

Giants receiver Coleman tears ACL

By TOM CANAVAN
Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Just months after trading Odell Beckham Jr. to Cleveland, the New York Giants are being hit by a rash of injuries at wide receiver.

Sterling Shepard, who was to take over from Beckham as the top wideout, broke his left thumb reaching to catch a pass on Thursday in the first practice of training camp.

The Giants announced Friday morning that receiver/kickoff returner Corey Coleman tore an ACL, a season-ending injury. They said the injury also happened in practice Thursday.

Rookie Darius Slayton, the fifth-round draft pick from Auburn, missed his



AP Photo/Tom Canavan

New York Giants NFL football team general manager speaks to the media Friday at training camp in East Rutherford, N.J.

second straight practice with a hamstring injury, while veteran Brittan Golden sustained a groin injury late in Friday's workout.

General manager Dave Gettleman said the team would hold a tryout Saturday.

Coach Pat Shurmur expects Shepard and Slayton not to be sidelined long. Shepard's status is week to week.

"The problem is it really affects the way practice operates," Gettleman said.

"It affects the way Pat writes the script, Pat and Mike Shula write the offensive script and everything, so it hurts."

The injury to Coleman is a little shocking because he finished practice on Thursday and looked good running deep routes.

"It feels like there is a dark cloud over our room right now," Slayton said. "Sterling's injury wasn't major, mine wasn't major. Really the only major one suffered was Corey. Obviously, Sterling, he is going to try his best to get back as quickly as possible and I'm going to try to do the same. At the same time, we are rooting for Corey and his recovery."

Linebacker Markus Golden was carted off the field late with cramps.

BRIEFLY



AP Photo/Joel Bissell

The Derek Jeter Field at Kalamazoo Central High School in Kalamazoo, Mich. A charitable organization founded by the former New York Yankees shortstop is donating about \$3.2 million to renovate a baseball and softball complex at his Michigan high school.

Jeter's foundation donates \$3.2M for Michigan high school ballfields

KALAMAZOO, Mich. (AP) — A charitable organization founded by former New York Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter is donating about \$3.2 million to renovate a baseball and softball complex at his Michigan high school.

The Kalamazoo Public Schools district announced the donation Thursday from the Turn 2 Foundation. Planned work includes new fields, seating and dugouts as well as synthetic turf. The Kalamazoo Gazette reports school officials say the project is scheduled to be completed in 2021.

Jeter, who is the Miami Marlins CEO, says in a statement that he hopes the project "will inspire local youth to work hard to achieve their full potential and accomplish their goals."

Jeter graduated from Kalamazoo Central High School in 1992 and the baseball field at the complex was named Derek Jeter Field in his honor in 2012.

UConn will pay \$17M exit fee to leave the AAC early for Big East

STORRS, Conn. (AP) — The University of Connecticut has agreed to pay a \$17 million exit fee to the American Athletic Conference, so the school can rejoin the Big East next year.

AAC bylaws stipulate any school seeking to leave the conference must give 27 months' notice and pay a \$12 million fee, but the sides negotiated the higher fee for UConn to leave sooner.

UConn Athletic Director David Benedict in a statement Friday thanked AAC Mike Aresco and his staff for their professionalism during the transition process.

Aresco praised Benedict for helping the sides reach a "swift and amicable resolution."

The Huskies will join the Big East in all sports except football, men's and women's ice hockey and rowing.

UConn also announced Friday its football program will become an independent in the Football Bowl Sub-division in 2020.

Chargers' Russell Okung out due to blood clots

By JOE REEDY
Associated Press

COSTA MESA, Calif. — Russell Okung was with his Los Angeles Chargers teammates for the start of training camp Thursday but he will be sidelined indefinitely.

The veteran left tackle revealed via Twitter that he is being treated for blood clots. He said in a statement that the condition was discovered after he suffered a pulmonary embolism during a June 1 offseason practice at the team facility.

"After experiencing unusual chest pain at practice, on June 1st I went to urgent care out of an abundance of caution," he said. "According to the doctors who treated me, the decision to do so likely saved my life."

Okung said since the condition was detected early, it is treatable. He is attending meetings and receiving treatment after missing last month's minicamp.

The Chargers placed Okung on the active/non-football list Wednesday.



AP Photo/Tim Ireland, File

Los Angeles Chargers offensive tackle Russell Okung (76), shown in this Oct. 21, 2018, photo, will miss most of training camp because of blood clots.

day, meaning he still counts against the 90-man roster limit.

"While near death type experiences are certainly a wake up call, I'm feeling great physically. It's not an ankle or shoulder," Okung tweeted. "As soon as doctors clear me, my plans include blocking #17's blind side (Philip Rivers) all the way to Miami."

Rivers echoed Okung in saying that injuries such as this are more of a wake-up call.

"This is one of those silent and deadly deals," he said. "Thankfully, he is getting the treatment and he caught it soon enough. He's here in meetings and in his jersey. When he's healthy we'll get him back there."

While Okung is out, Sam

Tevi and Trent Scott will see time at left tackle. Tevi started 17 games last season and moved to left tackle when Okung missed the Oct. 7 game against Oakland due to a groin injury. Scott started one game at right tackle.

The Chargers held their first practice without running back Melvin Gordon, who is holding out in hopes of getting a new contract. Rivers said coach Anthony Lynn did not bring up Gordon's holdout when he talked to the team Wednesday night.

Austin Ekeler, Justin Jackson and Detrez Newsum all got time with the first team during Thursday's two-hour practice.

Lynn said the holdout will not be a distraction for a team that many are favoring to reach the Super Bowl after going 12-4 and reaching the AFC divisional round last season.

"We don't like to talk about players that aren't here," Lynn said. "We understand his situation. We love him but he's not here."

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