

FOOTBALL

Former star Hawaii QB Brennan dies

Colt Brennan, a star quarterback at the University of Hawaii who finished third in the 2007 Heisman Trophy balloting, died early Tuesday, his father said. He was 37.

Brennan, who has had public struggles with alcohol, died at a hospital in California, his father, Terry Brennan, told The Associated Press.

"He just spent one too many times on the dark side of life, and it caught up with him," Terry Brennan said of his son.

Brennan transferred to Hawaii after stints at Colorado and Saddleback College in California. A certain pro prospect, he bypassed the NFL draft in order to play his senior year for Hawaii coach June Jones.

Brennan led the Warriors to their finest season ever, going 12-0 in the regular season. Georgia ended Hawaii's hopes for an unblemished record, defeating the Warriors 41-10 in the Sugar Bowl.

He returned, in part, to pay back to a school and a coach that gave him a second chance, and he had no regrets.

"Hawaii has inspired me to do a lot of great things," he told The Associated Press in 2007.

Brennan was drafted by Washington in the sixth round of the NFL draft in 2008, but he never played a regular season game in two seasons.

Brennan had been living at an addiction treatment center in Costa Mesa, California. His father said he took him to a hospital emergency room on Sunday because his son had been drinking. "I could tell he was not well and needed help," Terry Brennan said.

But the detox facility was full, so without his family realizing it, Colt Brennan was released. He was unconscious when he was taken back to the hospital, where he later died, his father said.

—Associated Press

HORSE RACING

Medina Spirit allowed to race

Preakness officials said Tuesday they are allowing Kentucky Derby winner Medina Spirit to enter Saturday's race, subject to additional testing and monitoring, following the colt's failed drug test after the Derby.

Medina Spirit and two other horses trained by Bob Baffert will be under extra scrutiny in the days leading up to the second jewel of the Triple Crown. The Maryland Racing Commission and Baffert have agreed to the conditions for Medina Spirit, fellow Preakness runner Concert Tour and Beautiful Gift, who is expected to run in the Black-Eyed Susan Stakes on Friday.

"We reached an agreement with Mr. Baffert and his lawyers that allows for additional testing, additional monitoring — essentially a watchlist to ensure the integrity of the sport leading up to the race," Maryland Jockey Club lawyer Alan Rifkin said. "We're very pleased to have that and we appreciate Mr. Baffert's patience and the way in which his lawyers went about it."

Medina Spirit drew the No. 3 post in a field of 10 horses as the 9-5 morning-line favorite. Concert Tour drew the outside 10th post and is the second choice in the wagering at 5-2.

—Associated Press



Oregon quarterback Anthony Brown throws during practice at Autzen Stadium in Eugene in April. Eric Evans via UO Athletics

COLLEGE FOOTBALL | OREGON DUCKS

QB JOB IS BROWN'S TO LOSE

After spring practices, Anthony Brown figures to be the Ducks' starting quarterback come fall

BY JAMES CREPEA

The Oregonian

Far and away the most significant change to Oregon's roster from 2020 to 2021, Tyler Shough's transfer to Texas Tech took what was an open door at quarterback and blew it off the hinges. Anthony Brown has all but closed it at this point though.

The only quarterback with any game experience on the roster, Brown entered spring as the starter and left it as the starter, much as Shough did a year ago. The difference of course is the Ducks aren't linked to a graduate transfer this offseason and the three freshmen, Jay Butterfield, Ty Thompson and Robby Ashford, battling for the backup spot have never taken a snap in a college game.

Mario Cristobal will wait until fall camp to formalize Brown as the starter but it's hard to envision a realistic scenario in which he loses the job before the season opener.

"We think Anthony is the one, he's the one that's leading, but we're not going to let that die," Cristobal said. "We're going to keep that engaged and rolling as we get into the summer. But that battle for the two spot has really tightened."

By all accounts, Brown got all the first team reps during the spring. He certainly did during the first scrimmage and spring game, when he was 17 of 26 for 208 yards and a touchdown and had a fumble.

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BASEBALL

MLB tells Athletics to explore relocation if no new ballpark

BY JANIE MCCAULEY

AP Baseball Writer

OAKLAND, Calif. — Major League Baseball instructed the Athletics to explore relocation options as the team tries to secure a new waterfront ballpark it hopes will keep the club in Oakland long-term.

MLB released a statement Tuesday expressing its longtime determination that the current Coliseum site is "not a viable option for the future vision of baseball."

"MLB is concerned with the rate of progress on the A's new ballpark effort with local officials and other stakeholders in Oakland," MLB said. "The A's have worked very hard to advance a new ballpark in downtown Oakland for the last four years, investing significant resources while facing multiple roadblocks. We know they remain deeply committed to succeeding in Oakland, and with two other sports franchises recently leaving the community, their commitment to Oakland is now more important than ever."

A's President Dave Kaval remains hopeful of a stadium deal, but there's beginning to be a time crunch.

"We're going to immediately start working with the league on exploring other markets and working



Ben Margot/AP file

The Los Angeles Angels and Oakland Athletics during the national anthem at the Oakland Coliseum prior to an opening day MLB baseball game in Oakland, California, in March 2018.

hand in hand with them to identify which ones make the most sense and pursuing that right away," A's President Dave Kaval told The Associated Press in a telephone interview. "We need to keep our options open. People know, we can't even keep the lights on here at the Coliseum."

The A's previously proposed and withdrew plans for ballparks in Fremont and San Jose.

In November 2018, the A's announced they had found a waterfront location for their new ballpark that would cost more than \$1 billion, with picturesque views toward San Francisco, the Bay Bridge and Port of Oakland. The goal had been to open in 2023, but now, even if approved by Oakland's City Council this summer, it would not be ready until 2027.

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GOLF | COMMENTARY

It's hard to keep score when paying for popularity

BY DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — The PGA Tour is giving away \$40 million to the leading 10 players who move the needle, a term that's been around for some 60 years because it's a simple way to define popularity.

It's part of the "Player Impact Program," a title that doesn't necessarily move the needle.

But it figures to be popular, at least with 10 players.

Some players knew about it more than a year ago when the tour was getting ready to roll out the program until the coronavirus pandemic got in the way. Others said they didn't know until a month ago. One player found out on Twitter. He probably won't make the top 10.

It goes against the ideal of golf being the ultimate meritocracy. But it has merit, especially with groups backed by Saudi riches trying to lure away golf's top players to a team-based league.

"I don't think it's going to be perfect," Rory McIlroy said. "But again, I think it was a prudent move on the tour's part to try to appease some people that were getting their heads turned by other things."

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