

NFL

Seahawks shake up coaching staff, fire Bevell, Cable

By TIM BOOTH Associated Press

RENTON, Wash. — What’s expected to be an offseason make-over for the Seattle Seahawks is starting with its coaching staff.

The Seahawks fired offensive coordinator Darrell Bevell and offensive line coach Tom Cable on Wednesday. Bevell was in charge of calling plays, while Cable was responsible for a run game and offensive line that failed to meet expectations.

It was a stunning sweep for head coach Pete Carroll, who has been immensely loyal to his assistants during his tenure. Carroll’s only other significant firing was offensive coordinator Jeremy Bates following the 2010 season, Carroll’s first in Seattle.

“We are challenged by change, but excited to attack the future with great purpose,” Carroll said in a statement. “I want to thank both Tom and Darrell for their role in helping take this program to a championship level. I will always be grateful for the opportunity to coach and compete alongside

these great men.”

Seattle has been backsliding since appearing in the Super Bowl three years ago. The Seahawks missed the playoffs for the first time since 2011 after going 9-7 this season. It was clear there would be significant personnel changes going into 2018 and it started with the coaching staff.

Bevell and Cable had been with the team since 2011, responsible for developing an offense that was good enough to appear in two straight Super Bowls but that had regressed since. Bevell was let go on Tuesday night, according to ProFootballTalk.com, which first reported the move, and Cable was dismissed a day later. It seemed unlikely Cable would be retained after Bevell was let go.

Making wholesale changes is a massive departure for Carroll. Both in the college ranks at



Bevell

Cable

Southern California and during his successful tenure in Seattle, there was never the need to completely remodel the coaching staff.

If coaches left, it was because they were getting better opportunities elsewhere, something Carroll has relished.

Carroll hinted that changes were likely when he recapped the 2017 season last week. It may be his last chance to refashion the Seahawks into a championship contender. Carroll is the oldest coach in the league at 66 — although he often acts like the youngest — and has two years remaining on his contract.

“I think a lot of respect is to be dealt to these guys,” Carroll said. “They’ve got families and lives and careers and dreams and hopes as we all do, and we’ll see what happens. I’ve always been here to help our guys and I want them to

go and do what they’re capable of doing and meet their challenges of their lifetime as well, and I’m up for that. When it works out, I do everything I can to help them. We’ll see what happens, but other than that there’s not much to be said about that at this point.”

While Bevell was able to develop Russell Wilson into a top quarterback and create an offense good enough to win a Super Bowl, he was never able to escape the shadow of the play call made at the conclusion of the Super Bowl against New England. Rather than a run from the 1-yard line in the final minute, Bevell called for a pass that was intercepted by Malcolm Butler and cost Seattle its chance at a second straight title.

While it’s not a direct correlation, Seattle’s drop from the top of the NFC started the moment that play happened. There was bitterness in the Seattle locker room that Marshawn Lynch didn’t get the ball on the play, and the stigma hung over Bevell even as Carroll tried to take blame for the call.

Cable took nearly as much

heat for his inability to develop an offensive line capable of properly protecting Wilson and establishing the power run game Carroll desired. Cable was given resources in the draft and occasionally in free agency, but the line never had the consistency for Seattle’s offense to perform at its best.

The decision to remove both coaches may appease Seahawks fans who have grown frustrated with Seattle’s offensive woes — including using the (hash) FireBevell hashtag on Twitter — despite claims from players that the coaching staff was not to blame for the struggles.

Wide receiver Doug Baldwin launched into a passionate defense of Bevell’s performance after the season.

“We don’t execute as a team. Offensively that’s what we’ve seen time and time again is we do not execute the way that we should,” Baldwin said. “That’s on us as players. You guys can blame (Bevell) as much as you want to. Truth is (Bevell) is not the problem.”

Men's College Basketball

Texas’ star guard Andrew Jones diagnosed with leukemia

By JIM VERTUNO Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — Andrew Jones flirted with leaving Texas for the NBA before returning to school for what he hoped would be a big sophomore season and a splash in the next draft.

He was on his way. The shooting guard was the Longhorns’ leading scorer through the start of what looked like a big season. After a wrist fracture sidelined him for a few games, his return to the lineup was going to be big: the Big 12 season opener against Kansas.

He hardly played. Same thing for the next game at Iowa State. Two games, 20 minutes total. The 20-year-old Jones had told his coaches he was tired. No energy. Texas sent him for tests.

Then Jones didn’t travel to a game last Saturday just 90 miles away at Baylor. By Tuesday, coach Shaka Smart looked shaken and on the verge of tears when he said he couldn’t discuss what was ailing Jones out of “respect for the family.”

On Wednesday, the school announced Jones has been diagnosed with leukemia and had started treatment.

“Speaking for our entire team and staff, we love Andrew and will do everything we can to support his family and help him get back to health,” Smart said in the university statement, and no further details were released.

“We hope everyone will keep him in your thoughts and prayers,” the Jones family said in the statement. “This is obviously a difficult situation for our family, and we hope



AP Photo/Michael Thomas, File

In this March 4, 2017, file photo, Texas guard Andrew Jones dribbles the ball during a game against Baylor, in Austin, Texas.

everyone will respect our privacy at this time.”

Athletic director Chris Del Conte said the school “will do everything in our power to provide all of the resources we can to assist Andrew and his family.”

Jones, who is from Irving in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, averaged nearly 12 points as a freshman and considered leaving for the NBA draft after but returned to Texas after attending the scouting combine. His sister, Alexis, was a standout at Baylor and plays for the WNBA champion Minnesota Lynx.

Jones’ family has dealt

with challenges in the past. Andrew was 7 in 2007 when his father was paralyzed in a car accident on an icy road. Jones was ejected from the car but escaped with only some bruising.

The announcement of Andrew Jones’ illness prompted a wave of support on social media, including Twitter messages from Texas Gov. Greg Abbott and ESPN reporter Holly Rowe, who has battled cancer.

“Gut wrenching news for Andrew Jones. So much love & support for he & his family. We are here for you,” Rowe wrote on Twitter.

NHL

League-leading Lightning get 4 All-Stars as they play host

By STEPHEN WHYNO Associated Press

The league-leading Tampa Bay Lightning’s top performers will be on full display when the city hosts NHL All-Star Weekend later this month.

Top scorer Nikita Kucherov, goaltender Andrei Vasilevskiy and defenseman Victor Hedman will join captain Steven Stamkos for the skills competition and 3-on-3 tournament Jan. 27 and 28 in Tampa, Florida. Kucherov has the most points in the league and Vasilevskiy the most victories in leading the Lightning to an NHL-best 65 points so far this season.

“It’s going to be a great showcase of a hockey city,” Stamkos said. “To be able to share that moment with them is going to be special, especially in front of our home fans who greatly deserve something like this and I’m sure we’ll put on a great show.”

With four players on the Atlantic Division team, Tampa Bay has the most representation for the showcase event. The Los Angeles Kings will send three players to Tampa: center Anze Kopitar, defenseman Drew Doughty and goalie Jonathan Quick. The league announced the full All-Star rosters on Wednesday as selected by the NHL’s hockey operations department.

Sidney Crosby and Kris Letang of the defending Stanley Cup champion Pittsburgh Penguins were added to the Metropolitan Division team that also

NHL All-Star Game

- When: Jan. 28
• Where: Amalie Arena, Tampa, Florida
• TV: NBCSN

includes Washington Capitals winger Alex Ovechkin and goalie Braden Holtby. New York Rangers goalie Henrik Lundqvist was selected to his fourth All-Star Weekend, and Florida Panthers center Aleksander Barkov will head to his first.

“Sasha has earned the right to be counted among the league’s elite,” Panthers general manager Dale Tallon said. “A cornerstone of our franchise, he is among the game’s most exceptional two-way players and is incredibly deserving of this honor.”

The surprise Vegas Golden Knights got two All-Stars: goalie Marc-Andre Fleury and winger James Neal. The expansion franchise is atop the Pacific Division with the most success so far of any NHL team in its inaugural season.

“There could have been a lot of guys from this team that got to go,” Fleury said. “We’ve got so many guys stepping up throughout the season. (Jonathan Marchessault) has 40 points right now. That’s awesome. William Karlsson has scored so many important goals for our team. (Backup goalie Malcolm) Subban has been playing great in net, too. I wish the other guys could do this, too, and be a part of it.”

Reigning Hart Trophy

winner Connor McDavid of the Edmonton Oilers is also on the Pacific Division roster along with Calgary Flames winger Johnny Gaudreau. Nashville Predators goalie Pekka Rinne earned his third All-Star spot, all since 2015, and joins teammate P.K. Subban on the Central Division team.

Vancouver Canucks winger Brock Boeser, who’s tied for fifth in the NHL with 22 goals, is the only rookie and the youngest All-Star at age 20. Boeser said he’ll “be pretty quiet around those types of guys” at All-Star Weekend.

“(It’s) deserving,” Canucks coach Travis Green said “He’s had a lot of good things happen to him this year. He’s a humble kid.”

The two Eastern and Western Conference teams will play each other in the semifinals of the 3-on-3 tournament with the winners facing off for \$1 million.

“I kind of felt like it was not super intense the last time when we were doing it,” said Arizona Coyotes All-Star defenseman Oliver Ekman-Larsson, who will be making his second appearance but his first with the 3-on-3 format. “I watched this past year and it seemed like everybody was skating hard and was playing really hard. I’m super-excited. I kind of like playing 3-on-3 too, so I think it’ll be a good time.”

All 31 teams must have at least one representative with the divisional teams limited to six forwards, three defensemen and two goalies.

SCOREBOARD

Table with columns for Local slate, Prep Standings, COLLEGE MEN'S BASKETBALL, COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL, PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL, PREP WRESTLING, PREP SWIMMING, NBA Atlantic Division, Eastern Conference, Western Conference, NFL Metropolitan Division, Pacific Division, Eastern Conference, Western Conference, Hockey Eastern Conference, Atlantic Division, Western Conference, NHL All-Star Game, and Wednesday's Games.