

NFL

# Everything seems to be on Wilson as Seahawks try to move forward

By **TIM BOOTH**  
Associated Press

SEATTLE — When he was in the early stages of his professional career, the Seattle Seahawks asked Russell Wilson just to do his part.

At that time, Seattle's defense was elite. Their roster was young and ambitious and the depth they amassed could overcome seemingly any loss.

That's not the case anymore, putting the bulk of the responsibility on Wilson now as the Seahawks try to make something out of this season and find their way into the playoffs.

"He was a huge factor in the game," coach Pete Carroll said after Monday's 34-31 loss to Atlanta. "He was all over the place."

Numerous issues arose from Seattle's second straight home loss. Most centered on a couple of questionable special teams decisions by Carroll, including his call to go for a fake field goal late in the first half rather than attempt a 35-yard kick. The fake was blown up by Atlanta's Grady Jarrett and Luke Willson was thrown for a 4-yard loss.

Carroll defended the decision after the game and again Tuesday morning on his radio show.

"I like being aggressive when we have our chances. That was an opportunity to score a touchdown and we thought we had a good one," Carroll said on KIRO-AM in Seattle.

Aside from the special teams issues is how dependent the Seahawks have become on Wilson offensively. It's one thing to ask the quarterback to be a leader, an efficient passer and occasionally run when the opportunity presents itself. It's another to do what Seattle has asked of Wilson through the



**Seattle Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson (3) is tripped up by Atlanta Falcons middle linebacker Deion Jones (45) as he scrambles in the second half of Monday's game in Seattle. The Falcons won 34-31.**

AP Photo/Ted S. Warren

first 10 games.

Seattle's three currently healthy running backs — Eddie Lacy, Thomas Rawls and J.D. McKissic — have combined for exactly one more yard rushing (377) than Wilson has run for this season (376). And it doesn't help that Seattle's stellar defense has been devastated by injuries to starters Richard Sherman, Kam Chancellor and Cliff Avril.

It's all been on Wilson's shoulders, and likely will continue to be going forward. Between passing and rushing, Wilson has been responsible for 81.9 percent of Seattle's total offensive yards this season. Impressive? Yes. Too much for Seattle's desire to be balanced and have an established run game? Yes.

"I don't think that it's a lack of talent at running back. We have some great running backs, we just

have to do a little bit better, that's all," Wilson said after the loss.

Part of the problem has been the inconsistency. Seattle started the season sharing carries between its running backs. When they decided to have Lacy be the primary ball carrier, he suffered a groin injury. Seattle then went back to Rawls, but he appeared to be missing open holes and was a healthy scratch from Monday's loss.

Mike Davis brought a jolt to Seattle's run game on Monday night, but he left early in the third quarter with a groin injury.

Because of the constant changes at running back, Wilson and his scrambling have been Seattle's most consistent running threat. Wilson is averaging 6.5 yards per attempt, which would lead the league if Wilson had enough carries to qualify.

"We just need to see our guys

get out there, stay out there, let them show what they can do," Carroll said on his radio show. "Everybody keeps coming in and out and we can't get a good feel for it. It's been unfortunate. Nobody's really jumped out. Some of that is the (offensive) line and how we've played. But it's just been unfortunate it's been so changing."

NOTES: Seattle made a surprise roster move Tuesday by waiving veteran DE Dwight Freeney after just four games. Freeney had three sacks in his first two games but didn't record a sack or tackle in the past two games. Freeney is in his 16th season and Seattle was his fifth team. ... Carroll said on his radio show that G Oday Aboushi will miss Sunday's game at San Francisco due to a dislocated shoulder and that it's unlikely Davis will make it back after leaving with a groin strain.

# Cougars bring improved defense into Apple Cup

By **NICHOLAS K. GERANIOS**  
Associated Press

Washington State has been turning heads with its offense for years and this season the defense has been doing the same.

The 14th-ranked Cougars are hoping that improved stopping

power will help them flip the script in the Apple Cup, where Washington State is playing for a spot in the

Pac-12 championship game while No. 15 Washington is merely hoping to play spoiler.

Archrival Washington has used a superior defense to win the past four Apple Cups. The Huskies outscored Washington State by an average of 39-14 in those four games.

This year might be different with the Cougars (9-2, 6-2 Pac-12) boasting a much better defense than in years past, including a line that coach Mike Leach said is the most improved unit on the team.

"We're older for one," Leach said. "Our pad level is lower. We transition quicker. We are better with our hands."

The Cougars rank 11th in the nation in total defense, allowing 303 yards per game, and lead the nation with 94 tackles for loss.

They're anchored by Hercules Mata'afa, Daniel Ekuale and Nnamdi Oguayo.

"Daniel is a big, thick, traditional defensive tackle," Leach said. "He's playing some of his best football right now."

The 6-foot-2, 252-pound Mata'afa is a unique player, Leach said.

"He's smaller and quicker than most guys who play that position," Leach said. "But he's strong enough to hold up."

The combination of the two "gives you a fastball/change-up quality," Leach said.

Mata'afa has been a revelation this season. He leads the Pac-12 with 21.5 TFL and 9.5 sacks.

The junior from Lahaina, Hawaii, was named Pac-12 defensive player of the week for his performance at Utah, where he recorded five tackles for loss, including three sacks, plus one forced fumble and one fumble recovery.

"Hercules Mata'afa is probably the best in the league," Utah coach Kyle Whittingham said after the game.

Other Washington State defensive players are fans of Mata'afa's play.

"He's a beast, man," linebacker Justus Rogers said.

"He makes this whole defense a lot better," safety Robert Taylor added.

Of course, Washington (9-2, 6-2) remains pretty stout on defense itself.

The Huskies rank No. 4 in total defense (271.3 yards per game). They give up just 168.4 passing yards per game.

But Washington hasn't faced a passing offense quite like the Cougars' this season, Leach said.

"Schematically, the teams they've played haven't thrown it a lot this year," said Leach, whose offense is No. 3 nationally and averages 375.3 yards per game. "They hadn't played a lot of teams that are real determined to throw it a lot."

Utah's 293 passing yards were the most Washington has given up this season.

Washington is a nine-point favorite to win the Apple Cup in Seattle. If Washington State wins, the Cougars advance to the conference title game against Pac-12 South winner Southern California. A Washington win would send Stanford to the title game.

**POLL BUSTERS:** The Cougars have a chance to finish the regular season unbeaten against Top 25 opponents. Washington State has beaten No. 11 Southern California, No. 20 Stanford and No. 25 Boise State this season.

**TURKEY AND TEN-PINS:** Washington State will hold a traditional Thanksgiving feast at a bowling alley in Pullman. As is their custom, the Cougars will go bowling Thursday then board a charter flight for Seattle the next day. "If you want to see some of the finest bowlers on earth, go to Zeppco on Thursday," Leach said. "You'll see some big old people thundering down the bowling alley tossing balls."

MLB

# Braves lose 13 international players in MLB sanctions

By **CHARLES ODUM**  
Associated Press

ATLANTA — The Braves lost 13 prospects and former general manager John Coppolella was banned for life by Major League Baseball on Tuesday for circumventing international signing rules from 2015-17.

Former Atlanta special assistant Gordon Blakeley, who was the team's international scouting chief, was suspended from baseball for one year by Commissioner Rob Manfred.

Sanctions imposed by Manfred will leave the Braves unable to bargain at full strength for a top Latin American prospect until 2021.

Manfred said MLB's investigation determined the Braves moved international signing bonus pool money from one player to boost another player's contract.

Most notable among the players the Braves will lose is Kevin Maitan, an infielder from Venezuela who signed for \$4.25 million in 2016.

Other "high-value" players the Braves will lose include Juan Contreras, Yefri del Rosario,

Abrahan Gutierrez, Juan Carlos Negret, Yenci Peña, Yuniore Severino, Livan Soto and Guillermo Zuniga.

Three more international signees — Brandol Mezquita, Angel Rojas and Antonio Sucre — were declared free agents. The team's contract with prospect Ji-Hwan Bae, which was not yet final, was disapproved. Finally, the Braves were banned from signing prospect Robert Pauson in the 2019-20 signing period.

The 13 players will be free to negotiate as free agents with other teams.

Also, the Braves will forfeit their third-round selection in the 2018 draft as punishment for offering "impermissible benefits" to an unnamed draft pick in an effort to convince him to sign for a lower bonus.

The investigation showed the players signed by the Braves in 2016-17 would have been unavailable if the team had not circumvented the rules by moving bonus pool money.

Manfred said stripping the Braves of the 13 players was not sufficient punishment. He said "additional sanctions are warranted

to penalize the club for the violations committed by its employees."

Therefore, the Braves will be prohibited from signing any international player for more than \$10,000 during the 2019-20 signing period. Also, the team's international signing bonus pool for the 2020-21 signing period will be reduced by 50 percent.

The Braves already cannot give an international signing bonus of more than \$300,000 for 2017-18 and 2018-19 as penalties for exceeding their signing bonus pools under baseball's previous labor contract.

And there is still more discipline to be handed down.

Manfred said he intends "to discipline other Braves international baseball operations employees who participated in the misconduct."

Coppolella was forced to resign after the season. Former team president John Hart was moved to a senior adviser role when a new general manager, Alex Anthopoulos, was hired on Nov. 13. Hart left the team on Friday.

"The senior baseball operations officials responsible for the misconduct are no longer employed by the Braves," Manfred said. He also said

the Braves "cooperated throughout the investigation."

The Braves braced fans for the sanctions when team chairman Terry McGuirk apologized to fans "on behalf of the entire Braves family" for the rules violations at the news conference to introduce Anthopoulos.

The Braves said in a statement released Tuesday they "understand and accept the decision regarding the penalties that have been handed down."

"As we expressed last week, our organization has not lived up to the standard our fans expect from us and that we expect from ourselves. For that, we apologize. We are instituting the changes necessary to prevent this from ever happening again and remain excited about the future of Braves baseball."

Manfred said he is confident the Braves management team led by McGuirk, Anthopoulos and vice chairman John Schuerholz "have and will put in place procedures to ensure that this type of conduct never occurs again and which will allow the club to emerge from this difficult period as the strong and respected franchise that it has always been."

## SCOREBOARD

### Local slate

#### PREP FOOTBALL

**Saturday**  
No. 3 Hermiston vs. No. 4 Churchill (5A championship at Hillsboro Stadium), 6 p.m.

#### COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

**Friday**  
EOU vs. Lewis-Clark State (at Caldwell, ID), 5 p.m.

**Saturday**  
EOU vs. Montana Western (at Caldwell, ID), 3 p.m.

### Prep Football

#### OSAA Playoffs

##### Friday's Games

**6A Semifinals**  
No. 1 Lake Oswego (11-1) vs. No. 5 South Medford (11-1), 5 p.m. (at Hillsboro Stadium)

No. 2 Clackamas (12-0) vs. No. 6 Tigard (10-2), Noon (at Hillsboro Stadium)

##### Saturday's Games

**5A Championship**  
No. 3 Hermiston (10-2) vs. No. 4 Churchill (12-0) (at Hillsboro Stadium), 6 p.m.

##### 4A Championship

No. 1 Cottage Grove (11-0) vs. No. 3 Marshfield (11-0) (at Hillsboro Stadium), 2:30 p.m.

##### 3A Championship

No. 2 Santiam Christian (10-2) vs. No. 4 Cascade Christian (11-1) (at Cottage Grove HS), 4 p.m.

##### 2A Championship

No. 2 Monroe (10-1) vs. No. 5 Santiam (11-1) (at Hillsboro Stadium), 11 a.m.

##### 1A Championship

No. 2 Dufur (11-0) vs. No. 5 Hosanna Christian (11-1) (at Cottage Grove HS), Noon

### Football

#### NFL

##### AMERICAN CONFERENCE

**East**  
W L T Pct PF PA  
New England 8 2 0.800 290 203  
Buffalo 5 5 0.500 208 250  
Miami 4 6 0.400 157 254  
N.Y. Jets 4 6 0.400 201 222

**South**  
W L T Pct PF PA  
Jacksonville 7 3 0.700 245 141  
Tennessee 6 4 0.600 222 253  
Houston 4 6 0.400 267 262  
Indianapolis 3 7 0.300 179 280

**North**  
W L T Pct PF PA  
Pittsburgh 8 2 0.800 227 165  
Baltimore 5 5 0.500 213 171

Cincinnati 4 6 0.400 169 199  
Cleveland 0 10 0.000 150 259

**West**  
W L T Pct PF PA  
Kansas City 6 4 0.600 262 220  
L.A. Chargers 4 6 0.400 221 196  
Oakland 4 6 0.400 204 247  
Denver 3 7 0.300 183 259

##### NATIONAL CONFERENCE

**East**  
W L T Pct PF PA  
Philadelphia 9 1 0.900 320 188  
Dallas 5 5 0.500 242 242  
Washington 4 6 0.400 238 266  
N.Y. Giants 2 8 0.200 162 247

**South**  
W L T Pct PF PA  
New Orleans 8 2 0.800 302 196  
Carolina 7 3 0.700 213 180  
Atlanta 5 4 0.556 197 179  
Tampa Bay 4 6 0.400 203 228

**North**  
W L T Pct PF PA  
Minnesota 8 2 0.800 241 172  
Detroit 6 4 0.600 271 234  
Green Bay 5 5 0.500 204 230  
Chicago 3 7 0.300 174 221

**West**  
W L T Pct PF PA  
L.A. Rams 7 3 0.700 303 186  
Seattle 6 3 0.667 211 165  
Arizona 4 6 0.400 176 254  
San Francisco 1 9 0.100 174 260

##### Week 12 Schedule

**Thursday's Games**  
Minnesota at Detroit, 12:30 p.m.  
L.A. Chargers at Dallas, 4:30 p.m.  
N.Y. Giants at Washington, 8:30 p.m.

**Sunday's Games**  
Tennessee at Indianapolis, 10 a.m.  
Carolina at N.Y. Jets, 10 a.m.  
Cleveland at Cincinnati, 10 a.m.  
Tampa Bay at Atlanta, 10 a.m.  
Miami at New England, 10 a.m.  
Buffalo at Kansas City, 10 a.m.  
Chicago at Philadelphia, 10 a.m.  
Seattle at San Francisco, 1:05 p.m.  
Jacksonville at Arizona, 1:25 p.m.  
Denver at Oakland, 1:25 p.m.  
New Orleans at L.A. Rams, 1:25 p.m.  
Green Bay at Pittsburgh, 5:30 p.m.

**Monday's Game**  
Houston at Baltimore, 5:30 p.m.

##### AP Top 25 Poll

**Week 14**  
1. Alabama (58)  
2. Miami (3)  
3. Oklahoma  
4. Clemson  
5. Wisconsin  
6. Auburn  
7. Georgia  
8. Ohio State  
9. Notre Dame  
10. TCU  
11. USC  
12. Penn State

**Record Points Pvs**  
11-0 522 1  
10-0 433 2  
10-1 370 3  
10-1 355 4  
11-0 328 5  
9-2 203 6  
10-1 157 7  
9-2 064 8  
9-2 023 9  
9-2 906 11  
9-2 891 11  
9-2 888 13

13. UCF  
14. Washington St.  
15. Washington  
16. Mississippi St.  
17. Memphis  
18. Oklahoma St.  
19. LSU  
20. Stanford  
21. Michigan St.  
22. South Florida  
23. Northwestern  
24. Virginia Tech  
25. Boise State

Others receiving votes: Michigan 49, Iowa St. 47, South Carolina 30, NC State 9, San Diego St. 8, Wake Forest 7, Texas A&M 1, Fresno St. 1

##### Top 25 Schedule

**Thursday**  
Ole Miss at No. 14 Mississippi State, 4:30 p.m. (ESPN)

**Friday**  
No. 2 Miami at Pittsburgh, 9 a.m. (ABC)  
Baylor at No. 12 TCU, 9 a.m. (FS1)  
South Florida at No. 15 UCF, 12:30 p.m. (ABC)  
No. 25 Virginia Tech at Virginia, 5 p.m. (ESPN)

**Saturday**  
No. 7 Georgia at Georgia Tech, 9 a.m. (ABC)  
No. 9 Ohio State at Michigan, 9 a.m. (FOX)  
Kansas at No. 19 Oklahoma State, 9 a.m. (FS1)

East Carolina at No. 20 Memphis, 9 a.m. (ESPN)  
No. 1 Alabama vs. No. 6 Auburn, 12:30 p.m. (CBS)  
No. 5 Wisconsin at Minnesota, 12:30 p.m. (ABC)  
No. 10 Penn State at Maryland, 12:30 p.m.

No. 23 Boise State at Fresno State, 12:30 p.m. (CBSN)  
West Virginia at No. 4 Oklahoma, 12:45 p.m. (ESPN)  
No. 16 Michigan State at Rutgers, 1 p.m. (FOX)  
No. 22 Northwestern at Illinois, 1 p.m. (FS1)

No. 3 Clemson at No. 24 South Carolina, 4:30 p.m. (ESPN)  
Texas A&M at No. 18 LSU, 4:30 p.m.  
No. 8 Notre Dame at No. 21 Stanford (ABC)  
No. 13 Washington State at No. 17 Washington, 5 p.m. (FOX)

**Pac-12 Schedule**

**Friday**  
Cal at UCLA, 7:30 p.m. (FS1)

**Saturday**  
Oregon State at Oregon, 4 p.m. (ESPN2)  
Arizona at Arizona State, 1:30 p.m.  
No. 8 Notre Dame at No. 21 Stanford, 5 p.m. (ABC)  
No. 13 Washington State at No. 17

Washington, 5 p.m. (FOX)  
Colorado at Utah, 7 p.m. (FS1)

### Hockey

#### NHL

**Tuesday's Games**  
Vancouver 5, Philadelphia 2  
St. Louis 8, Edmonton 3  
Dallas 3, Montreal 1

**Wednesday's Games**  
N.Y. Rangers at Carolina, 4 p.m.  
Minnesota at Buffalo, 4 p.m.  
Toronto at Florida, 4 p.m.  
Vancouver at Pittsburgh, 4 p.m.  
Calgary at Columbus, 4 p.m.  
Philadelphia at N.Y. Islanders, 4 p.m.

Ottawa at Washington, 4 p.m.  
Boston at New Jersey, 4 p.m.  
Edmonton at Detroit, 4 p.m.  
Chicago at Tampa Bay, 4:30 p.m.  
Montreal at Nashville, 5 p.m.  
Dallas at Colorado, 6 p.m.  
San Jose at Arizona, 6 p.m.  
Winnipeg at Los Angeles, 7:30 p.m.  
Vegas at Anaheim, 7:30 p.m.

### Basketball

#### NBA

**Tuesday's Games**  
L.A. Lakers 103, Chicago 94

**Wednesday's Games**  
Brooklyn at Cleveland, 4 p.m.  
Portland at Philadelphia, 4 p.m.  
Washington at Charlotte, 4 p.m.  
Chicago at Utah, 6 p.m.  
L.A. Clippers at Atlanta, 4:30 p.m.  
Toronto at New York, 4:30 p.m.  
Dallas at Memphis, 5 p.m.  
Denver at Houston, 5 p.m.  
Golden State at Oklahoma City, 5 p.m.  
Orlando at Minnesota, 5 p.m.  
San Antonio at New Orleans, 5 p.m.  
Chicago at Utah, 6 p.m.  
Milwaukee at Phoenix, 6 p.m.  
L.A. Lakers at Sacramento, 7:30 p.m.

#### NCAA

**Men's Basketball**

**Top 25 Schedule**  
**Tuesday's Games**  
No. 19 Louisville 84, Southern Illinois 42  
No. 16 Texas A&M 98, Penn State 87  
No. 14 Minnesota 100, Alabama A&M 57

No. 25 Alabama 77, UT Arlington 76  
No. 23 UCLA 72, Wisconsin 70  
No. 12 Cincinnati 75, Richmond 68  
No. 6 Wichita State 80, Marquette 46  
No. 3 Kansas 114, Texas Southern 71  
No. 13 Notre Dame 82, LSU 53  
No. 22 Baylor 65, Creighton 59

**Wednesday's Games**  
Tennessee at No. 18 Purdue, 9 a.m. (ESPN2)

Western Kentucky at No. 5 Villanova, 11:30 a.m. (ESPN2)  
La Salle at No. 11 Miami, 3 p.m.  
No. 2 Arizona at NC State, 4 p.m.  
Fort Wayne at No. 8 Kentucky, 5 p.m.  
Lehigh at No. 10 USC, 7 p.m. (PAC12)

**Thursday's Games**  
Portland at No. 9 North Carolina, 11:30 a.m. (ESPN)  
No. 21 Saint Mary's at Harvard, 1 p.m. (ESPN)  
Portland State at No. 1 Duke, 1:30 p.m. (ESPN)  
No. 15 Xavier at George Washington, 2 p.m. (FS1)  
Rhode Island at No. 20 Seton Hall, 3 p.m. (ESPN)  
No. 23 West Virginia at Marist, 5:30 p.m. (ESPN)  
No. 7 Florida at Stanford, 7 p.m. (ESPN2)  
No. 4 Michigan State at DePaul, 8:30 p.m. (ESPN)  
No. 17 Gonzaga at Ohio State, 8:59 p.m. (ESPN2)

**Women's Basketball**

**Top 25 Schedule**  
**Tuesday's Games**  
No. 10 Oregon 81, Eastern Washington 40  
No. 15 Maryland 111, Howard 49  
No. 1 Connecticut 78, No. 5 UCLA 60

**Wednesday's Games**  
No. 18 Oregon State at NC Central, 11 a.m.  
Morehead State at No. 22 Kentucky, 11 a.m.  
No. 16 Duke at Old Dominion, 4 p.m.  
Little Rock at No. 19 Texas A&M, 4 p.m.  
Oakland at No. 25 Michigan, 4 p.m.

**Thursday's Games**  
Butler at No. 11 West Virginia, 9 a.m.  
No. 24 Arizona State at No. 7 Mississippi State, 10:30 a.m.  
Missouri State at No. 8 Baylor, 12 p.m.  
No. 9 Ohio State at Memphis, 3 p.m.  
No. 20 Marquette at No. 12 Tennessee, 3:30 p.m.  
Kent State at No. 14 Stanford, 5:30 p.m.

### Soccer