

# Griffin steals show as Seahawks show commitment

By **TIM BOOTH**  
Associated Press

RENTON, Wash. — Shaquem Griffin deservedly received the bulk of the attention when the Seattle Seahawks drafted the star linebacker with one hand in the fifth round and reunited him with his twin brother Shaquill.

But aside from Griffin's selection, general manager John Schneider and coach Pete Carroll made clear the Seahawks intent to re-establish the core tenants of how they want to play: run the ball, play aggressive defense and rely on field position.

It started in the first round with the selection of San Diego State running back Rashaad Penny and continued through the nine selections made.

After an eventful offseason that's seen Seattle overhaul its coaching staff and say goodbye to some key veterans, the Seahawks needed to have a successful draft. Recent drafts have



Jae S. Lee/The Dallas Morning News via AP

**NFL Network's Scott Hanson talks with Seattle cornerback Shaquill Griffin, center, and Seahawks fourth round pick Shaquem Griffin on stage during the NFL football draft in Arlington, Texas, Saturday.**

been filled with more misses than hits and started to catch up with Seattle last season when the depth wasn't there to overcome key injuries.

"We feel like we made great decisions all the way through and we'll see how it goes. You always feel that way right after," Schneider said.

Here's what else to know about Seattle's nine picks, including seven on the final day:

**END OF THE ROAD:** The end may be near for the longest-tenured Seahawks player.

Seattle traded up in the fifth round to draft Texas punter Michael Dickson,

who left school early for a chance at the NFL. Dickson was regarded as the top punter available in the draft and could be a sign that Jon Ryan's tenure in Seattle is coming to an end. Ryan has been with the team since 2008 and has two years left on his contract with Seattle but counts \$3.2 million against the salary cap in 2018 and \$3.6 million in 2019.

Both Carroll and Schneider insisted Ryan will be part of the punting competition.

Dickson averaged 47.4 yards per punt as a junior, was a two-time Big 12 special teams player of the year, and was the Ray Guy Award winner in 2017. Perhaps most impressive, Dickson was the MVP of the Texas Bowl victory over Missouri after downing 10 of his 11 punts inside the 20-yard line.

"He can do stuff with the ball we haven't seen yet so we're really intrigued to see how that translates," Schneider said.

**RUNNIN' DOWN A DREAM:** Seattle continued to focus on improving its run game on offense by drafting Washington tight end Will Dissly in the fourth round.

"We thought he was the best blocker in the draft," Carroll said.

Dissly arrived at Washington as a defensive end but transitioned to tight end for his final two seasons. While blocking is his strength, Dissly also had 21 receptions and two TDs as a senior. Dissly is the first Washington player drafted by the Seahawks since another tight end, Jerramy Stevens, was selected in the first round in 2002.

**POSTION SWITCH:** It wouldn't be a Seattle draft without at least one player switching positions. But this one makes sense as the Seahawks intend to use Tre Flowers at cornerback. Flowers was primarily a safety at Oklahoma State, but his size makes him a perfect fit for cornerback in Seattle. Flowers is 6-foot-3 with long

arms and has experience playing some cornerback in college.

**SLIDING DOWN:** A gem of Seattle's draft could end up being Ohio State offensive tackle Jamarco Jones, selected late in the fifth round. Jones was rated by Pro Football Focus as the No. 3 offensive tackle available in the draft, but was taken with the 168th overall selection. Seattle projects Jones as a left tackle.

**QB CALLING:** For just the second time in nine drafts, the Seahawks used a draft pick on a quarterback. Florida International QB Alex McGough was selected with Seattle's final pick, No. 220 overall in the seventh round. Seattle indicated this may be the year it takes a QB to develop behind Russell Wilson, the only other QB drafted by the team since 2010. McGough threw for 2,791 yards and 17 TDs as a senior, but suffered a broken collarbone in the opening minutes of FIU's bowl game in December.

# ROUNDUP: Saturday's prep action in softball, baseball, track

Continued from 1B

Rachael Lyon also had a standout day after a near perfect performance. Lyon was 3-for-4 with one RBI while scoring twice

**UNION 14-15, HEPPNER 1-5** — After winning its first two games in nearly a month, the Heppner softball team struggled to get its bats going on the road against Union.

The Bobcats took both games of Saturday's doubleheader by at least 10 runs, enforcing the run rule and cutting both games short.

In Game 1, Union won 14-1 and in Game 2, the Bobcats handed the Mustangs a 15-5 loss.

The outing puts Heppner at 7-9 overall and 2-6 in the 2A/1A Special District 6.

**PILOT ROCK 18-23, CULVER 1-2** — Two big road wins for the Pilot Rock Rockets put them in sole possession of first place in the 2A/1A Special District 6. A 18-1 and 23-2 win over Culver on Saturday edged out second-place Union.

The pair of wins come after a lone loss that snapped Pilot Rock's 13-game win streak. The victories move the Rockets to 15-2 overall and 7-1 in league.

**BASEBALL BAKER 7-9, MAC-HI 5-5** — In Milton-Freewater, the Mac-Hi Pioneers dropped a doubleheader with the visiting Baker Bulldogs on Saturday 7-5 and 9-5.

Baker got out to an early 3-0 lead after the first three innings of play. Mac-Hi responded with a lone hit in the bottom of the third and three more in the next frame to take a one-run lead. Each team scored a run in the sixth to keep the game close, but it was the Bulldogs (9-8 overall, 4-4 Greater Oregon League) who rallied in the seventh inning. The three-run frame put Baker ahead for good.

Jesus Vela was given the loss after toeing the rubber for 6 1/3 innings for the Pioneers (6-11, 0-8). Vela surrendered seven runs on seven hits, struck out six and walked two.

Offensively, Anthony Hardesty had the most success at the plate after going 2-for-3 with one RBI and scoring twice.

In Game 2, the Bulldogs again put three runs on the board in the first three innings but the Pioneers responded with a lone run in the first. They added to their total in the sixth and seventh innings with a pair of runs in each, but it wasn't enough to catch up to Baker.

David Zitterkopf took the loss after two innings of work. Zitterkopf gave up one run and two hits while striking out none and walking two. Mac-Hi cycled in two other pitchers but neither could stop the hit-happy Bulldogs.

This time around, Rudy Esparza led the offensive efforts going 2-for-3 at the plate and scoring once. Vela and Devin Humbert hit the

only RBIs in Game 2.

## TRACK AND FIELD

**JOSEPH** — On Saturday, Heppner, Weston-McEwen and Pilot Rock joined four other schools at the Jo-Hi Invite at Bill McCadden Memorial track.

The local schools fared well in the seven-team fields with the Heppner boys squad taking home first place (160 points) and the Weston-McEwen girls team claiming second place (130 points).

The TigerScot boys placed fourth (92) and Pilot Rock's boys team edged out Imbler for sixth place (36). On the girls side, the Rockets finished in fourth place (57) and Heppner fell into sixth place (55) after a two-way tie for fourth.

Among the top finishers was Kelen McGill of Weston-McEwen, who grabbed first place in the boys 100-meter dash after clocking 11.95 seconds, and Jacob Speed got his own first place finish in the 200-meter dash (23.62) and 400-meter dash (51.94).

Heppner's middle- and long-distance runners also claimed top spots. Hunter Nichols won the 800-meter race (2:03.12) and Trevor Antonucci finished first in the 1,500-meter run (4:35.58). Nichols also competed in the 3,000 meters where he beat out the competition by nearly 10 seconds (10:49.27).

The local schools also had first place finishes in field events, including Heppner's Derek Howard in shot put (48-01.00), Weston-McEw-

en's Cody Caldwell in the discus throw (113-01.50) and Heppner's Alex Lindsay in the high jump (5-10.00).

For the girls, Heppner's Siobhan Holman finished first in the 100-meter hurdles (18.29) and had the best performance on the track.

In the field, Maddi Muilenburg of Weston-McEwen was first in shot put after recording 26-07.00. Muilenburg continued her success in the javelin throw after handily taking first place (99-11).

**ONTARIO** — In Ontario on Saturday, Mac-Hi competed at the Saint Alphonsus Invitational at Ontario High School. There were a total of 19 teams and the Pioneers finished in the middle of the pack in both the boys and girls competition.

The Pioneer boys squad tied for 10th place with Payette after both schools recorded 25 points, and the girls placed eighth with 36 points — only one point ahead of a two-way tie for ninth place.

For the girls, Brianna Hernandez had one of the better outings, finishing fourth in the 400-meter dash. Her time of 1:04.39 was a new personal best. Hernandez turned around and competed again in the 800 meters where she finished fifth in 2:38.96, also a new personal record (PR). In the 3,000-meters, Mekenna Simpson grabbed fourth place with a new PR (12:21.13) and that rounded out the top performances

on the track. Bianca Garcia highlighted the field events after winning first in the javelin throw (134-07.00).

For the boys, Leo Llamas finished fourth in the 1,500-meter race. His time of 4:29.89 was a new personal best. Llamas also PRed in the 3,000 meters after clocking 10:07.20, which was good for third place.

**MORO** — Echo, Irrigon, Stanfield and Helix joined a number of other schools at Sherman County School on Saturday for the Sherman Invitational.

The Helix girls team finished first out of the 12-team field with 120 points — besting second-place Sherman by over 40 points. Stanfield placed fourth (60 points), Irrigon finished sixth (41) and Echo rounded out the local schools in 11th place with 11 points.

For the boys, Helix finished sixth after tallying 54 points, Stanfield placed eighth (33) and both Echo and Irrigon tied for 10th with 12 points apiece.

Some of the top performances on the track included, Stanfield's Mayra Cardona and Kylee McClure. Cardona placed second in the girls 100-meter dash (14.08) while McClure took the top spot in the 200 meters (29.70).

Helix swept the 800 meters as Gavin Newton ran a new personal best for first place in the boys race (2:10.25) and Hannah Christman claimed first in the girls race (2:32.93). The

Grizzlies showed off their strength in the longer races with Lucy Case also earning a first place finish in the girls 1,500 meters (5:26.06).

In the field, Sadie Wilson and Kailey Mize took home top finishes again for Helix in the shot put (30-06.00) and discus throw (102-03), respectively. Stanfield's Rebecca Reynolds and Brook Lopez finished first in third respective events. Reynolds cleared 4-08.00 in the high jump and Lopez cleared 8-00.00 in the pole vault.

On the boys side, Helix's Sam Carlson also finished first in the discus (124-07).

## GOLF

**ENTERPRISE** — At the Enterprise Invitational at Alpine Meadows Golf Course on Friday, the Heppner Mustang boys and girls teams both took home first place finishes.

The Mustang boys scored a 370 to hold off Enterprise (407), Grant Union (418), Imbler (429) and Cove (482) for the team title. Kellen Grant tied with Enterprise's Brycen Locke for medalist honors with an 83. Following Grant for the Mustangs was Logan Burreight with a 91, Cason Mitchell (96), Reno Ferguson (100), and Casey Fletcher (102).

The Mustang girls shot a 384 to beat La Grande (444) as the only other full team. Nicole Prophetor and Sophie Grant tied with a team-best 92, while Sasha Keown shot a 96, Madison Combe a 104, and Clair Grieb a 108.

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