

Sports

PAC-12 FOOTBALL MEDIA DAY

Breakfast kickoff? Pac-12 ponders scheduling morning games in 2019

Media members narrowly pick Oregon Ducks to win the league's North Division

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Pac-12 has heard plenty of criticism from fans and coaches about a third of games being played at night last year.

That has led Commissioner Larry Scott to possibly try a new scheduling approach this season.

Instead of "Pac-12 After Dark," welcome to "Breakfast with the Pac-12."

Scott said Fox and conference athletic directors are in preliminary talks about morning kickoffs for some games, which would put them in the network's key noon Eastern time slot. Any morning kickoffs, which would be at 9 a.m. Pacific and 10 a.m. Mountain, would be voluntary and not dictated by Fox.

"That would be new and somewhat out of the box, but I've tried to put everything on the table," Scott said. "I think there are some schools and markets that might respond positively."

Coaches are split about the possibility of a morning kickoff. Utah coach Kyle Whittingham said the sooner they can start, the better.

"We'd adjust. We've played those games before. It's been few and far between, but we've had those 10 a.m. kickoffs in the past. We'd jump at the chance for that," he said.

Stanford's David Shaw said he would be somewhat resistant.

"All the studies we've all read and conducted ourselves on our campus, our sleep studies, it is better for young people to perform athletically if they get a full night's sleep," Shaw said. "And I don't know that you can find any group of 18- to 22-year-old young people that are going to go to bed at 10 o'clock at night to get up at 6 o'clock in the morning to make sure they can perform athletically."

SOMETHING TO PROVE

Oregon quarterback Justin Herbert remembers watching



Oregon quarterback Justin Herbert (10) chases after a bad snap during a game against USC at the Los Angeles Coliseum in 2016.

as a boy as Jeremiah Masoli, Darron Thomas and Heisman Trophy winner Marcus Mariota led the Ducks to conference titles.

After deciding to return to school instead of declaring for the NFL draft, Herbert hopes to join that fraternity of quarterbacks as a senior.

Herbert threw for 3,151 yards and 29 touchdowns as a junior last season but Oregon still finished fourth in the Pac-12 North.

"We've been through the highest of highs and lowest of lows and we've seen all the success that's been at Oregon so we're capable of looking at it and realizing this isn't where we wanted to be," Herbert said. "There's a direction that we're heading and I think we need to keep going that way."

Oregon was a narrow pick to win the Pac-12 North in the annual media poll released Wednesday after finishing one point ahead of rival Washington. The Ducks also received 11 votes to win the Pac-12 title game.

Herbert was pleased to receive the nod. However, he recognizes it means nothing if Oregon can't back it up on

the field.

PRESEASON TEAM

Utah placed five on the preseason all-conference team.

Four of the players are on defense — linemen Bradlee Anae and Leki Fotu along with defensive backs Julian Blackmon and Jaylon Johnson. Running back Zack Moss was the lone pick on offense.

Colorado wide receiver Laviska Shenault Jr was the only player to be listed on all 33 ballots.

Oregon and Stanford had four players apiece. Ducks quarterback Justin Herbert was first team on all but two ballots and Cardinal defensive back Paulson Adebo was listed on 32 of 33.

LEACH THE TEACH

If Washington State coach Mike Leach found the latest offensive innovation during his foray into academia this past spring, he doesn't seem to be tipping his hand.

Leach taught a five-part seminar called "Leadership Lessons in Insurgent Warfare and Football Strategies," and students had to design plays as part of the final project. Having overseen an offense

that has averaged at least 320 yards passing per game in each of his first seven seasons with the Cougars, Leach was certainly qualified to grade their work.

Whether any of those plays will be added to the playbook of Leach's "Air Raid" spread offense is another matter. Offensive lineman Liam Ryan did not notice anything out of the ordinary during spring practice in March and April.

However, given Leach's penchant for surprise, Ryan won't rule out seeing one of those plays show up in the fall.

"We did not practice anything different in spring ball so I have no idea what goes on in his mind," Ryan said. "He'll pull out something, I know that for sure."

NEW BOWL

The Pac-12 will be adding the Los Angeles Bowl to its postseason lineup when it begins in 2020.

The Los Angeles Bowl will feature a matchup between teams from the Pac-12 and Mountain West in the NFL stadium under construction. The Pac-12's commitment to the game runs through 2025.

Baker football camp Aug. 19-22

The annual Baker football camp is set for Aug. 19-22. Youth camp, for grades 3-6, will be from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Middle school camp, for grades 7-8, will run from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

All grades will have camp on Aug. 22 from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m., followed by the Baker Quarterback Club barbecue at 6:30 p.m., which is open to the public.

A high school scrimmage will take place after the barbecue.

All events will be at Baker Bulldog Memorial Stadium.

WORLD SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Dressel breaks Phelps' record

GWANGJU, South Korea (AP) — Caeleb Dressel broke Michael Phelps' world record in the 100-meter butterfly on Friday at the world swimming championships.

The American won his semifinal heat in 49.50 seconds — 0.32 seconds better than Phelps' mark set at the 2009 world meet in Rome at the height of the high-tech suit era.

Dressel was out in 22.83 seconds — 0.53 seconds under Phelps' pace — and came home in 26.67 to lead eight men into Saturday's final.

He was a whopping 1.44 seconds ahead of Andrei Minakov of Russia, the second-quickest qualifier.

It's the second world record of Phelps' to fall at this year's worlds. Kristof Milak of Hungary won the 200 fly in 1:50.73, bettering Phelps' mark of 1:51.51 also set in Rome.

Mariners rout Tigers

By Chris Talbott
Associated Press

SEATTLE — Tim Beckham got an opportunity to make a big play, and he delivered.

Beckham hit his second grand slam of the season and Kyle Seager connected for a solo drive, leading the Seattle Mariners to a 10-2 victory over the lowly Detroit Tigers on Thursday night.

J.P. Crawford added two hits and scored three times as Seattle won two in a row for the first time in a month. Daniel Vogelbach drove in three runs, and Wade LeBlanc (6-3) pitched six effective innings.

"Just good energy all around in the dugout and in the clubhouse is good for our team," Beckham

said. "Energy is contagious and we just want to keep it going."

Last-place Detroit lost for the ninth time in 10 games, continuing years of trouble against the AL West. The Tigers have dropped 21 of 22 against the AL West since Aug. 3, 2018. They are 50 games below .500 against the division since 2015.

John Hicks homered in the third, but Seattle responded with five runs in the bottom half.

With one out and the bases loaded, Vogelbach hit a grounder to second baseman Niko Goodrum, who attempted to tag Omar Narváez in the base path, but dropped the ball. Tim Lopes scored to tie the game.

Pac-12 makes changes seeking to improve officiating

By Joe Reedy
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES — Larry Scott is acutely aware that the Pac-12 has been the punching bag of the power five conferences the past couple years — on and off the field.

The beleaguered commissioner is hoping the programs get back on track after conference schools made the College Football Playoff only once the past four years and went 2-4 in New Year's Six bowls. As for what Scott can control, he's taking significant steps to address deficiencies in officiating.

Scott said during the conference's media day Wednesday that the league will implement all of the recommendations from a Sibson Consulting report examining everything about the football officiating

process.

The key recommendations include the head of officiating reporting directly to Scott rather than the football administrator, more consistency in grading and training from officiating supervisors and more transparency from the conference office in terms of questionable calls.

Scott said Woodie Dixon will no longer be involved in any officiating matters. Dixon called the league's replay command center and overruled a targeting penalty in last year's Washington State-USC game. It was that decision that damaged the league's credibility and was the final impetus for an outside consultant.

"That was a real straw that made us all wake up and realize we have work to do," said Arizona State athletic director Ray Anderson, who also

oversaw the report. "Those things can not be allowed to go on."

Scott also said there have been changes with some supervisors. The report found that they generally lacked recent on-field and NFL experience as well as a lack of commentary and specifying errors made.

The most important change for fans might be the league office being more accountable for controversial calls. Anderson said they are not ready to go as far as having an officiating Twitter account, like what the SEC is planning, but being more nimble to immediate controversies, such as last year's replay fiasco.

"Those types of egregious examples where we have to come out and say that a mistake was made rather than come out Monday or Tuesday we should be able to address in real

time," Anderson said. "We've got to make sure they are real, significant issues we can talk about."

Anderson also raised the possibility of director of officiating David Coleman appearing on the conference Website or Pac-12 Network to discuss calls from games the previous week.

To prevent a repeat of last year, the league will adopt a new replay manual that better organizes processes and procedures that should be used.

UCLA coach Chip Kelly said the most important thing to him is consistency, which he compared to driving.

"All you want to know is how are they going to officiate it. Are they going to allow you to go 68? Then you can go 68. Or are they going

to hard line it at 65? That's all you want as a coach," he said.

Scott is hopeful that the conference can rebound on the field. Seven of the 12 coaches have been with their programs three years or less.

"We have to acknowledge many of the criticisms that the conference has received, and I can tell you that collectively we've taken a hard look at everything about how we're operating," he said.

Utah has been selected as the favorite in the annual preseason media poll of media members, edging Oregon and Washington.

This year's conference title game will be played at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, California, and the 2020 and '21 games will be at the new Raiders Stadium in Las Vegas.

SCOREBOARD

MAJOR LEAGUES

AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
New York	66	36	.647	—
Tampa Bay	57	47	.552	9½
Boston	57	47	.548	10
Toronto	39	65	.375	28
Baltimore	33	69	.324	33
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Minnesota	62	40	.608	—
Cleveland	60	42	.588	2
Chicago	45	55	.450	16
Kansas City	39	65	.375	24
Detroit	30	68	.306	30
West Division				
	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

Thursday's Games

Boston 19, N.Y. Yankees 3	Minnesota 10, Chicago White Sox 3
Cleveland 5, Kansas City 4, 14 innings	Baltimore 10, L.A. Angels 8, 16 innings
Texas 11, Oakland 3	Seattle 10, Detroit 2
Today's Games	
All Times PDT	
Tampa Bay (Castillo 1-6) at Toronto (Waguespack 1-0), 4:07 p.m.	N.Y. Yankees (Paxton 5-5) at Boston (Cashner 9-5), 4:10 p.m.
Minnesota (Pineda 6-5) at Chicago White Sox (Cease 1-2), 5:10 p.m.	Cleveland (Plesac 4-3) at Kansas City (Junis 6-8), 5:15 p.m.
Houston (Urquidy 1-0) at St. Louis (Flaherty 4-6), 5:15 p.m.	Baltimore (Wojciechowski 1-3) at L.A. Angels (Canning 3-5), 7:07 p.m.
Texas (Lynn 12-6) at Oakland (Mengden 5-1), 7:07 p.m.	Detroit (Norris 2-8) at Seattle (Kikuchi 4-7), 7:10 p.m.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	60	43	.583	—
Washington	55	47	.539	4½
Philadelphia	54	48	.529	5½
New York	47	55	.461	12½
Miami	38	62	.380	20½
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Chicago	55	47	.539	—
St. Louis	55	47	.539	—
Milwaukee	54	50	.519	2
Cincinnati	46	54	.460	8
Pittsburgh	46	56	.451	9
West Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Los Angeles	67	37	.644	—
Arizona	52	51	.505	14½
San Francisco	52	51	.505	14½
San Diego	48	54	.471	18
Colorado	48	55	.466	18½

Thursday's Games

N.Y. Mets 4, San Diego 0	St. Louis 6, Pittsburgh 3
Colorado 8, Washington 7	
Today's Games	
All Times PDT	
Colorado (Marquez 9-5) at Cincinnati (Castillo 9-3), 3:40 p.m.	Atlanta (Soroka 10-2) at Philadelphia (Arrieta 8-7), 4:05 p.m.
L.A. Dodgers (Ryu 11-2) at Washington (Sanchez 6-6), 4:05 p.m.	Arizona (Greinke 10-4) at Miami (Alcantara 4-9), 4:10 p.m.
Pittsburgh (Agrazal 2-0) at N.Y. Mets (Wheeler 6-6), 4:10 p.m.	Chicago Cubs (Hendricks 7-8) at Milwaukee (Gonzalez 2-1), 5:10 p.m.
Houston (Urquidy 1-0) at St. Louis (Flaherty 4-6), 5:15 p.m.	San Francisco (Samardzija 7-8) at San Diego (Lucchesi 7-5), 7:10 p.m.

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