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PRESS BOX

No.
224

08.16

The Fantasy MOVEMENT

By BILL ORDINE

Page 10

PERHAPS FANTASY FOOTBALL HAS HIT ITS PEAK, BUT THE FACT REMAINS 57.4 MILLION PEOPLE PARTICIPATED IN FANTASY SPORTS IN 2015, AND THERE'S NO DENYING THE PHENOMENON IS FULLY ENTRENCHED IN THE FOOTBALL CULTURE

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Perhaps fantasy football has hit its peak, but the fact remains 57.4 million people participated in fantasy sports in 2015, and there's no denying the phenomenon is fully entrenched in the football culture

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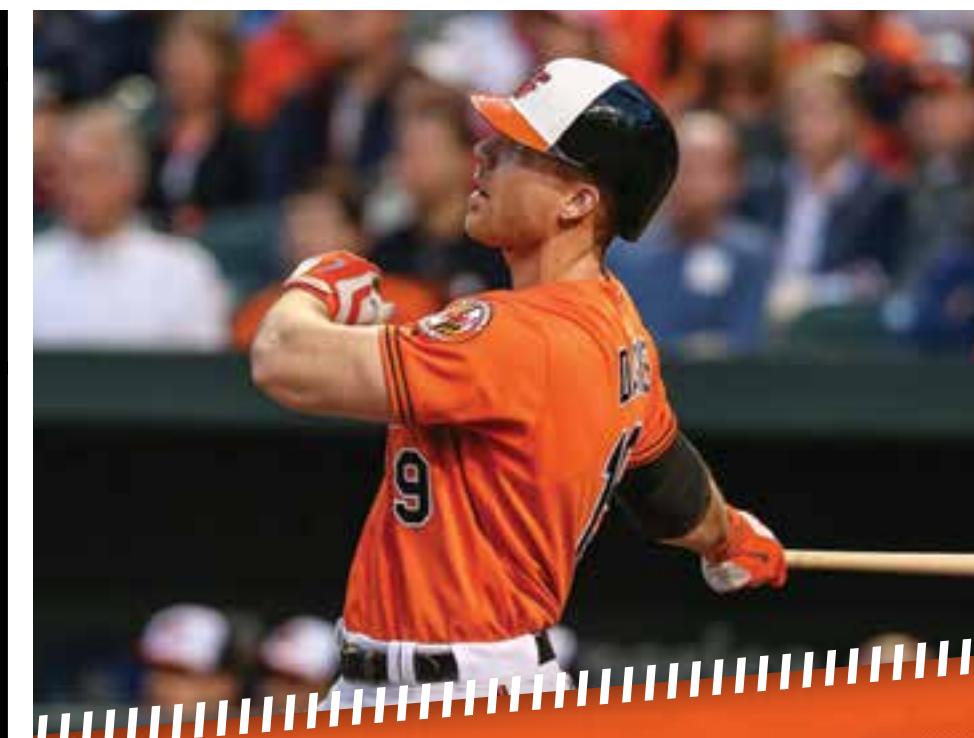
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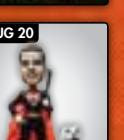
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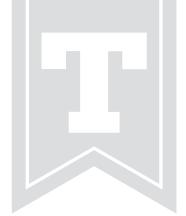
KENYA ALLEN/PRESSBOX



ONE FAN'S OPINION

Are Fans Ready For Full-On Dylan Bundy Mania?

★ STAN "THE FAN" CHARLES



The day after Dylan Bundy pitched a seven-inning gem against the New York Mets' Tom Seaver in his prime at Shea Stadium (cited twice in Lindbergh's article) and Steve Carlton in 1972 at Veterans Stadium when he won 27 games for a Phillies team that won 56 games all season. I also remember one particular visiting pitcher, Oakland's Vida Blue, coming to Baltimore's Memorial Stadium in 1971. It was Blue's first full season in the big leagues when he went 24-8 with a 1.82 ERA and fans had a full onslaught of mania.

When thinking back on taking fans by storm, two pitchers came to mind: Mark "The Bird" Fidrych and Fernando Valenzuela. And it just so happens a Grantland article written by Ben Lindbergh rates the top 10 season attendance draws by pitchers with Fidrych, in 1976, as No. 1, and Valenzuela, in 1981, as No. 2.

According to the article, during the nights Fidrych pitched in 1976, the Tigers drew an average of plus-17,180 more fans than when any other starter was on the hill.

"Fernandomania" was probably ranked second mostly because without Valenzuela, the Dodgers were already averaging well in excess of 35,000 per game, and that number rose from 35,316 to 48,241 when Valenzuela pitched.

While chicks may dig the long ball -- and while MLB has always tried to find a way to get more offense in the game, including turning a blind eye to the almost overt-cheating by juiced batters in the 1980s and 1990s -- fans really do turn

out in droves to see the most dominant pitchers of their era.

Others I remember offhand, without going into the nitty-gritty details, were the New York Mets' Tom Seaver in his prime at Shea Stadium (cited twice in Lindbergh's article) and Steve Carlton in 1972 at Veterans Stadium when he won 27 games for a Phillies team that won 56 games all season. I also remember one particular visiting pitcher, Oakland's Vida Blue, coming to Baltimore's Memorial Stadium in 1971. It was Blue's first full season in the big leagues when he went 24-8 with a 1.82 ERA and fans had a full onslaught of mania.

To get back to Bundy's performance, I was curious if Showalter had managed a pitcher who inspired his own mania and if it added any extra pressure.

"Maybe Randy [Johnson] -- a little bit," Showalter said.

As he continued to ponder I asked, "Are there pressures around that, if Bundy becomes that?" To which Showalter interrupted immediately, as if to stop me from tossing that thought out into the atmosphere.

"Geez, he's had a couple good outings ... let's not go there," Showalter said. "Come on; he's been OK."

Buck's rapid dismissal makes sense from his point of view. No manager wants to pull what manager Sparky Anderson routinely did -- pronounce one of his players to be the next great thing. When Anderson was managing Detroit in 1980,

Kirk Gibson's rookie year, during spring training, Anderson compared him favorably to Mickey Mantle. A couple years later, Anderson projected a youngster in camp, Chris Pittaro, was good enough to warrant moving second base stalwart Lou Whitaker. Pittaro made the Tigers in 1985 and mustered 15 hits in 62 at-bats, and that was the end of his Tigers career.

It's wise to keep expectations low for potentially great young players, especially players in Bundy's shoes whose career development has been delayed, not derailed, by separate injury issues.

But the reality is Showalter and Bundy's Orioles are in what looks like a knock-down, drag-out pennant race with the Toronto Blue Jays and Boston Red Sox for the American League East. Furthermore, despite all the worry about Bundy's innings, Showalter will be savvy enough to work around them as intelligently as anyone in the game. And that is potentially bad news for the rest of the division and perhaps the AL.

The truth is, Oriole fans may not be coming to the ballpark in record numbers in 2016, but fans are watching and listening to games on the radio and TV.

If Bundy's performances continue to fall in line with the two he recorded July 27 and Aug. 2, when he had no-hitters through five innings, there is no telling what the advance sales will be for future Bundy starts at Camden Yards.

And let's just get a little out in front of our skis on this topic. Suppose Bundy's next home start, after a few more brilliant outings, comes during the Orioles home series with the Washington Nationals Aug. 22 or 23. Go one step further and match him up against Nationals aces Stephen Strasburg or Max Scherzer, and Bundy-mania could really be on its way.

The Orioles have had some wonderful pitchers in their storied history -- Milt Pappas, Steve Barber, Dave McNally, Jim Palmer, Mike Cuellar, Denis Martinez, Scott McGregor, Mike Flanagan, Steve Stone, Mike Boddicker and Mike Mussina.

This splendid group all inspired confidence the Orioles could record a win on the nights they took the mound. That's what great pitchers do.

But among the names I have mentioned, and the names I may have forgotten, there is nary a name that has inspired a full-blown mania surrounding the limitless possibility that they could be as special as anyone else in the game.

In Orioles lore, Dylan Bundy may stand alone in evoking those sorts of hopes from the faithful purchasers of what may become the toughest ticket to snag in Birdland in a long, long time. ☒

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Dylan Bundy

FRONT ROW

New Sparks, Md., Headquarters Allowing US Lacrosse To Grow

A

fter moving into its new headquarters in Sparks, Md., in May, US Lacrosse is preparing to show off its new home to the public at a grand opening Sept. 10-11.

"We really had an aspiration to build a Mecca for the sport," said Ann Carpenetti, vice president of lacrosse operations for US Lacrosse.

When the organization launched in 1998, US Lacrosse headquarters was located on the Johns Hopkins University campus in Baltimore. At the time, there were only a handful of people on staff. However, with lacrosse's popularity continuing to rise nationally in the past decade, the US Lacrosse staff grew to approximately 90 individuals, forcing the staff to work in two separate buildings.

Susie Chase, vice president of philanthropy and partnerships for US Lacrosse, said the sport's growing popularity presented an opportunity for US Lacrosse to make the move.

"The organization had been outgrowing the old facilities," Chase said. "The Sparks location gives us a home for our 90-plus staff and allows us to best serve this growing community. We're now all based under the same roof."

The process to move from Johns Hopkins University began in 2010 when US Lacrosse launched the Capital Campaign, which raised money to build new structures at a new location. Private individuals and organizations donated more than \$14 million to the Capital Campaign. US Lacrosse originally planned to move into a new, rented headquarters inside Baltimore City,



William G. Tierney Field

to honor him," Carpenetti said.

The Sept. 11 public grand opening will feature the US men's and women's lacrosse teams participating in separate morning scrimmages and will also feature a match between members of the New York City police and fire departments. During the grand opening weekend, the William G. Tierney Field, named after current University of Denver men's head lacrosse coach, will be dedicated. There will also be dedications of the Hall of Fame and of a memorial built near Tierney Field to honor the 60 individuals who lost their lives in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and had been involved in growing the game of lacrosse.

"We really hope that people will come out and learn more about US Lacrosse, the work we do and this growing game across the country," Chase said.

Carpenetti agreed and said fans of the sport will get the sense of the headquarters. Everything on the new grounds was built as a result of the lacrosse community's contributions.

"We just want folks in our community to feel like they're coming home," Carpenetti said, "that this is their facility and that they are always welcome here."

-- CONNOR GLOWACKI

Coppin State's Danielle Smith Caps Collegiate Career With Division I Batting Title

Gino Olivieri took over as Coppin State's softball coach this season, and he noticed something interesting when he began practice with the Eagles last fall.

Danielle Smith, one of the team's top hitters, seemed to be struggling at times handling outside pitches.

The two discussed Smith focusing more on driving outside pitches the opposite way. Smith took the new coach's advice, and the move paid off. She hit .359 as a junior, but her average jumped to .505 during her senior season. The NCAA recently recognized her as the top hitter in Division I.

The NCAA bases its national statistics on players having at least 2.5 plate appearances per game, playing in 75 percent of their school's games. Smith won the title by going 55-for-109 in 36 games this season, on a team that finished 5-31.

Smith often batted leadoff, topped Coppin State in 15 total hitting categories and posted a 12-game hitting streak at season's end. She got at least two hits in 16 of the team's 36 games with season bests in hits and RBIs, respectively, coming against Albany (four) and Howard (five).

Olivieri knew Smith had already established herself as a solid hitter when he took over the team. But he appreciated that Smith worked on adjusting to hitting outside pitches the opposite way.

New coaches sometimes have problems getting players to make a change. Smith never blinked, and the move paid off for everyone.

"She made a big adjustment and [started] hitting the outside pitches to right field instead of being out in front of the ball and popping up," Olivieri said. "You let the [pitch] get a little deeper, and drive it to right field. She [wound up] driving anything that was on the outside part of the plate to right field."

Smith certainly enjoyed winning the title and is glad it brought Coppin State some national recognition as well.

"I think it's great because all of my hard work and success and everything I put into softball paid off," she said. "Going to a small school, it's pretty cool to see your name on the leader board. It gets our name out there. It shows that we do have good players and can produce good players."



Danielle Smith

Smith struck out only four times during the 2016 season, but said she did not closely follow her batting average this year. Smith said she realized she was having a good year but wasn't obsessed with the numbers. She just kept hitting.

"I knew I had a really high batting average at the beginning of the season," Smith said. "It just kept floating around the .500 area. I walked into school one day and someone said, 'You're leading the NCAA in [hitting].'" I never checked it. I just knew I had a high batting average. I was very shocked."

Even though Smith did not pay much attention to her statistics, numbers now will become a big part of her life on a daily basis.

Smith graduated from Coppin State and wants to become an accountant. The Rising Sun, Md., native had an internship at a public accounting firm this summer and will start graduate school in the fall.

Smith is still keeping in touch with softball. She coached with local travel teams and played softball in a summer women's league, which she participated in during college, that was scheduled to compete in five tournaments.

Smith is a natural right-handed hitter, but became a switch-hitter in travel ball to try and do a little more damage. However, she went back to hitting only right-handed as a junior and stayed that way this year, another move that paid off for her and Coppin State.

The Eagles and Olivieri are in the process of building the program, and the team will bring in 12 new players this year. However, the coach said he'll miss working with the nation's best hitter.

"Her work ethic is incredible," Olivieri said. "She's your typical .300 hitter. She's just a fantastic athlete. I wish I had 20 Danielles, and I wish I had her for more than the one year I had her."

-- JEFF SEIDEL

Annual Legacy Chase Will Attempt To Break Guinness World Record

The Legacy Chase at Shawan Downs in Cockeysville, Md., is an opportunity for fans of steeplechase racing and families who just want to enjoy a pleasant outing to take in a colorful and exciting sport. But the event is also an important fundraiser for a serious cause: the

fight against cancer.

Legacy Chase, held Sept. 24, marks the beginning of the fall steeplechase season as it kicks off a 10-week schedule stretching from northern New Jersey to Columbus, Ga. For the Greater Baltimore Medical Center, better known as GBMC, it serves as a chance to celebrate cancer survivors. And for the Guinness Book of World Records, it represents another day at the office.

It's the 16th annual Legacy Chase event -- and the third year it will benefit GBMC's oncology services -- however, this year, GBMC will take it one step further by looking to beat the Guinness World Record for the longest awareness ribbon by placing a lavender ribbon stretching 1.5 miles through the Shawan Downs infield. The ribbon's hue, on first glance may please local football fans who associate purple with the Ravens, but more broadly, lavender honors those suffering from all types of cancer.

"It is about people coming together, and there's lots of different kinds of cancers and different treatments and different things people go through, all ages and walks of life," said Dr. Paul Celano, director of the Sandra and Malcolm Berman Cancer Institute at GBMC. "It's actually been a lot of fun; people really have embraced this."

"We've passed out portions of the ribbon to various places," said Heidi Kenny-Berman, a GBMC philanthropy committee member and the 2016 Legacy Chase event chair. "We were very impressed with the amount of enthusiasm in response to people wanting to participate and be a part of it."

For some, the world record attempt won't even be the highlight of the day.

"These races are really the only opportunity, in the fall, that the general public gets to see steeplechase racing in the state of Maryland, so there is some uniqueness to it," said Charlie Fenwick, a founding member of the Land Preservation Trust that saved Shawan

Downs in 1997 and steeplechase purist himself. "[Shawon Downs is] almost entirely dedicated to equestrian events -- and it itself is quite unique."

With five races over timber hurdles -- the feature race stretches more than three miles -- and a sixth on flat ground, half of the event's eight-hour schedule features horse races. Well, that is if you are forgiving the traditions, the annual kids' Stick Pony Race.

"Shawan Downs, it's a beautiful place. It's serene," Kenny-Berman said. "[For] a lot of people who aren't or haven't been exposed to horseracing, it's [an] opportunity for a fun-filled day, and it's not just focused on horses. We have a lot of activities for families."

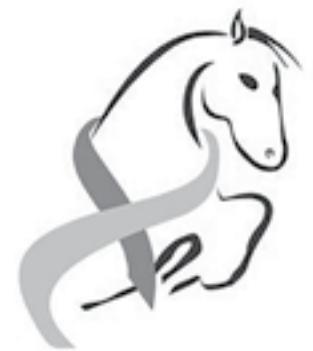
The event is expected to draw between 5,000 and 7,000 people. Gates open at 10 a.m. with world record judging at 11:30 a.m. Opening ceremonies are at noon and the first race is at 1 p.m.

This all runs concurrently with tailgate festivities, a Vendor Village, food and family activities. But all of this fun is also a means of educating and raising awareness for an issue that notoriously affects countless people.

There is a wide range of ticket packages, from \$35 to \$1,500. A \$35 parking pass admits a carload of guests to the lot. A \$50 ticket allows for a carload admission, parking and the opportunity to tailgate. Prices will go up the day of the event. More information on the variety of tickets available can be found at legacychase.org.

"Everybody's been affected [by cancer] in their own way, and I'm no different from anybody else," Fenwick said. "I have a great affinity for the sport, and at the same time, I've been very involved with [GBMC] for the better part of 20 years, and I'm devoted to the hospital and the people that are there. So an opportunity, for me, to pull those two things together is really terrific."

-- KYLE OTTENHEIMER



GBMC's Legacy Chase



GAMING

Oddsmakers Predict Stressful Holiday Season For Ravens Fans

★ BILL ORDINE

If the oddsmakers are correct about the Ravens' fortunes this year, Baltimore fans will be spending Christmas and New Year's Day sweating it out in front of their big screens with a playoff berth hanging in the balance.

That tense storyline seems inevitable when this season's schedule, the early point spreads and the projected win totals are examined closely.

For the last few years, CG Technology, which runs the sports book operations for several Las Vegas casinos, has taken the bold step of releasing a super early line for every NFL game from Week One through Week 16 (there's no point spread for Week 17 because of the possibility teams that have clinched playoff berths may rest their starters).

The 15 Ravens games assigned point spreads saw Baltimore as a favorite in seven games, as an underdog in seven, and one game, against Jacksonville, was a pick 'em.

In the first five games of the 2016 season, the Ravens are listed as a favorite in four. The remaining game, in Week Three, is the pick 'em.

So according to one set of oddsmakers, the Ravens should start the season at least 4-1 (which would be a nice reversal from last year's 1-6 start).



SABINA MORAN/PRESSBOX
Ravens Fans

(Dec. 25) is in Pittsburgh, where the Steelers are currently favored by more than a touchdown. And Week 17 (Jan. 1), with no point spread listed, is in Cincinnati. Right now, you'd have to say the Bengals will be the favorites in that one.

You can see where this is going. Granted, we are talking about a projection of games more than four months away, but it's possible -- actually it's likely -- the Ravens will be underdogs in their final four games.

As I mentioned, there could be some anxiety during the holidays.

However, for the moment, let's put the late-season drama aside and consider those seven games from Weeks 6-13. Again, assuming the Ravens take care of business in the first five weeks, oddsmakers and public bettors may be so impressed they over-value the Ravens.

If that happens, painful as it is to say, the calculated play may be to go against Baltimore.

Since that goes against the grain of most Ravens fans, let's put it another way.

If the Ravens do get out to a fast start and the point spreads seem to be making the Ravens too big a favorite, or don't give them enough points when they're underdogs in those mid-season contests, stay off the games entirely.

★

New England quarterback Tom Brady's four-game suspension has not deterred oddsmakers from continuing to make the Patriots the favorite to win this season's Super Bowl. The Patriots are 15-2 favorites to win their fifth NFL title.

The Green Bay Packers have the next shortest odds at 19-2, followed by Seattle at 10-1.

The Ravens are tied with Oakland at 30-1 to win the Super Bowl, placing them 12th among the NFL's 32 teams.

In the odds to win the AFC title, the Ravens are 18-1, with North division rivals Pittsburgh (6-1) and Cincinnati (8-1) having shorter odds. The Cleveland Browns have the gloomiest prospects at 100-1 to win the AFC and 200-1 to win the Super Bowl. □

A totally different source, the 538 website, agrees in a slightly different way. Fivethirtyeight.com -- famous for its political forecasting and sports analysis -- weighed strength of schedules and concluded the Ravens' early-season schedule is among the easiest in the NFL. Baltimore's first six opponents represent the league's third-easiest schedule, according to 538.

However, 538 also warned how tough the schedule gets down the home stretch. (Just a reminder: 538 correctly forecasted 50 of 50 states and Washington D.C. in the 2012 presidential election and 31 of 33 U.S. Senate races).

Now, let's factor in the Vegas win total for the Ravens; it has bounced from a low of 7.5 wins to a high of 8.5. Perusing various odds websites recently, it seems 8.5 is a solid number for the Ravens at the moment.

Let's assume the Ravens play according to form against their first five opponents (Buffalo at home, Cleveland away, Jacksonville away, Oakland at home, Washington at home) and get at least four wins. And then figure Baltimore plays over or under .500 in its next seven (where the Ravens are favorites just three times).

It's reasonable to estimate the Ravens should be sitting with seven or eight wins with four games to go and with history telling us nine, maybe 10 wins, will be needed to get into the playoffs.

This is where things get sticky.

The Ravens are underdogs in the three remaining games for which CG Technology has a line. Week 16

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The name says it all. It's make-believe.

Yet, fantasy football -- a contrivance built on games that are already a form of entertainment escapism -- has become the driving influence that makes the NFL utterly captivating and personal for tens of millions of fans.

The fantasy aspect of football has become so essential to NFL Sundays that pre-game TV programming is largely devoted to providing real-time information and advice so fans can call their own last-minute audibles for their rosters.

So why has this make-believe thing called fantasy football become so darn important?

"Because fans come to fantasy already pre-obsessed with the NFL," said Bob Harris, a fantasy football writer and radio host who has been on the beat for more than two decades. "And the only way to make that obsession more tolerable is to become part of something they love so much. They can't throw a pass or make a tackle or even tape

an ankle. But they can do this. They can act like a general manager or coach and show that they're smarter than the schmucks who get paid to do it."

"And because it is so deeply rooted in the culture now, and because it's something we used to connect with our friends and co-workers, it does matter!"

Fantasy Sports Numbers

A survey conducted earlier this year in the United States and Canada quantified what any sports fan already knows: fantasy is huge. The results indicated 57.4 million people participated in fantasy sports in 2015, according to a survey conducted by Ipsos Public Affairs, a global research company.

The study was conducted for the Fantasy Sports Trade Association.

To be sure, the growth of fantasy sports has slowed -- it was just a 1 percent increase from the previous year -- but that may be due to the fact that the participation baseline has gotten so big. It's virtually impossible to sustain the huge percentage gains the hobby had been enjoying. From 2005-2015, participation grew 450 percent, according to the trade association.

The survey found 82 percent of all players participate in the traditional season-long version, and 19 percent play exclusively in the newer short-duration fantasy contests, commonly referred to as daily fantasy sports.

The overlap for players who enjoy the traditional and daily formats is 17 percent.

But the survey disclosed far more than

merely eye-catching participation figures. It was the kind of information sports leagues have known for years and helps to explain their infatuation with various iterations of fantasy contests.

Fantasy players said:

- 64 percent watch more sports because of fantasy sports
- 61 percent read more sports because of fantasy

54 percent of consumers would pull the plug on their league-backed TV subscriptions, apps and other specialty media if there was no fantasy sports.

For all the tinkering sports leagues have

The real athletes play, their home runs and touchdowns are converted into fantasy points and the fantasy owner with the most productive roster wins.

A 2006 federal law meant to provide enforcement mechanisms that would impede illegal online gambling (it did wind up putting the brakes on the burgeoning internet poker industry) spurned a new kind of fantasy sports play.

In defining certain terms, the federal law exempted some activities, such as buying and selling stocks, insurance policies and, under specific conditions, fantasy sports.

The law also contained language implying

in-season selections.

"The industry has lost sight of that lately, and they've tried to make it about the money. Look, we all want to make money if we can, but I compare it to the athletes who actually play the sports. They got into the game because they loved the game and it was fun. I think one of the reasons [daily fantasy] hasn't grown the way the industry envisioned it would is because rather than [DFS operators] making their contests about fun, they made it about money."

Zalis is encouraged by another new version of fantasy football called "best ball." In best ball, fantasy owners have a larger draft

million in December.

In the DraftKings football championship, a Baltimore-area recreational fantasy player, Eddie Rybolt, from Sparrows Point, Md., finished fifth. Fifth place paid \$300,000.

Rybolt, who plays under the screen name "rockenraven," was the Cinderella story of the competition, as he admitted to being "flat broke" and facing tough times before hitting the fantasy football windfall.

"It was a blessing for me and my family," Rybolt said.

Despite the jaw-dropping dollar figures getting tossed around in the discussion of daily fantasy sports, there is a lot of uncer-

The Fantasy MOVEMENT

done during the years, such as rules changes in order to encourage more excitement and engagement, it's hard to imagine any league-initiated tweaks that match fantasy sports in generating fan enthusiasm.

"In the early 2000s, the NFL began realizing that the fantasy consumer was their best customer," said Peter Schoenke, chairman of the Fantasy Sports Trade Association and a principal in two fantasy sports businesses. "The league knows that fantasy fans buy more [TV] game packages; they go to NFL.com more. And daily fantasy has accelerated all that. ... Prior to the early 2000s, the NFL was sort of hands-off with fantasy, but you can see how that's changed."

Hence, daily fantasy was born. With the help of venture capital investments in 2015 that allowed for massive marketing efforts, DFS companies DraftKings and FanDuel are now familiar to most fans, even ones who don't participate.

However, despite all the hoopla, advertising and, indeed, billions of dollars in entry fees that mainly change hands among DFS participants, the vast majority of fantasy football participants (82 percent)

are still enjoying that old-time religion of traditional season-long fantasy. And make no mistake about it; fantasy football is the dominant sport over baseball, basketball and other sports, although not by as big a margin as previously.

The biggest prize to-date in a single fantasy football contest was handed out in January to the first-place finisher in DraftKings' Fantasy Football World Championship. Aaron Jones, a lanky professional poker player, won \$5 million in the live contest held in San Diego. Overall, DraftKings' big football finale handed out \$15 million in prize money.

FanDuel's football champion was Roman Edmond, of Sterling, Va., who collected \$3 before interest, taxes, depreciation ➤

selection, say, 20 to 25 NFL players. Then each week, a computer program simply counts the highest scoring players at each position on each roster (one quarterback, two running backs, three wide receivers, and so on). Unlike the typical fantasy regimen, owners don't have to worry about setting lineups each week and there are no in-season roster adjustments.

"What they found is that the thing a lot of people liked best about fantasy football is the draft," Zalis said. "With best ball, you go through the draft and then you don't have to worry about anything the rest of the season. People said what they wanted and someone listened."

tainty about where daily fantasy is headed.

"We're at a crossroads in DFS," said Adam Krejcik, a principal at Eilers & Krejcik Gaming, LLC, a boutique research firm specializing in gaming equipment, technology and interactive gaming. Krejcik's financial analysis of the daily fantasy business was groundbreaking when the industry was virtually unknown.

"It's hard to say definitively where it's headed," he said.

Krejcik and Chris Grove, a writer and publisher who focuses on online gaming, released a report earlier this year recapping a tumultuous 2015 for daily fantasy.

Their analysis revealed information many fans may find surprising. For instance, despite the high-profile presence DFS companies projected in TV advertising and within sports network programming, both companies lost tons of money in 2015, according to the Eilers & Krejcik analysis. The losses were mainly due to the substantial cost of the advertising blitz that grabbed everyone's attention.

The report estimated FanDuel's net revenue for 2015 at \$174 million on estimated entry fees of \$1.77 billion. For DraftKings, net revenue for 2015 was estimated at \$106 million on entry fees estimated at \$1.17 billion.

However, revenues were overwhelmed by expenses on the balance sheet.

The Eilers & Krejcik update estimated FanDuel lost \$137 million in earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation ➤

and amortization (EBITDA). DraftKings had an EBITDA loss of \$280 million.

Both companies were able to sustain such losses and continue operations because of successful venture capital forays in 2014 and 2015 when the two companies built hefty war chests as they brought on a laundry list of superstar investors and partners -- Comcast Ventures, KKR, Google Capital, Time Warner, NBC Sports Ventures and others for FanDuel (not to mention the National Basketball Association's equity stake in the company); and Fox Sports, Major League Baseball, the National Hockey League, Major League Soccer, Madison Square Garden, The Kraft Group and others for DraftKings.

DFS Hits Headwinds

However, life has changed for the daily fantasy industry since the halcyon days of last summer when big-time backers were willing to open their checkbooks in exchange for a percentage of the business.

First, the advertising tidal wave that hit TV at the beginning of the 2015 NFL season woke up politicians, attorneys general and mainstream media that had been virtually clueless about the daily fantasy culture.

The question was obvious: Hey, isn't this gambling and should something be done about it?

Then, a highly publicized incident in which a DraftKings employee inadvertently released embargoed website information on

the same weekend he won \$350,000 on rival FanDuel raised suspicions of insider impropriety. An investigation by an outside law firm found no evidence of cheating and no charges have been filed, but enormous PR damage was done.

In the aftermath of all the unflattering attention, DFS companies found the millions and millions of dollars they had spent to recruit new customers last football season weren't the only big checks they had to write. There was also going to be the expense of lawyers and lobbyists to fend off challenges to the DFS industry's right to even do business in state after state. In February, the *Wall Street Journal* reported the daily fantasy sports industry had 78 lobbyists in 34 states advocating on its behalf.

What that suggests is that a repeat of last football season's advertising avalanche is unlikely, unless there's an infusion of cash.

"They'd have to find some funding before the football season to shore up the balance sheet," Krejcek said.

To make up for less conventional advertising, DFS companies may have to rely on their databases of users recruited over the last year and use much cheaper, digital methods -- like email pitches and social media -- to encourage those customers to continue or resume playing DFS contests.

Challenge Ahead

As the 2016 NFL season approaches, DFS

companies face the challenge of generating the kind of revenue that allows them to continue operating at a high level and attracts future outside investment.

The key to that is gaining as much explicit legal acceptance as possible in state legislatures throughout the country.

As of early August, eight state legislatures had passed laws essentially giving DFS a green light. In New York, obviously a key state with hundreds of thousands of DFS customers, the governor just signed DFS-friendly legislation. A bill in Massachusetts was awaiting the signature of that state's governor.

Earlier this year in Maryland, the General Assembly set aside the DFS issue for more study after state senate president Mike Miller called for a referendum. Since then, Comptroller Franchot issued proposed regulations that provide consumer protections welcomed by the daily fantasy industry. As of early August, DFS was open to Maryland fans.

Several other states are mulling laws that would give daily fantasy legal cover.

Some legal experts believe DFS has been doing a good job at damage control.

"Compared to the amount of legal friction the industry was encountering just last fall, when you look at the amount of states that have already created carve-outs and considering the many states that continue to consider such legislation, I think they've done very well," said Ryan Rodenberg, an assistant professor in the department of sport management at Florida State University.

sity. In May, Rodenberg testified at a Congressional subcommittee hearing on daily fantasy sports, the first of its kind.

Still, DFS has its hands full. For instance, in Texas, an unfavorable opinion by the attorney general has caused opposite reactions.

"DraftKings is suing the attorney general and FanDuel raised the white flag," Rodenberg said. DraftKings still operates in Texas as it fights a legal battle, while FanDuel does not.

In the long run, though, when it comes to fantasy sports -- whether the discussion is about the traditional or the short-duration version -- there is too much to be gained by too many interested parties.

"Advertisers, sports leagues, broadcasters have all tapped into something with fantasy sports," Rodenberg said. "They have all sensed this shift from passive spectating where you sit on the couch, crack open a beer and just watch, to wanting to be actively engaged and feel like you're a part of the action. The shift is profound."

It's a shift that will continue to be driven by changes in consumer technology as more fans use mobile devices to participate in the fantasy experience, Rodenberg said.

"When you consider what's to be gained by all those influential forces -- sponsors, broadcasters, the leagues," Rodenberg said, "even though it's fantasy, it's very, very real." ★

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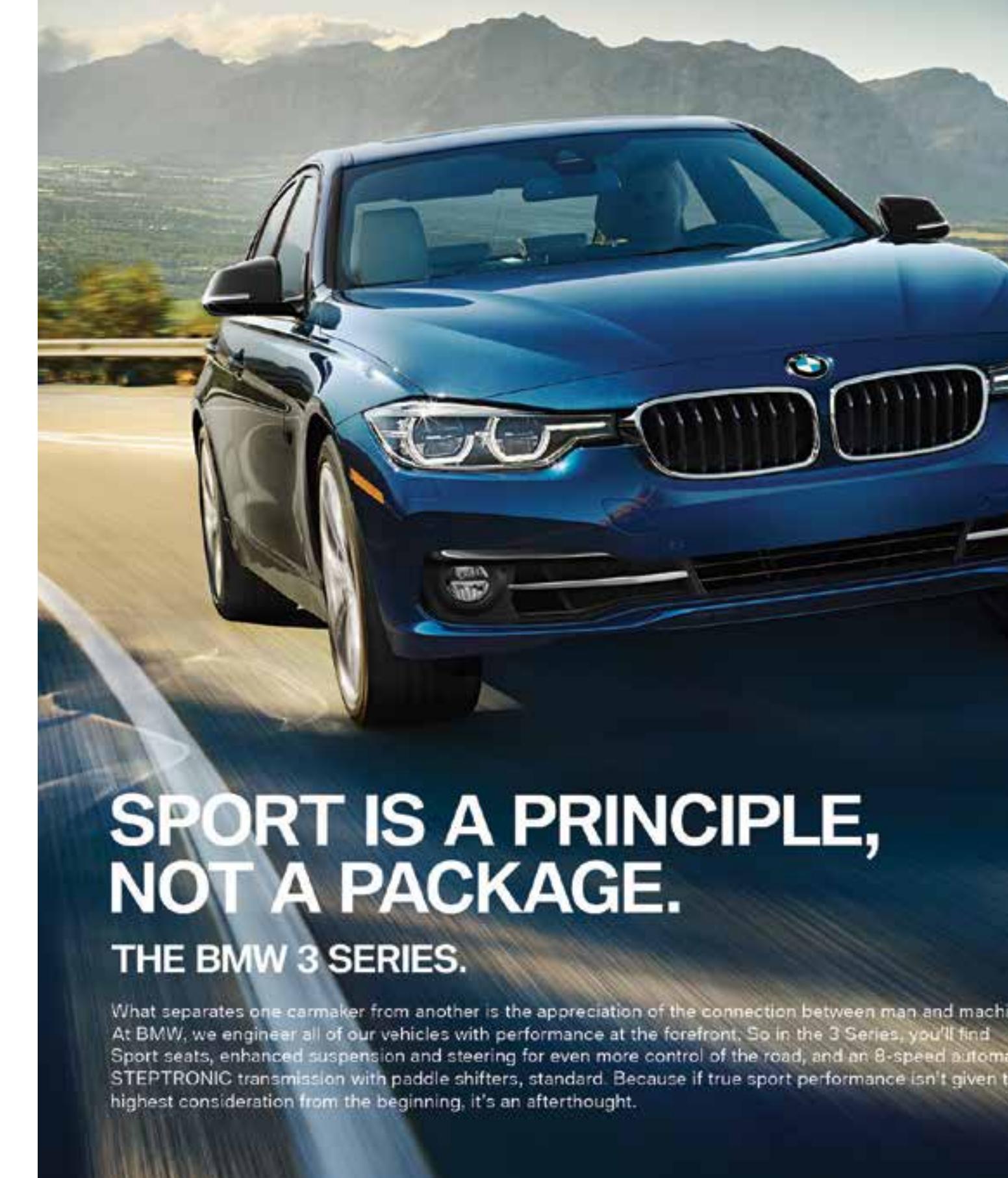
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BALTIMORE

PressBox @PressBoxOnline
The Baltimore Ravens' season-opening 53-man roster has just 12 new faces that weren't with the team last season. <http://ow.ly/RZ9sk>

Stan Charles @StanTheFan
Ravens special teams look very, very sketchy in just about all facets, save Justin Tucker kicks

Glenn Clark @GlennClarkRadio
The Ravens are trailing, 7-6, at the half ... because of course they are.

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If you play fantasy football (or if you've ever played fantasy football), it's happened to you. At some point, a win seemed inevitable but was snatched away in the final seconds. Or perhaps, a player you traded for on a Tuesday showed up on the injury report Wednesday as a limited participant in practice, only to never play again that season.

They're fantasy football horror stories, and they're as common as someone in your league drafting Baltimore's Justin Tucker in the eighth round because he's "a really good kicker and seems like a good dude."

For "The 15" this month, PressBox readers and contributors shared some of their own horror stories. They are most certainly harrowing.

[01] "There's nothing worse than having the No. 2 overall pick. In 2013, I agonized over a number of options before finally going with then-Bills running back C.J. Spiller. After the draft ended, we all received an alert to our phone saying Spiller got hurt during a preseason game the same day. He was OK, but his season was so bad he didn't even remain the starter the entire time. I wish I could say it was my worst first-round pick, but a year later, I selected Adrian Peterson, who lasted all of one game before being suspended." -- Glenn Clark, host of Glenn Clark Radio

At this point I don't even want a first-round pick in the draft.

[02] "I was once headed for my championship title ... I needed one more yard from running back Edgerrin James ... and they took him out of the game never to return at the half! I lost by .9." -- PressBox fantasy football expert Ken Zalis

Man, we've all been there. "Well all of the other running backs could get hurt, and then James would have to go back in!"

[03] "Three years ago, I lost in the championship in Week 16. I had Marshawn Lynch, he had Andre Roberts, and the game went to overtime. We tied. He got the win because he had a better record during the season." -- Nick, Bel Air, Md.

Can you even imagine the cockiness Nick felt when he knew it was down to these two players? One of the best running backs in football versus a receiver who, with a gun to your head, you still couldn't name what team he's currently playing. That's brutal.

[04] "I once had former Ravens quarterback Tony Banks auto drafted for me. With the first pick in the first round." -- John, Kensington, Md.

Welp. At least Mike Ditka can feel your pain, Steve. Look, this one is totally on John. What's the point of a fantasy football league if you're going to auto draft? The only part of the league that's any actual fun is the draft! What? Do you just really love gnawing at your fingernails every Sunday but hate the joy of hanging with your friends and eating delicious fried foods every Labor Day weekend?

[05] "It was Week 17 of the 2007 season. Titans vs. Colts. I had LenDale White left to play in the championship game. During the third quarter, he lost a fumble when I was up by one -- costing me



FANTASY FOOTBALL HORROR STORIES

I've had similar luck with basically every first-round pick I've ever had. Welcome to the club.

[09] "I once lost a title due to a stat correction. I drafted Tom Brady the year he went out during Week One, and I have also retired several running backs. My team name is 'Legend Killers.'" -- Tim, Woodbine, Md.

Brady was a popular early pick in 2008. I actually selected him in one of my leagues myself. I remember trying to enjoy Joe Flacco's NFL debut only to have the murmurs start spreading throughout M&T Bank Stadium. I couldn't enjoy it anymore.

[10] "I went 0-14 last season. In one game I lost by .01 points." -- Eric, Laurel, Md., "Barstool RDT" from BarstoolSports.com

But it's still better than finishing in a tie, right? Also, once you get to 0-8, you're kind of trying to go winless, aren't you?

[11] "In our league, the punishment for finishing last is significant. I was playing in the Toilet Bowl and going into Monday night, we were tied. I didn't know what the rules were if we finished in a tie, so I played my defense that night. They got me negative points, and I lost. As it turns out, a later stat correction occurred for his team, and I actually could have benched my defense and still won." -- Mark, Perry Hall, Md.

Which is a reminder that if you're winning, you always bench your Monday night players. You just never know when disaster might strike. Which wouldn't have helped Mark much here.

[12] "Eight of my 16 draft picks were busts one year. Then I traded for Philip Rivers, totally forgetting he sleeps through the second half of every season." -- Brandon, Parkville, Md.

If only they gave you fantasy points for the best doofus-face. Rivers would be the goat.

[13] "I lost to my best man on the day of my wedding because the venue had no cell reception. It was still a wonderful day." -- Jon, Baltimore

Good save, Jon.

[14] "Last season, I lost three games by a total of less than two points -- including one by .04 points." -- Chris, Perry Hall, Md.

That's definitely heartbreaking, and probably worse than no-win Eric at No. 10. But we saved the worst for last.

[15] "In the Denny Green, 'they are who we thought they were' game (Chicago vs. Arizona 2006), I was up by 5. He was done for the week. I had Rex Grossman, and he scored -12 points. I lost by seven. Four interceptions and two lost fumbles by Grossman." -- Eric, Baltimore

Yep. That's officially the worst. And RIP, Denny. ☹



he go down, Henry would be in line for a huge workload.

Advice: Henry had a highly productive college career, but he's listed as No. 2 on the depth chart. The Titans claim they will run the ball 40 times a game, that means Henry will see action early and often.

Top 10 2016 Fantasy Football Sleepers You Should Draft

★ KEN ZALIS



Advice: Once again a forgotten quarterback. Any quarterback who will throw 600 times a year is, by accident, going to put up solid numbers.

4. Sammie Coates, WR, Pittsburgh

When: Rounds 12-14

Why: The Steelers offense is stacked. Antonio Brown is one of, if not the best, wide receivers in the game right now. Pittsburgh's No. 2 receiver, Markus Wheaton, has been up and down during his career. Coates has a chance to be the "big" receiver for Pittsburgh, and he reportedly looks great.

1. Eric Ebron, TE, Detroit

When: Rounds 10-12

Why: It seems Ebron is on this list every year. With wide receiver Calvin Johnson now gone, the offense is in need of a new look and a new weapon. Let's just hope Ebron is finally up to the task.

Advice: After the first five or so (Rob Gronkowski, Greg Olsen, Jordan Reed, Travis Kelce and Delanie Walker), tight ends are pretty much all the same in potential. So why not wait and see if Ebron can finally live up to his lofty expectations.

2. Matt Ryan, QB, Atlanta

When: Rounds 12-14 or undrafted free agent

Why: Oh how the mighty have fallen. Ryan only had 21 touchdowns last year while throwing 16 interceptions, but he did have more than 4,500 yards through the air. The previous five years, he averaged more than 4,300 yards and 28 touchdowns. You can get him for almost nothing this year, and he still has wide receiver Julio Jones to throw to.

Advice: Wait, wait and wait on a quarterback. Ryan is an excellent quarterback No. 2 target who you can get very late in most drafts.

3. Matthew Stafford, QB, Detroit

When: Rounds 12-14

Why: Yes, I know, I know ... Johnson is gone. Stafford is going to throw 600 times in 2016, as his running game is still not very good. Golden Tate is a solid receiver; Marvin Jones was brought in, and Anquan Boldin was just signed. Fantasy is about numbers, and the numbers say Stafford could be a top 10 quarterback in 2016.

Advice: Once again a forgotten quarterback. Any quarterback who will throw 600 times a year is, by accident, going to put up solid numbers.

4. Sammie Coates, WR, Pittsburgh

When: Rounds 12-14

Why: The Steelers offense is stacked. Antonio Brown is one of, if not the best, wide receivers in the game right now. Pittsburgh's No. 2 receiver, Markus Wheaton, has been up and down during his career. Coates has a chance to be the "big" receiver for Pittsburgh, and he reportedly looks great.

Advice: Could he be a replacement for Martavis Bryant? He's totally worth a flyer in all formats. Pittsburgh has a great offense.

5. Tyler Boyd, WR, Cincinnati

When: Rounds 10-12

Why: The No. 2 WR in Cincinnati has done well traditionally. With Marvin Jones and Mohamed Sanu gone via free agency, Boyd should step right in.

Advice: Boyd may have been drafted into the perfect situation in Cincinnati. He runs solid routes and has nice hands. Other rookies are getting more attention, but Boyd could outperform them all in 2016.

6. DeAndre Washington, RB, Oakland

When: Rounds 12-13

Why: Oakland running back Latavius Murray was disappointing in 2015, and his yards per carry diminished as the year went on. If he struggles again, he may be on a short leash.

Advice: Washington may be my favorite sleeper of all. He has great vision and does a nice job as a receiver.

7. Derrick Henry, RB, Tennessee

When: Rounds 11-13

Why: The Titans paid a bunch of money to get DeMarco Murray, but he has a long injury history and should

Advice: Henry would be in line for a huge workload.

Advice: Henry had a highly productive college career, but he's listed as No. 2 on the depth chart. The Titans claim they will run the ball 40 times a game, that means Henry will see action early and often.

8. Spencer Ware/Charcandrick West, RB, Kansas City

When: Rounds 11-14

Why: Jamaal Charles is hurt and coming off a major injury in 2015. Plus, Ware and West were very good when given the chance last season.

Advice: If you draft Charles, you must get one or the other or both if you can. I expect both to get work throughout the season.

9. Willie Snead, WR, New Orleans

When: Rounds 7-8

Why: Saints quarterback Drew Brees throws 600 times a year, approaches 5,000 yards a year and throws 40 touchdowns. I want a wide receiver from that team.

Advice: Saints wide receiver Brandin Cooks will get most of the attention, but Snead will approach 75 catches and 1,000 yards in 2016.

10. Will Tye, TE, New York Giants

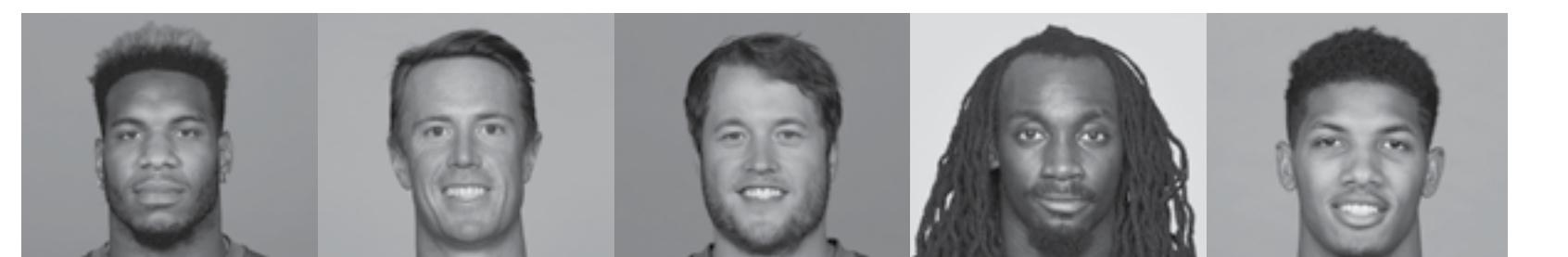
When: Rounds 14-15

Why: The Giants' offense loves to throw the ball. Once Tye was the starting tight end, he averaged five catches a week and scored a touchdown in three of his last four games in 2015.

Advice: Tight ends are weird and inconsistent, so if you miss early on, Tye is a nice fallback option.

Honorable Mention:

1. Josh Ferguson, RB, Indianapolis
2. Tim Hightower, RB, New Orleans
3. Chris Thompson, RB, Washington (PPR only)
4. Phillip Dorsett, WR, Indianapolis
5. Chris Moore, WR, Baltimore
6. Travis Benjamin, WR, San Diego
7. Torrey Smith, WR, San Francisco
8. Oakland Raiders Defense
9. Duke Johnson, RB, Cleveland
10. Theo Riddick, RB, Detroit



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RAVENS REPORT

Ronnie Stanley, Breshad Perriman: First-Round Talent, High-Profile Questions

★ JOE PLATANIA

Ftechnically, the Ravens selected only one player in the first round of the 2016 NFL Draft. For all practical purposes, they actually got two.

However, the boatload of talent found in former Notre Dame tackle Ronnie Stanley and former Central Florida receiver Breshad Perriman also has its own dichotomy: proven quality and unproven potential. It is a duo that brings with it as many questions as answers, the epitome of the crapshoot nature of the draft.

But with the Ravens having posted three straight third-place AFC North finishes, missing the playoffs after two of the last three seasons and posting a mediocre 23-25 regular-season record since winning Super Bowl XLVII, it will largely be up to the first-round pair to return the team to top-level status.

The most recent Ravens top pick, Stanley, is a consensus All-America who was taken with this year's sixth overall selection and has been immediately tabbed to start. The Ravens seem so confident in his ability that veteran Eugene Monroe was released to make room for him to take extra repetitions and to win the left offensive tackle job unopposed.

Meanwhile at wide receiver, a revamped Ravens offense -- one aiming to be younger, deeper, faster and more unpredictable than in previous seasons -- will attempt to add Perriman to the mix for the first time, even after enduring one of the most bizarre chapters in the Ravens' short history.

Six-foot-2, 215-pound Perriman was taken 26th overall in 2015 before incurring a slight ligament tear during the first full-team training camp practice that season. The injury was not thought to be serious at first, but a possible misreading of its severity and a misinterpretation of its recovery time led to a season-long odyssey that ended with Perriman on

injured reserve and the Ravens on the losing side of 11 of 16 games.

This offseason, a second injury to Perriman's opposite knee required a minor stem-cell procedure that would seem to have him ready to play in the Sept. 11 season opener against the Buffalo Bills.

But Perriman was relegated to the physically unable to perform list for the first portion of training camp, yet another hurdle in an offseason that engulfed him in not only another surgery and rehabilitation period, but in assessing the health of his father -- former NFL veteran wideout Brett Perriman -- who suffered a stroke.

"It's been crazy," Perriman said during spring practices. "I've been through a lot this offseason, but it's just making me stronger again and just learning to keep faith and pray a lot more. It's been rough. It still is rough from time to time, but I'm steady getting through it, pushing through it and keeping faith."

"I feel much stronger. I feel like I went through a lot last year and it made me a better player and a better person."

At the very least, Perriman will look like a different person, having taken quarterback Joe Flacco's advice to shave off his trademark dreadlocks. Flacco and veteran receiver Mike Wallace have been among many counseling the young receiver and helping him feel like he truly is a part of the team.

"I haven't had a ton of time to work with him, but that's just the nature of this game," Flacco said. "You have to deal the hand you're dealt. Hopefully, for his sake, he's able to get back out here and get confident and get those reps. I think he's a huge part of our team, so I want to see him out there. He's a talented kid."

The same can safely be said of the 6-foot-6, 320-pound Stanley; in fact, it might be an understatement.

Stanley helped pace a Fighting Irish offense that produced its third most yards-per-game average since setting a school record 46

every day."

Naturally, it's not clear at this point how such a bounty of talent will pan out. As the Ravens' drafts in 1996, 2000 and 2003 have shown, adding two first-round picks has turned out mostly positive, but with a few disappointing aspects.

In the Ravens' debut draft, tackle Ogden and linebacker Ray Lewis were the respective choices with the fourth and 26th picks. They combined for 24 Pro Bowl berths, three Super Bowl rings, two spots in the team's Ring of Honor and, more than likely, two spots in the Pro Football Hall of Fame (Ogden was inducted in 2013 and Lewis will be eligible in 2018).

Stanley comes with the kind of size and athleticism reminiscent of the Ravens' first draft pick, Jonathan Ogden, who actually played guard in his 1996 debut season. It was speculated by some observers Stanley would go the same route, but he has been entrusted with the same blind-side responsibilities handed to Hall-of-Famer Ogden two decades ago.

"[When it comes to] protecting Joe, he's a very valuable man," Stanley said. "We know how much worth he is to this team and how valued he is. It was great. He's a great leader. He stays calm and cool in the huddle and out on the field all together. He's just great to be around."

Stanley has obviously inherited the Ogden-esque quality of not talking about himself in any great detail, but his off-field demeanor and on-field play have led others to sing his praises.

"Right now, [Stanley] has done everything right up until this point," guard Marshal Yanda said. "He has the right mindset. He is a hard worker and keeps his head down, and I love a rookie like that. I love a rookie that stays quiet and does his job and just produces on the field."

"Just do what you do on the field. I don't need to hear anything else, but you doing your job and keeping your mouth quiet. He's done that. He is doing everything the right way, so we will see."

Offensive coordinator Marc Trestman agreed.

"He's had a very good start," Trestman said. "He's got an excellent demeanor. He understands what he's doing in terms of his job and his assignments -- his footwork. It's just day-to-day of growing at the position, but he's had a good start. He carries himself with a quiet confidence. He's doing good things over there, and he's just working to get better every day."



Ronnie Stanley



Breshad Perriman

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ORIOLES INSIDER

Orioles Look To Veteran Wade Miley To Provide Stability To Rotation

★ PAUL FOLKEMER



or journeyman left-hander Wade Miley, who has been traded three times during the past 19 months, the fourth team may be the charm.

Miley, 29, was the Orioles' key pitching acquisition at the Aug. 1 trade deadline, joining the Birds in a deal with the Seattle Mariners. For O's fans clamoring for an ace, well, Miley isn't that guy. He posted a 7-8 record and a 4.98 ERA for the Mariners before the trade, and he's been no better than a league-average pitcher for the past three seasons.

League-average, however, could be exactly what the Orioles need.

The Birds' rotation has been an amorphous blob of mediocrity throughout the 2016 season. Behind right-handers Chris Tillman and Kevin Gausman, a cavalcade of candidates have come and gone through a revolving door of injuries and ineffectiveness. When the O's acquired Miley, they had a shoestring starting staff that included a veteran (Yovani Gallardo) with a 5.70 ERA, a rookie (Dylan Bundy) who is likely pitching on an innings limit this year and one spot that was essentially vacant.

With Miley, the Orioles have one less question mark. He doesn't need to dominate. The O's simply want him to take the ball every fifth day.

"I'm just going to go out when it's my turn to pitch and try to give us a chance," Miley said. "That's kind of what I've done throughout my career, just go out and compete, and I hope it works out."

Miley is several years removed from the hurler who burst onto the scene with the Arizona Diamondbacks, going 16-11 with a 3.33 ERA in 2012 and finishing second in the National League Rookie of the Year voting. His ERA has risen every year since, and his travels have taken him from Arizona (2011-2014) to Boston (2015) to Seattle (2016) and now Baltimore.

Miley, though, has settled in as a reliable innings eater who won't overtax the bullpen. He pitched consecutive 200-inning seasons in 2013 and 2014. With the Mariners this year, he averaged just less than six innings a start, which would rank second to Tillman among Orioles hurlers.

"He's a workhorse," executive vice president of baseball operations Dan Duquette said. "He's pitched over 200 innings a few times, excellent command of four pitches, he's got a good pickoff move. And he loves to compete. We hope he helps stabilize our pitching rotation and is a key piece we hope to help us advance to the playoffs."

Duquette noted Miley had been on the Orioles' radar for quite some time.

"We've liked his skills for a while, going back to the first winter meetings [in 2011]," Duquette said. "Our scouts have followed Wade for several years. We tried to trade for him when he was in Arizona. We tried to trade for him again when the Red Sox sent him to Seattle. We didn't really match up. So now we have him. We think

[Showalter] will be looking for five or six innings, three or fewer runs, and I think if he gets that, he'll be happy."

The Orioles will have plenty of opportunities to see if that formula will work. Miley is under contract through 2017 with a \$12 million club option for 2018, making him more than just a half-season rental.

"He's got all the qualities to help our club, and not just for this year, for next year," Duquette said. "If he can keep the ball on the ground, he's going to help stabilize our rotation and our guys are going to score runs and make plays for him. So all he has to do is what he's done over his whole career, and that's take the ball and go out and pitch."

Before his trade to the Orioles, Miley's most memorable experience in Baltimore was one he'd likely rather forget -- a heated dugout confrontation with his Red Sox manager, John Farrell, during a game at Camden Yards June 11, 2015. Miley, upset about being pulled from the game after four innings, was caught on camera shouting angrily at Farrell before storming into the clubhouse, an outburst Farrell called "unacceptable." The two later cleared the air, but the blowup was considered a lowlight of Boston's frustrating last-place season, Miley's only year with the Red Sox.

"I think it was an isolated situation," Shalin said. "I just think it was something that happened. It's like [White Sox left-hander] Chris Sale cutting up those jerseys. Chris Sale had never been thought of as a particular pain in the [behind], and all of a sudden he becomes nutty one day and starts cutting up uniforms. Guys are allowed a transgression, and he certainly had one."

Miley may find his new clubhouse environment more to his liking, especially with the Orioles in the middle of the pennant race, sitting atop their division as August began. It's a situation Miley hasn't been able to experience in recent years. The Mariners were in third place and hovering around .500 when they dealt Miley, and prior to that, he hadn't played for a winning team since the NL West champion Diamondbacks in 2011. Miley broke into the majors with eight appearances for that club but didn't pitch in the postseason. He could get his first taste of the playoffs with the 2016 Orioles.

"It's going to make for a fun last two months of the season," Miley said. "It's going to be competitive and that's what we play the game for, to have that challenge. And I think we're going to be up for it. Going from a third place team to a first-place team overnight, there's nothing wrong with that. So hopefully, I just come in here and not screw that up. ... It's now my job to help improve this team and get to the playoffs. That's where it starts. That's what we want to do."

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CONNOLLY'S CORNER

What Orioles Got At Trade Deadline Just Might Be Enough

★ DAN CONNOLLY

Covering Orioles executive vice president of baseball operations Dan Duquette at the non-waiver trade deadline always reminds me of a Rolling Stones lyric.

"You can't always get what you want. But if you try sometimes, you might find, you get what you need."

Duquette doesn't just try sometimes; he tries all the time. And he doesn't always get what he wants, that's for sure.

What he wanted at the Aug. 1 deadline was a top-of-the-rotation starter, a left-handed reliever, and a right-handed hitting, fourth outfielder who can play a little center field. As a bonus, he would have liked to have dumped Ubaldo Jimenez's albatross contract.

What he got instead was a back-end rotation starter; a versatile, right-handed-hitting infielder/outfielder; and a right-handed reliever snagged out of Japan.

Duquette also got a headache when his attempt to send Jimenez and a couple low-level prospects to the San Diego Padres for outfielder Melvin Upton Jr., fell through after a deal seemed imminent.

So the haul wasn't necessarily what Duquette wanted, but his hands were tied by his own minor league system,

which has a significant void of upper echelon prospects.

Consider 25 former first-rounders were traded this July by other teams. It's what rebuilding clubs expect now when they give up a solid piece in July. The Padres, for instance, received the Miami Marlins' first-round pick from 2015, first baseman Josh Naylor, in a deal that essentially was for right-hander Andrew Cashner, the poster boy for middling starting pitchers.

We assume Duquette's not done, of course. Trades can still be made in August; players have to pass through trade waivers first, so usually lesser names are the ones that get dealt during that time period. Acquiring lesser players, or supplemental pieces, is a Duquette specialty.

The Orioles don't have that kind of surplus in their system. Their 2015 first-round, DJ Stewart, is a work-in-progress at High-A Frederick. They had no 2014 first-rounders because they lost the pick when they signed Jimenez as a free agent.

Their 2013 first-round, Hunter Harvey, just had elbow surgery and won't be ready to pitch until 2018. And their three first-rounders before that, Kevin Gausman (2012), Dylan Bundy (2011) and Manny Machado (2010), are all key members of the current 25-man roster and, really, can't be dealt without hurting the club's 2016 playoff chances.

Given that, Duquette had to make deals that fit with what he had. So he signed 6-foot-8 right-hander Logan Ondrussek, who had most recently pitched in Japan, and put him on the 25-man roster. He sent Triple-A left-hander Ariel Miranda to the Seattle Mariners for



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has pitched in 158 big league games and has a career 56-55 record with a 4.09 ERA. He's thrown 193 or more innings and made 29 or more starts in each of his past four seasons.

He'll take the ball every fifth day. He'll give his team a chance to win. It's not often pretty, and there are some inevitable clunkers along the way, but Miley's a competent left-hander, something the Orioles haven't had since Wei-Yin Chen left for the Miami Marlins during the offseason.

Because he hasn't done particularly well for most of 2016, Miley came cheaply. He cost just one fringe prospect since the Orioles agreed to pick up the \$11 million or so remaining on his contract through 2017.

When the Boston Red Sox acquired Miley from the Arizona Diamondbacks in December 2014, they gave up three players. Last offseason, Miley was involved in a four-player deal with Seattle, and he was the marquee player in that transaction.

So it's possible Duquette worked his magic again and acquired a buy-low candidate from the Mariners (see Trumbo, March, December 2015).

What's even more intriguing about this deal is it wasn't just a rental opportunity. Miley is signed through 2017 and has a \$12 million club option for 2018 (with a \$500,000 buyout).

That's key because the Orioles, like most clubs, are continually seeking starting pitching. And the upcoming free-agent class is littered with question marks. Philadelphia's Jeremy Hellickson is potentially the best on the market, and he could be saddled with a qualifying offer. The best of the unrestricted 2017 free agents may be former Oriole Rich Hill and Cashner -- not exactly an inspiring class.

So Duquette has gotten ahead of that curve in a sense, especially if Miley is energized by a pennant race. He hasn't been in one since his rookie year five seasons ago.

"I was a part of it in 2011 in Arizona and just the way, in that August and September, we were making that playoff push and that excitement that you get. The playoffs are like a whole new season," Miley said. "So, obviously, I would love to get back and do that, and then actually be a part of the playoffs and get to pitch in the playoffs, in meaningful games like that."

His first start for the Orioles Aug. 4 was adequate, but not special. He gave up four runs in five innings, but he was pitching solidly before some bad luck and some uncharacteristically shaky Orioles defense hampered him in the fifth inning.

Afterward, he said his jitters were gone. And now, he said, he's ready to help this team in the next two months.

Miley's not an ace. He's not a superstar. He's an improvement to the rotation, but not significantly so. He's not really what the Orioles wanted most.

But he might just be what they need to get to their third postseason in five years. ☐

Baseball Hall Of Fame Honors Former Baltimore Writer Dan Shaughnessy

★ CHARLIE VASCELLARO



the New York Yankees, Shaughnessy is also well known for his sardonic wit and sharp critical commentary.

"He took on everybody in the sport if he felt that person was wrong in some way," Kurkjian said. "He was as fair as they come, but he went after anyone that he felt deserved it, and most important, he always showed up the next day to make sure that if somebody had something to say about what he wrote, that he was standing right there. That's what separates him from a lot of other people in our business -- they tear into people, but they don't show up the next day for the repercussions. He always did, and for that I admire him more than anything."

Shaughnessy and Kurkjian worked side-by-side covering the Orioles for the same paper immediately after

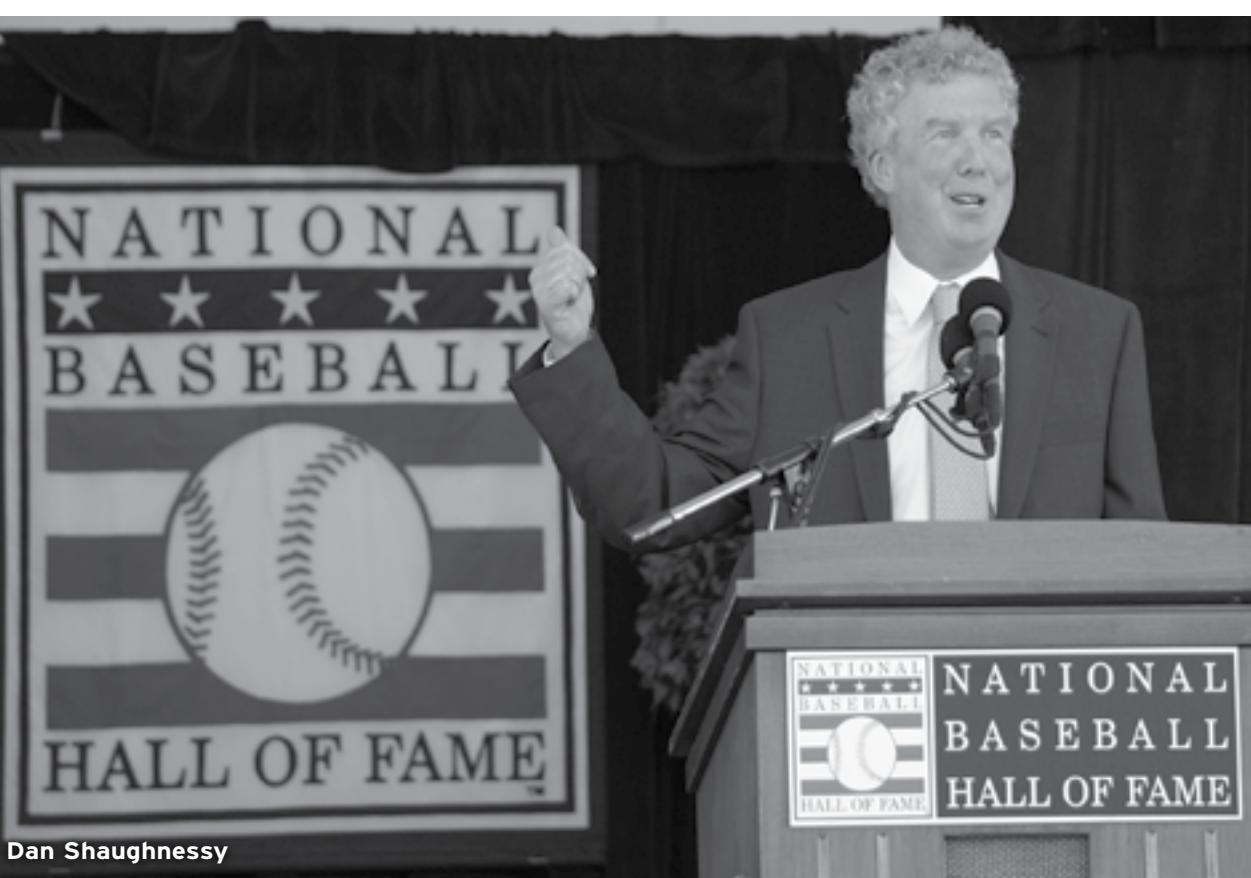
Kurkjian graduated from the University of Maryland in 1978.

"I'm here for Dan Shaughnessy," Kurkjian said. "He is my mentor in this business. When he was working at the *Washington Star*, I was his backup on the baseball beat. He taught me how to do this job. He taught me how to conduct myself with players and with other media, and I think he was one of the great baseball writers of all time. I think he's the best sports columnist in the country, and I wouldn't miss his induction speech for the world."

Born in Groton, Mass., July 20, 1953, Shaughnessy said the first major league game he witnessed in person was between the Baltimore Orioles and Boston Red Sox at Fenway Park in 1961.

Under the tutelage of fellow *Boston Globe* baseball writer and 2004 Spink Award recipient Peter Gammons, Shaughnessy landed a job as a stringer while still in college at Holy Cross in Worcester, Mass.

Shaughnessy received much of his early professional education covering Hall of Fame manager Earl Weaver



and the Orioles during his first stint as a 23-year-old beat reporter in 1977. In his acceptance speech for the Spink Award, Shaughnessy referenced the friendly and casual working relationship he enjoyed with Weaver. "Earl Weaver was not pals with the umpires or the players, but he was a baseball writer's best friend," Shaughnessy said. "He taught us the game. When we'd over-react to streaks or slumps, Earl would remind us, 'We do this every day.' When we had to write quickly on getaway days -- you know, you had to make the bus, make the charter, the bus waits for no man -- Earl would give us 'if' quotes before the game, covering all possibilities. He'd say, 'If we win, I'll say this. If we lose, I'll say this. And whoever gets the game-winning hit, I'll say, 'That's what we're paying for him to do.'" ... So that way, we didn't have to go downstairs. We made the bus."

Fellow *Boston Globe* correspondent Bob Ryan credited Weaver with having a profound impact on Shaughnessy's career in a column written in advance of Shaughnessy receiving his award. Ryan wrote: "I have long had a theory about Dan Shaughnessy and baseball. I have always maintained that starting out his daily newspaper career by covering the Earl Weaver Baltimore Orioles was both the best and worst thing that ever happened to him. Earl Weaver was *sui generis*, not just another baseball lifer, which he was, but a Runyon-esque, Raleighs chain-smoking, completely unfiltered (as in loudly profane) gnome of a cracker-barrel philosopher without parallel in the second half of 20th-century baseball. With a feisty, breezy manager in charge, the Orioles went about their daily business in an open manner that would have been absolutely unimaginable for a major control freak like, say, Bill Belichick. With those '70s Orioles, there were no secrets."

Shaughnessy's more-than-30-year career in journalism spans from the time of typewriter ribbons and White-out to modern-day digital media, and he waxed nostalgic about his early days with the Orioles in his speech. "I was traveling and covering the Orioles at 23," he said. "What a time that was. I think I'd only been on an airplane twice. Suddenly, I got to go to Tiger Stadium, Comiskey Park, ancient American League cathedrals. I'd only seen on black and white television. I carried a portable typewriter and filed my stories at the downtown Western Union office."

Shaughnessy also referenced the era in the Hall of Fame's Memories and Dreams magazine program, writing, "It was just so magical, to be traveling with the Orioles and working alongside Brooks Robinson, who had been in that [first] game in 1961 at Fenway Park. Earl Weaver was the manager and I loved them."

Shaughnessy mentioned his early days covering the Orioles frequently in his speech.

"This makes [me] sound old. I remember the grand old hotel rooms in Cleveland and Milwaukee; they smelled like smoke. ... Earl hated the William Penn Hotel in Pittsburgh. He thought it was bad luck. The Orioles had stayed there in '71, lost the World Series. In '79, they were in the World Series again, Pittsburgh again, William Penn again. Earl goes in to check at the desk to get his key, and the lady says,

"We've got a lovely room for you, Mr. Weaver;" and Earl says, "There are no nice rooms in this hotel. This hotel is so old I think William Penn was named after the hotel."

"Thirty-nine years ago in a hotel elevator in Cleveland, my first road trip, the great Brooks Robinson asked me how old I was and told me how much fun I was going to have covering big league baseball. Brooks Robinson! How many hours of my youth had I spent pretending I was him. Brooks was so right."

SPORTS BUSINESS

Recent TV Deals Show Terps Made Right Move

★ ED WALDMAN



If University of Maryland president Wallace Loh ever bolted up from a deep sleep at 3 a.m., wondering if he made the right decision nearly four years ago to have the Terrapins bolt the Atlantic Coast Conference for the Big Ten, he must now feel completely vindicated.

The conference and ESPN announced last month the formation of the ACC Network, which will debut by August 2019.

The Big Ten Network launched in 2007.

And if you've ever seen the Big Ten Network, and the coverage of non-revenue sports like field hockey, wrestling, softball and baseball, you know what ACC fans have been missing out on and what they'll be getting in, well, three years.

Maybe.

"The macro view is there's still a lot of betting on the come here," said Chris Bevilacqua, co-founder of New York-based Bevilacqua Helfant Ventures, which focuses on media and other commercial rights advisory services, business development and investment opportunities in the sports and entertainment industries. "Doing a traditional network is still a risky business, even if you're ESPN. What you heard is the plans to launch a network [three] years from now. There are still a lot of things that are going to happen, and a lot is out of the hands of the ACC and ESPN."

"While there is a commitment to do a cable network by 2019, what that will look like is still too early to tell. ... It may work out that way. But it may not work out that way."

"... All the ingredients are in place. You've got a powerful brand called ESPN that knows how to put a network together. But you've got forces that are beyond the control of ESPN and the ACC ... changing consumer behavior, shrinking subscriber bases, 'skinny bundles,'

new delivery systems, overall business model changes."

In June, the Big Ten completed an agreement with ESPN, which, coupled with a deal with Fox that was announced in April and a basketball-only deal with CBS, will earn the conference an average of \$440 million annually throughout the next six years. All told, the Big Ten will earn \$2.64 billion from the deals.

cury News, starting in 2017, each Big Ten school will average about \$41 million a year throughout the life of its TV contract. Each SEC school will average \$34 million, each Big 12 school \$23 million, each Pac-12 school \$22.5 million and each ACC school \$22 million.

The deal also keeps Notre Dame in the ACC for every sport except football, in which the Irish will remain an independent. But if Notre Dame ever decides to give up that status, the deal requires the Irish join the ACC.

The ACC-ESPN deal runs through 2036, which is similar to the SEC-ESPN deal, which runs through 2034. Bevilacqua said the length of the deals did not surprise him.

"ESPN, for better or worse, their company is built on owning valuable sports rights for the long term," he said. "ESPN is obviously bullish on the value of sports rights. It's not surprising to me that they went for 20 years because that's what ESPN wanted. It might be surprising if you're a seller -- 20 years is a long time."

If the value of TV contracts keeps growing exponentially (like they have been), then the Big Ten will be in a position to sign an even bigger deal when this one expires in 2023. And at that point, the ACC-ESPN deal will only be in its fourth year.

"The Big Ten designed it that way," Bevilacqua said. "They figured they'd get another bite out of the apple. They figured the marketplace would be more settled when its current deal is over, and that it's likely there will be an expanded set of buyers. In addition to ESPN and Fox, you might have Amazon, Netflix and Hulu fighting over rights, too." □

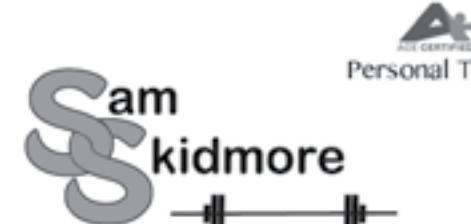
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COURTESY OF MARYLAND ATHLETICS

New Era And New Beginnings: A Fresh Start For Maryland Football

★ LUKE JACKSON

As University of Maryland athletic director Kevin Anderson stepped to the podium Dec. 3 to introduce DJ Durkin as Maryland's new head football coach, he did so with the football team having just completed a 3-9 season. The 2015 campaign capped a rocky tenure for former head coach Randy Edsall, who was fired midseason and won just 22 games in nearly five years as fan interest waned.

Anderson knew he had to inject life into the program. He rattled off what Maryland was looking for, and he found it in the former Michigan defensive coordinator.

"The qualities included having a strong and dynamic leader with a great energy for our program, an innovative football mind, being engaging and having a great personality that would appeal to our fan base and to our donors and to our alumni," Anderson said Dec. 3. "We wanted someone with a strong background that had a great, winning pedigree, and we wanted somebody who was going to be a national and great recruiter."

So far, Durkin has displayed exactly those qualities, albeit before a game has been played. The Terps rank 15th nationally on Rivals.com's recruiting rankings for 2017. Durkin and his staff have made inroads securing local talent, something that's yielded mixed results for coaching staffs in the past.

Durkin's energy appears to be infectious, and it's rubbing off on fans in addition to recruits. Empty swaths of bleachers at Maryland Stadium became too common in recent years. Jeff Ermann, the publisher of InsideMD-Sports.com, a popular hub for conversation among Maryland fans, said toward the end of Edsall's tenure fans had become "mostly apathetic, which is actually worse than angry."

The tenor of fans, however, has changed given the start Durkin's gotten off to in recruiting, in addition to the positive vibe he gives off whenever he talks about the program.

"With Durkin, it's hard to imagine people being any more positive and happy about the decision [of] who they hired. People are very optimistic," Ermann said. "They'd obviously love to see a winning record and a bowl game, but more than anything, they're just rejuvenated by [Durkin's] energy and the energy in the program and the staff

that he's built. They're off to their best recruiting start in probably a decade right now."

'FLIPPED THEIR WORLD UPSIDE DOWN'

Fans, though, are ultimately won back by winning games, and Durkin gets his first shot at that Sept. 3 when the Terps take on Howard University in College Park, Md., to kick off the season. Though Durkin inherits a three-win team, the Terps aren't without talented players to build the program.

"Part of this transition, this process with our players, we've kind of flipped their world upside down and doing a lot of things differently ... and I think they've done a tremendous job of responding," Durkin said of his players at Big Ten Media Day July 26. "We've had a tremendous amount of feedback from our players and just how they've responded and done well, it's a lot to be excited about for us."

Leading rusher Brandon Ross graduated, but senior Wes Brown (317 yards rushing in 2015) and sophomore Ty Johnson (250 yards) return at running back. The team's leading receivers from 2015 return in senior Levern Jacobs (35 catches for 425 yards), sophomore D.J. Moore (25 for 357) and junior Taivon Jacobs (21 for 264).

Senior left tackle Michael Dunn, who has 37 starts on his resume, leads a talented offensive line with the likes of former well-regarded recruits Derwin Gray and Damian Prince, both sophomores, and redshirt freshman Quarvez Boulware. Gray, Prince and Boulware are all from Washington, D.C.

On the defensive side of the ball, senior cornerback William Likely and junior linebacker Jermaine Carter (103 tackles, including 14 for loss) lead the way. Junior linebacker Jalen Brooks (64 tackles last year), junior lineman Jesse Aniebonam (3.5 sacks) and senior lineman Roman Braglio (three sacks) also return.

Likely, a 5-foot-7 playmaker, was used in all three phases of the game last year. Likely defended 11 passes, made 44 tackles, returned a kick for a touchdown, returned two punts for scores, caught five passes and rushed for 93 yards. Likely will have a chance to impact all three phases once again, according to Durkin.

"[Likely is] a dynamic guy. I know from coaching the other sideline against Will, one of my biggest concerns or worries was when he had the ball in his hands," Durkin

said. "So we definitely want to take advantage of that and use him to the best of our team's ability as much as we can."

QUARTERBACK UNCERTAINTY

The Terps, of course, will have to address the quarterback position. Maryland's two returning passers, seniors Perry Hills and Caleb Rowe, combined for 28 interceptions last year. Hills completed 50 percent of his passes; Rowe, 46.1 percent. Hills, however, was Maryland's second-leading rusher, toting the ball 109 times for 535 yards.

Hills and Rowe will be joined in the competition this summer by freshmen Tyrrell Pigrome, a 5-foot-11 dual-threat signal-caller out of Alabama, and Max Bortenschlager, a 6-foot-3 pocket passer from Indiana. They'll also be joined by redshirt freshman Gage Shaffer, a 6-foot-7 passer out of West Virginia who was part of Edsall's 2015 recruiting class.

For whoever wins the job, the top priority will be limiting turnovers after last year, when opponents scored 108 points off Maryland turnovers.

'THEY'RE RECRUITING A LOT OF HIGHLY RATED AND SUPER TALENTED KIDS'

Pigrome and Bortenschlager won't be the only freshmen to have a chance to compete for spots. The Terps, according to Mid-Atlantic Recruiting Analyst Adam Friedman, have a few other skill position players in the 2016 recruiting class who could make an impact this year, including three DeMatha standouts -- wide receivers Tino Ellis and DJ Turner and running back Lorenzo Harrison -- as well as running back Jake Funk (Damascus) as a special teamer.

J.C. Jackson is another newcomer to keep an eye on. Jackson signed with Florida in January 2014 but left the program last year amid legal troubles, played JUCO ball in 2015, and recently transferred to Maryland. Jackson figures to compete for time at cornerback. Meanwhile, Friedman sees offensive linemen Terrance Davis, Richard Merritt and Brian Plummer as players from the 2016 recruiting class who can be potential contributors in future years.

Durkin's staff didn't have much time to make their mark on the Terps' 2016 recruiting class, securing the 39th-rated class in the nation, according to Rivals.com. Durkin's staff, though, quickly got to work on the 2017 class, making a big impact in D.C., Maryland and Virginia. Friedman sees Durkin's hires of Mike London, Aazaar Abdul-Rahim and Chris Beatty, among others, as vital to the Terps' early success in their own backyard.

"That's a credit to not only Coach Durkin and his excitement level and his ability to relate to these guys, but also the staff that he's put together," Friedman said. "All of these guys, for the most part, have deep roots in the DMV, in the Virginia Beach area, where they're doing some of their best work right now. I think that's really part of something that was lacking on the part of the previous staff."

Friedman views quarterback Kasim Hill (St. John's College High), linebacker Ayinde Eley (Good Counsel), defensive back Deon Jones (Potomac High) as huge local commits secured for the 2017 class, but Friedman says the "crown jewel" of the recruiting class is Josh Kaindoh, the seventh-rated player nationally on Rivals.com. A defensive end out of IMG Academy in Florida, Kaindoh is from the Baltimore area and previously played at Mount Carmel.

And more top-end talent could be on the way.

"This season and the record, I don't necessarily think that a lot of recruits will be scared," Friedman said. "If they don't make a bowl game, I don't necessarily think that it'll stymie the recruiting momentum that they've built. It's more about what the players see on the field in terms of the new schemes and what kind of position it puts players in to succeed, because they're recruiting a lot of highly rated and super talented kids that, if given the opportunity once they get on campus, could see playing time very early." □

LOYOLA

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8/21	vs. UMBC
8/25	vs. St. Francis
8/28	vs. St. John's
9/2	vs. Cornell
9/24	vs. Navy
10/1	vs. Boston U.
10/8	vs. Lehigh
10/19	vs. Bucknell
10/22	vs. Colgate

MEN'S SOCCER HOME SCHEDULE	
4:00 pm	vs. La Salle
7:00 pm	vs. George Washington
9/7	vs. Hight Point
4:00 pm	vs. Navy
6:00 pm	vs. Boston U.
7:00 pm	vs. Lehigh
2:30 pm	vs. Bucknell
7:00 pm	vs. Colgate
7:00 pm	vs. La Salle
7:00 pm	vs. George Washington
7:00 pm	vs. Hight Point
12:00 pm	vs. Navy
1:00 pm	vs. Boston U.
7:00 pm	vs. Lehigh
7:00 pm	vs. Bucknell
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Despite Changes In Roster, Navy's Blueprint For Success Remains The Same

★ TODD KARPOVICH

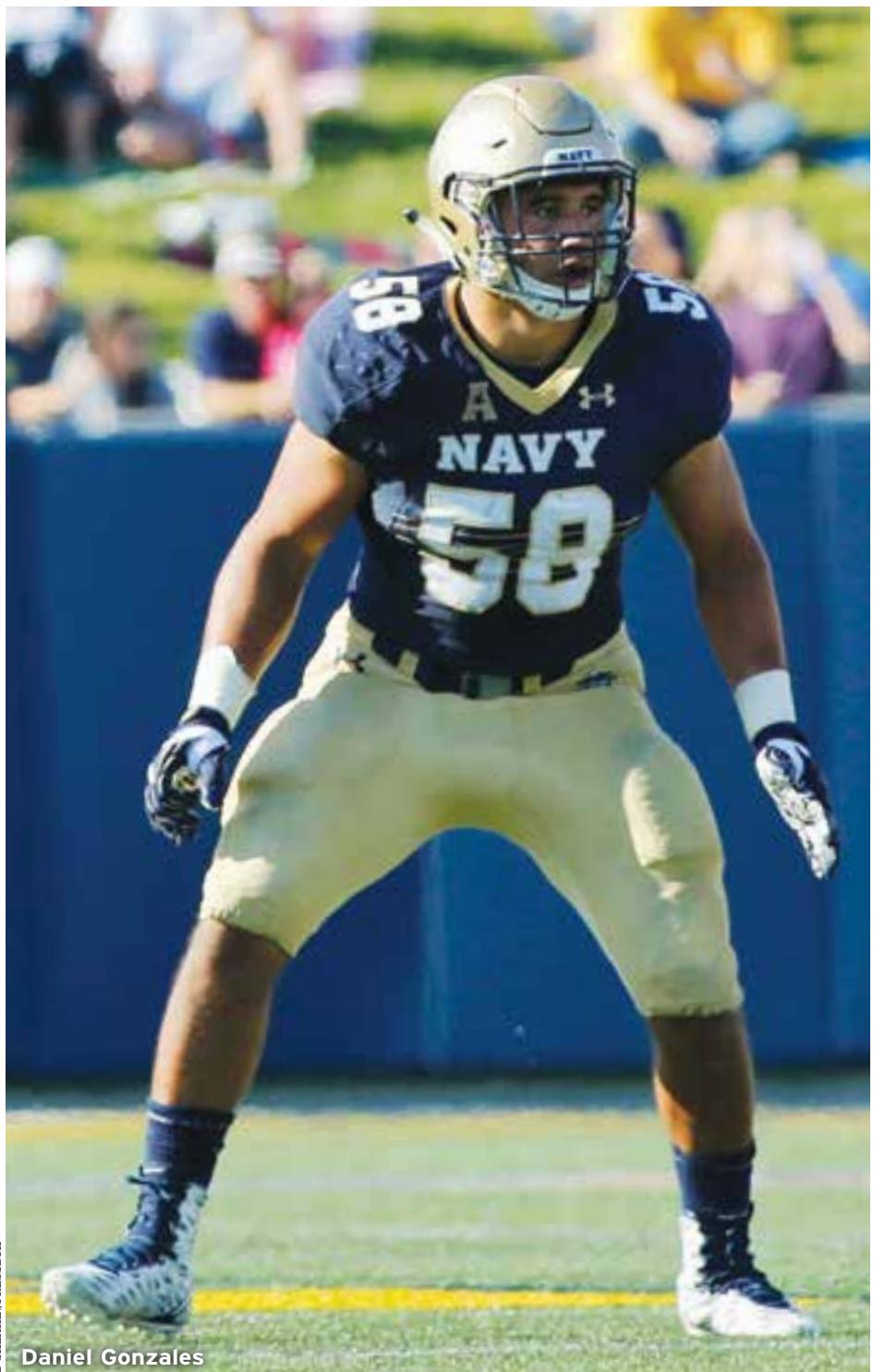


"We will."

That is the rallying cry for the Navy football team heading into the 2016 season.

The story behind the new call to battle is two-fold.

For one, the team wants to honor Will McKamey, a former player who died in 2014 after collapsing at spring practice. This year's seniors, who were teammates with McKamey when they were freshmen, want to ensure their fallen comrade is not forgotten.



Daniel Gonzales

Secondly, the Midshipmen are determined to show the nation they have a thriving program and will remain competitive despite the loss of record-setting quarterback Keenan Reynolds. Navy opens the season at home against Fordham Sept. 3.

"We are just embodying his whole spirit as a person and a player and everything he stood for as a player," said linebacker Daniel Gonzales, who was named co-captain with senior slotback Toneo Gulley. "When we say, 'We will,' we will be everything that he was and do everything for him."

Navy was picked to finish second in the West Division of the American Athletic Conference behind Houston. The

Midshipmen are coming off one of their most successful seasons in program history, finishing 11-2 and knocking off Pittsburgh, 44-28, in the Military Bowl.

While many new players have come in, the blueprint is in place to continue that success.

Navy should be strong defensively, as it returns six starters. Last season, the Midshipmen held 10 of their 13 opponents to 21 points or fewer, while racking huge chunks of yardage with the triple-option. Navy has focused on putting more pressure on the quarterback this season -- an area where it struggled during parts of last year.

"We have to get to the quarterback," said defensive end Amos Mason, who started all 13 games last season.

Gonzales is also expected to be a force on defense. He finished fourth on the team with 63 tackles, including four for a loss last season.

Perhaps no other player will be under more scrutiny than quarterback Tago Smith, who spent the past three years backing up Reynolds. Smith has already been asked numerous times about replacing an already legendary quarterback. However, he is taking the comparisons in stride.

"He had so much success here, so I can't blame them," Smith said. "I don't think it will be that hard of a transition. I've seen him have success here. It's just a matter of taking those keys and seeing what he's done, and then making the transfer over to my game and just executing."

Smith originally came to Navy as a slotback, so he is perfectly suited for the triple-option. He played in eight games last season, running for 126 yards with a touchdown on 27 carries. During the prior two seasons, Smith completed 12-of-17 attempts for 245 yards, four touchdowns and two interceptions.

He will be helped on offense by wide receiver Jamir Tillman, who is the team's top playmaker. Tillman made the most of his opportunities on offense in 2015, catching 29 passes for 597 yards and five touchdowns. He became the first receiver in program history to catch a touchdown pass in four consecutive games.

"I am not going to fall back on what we did last year, because we're a new team with new players," Tillman said. "When we came in the spring, we had a mindset of this is our year as a senior class to lead the younger guys. Nothing I did last year is relevant, so I've been working as hard as I can. Tago has been working as hard as he can. The whole team has been working as hard as they

can to prove ourselves and who we were last year."

Gulley will also help take some of the pressure off Smith as one of the team's most versatile players. Last season, he carried the ball 12 times for 189 yards with three touchdowns. Gulley also caught two passes for 30 yards and was explosive on special teams as a returner and on coverage.

"We're in the championship mindset," Gulley said. "We will honor [McKamey's] life and take care of business on the field."

Navy head coach Ken Niumatalolo likes what he has seen from his team during preseason practices, and he lauded the work of his assistant coaches. Niumatalolo has also been impressed with depth at each position and joked the program might need a bigger plane to make sure all of the impact players can make the road trips.

Overall, Niumatalolo is confident the Midshipmen can overcome the loss of Reynolds this season and once again compete for a conference championship.

"Obviously, Keenan was a really good football player and a big part of our program," Niumatalolo said. "We're excited about Tago. He's been in our program for many years. We had many staff discussions on whether we move him to another position. He could have played slotback; he could have played [defensive back] or wide receiver. He's one of our better athletes. I just made the decision. He was too valuable to move to another position."

"People who have seen him play over the past couple of years recognize he is a really good football player. We're excited. He's waited his turn. He's played behind a really good quarterback, but it's his time. He's paid the price, and we're excited about him."

Niumatalolo said joining the AAC has helped the Midshipmen recruit with a national footprint. The Midshipmen spent 134 years as an independent and finished 7-1 in their inaugural year in a conference.

"It definitely helped in recruiting," Niumatalolo said. "Being in the AAC, it's a great conference. [It had] four teams at one point in the Top 25 [last year]. Really competitive league. Games were on TV. It was really great exposure for our football team."

Niumatalolo has proven to be one of the best college football coaches in the nation. During nine seasons, he compiled a 68-37 record and advanced to a bowl game in eight of those seasons. The Midshipmen have a recipe for success, and this year they are likely to be no different, even with a different cast of players.

"I am excited about our group," Niumatalolo said. "The guys in our program understand our culture." □



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FRIDAY, SEPT 2, 7 PM		
DELAWARE STATE		
SATURDAY, SEPT 3, 4 PM		
MORGAN STATE		
FRIDAY, SEPT 9, 7 PM	UNC WILMINGTON	THURSDAY, AUG 25, 5:30 PM DELaware STATE
	SUNDAY, SEPT 4, 7 PM	SUNDAY, SEPT 18, 1 PM ROBERT MORRIS
WINTHROP		THURSDAY, SEPT 22, 7 PM MAINE
SATURDAY, SEPT 10, 10 AM		SUNDAY, OCT 2, 1 PM UMASS LOWELL (HOMECOMING)
ROBERT MORRIS		THURSDAY, OCT 6, 7 PM STONY BROOK*
SATURDAY, SEPT 10, 3 PM		SUNDAY, OCT 16, 1 PM BINGHAMTON*
STONY BROOK		THURSDAY, OCT 20, 7 PM UMBC Retrievers.com/Tickets
FRIDAY, SEPT 23, 7 PM ALBANY (HOMECOMING)*		
FRIDAY, OCT 7, 5 PM BINGHAMTON*		
SUNDAY, OCT 9, 1 PM NEW HAMPSHIRE		
SUNDAY, OCT 30, 1 PM UMASS LOWELL		
FRIDAY, Nov 11, 7 PM HARTFORD		
SATURDAY, NOV 12, 5 PM HARTFORD		

In Transfer Morgan Mahalak, Towson Hopes To Find Quarterback Stability

★ SIMON HABTEMARIAM

Head coach: Rob Ambrose (eighth season)

2015 Record: 5-3 (CAA); 7-4 (overall)

Key Returners: RB Darius Victor, RB Shane Simpson, OL Antonio Harris, LB Eric Handy

Key games: Sept. 3 at South Florida; Oct. 1 at Richmond; Oct. 22 vs. New Hampshire; Oct. 29 at Delaware

Towson head football coach Rob Ambrose has been closely attached to the quarterback position through most of his football career -- as a player, quarterbacks coach, offensive coordinator, recruiting coordinator and head coach. In his eight seasons as the head coach at Towson, Ambrose has had mixed results in recruiting an elite quarterback to take the helm of the Tigers' offense.

Towson made a big splash this offseason when it signed transfer quarterback Morgan Mahalak, a redshirt sophomore from the University of Oregon. The former consensus four-star recruit out of Kentfield, Calif., was once believed, by

some on the West Coast, to be the man who would take over at Oregon for Heisman Trophy winner Marcus Mariota.

Ambrose said his recruiting process centers on personal relationships he's made across the country. According to the Towson coach, the program sifted through several Football Bowl Subdivision transfer prospects before landing on Mahalak.

"It's almost like dating," Ambrose said. "When you go to start dating your wife, it's interesting how those first couple conversations are 'home run' conversations without even trying to be. And it's more that natural feel between two individuals. That's kind of how it went."

Lining up behind Mahalak will be senior running back Darius Victor. The Tigers' bell cow had to shake off several injuries from his junior year, including an ankle injury which lingered through the majority of the 2015 season. Victor will have an opportunity to play behind an offensive line that has recovered from several of its own injury issues. The silver lining, according to Ambrose, is that the multitude of injuries in 2015 has allowed the Towson backups to gain in-game experience. So they should be ready to go this fall.

"I'm not worried at all; I'm more excited," Ambrose said. "To have a healthy

Victor at running back, behind an offensive line with eight or nine guys who have started in games -- 13 to 15 guys who have played in games. They're all older; they're not 17 or 18 anymore. They're 20 or 21, and there's a big difference from 17 to 21. We grow up. As a running back, you would like to play behind an experienced offensive line, and [Victor's] going to have the opportunity to do that."

The Tigers open the season at the University of South Florida Sept. 3. □



Darius Victor

New Morgan State Coach Looking For A Quarterback

★ STEVE JONES

Head Coach: Fred Farrier (first season)

2015 Record: 4-4 (MEAC); 4-6 (overall)

Key Returners: RB Orlando Johnson, LB Damare Whitaker

Key Games: Sept. 3 vs. Holy Cross; Sept. 10 at Marshall; Oct. 22 vs. North Carolina Central

The Morgan State Bears will have a different look than the 2015 team that finished fourth in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference standings. Lee Hull, the Bears' head coach during the last two seasons, left in February to take an assistant coaching position with the Indianapolis Colts. Fred Farrier, who served as the team's offensive coordinator, is now the interim head coach.

Farrier believes Morgan State, picked to finish seventh in the MEAC preseason poll, has the players to compete for a league title. However, the Bears are ineligible for postseason play this year due to a deficient score on the NCAA's Academic Progress Rate report.

"The MEAC is a very competitive

league, with some outstanding coaches," Farrier said. "But if we find a way to execute our game plan and minimize mistakes, we have a chance to win every league game."

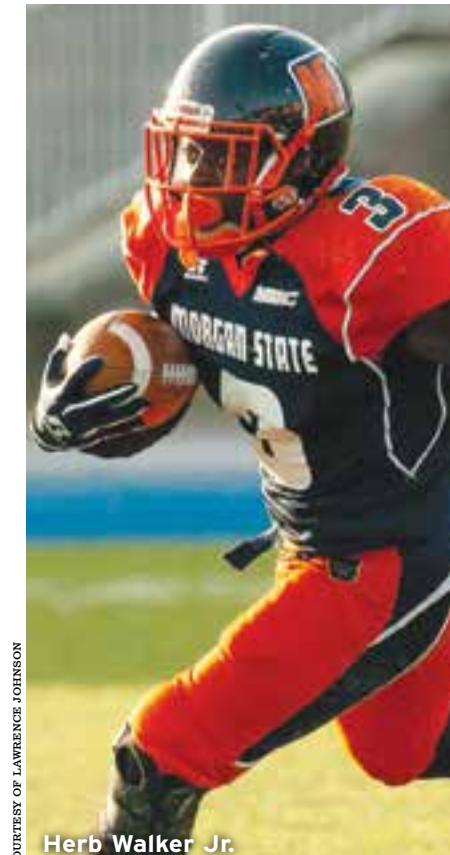
Farrier's first task is to identify a starting quarterback. The graduation of Moses Skillon and Seth Higgins has left the Bears without a signal-caller who took any snaps during the 2015 campaign. Farrier and his staff will choose between four possible replacements. Sophomore Kahlil Trotman, who threw for three touchdowns during Morgan State's spring game, will compete for the starting spot with sophomore Randolph Norwood, freshman Deandre Harris and Chris Andrew, a graduate transfer from Wagner College.

"We'll have a good 1-2-3 backfield punch," Farrier said. "Herb is not the fastest guy, but he can make people miss. Orlando got a lot of reps during the spring. Lamont is more of a power runner and can contribute in pass protection."

The Bears will also rely on senior wide receivers Ricky Fisk (29 catches) and Thomas Martin, who caught 22 passes during the 2014 campaign.

The defense, which surrendered an average of 25.4 points per game, will be led by an experienced linebacking corps that includes junior Damare Whitaker (team-leading 66 tackles) and senior Greg Gibson (50 tackles). Senior cornerbacks Delonta Hall, sophomore safety Darius Johnson and junior defensive end Jai Franklin are expected to be significant contributors.

The Bears' season begins with a Sept. 3 game against visiting Holy Cross and includes matchups with Football Bowl



Herb Walker Jr.

Subdivision teams Marshall and Army. But a softer early-season conference slate could put the Bears in good position for later matchups with Bethune-Cookman and North Carolina Central, who tied with North Carolina A&T for the regular-season title last year. □

Division III College Football Preview

★ STEVE JONES

Team: Johns Hopkins University

Head Coach: Jim Margraff (27th season)

2015 Record: 9-0 (Centennial Conference); 11-1 (overall); NCAA tournament second round

Key Returners: QB Jonathan Germano, WR Bradley Munday, RB Stuart Walters, LB Jack Campbell, DB Jack Toner

Key Games: Sept. 1 vs. Washington & Lee; Sept. 24 at Muhlenberg

tackles, and junior defensive lineman Keonte Henson (5.5 sacks) pace the front seven.

To continue its postseason streak, Johns Hopkins will need a strong start. The Blue Jays open Sept. 1 against Washington and Lee, which also finished 10-0 during the regular season and reached the NCAA playoffs. Early-season meetings with league runners-up Moravian (Sept. 17) and Muhlenberg (Sept. 24) will likely determine the frontrunner for the Centennial Conference title.

"Our guys hear from me all the time that the road to a Centennial Conference championship is always under construction," Margraff said. "There are a lot of teams in our conference who have gotten very good, very fast. We've got our hands full right away [in the league]."



Austin Tennessee

Team: Stevenson University

Head Coach: Ed Hottle (sixth season)

2015 Record: 7-2 (Middle Atlantic Conference); 9-2 (overall)

Key Returners: DB Austin Tennessee, LB Cory Pietrzyk, DB Billy Lewis, RB Kiandre Burrell

Key Games: Sept. 10 at Albright; Oct. 22 vs. Delaware Valley

The Blue Jays' offense, which averaged 45.7 points per game during the 2015 campaign, will be guided by quarterback Jonathan Germano. The senior signal-caller completed 70 percent of his passes for 2,963 yards and 35 touchdowns last fall.

Germano's top target will be senior wide receiver Bradley Munday, who hauled in 83 passes for 1,066 yards and 12 scores.

Senior

Stuart

Walters

is a versatile

running

back

who gained

6.1

yards

per

carry

and rushed

for

953

yards

and 17

touchdowns.

"We've been very consistent [on offense]," Margraff said. "We have a lot of touchdowns coming back. We've got a quarterback, a wide receiving corps, a top running back and other guys that have been pretty impressive. It's hard for a defense to dictate to us."

An opportunistic defensive unit

should give the offense plenty of scoring

chances.

Seniors

Jack

Toner

(51

tackles,

six

interceptions)

and Dan

Johnson

(61

tackles,

four

picks)

lead a ball-hawking

secondary

that helped the Blue Jays

finish

third

in

NCAA

Division

III

programs

in

turnovers,

turnover

margin

and

interceptions.

The

Mustangs

ranked

21st

nationally

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The

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PNC Lacrosse Spotlight: Gonzaga's Nick McEvoy

★ TODD KARPOVICH



uring the 2016 season, Gonzaga faceoff specialist/midfielder Nick McEvoy scored 37 goals with 21 assists and had 201 ground balls to lead the Eagles to a 19-2 mark and their seventh straight Washington Catholic Athletic Conference title. McEvoy scored a goal, led all players with 13 ground balls and won 23 of 29 faceoffs in the Under Armour All-America Lacrosse Classic. He will attend Penn State.

PressBox: How big of an honor was it to be selected to this year's Under Armour All-America Lacrosse Classic?

Nick McEvoy: It was an incredible honor to be named an Under Armour All-American. I was so excited when I received the call from *Inside Lacrosse* informing me of my selection. Back in January, Coach [Casey] O'Neill asked us to list both our team and individual goals for the season. Being named an Under Armour All-American was my top individual goal.

PB: What's it like being on the same team with some of the guys you had formerly competed against in high school?

NM: I've actually played with some of these guys throughout my high school career on various club and All-Star teams during the summers. I looked forward to meeting and playing with and against some of the best lacrosse players in the country that I had yet to meet. It was a fun time not only on the field but

also during the various social events Under Armour had planned for us.

PB: What was the key for Gonzaga to win a seventh straight WCAC title? Was there added pressure to keep that streak going?

NM: I think the key for Gonzaga's seventh straight WCAC title was just being a team. We had a lot of great players this year, and instead of being selfish and trying to just get "your stats," we played like a team. We shared the ball and supported each other throughout the entire season. There was no outside pressure put on us to keep the streak going, but I know the senior class felt some pressure put on them by ourselves. We did not want to be the class that lost the title.

PB: What went into your decision to attend Penn State? Were you able to watch the Nittany Lions during the Big 10 tournament at Johns Hopkins this year?

NM: I chose Penn State because of its excellent reputation in both academics and athletics. Coach [Jeff] Tambroni and the staff made me feel like a member of the Penn State lacrosse family the moment I stepped on campus. I was not able to catch the Nittany Lions at the Big 10 tournament this year due to conflicts with my lacrosse schedule. I did watch them a lot this year on the Big Ten Network and was able to see them in-person back in October when they played at Landon in the Capital Lacrosse Classic.

PB: Do you have any idea what you want to study?

NM: I plan to major in business at Penn State. ☐

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VARSITY REPORT



Perry Hall boys' soccer after the 2015 state championship game

After Capturing State Title, Perry Hall Looks For Sustained Success

★ WICK EISENBERG



nyone associated with the Perry Hall's boys' soccer team will quickly tell you about the group's family atmosphere.

The Gators have been a close-knit group for years, which is something head coach Pete Eibner has done by design since taking over the program in 2011. In Eibner's opinion, if the team is tight-knit away from the field, it's more likely to perform well on it.

"There's a culture of togetherness within our organization," Eibner said. "It's a rite of passage that's been passed down. For the five years I've been here, it's always been that way. Our seniors have always handed it off, and the juniors take the reins."

Something else that's been passed on from year to year within the program is winning.

For years, Perry Hall has been a Baltimore County powerhouse in boys' soccer, which has continued during Eibner's tenure. Since joining the program, Eibner has guided the Gators to three regional championships and two county titles.

The program was a consistent winner before Eibner's time, but there was one glaring omission on Perry Hall's resume -- a Maryland Public Secondary School Athletics Association state title. That changed in 2015, though, when Perry Hall topped Meade, 1-0, to claim the Class 4A state crown.

"We've been very blessed in that we've always been in the mix, been right there, obtained a successful record and gotten far in the postseason," Eibner said. "Winning it was euphoric because it was the culmination of a lot of hard work, as well as

heartbreak. We've had teams before last year's that could've done it."

Months after winning the championship, though, Eibner admits there was a time when he was concerned the 2015 team could join the litany of Perry Hall teams capable of winning a state title but didn't.

After opening with tough losses to Maryland Interscholastic Activities Association teams McDonough and Archbishop Curley, the Gators struggled to stay healthy as Baltimore County play commenced. As the injuries added up, Eibner began to wonder if this group's potential was going to be derailed by its inability to stay on the field.

That changed Oct. 8 when Perry Hall played Franklin. The squad was finally at full strength when senior forward Connor Gwin and senior defender Evan Eibner, Pete Eibner's son, returned. The Gators won that game, 6-0, and then two more by the same score against Hereford and Pikesville. A 4-1 win against Harford County's C. Milton Wright followed, which cemented in the players' minds they were going to be a tough team to beat.

"That run was a big morale booster," rising senior midfielder and defender Jake Dawson said. "It brought us together and showed us that if we put our all into it, we could succeed."

The Gators were still tested on their way to the state final, needing overtime to beat Catonsville and Howard in regional play. After besting Eleanor Roosevelt, 1-0, in the semifinal round, the team was set to face Meade for the state championship.

The game was played under the lights at Loyola University's Ridley Athletic Complex, with Dawson saying it was easily the largest crowd he's ever played soccer in front of. Many

Perry Hall soccer alumni came out to watch the game, even though plenty didn't know any current players. The contingent wasn't just made of former players from Baltimore -- some came back to the area from as far away as New Mexico and Massachusetts just to watch the Gators play.

In a truly epic game that saw the Gators play the final 24 minutes down a man after one of their players accrued two yellow cards, Perry Hall took the lead a few minutes before halftime when Evan Eibner crossed the ball into the box from the right flank. Rising senior forward Jack Muller chested the ball to Gwin, who was able to fire Perry Hall into the lead.

"I knew, from my angle, there was no way to bring it down and shoot," Muller said. "I saw Connor making a great run, laid it off and got out of the way."

After scoring, Gwin and his teammates ran over to celebrate in front of a section of the crowd where a lot of Perry Hall alums were sitting, something Pete Eibner said is one of his favorite details of the state championship.

"I thought it was poignant. It was to say, 'You're with us; this is for you, and we know you should have been there too,'" Eibner said. "Those guys in the stands were appreciative. At the various celebrations afterwards, I had so many former players come up and tell me just how much it meant to them."

While there have been a lot of celebrations for the Gators after their 17-3 finish last year including an exciting opportunity to be honored during a Baltimore Blast game, the team is now focused on the 2016 season.

The Gators are expected to remain one of Baltimore's best teams, though there's some uncertainty surrounding the group. The team graduated 13 seniors, including the starting defensive line, which conceded one goal throughout the post-season, so new players are going to need to make an impact.

One key returnee will be Muller. A starter since he was a freshman, Muller has established himself as one of the best goal scorers in Perry Hall's history.

"We have less experience, so confidence will be key for us," he said. "I hope to build players up that may have not played at the varsity level yet. Our first couple games there could be some rough patches, so it'll be important to let the new players know that everything will sort itself out."

Muller isn't the only important returnee either.

Rising senior goalkeeper Ayden Crew is a strong stopper and recorded 10 shutouts last season. Derek Staines is another rising senior who Eibner expects will have a big year. The central defensive midfielder is athletic and should do a solid job disrupting opponents' play. Dawson's versatility and reliability should allow Eibner to have flexibility with lineup choices.

Although there's plenty of work to do, Eibner is confident his bunch will be a tough team for opponents to deal with once the regular season begins. For the returning players, they're excited to defend their state title and show a new batch of Gators what it means to play soccer for Perry Hall.

"We'll definitely keep it going," Staines said. "One of our goals for this year is to go forward to try to win another state championship. We want to improve our skills on the field, increase our soccer knowledge and bring our brotherhood closer than we already are."

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COMMUNITY BEAT



★ WALKS/RACES

AUG. 20 -- SURVIVOR STRONG 5K FUN RUN/WALK

All proceeds will further the mission of The National Center for Citizen Safety to raise awareness on how to respond to domestic terrorism. Opening ceremonies begin at 7:45 a.m. at 6940 Columbia Gateway Dr. To register, visit bit.ly/NCCSAFE5k.

AUG. 27 -- SICKLE CELL WALK WITH THE STARS

Join Kier "Junior" Spates of the Steve Harvey Morning Show at the Canton Waterfront Park to raise awareness and funds to support individuals who have sickle cell disease and sickle cell trait. The event benefits Sickle Cell Disease Association of America. To register, visit sicklecelldisease.org/index.cfm?page=news&id=112.

SEPT. 3 -- CHARLES STREET 12

This unique point-to-point race will take runners down historic Charles Street, now a national scenic byway, and end at Power Plant Live! A portion of the proceeds from the race will benefit the Children's Heart Program at the University of Maryland Children's Hospital. For more information and to register, visit charlesst12.com.

SEPT. 10 -- NUN RUN

Little Sisters of the Poor's inaugural Nun Run 5K and one-mile fun run and walk are scheduled for Sept. 10 at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen, 5200 N. Charles St. To register, visit littlesistersofthepoorbaltimore.org/nun-run-2016/.

SEPT. 17 -- HAVE MERCY ON OUR SOLES

The annual Mercy High School 5K is a celebration of all things Mercy; celebrate and run/walk the 26-acre wooded campus of Mercy High School, 1300 E Northern Pkwy. Proceeds from this event will support all-girls Mercy High School. To register, visit mercy5k.com.

SEPT. 18 -- GET READY! GET SET! GET FIT!

This 5K run/walk and one-mile walk will start at the CCBC Essex campus at 8 a.m. and benefit the Baltimore County Department of Aging's programs for seniors. For more information and to register, visit getreadygetsetgetfit5k.com.

SEPT. 18 -- HEAT IT TO BEAT IT

Mercy Medical Center will unite hundreds of patients, their families and their friends to raise awareness and funds for research into the causes and treatment of peritoneal carcinomatosis, a cancer found in the abdomen. The 2.2-mile walk will start at the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore and end with live music, fun and games. To register, visit heat-it.org.

SEPT. 24 -- 5K RACE TO EMBRACE INDEPENDENCE

Join a fun, healthy, family-friendly and festive neighborhood celebration to support and highlight the successes of Marian House women moving from dependence to independence. Participation helps raise vital funds for housing, food, clothing, education, life skills, employability training, counseling services and other necessary support services for homeless women and children. For more information, visit marianhouse.org/5k.

SEPT. 25 -- ZERO PROSTATE CANCER RUN/WALK

Register for the Cancer Challenge 10K, 5K and one-mile fun walk at Towson University's Johnny Unitas Stadium. This tight-knit commu-

nity event will bring together athletes, doctors, cancer survivors and those who care about ending prostate cancer. The goal is to find a cure for prostate cancer by funding research and providing free testing and education. To register, visit zerobaltimore.org.

MASON-DIXON UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

The MDUA is looking for new high school baseball umpires in Baltimore. No experience is necessary. Email Mike Connors at mdcommish@comcast.net or call 410-653-7307.

COCKEYSVILLE RECREATION

Visit cockeysvillereccouncil.org or call 410-887-7734 for updates about baseball registration for the Cockeysville Recreation Center.

ADULT BASEBALL

Join the Eastern Baltimore County over-40 baseball league, which plays with wood bats on 90-foot diamonds. Players of all skill levels are encouraged to visit over40baseball.org or call Mike Lockett at 410-446-0443.

BASEBALL CARD SHOW

A sports card and memorabilia show to benefit Monsignor Slade Catholic School will be held at Monsignor Slade Catholic School in Glen Burnie from 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Oct. 8. For more details, call Leo at 443-416-6447.

NEGRO LEAGUES BASEBALL

Visit the Hubert V. Simmons Museum of Negro Leagues Baseball at the Owings Mills Metro Centre. The museum is named after Bert Simmons, who played for the Baltimore Elite Giants. The museum is open daily, and admission is free. Volunteers are always welcome. For more information, visit smnlbinc.org.

OCT. 2 -- STEP OUT

Support the American Diabetes Association with a 5K around Canton starting at the Waterfront Park. To register, visit diabetes.org/stepout-baltimore or call 410-265-0075 x4678.

OCT. 8 -- BIKE RACE

Charm City Cross is the mid-Atlantic's two-day cyclocross race, featuring international, pro and regional cyclists. The race starts at Druid Hill Park, 2600 Madison Ave. For more information, visit charmcitycross.com or call 443-759-5620.

OCT. 8 -- HEART WALK

The American Heart Association is committed to healthier living and to defeating heart disease and stroke. The Greater Baltimore Heart Walk will take place at Camden Yards Sports Complex, Lot B and C.

CELTIC SOCCER CLUB

Tryouts for the Celtic Soccer Club are for boys ages 6-18 and girls 6-12.

Registration and information are available at baltimoreceltic.com.

OCT. 15 -- BALTIMORE RUNNING FESTIVAL

Registration is open for the Baltimore Running Festival. Choose from five distances through the Inner Harbor and surrounding areas. For more information, visit thebaltimoremarathon.com.

MIGHTY KICKS PUP LEAGUE

The Pup League provides year-round soccer training for boys and girls of all abilities ages 2-18. It's designed to build motor skills, self-confidence and basic techniques. Ongoing programs are available around Baltimore. For more information, visit mightykicksbaltimore.com.

RUGBY

The Baltimore-Chesapeake Rugby Club, the region's only Division I men's rugby club, is looking for experienced players or those new to the game. For more information, email baltimorechesapeakerugby@gmail.com.

COLUMBUS WEEKEND SOCCER CLASSIC

Team registration for the Columbus Weekend Soccer Classic is open to all USSF youth-affiliated teams within the mid-Atlantic region. Male and female competition is offered in the single-age levels of U8 through U14, and the dual ages of U16 and U18. The registration deadline is Sept. 23 and the Classic takes place Oct. 8-9 in Westminster. For more information, visit cmsasoccer.com.

BASEBALL/SOFTBALL

AUG. 20 -- CRABFEST NATIONAL TRAVEL TEAM TRYOUTS

Evaluations for the CrabFest national travel team ages 10U, 11U and 12U will be held at the PG Boys and Girls Club Sports Park in Bowie. Players will train and practice with a staff of high school and collegiate coaches. They will also have the opportunity to compete in Disney's New Year's Classic at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex in Orlando Dec. 28-31. For more information, visit crabfestregistration.com or call 301-346-4035.

AUG. 21-24 -- TLC LACROSSE

Notre Dame Prep will host evening tryouts for middle and upper school girls for the 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 teams. The season runs from August-July 2017. For more information, visit tlclacrosse.com or call 443-798-1430.

MEN'S/COED SOFTBALL

Registration is now open for the Lutherville-Timonium Rec Council fall slow-pitch softball program at Reisterstown Regional Park, which runs through early November. Men's leagues are on Monday

LACROSSE/SQUASH

AUG. 21-24 -- T.L.C. LACROSSE

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and Wednesday evenings. For additional registration details, email tjharrington51@netscape.net or call 443-847-1072.

MASON-DIXON UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

The MDUA is looking for new high school baseball umpires in Baltimore. No experience is necessary. Email Mike Connors at mdcommish@comcast.net or call 410-653-7307.

COCKEYSVILLE RECREATION

Visit cockeysvillereccouncil.org or call 410-887-7734 for updates about baseball registration for the Cockeysville Recreation Center.

ADULT BASEBALL

Join the Eastern Baltimore County over-40 baseball league, which plays with wood bats on 90-foot diamonds. Players of all skill levels are encouraged to visit over40baseball.org or call Mike Lockett at 410-446-0443.

BASEBALL CARD SHOW

A sports card and memorabilia show to benefit Monsignor Slade Catholic School will be held at Monsignor Slade Catholic School in Glen Burnie from 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Oct. 8. For more details, call Leo at 443-416-6447.

NEGRO LEAGUES BASEBALL

Visit the Hubert V. Simmons Museum of Negro Leagues Baseball at the Owings Mills Metro Centre. The museum is named after Bert Simmons, who played for the Baltimore Elite Giants. The museum is open daily, and admission is free. Volunteers are always welcome. For more information, visit smnlbinc.org.

OCT. 2 -- STEP OUT

Support the American Diabetes Association with a 5K around Canton starting at the Waterfront Park. To register, visit diabetes.org/stepout-baltimore or call 410-265-0075 x4678.

OCT. 8 -- BIKE RACE

Charm City Cross is the mid-Atlantic's two-day cyclocross race, featuring international, pro and regional cyclists. The race starts at Druid Hill Park, 2600 Madison Ave. For more information, visit charmcitycross.com or call 443-759-5620.

OCT. 8 -- HEART WALK

The American Heart Association is committed to healthier living and to defeating heart disease and stroke. The Greater Baltimore Heart Walk will take place at Camden Yards Sports Complex, Lot B and C.

CELTIC SOCCER CLUB

Tryouts for the Celtic Soccer Club are for boys ages 6-18 and girls 6-12.

Registration and information are available at baltimoreceltic.com.

OCT. 15 -- BALTIMORE RUNNING FESTIVAL

Registration is open for the Baltimore Running Festival. Choose from five distances through the Inner Harbor and surrounding areas. For more information, visit thebaltimoremarathon.com.

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SQUASH

SquashWise provides incentives for middle school students to excel academically, athletically and socially, as well as compete in local and national squash tournaments. No squash experience is necessary to become a tutor. Visit baltimoresquashwise.org to make your tax-deductible donation. To make equipment donations and/or become a volunteer tutor, email abbym@baltimoresquashwise.org.

JOIN THE RAVENS' BAND

Become part of the Baltimore Ravens' game-day experience by joining Baltimore's Marching Ravens. Visit baltimoreravens.com/marchingravens.

★ OTHER ACTIVITIES

★ GOLF

AUG. 27 -- THREE CLUB CLASSIC

A nine-hole event played with three clubs will be held at historic Carroll Park Golf Course to benefit First Tee of Baltimore, whose mission is to provide kids the support to thrive academically and socially through golf. The use of only three clubs forces golfers to be creative and invent shots, especially around the greens. This event puts a major emphasis on shot making, club selection and making the most of limited resources. For more information, call 240-273-GOLF (4653).

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Wishing Out Loud: College Football Excitement In Baltimore

★ GLENN CLARK



y 33rd birthday is coming up Sept. 6. Every year around this time, my wife will say something like, "Baby, what do you want for your birthday?" I don't think I've had an actual answer to her question the entire time we've known each other. We met when I was 25. I'm reasonably certain I've told her just to get me some nice cigars or some brie with some mango chutney or whatever.

(If you're reading this, baby, I really would be totally happy if you just got me the cigars and cheese. "The Breakfast of Champions," as I call it.)

But as we approach the unofficial start of fall, I've realized that's not the only "wish" I have. It's just that my wife can't really help me with the other one. You see, the other item on my wish list is more of a concept than a tangible item.

You see, I wish Baltimore was a college football town.

Labor Day weekend marks the official start of college football season (Hawaii and Cal are actually kicking it off a week earlier in Australia this year), and it is probably my favorite weekend of the year. With the NFL still a week away, college football games are spread out over five days. There are massive matchups throughout the country this year, including more than 10 nonconference matchups between power conference teams.

For any number of reasons, that excitement won't be the same here. At Maryland, they're hoping new head coach DJ Durkin's enthusiasm and recruiting efforts will be reflected in the win-loss record soon. Navy, which has been deserving of far more support and coverage in the Baltimore market than it's received considering the quality of their program on and off the field, will have essentially an entirely new starting offense. Towson has also proven to be worthy of greater interest, but fans have seemingly struggled to fully embrace the FCS level of football until the Tigers reach the playoffs.

There won't be the same rabid tailgates, massive crowds, packed bars and crazy watch parties that will exist elsewhere. Maryland and Navy are playing lower-level opponents (Howard and Fordham, respectively). Towson's opener at South Florida is unfortunately not available on TV, instead only streaming via ESPN3.

Of course, it doesn't have to be this way. Maryland and Navy provided the area an electric start to the college football season in

It's not as easy as I want it to be. I'm well aware. But it's my birthday. Can't I just make a wish?

Or at least get me that brie. ☐



THEY SAID IT ON GLENN CLARK radio



Donnie Hart
COURTESY OF FRANK MITCHELL



Crystal Dunn
COURTESY OF WASHINGTON SPIRIT



Nick Hundley
COURTESY OF MLB

"It was pretty cool; it was cool to see my sister that happy. She's always been a big supporter [of] my baseball career and pretty much anything I do. She's my twin, so we did everything together when we were little. But yeah, it was pretty cool to see that."

- Left-handed pitcher Donnie Hart July 26 on his twin sister's emotional reaction to his major league debut with the Orioles in Tampa Bay

"[A team] really does become one voice, and the only way we can become unified is if we work toward having one voice on this matter. At the end of the day, it was five people filing for this lawsuit, but it was 24, 25 of us that were standing behind their decision and ... it's important that people realize that we are together and this is a big deal. ... It's affecting all of us in the same way."

- Washington Spirit and USWNT forward Crystal Dunn July 18 on the team's fight for equal pay

"I didn't make Tim Duncan. The only thing I can tell you for

sure is I didn't screw him up. I do know that. He certainly made himself. ... I'm very proud of everything he's done. I'm more proud of everything he's done the right way."

- Former Wake Forest coach Dave Odom July 11 on the NBA retirement of his former pupil Tim Duncan

"Oh man. I think I root for him more than anybody else that's not on my team. Just being over there, knowing what kind of manager, what type of leader he is. He gives that team the best opportunity to win day in and day out. That's all you can ask for. ... If we don't make it, I'll be rooting for them 100 percent."

- Rockies catcher/former Oriole Nick Hundley July 27 on wanting to see his former manager Buck Showalter finally win a World Series

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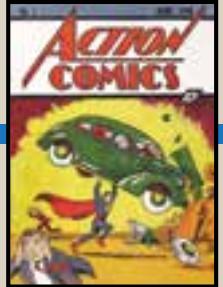
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Email: mnadja@geppismuseum.com
www.GeppisMuseum.com

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