

Record 135 forgo college eligibility to enter NFL draft

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NEW YORK — A record number of college football players will bypass their remaining years of eligibility to enter the NFL draft.

The 135 players forgoing eligibility surpasses the 119 from last year. The NFL released the official list on Friday. There are 103 underclassmen eligible for the April 25-27 draft. Another 32 players have graduated but still have college eligibility.

The vast majority of players made their intentions known ahead of Monday's NFL deadline. Among the most notable were Heisman Trophy winner Kyler Murray of Oklahoma and Ohio State quarterback Dwayne Haskins.

Alabama has seven players among the 135, the most of any school, including All-America defensive tackle Quinnen Williams, All-America safety Deionte Thompson and All-America offensive tackle

Jonah Williams. Ohio State and Oklahoma each have six players.

Murray has already signed a contract with the Oakland Athletics after being selected in the first round of the MLB draft in June. Murray has yet to break his deal with the A's, but he could abandon it to play in the NFL. Murray, who is listed at 5-foot-10 and 195, had a spectacular season with the Sooners and is a possible first-round pick by NFL teams.

The 103 underclassmen who have met the NFL's three-year eligibility rule and renounced their remaining eligibility to enter the draft are three short of last year's record 106. That number has been trending up for years, including a spike in 2014, when 98 underclassmen were granted special eligibility by the league. In 2013, 73 players fell into that category.

Since 2014, at least 95 underclassmen entered the draft without completing their degrees in every season but

2015, when the number was 74.

"It is not a good situation," said former Dallas Cowboys executive Gil Brandt, who now works for the NFL Network.

Brandt said too many players who are not ready to compete in the NFL are swayed by agents to enter the draft. He said offensive linemen and quarterbacks in particular can usually benefit from more college seasoning.

"When we start taking all these guys, they're doing the colleges a disservice, they're doing the players a disservice," Brandt said.

Among the players who didn't need special entry granted by the league because they had fulfilled their degree requirements were quarterbacks Daniel Jones of Duke, Jarrett Stidham of Auburn and Tyree Jackson of Buffalo, along with Clemson All-America defensive end Clelin Ferrell and Northern Illinois All-America defensive end Sutton Smith.



AP Photo/Jeffrey McWhorter, File

In this Dec. 1, 2018, file photo, Oklahoma quarterback Kyler Murray (1) celebrates on the sidelines after throwing a touchdown against Oklahoma during the second half of the Big 12 Conference championship NCAA college football game in Arlington, Texas.

Umatilla: The Bulldogs 'shot the ball really well'

Continued from Page B1

I was happy I was on tonight."

The Bulldogs (8-8 overall, 2-1) led 43-36 heading into the fourth quarter, and after Jaquez stole the ball and converted at the other end with 5:42 to play, Nyssa had a 48-39 lead.

"At that point, I told the guys defense was going to win the game," Bow said. "We had to get stops. I told them they had to decide whether they wanted to be a state team or just play a league game."

From there, the Vikings went on a 13-4 run. Sebastian Garcia converted a pretty jumper in the key with 13 seconds remaining to tie the score.

"In the fourth, they were trying to play reserved," Earl said of Nyssa. "We were trying to get in the paint and get quick shots. We drove instead of being passive."

Jaquez had just five points in the fourth quarter. He scored 20 in the first half.

"It wasn't so much trying to keep the ball out of his hands, but to keep them from getting easy shots," Earl said.

Nyssa hit five 3-pointers in the first quarter en route to a 17-13 lead, but the Vikings rallied with six consecutive points to tie the score at 19-19 midway through the second.

Umatilla had leads of 22-21 and 25-23, but would not lead again until overtime.

"They shot the ball really well," Bow said of the Bulldogs. "No. 4 (Jaquez) stroked the ball really well. He pulled up from deep and the ball found the bottom of the net. He is a special player."

Sebastian Garcia led the Vikings with 17 points and four assists, while Durfey had 14 points and

11 rebounds, De Loera 11 points and eight rebounds, and Uriel Garcia seven points, seven rebounds and three steals.

GIRLS HOOPS



Nyssa
40



Umatilla
36

Girls

NYSSA 40, UMATILLA 36 — The Vikings turned the ball over six times and went 0-for-3 from the free-throw line in the final 3:43 of the game, as the visiting Bulldogs escaped with an Eastern Oregon League win.

"Hands down, turnovers have been an issue for us," Vikings coach McKenzie Davis said. "And that makes it hard to win games. A lot of it is inexperience."

The game was close throughout, and the Vikings (2-14, 0-3 EOL) led 36-35 with 3 minutes to play, but could not hold the lead.

Alexia Arredondo hit a 3-pointer with 2:19 to play to give Nyssa a 38-36 lead. She led the Bulldogs (8-8, 2-1) with 12 points.

"Tonight was a close game game, and we learned from it," Davis said. "The last time they were in a game this close, the seniors were freshmen. For us, we don't worry about the plays, we worry about fundamentals. That's what we have been working on. They are learning to trust their coach and learning to win. It's hard to break that shell."

Charlene Alvarez led the Vikings with 12 points, while freshman Taylor Durfey added 10.

Blazers: 'Statistically we've been pretty good'

Continued from Page B1

"I think when he first came back, you want to be a little cautious on it," Gentry said about incorporating Mirotic. "I don't plan on playing him 38 minutes or anything but I don't have to look at anything and say he's at 25 minutes, uh oh."

Trail Blazers: With a backcourt featuring two scoring guards, questions about the defense are frequent. But lately, they've been quite stingy. Over the last 10 games, the Blazers have been fourth in defensive rating.

Coach Terry Stotts likes the team's consistency on that end.

"Part of it is we've been playing teams with poor records but we've still stayed consistent with it," Stotts said. "We've been pretty locked in on scouting reports and tendencies and their plays and things like that. But over the last 11-12 games, statistically we've been pretty good."

Up next

Pelicans: At Memphis on Monday night.

Trail Blazers: At Utah on Monday night.

PREP ROUNDUP

Nixyaawii remains unbeatable in Old Oregon League play

East Oregonian

In their strongest offensive game so far this season, the Nixyaawii boys crushed the visiting Elgin Huskies 106-34 in Old Oregon League play.

Senior guard Deven Barkley paved the way with 34 points for the Golden Eagles on Friday night. He posted three treys and 17 points in the first quarter alone.

"Everything was clicking tonight," said coach Shane Rivera.

Quanah Picard chipped in 18 points, Mick Schimmel had 14, and Dazon Sigo had 13.

Nixyaawii (15-1, 5-0 OOL) remains the team to beat in the Old Oregon League. Their next challenger will be Joseph for a Saturday road game.

Boys hoops

SOUTH WASCO COUNTY 52, IONE 50 — Ione is still in need of a Big Sky League win after Friday's narrow home loss.

Hunter Padberg, Taylor Rollins, and Jake Heideman each had 10 points to lead the Cardinals.

Ione (1-15, 0-9 BSL) travels to Sherman on Saturday.

SHERMAN 61, ECHO 29 — The Cougars are now on a four-game skid after a home loss to Sherman on Friday.

Braden MacPherson had seven points to lead Echo, while Jon Medrano and Cameron Scott each added six.

Echo (2-15, 1-8 BSL) travels to Dufur on Saturday to continue play in the Big Sky League play.

IRRIGON 56, BURNS 45 — The Knights ended a 10-game losing streak with a home victory over the No. 4-ranked Hilanders in Eastern Oregon League play.

Irrigon (7-10, 1-3 EOL) will host Nysa on Saturday.

HEPPNER 69, PILOT ROCK 57 — The Mustangs won their fifth consecutive

game with a Blue Mountain Conference road win over the Rockets.

"We are telling the kids every day that we have a target on our backs," Heppner coach Jeremy Rosenbaum said. "We will get everyone's best game."

Tyler Carter had a game-high 26 points and 13 rebounds for Heppner (12-6, 6-0 BMC), while Justin McAninch added 13 points and 10 rebounds, and Hunter Nichols 10 points.

Tanner Corwin led the Rockets (2-14, 1-5) with 17 points, while Peyton Thurman chipped in nine.

UNION 72, WESTON-MCEWEN 52 — The Tiger-Scots suffered a home loss to fall to 2-4 in the Blue Mountain Conference on Friday.

But that didn't stop Stockton Hoffman from having a stellar game — the junior posted 27 points to lead Weston-McEwen for the night.

The TigerScots (4-13, 2-4 BMC) travel to Heppner on Saturday.

RIVERSIDE 57, VALE 46 — Francisco Barajas poured in 18 points, with five 3-pointers, to lead Riverside to their third straight Eastern Oregon League victory on Friday.

Ramon Montes added 11 points and Johan Pena 10 during the home game.

The Pirates (8-9, 2-1 EOL) will host Burns on Saturday.

STANFIELD 68, GRANT UNION 52 — Elias Esquivel sunk 15 points for Stanfield's Eastern Oregon League road win on Friday.

"It was a good team effort," said coach Devil Bailey. "Hopefully we can keep riding this wave."

Hugo Hernandez and Eduardo Nunez each posted 10 points. The Tigers had nine scoring players for the night.

Stanfield (6-11, 3-3 EOL) travels to Heppner on Friday.

Girls hoops

BURNS 53, IRRIGON 38 — Irrigon fell to 1-3 in the Eastern Oregon League after a Friday home loss.

The Knights were ahead 11-8 at the end of the first quarter, but Burns made a 21-10 run in the second to claim the game.

JaLay Burns posted 12 points and three steals to lead Irrigon, and Alyssa Luna had 10 points and eight rebounds. Ana Zacharias also added 10 points.

Irrigon (10-7, 1-3 EOL) hosts Nyssa on Saturday.

WALLOWA 42, HELIX 33 — Hannah Christman had a team-high 11 points, but it wasn't enough to save Helix from a league loss on Friday.

Wallowa held off the Grizzlies for three quarters until Helix came back to claim the final quarter 11-6.

Helix (4-11, 1-4 OOL) travels to Powder Valley to continue play in the Old Oregon League on Saturday.

ECHO 49, SHERMAN 25 — Faith McCarty had a game-high 18 points to drive Echo to their third straight Big Sky League victory on Friday night.

Rachel McCarty and Tylene Skillman added 10 points each for the Cougars (8-8, 6-2 BSL). They'll hit the road to Dufur on Saturday.

IONE 49, SOUTH WASCO COUNTY 41 — The Cardinals improved to 7-0 in Big Sky League play with a home win over the Redsides.

Ione (12-2 overall), which has won nine games in a row, will play at Sherman County on Saturday.

VALE 48, RIVERSIDE 15 — It was a rough night for Riverside as the visiting Vale Vikings handed them their second Eastern Oregon League loss on Friday.

Megan Hegar, Alexis Villegas, Faith Rosen, and Brendy Avalos each had three points for the Pirates.

"Vale is very aggres-

sive, and it showed tonight. They're a very physical team," said Pirates coach Clair Costello. "We just weren't strong enough to play how we wanted to."

Riverside (9-7, 1-2 EOL) hosts Burns on Saturday.

UNION 57, WESTON-MCEWEN 24 — Weston-McEwen has now entered a five-game skid after Union handed them a Blue Mountain Conference home loss on Friday.

Trinity Hearn had a team-high eight points and 11 rebounds for the Tiger-Scots (5-12, 0-6 BMC). They'll travel to Heppner on Saturday.

GRANT UNION 53, STANFIELD 47 — Stanfield was handed their third consecutive Blue Mountain Conference loss on the road on Friday night.

Nyah Tejada had 16 points, and Kendra Hart added 13 of her own to lead the Tigers (8-9, 2-4 BMC). They'll travel to Heppner on Friday, Jan. 25.

NIXYAAWII 38, ELGIN 34 — Lark Moses posted 17 points for Nixyaawii's Old Oregon League home win on Friday.

Mackenzie Kiona followed with 11 points.

"I'm very pleased with the gritty performance from my team," said coach Jeremy Maddern.

The Golden Eagles (9-7, 2-3 OOL) travel to Joseph on Saturday.

HEPPNER 58, PILOT ROCK 48 — Heppner improved to 4-2 in the Blue Mountain Conference after turning the visiting Rockets away on Friday.

Jacee Currin had a team-high 19 points for the Mustangs, and Sydney Wilson had 17.

Kate Evans and Breann Baleztena led Pilot Rock with six points each.

Heppner (12-6, 4-2 BMC) hosts Weston-McEwen on Saturday. Pilot Rock (7-9, 1-5 BMC) travels to Enterprise.

Bucks: 'We had a good team effort tonight'

Continued from Page B1

Bucks, the Cowboys forced them into a three-minute scoring drought.

"They (Crook County) have good players, they just weren't hitting baskets in the beginning," Sams said. "But in the fourth quarter, they started knocking down shots."

The Cowboys scored seven unanswered points to close the gap to 56-40, and junior guard Jrei Ramirez and senior post Miles Chaney combined for three at the line to close it to just 15 before the buzzer.

"We had a good team effort tonight," Dong said. "We had a lot of energy from the bench, too. It's a good feeling when you can get guys in and give

them an opportunity to be successful."

Eight of Pendleton's nine players put points on the scoreboard. Newsom led with 19.

The Bucks improved to 1-1 in the IMC and 10-5 overall, moving up to the league's No. 3 seat. They'll hit the road to The Dalles on Friday.

Girls

The Pendleton girls hit Crook County's court hot and never looked back en route to a 76-30 victory on Friday.

The win improved the Buckaroos to 2-0 in the IMC.

Pendleton held the Cowboys to just eight points in the first quarter, and posted 18 of their own. They

took a 38-15 lead into the locker room.

"We shot the ball extremely well tonight. It's been a long time coming," said coach Kevin Porter. "We didn't let Crook County dictate our shots."

It was Pendleton's game all the way through. While Crook County had their best run in the third quarter with 11 points, the Bucks outdid them with 17. They put the game away with a 21-4 run over the Cowboys.

"Our defense was really good tonight," Porter said. "We made some adjustments at halftime that pushed us forward. The girls were all over the floor and played defense as hard as ever. We ran out and handled the business we needed to handle."

Freshman Muriel

Hoisington drove the victory with 16 points. Seniors Elli Nirschl, Hunter Blake, and Sarah Scott, and junior Nicole Lee each added eight. Blake also shot 4 of 4 from the field.

The Bucks (5-10, 2-0 IMC) return home to play The Dalles on Friday.

Boys Box Score

Pendleton 18 21 13 10 — 58
Crook County 10 9 10 14 — 43
PENDLETON — Newsom 19, Sams 12, O'Hanlon 6, Sweek 6, Sandford 5, Broncheau 4, Murray 4, Sams 2
CROOK COUNTY — Kessi 14, Savage 9, Mullan 7, Graydon 4, Sanchez 2, Ramirez 2, Lowenbach 2, Sanchez 2, Chaney 1

Girls' Box Score

Pendleton 18 20 17 21 — 76
Crook County 8 7 11 4 — 30
PENDLETON — Hoisington 16, Nirschl 8, Lee 8, Scott 8, Blake 8, Jennes 6, Neveau 5, Spreit 5, Garcia 5, Bradt 4, Taber 3
CROOK COUNTY — Freeman 9, Barker 5, Ptomey 4, Mode 4, Kasberger 2, Rash 2, Hutchins 2