Brett Rypien looking for big finale with Broncos

QB a big reason why Boise State is ranked No. 22

> By TIM BOOTH Associated Press

Brett Rypien is about to become a rarity in college football, a quarterback with the skill from the time of his arrival on campus to be the starter for the majority of his four years at Boise State.

He's won a conference title. He's won bowl games. Yet there was a time a year ago as a junior that his spot as the Broncos starter was being questioned by outsiders and challenged from within.

"I don't think frustrating was the right word. You know, I never really try to get frustrated. I think that's just negative for yourself and not really positive for the entire team as well, showing frustration. Especially in the position that I'm in," Rypien said. "But, it's defi-nitely hard at times having to go through that. But like I said, it made me a lot better player. And you know looking back on it I actually am glad that that happened to me."

Rypien will start his senior season Saturday when the 22nd-ranked Broncos open at Troy. While Rypien didn't get his first start until the fourth game of his freshman season, he'll join Kellen Moore in rare company as a four-year starter for the Broncos. Rypien's career hasn't been quite as

good as Moore's but he's still one of the most decorated quarterbacks in the school's history.

He ended up leading the Broncos to a Mountain West title and a Las Vegas Bowl victory over Oregon during his difficult junior season. He also nearly lost his starting job to graduate transfer Montell Cozart.

"I thought Brett, that's the neatest thing, he handled it well," Boise State coach Bryan Harsin said. "I think there was some of that frustration of, at times, being taken out of the plan and the reality of, 'If this is what it takes for us to win, I'm all in.' He really was. He showed that, too. That's a maturity that I haven't seen from many people and Brett handled that.'

Cozart was different from Rypien and the Broncos needed what his skills provided. Cozart could run and pass. He challenged Rypien's standing early last season when the Broncos stumbled to a 2-2 start. "I definitely think it

made me better just from the standpoint of I was competing literally every single day in practice and I really got to the point where I didn't know how many snaps I was gonna be able to take during the game," Rypien said. "And knowing that every single one of those matters, that kind of upped my practice habits I think a little bit. And made me focus that much more on every single rep, knowing every single rep I took had to be perfect.



AP Photo/Denis Poroy, File

Boise State quarterback Brett Rypien (4) breaks away from San Diego State defenders.

Rams NFC West favorites

By JOSH DUBOW Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. - The Los Angeles Rams have gone from one of the NFL's biggest surprises to one of the top Super Bowl favorites in just one year.

The Rams didn't rest after an impressive turnaround campaign in coach Sean McVay's first season, bringing in an impressive offseason haul led by three former All-Pros on defense in defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh and cornerbacks Marcus Peters and Aqib Talib, along with big-play receiver Brandin Cooks.

It's perhaps the most talent added in one offseason since the San Francisco 49ers brought in Deion Sanders, Ken Norton Jr., Rickey Jackson and Richard Dent 24 years ago and ended up as Super Bowl champs.

The newcomers join a roster that features a promising young quarterback in Jared Goff, an elite running back in Todd Gurley, a stout offensive line led by left tackle Andrew Whitworth — and perhaps Defensive Player of the Year Aaron Donald, who held out for a second straight training camp but could be back for the start of the season.

The Rams figure to be challenged most in the NFC West by a rejuvenated San Francisco team that won the final five games last year after Jimmy Garoppolo took over as quarterback.

Seattle still has Russell Wilson but few other key pieces from the 2013 Super Bowl team, and Arizona has three of the division's top players in receiver Larry Fitzgerald, cornerback Patrick Peterson and running back David Johnson, who is coming back from a wrist injury.

Some things to know about the NFC West:

STABLE OFFENSE: For all the big changes on defense for the Rams, they predictably kept things very stable on offense after going from worst to first in the NFL in scoring in the initial year under McVay.

Los Angeles brings back 10 of 11 starters on offense,



FILE - In this Sunday, Oct. 8, 2017, file photo, Los Angeles Rams quarterback Jared Goff (16) hands the ball to Todd Gurley (30) during an NFL football game against the Seattle Seahawks, in Los Angeles. The Rams have gone from one of the NFL's biggest surprises to one of the top Super Bowl favorites in just one year.

receiver where Cooks replaced Sammy Watkins. It's a far cry from last year when the Rams broke in two new offensive linemen and a new receiver around Goff, who was getting ready for his first full season as an NFL starter in a brand new offense.

This team clearly has big-play potential. Cooks is one of the league's best deep threats and Gurley led the NFL in yards from scrimmage (2,093) and TDs (19) last season, earning him the rare big-money contract as a running back.

JIMMY G: The 49ers fortunes changed almost immediately after acquiring Garoppolo at last year's trade deadline. A team that started 2017 with nine straight losses finished with five straight wins after Garoppolo took over as starter.

He completed 67.4 percent of his passes last season, averaging 8.8 yards per attempt with seven TDs, five interceptions and a 96.2 rating to improve to 7-0 in his career as a starter. His 308.4 yards passing per game in his five starts also would have led the league had he played a full season.

The Niners added Jerwith the only change at tile running back but have that he can be a franchise Cardinals, Seahawks.

some questions on defense, where they are hoping Richard Sherman can get back to his pre-injury level as a shutdown cornerback, and someone can provide an outside pass rush to complement defensive tackle stud DeForest Buckner.

QB SHUFFLE: There have been big changes in Arizona with quarterback Carson Palmer retired and coach Bruce Arians moving from the sideline to the broadcast booth.

But the biggest deal for the Cardinals this year is the health of Johnson, the do-everything back whose 2017 season ended with an injury in the opener. Johnson is healthy again, and if he can get back to the form with which he ranked second in the NFL with 2,118 yards from scrimmage in 2016, that should take plenty of pressure off the quarterback.

Oft-injured Sam Bradford begins the year as starter, but he has only played 80 games in eight seasons. He has torn the anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee twice, and another left knee injury wiped out nearly all of his 2017 season in Minnesota.

But Bradford is likely only a stopgap. The Cardinals traded up to take Josh quarterback for new coach Steve Wilks.

LAST HURRAH: The Seahawks have been one of the most consistent teams in the league under coach Pete Carroll the past few years. Seattle has posted six straight seasons of top two finishes in the division and winning records, missing the playoff only last year. But much of the core of the team that went to backto-back Super Bowls in the 2013 and '14 seasons is

Defensive end Michael Bennett was traded, cornerback Richard Sherman was cut and wound up with the archrival 49ers, tight end Jimmy Graham left as a free agent and defensive stars Cliff Avril and Kam Chancellor have had career-ending injuries. Even safety Earl Thomas' status is in doubt as he has held out all offseason in hopes of getting a new contract.

While star power remains led by Wilson, receiver Doug Baldwin and linebacker Bobby Wagner, the rest of the roster likely has too many holes for the Seahawks to be able to challenge the top teams in the NFC.

PREDICTED ORDER ick McKinnon as a versa- Rosen 10th overall in hopes **OF FINISH**: Rams, 49ers,

LeBlanc's pitching sets tone in Mariners win over Athletics

By MICHAEL WAGAMAN

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) Wade LeBlanc pitched seven scoreless innings, Mitch Haniger hit his 23rd home run and the Seattle Mariners jumped on the Oakland Athletics early and held on for a 7-1 victory on Thursday night.

Robinson Cano had two

hits and an RBI after being dropped down a spot in the batting order after second baseman Jean Segura was scratched. Dee Gordon and Ryon Healy added two hits apiece.

Seattle had lost three straight and five of seven before taking the opener of this four-game series. The Mariners pulled within 4 1/2 games of the A's for the sec-

Thursday's Games
Cleveland 5, Minnesota 3
Detroit 8, N.Y. Yankees 7
Boston 9, Chicago White Sox 4
L.A. Angels 5, Houston 2
Seattle 7, Oakland 1

Seattle / Oakland 1 Friday's Games Detroit (Zimmermann 6-6) at N.Y. Yankees (Severino 17-6), 4:05 p.m. Tampa Bay (Glasnow 1-3) at Cleveland (Kluber 16-7), 4:10 p.m.

(Kluber 16-7), 4:10 p.m. Toronto (Sanchez 3-5) at Miami (Straily 5-6), 4:10 p.m. Minnesota (Gonsalves 0-2) at Texas (Hutchison 2-2), 5:05 p.m. Boston (Eovaldi 5-6) at Chicago White Sox

Kopech 1-0), 5:10 p.m.
L.A. Angels (Barria 8-8) at Houston (Valdez 2-0), 5:10 p.m.
Baltimore (Cashner 4-12) at Kansas City
(Keller 6-5), 5:15 p.m.

Seattle (Leake 8-8) at Oakland (Fiers 10-6),

W 79

w

L Pct GB

67 .500 7½ 74 .444 15 81 .396 21½

L Pct GB 54 .594 —

54 .594 — 59 .560 4½ 60 .556 5 69 .485 14½ 77 .425 22½

L Pct GB

68 .496 71/2

83 .390 22

60 .552 61 .541 62 .537

3

59 .556 62 .534

NATIONAL LEAGUE East Division

Atlanta

Chicago

Arizona

St. Louis Milwaukee Pittsburgh

West Division

Colorado Los Angeles San Francisco

San Diego

Philadelphia

Washington New York

Central Division

58 76 .433 24

ond AL wild card. Oakland remains 2 1/2 back of Houston for first place in the AL West.

Jed Lowrie had an RBI single for the A's.

LeBlanc (8-3) allowed three hits and three walks with four strikeouts. He retired 12 of his final 13 batters to win for the second time in his last seven starts.

Adam Warren and Nick



Mariners 7

Vincent retired three batters each to complete the four-hitter.

1

W L T Pts GF GA

Haniger homered off Frankie Montas (5-4) with one out in the fourth. He also singled leading off the game, extending his season-high hitting streak to 11 games. Haniger went into the day leading the AL with 38 hits this month.

The Mariners scored five runs with two outs and took advantage of a throwing error by third baseman Matt Chapman in the first inning.

Cano doubled and scored on Healy's single before Ben Gamel drew a bases-loaded walk to make it 2-0. Two more runs scored on Chapman's error. Gordon added an infield single to drive in Gamel.

After Denard Span tripled to open the second, Cano singled to push the lead to 6-0.

SCOREBOARD

Local slate

PREP FOOTBALL

Friday
Harper Charter at Echo, 6 p.m.
Pasco at Hermiston, 7 p.m.
Enterprise at Pilot Rock, 7 p.m.
Central Linn at Weston-McEwen, 7 p.m. Rainier at Umatilla, 7 p.m. lennner at Clatskanie, 7 p.m Mac-Hi at Madras, 7 p.m

PREP VOLLEYBALL

Pendleton at Mountain View Tournament,

Stanfield at Echo, 5 p.m. Ione at Dufur Volleyball Classic, TBD **Saturday**Weston-McEwen vs. Portland Christian (at Heppner), 9 a.m.

Crane at Heppner, 9 a.m. Weston-McEwen vs. Crane (at Heppner), 1 a.m.
Portland Christian at Heppner, 3 p.m. Pilot Rock, Echo at Prairie City Tourna-

ment, TBD Ione at Dufur Volleyball Classic, TBD

PREP BOYS SOCCER

SaturdayRiverside at Oregon Episcopal, 1:30 p.m.

PREP GIRLS SOCCER

Saturday Stevenson (WA) at Riverside, 1 p.m.

Baseball

AMERICAN East Division		В
	W	L
Boston	93	42
New York	84	50

татра вау	/ I	62	.534	21
Toronto	60	73	.451	32
Baltimore	40	94	.299	521/2
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	76	57	.571	_
Minnesota	62	71	.466	14
Detroit	54	80	.403	221/2
Chicago	53	81	.396	231/2
Kansas City	42	91	.316	34
West Division				

Houston Oakland Seattle

L Pct GB52 .612 —
55 .593 2½
59 .560 7 82 80 75

Pct GB

Thursday's Games
Milwaukee 2, Cincinnati 1, 11 innings
St. Louis 5, Pittsburgh 0
Chicago Cubs 5, Atlanta 4
Arizona 3, L.A. Dodgers 1
San Diego 3, Colorado 2, 13 innings Friday's Games
Chicago Cubs (Quintana 11-9) at Philadelphia (Pivetta 7-10), 4:05 p.m.
Milwaukee (Chacin 13-5) at Washington (Roark 8-13), 4:05 p.m. Toronto (Sanchez 3-5) at Miami (Straily

5-6), 4:10 p.m.
Pittsburgh (Taillon 10-9) at Atlanta (Sanchez 6-5), 4:35 p.m.
Cincinnati (Bailey 1-12) at St. Louis (Gomber 4-0), 5:15 p.m.
Arizona (Greinke 13-8) at L.A. Dodgers (Ryu 4-1), 7:10 p.m.

Colorado (Senzatela 4-4) at San Diego Kennedy 0-2), 7:10 p.m. N.Y. Mets (Wheeler 9-6) at San Francisco

NORTHWEST LEAGUE

(Suarez 5-9), 7:15 p.m.

 W
 L
 Pct. GB

 Vancouver (Blue Jays)
 20
 14
 .588
 —

 Spokane (Rangers)
 19
 15
 .545
 1

 Tri-City (Padres)
 16
 16
 .500
 3
 14 19 .424 51/2

Hillsboro (D-Backs) .706 .441 Eugene (Cubs) 15 19 Salem-Keizer (Giants) 15 19 Eugene (Cubs) Boise (Rockies) .353

Thursday's Games Hillsboro 5, Boise 2 Salem-Keizer 15, Eugene 5 Everett 8, Vancouver 1

Spokane 15, Tri-City 7 Everett at Vancouver, 1:05 p.m Hillsboro at Boise, 6:15 p.m. Eugene at Salem-Keizer, 6:35 p.m. Spokane at Tri-City, 7:15 p.m.

Basketball

WNBA PLAYOFFS Semifinals

Soccer

Semifinals
(x-if necessary)
(Best-of-5)
Seattle 2, Phoenix 0
Sunday: Seattle 91, Phoenix 87
Tuesday: Seattle 91, Phoenix 87, OT
Friday: Seattle at Phoenix, 7 p.m.
x-Sept. 2: Seattle at Phoenix, TBA
x-Sept. 4: Phoenix at Seattle, TBA
Atlanta 1 Washington 1

Atlanta 1, Washington 1 Atlanta 1, Washington 1 Sunday: Washington 87, Atlanta 84 Tuesday: Atlanta 78, Washington 75 Friday: Atlanta at Washington, 5 p.m. ×Sept. 2: Atlanta at Washington, TBA ×Sept. 4: Washington at Atlanta, TBA

MLS EASTERN CONFERENCE

New York 17 Atlanta United FC 16 New York City FC 14 33 33 37 39 34 45 Columbus Philadelphia Montreal . New England D.C. United Toronto FC 10 8 11 6 13 6 Chicago 15 6 16 2 23 WESTERN CONFERENCE

L T Pts GF GA 6 7 46 43 35 6 6 45 47 30 7 7 43 50 40 FC Dallas Sporting K.C. Los Angeles FC 10 5 7 7 9 5 Real Salt Lake Portland Vancouver 10 Minnesota United 9 Houston Colorado NOTE: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

Saturday's Games
Sporting Kansas City at Seattle, 1 p.m.
New York at Montreal, 4:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Orlando City, 4:30 p.m.
Portland at New England, 4:30 p.m.
Houston at FC Dallas, 5 p.m.
Los Angeles FC at Toronto FC, 5 p.m.
New York City FC at Columbus, 5 p.m.

LA Galaxy at Real Salt Lake, 7 p.m.
San Jose at Vancouver, 7 p.m.
Sunday's Games
Atlanta United FC at D.C. United, 7:30

Football

NFL PRESEASON

AMERICAN CONFERENCE T Pct PF PA

New England 3 Ruffalo 2 0.750 94 74 0.500 83 98 Miami N.Y. Jets South **T Pct PF PA** 0.750 67 50 0.750 88 80 W Houston Indianapolis Jacksonville Tennessee North

T Pct PF PA 01.000127 72 0.750120 95 0.750103 80 0.750 77 46 Pittsburgh Cincinnati Cleveland West W L T Pct PF

0.750 74 0.500 101 0.500 91 0.500 71 Oakland L.A. Chargers 2 2 0.500

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Washington	1	3	0.250 69 98	
Philadelphia	1	3	0.250 44 82	
Dallas	0	4	0.000 43 86	
South				
	w	L	T Pct PF PA	
New Orleans	3	1	0.750 103 47	
Carolina	3	1	0.750 104 96	
Tampa Bay	2	2	0.500 96 96	
Atlanta	0	4	0.000 27 96	
North				
North	w	L	T Pct PF PA	
North Minnesota	W	L	T Pct PF PA 0.750 86 65	
Minnesota	3	1		
Minnesota Green Bay		_	0.750 86 65	
Minnesota Green Bay Chicago	3 2 2	1	0.750 86 65 0.500 109 97	
Minnesota Green Bay	3	1 2 3	0.750 86 65 0.500 109 97 0.400 121 118	
Minnesota Green Bay Chicago Detroit	3 2 2	1 2 3	0.750 86 65 0.500 109 97 0.400 121 118	
Minnesota Green Bay Chicago Detroit	3 2 2 1	1 2 3 3	0.750 86 65 0.500 109 97 0.400 121 118 0.250 77 111	

0.500 47 0.250 75 0.000 70 L.A. Rams 2 San Francisco 1 Thursday's Games
New England 17, N.Y. Giants 12
Miami 34, Atlanta 7
Philadelphia 10, N.Y. Jets 9
Cleveland 35, Detroit 17
Indianapolis 27, Cincinnati 26
Jacksonville 25, Tampa Bay 10
Baltimore 30, Washington 20
Pittsburgh 39, Carolina 24
Minnesota 13, Tennessee 3
New Orleans 28, L.A. Rams 0 New Orleans 28, L.A. Rams 0 Houston 14. Dallas 6 Buffalo 28, Chicago 27 Kansas City 33, Green Bay 21 L.A. Chargers 23, San Francisco 21 Denver 21, Arizona 10

Top 25 Schedule Thursday No. 21 UCF 56, UConn 17 **Friday**No. 4 Wisconsin vs. Western Kentucky,

Oakland 30, Seattle 19

6 p.m. No. 13 Stanford vs. San Diego State, 6

p.m. Saturday No. 1 Alabama vs. Louisville (at Orlando, Fla.), 5 p.m. No. 2 Clemson vs. Furman, 9:20 a.m.

No. 3 Georgia vs. Austin Peay, 12:30 p.m. No. 5 Ohio State vs. Oregon State, 9 a.m No. 6 Washington vs. No. 9 Auburn at Atlanta, 12:30 p.m.

No. 7 Oklahoma vs. FAU, 9 a.m. No. 10 Penn State vs. Appalachian State 12:30 p.m. No. 11 Michigan State vs. Utah State, 4 p.m. No. 12 Notre Dame vs. No. 14 Michigan,

4:30 p.m. No. 15 Southern Cal vs. UNLV, 1 p.m.

No. 16 TCU vs. Southern U., 9 a.m. No. 17 West Virginia vs. Tennessee (at Charlotte, N.C.), 12:30 p.m. No. 18 Mississippi State vs. Stephen F.

Austin, 4:30 p.m.
No. 22 Boise State at Troy, 3 p.m. No. 23 Texas at Maryland, 9 a.m. No. 24 Oregon vs. Bowling Green, 5 p.m

Golf

PGA TOUR DELL TECHNOLOGIES CHAMPIONSHIP Site: Norton, Mass. Course: TPC Boston. Yardage: 7,342.

Par: 71.
Purse: \$9 million. Winner's share:
\$1,620,000.
Television: Friday, 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. (Golf Channel); Saturday, 12-3:30 p.m. (Golf Channel); Sunday 10 a.m.-Noon (Golf Channel); 12-3 p.m. (NBC); Monday, 8:3(a.m. to 10:30 a.m. (Golf Channel), 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m. (NBC).

LPGA TOUR CAMBIA PORTLAND CLASSIC

Thursday At Portland, Ore. Columbia Edgewater CC Purse: \$1.3 million Yardage: 6,476; Par: 72 (36-36) First Round

Marina Alex Brooke M. Henderson 32-30-62 33-31—64 34-30—64 30-35—65 Minjee Lee Robynn Ree Katherine Perry 34-32—66 32-34—66 Su Oh Georgia Hall Angela Stanford Mi Hyang Lee 33-33—66 34-33—67 36-31—67