

Blackhawks’ Kane cheered at scrimmage

THE SPORTS XCHANGE

Chicago Blackhawks star Patrick Kane was cheered loudly on Friday when the defending Stanley Cup champions held a public scrimmage in South Bend, Ind.

NHL NOTEBOOK

Kane is accused of sexually assaulting a woman in August at his offseason home near Buffalo, N.Y. Charges have not been filed against Kane, who said he has done nothing wrong during Thursday’s press conference.

The scrimmage marked Kane’s first public appearance since the allegations were revealed.

The nearly 4,000 fans at Compton Family Ice Arena on the Notre Dame campus gave him two loud rousing ovations. The first time was when he took the ice and the second was after an announcement that he assisted on a goal.

“That’s a pretty cool reaction, especially given the circumstances,” Kane told reporters. “I didn’t really know what to expect, but you know, it’s one of those things where

you’re going on the ice, you don’t know what’s going to happen and to hear that reaction from the crowd, definitely gave me chills. So it was an exciting moment.”

Sabres’ Ristolainen sidelined

The Buffalo Sabres said defenseman Rasmus Ristolainen will miss the first 7-10 days of the team’s training camp with an upper-body injury.

Ristolainen is coming off his first full NHL season, a year in which he led all Sabres defensemen in games played (78), goals

(eight), assists (12) and points (20).

The team also said forward Cody McCormick did not pass his training camp physical and is out indefinitely. McCormick appeared in 33 games for the Sabres in 2014-15, his fifth season with the team.

Coyotes sign Elliott

The Arizona Coyotes signed defenseman Stefan Elliott to a one-year two-way contract.

The 24-year-old Elliott appeared in five games with the Colorado Avalanche in

2014-15. The 6-foot-1, 190-pound native of Vancouver, British Columbia, also registered 40 points (19 goals, 21 assists) and 22 penalty minutes in 64 games with Lake Erie of the American Hockey League.

The Coyotes acquired Elliott last week from the Avalanche in exchange for defenseman Brandon Gormley.

Canadians name Pacioretty captain

Montreal Canadiens forward Max Pacioretty has been named the 29th captain in franchise history.

The Canadiens made the announcement, following a vote by the players. Pacioretty, 26, is preparing for his eighth NHL season with the Canadiens in 2015-16.

The Canadiens selected Pacioretty in the first round (22nd overall) of the 2007 NHL draft. The native of New Canaan, Conn., is the third U.S.-born player to captain the Canadiens, following in the footsteps of former teammate Brian Gionta (2010-14) and Chris Chelios (co-captain with Guy Carbonneau in 1989-90).

Manning comes alive in ‘crazy’ game

BY PAUL KLEE

THE GAZETTE (COLORADO SPRINGS)

KANSAS CITY, Missouri — John Elway sought kicking and screaming.

This was Peyton Manning’s tomahawk chop.

“What were we down?” linebacker Brandon Marshall asked late Thursday night in the winning, partying locker room inside Arrowhead Stadium. “14-0? 21-0?”

Yes, and almost. The Broncos were down, Manning counted out. Then the best thing in sports happened: A great being great. The Broncos kicked, screamed, flailed, clawed, thumped. And Manning chopped. “Sawing wood,” he had said.

What happens when a 39-year-old quarterback comes to life after his football obituary is published in so many places? The Broncos beat the Chiefs, 31-24.

“He’s been taking so much heat the last couple years,” wide receiver Demaryius Thomas said within earshot of Manning. “He just goes out and does his thing.”

In his corner, the ol’ quarterback showed grass stains on his left thigh, a hint of blood on his right. He sent text messages, maybe to texting buddy Tom Brady, maybe to others who speculated loudly his run was done. Chop that up, too.

“I’ve never been in one quite like that,” Manning said. “I have been in a couple of crazy games. But never one quite like that.”

One of his things is making Missouri miserable: 14-1 against the Chiefs, none more improbable, more Chief-y than this one. What happened to Kansas City?

“The turnovers (five) and penalties (nine) killed us,” Hall of Fame quarterback Len Dawson said in an elevator.

So did Manning, again. The Broncos trailed 24-17 when Manning sheriffed a 10-play, 80-yard drive, capped by a touchdown lob to Emmanuel Sanders.

Arrowhead Stadium went from red to dread.

Surely the Chiefs would take a knee and take their chances, at home, in overtime, right? That’s what



JOHN RIEGER | USA TODAY

Denver Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning (18) throws a pass Thursday night against the Kansas City Chiefs in the first half at Arrowhead Stadium. Denver won the game 31-24.

“I have been in a couple of crazy games. But never one quite like that.”

PEYTON MANNING

Marshall, Thomas, DeMarcus Ware and anyone else I asked assumed. But Kansas City didn’t. Kansas City handed off to Jamaal Charles, a sure thing most nights, but this wasn’t most nights.

“I dove and hit the ball out,” said Marshall, who forced the fumble. Bradley Roby, the second-year cornerback, scooped it up.

“Next thing I see is Roby getting up and running with it,” Marshall said.

Nobody wearing red caught him. With 36 seconds left in the game, the Broncos trailed by seven. With 27 seconds left in the game, they led by seven.

Two touchdowns, nine seconds. One collective broken heart in a sea of 76,404. One giddy locker room with a 39-year-old quarterback grinning in the corner.

“It just shows the character of our team,” Roby said.

The Broncos trailed 14-0, 17-14, 24-17. They looked

awful, OK, and, finally, charmed. They did what Elway requested after a playoff loss to the Colts — kicked and screamed — until it was quiet enough you could hear moths buzzing through the sticky Midwest night.

On “Red Thursday” in Kansas City, the Chiefs shot fire into the sky and banged a drum. They smelled blood, figuratively, and thought this was their chance, literally. Manning responded: You say I’m old, but I am bold.

Manning was 26 of 45 for 256 yards and three touchdowns and one interception and yada, yada, yada. The way the Broncos survived the Ravens and Chiefs should be an indication stats are not the thing. In months, those will be telling wins.

It’s time to let Manning be. When he was pinched into the new offense, he had cable. When he time-traveled back to the high-flying offense, he had DirecTV.

“He’s a Hall of Famer,” Roby said.

Was Manning perfect? Far from it. Does he have to be? With this defense, far from it. But once the Bron-

cos let him be, to do his thing, he did his thing.

“I think this one was pretty unique,” Manning said.

Thomas said he called the Charles fumble, that he stood on the Broncos sideline and told his wide-receiver buddies the Chiefs would drop the ball onto the turf.

“Bubba, didn’t I call it?” Thomas shouted across the locker room.

“He called it,” Caldwell said.

“DT needs to keep calling it,” Ware added from across the way.

Maybe the masses should continue calling out Manning, saying he looks frail, tired, old and sacks himself. When he’s not picking grass from his helmet, he’s still gold.

“Well, he’s not done,” Kansas City coach Andy Reid said. “You could see that in the Ravens game. When he’s not being hit, he’s the same old Peyton.”

“The game is not done until the clock turns off,” Ware said.

Manning’s clock is ticking, but hasn’t gone off. He’s just over there in the corner, smiling, kicking and screaming.

Study finds 96% of deceased NFL players had CTE

BY MIKE ROSE

AND BOB GLAUBER
NEWSDAY

New figures released on Friday reveal that 96 percent of deceased NFL players examined by researchers had the degenerative brain disease known as chronic traumatic encephalopathy.

The figures come from the Department of Veterans Affairs and Boston University, who shared the data with the PBS documentary series “Frontline.” The Department of Veterans Affairs and Boston University are researching traumatic head injury.

According to the Frontline website, researchers found CTE in 87 of 91 deceased NFL players. In total, researchers found CTE in 79 percent — or 131 of 165 — deceased players who participated in either pro, semipro, college or high school football. Frontline reported that 40 percent of those who tested positive for CTE were offensive and defensive linemen.

“People think that we’re blowing this out of proportion, that this is a very rare disease and that we’re sensationalizing it,” Dr. Ann McKee, who runs the lab as part of the collaborative arrangement with the veterans affairs department and BU, said on the Frontline website. “My response is that where I sit, this

is a very real disease. We have had no problem identifying it in hundreds of players.”

CTE has been found in dozens of deceased NFL players, including linebacker Junior Seau, and defensive backs Dave Duerson, Ray Easterling and Andre Waters, all of whom are believed to have committed suicide.

The NFL, which donated \$1 million to Boston University for the study of brain injuries in 2010 and \$30 million to the National Institutes of Health in 2012, responded to the new data on Friday.

“We are dedicated to making football safer and continue to take steps to protect players, including rule changes, advanced sideline technology, and expanded medical resources,” an NFL spokesman said in a statement to Newsday. “We continue to make significant investments in independent research through our gifts to Boston University, the NIH and other efforts to accelerate the science and understanding of these issues.”

The NFL said in its health and safety report for 2015 that concussions in regular season games fell 35 percent over the past two seasons. There were 173 concussions in 2012 and 112 in 2014, according to the report. The NFL has also launched a high-profile safety campaign with rules in place to discourage hits to the head.

Woods has second back surgery, out for rest of ’15

BY ANDREW BOTH

REUTERS

Former world No. 1 Tiger Woods announced on Friday that he underwent back surgery earlier this week and will be sidelined for the rest of this year.

The 14-time major champion, who had a similar procedure on his back in March 2014, hopes to return to competition in early 2016.

“This is certainly disappointing, but I’m a fighter,” Woods, 39, said in a statement on his website. “I’ve been told I can make a full recovery, and I have no doubt that I will.

“This is unfortunate, but these things happen. I’ve been injured before and played again. It won’t be any different this time.”

As a result of the microdiscectomy surgery, which was performed in Park City, Utah on Wednesday, Woods will not be able to compete in the PGA Tour’s Oct. 15-18 Frys.com Open as he had initially planned.

He also was scheduled for two unofficial events, the America’s Golf Cup in Mexico and the Hero World Challenge that he hosts in the Bahamas.

Woods, who turns 40 in December, last played at the Wyndham Championship in Greensboro, North Carolina, four weeks ago.

He showed glimpses of his old form, finishing equal 10th, but appeared to walk with a gingerly gait, something he attributed at the time to a hip problem.

According to his website, Woods “felt some occasional discomfort in the back and hip area the last several weeks, including at the Wyndham Championship.

“An examination clearly

showed that the random discomfort was coming from his back, and Woods elected to have surgery quickly in order to return to the PGA Tour as soon as possible.

“Woods will begin intensive rehabilitation and soft tissue treatment within a week. Healing and recovery times differ for each individual based on many physiological factors, but Tiger is encouraged he can return early in 2016.”

Woods kept his plans for surgery under tight wraps. Before Friday, he had not posted anything on his Twitter account since Sept. 10, when he wished Arnold Palmer a happy birthday.

On Friday, he announced that he had undergone “successful back surgery” to remove a small disc fragment that was pinching his nerve.

However, the latest surgery raises further questions as to whether the man who spent a record 683 weeks ranked number one in the world will ever regain his former greatness.

Woods seemed destined to become the most prolific major champion ever when he captured the 2008 U.S. Open, for his 14th major title, but he has not added to the list over the ensuing 30 majors.

His hopes of matching the record 18 majors won by Jack Nicklaus are fading with every passing major, as history shows how difficult it is to win multiple majors once a player gets into his early 40s.

Woods played only 11 official events this year and did not qualify for the PGA Tour’s FedExCup playoffs currently being staged. He is ranked 283rd in the world.

Scots

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The Scots drove the distance in 10 plays, with Brannon finding Cam Day behind the defense for a 15-yard touchdown pass along the left sideline on fourth-and-8 with 1:32 left in the second quarter. A 34-yard

slant pass from Brannon to Autry moved the ball to the Bangor 23 and set up the touchdown, with Christian Napolitano adding the extra-point kick to make it 15-0.

“That was a big one for us,” said Cooper. “We’ve struggled at the end of halves, but that score at the end of the half was huge in this game.”

Brannon led Bonny Eagle

on a nine-play, 66-yard scoring march to open the second half, rushing five times for 41 yards and passing over the middle to Dalton Sanborn for 15 more yards before Theberge scored from 2 yards out to make it 22-0.

After a Bangor three-and-out, Theberge showed off his speed with a 53-yard sprint to the end zone to cap off a

75-yard drive that extended the margin to 29-0 with 6:12 left in the third.

When Brannon followed moments later with a tackle-breaking 33-yard keeper to the end zone, Bonny Eagle’s lead was 36-0 and running time was employed.

Alex Sprague added a fourth-quarter touchdown on a 36-yard run.

Sports A.M.

Giants WR Cruz out Sunday

Victor Cruz is not yet ready to return to the New York Giants.

Cruz was ruled out for the Week 2 game at MetLife Stadium on Sunday, when the Giants try to recover from a late-game breakdown at Dallas. The Atlanta Falcons, winners over the Philadelphia Eagles on Monday, are in town to oppose the Giants.

Without Cruz, who is dealing with a calf strain, Rueben Randle and Dwayne Harris are in line for more work opposite Odell Beckham.

The Giants also listed linebacker Jon Beason (knee) as doubtful.

Rangers’ Hamilton says condition improving

ARLINGTON — After undergoing arthroscopic surgery last Thursday on his left knee to repair a torn meniscus, Texas Rangers outfielder Josh Hamilton said his condition is improving and he hopes to rejoin the team soon.

“Every day, it’s gotten better,” Ham-

ilton said Thursday. “I took some swings in the cage Wednesday. Everything is good.”

Hamilton has been out with the left knee injury since Sept. 5 and has played in only 12 games since the start of August. At the moment, the Rangers’ plan for Hamilton is to bring him back only as a pinch-hitter, when and if he’s ready.

Hawks hire Blackstone as assistant GM

The Atlanta Hawks announced a number of additions and promotions within the basketball operations department on Friday, including the hiring of Michael Blackstone as assistant general manager.

President of basketball operations and head coach Mike Budenholzer also named John Treloar as director of player personnel, Malik Rose as manager of basketball operations, Dotun Akinwale as manager of scouting, Matt Elijah as manager of basketball administration, Daniel Starkman as coordinator of basketball operations

and David Painter as director of basketball facilities.

Jeff Peterson was promoted to director of scouting and Naya-Joi Martin to manager of player programs, while Rick Sund (senior advisor, basketball operations) and Mike McNeive (director of basketball operations) continue in their roles.

49ers’ Bush sidelined

San Francisco running back Reggie Bush will miss Sunday’s game against the Pittsburgh Steelers due to a calf injury.

Bush suffered the injury in San Francisco’s season-opening victory against the Minnesota Vikings on Monday. Coach Jim Tomsula announced Friday that Bush won’t travel with the team to Pittsburgh.

Bush was slated to be the main back-up to Carlos Hyde against the Vikings. He carried the ball just twice before leaving in the first quarter with the injury that was later pinpointed to be a strained calf. Hyde rushed for 168 yards in the opener.

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