

## NFL

## Seahawks' Smith turns himself in

CHALMETTE, La. — Aldon Smith has turned himself in to authorities in Louisiana after an arrest warrant had been issued for the Seattle Seahawks defensive end.

The St. Bernard Parish sheriff's department said Smith was booked on a second-degree battery charge Tuesday night. Officials said Smith was released on \$25,000 bond.

Smith is scheduled to be arraigned on July 14. The sheriff's office issued the warrant following an incident last week-end. Deputies responding to a call for medical assistance in Meraux on Saturday found a man who said he had been assaulted by an acquaintance outside a business in Chalmette, Sheriff James Pohlmann said. Detectives identified the suspect as Smith, 31, and took out a warrant.

The Seahawks said they are aware of the situation but have declined to comment further. Smith's representatives declined to comment on Wednesday.

The incident in Louisiana took place just two days after Smith signed a one-year contract with the Seahawks.

Smith's off-field troubles are lengthy, including police in San Francisco issuing a warrant for his arrest on a domestic violence charge in 2018, and include four full seasons out of the league due to suspensions. Smith was reinstated by the NFL last spring after signing a one-year deal with the Dallas Cowboys. He had not played in the NFL since 2015.

—Associated Press

## Ex-Duck T.J. Ward officially retires

T.J. Ward, a member of the Denver Broncos' famous "No Fly Zone" secondary, announced his retirement from the NFL on Wednesday.

The former Oregon Ducks' star was a member of the Broncos' team that captured Super Bowl 50 and he was also a two-time Pro Bowl selection during an eight-year career. Ward made the announcement on an Instagram post Wednesday morning.

Ward, 34, was a second-round pick (No. 38) by the Cleveland Browns in the 2010 NFL draft. Ward spent four seasons with the Browns before signing a four-year, \$23 million contract to join the Broncos in 2014.

Ward, along with Darian Stewart, Aqib Talib, Chris Harris Jr. and Bradley Roby, helped the Broncos' establish the "No Fly Zone" secondary that year.

Ward posted 74 total tackles, two sacks and two interceptions during the regular season, earning his second Pro Bowl selection.

The group helped power the Broncos' run to Super Bowl 50, where Denver posted a 24-10 win over the Carolina Panthers.

Ward posted seven total tackles, an interception and a fumble recovery in the game.

Ward was released by the Broncos in 2017 and he signed a one-year deal with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. He appeared in 12 games for the Buccaneers.

—The Oregonian

## PREP BASEBALL

## Zach Reynolds powers Storm past Cougars

BY BRIAN RATHBONE  
The Bulletin

There were multiple times when things could have gone south on the mound for Summit's Zach Reynolds. His first pitch resulted in a double. In the final inning, the first batter he faced took him out of the yard with the Storm clinging to a narrow lead.

But Reynolds kept throwing and kept finding the strike zone. In 6½ innings, the junior right-hander pounded the strike zone, giving up three earned runs and four hits while

striking out nine in Summit's 7-6 win over Mountain View Tuesday night.

"I was a little rusty in the first couple of innings, then I really found my groove in the middle innings and kept going," Reynolds said.

The Summit ace was throwing so well, his coach was reluctant to take him out. The one thing that brought him out was a pitch count of 110.

"He is a competitor," said Summit coach Richie Sexson. "I would have kept him out

there if we didn't have certain limits so we can save arms, so we want to live by those laws. It was just a gutsy all-around game for him."

Aaron Platner hit a home run for Mountain View to get the Cougars within one run in the top of the seventh inning, but Reynolds then rallied to strike out the next two

batters. Canon Reeder then came on in relief for the Storm to strike out Mitchel Thoma-Britt to end the game.

Reynolds also drove in two runs at the plate to help snap Summit's two-game losing streak while handing cross-town rival Mountain View its first loss of the season.

"We hit the ball better today," Sexson said.

"We had two hits in our last game, or four total in our last two games. Between Zach batting and pitching well and us getting a few timely hits, that is

the difference in most baseball games."

After a rough start to the game, Reynolds settled into his rhythm. Over the next four innings, Reynolds silenced the Cougar bats and kept them off the board.

"When I am in my groove, I'm just not thinking," Reynolds said. "I get the sign and throw. When I am in my groove all my pitches (fastball, curveball and changeup) are working, and you just throw it to the mitt."

See Prep baseball / A6



Reynolds

## NBA

## SECOND CHANCE

Rondae Hollis-Jefferson taking advantage of opportunity with Trail Blazers to jumpstart career

BY AARON FENTRESS  
The Oregonian

Although it's true that the Portland Trail Blazers originally signed Rondae Hollis-Jefferson just before the NBA's deadline requiring teams to have at least 14 players on their roster, that didn't mean that they merely viewed him as a roster filler.

The 10-day contract extended to him didn't exactly scream commitment, but the hope was that Hollis-Jefferson could provide a jolt of energy, hustle and defense to a team sorely in need of a boost.

Hollis-Jefferson's statistics through four outings aren't astonishing (four points and three rebounds per game). But his play during Tuesday night's 113-112 loss to the Los Angeles Clippers at the Moda Center in Portland defined what Blazers coach Terry Stotts had hoped to extract from him.

In 24 minutes, Hollis-Jefferson produced five points, six rebounds, three assists and two blocked shots. He provided such energy that Stotts left the 6-foot-6 small forward in for nearly the entire fourth quarter with the game on the line while forwards Robert Covington and Derrick Jones Jr. didn't play a minute of the final quarter.

"I thought Rondae did a nice job defensively," Stotts said. "I thought he just made some things happen and got some extra possessions, provided some energy and good length."

The Blazers signed Hollis-Jefferson, released by Minnesota in December, to a second 10-day contract on Sunday, the day he started at Charlotte.



Chris Carlson/AP

Portland Trail Blazers' Rondae Hollis-Jefferson dunks as Charlotte Hornets' Cody Martin watches on Sunday in Charlotte, North Carolina. Hollis-Jefferson signed a second 10-day contract with the Blazers on Sunday and is making the most of the opportunity while providing Portland with length, defense, and energy.

*"I think it's definitely something big for me. Being home the last five months, going through so many different emotions, feeling like you can compete at the highest level against the best of the best, and having that moment where you feel people don't want you for whatever reason, it's tough."*

—Rondae Hollis-Jefferson, Trail Blazers forward

Such contracts don't offer stability but they do represent an opportunity for Hollis-Jefferson to maybe play his way into a longer-term gig in the NBA, where he feels he belongs.

"I think it's definitely something big for me," Hollis-Jefferson said. "Being home the last five months, going through so many different emotions, feeling like you can compete at the highest level against the best of the best, and having that moment where you feel people don't want you for whatever reason, it's

tough."

Being out of the NBA stung Hollis-Jefferson. After being released, he thought maybe his career had ended after five seasons. He felt wronged, believing that he could still play the game at a high level.

"There was a point where I didn't watch any basketball at all because of the way I felt," Hollis-Jefferson said.

Eventually, something hit him. Hollis-Jefferson, who played last season with Toronto after four seasons with Brooklyn, told himself that "good comes to good at the end of the day." He became more positive. Stayed the course. Kept working and hoping. Working and hoping.

Then the Blazers called with an offer. Not lost on Hollis-Jefferson was the fact that the Blazers drafted him out of Arizona with the 23rd overall pick during the 2015 NBA draft but traded him to Brooklyn in a deal that brought Mason Plumlee and Pat Connaughton to Portland.

"It's been a long time coming," Hollis-Jefferson said regarding finally playing for the team that drafted him.

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Rick Scuteri/AP file

Oregon offensive lineman George Moore (77) during the Fiesta Bowl against Iowa State in January in Glendale, Arizona. Moore is among the offensive linemen from the 2017 recruiting class who will be expected to anchor the Ducks in the trenches in 2021.

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL

## Ducks O-line led by 3 unheralded members of 2017 recruiting class

BY RYAN THORBURN  
The (Eugene) Register-Guard

Several members of Oregon's 2017 recruiting class, which Willie Taggart didn't stick around to coach beyond the group's first fall on campus, will be in the NFL spotlight next week.

Cornerbacks Deommodore Lenoir and Thomas Graham and defensive linemen Austin Faoliu and Jordon Scott are all expected to hear their names called during the draft, which will be held in Cleveland April 29 to May 1.

Mario Cristobal, who was Taggart's offensive line coach before being promoted to head coach, has watched two 3-star recruits and a walk-on from the 2017 class patiently develop into starting offensive linemen for the Ducks.

George Moore, who joined the program after playing two seasons at the College of San Mateo (Calif.), finally emerged as the starter at left tackle in 2020.

Alex Forsyth (center) and Ryan Walk (guard) waited three years for their opportuni-

ties to crack the starting lineup last year.

The bond the trio formed behind the scenes from 2017-19, and while being thrust into action together during the 2020 season, made Moore's decision to return for a seventh season of college an easy one following the Fiesta Bowl loss to Iowa State.

"We didn't finish the way we wanted to," Moore said during a Zoom with the local media following Tuesday's spring practice.

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