

DRAFT: Trading back an option for Seahawks

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still an elite team, but with a core that is aging and getting more expensive as time passes.

"Having the three threes, the five picks in the three rounds is outstanding, don't get me wrong," Schneider said. "But you always feel a certain level of anxiety about what's going to happen."

The window for Seattle hasn't closed. But it's not exactly wide open either.

Michael Bennett and Cliff Avril are 31 years old. For all the trade talk surrounding Richard Sherman this offseason, he just turned 29. Earl Thomas is nearly 28 and coming off a serious leg injury, while Kam Chancellor is 29 and had surgery on both ankles in the offseason.

Even Russell Wilson will turn 29 during the 2017 season. Of Seattle's core players, only Bobby Wagner, Jermaine Kearse, Tyler Lockett and Justin Britt will start the season younger than 28 years old.

Those ages make the Seahawks a veteran team. It also makes them an aging team.

What Seattle needs is to rediscover the draft success from the early Schneider-Carroll years. The Seahawks need a draft more like 2012 when they landed five eventual starters including Wilson and Wagner, and fewer like 2013 when 11 picks yielded only one player who is still on Seattle's roster — tight end Luke Willson.

The 2013 misses signaled a change for the Seahawks and their draft success, and one that hasn't been completely solved.

The foundation for what the Seahawks became was built during the 2010-12 drafts and there are still seven players from those draft classes on the Seahawks roster, including Sherman, Thomas, Chancellor, Wagner and Wilson. That might not seem like much, but consider the following three drafts from 2013-15 yielded just eight players who remain on Seattle's roster at a time that the Seahawks should have been replenishing with younger, more cost-effective talent.

Schneider doesn't hide the misses, but notes Seattle has been able to make up for some of the draft deficiencies by finding capable players as undrafted free agents, on waiver claims or developed off the practice squad.

"(Director of pro personnel) Dan Morgan and his staff on the pro side have done a great job of bringing in practice squad guys, waiver claims," Schneider said. "I think our level of competition has raised and raised."

NBA Playoffs

Celtics take care of Bulls, pull to a 3-2 series lead

Associated Press

BOSTON (AP)—Isaiah Thomas and Avery Bradley scored 24 points apiece to help the Boston Celtics beat the Chicago Bulls 108-97 on Wednesday night and take a 3-2 lead in their first-round playoff series.

After the road team won each of the first four games, the Celtics won at home in Game 5 to earn a chance to eliminate the Bulls on Friday night in Chicago. A Bulls victory would force the series back to Boston for a decisive Game 7 on Sunday.

Dwyane Wade had 26 points, 11 rebounds and eight assists for Chicago.

But Wade and Robin Lopez were called for technical fouls 32 seconds apart with just under five minutes left, helping the Celtics to a 20-5 run that turned an 84-84 game into a 15-point Boston lead.

The Bulls cut it to nine before Al Horford got loose for a dunk, Wade missed a 3-pointer and then Horford fed Jae Crowder for a layup that made it 108-95 with 99 seconds to



Boston Celtics center Al Horford (42) slams a dunk against the Chicago Bulls during the fourth quarter of a first-round NBA playoff basketball game in Boston, Wednesday, April 26, 2017.

AP Photo/Charles Krupa

play. Despite the technical fouls, there was little of the tension that characterized Game 4, when Jimmy Butler and Marcus Smart got in each other's face on the court and continued the criticism in their postgame comments. Horford had 21 points, nine assists and seven rebounds for Boston, which entered the playoffs as the No. 1 seed in the East. The Celtics lost the first two games at home — with Game 1 just a day

after Thomas' sister died in a car crash.

After Bulls point guard Rajon Rondo broke his thumb, though, the Celtics took Games 3 and 4 in Chicago to tie the series.

The Celtics started slowly on their home court, making just one of their first nine shots to fall behind 12-4. Boston missed its first eight 3-point attempts before making three in a row at the end of the first quarter.

WIZARDS 103, HAWKS 99

WASHINGTON (AP)—Back at home, and back in charge, Bradley Beal scored 27 points, and John Wall added 20 points and 14 assists, leading Washington over Atlanta for a 3-2 lead in the first-round Eastern Conference playoff series.

Dennis Schroder led the Hawks with 29 points, making a career high-tying five 3s, and 11 assists.

Washington can close out the best-of-seven series and move into the conference semifinals by winning Game 6 at Atlanta on Friday night.

PREPS: Heppner's skid continues

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Friday at 3 p.m. at Rocky Heights Elementary.

Baseball

GRANT UNION 5-13, HEPPNER 1-3 — At John Day, the Mustangs couldn't keep pace with the Prospectors in a Special District 6 doubleheader on Tuesday and fell 5-1, then 13-3 in five innings.

Heppner (1-17, 0-12 SD6) scored first in Game 1 when Tim Jaca, Tyler Carter and Wyatt Steagall all singled, but committed errors in the field to help Grant Union (5-13, 2-10) put one across in each of its first two at-bats to take a 2-1 lead.

Warner Robertson pitched 6 2/3 innings of relief and struck out four while

allowing no runs on five hits for the win.

Heppner stranded runners in the fourth, fifth and seventh innings.

In Game 2, the Prospectors scored four runs in the first inning and Billy Copenhaver pitched four innings of scoreless relief allowing just two hits.

Ty McDaniel was 3 for 4 with three RBI to lead Grant Union's offense.

UP NEXT Heppner hosts Elgin for a doubleheader starting at 11 a.m. on Saturday.

Game 1: HHS 100000 0-1-8-7, GUHS 112001 X-5-4-1. W-W. Robertson, L-W. Steagall.

Game 2 (5 innings): GUHS 400 45-13-8-2, HHS 030 00-3-3-3. W-C. Hallgarth, L-K. Smith. 2B-W. Robertson (GUHS).

LYNCH:

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after losing Latavius Murray in free agency. Second-year backs Jalen Richard and DeAndre Washington are both smaller backs and are not as suited to short-yardage and goal-line situations.

Lynch was perhaps the best power back in the league before he retired. He had double digits in touchdown runs every season from 2011 to 2014, and his 51 TDs on the ground are the most in the NFL since 2011.

Lynch's 245 broken tackles since the start of the 2013 season are 66 more than any other player in that span,

according to Pro Football Focus.

The 31-year-old Lynch averaged 3.8 yards per carry in his limited action in 2015 before retiring. Before that, he was one of the game's top running backs, with more than 1,200 yards rushing in each of the previous four seasons.

Lynch was born and raised in Oakland and played college ball nearby at California. He still has strong ties to the area through his Beast Mode company and would be a welcome addition for a fan base still stung by the team's pending move to Las Vegas for the 2020 season.

SCOREBOARD

Local Slate

Table with 5 columns: Day, Event, Location, Time, and Details. Includes categories: PREP BASEBALL, PREP SOFTBALL, PREP TRACK & FIELD, PREP TENNIS, PREP GOLF, PREP LACROSSE, COLLEGE BASEBALL, COLLEGE SOFTBALL.

Eastern Oregon at Southern Oregon

(2), 2 p.m.

Prep Standings

Table with 4 columns: Conference/League, Lg. Ovr., RS, RA. Includes categories: BASEBALL (5A Columbia River Conference), 4A Greater Oregon League, 3A Eastern Oregon League, 2A/1A Special District 6, SOFTBALL (5A Columbia River Conference, 4A Greater Oregon League).

3A Special District 1

Table with 4 columns: Team, Lg. Ovr., RS, RA. Includes teams: Weston-M, Echo, Riverside, Irrigon, Umatilla.

2A/1A Special District 6

Table with 4 columns: Team, Lg. Ovr., RS, RA. Includes teams: Union, Pilot Rock, Heppner, Culver.

Basketball

Table with 4 columns: Team, Lg. Ovr., RS, RA. Includes categories: NBA (Playoff glance FIRST ROUND, EASTERN CONFERENCE), MLB (AMERICAN LEAGUE East Division, West Division, NATIONAL LEAGUE East Division, West Division), NHL (Playoff glance SECOND ROUND, EASTERN CONFERENCE).

Ottawa vs. N.Y. Rangers

Thursday: N.Y. Rangers at Ottawa, 4 p.m. (CNBC)

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Edmonton 1, Anaheim 0 Wednesday: Edmonton 5, Anaheim 3 Friday: Edmonton at Anaheim, 7:30 p.m. (NBCSN)

Nashville 1, St. Louis 0

Wednesday: Nashville 4, St. Louis 3 Friday: Nashville at St. Louis, 5 p.m. (NBCSN)

Baseball

Table with 4 columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Includes categories: AMERICAN LEAGUE East Division, West Division, NATIONAL LEAGUE East Division, West Division, Wednesday's Games, Thursday's Games.

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Contents of: Unit B-5 Aileen C. Christiansen Unit B-25 Max S. Bear Unit D-21 Raul P. Ibarra Unit E-31 Michael E. & Amy R. Waddell Unit E-32 Molly Jo Rinehart Unit G-21 Christian M. Matter will be sold to the highest bidder. Sale to take place on Tuesday, May 9th at 12:00 noon at the facility.

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