Another sluggish Seahawks opener brings up old questions

By TIM BOOTH
AP Sports Writer

RENTON — It took just a few minutes of the season opener against Green Bay for preseason fears about the Seattle Seahawks' offensive line and its ability to protect quarterback Russell Wilson to re-emerge as legitimate concerns.

There wasn't much that Seattle's offensive line dealt with well in the 17-9 loss to the Packers. It continued a trend of lackluster season-opening performances in recent seasons, although not all of them have been losses. Seattle is 3-3 in its past six season openers and has scored 16 points or less in four of those.

But Sunday's loss to the Packers revived all the concerns about the offensive line that Seattle had tried to downplay. Tackles Rees Odhiambo and Germain Ifedi struggled to keep pressure off Wilson from the edges, while Green Bay's Mike Daniels was a problem for the interior of the line.

Wilson was sacked three times, hit seven times and only when Seattle went with its hurry-up offense did the Seahawks find a rhythm. Seattle finished with 225 total yards and was 3 of 12 on third downs.

"Right out of the chutes we missed a couple of opportunities to do things and made a couple of mistakes, errors that we had," Seattle coach Pete Carroll said Monday. "And then also I would give it to Daniels, he played a heck of a football game and gave us some problems. We didn't deal with him as well as we thought we would."

Carroll was far from panicking. But he clearly wasn't pleased with the performance.

"I'm disappointed that we are talking about that today," Carroll said. "I thought that we were moving in the right direction. I've seen us move in the right direction, but in this game we weren't as sharp."

The offensive line wasn't the only unit struggling on that side of the ball.

Wilson missed a few open throws and tight end Jimmy Graham had an underwhelming performance. Graham was targeted seven times but made just three catches for 8 yards and had a critical third-down drop early in the fourth quarter.

"It wasn't his best game. He'll do better. He was really disappointed on the ball that got away from him on the sideline," Carroll said.

While Carroll spent part of Monday trying to figure out ways to help the underperforming offense, he was also having conversations with the league about what led to the ejection of Jeremy Lane in the first quarter after he was deemed to have thrown a punch. No television replays showed a punch being thrown but rather Lane putting his arm on Davante Adams' facemask after the pair tussled.

Carroll said he agreed with the analysis from the TV broadcast that the punishment was harsh.

"We have talked with the league and ... I agree with the way the guys on television saw it," he said.

PBR: Kolbaba bucked off, will compete again on Tuesday

Continued from 1B

got the crowd going with a energetic 87.5 point ride on Four Star Rodeo's Blizzard. After fellow Brazilian's Claudio Montanha Jr. and Robson Aragao both scored 84 point rides, the event hit a bit of a lull as Section 3 and Section 4 went along with only one qualified ride out of the next 12.

That was until Australian Lachlan Richardson took advantage of an earlier re-ride option to end the long round as he rode Sankey/Robinson's Soldier Boy for 86.5 points that scored him a $1,210.10 bonus.

One of the buck-offs in Section 4 was two-time defending champion and Walla Walla native Derek Kolbaba, who lasted roughly four seconds on Sankey/Robinson's Fast Cars.

"I just let him beat me out of the bucking chute," a disappointed Kolbaba said afterwards. "He got me leaned back a little bit too much, but we'll go home and fix it and come back tomorrow and make up for it."

Kolbaba, who currently sits fifth in the world standings with more than $181,000 in earnings, began the night with a huge ovation during the rider introductions while perched atop the chutes. He again got an ovation from the crowd prior to his ride, something he said he'll never get tired of hearing as long as he competes in Pendleton.

"I tell everybody that this is my favorite event to come to and of the year," he said. "It's pretty awesome to have the support that's here and the people that are behind me back up here in the Northwest, it's pretty awesome to have and I'm pretty blessed."

Like Kolbaba, Teel said that the Pendleton PBR may be one of his favorite events on the tour already. And even though Happy Canyon is a smaller venue than most of the PBR tour, it's one he can't wait to compete again on Tuesday and for years to come.

"It's amazing here. With the grandstand the way they are, stacked in on top of you, you feed off that energy," he said. "It's a small arena, but it's just the right size for bull riding in my opinion and the crowd here is awesome."

Pendleton PBR Classic
Round 1 Results
1. Ramond de Lima, 87.5 on Four Star's Blizzard, $1,613.47; 2. Lachlan Richardson, 86.5 on Sankey/Robinson's Soldier Boy, $1,210.10; 3. Claudio Montanha Jr., 84 on Brookman Rodeo's Damn It's Good, $605.05; 3. Robson Aragao, 84 on Brookman Rodeo's Hot Potato, $605.05; 5. Cody Casper, 82 on Brookman Rodeo's Smokin' Good; 5. Emilio Resende, 82 on Sankey/Robinson's HMS Chiddingfold; 7. Cody Teel, 80.5 on Korkow's Singlewide; 9. Bryan Titman, 79.5 on Korkow's Bad Black; 10. Chase Robbins, 78.5 on Four Star's Morty.
Round 2 Results
1. Cody Teel, 72.5 on New West's War Cry, $4,033.68.

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Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Rubens Barbosa of Laciara, Brazil, rides Megan's Pet before getting bucked off for no score during the Pendleton PBR Classic on Monday in the Happy Canyon Arena in Pendleton.

Claudio Montanha Jr. of Ribeirão dos Indios, Brazil, rides for 84 point the Pendleton PBR Classic on Monday in the Happy Canyon Arena in Pendleton.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

MARINERS: Seattle drops first game of a four-game series

Continued from 1B

Kyle Seager and Mitch Haniger homered for Seattle. Seager led off the second with his 23rd homer and Haniger, who had three hits and finished a triple shy of the cycle, had a two-run shot in the third.

Mariners starter Ariel Miranda (8-7) allowed gave up six hits and walked three in only 1 2-3 innings.

Texas led for good when Nomar Mazara hit a two-run double in the first — a ball that ricocheted off the upper half of the wall in right-center field.

COACHING THIRD

Wood, the Rangers' Triple-A manager, coached third base with Tony Beasley out to deal with a personal matter. But the Rangers said it wasn't a health issue for Beasley, who was limited last season while undergoing treatment for rectal cancer.

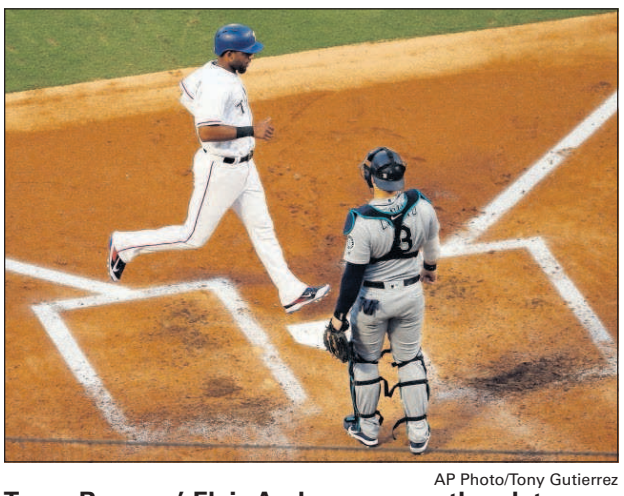
TRAINER'S ROOM

Mariners: OF Jarrod Dyson, whose 28 stolen bases were tied for third in the American League, is done for the season. He will have surgery to repair something similar to a groin injury. He hasn't played since Sept. 2, only his second game back after missing the previous 12 days with a right groin strain.

Rangers: Keone Kela, out more than a month with right shoulder soreness, threw another bullpen session and will be re-evaluated Tuesday. ... 2B Rougned Odor was back in the lineup a day after he twisted his left foot and ankle chasing a popup down the right-field line. Odor is the only Texas player to appear in all 143 games. He has started 141 of them.

UP NEXT

Mariners: Marco Gonzales (0-1, 6.20) will be the second consecutive Mariners lefty to start against Texas. His last game was in relief, throwing four scoreless against Oakland on Sept. 2.



AP Photo/Tony Gutierrez

Texas Rangers' Elvis Andrus crosses the plate on a Nomar Mazara double as Seattle Mariners catcher Mike Zunino watches in the first inning of a baseball game, Monday in Arlington, Texas.

College Football

Herbert throws for 3 TDs and Oregon beats Nebraska

EUGENE (AP) — Maligned last season, Oregon's defense thwarted Nebraska's comeback.

The Huskers were down 42-14 at the half but rallied with three unanswered touchdowns. Then Tanner Lee was intercepted on what would be Nebraska's final drive of the game, and the Ducks held on for a 42-35 victory on Saturday.

"I'm very proud of the defense, they made some very tough stands," said running back Royce Freeman. "Just to see them grow, especially defensively as a unit, makes me excited for the future and trusting them in big situations."

Freeman rushed for 153 yards and two scores while Justin Herbert threw for 365 yards and three more as the Ducks handed first-year coach Willie Taggart his second straight win to open the season.

Oregon's defense struggled last season when the Ducks went 4-8. But they held the Huskers to 109 yards on the ground and intercepted Lee four times. There were obvious breakdowns in allowing the rally, but the unit came up big when it mattered.

"Our guys didn't fold when adversity came," Taggart said. "That was one thing I was concerned with going in."

Lee finished with 252 yards passing and three touchdowns for Nebraska, but also had those four picks — including the one on the first play of the last drive.

"Squandering the opportunity at the end, that's real disappointing. Getting the ball back, we had plenty of time and then that happened," Nebraska coach Mike Riley said.

Brooks scores 3 TDs, Minnesota beats Oregon State

CORVALLIS (AP) — The P.J. Fleck era at Minnesota is off to a 2-0 start after Shannon Brooks scored three touchdowns and the Gophers turned three Oregon State turnovers in 17 points in a 48-14 win over the Beavers on Saturday night.

Conor Rhoda, who came into the game sharing the quarterback position with sophomore Demry Croft, completed 7 of 8 passes for 158 yards and one touchdown. Tyler Johnson caught four passes for 127 yards and a touchdown for Minnesota.

Minnesota's running game punished the Oregon State (1-2) defense, allowing the Gophers to control the ball for more than 38 minutes. Rodney Smith ran 30 times for 92 yards and a touchdown, while Brooks had 17 carries for 91 yards.

"Obviously, I'm excited about the win, but it's not about the win. It's about how we played, and they executed the game plan perfectly," Fleck said.

A week ago, Rhoda and Croft split time during the Gophers' 17-7 win over Buffalo. But Rhoda took most of the meaningful snaps against Oregon State, playing all but three series.

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