

SCANDAL: Meyer’s future depends on how he manages allegations of knowledge

Continued from 1B

Co-offensive coordinator Ryan Day has been named acting head coach. “Due to the ongoing investigation, football coaches and student-athletes will not be available for interviews until further notice and all practices will be closed,” Ohio State spokesman Jerry Emig said in an email.

Meyer’s future with one of the most storied programs in college football depends on how he managed allegations that Buckeyes assistant and recruiting coordinator Zach Smith abused his ex-wife, Courtney Smith — answering the questions of what Meyer knew and when.

Courtney Smith alleged Wednesday that she told Meyer’s wife, Shelley, about the abuse in text messages and phone conversations in 2015 and that Shelley Meyer indicated she would tell the head coach. Courtney Smith’s allegations — including the text messages — were reported by former ESPN reporter Brett McMurphy on his Facebook page and in a video interview with Smith.

“In 2015 I came forward with it,” Courtney Smith said in the interview. “I told Shelley, I sent her some pictures (of her injuries), I spoke to her on the phone.”

Meyer told reporters last week that he didn’t know anything about the 2015 incident. It is not clear what contact Meyer had, if any, with university officials about the situation until Smith was fired last month. Smith has never been criminally charged.

Separately, a court hearing for Zach Smith was postponed Thursday on a domestic protection order sought by his ex-wife. She asked for the order after a July 20 disagreement and the court action resulted in Zach Smith being fired from Ohio State, where he was set to make \$340,000 for the 2018 season. The Smiths are due in court in September and their lawyers did not respond to messages seeking comment Thursday.

Ohio State is investigating Meyer while also facing three federal lawsuits about its response to allegations of groping, leering and other misconduct by a deceased athletic department doctor who treated wrestlers and other students for two decades. The lawsuits alleging sexual abuse by Dr. Richard Strauss say Ohio State facilitated the abuse by ignoring complaints.

Since Ohio State announced an independent investigation in April, more than 100 former students have come forward with accounts of sexual misconduct by Strauss. The allegations range from 1979 to 1997 and involve male athletes from 14 sports, as well as his work at the student health center and his off-campus medical office.

The questions confronting Meyer involve whether he vouched too strongly for a coach he’s considered family. The 34-year-old Zach Smith is the grandson of Meyer’s mentor and former Ohio State coach Earle Bruce. He played for Meyer as a walk-on at Bowling Green, worked for him at Florida and was hired as the wide receivers coach when Meyer came to Ohio State in 2012.

Meyer acknowledged last week that he had been aware of a 2009 domestic-abuse incident in Gainesville. He said he and Shelley counseled the couple and allowed Zach Smith to remain on his staff.

Meyer ended up as the Ohio State coach because of a previous football scandal. Coach Jim Tressel was fired in 2011 for lying to the NCAA and university of about rules violations committed by some of his players.

The Ohio State probe bears similarities to scandals past for other big-time college programs, centering on whether a team’s leader properly reported potential wrongdoing. The similarity prompted the son of late Penn State coach Joe Paterno to weigh in with his opinion about public response criticizing Meyer, comparing Meyer’s situation with the Jerry Sandusky child sex abuse scandal.

Jay Paterno, who was an assistant coach to his father and is currently an elected Penn State trustee, said in a blog post that “we should wait for facts” before calling for the Buckeyes coach to be fired.

Joe Paterno’s career four-decade career as Penn State coach ended when he was fired amid questions about how much he knew about Sandusky’s past crimes and whether he acted appropriately with allegations he was told of by an assistant coach.

“As Penn Staters, we’ve seen the forces of innuendo, implication and allegation damage the lives and careers of good innocent people,” Jay Paterno wrote, saying Americans should demand more.



AP Photo/Rick Scuteri, File

In this Jan. 1, 2016, photo, Ohio State head coach Urban Meyer hugs his wife, Shelley, after their 44-28 win over Notre Dame in the Fiesta Bowl.



AP Photo/John Locher, File

In this Dec. 30, 2016, file photo, Cody Garbrandt, left, tries to kick Dominick Cruz during a bantamweight championship mixed martial arts bout at UFC 207 in Las Vegas.

Grudge match highlights UFC 227

Feud between Garbrandt, Dillashaw goes to mats Saturday

By GREG BEACHAM
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES — Cody Garbrandt and T.J. Dillashaw have one of the UFC’s most compelling feuds of recent years. This beef is rooted in betrayal and tribalism, and it led to the demolition of a once-cordial relationship between training partners.

The feud persisted even after Dillashaw knocked out Garbrandt and took his bantamweight title belt last year, following months of verbal sparring and pre-fight scuffling.

Their rematch at Staples Center on Saturday night is the main event of UFC 227. It’s also the chance for a particularly personal victory for both men, who declined to shake hands at their ceremonial faceoff Thursday in downtown Los Angeles.

“I prefer to be respectful,” Dillashaw said Thursday. “I prefer to be a martial artist, so I like a respect

level, but I don’t mind the drama, either. I’m going to use it to my advantage.”

Garbrandt (11-1) and Dillashaw (15-3) actually have plenty in common. They’re both well-conditioned, gifted strikers who became elite competitors at Team Alpha Male, Urijah Faber’s famed gym in Sacramento. They’ve also both become first-time fathers in the nine months since their last bout.

But they simply haven’t gotten along ever since Dillashaw won the bantamweight title and also left Alpha Male in 2014. To make an epic story short, Dillashaw says he was thrown out because he wouldn’t break ties with coach Duane Ludwig, who had just split acrimoniously from Faber. Several Alpha Male fighters, including Garbrandt, say Dillashaw turned his back on them.

“Let him say what he wants, but that motivates me,” Garbrandt said. “If

you say you’re going to ruin my career and basically take food out of my child’s mouth, that’s fine. I didn’t need any more motivation with my new son, and while I’m coming off my first loss, I’ve been more motivated than I ever have out of any win.”

Any viewer of the pay-per-view show can’t miss the clear contrast between Garbrandt, the rural Ohio product with prominent neck tattoos, and Dillashaw, the clean-cut college graduate with a California surfer look. But the rematch primarily is a collision of two fighters with legitimate reason to think they’re the best in the 135-pound division.

Garbrandt rocketed to the top of the class, winning the belt less than two years after entering the UFC. He lost his title in equally stunning fashion last November to Dillashaw, who reclaimed the strap he had lost to Dominick Cruz nearly two years earlier.

During his ascent, Garbrandt appeared to be the archetype of the most compelling lighter-weight fighters. He was slick, athletic, stylistically well-rounded and powerful enough to generate knockouts — and he looked the part of a mixed martial arts star, right down to those tattoos that spread down his resplendently multicolored arms. Garbrandt’s neck is covered by large wings flanking a diamond, with the words “SELF MADE” atop his sternum.

He seemed ticketed for superstardom — until Dillashaw, the former Cal State Fullerton wrestler whose only losses in the last six years were on debatable split decisions, wrecked the narrative with his fists.

Immediately after their bout at Madison Square Garden, Garbrandt claims he tried to quash their grudge, but Dillashaw rejected him. Dillashaw says he isn’t to blame for not wanting Garbrandt around him.

MARINERS: Blue Jays score 3 times in top of ninth

Continued from 1B

innings.

The Mariners cut the lead to 4-3 in the bottom of the eighth when Cruz hit a solo homer to right field off Toronto reliever Joe Biagini. But the Blue Jays scored three times in the top of the ninth on two Mariners errors and Solarte’s two-run homer.

Mariners second baseman Dee Gordon exited the game with a team trainer in the ninth after landing awkwardly while trying to catch third baseman Kyle Seager’s throw.

TRAINER’S ROOM Blue Jays: Manager John Gibbons said outfielder Kevin Pillar, on the disabled list since July 15 (sprained



AP Photo/Ted S. Warren

Toronto Blue Jays’ Kendrys Morales looks up as he crosses the plate with a two-run home run.

sternoclavicular joint) could join the team in Seattle and

be activated without rehabbing in the minor leagues.

SCOREBOARD

Golf

Oregon Senior Open Invitational				
Wildhorse Golf Course, Pendleton				
Final results, Thursday				
Place	name	Final	R1	R2 R3
1,	Coston, Jeff	-15	68	67 66
2,	Hanson, Erik (a)	-14	67	65 70
3,	Sovay, Tom	-10	68	69 70
T4,	Carranza, Joe	-9	64	74 69
T4,	Marsh, Jeff	-9	68	73 66
T4,	O'Donnell, Pat (a)	-9	69	68 70
T7,	Kerns, Mike (a)	-8	67	68 73
T7,	Stull, Steve	-8	69	70 69
9,	Gove, Mike	-7	69	70 70
T10,	Bomar, Billy	-6	70	68 72
T10,	Krieger, Scott	-6	66	71 73
T10,	Gibbons, Rob	-6	70	66 74
13,	Mack Jr., George	-5	70	68 73
T14,	Brandes, Tom (a)	-4	66	72 74
T14,	Keating, Mark	-4	67	69 76
T16,	Repass, Chris	-3	71	71 71
T16,	Gardner, Mark	-3	69	72 72
18,	Pike, JimSahalee CC-2	70	70	74
T19,	Taylor, Denny (a)	-1	72	69 74
T19,	Morton, Timothy	-1	71	70 74
T21,	Bobillot, Dave	1	74	70 73
T21,	DeShaw, Kelly	1	72	72 73
T21,	Early, Michael	1	72	71 74
T24,	Burnett, Mike	2	69	72 77
T24,	Bowen, Steve	2	71	74 73
T24,	Wright, Jeff (a)	2	74	70 74
T24,	Pellman, Vern (a)	2	72	76 70
T28,	Blore, Mark (a)	3	72	69 75
T28,	Holt, Jim (a)	3	74	71 74
T28,	Patton, Byron (a)	3	69	74 76
T28,	Guay, Pete (a)	3	72	73 74
T32,	Crimp, Keith (a)	4	73	73 74
T32,	Haney, Fred	4	77	65 78
T32,	Rodvold, Troy	4	71	74 75
T32,	Westling, Ted	4	72	74 74
T32,	Senatra, Mike (a)	4	72	71 77
T32,	Shafer, Dick (a)	4	75	72 73
T32,	Sutton, Jay (a)	4	72	72 76
T39,	Jackson, Michael (a)	5	73	75 75
T39,	White, George (a)	5	70	75 75
T39,	DeSilva, Chuck	5	72	75 74
T39,	Harrington, Bob (a)	5	67	78 76
T39,	Sweet, Jeff (a)	5	72	74 75

T39, Stewart, Bruce	5	74	74	73
T39, Watson, Carey (a)	5	77	71	73
T39, Wallace, Roger	5	73	75	73

Baseball

American League				
East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	76	34	.691	—
New York	69	39	.636	6½
Tampa Bay	56	53	.514	19½
Toronto	48	59	.449	26½
Baltimore	33	76	.303	42½
Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	59	48	.551	—
Minnesota	49	58	.458	10
Detroit	47	62	.431	13
Chicago	38	70	.352	21½
Kansas City	34	74	.315	25½
West Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	69	41	.627	—
Oakland	64	46	.582	5
Seattle	63	46	.578	5½
Los Angeles	54	56	.491	15
Texas	47	63	.427	22
Wednesday's Games				
Baltimore 7, N.Y. Yankees 5				
Cleveland 2, Minnesota 0				
Detroit 7, Cincinnati 4				
Oakland 8, Toronto 3				
Houston 8, Seattle 3				
Tampa Bay 7, L.A. Angels 2				
Kansas City 10, Chicago White Sox 5				
Thursday's Games				
Tampa Bay 4, L.A. Angels 2				
Chicago White Sox 6, Kansas City 4				
Boston 15, N.Y. Yankees 7				
Texas 17, Baltimore 8				
Toronto 7, Seattle 3				
Friday's Games				
Chicago White Sox (Giolito 7-8) at Tampa Bay (Stanek 1-3), 4:10 p.m.				
L.A. Angels (Barria 6-7) at Cleveland (Clevinger 7-7), 4:10 p.m.				
N.Y. Yankees (Severino 14-4) at Boston (Porcello 13-4), 4:10 p.m.				
Baltimore (Hess 2-5) at Texas (Jurado 1-1), 5:05 p.m.				

Kansas City (Fillmyer 0-1) at Minnesota (Odorizzi 4-7), 5:10 p.m.				
Detroit (Hardy 4-3) at Oakland (Anderson 2-3), 7:05 p.m.				
Houston (Verlander 10-6) at L.A. Dodgers (Wood 7-5), 7:10 p.m.				
Toronto (Borucki 0-2) at Seattle (Gonzales 12-5), 7:10 p.m.				
Saturday's Games				
N.Y. Yankees at Boston, 1:05 p.m.				
Chicago White Sox at Tampa Bay, 3:10 p.m.				
Kansas City at Minnesota, 4:10 p.m.				
L.A. Angels at Cleveland, 4:10 p.m.				
Baltimore at Texas, 5:05 p.m.				
Detroit at Oakland, 6:05 p.m.				
Houston at L.A. Dodgers, 6:10 p.m.				
Toronto at Seattle, 7:10 p.m.				
National League				
East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	60	48	.556	—
Atlanta	58	47	.552	½
Washington	55	53	.509	5
Miami	46	64	.418	15
New York	44	62	.415	15
Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	62	46	.574	—
Milwaukee	63	49	.563	1
Pittsburgh	56	53	.514	6½
St. Louis	56	53	.514	6½
Cincinnati	48	61	.440	14½
West Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	61	49	.555	—
Arizona	60	50	.545	1
Colorado	58	50	.537	2
San Francisco	56	54	.509	5
San Diego	43	68	.387	18½
Thursday's Games				
St. Louis 3, Colorado 2				
Washington 10, Cincinnati 4				
Philadelphia 5, Miami 2				
Atlanta 4, N.Y. Mets 2				
San Diego 6, Chicago Cubs 1				
L.A. Dodgers 21, Milwaukee 5				
San Francisco 8, Arizona 1				
Friday's Games				
San Diego (Ross 6-8) at Chicago Cubs				

(Quintana 9-7), 11:20 a.m.				
Cincinnati (DeSclafani 4-3) at Washington (Gonzalez 6-7), 4:05 p.m.				
Miami (Richards 3-5) at Philadelphia (Velasquez 7-8), 4:05 p.m.				
St. Louis (Gant 3-4) at Pittsburgh (Archer 3-5), 4:05 p.m.				
Atlanta (Sanchez 5-3) at N.Y. Mets (deGrom 5-6), 4:10 p.m.				
Colorado (Marquez 9-8) at Milwaukee (Guerra 6-7), 5:10 p.m.				
San Francisco (Stratton 8-6) at Arizona (Corbin 7-4), 6:40 p.m.				
Houston (Verlander 10-6) at L.A. Dodgers (Wood 7-5), 7:10 p.m.				
Saturday's Games				
San Diego at Chicago Cubs, 11:20 a.m.				
Cincinnati at Washington, 4:05 p.m.				
Miami at Philadelphia, 4:05 p.m.				
St. Louis at Pittsburgh, 4:05 p.m.				
Atlanta at N.Y. Mets, 4:10 p.m.				
Colorado at Milwaukee, 4:10 p.m.				
San Francisco at Arizona, 5:10 p.m.				
Houston at L.A. Dodgers, 6:10 p.m.				
Football				
NFL preseason				
Thursday's Games				
Baltimore 17, Chicago 16				
Thursday, Aug. 9				
Pittsburgh at Philadelphia, 4 p.m.				
New Orleans at Jacksonville, 4 p.m.				
Cleveland at N.Y. Giants, 4 p.m.				
Detroit at Oakland, 7:30 p.m.				
Saturday, Aug. 11				
Minnesota at Denver, 6 p.m.				
L.A. Chargers at Arizona, 7 p.m.				