



AP Photo/Elaine Thompson, File
Washington quarterback Jacob Eason readies a throw during an NCAA football practice Aug. 5, 2019, in Seattle. Coach Chris Petersen named Eason the Huskies starter on Friday.

No. 13 UW names Jacob Eason starting quarterback

Associated Press

SEATTLE — No. 13 Washington has named Georgia transfer Jacob Eason its starting quarterback for the season opener against Eastern Washington.

Eason was expected to land the starting job after transferring to the Huskies but was in an extended com-

petition with sophomore Jake Haener throughout spring practice and into fall camp. Coach Chris Petersen said Haener will also play in the opener.

Eason started as a freshman at Georgia, playing in 13 games and throwing for 2,430 yards and 16 touchdowns in 2016.

He was injured in the first quarter of the sea-

son opener the following year and never regained the starting job after Jake Fromm took over and led the Bulldogs to the national championship game. Eason transferred and sat out last season under NCAA transfer rules.

Eason's first start at Washington will be his first game action since Oct. 7, 2017, against Vanderbilt.

Sounders best Timbers 2-1

By CAITLIN MURRAY
 Associated Press

PORTLAND — Cristian Roldan and Raul Ruidiaz each scored to lift the Seattle Sounders to a 2-1 win over rival the Portland Timbers on Friday night and secure this year's Cascadia Cup trophy.

Jordan Morris assisted on both goals as the Seattle Sounders (12-8-7) moved into second place in the Western Conference.

The Timbers (11-11-4) have lost their last two games after falling last week 2-0 to reigning MLS Cup champion Atlanta United FC at home. The Timbers sit in seventh place, just above the playoff line.

The game was marked by a fan protest of MLS's new policy that prohibits political displays at games. The Timbers Army and Emerald City Supporters fan groups remained silent for the first 33 minutes of the game due to a ban on flags showing the anti-fascist Iron Front symbol, which MLS says has become politicized.

When the clock hit 33:01, Timbers fans broke out into a chant based on "Bella Ciao," an Italian protest song, and some fans for each team defiantly waved flags with the prohibited Iron Front logo.

Ahead of the planned fan protest, the starting players for the Timbers and the Sounders posed together for a pre-game photo with banners that said "anti-racist" and "anti-fascist."

With the win, the Sounders secured their sixth Cascadia Cup, tying the Vancouver Whitecaps' all-time record. The Timbers have won it four times.

The Cascadia Cup was created by supporters of the Timbers, Sounders and Whitecaps, and is awarded to the winner of the head-to-head matches between the three



AP Photo/Serena Morones
Portland Timbers fans wait for the team's MLS soccer match against the Seattle Sounders on Friday in Portland. Major League Soccer recently instituted a policy that bans political displays at matches.

| MLS | |
|---------|----------|
| | |
| Seattle | Portland |
| 2 | 1 |

teams each season based on points.

In the 22nd minute, Morris crossed a ball into box that bounced off teammate Ruidiaz and into the path of Roldan, who tapped it past Timbers goalkeeper Steve Clark. It was Roldan's fourth goal this season.

Two minutes into the second half, Morris tallied another assist, crossing the ball to Ruidiaz, who fired a shot from the middle of the penalty box for his 10th goal this year.

Diego Valeri scored for the Timbers in the 54th minute via a free kick that ricocheted off Ruidiaz and into the goal.

Valeri, who has seven goals this season, is the only active MLS player and the sixth player league history to record 75 goals and 75 assists in league play.

The Timbers nearly equalized in the 58th minute when a Valeri strike and a Cristian

Paredes header forced two quick saves out of Sounders goalkeeper Stefan Frei.

In the 80th minute, the Timbers thought they equalized on a Brian Fernandez strike, but it was called back after a video review showed he was offside on the play.

The win was the Sounders' first in five games. They had been winless and had allowed multiple goals in each of their previous four games.

Seattle has a 10-8-6 lead all-time in regular season meetings with Portland since the Timbers joined MLS in 2011.

Spanish midfielder Emanuel Cecchini made his debut for the Sounders in the second half. He was signed on Aug. 8 via a loan from Spanish second-division side Malaga.

The Timbers were without usual starting defender Larrys Mabilala, who injured his hamstring on Aug. 14 in a win over the Chicago Fire. The Timbers have not said when he is expected to return.

The Sounders were still without Victor Rodriguez, who has been out since July 6 with a hamstring injury.

Up next, the Timbers host Real Salt Lake on Aug. 31. Portland will play seven of its last eight matches of the season at home.

Youth: MLB has a number of programs to entice youth

Continued from Page B1

More than 25 million kids played baseball or softball in 2018, and nearly 15 million of those were "core" players who played 13 or more times in a year. The number of participants in youth football — including tackle, touch and flag — was down by nearly 1.7 million over the same stretch, and soccer participation dropped by nearly 900,000.

According to the Aspen Institute, which promotes youth sports participation and uses SFIA data, 13.6% of kids ages 6-12 played baseball in 2018, a 3% increase from 2015. Baseball was the second-most popular sport for kids in that age group, after basketball, which had a 14.1% participation rate.

The 2018 numbers were released this month as 11- and 12-year-old ballplayers gathered in South Williamsport, Pennsylvania, for their annual ESPN-televized showcase at the Little League World Series.

David Fox coaches and his kids play in Washington's Capitol Hill Little League, which didn't even exist a decade ago. It was founded in 2011 and has grown from 120 players in its initial season to more than 640 baseball and softball players this spring.

Fox said a well-run Little League with engaged parents can build loyalty to the sport.

"My son's group of friends are all baseball players, all kids he has ever played baseball with or continues to play baseball with, so I think the thing I love about Little League is it's community-based. Everybody lives on Capitol Hill, goes to their local schools and lives within a few minutes' drive," Fox said. "Our circle of friends are the families I coach with, the par-



AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta
David Fox, from left, with his sons Dewey and Jimmy, put their hands together as they wrap up practicing baseball Friday at a field in northeast Washington. Youth baseball participation has been on the rise the past few years.

ents we've played with for the last five or six years. We've vacationed with them, go to restaurants with them. We hang out."

It's clear, too, that some parents are looking at baseball as a safer option than football, given research that shows the vulnerability of younger players to brain injuries.

"That's definitely part of the appeal," said Emily Cichy, who has two boys who played in Capitol Hill Little League before the family moved to Seattle. "Although both soccer and baseball have their own concerns, we are not interested in our kids playing football. If they really expressed an interest, we'd have a conversation about it."

Baseball participation has also benefited from the growth of travel ball, said Tony Reagins, who leads MLB's development group for baseball and softball. But travel ball is much more expensive and time-consuming than Little League or other recreational leagues, and there is concern about baseball becoming a niche sport for wealthier families that can afford to put their kids in travel programs and pay for private coaching.

"I would be naive to say the cost of playing in a travel ball program is not insignificant. There is a cost associated with that," Reagins said. "We need to continue to create programs that eliminate the cost factor."

The increase in participation correlates with several youth baseball programs MLB has launched or sponsored in recent years. For the Play Ball program, MLB joined with the U.S. Conference of Mayors to introduce kids to the sport. Another initiative, Fun At Bat, from MLB and USA Baseball, provides free baseball gear to physical education classes to help kids learn basic skills. Fun At Bat could reach up to 3 million kids in the U.S., Mexico, Puerto Rico and the United Kingdom during the upcoming school year, according to MLB.

MLB also has the long-running RBI program, which stands for Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities. It has more than 175,000 participants in 217 leagues in underserved communities.

Whether these efforts can turn kids into devoted baseball players will be a factor in the sustainability of youth baseball's growth.



Photo courtesy of Jeanne Jewett
Hermiston's Colby Lerten started playing golf when he was 2 years old. Now 12, Lerten has qualified to play in the Charlotte Tournament of Champions on Sept. 21, 2019, at Creekside Golf Course in Salem.

Heart: Lerten is one heck of a golfer

Continued from Page B1

Lerten has a big heart for a young man. He has been attending Rotary meetings in Hermiston this summer with his grandma, Jeanne Jewett, and helped the organization with its booth at the Umatilla County Fair. He likes that Rotary helps people locally and internationally.

An honor student, Lerten also was in Leadership Club at Rocky Heights Elementary School in the fifth grade.

Lerten would like to take his game to the PGA, but not to be famous or pocket a lot of money.

"I have been watching tournaments on TV," he said. "I want to donate to St. Jude's and the American Heart Association. The more kids who are helped have a chance to

play golf and be successful in what they want to do."

Love of the game

Lerten's parents have fostered his love of golf. They are members at Big River, they take him to tournaments, have him work with a swing coach, and recently, they put a bunker and putting green in their backyard.

"I can practice whenever I want," Lerten said.

Lerten has worked with Chris Issacson at Wine Valley Golf Course in Walla Walla on his swing, and he likes to play the different courses in the area, with Wildhorse being his favorite.

"Chris has taught me a lot of stuff," Lerten said. "Wildhorse has better greens and they are fast. They have a nice clubhouse, a golf simulator and

a restaurant."

His top course is Las Vegas National. He has played there once, and would like a return trip, before he's 21.

His favorite player is Jordan Spieth, but his favorite person to play golf with is recent Hermiston graduate Garrett McClannahan.

"I've played with some pretty good golfers, but Garrett is my favorite to play with," Lerten said.

Lerten has a few years before he can play for Hermiston High School, which is the first step in his planned golfing future.

"I want to get a scholarship to the University of Oregon and play in the PGA," he said. "Not a lot of my friends golf, but some have been learning the game. I want to grow the game more."

SCOREBOARD

FOOTBALL

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

| | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|-------------|---|---|---|-------|----|----|
| New England | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 | 63 | 23 |
| Buffalo | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 | 75 | 50 |
| Miami | 2 | 1 | 0 | .667 | 70 | 50 |
| N.Y. Jets | 1 | 1 | 0 | .500 | 44 | 41 |

South

| | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|--------------|---|---|---|------|----|----|
| Tennessee | 1 | 1 | 0 | .500 | 44 | 32 |
| Houston | 1 | 1 | 0 | .500 | 56 | 51 |
| Jacksonville | 0 | 3 | 0 | .000 | 17 | 75 |
| Indianapolis | 0 | 2 | 0 | .000 | 34 | 45 |

North

| | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|------------|---|---|---|-------|----|----|
| Pittsburgh | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 | 47 | 35 |
| Baltimore | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 | 81 | 28 |
| Cleveland | 2 | 1 | 0 | .667 | 63 | 41 |
| Cincinnati | 1 | 2 | 0 | .333 | 63 | 76 |

West

| | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|---------------|---|---|---|-------|----|----|
| Oakland | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 | 69 | 50 |
| Kansas City | 1 | 1 | 0 | .500 | 45 | 34 |
| Denver | 1 | 2 | 0 | .333 | 43 | 56 |
| L.A. Chargers | 0 | 2 | 0 | .000 | 30 | 36 |

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

| | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|--------------|---|---|---|-------|----|----|
| N.Y. Giants | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 | 88 | 58 |
| Dallas | 1 | 1 | 0 | .500 | 23 | 27 |
| Washington | 1 | 2 | 0 | .333 | 42 | 60 |
| Philadelphia | 1 | 2 | 0 | .333 | 49 | 63 |

South

| | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|-------------|---|---|---|------|----|----|
| Tampa Bay | 2 | 1 | 0 | .667 | 57 | 56 |
| New Orleans | 1 | 1 | 0 | .500 | 44 | 51 |
| Carolina | 1 | 2 | 0 | .333 | 40 | 50 |
| Atlanta | 0 | 4 | 0 | .000 | 54 | 89 |

North

| | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|-----------|---|---|---|-------|----|----|
| Minnesota | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 | 59 | 44 |
| Green Bay | 1 | 2 | 0 | .333 | 62 | 74 |
| Chicago | 0 | 2 | 0 | .000 | 26 | 55 |
| Detroit | 0 | 3 | 0 | .000 | 46 | 85 |

West

| | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|---------------|---|---|---|-------|----|----|
| San Francisco | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 | 41 | 24 |
| Seattle | 1 | 1 | 0 | .500 | 41 | 39 |
| Arizona | 1 | 1 | 0 | .500 | 43 | 46 |
| L.A. Rams | 0 | 2 | 0 | .000 | 13 | 28 |

Thursday's Games

| |
|-------------------------------|
| N.Y. Giants 25, Cincinnati 23 |
| Washington 19, Atlanta 7 |
| New England 10, Carolina 3 |
| Baltimore 26, Philadelphia 15 |
| Miami 22, Jacksonville 7 |

Oakland 22, Green Bay 21

Friday's Games

| |
|----------------------------|
| Tampa Bay 13, Cleveland 12 |
| Buffalo 24, Detroit 20 |

Saturday's Games

| |
|--------------------------------------|
| Arizona at Minnesota, 10 a.m. |
| Houston at Dallas, 4 p.m. |
| Chicago at Indianapolis, 4 p.m. |
| New Orleans at N.Y. Jets, 4:30 p.m. |
| San Francisco at Kansas City, 5 p.m. |
| Atlanta at Buffalo, 6 p.m. |
| Seattle at L.A. Rams, 6 p.m. |
| Seattle at L.A. Chargers, 7 p.m. |

Sunday's Games

| |
|---------------------------------|
| Pittsburgh at Tennessee, 5 p.m. |
|---------------------------------|

Thursday, Aug. 29

| |
|--|
| Indianapolis at Cincinnati, 4 p.m. |
| Minnesota at Buffalo, 4 p.m. |
| Atlanta at Jacksonville, 4 p.m. |
| Philadelphia at N.Y. Jets, 4 p.m. |
| Pittsburgh at Carolina, 4 p.m. |
| Baltimore at Washington, 4:30 p.m. |
| N.Y. Giants at New England, 4:30 p.m. |
| Detroit at Cleveland, 4:30 p.m. |
| Kansas City at Green Bay, 5 p.m. |
| Miami at New Orleans, 5 p.m. |
| Tampa Bay at Dallas, 5 p.m. |
| Tennessee at Chicago, 5 p.m. |
| L.A. Rams at Houston, 5 p.m. |
| Arizona at Denver, 6 p.m. |
| Oakland at Seattle, 7 p.m. |
| L.A. Chargers at San Francisco, 7 p.m. |