

NFL PRESEASON

# Rookies Cross, Lucas passing early tests on Seahawks O-line

BY TIM BOOTH

Associated Press

RENTON, Wash. — Perhaps it's a sign of how much the Seattle Seahawks are likely counting on their two rookie offensive linemen to contribute immediately.

Several mornings during training camp there's been extra meetings on top of the normal meetings for Charles Cross and Abe Lucas to try and get the duo up to speed and ready for what's to come in their first NFL season.

Consider it an accelerated crash course.

"We have extra meetings with the rookies, myself or (assistant offensive line coach) Keli'i (Kekuewa) will meet with them extra," Seattle offensive line coach Andy Dickerson said. "We have rookie meetings, but then he will grab them early in the morning sometimes, so you just keep giving them the information."

It's becoming clearer that Seattle intends to lean heavily on its two rookie draft picks going into this season. Cross was the No. 9 overall pick out of Mississippi State, the highest pick for the Seahawks since 2010 when they also drafted a left tackle — Russell Okung at No. 6 overall.

Lucas was Seattle's third-round pick, a bullying right tackle from Washington State that provides the Seahawks a pair of bookends to build around now and into the future.

They both saw significant playing time in the preseason opener Saturday, Aug. 13 against Pittsburgh. And they're expected to start together on Thursday night, Aug. 18



Justin Berl/Getty Images-TNS

Seattle Seahawks quarterback Drew Lock scrambles out of the pocket in the fourth quarter during a preseason game against the Pittsburgh Steelers at Acrisure Stadium on Aug. 13, 2022, in Pittsburgh. Lock, who was slated to start the Seahawks' preseason game Aug. 18 against Chicago, will miss the game after testing positive for COVID-19.

against Chicago.

"I guess it's been nice to just kind of have that same sort of mentality. I guess learning curve to climb (together) with a guy there who is my age going through the same stuff," Lucas said.

Cross was regarded as one of the best pass blocking offensive linemen in last year's draft, but run blocking was the question.

The same question lingered about Lucas since both had played in the offensive systems of Mike Leach during their time in college.

For the first test against an opponent, both graded out well against the Steelers, Seattle coach Pete Carroll said Tuesday, Aug. 16.

"We ran a lot of stuff at Charles, he had a lot of frontside stuff, commanded his block on almost every

play in the running game," Carroll said. "What was really exciting was to see Abe on the back side. Abe had some dominant blocks."

While it's clear that Cross will be the starter at left tackle having taken basically every first-team snap throughout the offseason and training camp, Lucas is in a competition with Jake Curhan, who is entering his second season.

Curhan and Lucas seemed to split reps through the opening couple of weeks of camp. Lucas got the majority of the time with the No. 1 offense during Seattle's first scrimmage. Curhan was the starter in the preseason opener against Pittsburgh, but Lucas had perhaps the better performance, albeit against lesser competition.

Lucas is likely to get the start on Thursday as Curhan missed practice Tuesday because of back spasms.

"It's really good stuff. It's not different from what we've seen," Carroll said. "That's the cool thing. Those guys practiced and played the same."

**QB STATUS**

Carroll said Drew Lock was going to start Seattle's second preseason game on Thursday against Chicago — until the team announced Lock had tested positive for COVID-19 and will miss the game.

About two hours after the conclusion of Tuesday's practice, the Seahawks issued a statement revealing Lock's positive test.

Geno Smith, who started last weekend against Pittsburgh, remained in the lead in the QB competition, but Carroll said Lock had earned his shot at getting a start with the No. 1 offense.

"Geno is still the No. 1 guy. He's holding on to spot at this point," Carroll said. "I really like what Drew has shown us."

While Lock will be away from the team for several days, he should have a chance at returning in time for Seattle's preseason finale on Aug. 26 at Dallas.

# Baker Open golf tournament drew 70 to Quail Ridge

**Veterans Appreciation Day Sunday at Quail Ridge**

Baker City Herald

Seventy golfers turned out for the annual Baker Open tournament on Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 13 and 14 at Quail Ridge Golf Course.

Players ranged in age from 20 to 70 and were divided into three divisions — two men's flights and one women's flight.

More than 20% of players were from out of the area and stayed in Baker City over the weekend, according to a press release from Quail Ridge.

After Saturday's play, MC Tacos in Baker City served dinner. There was also a Calcutta — an event when people can bet on players' performance the following day through an auction.

Fred Warner Jr. served as auctioneer. Proceeds from the Baker Open will be used to improve the 18-hole course

at 2801 Indiana Ave.

**Veterans Appreciation Day**

On Sunday, Aug. 21 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., veterans and their families, including spouses and dependents, from Baker and Union counties can play golf for free at Quail Ridge. Cart and club rentals are included for those who need them.

The course will also serve a free barbecue for veterans and their families from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Information about services available to veterans will be available at the clubhouse.

Veterans who plan to play on Sunday are encouraged to call ahead for a tee time. The clubhouse number at Quail Ridge is 541-523-2358.

**Results from the Baker Open**

**Flight 1, gross**  
1st: Kurt Simmons

2nd (tie): Jordan Furguson, Todd Points  
4th: Colby Dean  
5th (tie): Logan Geddes, Gabe Porter

**Flight 1, net**  
1st: Bobby Bond  
2nd: Jim Ingram  
3rd (tie): Kevin Logsdon, Taylor Malm, Scott Walden

**Flight 2, gross**  
1st: Kenny Bull  
2nd: Clint Johnson

3rd: Nic Carman  
4th: Garland Hanson  
5th: Kenny Keister  
**Flight 2, net**  
1st: Doug Moramarco  
2nd: Bart Combs  
3rd: Mike Watkins  
4th (tie): Jay Tanzee, Jeremy Smock

**Flight 3, gross**  
1st: Michelle Bell  
**Flight 3, net**  
1st: Vicki Johnson



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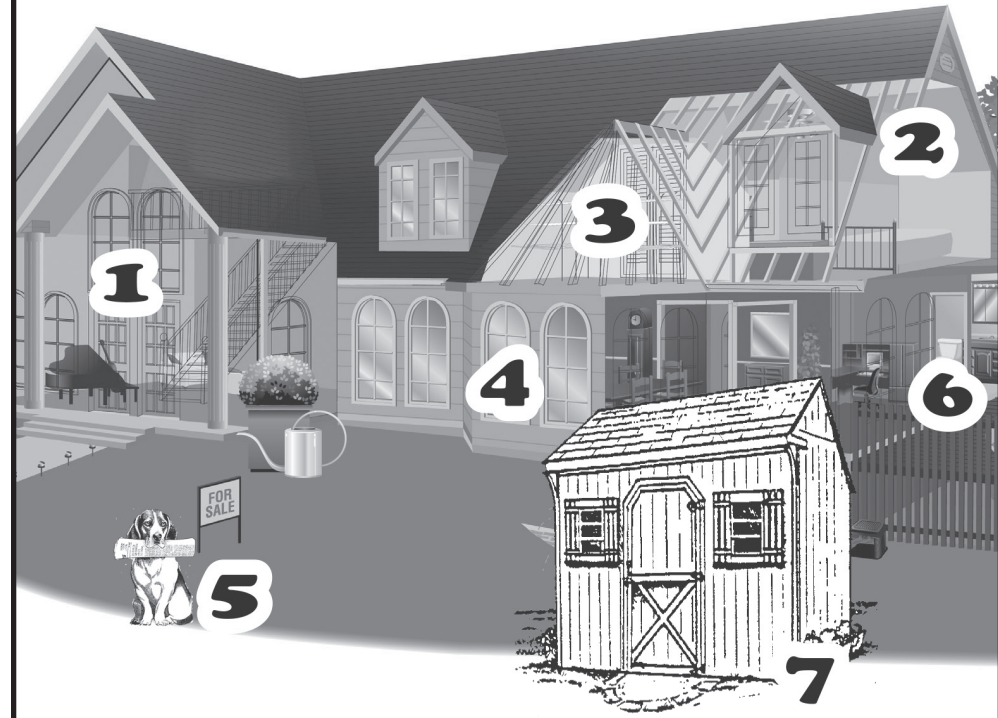
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