

## OSU ATHLETICS

## Anonymous donor gives big for Reser

Reser Stadium's \$153 million west side renovation project has picked up considerable steam following events of the past week.

On Thursday, Oregon State University announced a \$50 million gift by an anonymous donor that is earmarked for the Reser Stadium project. It is the single largest donation in university history.

Last week, the OSU Board of Trustees' Finance and Administration committee gave Stage Gate 1 approval of the project. It allows the project to advance to the design phase. The Board of Trustees will consider the Reser Stadium project for final approval during their May meeting.

Plans call for project construction to begin following the end of the 2021 football season, with virtual completion prior to the start of the 2023 season. Contingencies are in place allowing OSU to play its 2022 home football games at Reser Stadium.

The intent of the stadium's west side project is a year-round facility. Among its uses beyond football is a 35,000-square-foot student medical facility, a welcome center for new students and meeting space for university students, faculty and staff.

The renovated west side includes premium and general seating that OSU athletic director Scott Barnes says will provide the closest proximity to the playing field of any college football stadium in the country.

—The Oregonian

## OLYMPICS

## Head of Games to stay on board

TOKYO — The president of the Tokyo Olympic organizing committee said Thursday he would not resign despite pressure on him to do so after making derogatory comments earlier in the week about women.

The controversy surrounding Yoshiro Mori is one more problem the postponed Tokyo Olympics really didn't need as organizers and the IOC try to pull off the games in the midst of a pandemic. They are scheduled to open on July 23.

"I am not thinking to resign," Mori said.

The International Olympic Committee said it will not urge Mori to resign, saying his apology was enough.

In an online meeting of the Japanese Olympic Committee board of directors earlier in the week, Mori was reported by the daily newspaper Asahi Shimbun as saying women talk too much in meetings.

"The statement made at the Japan Olympic Committee was an inappropriate expression, contrary to the spirit of the Olympics and Paralympics," Mori said. "I am deeply remorseful. I would like to withdraw the statement. I would like to apologize for any unpleasant feelings."

In defending Mori, the IOC noted its support for gender equality as "one of the key pillars" of Olympic values, including an increase in the number of women on its own executive board to 33% with five of 15 members.

—Associated Press

## Super Bowl LV

Star-studded Chiefs rely heavily on late-round gems and undrafted free agents

BY DAVE SKRETTA  
Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. —

**I**t was an easy decision for Daniel Sorensen to sign with the Kansas City Chiefs as an undrafted free agent.

They were really the only ones who wanted him.

Sorensen had just finished a standout career at BYU, but his game film and measurables went largely overlooked by the rest of the NFL. He wasn't too surprised when the 2014 draft came and went without his name getting called.

However, he was a little caught off guard when the phone rang following the seventh round and he heard the voice on the other end.

"Andy Reid was the only head coach that reached out to me," Sorensen recalled, "and that was pretty big. That was pretty remarkable to get a phone call from him. And he shot me straight: 'You have a good opportunity to make this team here.'"

Sorensen not only wound up making the team, he's stuck around for seven seasons, helping the Chiefs put together the best stretch in franchise history: They have won the past five AFC West titles, reached the conference championship game three consecutive years, and on Sunday will



Mark LoMoglio/AP file

Kansas City Chiefs safety Daniel Sorensen in action against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in November in Tampa, Florida. Sorensen has been a key contributor since he signed with the Chiefs as an undrafted free agent in 2014 after playing in college at BYU.

"They get guys that are willing to buy in, willing to practice, willing to put in the effort of watching the film and doing the little things right, and you've seen the careers of a lot of guys that have blossomed in this system."

—Daniel Sorensen, Kansas City Chiefs safety

play the Tampa Bay Buccaneers for their second straight Super Bowl title.

Sorensen isn't an outlier, either. While the Chiefs roster is undoubtedly top heavy — Patrick Mahomes is due a half-billion dollars over the next 10 years, and stars such as Tyreek Hill and Travis Kelce are rich beyond their wildest imaginations — they wouldn't be in this position if not for a collection of late-round draft picks and college free agents that are the envy of the

league.

No fewer than 22 players drafted in the third round or later — or not at all — are on the Chiefs roster as they finish their prep work for the Super Bowl. Ten of them are likely to start on offense, defense or special teams against the Buccaneers.

That doesn't include a handful of players with a similar backstory that reside on their practice squad.

"I think it goes along with the way

this organization is run," Sorensen explained. "They pride themselves and we pride ourselves on our ability to trust the process, and the process has proven to be successful."

"They get guys that are willing to buy in, willing to practice, willing to put in the effort of watching the film and doing the little things right, and you've seen the careers of a lot of guys that have blossomed in this system."

At first glance, it shouldn't make sense. The Chiefs have won consistently for the better part of a decade, with a roster dotted by more stars than there are in the nighttime sky. There shouldn't be room for seemingly inferior talent.

See **Chiefs** / B4

## NHL

## NHL revises virus protocols with 40 players on the COVID-19 list

BY STEPHEN WHYNO  
AP Hockey Writer

With COVID-19 problems cropping up and four teams currently idled, the NHL has revised its virus protocols in a bid to keep the shortened season on track.

Glass panels have been removed from behind benches for better air flow, players and coaches are not allowed at the arena until 1 hour and 45 minutes before the game unless they're getting treatment for injuries and all meetings must be virtual.

Commissioner Gary Bettman said the league is mindful there might be "more aggressive transmission of the virus and will continue to make adjustments" to protocols.

"Every day things change, and you just go with the flow," 66-year-old Dallas coach Rick Bowness said. "If there's no glass behind the bench, there's no fans back there, so it's not going to affect anything. It shouldn't at all."

The 31 teams were also told to space out locker rooms more to provide 6 feet of space between people.

The league announced an updated protocol Thursday and said it was also considering portable air filters that would be installed by the benches.

The league is not yet considering adding a daily rapid

test to go along with PCR testing, like the NBA did. PCR tests are considered to be more accurate, but there's a 12- to 24-hour turnaround on results.

The moves were made as the NHL sees some concerning trends, including 40 players on the COVID-19 unavailability list.

In the first three weeks of the season, almost 100 players have appeared on the list, which can include a positive test result unconfirmed or confirmed, symptomatic isolation, high-risk close contact or quarantine for travel purposes.

Bettman said fewer than half the players in protocol have been because of a confirmed positive test and many of those were asymptomatic.

"The way I'm looking at it is it's hard to avoid anywhere, so we're doing the best we can," said Carolina coach Rod Brind'Amour, whose team has had four games postponed because of an outbreak. "It's still hard to avoid. Do we feel safe? I think the good news from our standpoint is the guys that have come in contact with it, they've all recovered and really had no symptoms."

Vegas, New Jersey, Buffalo and Minnesota are currently paused with at least one player on the list.

See **NHL** / B4

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL | OREGON RECRUITING

## Assistant coaches hired in 2020 vital to successful 2021 recruiting class

BY JAMES CREPEA  
The Oregonian

EUGENE — Two of the primary actors behind the assembly of Oregon's best recruiting class in program history and its third straight atop the Pac-12 weren't even with the program a year ago.

Cornerbacks coach Rod Chance and wide receivers coach Bryan McClendon were hired last Feb. 15 and April 17, respectively, each helped recruit three players to UO's 23-member 2021 class ranked No. 6 nationally. Each landed a pair of players ranked in the top 10 at their position groups, which were Oregon's biggest areas of need in this recruiting cycle.

"We had targeted (McClendon) for a long, long time," Oregon coach Mario Cristobal said. "His impact was significant. He immediately connected with guys that we had identified as top targets. He identified some other ones as well and went to work with him together with the rest of the offensive and the entire staff. He hit a home run."

McClendon was the primary recruiter of Dontè Thornton and helped bring in Troy Franklin and Isaiah Brevard as well. All range between 6-foot-2 and 6-foot-6, giving the Ducks a much needed boost in size as well as skill at wideout.

"(Thornton)'s another one of those size-speed combination guys that gives you the oppor-

tunity to separate versus big and small guys and make these tough traffic catches that you're going to be asked to make in all these critical situations in games," McClendon said during UO's in-house signing day broadcast. "He has initial quickness, has the ability to separate and also gives you the ability to make plays once he has the ball in his hands."

McClendon and offensive coordinator Joe Moorhead both emphasized Franklin's ability to create separation before and after the catch.

"There's a lot of guys that catch the ball and they're good for where the ball is caught, they get tackled and they fall to the ground," Moorhead said. "But this is a guy that the exciting thing happens after the catch."

Moorhead, also hired last year, and McClendon worked together to bring in Brevard out of Memphis given their past experience recruiting him while they were each in the SEC. Brevard won't enroll until the summer, but he signed with UO despite never having visited because of the relationships with the two offensive coaches.

Chance, who finished sixth in the Pac-12 in the 247Sports recruiter rankings, was instrumental in the Ducks adding four-star cornerback Avante Dickerson out of Omaha, Neb., on Wednesday as well as Jaylin Davies and Darren Barkins.

Dickerson was previously committed to Minnesota, where Chance worked prior to returning to UO last winter.

"We had to get at least three guys that could flat out cover, play man, off man, also were instinctive and physical enough to play the run, guys that can understand concepts," Cristobal said. "And we had a do a lot of this via Zoom. That's difficult, but Rod also did a great job acquiring the right type of student-athlete and great talent, what we feel is elite talent to help us elevate the standard of both those positions. Really happy with both those results."

Oregon is replenishing its secondary, which lost starters Brady Breeze, Nick Pickett, Jevon Holland, Thomas Graham Jr. and Deommodore Lenoir all over the last year. Chance believes Dickerson, Davies and Barkins will aid in that mission at corner.

"Corner will be his home position for us," Chance said of Davies, one of 13 signees already enrolled at UO. "We're excited about him, he has physicality to his game, he can make tackles."

Chance said Barkins is an under-the-radar player with extreme top-end speed. "For us to have an athlete like that and still have room to grow his game... comes from a military family, very humble young man," Chance said. "I'm excited to grow his game."