



Seattle Seahawks defensive tackles Earl Mitchell (75) and Al Woods (72) work with defensive coordinator Ken Norton Jr., left, during training camp Thursday in Renton, Wash. AP Photo/Ted S. Warren

Seahawks enter camp with questions about the defensive line

By CURTIS CRABTREE
Associated Press

RENTON, Wash. — For a second straight year, the Seahawks enter training camp with questions about their defensive line.

The issue a year ago was how the team was going to generate a pass rush following the departures of Michael Bennett and Cliff Avril. Frank Clark and Jarran Reed combined to fill that void by racking up a combined 23.5 sacks. In the process, Reed became just the third defensive tackle in franchise history to post double-digit sacks, after Cortez Kennedy and John Randle.

Now Clark is in Kansas City following an offseason trade, and Reed is set to miss the first six games of the season after being suspended for a violation of the NFL's personal conduct policy because of an alleged domestic violence incident in April 2017.

"Whenever we lose somebody, you know, it's the next guy up and that's what this situation will call for," coach Pete Carroll said. "He'll work with us all through camp and all that and then he'll have to leave. But in the meantime, it's a competitive opportunity for other guys who we are going to watch unfold."

Key free agent acquisition Ezekiel Ansah isn't expected to practice until the latter stages of training camp as he continues to rehab from shoulder surgery.

"His shoulder is healed, it's solid," Carroll said. "They did all of the retesting again, just in the last couple days, to ensure that. He's got a little bit of soreness in the lifting coming back, but really nothing to hold him back. It's just a matter of keep getting stronger and making sure it's really secure before we go."

Beyond Ansah, the Seahawks lack a proven pass rush from the end position.

Cassius Marsh — a former Seattle fourth-round pick — compiled 5.5 sacks last year with San Francisco.

Ansah had 14.5 sacks in 2015 and 12 sacks in 2017 for the Lions. Seattle signed him in May. The need for pass rush help was glaring prior to Ansah's addition and is again in the spotlight because of Reed's suspension.

The Seahawks will need younger players such as Quinton Jefferson, Rasheem Green, Jacob Martin and first-round pick L.J. Collier to step up and fill the void.

"It's a big loss but then again it's a big opportunity for our other guys, even myself," Jefferson said. "I've got a lot more on my plate out there and I'm expected to do a lot more. It's fun. Guys are going to have to step up. It should still be a fun year. I don't expect any drop-off because I'm confident in the guys we're going to have out there."

Pendleton 12U All-Stars dethroned at West Regional tournament

By BRETT KANE
East Oregonian

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. — Pendleton's 12U Little League All-Stars softball team spent most of their state and West Regional runs untested, but on Thursday, they finally met their match.

The team suffered a 9-2 loss to Northern California during a West Regional tournament in San Bernardino, California, ending their streak.

Northern California jumped out to a four-run lead in the top of the first inning,

from which Pendleton could never recover.

Their opponents swiftly took advantage of three hits and one walk off Pendleton's Kendall Murphy. The team would swipe seven runs from her over 4 2/3 innings. Madaline Schumacher threw 1 1/3 innings of relief. She would fan three batters, but it wasn't enough to contain Northern California.

Murphy got Pendleton on the board in the bottom of the second. Her fly ball to center field was good enough to get her to first base, and Josie Jenness to home.

Pendleton's second and final run of the day came in the bottom of the fifth when Schumacher scored on a catcher's error after one pitch.

The rally, however, fell too short, as Northern California had already driven in three straight runs in the top of the same inning.

Schumacher's single helped her lead the Pendleton All-Stars with a 1-for-3 showing at the plate. Melanie Boatman and Lea Wilson each hit 2-or-3.

Pendleton outhit Northern California 8-4, but tallied three times the errors at 9-3.

Seahawks: No need for an agent, Wagner negotiates on his own

Continued from Page B1

NFL Network first reported the deal and said it's for \$54 million with \$40 million guaranteed. The contract makes Wagner the highest-paid middle linebacker in the NFL in average annual value, surpassing the \$85 million five-year deal signed by C.J. Mosley with the New York Jets in the offseason.

The 29-year-old is represented himself in negotiations, bypassing an agent for the first time in his career. He did have a target for the kind of contract he's seeking after Mosley's deal averaged \$17 million per season. Mosley's deal reset the entire market and put Seattle in the difficult position of having to match or exceed.

It wasn't easy and Wagner appeared to be getting slightly more annoyed as training camp arrived and a new deal wasn't in place. Wagner watched the first day of camp wearing a sweatshirt inside out and without his team jersey.

But he was on the field in uniform and with his hel-

met on day two — although not participating — and by the end of the day had his new contract done.

"I'm really excited to have this done, excited that I get to be a Seahawk for a long, long time. Like I've always said, I want to play my entire career here, and I feel like today is a step toward that," Wagner said in a statement. "It feels amazing being here. I've watched people stay, I've watched people go, and to have the trust from the organization to continue to let me lead this team, lead the defense, it's a great feeling. I'm excited to get back to work."

Wagner was a second-round pick by the Seahawks in 2012. He instantly became a starter and arguably the most consistent piece of its standout defense earlier this decade. Wagner is a four-time first-team All-Pro, a five-time Pro Bowl selection and is regarded with Carolina's Luke Kuechly as the premier middle linebackers in the league.

Last season, Wagner had 138 tackles, two

forced fumbles and the first interception return for a touchdown in his career. He's one of three players remaining on the Seahawks roster from its Super Bowl champion team.

Wagner opted not to holdout in search of a new contract. He made the decision in the offseason to be in attendance but not participate in any of the off-season workouts in order to protect his health.

He saw last year both sides of what can happen in with two players entering the final year of their deals.

Earl Thomas held out last year, appeared to create friction with the front office and left in free agency following an injury that ended his season early. Meanwhile, K.J. Wright showed up for the offseason program before the start of last season, missed significant time with a knee injury, but was still rewarded with a new deal.

Wagner toed the line between the two options, remained an influence voice for Seattle's young players and ended up getting rewarded.

Myers: Nationals will air on FS1

Continued from Page B1

the year — at the Seattle International Raceway's Northwest Nationals.

"Racing is a family," Myers said. "We're all friends in the drag racing community. We all know each other. Over the years, I got asked to drive for other people a lot, but I just didn't. I made a good spectator. Larry kept saying, 'Come drive my car, come drive my car.' He reached out to me one more time last year and said 'God dangit, drive my car,' and we put together a deal."

With associate sponsorships at Lucas Oil and Protect the Harvest, the help of his pit crew, and the undying support of his wife Tina Orton, Myers has competed in four hot rod races so far this year. He qualified 12th place in Las Vegas — his comeback race — ninth in following race, then went on to take home eighth and sixth-place finishes.

"We've gotten better every race, substantially," Myers said.

The birth of a racer

Myers was born in The Dalles, but was raised in Hermiston. His father Bill drove race cars, and that's what gave Myers his need for speed.

"I grew up sitting in my mom's lap watching (my dad) race," Myers recalled. "I've been around it for a while."

Myers spent his early years racing along the back roads of Hermiston. He would eventually race in local circuits before taking his skills to the national level. He said his father and his mother Sylvia would attend all of his races, but they won't be able to attend next weekend's big competition.

"I wish my parents could

be at the race," Myers said. "It'll be what I miss the most."

Setting the record

Most drag race records are broken by 1/1000ths of a second, Myers said. In 2004, he broke his by 2/10s. He accepted his Top Alcohol Dragster trophy, and stepped out of the spotlight.

The achievement earned him a cover story in an issue of National Dragster magazine and a world championship ring, courtesy of the NHRA, presented in Hollywood.

But, why would he leave at the height of his powers?

The NHRA altered the rules for injected nitro-burning combinations after his win. First implemented in 2005, the new regulations now give drivers a maximum of 95 percent nitro to fuel their cars with, instead of 100 percent.

And as the rules changed, so did Myers' walk of life. He spent the last 15 years maintaining his businesses in the Hermiston area. For a while, he had no intentions of returning to the cockpit.

"I felt like the stars had aligned," Myers said. "You have to be serious about these cars, because you could die in one. If I didn't feel like we had the team, parts, knowledge, and ability to win, I wouldn't do it."

New wheels

Myers spent the majority of his racing career driving his own cars, but for his comeback, he's driving one of Miersch's.

Weighing in at 2,000 pounds and with a 7,000-horsepower engine, the car can accelerate from 0 to 280 mph in roughly five seconds. It spans 300 inches — 25 feet — from

wheelbase to wheelbase.

"These nitro cars shake the earth," Myers said. "You can't breathe, and your eyes start to burn. It's a spectacle. Everyone should see it at least once in their lives."

With a new set of wheels in tow, Myers' return to the world of racing has been met with success. And there's plenty of science that goes into every finish, whether it's the humidity, temperature, or elevation. Every bit of data is crucial in calculating the next win.

"The cooler it is (outside), the faster the car runs," Myers said. "The hotter the air, the less oxygen there is. We rely a lot on the weather. I expect Seattle to be right close to 80 degrees. Being where the track is located, at sea level, surrounded by trees, we oughtta haul ass."

On Tuesday, Myers is hosting a sendoff in the Nookie's parking lot before he departs for the Northwest Nationals. The event will feature live music, food, beer, and a few local hot rods, including the vehicle Myers will drive in Seattle.

And after that, it's off to the races.

Qualifying for the Seattle-hosted showdown begins on Friday and Saturday morning, with one-round eliminations taking place on Saturday evening and Sunday. The race is set to air on FS1 a week later.

Myers has more races to attend in Indianapolis and Brainerd, Minnesota. Although his deal only entails 10 races, a second retirement isn't in the books just yet.

"Once you get nitro in your blood, you'll never get rid of it," Myers said. "It's part of the fiber of who I am."

SCOREBOARD

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	66	37	.641	—
Tampa Bay	59	47	.557	8½
Boston	58	47	.552	9
Toronto	39	66	.371	28
Baltimore	33	69	.324	32½
Central	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	63	40	.612	—
Cleveland	61	42	.592	2
Chicago	45	56	.446	17
Kansas City	39	66	.371	25
Detroit	30	68	.306	30½
West	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	66	38	.635	—
Oakland	58	46	.558	8
Los Angeles	54	50	.519	12
Texas	52	51	.505	13½
Seattle	43	63	.406	24

Friday's Games

Tampa Bay 3, Toronto 1
Boston 10, N.Y. Yankees 5
Minnesota 6, Chicago White Sox 2
Cleveland 8, Kansas City 3
Detroit at Seattle, 7:10 p.m.

Saturday's Games

Tampa Bay (Kittredge 1-0) at Toronto (Borucki 0-1), 12:07 p.m.
N.Y. Yankees (Sabathia 5-5) at Boston (Rodriguez 12-4), 1:05 p.m.
Detroit (Alexander 0-0) at Seattle (Gonzalez 11-8), 1:10 p.m.

Minnesota (Perez 8-3) at Chicago White Sox (Nova 5-9), 4:10 p.m.
Cleveland (Clevinger 4-2) at Kansas City (Sparkman 3-6), 4:15 p.m.
Houston (Cole 11-5) at St. Louis (Ponce de Leon 1-0), 4:15 p.m.

Baltimore (Brooks 2-4) at L.A. Angels (TBD), 6:07 p.m.
Texas (Sampson 6-7) at Oakland (Bailey 8-7), 6:07 p.m.

Sunday's Games

Tampa Bay at Toronto, 10:07 a.m.
Minnesota at Chicago White Sox, 11:10 a.m.
Cleveland at Kansas City, 11:15 a.m.
Houston at St. Louis, 11:15 a.m.
Baltimore at L.A. Angels, 1:07 p.m.
Texas at Oakland, 1:07 p.m.
Detroit at Seattle, 1:10 p.m.
N.Y. Yankees at Boston, 4:05 p.m.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	61	43	.587	—
Washington	55	48	.534	5½
Philadelphia	54	49	.524	6½
New York	48	55	.466	12½
Miami	39	62	.386	20½
Central	W	L	Pct	GB
St. Louis	55	47	.539	—
Chicago	55	48	.534	½
Milwaukee	55	50	.524	1½
Cincinnati	46	55	.455	8½
Pittsburgh	46	57	.447	9½
West	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	68	37	.648	—
San Francisco	52	51	.505	15
Arizona	52	52	.500	15½
Colorado	49	55	.471	18½
San Diego	48	54	.471	18½

Friday's Games

Colorado 12, Cincinnati 2
Atlanta 9, Philadelphia 2
L.A. Dodgers 4, Washington 2
Miami 3, Arizona 2

N.Y. Mets 6, Pittsburgh 3

Milwaukee 3, Chicago Cubs 2
Saturday's Games
L.A. Dodgers (Kershaw 8-2) at Washington (TBD), 1:05 p.m.

Arizona (Young 3-0) at Miami (Yamamoto 4-1), 3:10 p.m.
Atlanta (Fried 10-4) at Philadelphia (Eflin 7-10), 4:05 p.m.

Chicago Cubs (Lester 9-6) at Milwaukee (Anderson 5-2), 4:10 p.m.
Colorado (Gonzalez 0-2) at Cincinnati (DeSclafani 5-5), 4:10 p.m.

Pittsburgh (Williams 3-3) at N.Y. Mets (Matz 5-6), 4:10 p.m.
Houston (Cole 11-5) at St. Louis (Ponce de Leon 1-0), 4:15 p.m.

San Francisco (Anderson 3-2) at San Diego (TBD), 5:40 p.m.
Sunday's Games
Atlanta at Philadelphia, 10:05 a.m.

Arizona at Miami, 10:10 a.m.
Colorado at Cincinnati, 10:10 a.m.
Pittsburgh at N.Y. Mets, 10:10 a.m.
L.A. Dodgers at Washington, 10:35 a.m.
Chicago Cubs at Milwaukee, 11:10 a.m.
Houston at St. Louis, 11:15 a.m.
San Francisco at San Diego, 1:10 p.m.

CYCLING

TOUR DE FRANCE RESULTS

Friday 19th Stage

At Tignes, France
A 78.3-mile ride from Saint-Michel-De-Maurienne to Tignes
No winner, stage stopped because of a hail storm and mudslides.
Riders' overall placings were based on their time at the top of the highest mountain pass — the Iseran, at 2,770 meters (9,090 feet) above sea level.

Overall Standings (After 19 stages)

- Egan Bernal, Colombia, Ineos, 78:00:42
 - Julian Alaphilippe, France, Decun-ink-QuickStep, +48 behind.
 - Geraint Thomas, Britain, Ineos, 1:16.
 - Steven Kruijswijk, Netherlands, Jumbo-Visma, 1:28.
 - Emanuel Buchmann, Germany, Bora-Hansgrohe, 1:55.
 - Mikel Landa, Spain, Movistar, 4:35.
 - Rigoberto Uran, Colombia, EF Education First, 5:14.
 - Nairo Quintana, Colombia, Movistar, 5:17.
 - Alejandro Valverde, Spain, Movistar, 6:25.
 - Richie Porte, Australia, Trek-Segafredo, 6:28.
 - Warren Barguil, France, Arkea-Samsic, 7:03.
 - Guillaume Martin, France, Wanty-Gobert, 16:18.
 - Dani Gaudu, France, Groupama-FDJ, 20:45.
 - Fabio Aru, Italy, UAE Team Emirates, 23:14.
 - Roman Kreuziger, Czech Republic, Dimension Data, 26:10.
 - Romain Bardet, France, AG2R La Mondiale, 26:26.
 - Alexey Lutsenko, Kazakhstan, Astana Pro Team, 40:17.
 - Sebastien Reichenbach, Switzerland, Groupama-FDJ, 40:45.
 - Dan Martin, Ireland, UAE Team Emirates, 42:37.
 - George Bennett, Australia, Team Jumbo-Visma, 44:27.
- Also**
66. Ben King, United States, Dimension Data, 2:02:21.
76. Joey Roskopf, United States, CCC, 2:21:18.
132. Chad Haga, United States, Sunweb, 3:36:05.
NR. Thibaut Pinot, France, Groupama-FDJ, withdrew.

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