Top Pac-12 quarterback? Minshew is AP choice

By ANNE M. PETERSON
AP Sports Writer

There's no question at quarterback: Washington State's Gardner Minshew II leads the way in the Pac-12.

Minshew, a graduate transfer who leads the nation with an average of 373.1 passing yards per game, was the unanimous choice for first-team quarterback on The Associated Press All-Pac-12 team, selected by a panel of sports writers who cover the conference.

Unsurprisingly, he also got the nod as the league's Offensive Player of the Year.

Minshew has thrown for 4,477 yards and 36 touchdowns for the Cougars, who are 10-2 overall and headed to the Alamo Bowl on Dec. 28 against Iowa State.

Stanford's K.J. Costello earned the second team quarterback honors.

Minshew joins Arizona State running back Eno Benjamin as the two unanimous first-team selections on offense. There were several on the first-team defense: Washington's Greg Gaines at defensive tackle, fellow Husky Ben Burr-Kirven at linebacker and Utah's Bradlee Anae at defensive end.

As for Pac-12 Coach of the Year, Washington State's Mike Leach also topped all the ballots. Burr-Kirven was Defensive Player of the Year and Minshew got the nod as Newcomer of the Year.

The 2018 Associated Press All-Pac-12 team, as selected by a panel of sports writers who regularly cover the league for newspapers or broadcast outlets. Players at all positions are listed alphabetically with name, school, height, weight, class and hometown; "u-" denotes unanimous selections.

First team
Offense

Quarterback — u-Gardner Minshew II, Washington State, 6-2, 220, sr., Brandon, Missouri.

Running back — u-Eno Benjamin, Arizona State, 5-10, 200, soph., Wylie, Texas; Joshua Kelley, UCLA, 5-11, 204, jr., Lancaster, California.

Tackles — Andre Dillard, Washington State, 6-5, 310, sr., Woodinville, Washington; Calvin Throckmorton, 6-5, 318, jr., Bellevue, Washington.

Guards — Shane Lemieux, Oregon, 6-4, 317, jr., Yakima, Washington. Jordan Agasiva, Utah, 6-4, 320, sr., Kalihi, Hawaii.

Center — Nick Harris, Washington, 6-1, 300, jr., Inglewood, California.

Tight end — Caleb Wilson, UCLA, 6-4, 235, jr., Dallas, Texas.

Wide receiver — N'Keal Harry, Arizona State, 6-4, 213, jr., Chandler, Arizona; JJ Arcega-Whiteside, Stanford, 6-3, 225, sr., Inman, South Carolina.

All-purpose player — J.J. Taylor, Arizona, 5-6, 184, soph., Corona, California.

AP Photo/Ted S. Warren, File

Washington State quarterback Gardner Minshew, shown Nov. 23, was named the Pac-12 Offensive Player of the Year and the Newcomer of the Year.

Kicker — Matt Gay, Utah, 6-0, 230, sr., Orem, Utah.

Defense

Defensive ends — u-Bradlee Anae, Utah, 6-3, 254, jr. Laie, Hawaii; Justin Hollins, Oregon, 6-5, 242, sr., Arlington, Texas.

Defensive tackles — u-Greg Gaines, Washington, 6-2, 316, sr., La Habra, California; Mustafa Johnson, Colorado, 6-2, 290, soph., Turlock, California.

Linebackers — u-Ben Burr-Kirven, Washington, 6-0, 221, sr., Menlo Park, California; Chase Hansen, Utah, 6-3, 230, sr., Highland, Utah; Evan Weaver, California, 6-3, 245, jr., Spokane, Washington.

Cornerbacks — Byron Murphy, Washington, 5-11, 182, soph., Scottsdale, Arizona; Paulson Adebo, Stanford, 6-1, 189, soph., Mansfield, Texas.

Safeties — Taylor Rapp, Washington, 6-2, 200, jr., Bellingham, Washington; Ashtyn Davis, California, 6-1, 190, jr. Santa Cruz, California.

Punter — Mitch Wishnowsky, Utah, 6-2, 220, sr., Perth Australia.

Second Team
Offense

Quarterback — K.J. Costello, Stanford, 6-5, 215, jr., Coto de Caza, California.

Running back — Myles Gaskin, Washington, 5-10, 193, sr., Lynwood, Washington; Zack Moss, Utah, 5-10, 215, jr., Hialeah Gardens, Florida.

Tackles — Kaleb McGary, Washington, 6-8, 324, sr., Fife, Washington; Patrick Mekari, California, 6-4, 310, jr., Westlake Village, California.

Guards — Chris Brown, USC, 6-5, 310, sr., Los Angeles; Gus Lavaka, Oregon State, 6-4, 353, jr., Kearns, Utah.

Center — Jake Hanson, Oregon, 6-5, 297, jr., Eureka, California.

Tight end — Kaden Smith, Stanford, 6-5, 252, jr., Flower Mound, Texas.

Wide receivers — Dillon Mitchell, Oregon, 6-2, 189, jr., Memphis, Tennessee; Laviska Shenault Jr., Colorado, 6-2, 220, jr., DeSoto, Texas.

All-purpose player — Britain Covey, Utah, 5-8, 170, soph., Provo, Utah.

Kicker — Jet Toner, Stanford, 6-4, 201, jr., Honolulu.

Defense

Defensive ends — Logan Tago, Washington State, 6-3, 250, sr., Fagasa, American Samoa; Christian Rector, USC, 604, 275, jr., Pasadena, California.

Defensive tackles — Leki Fotu, Utah, 6-5, jr., West Valley City, Utah; Jordan Scott, Oregon, 6-1, 329, sophomore, Largo, Florida.

Linebackers — Jordan Kunaszyk, California, 6-3, 235, sr., Sacramento, California; Colin Schooler, Arizona, 6-0, 236, soph., Dana Point, California; Nate Landman, Colorado, 6-3, 235, jr., Danville, California.

Cornerbacks — Thomas Graham Jr., Oregon, 5-11, 191, soph., Rancho Cucamonga, California; (tie) Camryn Bynum, California, 6-0, 180, soph., Corona California, Elisha Guidry, UCLA, 5-11, 182, fr., Murrieta, Georgia, and Julian Blackmon, Utah, 6-1, 190, jr., Layton, Utah.

Safeties — Jalen Thompson, Washington State, 6-0, 190, jr., Downey, California; Ugochukwu Amadi, Oregon, 5-10, 201, sr., Nashville, Tennessee.

Punter — Jake Bailey, Stanford, 6-2, 202, sr., Solana Beach, California.

Coach of the Year — Mike Leach, Washington State.

Offensive player of the Year — Gardner Minshew II, Washington State.

Defensive player of the Year — Ben Burr-Kirven, Washington.

Newcomer of the Year — Gardner Minshew II, Washington State.

Voting panel

Tony Parks, 1280 The Zone, Salt Lake City; Theo Lawson, *The Spokesman-Review*, Spokane, Washington; Gary Horowitz, *The Statesman Journal*, Salem, Oregon; Joey Kaufman, Southern California News Group; Jon Wilner, *The Mercury News*, San Jose, California; James Crepea, *The Oregonian*, Portland, Oregon; Brian Howell, Buffzone.com, Boulder, Colorado; Adam Jude, *The Seattle Times*; Christian Caple, The Athletic; Lauren Kirschman, *The News Tribune*, Tacoma, Washington.

Sharpe riding high into halfpipe skiing season as Olympic champ

The Associated Press

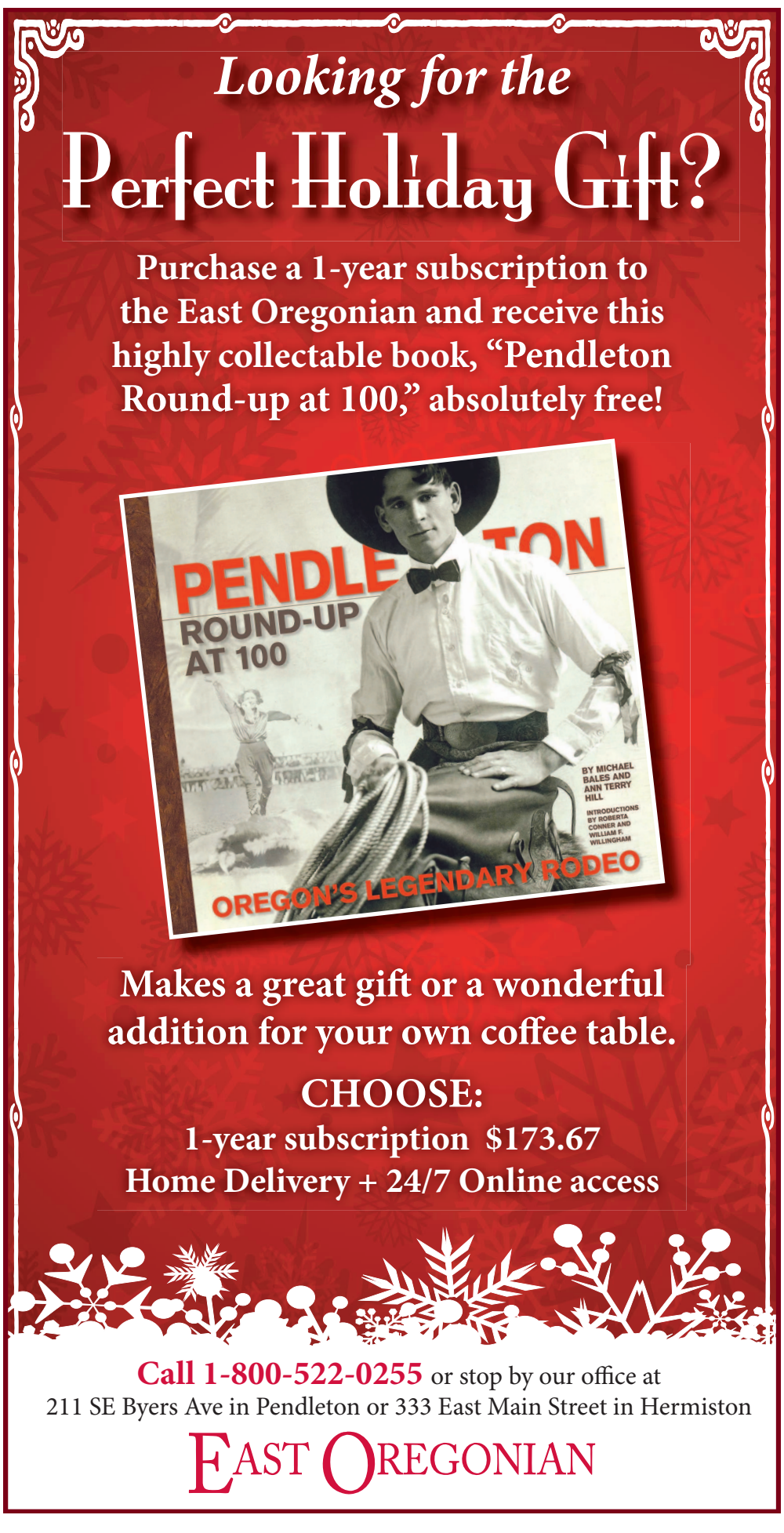
Cassie Sharpe was namedropped in a tweet by movie star Ryan Reynolds, saw a little girl dressed up as her for Halloween and even got her face on a pair of socks owned by the prime minister.

These things can happen when you win Olympic gold.

Sharpe won the halfpipe skiing competition in South Korea, nailing jump after jump and thrilling her native Canada. She gave Prime Minister Justin Trudeau the special socks during a meet and greet at Parliament Hill with other Olympic medalists in May. The idea came after she saw socks adorned with Trudeau's face at a tourist shop in Vancouver and bought them to wear to the meeting.

"I told one of my friends about it and she was like, 'You should get socks with your face on them and give them to him.' So yeah, I gave the prime minister socks with my face on them," Sharpe said with a laugh in a phone interview with The Canadian Press. "He said people always give him stuff with his face on them so I was like: 'You know what? Funny you should say that,' and I pulled up my pant leg and showed him my socks with his face on them."

Sharpe

The visit to the capital was just one of the highlights for Sharpe in a summer that also saw her take some much-needed time for herself after years of near nonstop training for her Olympic debut. She went to Mexico, Disney World and Japan over a three-month break. Now that she's back on snow in the Colorado mountains, Sharpe is ready to defend her World Cup points title at her season-opening event at Copper Mountain.

Sharpe finished first in qualifying runs Wednesday for the weekend's competition with 93.75 points.