcons wide receiver Julio Jones (11) in the second half of an NFL football game, in Seattle.

NBA

## Trail Blazers heat up, ice Cavaliers



AP Photo/Steve Dykes  
Portland Trail Blazers guard C.J. McCollum celebrates after hitting a shot, next to Cleveland Cavaliers forward Richard Jefferson during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Portland on Wednesday.

McCollum, Crabbe lead Portland to win over Cleveland

By ANNE M. PETERSON  
Associated Press

PORTLAND — CJ McCollum had 27 points and the Trail Blazers shook off fatigue caused by weather-related travel delays to beat the defending NBA champion Cleveland Cavaliers 102-86 on Wednesday night.

Allen Crabbe added 24 points off the bench for the Blazers, who have won four straight regular-season games against the Cavs at the Moda Center. Portland led by as many as 24 points.

LeBron James had 20 points and 11 rebounds for Cleveland, which has lost just 10 games this season.

McCollum, who had 21 points in the second half, hit a 3-pointer that put Portland up 85-69 with just under nine minutes left in the game, then gestured for the crowd to stand as the Cavaliers called a timeout.

McCollum has had seven straight games with 25 points or more.

A snowstorm that dumped as much as 14 inches on parts of Portland caused travel problems for both teams late Tuesday.

See TRAIL BLAZERS/2B



MLB

## Seattle keeps wheeling and dealing, acquires Smyly from Rays

Also pick up pitcher Shae Simmons from Atlanta

By TIM BOOTH  
Associated Press

SEATTLE — Jerry Dipoto's 11th trade this offseason rounded out the Seattle Mariners roster with his top target.

"I've probably spent more time through the course of our offseason trying to acquire Drew Smyly than any other thing that we've done," the general manager said Wednesday.

Seattle made pair of deals on Wednesday that ultimately landed Smyly, a pitcher Dipoto thinks will fill out the Mariners starting rotation. Seattle also landed a potential key reliever, getting right-hander Shae

Simmons from the Atlanta Braves.

The Mariners acquired outfielder Mallex Smith from Atlanta, then sent him to Tampa Bay along with infielder Carlos Vargas and left-hander Ryan Yarbrough for Smyly. Smith was also an offseason target for the Mariners but when Seattle acquired Jarrod Dyson from Kansas City last week, Smith instead became the conduit in helping to obtain Smyly.

"It became apparent to us over the last two or three days that we were able to access Drew Smyly by making the deal with Atlanta that tapped into Mallex Smith," Dipoto said. "So effectively these were two deals that were interlinked."

Smyly is the centerpiece of what Seattle was trying to accomplish as the Mariners seem to have rounded out a starting rotation that appeared to be a major question at the start of the

year. The acquisitions of Smyly and Yovani Gallardo from Baltimore last week appear to have filled out a rotation where Felix Hernandez, Hisashi Iwakuma and James Paxton were the only certainties.

Smyly, 27, made 30 starts last season for Tampa Bay, throwing a career-high 175 1/3 innings and striking out 167. He was 7-12 with a 4.88 ERA, but starting pitching is one of Tampa Bay's strongest assets, and Rays senior vice president of baseball operations and general manager Erik Neander felt comfortable making the deal because of the depth the Rays have in that area.

Smyly was 15-15 with a 3.95 ERA in 49 starts for Tampa Bay after being acquired from Detroit in the 2014 trade deadline deal that sent David Price to the Tigers. He is arbitration eligible

See MARINERS/2B



AP Photo/Steve Nesius, File  
The Mariners have made a pair of trades, landing most notably left-handed starter Drew Smyly, pictured here, from the Tampa Bay Rays on Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2017.

### Sports shorts

#### Broncos pick Vance Joseph as coach

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP) — A runner-up two years ago, Vance Joseph is John Elway's pick this time around.

"It's official. Excited to announce Vance Joseph as head coach of the Denver Broncos!" Elway tweeted early Wednesday afternoon.

Joseph impressed Elway in 2015 when Gary Kubiak got the job. He was on Elway's short list when Kubiak, 55, stepped down last week over health concerns after Denver (9-7) missed the playoffs a year after winning Super Bowl 50.

Joseph, the 44-year-old ex-Colorado quarterback, spent last season as Miami's defensive coordinator after building a reputation as one of the league's top secondary coaches.

Joseph was also set to interview with San Diego and Los Angeles before accepting the job.



Joseph

"How could you be a four-time scoring champion, 11-time All-Star and MVP in the league if you didn't practice?"

— Allen Iverson

Retired NBA player during a press conference announcing a new 3-on-3 league founded by entertainer Ice Cube. Iverson will serve as a player-coach for one of the league's eight teams and was responding to a reporter who asked if the reason he agreed was because he wouldn't have to practice — a reference to his famous "practice" rant while playing for the Philadelphia 76ers.

#### Report: Chargers plan to move

NEW YORK (AP) — The deadline for the San Diego Chargers to exercise their option to relocate to Los Angeles has been extended for two days, although a media report surfaced Wednesday night that the team plans to move.

The Chargers have called a staff meeting for 8 a.m. Thursday, a team employee said Wednesday night. The employee spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter.

Team chairman Dean Spanos didn't immediately return a message left at his home. Citing league sources, ESPN.com reported Wednesday night that the Chargers plan to announce as early as Thursday that they are moving to Los Angeles. According to the report, the Chargers have notified NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, and the owners of other teams, of their intent to move to Los Angeles for the 2017 season.



#### THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1958 — The NCAA rules committee makes the first change in football scoring rules since 1912 by adding the two-point conversion.

1969 — New York Jets quarterback Joe Namath "guarantees" a victory before the game against the 17-point favorite Baltimore Colts, then leads the AFL to its first Super Bowl victory, a 16-7 triumph over Baltimore.

2001 — Minnesota defenseman J.J. Daigneault ties an NHL record by playing for his 10th team when he appears in a 5-0 loss to the Avalanche.

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