

Pro Football

Eight elected to Hall of Fame

Pasco native Urlacher, Randy Moss, Terrell Owens highlight 2018 class

By JOSH DUBOW
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MINNEAPOLIS — Ray Lewis and Brian Urlacher terrorized opposing offenses from the middle of the field. Randy Moss and Terrell Owens did the same to defenses on the outside. The two hard-hitting linebackers and two big-play receivers highlighted an eight-person class voted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame on Saturday. Safety Brian Dawkins also received at least 80 percent support from the 47 Hall of Fame voters, along with contributor Bobby Beathard and senior nominees Jerry Kramer and Robert Brazile.

But the biggest stars of the class are the two linebackers that made it on their first tries, and the pair of lightning-rod receiver who sometimes caused as many problems for their own teams as for the opposition. Moss also made it on his first try, while Owens needed to wait for his third year on the ballot to get enough support.

Moss and Owens each played for five teams in their careers as they often wore out their welcome with their inability to get along with teammates and coaches at times.

But at their best, there were few players ever able to strike fear in defenses as much as Moss and Owens, who were both all-decade selections for the 2000s.

“The door knocked and I started getting excited,” Moss said of Hall of Fame President David Baker alerting him he has been elected. “All the emotions caught the best of me because it’s been a long journey and it ends in the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Tears of joy.”

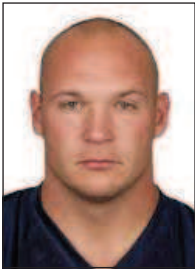
Moss led the NFL in TD catches five times, including his record 23 for New England in 2007, and earned four All-Pro selections. He finished his career with 982 catches for 15,292 yards and ranks second all-time with 156 TD receptions.

Owens ranks second to Jerry Rice with 15,934 yards receiving and is third on the all-time touchdowns receiving list with 153.

Lewis is widely considered one of the greatest middle linebackers, winning two AP Defensive Player of the Year awards and earning eight All-Pro selections. He anchored a dominant defense for the 2000 Baltimore Ravens in a season that ended with him winning Super Bowl MVP, then retired as a champion after Baltimore closed his last season with a title win over San Francisco in February 2013.

Urlacher wasn’t far behind Lewis with his play on the field and is the latest in a line of great Chicago middle linebackers to make the Hall, joining Butkus, Singletary and Bill George. He was the Defensive Player of the Year of 2005 and joined Lewis on the 2000s all-decade team.

Dawkins spent most of his 16-year career in Philadelphia, earning five first-team All-Pro selections for his versatility that included 37 career interceptions and 26 career sacks. He became the first player in NFL history with a sack, interception, fumble recovery and touchdown catch in the same game against Houston in 2002.



Urlacher

DISTRICTS:

Hermiston transfer Bevan wins district title for Echo at 195 with major decision

Continued from 1B

ended things in 5:06 for the win and the third place finish. “I saw that he was getting tired and I figured mentally I was ahead of him and I knew I’d be alright,” Butler said. “It’s my senior year and I have a lot to lose because after this I’m not doing any spring sports ... so I had to leave it all on the mat.”

In front of the home crowd, Barker didn’t feel any pressure when he was down in the championship match against Nyssa sophomore Raul Ruiz.

Tied at 2-2 after the first round, Ruiz took a narrow 5-4 lead, but as the four-year veteran knows, anything can happen on the mat. So, Barker fought through the pain of a sprained ankle and tied the score again at six points apiece. After a two-point reversal for Barker and then a one-point escape credited to Ruiz, Barker finally took the lead for good with a two-point take down to win his first-ever district title by a 10-7 decision.

“I’ve wrestled for so long that it’s not really stressful anymore when I’m losing or winning, but I just wrestled my match and fought through the pain,” he said.

And of the win, Barker added: “It just all around makes me feel pretty good that my senior year I won a district title in front of the home crowd.”

Five other wrestlers will join Barker at state, starting with sophomore Fernando Ortega, who won the 106-pound district title by fall in 3:04 over Nyssa freshman Efrain Caldera. Joining them will be Abraham Silva (2nd place, 113), Christian Reyes (3rd, 132), Ethan Snyder (3rd, 138) and Ivan Salgado (2nd, 182).

“At the beginning of the year, I didn’t know if we could get more than five (wrestlers to state), so getting six we overachieved,” head coach Richard Rockwell said.

Irrigon brought 12 wrestlers to the district tournament, and all 12 placed in the top six of their respective weight class.

For Miranda-Walls, his first place finish couldn’t have come at a better time.

“I’m just really happy that I won, it’s been three years, it’s been tough but I’m glad



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Echo's Kenneth Bevan puts Irrigon's Brady Harrington into a cradle in the 195-pound match at the 3A district 3 tournament Saturday in Boardman.



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Riverside's Andrew Barker attempts to pin Nyssa's Raul Ruiz in the 120-pound match at the 3A district 3 tournament Saturday in Boardman.

it’s all starting to pay off,” he said after defeating sophomore Adam Simpson of Nyssa by a 5-4 decision.

Against a tough Nyssa opponent, Miranda-Walls didn’t fell much pressure.

“As soon as I won my semi’s match I was like, ‘This is it, I’m going to state for the first time,’” he said. “So, when I went into the (final) match all of the pressure didn’t feel like it was on me so I just let loose and I knew (Simpson) was a tough kid, but I just went out there and did what I thought I could do and it put me at the top.”

The 170-pound final match came down to the final seconds. After Miranda-Walls, who is 30-6 on the season, lead 3-1 going into the third and final round, Simpson began to chip away at his deficit. With 20 seconds left in the match, each wrestler had three points to their name but it was Miran-

da-Walls who would earn the final points and the district title.

The full day of wrestling gave spectators plenty of entertaining matches, and the local wrestlers fared well against a tough field.

Butler joins four other Cougars who will be making the trip to Portland on Feb. 16. Fellow senior Kyle Ranger, who made it to state in 2016 but was knocked out in the second round, will have one last chance to take the podium.

Ranger made it through the first round by pinning Vale’s Chris Mohammed in 2:41, but then moved to the consolation bracket after facing Irrigon’s Silvestre Vasquez. Vasquez won by fall in 4:58 and would go on to win first place by defeating fellow Knight Kyler Shelton by a 11-2 major decision.

Ranger’s fate would again come down to a bout against

Mohammed, as the two met again in the third place match. He improved after their first showing and pinned Mohammed in 1:34.

The Cougars had three wrestlers make it to the finals, all guaranteed a spot at the state tournament. Senior Hayden Hilliard (132) and junior Mychael Pointer (145) finished in second place, and in one of the final matches of the day, senior Kenneth Bevan (195) earned Echo’s only first place finish.

Bevan, a Hermiston transfer who is 41-6 on the season, defeated Irrigon’s Brady Harrington by a 15-6 major decision.

“We did well, we wrestled well,” head coach Monty Toombs said. “We were focused, we had a plan and stuck to it. It was a good weekend for us. Out of our four years, this is the first season we’ve had kids in the finals and the most we’ve ever taken to state is two and now we’re taking five. So, it’s been a good season.”

Seven Knights are going to state, including Miranda-Walls. Juniors Silvestre Vasquez and Kyler Shelton were guaranteed the trip when they both made it into the 126-pound finals. Vasquez would go on to defeat his fellow Knight, and win the district title by an 11-2 major decision.

Shelton, along with Harrington — the Irrigon junior that was defeated by Bevan — and junior Kaleb Kendrick (285) each finished in second place.

“I’m very proud of my kids and always have been from Day 1,” head coach Jason Duntun said. “As (coaches) we’ve always had big goals and our goals sometimes don’t align with the kids goals but this year they did. Our goal was to take seven or more and this year it happened.”

Nyssa, the reigning district champions for the past three years, continued its reign by handily taking home the team district title with 270 points.

Burns followed in second place with 206.5, and Irrigon rounded out the top three with 160.5 points.

Riverside (148), Vale (129.5) and Echo (109) finished fourth, fifth and sixth, respectively.

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