

MLB

Donaldson, Machado, Bryant, Rendon in arbitration hot corner

By RONALD BLUM
Associated Press

NEW YORK — The hot corner figures to be sizzling Friday when players and teams swap proposed salaries in arbitration.

Toronto's Josh Donaldson, Baltimore's Manny Machado, Washington's Anthony Rendon and the Chicago Cubs' Kris Bryant were among the more than 170 players headed to the exchange. But most are likely to reach agreement Friday, the busiest day of the offseason.

Machado and Donaldson can become free agents after

this season and are expected to command one-year deals approaching or exceeding \$20 million. A three-time All-Star, the 25-year-old Machado hit 259 with 33 homers and 95 RBIs last year, when he made \$11.5 million. He has been mentioned in persistent trade rumors.

Donaldson, 32, is a three-time All-Star and the 2015 AL MVP. He rebounded from an injury-slowed 2016 to hit .270 last season with 33 homers and 78 RBIs. Donaldson earned \$17 million last year in the final season of a \$28.65 million, two-year deal.

Rendon set career bests

with a .301 average, 25 homers and 100 RBIs for the Nationals and made \$5.8 million. The 27-year-old is eligible for free agency after the 2019 season.

Bryant could break the record for highest salary among players eligible for arbitration for the first time, a mark set when first baseman Ryan Howard was awarded a raise from \$900,000 to \$10 million by a three-person panel in 2008 instead of Philadelphia's \$7 million offer.

Bryant, who turned 26 last week, was an All-Star in his first two big league seasons, hitting .292 with 39 homers,

102 RBIs and a MLB-leading 121 runs in 2016, when the Cubs won the World Series for the first time since 1908.

Bryant agreed last March to a \$1.05 million, one-year contract, a record for an unsigned player under club control with less than two years of major league service, and batted .295 with 29 homers and 73 RBIs.

Chicago White Sox first baseman Jose Abreu, Houston pitcher Dallas Keuchel and newly acquired St. Louis outfielder Marcell Ozuna also are among the stars set to swap. Arizona (12) and Boston (10) have

the most players eligible for arbitration.

There were 189 players eligible for arbitration after teams offered contracts on Dec. 1 to unsigned players on their 40-man rosters, and 172 remained set to swap as of Thursday evening. Among those reaching agreements Thursday were Arizona left-hander Patrick Corbin (\$7.5 million), New York Yankees outfielder Aaron Hicks (\$2,825,000), Cleveland reliever Zach McAllister (\$2.45 million), Detroit catcher James McCann (\$2,375,000), Houston outfielder Jake Marisnick

(\$1.9 million), Los Angeles Angels reliever Blake Parker (\$1.8 million) and New York Yankees reliever Tommy Kahnle (\$1,312,500).

For players and teams who fail to reach agreements, hearings will be scheduled for Jan. 29-Feb. 16 in Phoenix.

Teams won eight of 15 decisions last winter, the most hearings since clubs went 10-6 in 2004. Several clubs refused to negotiate after the exchange of proposed arbitration salaries, a so-called "file and trial" strategy.

Teams have a 302-224 edge since arbitration started in 1974.

OSAA CHANGES: Echo could be part of pilot program for 6-man football

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Rock.

Riverside, which has compiled a 18-78 record at the Class 3A level since 2007, has made it clear they are very interested in exercising their option to drop from Class 3A to Class 2A. The Pirates have had declining numbers in recent years and formed a co-op with Lone in 2017. According to the most recent recommendation from the Jan. 9 meeting, Riverside would drop into a district with Heppner, Stanfield, Weston-McEwen, Culver and Grant Union.

"My administration and I are in support of playing in the 2A (classification)," Riverside coach David Boor said in an email. "For us, it is about giving our students a safe and competitive opportunity. This decision is about doing what is best for our student-athletes and every school needs to put their kids in the best position for them to have a great experience academically and athletically."

"For us at this time, 2A football would be the best fit for our student-athletes."

McLoughlin, however, has expressed their interest to remain in Class 4A in a district with La Grande, Baker and Ontario over a drop to 3A with the likes of Vale, Nyssa, Umatilla and Irrigon. The Pioneers, who have a 22-67 overall record and have won just two league games since 2007, have shown signs of improvement in the past two seasons under coach Gary Robertson, and Robertson feels they're better suited at the 4A level.

"Looking at the alignments, the thing I didn't like is all the sudden our kids have a different set of opponents and rivals than in any other sport," Robertson said. "I want all of our guys to have the chance to play the same rivals that they do in other sports."

"And it is incumbent upon me as a coach to get all of my guys to play up at that level," Robertson added. "We had a rough stretch, but I feel like we've made some significant



Echo Cougars RB Zack Gehrke does some quick stepping to evade an lone defender during a 2016 game in Echo. The Cougars could be a part of a pilot program in 2018 to play 6-man football, which is among a few recommendations from an OSAA ad-hoc committee.

strides in that arena and there's still more left."

Pilot Rock, which played a mostly-1A schedule as a 2A independent last season,

will move to the 1A classification in a large district with schools such as Arlington/Condon, Dufur, Adrian, Enterprise, Powder Valley,

Union, Wallowa, and Imbler.

The Oregonian/Oregon Live reported Wednesday that six Class 6A schools — Benson, Cleveland, Wilson, McKay, South Eugene, Forest Grove — would exercise the option to move down to 5A. And in 5A, schools such as Hood River Valley, Parkrose, Springfield, North Eugene, Ridgeview and The Dalles all meet the criteria, but would decline the option. Crook County, which was scheduled to move up from Class 4A to 5A in a league with Pendleton in the OSAA's 2018-2022 alignment, would use its option to stay in 4A.

Two more notable recommendations are intended for the smaller schools. The first is the creation of enrollment zone for schools with adjusted enrollments of 89 to 120 that will give the schools the option to play 11-man or 8-man football to best fit their capabilities. The second one is a pilot program for 6-man football on a two-year trial. Any school with an adjusted enrollment

of 89 or fewer would be eligible for the program, and as of now schools including Echo, Joseph, Monument, Dayville, South Wasco and Prairie City among others have expressed interest.

Six-man football is played on a smaller field — 80 yards long, 40 yards wide — and is widely used by smaller schools across the state of Texas, as well as other western states such as Wyoming, Montana, and Nebraska. Echo has had some success over the past two seasons at the 8-man level, but with only eight returning players slated to return from the 2017 team they may not have the necessary bodies to compete. Echo coach Rick Thew could not be reached for comment by press time.

The committee's next meeting Jan. 31 at 9 a.m. at OSAA office in Wilsonville and it is open to the public.

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BEAVERS: Stay in Arizona, face Sun Devils Saturday

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how well they communicate. They do a really good job."

The Beavers took a 12-2 lead over the cold-shooting Wildcats, an early spurt capped by Tinkle's 3-pointer.

Tinkle's inside basket gave Oregon State a 22-15 lead 5:30 before the break but the Beavers never scored again in the half. Instead, Ira Lee's three-point play on a breakaway stuff and Trier's 3-pointer cut the lead to 22-21 with 3:11 to go, and neither team could score again before halftime.

Arizona finally got the lead with six straight points, including a breakaway dunk by Trier and a spinning reverse dunk by Alkins, both baskets off turnovers, and the Wildcats were up 29-26 with 16:30 to play.

It was back and forth after that until Ayton's rebound basket put Arizona ahead for good, 40-39 with 7:33 left. That ignited the 16-3 run that finally put the game under control for the Wildcats. Alkins scored seven in the surge, capping it with a



Arizona guard Allonzo Trier (35) drives past Oregon State guard Stephen Thompson Jr. during Thursday's game in Tucson, Ariz.

AP Photo/Rick Scuteri

"It was what I had hoped for," Miller said. "We're a team that's really practicing hard. We've had four really hard days coming off of the Colorado game. Sometimes that's what you need, an opportunity to learn. And there's no better learning opportunity than when you fail."

BIG PICTURE

OSU: The Beavers have patience and enough talent to cause problems against opponents, even in the highly unfriendly environment of McKale Center. They could be especially dangerous when teams come to Corvallis.

ARIZONA: The Wildcats were lulled into ineffectiveness throughout the first half but finally won with their defense. That's the part of the game Miller wants to emphasize in his frustrating efforts with the highly talented but inconsistent team.

UP NEXT

Oregon State: at Arizona State on Saturday.

Arizona: hosts Oregon on Saturday.



Oregon forward Paul White (13) drives past Arizona State guard Tra Holder (0) to score during the first half of Thursday's game in Tempe, Ariz.

AP Photo/Ross D. Franklin

DUCKS: A huge road win

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finding De'Quon Lake on an alley-oop pass that brought the crowd to its feet.

But the Ducks answered with two quick baskets, including a layup when the Sun Devils didn't get back on defense to build the lead back to seven.

BIG PICTURE

Oregon picked up a huge road win in a game that can get the Ducks headed back in the right direction.

UP NEXT

Oregon faces No. 17 Arizona on Saturday, the Ducks' first back-to-back road games against ranked opponents since 2006-07.

SCOREBOARD

Local slate

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL				
Friday	Pilot Rock at Culver, 4:30 ap.m.	Stanfield at Heppner, 6 p.m.	Sunset at Hermiston, 7 p.m.	Mac-Hi at La Grande, 7 p.m.
Saturday	Condon/Wheeler at Sherman, 7 p.m.	Irrigon at Umatilla, 7:30 p.m.	Horizon Christian at Lone, 7:30 p.m.	Arlington at Dufur, 7:30 p.m.
Friday	Echo at Powder Valley, 7:30 p.m.	Nixyaawii at Helix, 7:30 p.m.		
Saturday	Culver at Stanfield, 2:30 p.m.	Weston-McEwen at Heppner, 4 p.m.	Umatilla at Burns, 5 p.m.	Wallowa at Echo, 5 p.m.
Friday	Pine Eagle at Nixyaawii, 5:30 p.m.	Lone at South Wasco, 5:30 p.m.	Sherman at Arlington, 5:30 p.m.	Dufur at Condon/Wheeler, 5:30 p.m.
Saturday	Hermiston at La Grande, 7:30 p.m.			
PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL				
Friday	Mac-Hi at La Grande, 6 p.m.	Irrigon at Umatilla, 6 p.m.	Pilot Rock at Culver, 6 p.m.	Arlington at Nixyaawii, 6 p.m.
Saturday	Condon/Wheeler at Sherman, 6 p.m.	Horizon Christian at Lone, 6 p.m.	Echo at Powder Valley, 6 p.m.	Nixyaawii at Helix, 6 p.m.
Saturday	Culver at Stanfield, 4 p.m.	Lone at South Wasco, 4 p.m.	Dufur at Condon/Wheeler, 4 p.m.	Sherman at Arlington, 4 p.m.
Friday	Hermiston, Pendleton, Mac-Hi, Riverside, Irrigon, Heppner at Oregon Classic (Redmond)			
Saturday	Hermiston, Pendleton, Mac-Hi, Riverside, Irrigon, Heppner at Oregon Classic (Redmond)			
Friday	Echo at Bonanza Invtive			

PREP SWIMMING				
Saturday	Pendleton, Hermiston at Baker, Noon			
COLLEGE MEN'S BASKETBALL				
Friday	Multnomah at EOU, 7:30 p.m.			
Saturday	BMCC at Columbia Basin, 4 p.m.	Warner Pacific at EOU, 7:30 p.m.		
COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL				
Friday	Multnomah at EOU, 5:30 p.m.			
Saturday	BMCC at Columbia Basin, 2 p.m.	Warner Pacific at EOU, 5:30 p.m.		
COLLEGE WRESTLING				
Saturday	EOU vs. North Idaho (at Missoula, MT)			

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL				
5A COLUMBIA RIVER CONFERENCE				
	Lg	Ovr	PS	PA Rnk
The Dalles	0-0	7-5	727	11
Pendleton	0-0	7-6	682	12
Hermiston	0-0	4-7	643	18
Hood River	0-0	4-9	739	23
4A GREATER OREGON LEAGUE				
	Lg	Ovr	PS	PA Rnk
La Grande	1-0	8-6	854	782
Baker	1-0	8-7	905	881
Mac-Hi	0-1	10-5	720	652
Ontario	0-1	5-10	743	836
3A EASTERN OREGON LEAGUE				
	Lg	Ovr	PS	PA Rnk
Irrigon	1-0	12-0	799	514
Nyssa	1-0	9-4	681	673
Umatilla	0-0	12-3	936	634
Burns	0-0	7-8	688	659
Riverside	0-1	7-7	642	672
Vale	0-1	4-9	547	639
2A COLUMBIA BASIN CONFERENCE				
	Lg	Ovr	PS	PA Rnk
Pilot Rock	0-0	9-6	868	725
Stanfield	0-0	7-8	716	879
Heppner	0-0	5-6	543	583
Weston-McEwen	0-0	5-10	747	843
Culver	0-0	4-12	683	868
1A BIG SKY LEAGUE				
	Lg	Ovr	PS	PA Rnk
Condon/Wheel.	3-0	9-4	859	699
Sherman	2-0	10-1	726	455
Horizon Christ.	1-1	7-4	567	551
Arlington	1-1	5-6	593	568

PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL				
5A COLUMBIA RIVER CONFERENCE				
	Lg	Ovr	PS	PA Rnk
Pendleton	0-0	8-5	656	669
Hood River	0-0	8-5	554	597
The Dalles	0-0	4-7	449	469
Hermiston	0-0	2-10	468	572
4A GREATER OREGON LEAGUE				
	Lg	Ovr	PS	PA Rnk
Baker	1-0	13-1	822	520
La Grande	1-0	6-7	614	602
Ontario	0-1	6-10	641	638
Mac-Hi	0-1	2-13	447	801
3A EASTERN OREGON LEAGUE				
	Lg	Ovr	PS	PA Rnk
Burns	1-0	9-5	665	559
Nyssa	1-0	7-6	571	493
Irrigon	1-1	12-2	702	473
Vale	1-1	4-9	453	569
Umatilla	0-0	3-11	430	627
Riverside	0-2	11-4	624	450
2A COLUMBIA BASIN CONFERENCE				
	Lg	Ovr	PS	PA Rnk
Pilot Rock	0-0	10-5	666	527
Culver	0-0	9-5	578	510
Heppner	0-0	8-3	558	455
Weston-McEwen	0-0	8-6	728	654
Stanfield	0-0	2-11	390	629
1A BIG SKY LEAGUE				
	Lg	Ovr	PS	PA Rnk
South Wasco	2-0	9-3	575	443
Horizon Christ.	2-0	5-6	437	460
Condon/Wheel.	2-1	2-11	415	631
Dufur	1-1	5-6	428	478
Sherman	1-1	3-7	325	533
Ione	0-1	1-10	363	583
Mitch/Spray	0-2	5-5	265	368
Arlington	0-2	1-4	119	199
1A OLD OREGON LEAGUE				
	Lg	Ovr	PS	PA Rnk
Nixyaawii	4-0	13-0	964	363
Powder Valley	3-1	13-1	715	482
Joseph	3-1	9-2	554	355
Helix	3-1	9-5	617	537

NBA				
Cleveland at Indiana, 4 p.m.				
Orlando at Washington, 4 p.m.				
Utah at Charlotte, 4 p.m.				
Brooklyn at Atlanta, 4:30 p.m.				
Golden State at Milwaukee, 5 p.m.				
New York at Minnesota, 5 p.m.				
Portland at New Orleans, 5 p.m.				
Memphis at Denver, 6 p.m.				
Houston at Phoenix, 7:30 p.m.				
NCAA Men's Basketball				
Top 25 Schedule				
Thursday				
NC State 78, No. 19 Clemson 77				
No. 15 Gonzaga 103, Portland 57				
No. 5 Wichita State 95, ECU 60				
No. 17 Arizona 62, Oregon State 53				
Oregon 76, No. 11 Arizona State 72				
Pac-12 Schedule				
Thursday				
No. 17 Arizona 62, Oregon St 53				
No. 17 Arizona 62, Oregon State 53				
Stanford 79, Washington St. 70				
UCLA 83, Utah 64				
Washington 66, Cal 56				
NCAA Women's Basketball				
Top 25 Schedule				
Thursday				
No. 9 South Carolina 71, Auburn 63				
No. 17 Texas A&M 79, No. 6 Tennessee 76				
No. 13 FSU 105, Miami 67				
No. 3 Louisville 100, No. 2 Notre Dame 67				
Wake Forest 67, No. 16 Duke 80				
No. 12 Missouri 81, Vanderbilt 70				
Michigan State 82, No. 11 Maryland, 5 p.m.				
No. 25 Green Bay 65, Youngstown St. 56				
No. 4 Miss. St. 76, Ole Miss 45				
Friday				
No. 18 Arizona St at No. 22 Oregon St, 6 p.m.				
No. 14 UCLA at Utah, 7 p.m.				
Arizona at No. 8 Oregon, 8 p.m. (PAC12)				
Washington at No. 24 Cal, 8 p.m				