

Roethlisberger plans to play this week

THE SPORTS XCHANGE

Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger, after missing the last three games with a knee injury, plans be a full participant at practice this week and play against the Kansas City Chiefs.

“We’re going to tape it and brace it and I’m going to see what I can do,” Roethlisberger said Sunday after the Steelers beat the Arizona Cardinals 25-13 at Heinz Field. “My plan is to go out Wednesday and practice. We’ll see what happens. I know I’ve got to be smart about it. I’ve got to be able to defend myself. We’re just going to take it day by day.”

Michael Vick started with Roethlisberger out but left Sunday’s game with a hamstring injury. On Monday, Vick said he had a “tiny tear” in the hamstring.

Roethlisberger went down against the St. Louis Rams in Week 3 on Sept. 27 with a sprained MCL and bone bruise in his left knee. He was limited in practice last week, which provided a glimmer of hope he might be able to return against the Cardinals.

NFL NOTEBOOK

When Roethlisberger was initially injured, the projection was that he would miss four to six weeks. The game at Kansas City on Sunday will be four weeks after his injury.

Third-string quarterback Landry Jones entered when Vick exited Sunday’s game early in the third quarter with a hamstring injury and delivered four second-half scoring drives to lead the Steelers to a win over the Cardinals. The Steelers, now 4-2, are 2-1 during Roethlisberger’s absence.

After Vick completed only 3 of 8 passes for 6 yards, he was replaced by Jones, who was 8-for-12 for 168 yards and two touchdowns, including an 88-yard pass to Martavis Bryant with 1:58 remaining that put the game out of reach.

Tests show MCL sprain for Titans’ Mariota

Tests on Tennessee Titans rookie quarterback Marcus Mariota’s knee revealed a sprained medial collateral ligament, head coach Ken Whisenhunt said Monday.

Whisenhunt said Mariota is “walking around fine” and didn’t rule the rookie out for Week 7. Depending on the severity, a sprained

MCL carries a recovery time of 1-6 weeks.

“We’ll see how it goes this week,” Whisenhunt said.

Mariota took a beating on Sunday, absorbing five sacks to raise his season total to 19 and playing most of the game with an injured knee as the result of a late hit by defensive end Olivier Vernon in the second quarter.

“I think it was B.S.,” Whisenhunt said of Vernon’s low hit, which drew a roughing-the-passer flag. “It’s not the way you play football. I think it was done with the idea of trying to hurt our quarterback.”

Mariota said Vernon approached him after the game to apologize for the play.

“I don’t think it was malicious,” Mariota said.

Vernon said he is not “a dirty player.”

“I know one thing — it wasn’t intentional,” Vernon said. “I’ve never been a dirty player in my whole career. ... Nobody tries to get personal fouls. I know one thing, they are expensive.”

Lions RB Zenner lost for season

Detroit Lions running back Zach Zenner will be placed on in-

jured reserve and miss the rest of the season after suffering cracked ribs and a partially collapsed lung in Sunday’s contest against the Chicago Bears.

Zenner was hospitalized after the injury and the Lions said he fractured four to five ribs on the play in which he was injured.

“Tough, rugged guy, but also very involved in our special teams and just a quality person, as well,” Detroit coach Jim Caldwell told reporters. “Had a chance to visit with him on the phone a little bit (Sunday night), and he’s certainly not only hurting physically but certainly hurting for the opportunity. But he’s a young guy and he’ll heal in due time.”

Zenner, an undrafted rookie out of South Dakota State, had 60 yards on 17 carries.

Jets receiver suspended 4 games

New York Jets wide receiver Quincy Enunwa has been suspended without pay for the team’s next four games for violating the NFL’s personal-conduct policy.

The NFL announced Monday that Enunwa’s suspension begins immediately. He will be eligible to

return to the Jets’ active roster on Friday, Nov. 13 following the team’s Thursday night game against the Buffalo Bills.

The suspension stems from a Aug. 31, 2014, arrest for simple assault that was dismissed in a Florman Park, N.J., municipal court after the prosecution said Enunwa’s girlfriend chose not to pursue the case. A police report said Enunwa grabbed his girlfriend by the ankles and pulled her off a bed, causing her to injure her head and finger.

“We support and respect the NFL’s decision to suspend Quincy Enunwa,” the Jets said in a statement. “The New York Jets share the NFL’s ongoing commitment to raising awareness of the frequency and impact of domestic and relationship violence, supporting survivors, and encouraging others to speak out and seek help.”

Enunwa, who was a sixth-round pick by the Jets in the 2014 NFL Draft, has eight receptions for 94 receiving yards this season.

Enunwa, 23, spent most of his rookie season on the practice squad for the Jets, but had climbed to No. 3 on the receiver depth chart this year.

NASCAR

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ago, he was plagued by one. But before he was about to pit, a caution saved him from having to make a green flag stop and allowed him to advance to the three-race Contender Round.

Despite the wheel problems, Earnhardt insisted after the Kansas race that he has big confidence in his crew and crew chief.

“I’m fine,” he said. “We’ll get it figured out. I believe in my guys. I really do.”

Earnhardt, who will start the race at Talladega next Sunday 11th in points and 31 points out of the eighth and final berth in the Eliminator Round. A good finish won’t be good enough for Earnhardt’s championship chances. He will likely need The Finish.

His overall history at Talladega says a victory is very possible.

Earnhardt won the spring race at Talladega this year — but his the last victory before that was in 2004.

Earnhardt, who said he arrived at Kansas knowing he would likely need to win Talladega in order to advance, said, basically, “so what” to that.

“I know that one race, one opportunity, one chance makes the odds feel bad, but we won there this year,” he said. “And we went to Daytona (which, like Talladega is a restrictor plate track) and ran third in the 500 and we won our 125 (qualifying race).”

Earnhardt was asked late Sunday afternoon about the



JASEN VINLOVE | USA TODAY

NASCAR Sprint Cup Series driver Dale Earnhardt Jr. signs autographs for fans during practice at Kansas Speedway on Saturday.

frustration of having such a good season boil down to the X-Factor event. He sneered. “I’m not frustrated and I’m not emotionally drained or anything like that,” he said. “The Chase is going to give you these kind of results.”

Ugly top 10 keeps Gordon in title hunt

As poorly as Jeff Gordon’s car was handling on Sunday during his last run at Kansas Speedway, the driver of the No. 24 Chevrolet was in danger of losing touch with the top contenders in the Chase for the NASCAR Sprint Cup.

But Gordon persevered, salvaging a 10th-place finish that left him sixth in the Chase standings — but with no margin for error.

“We were absolutely as far off as you could be,” Gordon said of his balky Chevy. “I don’t know. The thing qualified amazing, and ever since we put it in race trim, it just is not comfortable, hasn’t felt good, and we’ve struggled with it.”

“That was one of the hardest top 10s I’ve ever had to go through. I’m proud of the team. They fought hard, and that’s why we’re where we’re at. But, gosh, that was ugly.”

In all likelihood, Gordon will need to avoid disaster at Talladega to advance to the Eliminator 8 Round of the Chase.

Bowyer’s day ends with hard crash off Turn 2

In one of the hardest hits of the NASCAR Sprint Cup

Series season, Clint Bowyer angled into the SAFER barrier off Turn 2 and destroyed his No. 15 Michael Waltrip Racing Camry.

The accident on Lap 171 caused the fifth caution of Sunday’s Hollywood Casino 400 — and it ruined a promising outing at the track closest to Bowyer’s Emporia, Kansas, home.

“It was a hard hit,” said Bowyer, who was running in the top 15 at the time. “We were actually having some fun, doing a little better than I actually thought we were going to. Just disappointed and frustrated. You always hate to have something like that happen, especially at home.”

Bowyer was chasing Gordon at the time of the wreck.

Hockey

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and Nolan Vesey last season with 10 each.

The power play was problematic last season and is off to a slow start this season.

Maine was 47th among 59 schools with a 13.1 percent efficiency rate on the power play and is currently 2-for-16 (12.5 percent) with the man advantage.

“We’ve been just a little off. It’s a work in progress,” said Gendron.

Gendron wouldn’t indicate if he is going to change the lines for the Quininnipiac game.

The good news for the Black Bears is they have made huge strides defensively.

Maine has allowed just seven goals, which leaves the Black Bears 10th in the country in goals allowed per game (1.75). They allowed 3.26 a year ago.

Gendron has been pleased with the team defense, the goaltending of senior Matt Morris and freshman Rob McGovern and the freshman class.

Heyward again honors dad with eye-black tribute

THE SPORTS XCHANGE

Pittsburgh Steelers defensive end Cam Heyward plans to keep wearing eye black to honor his late father, Craig “Ironhead” Heyward, despite the possibility of more fines from the NFL.

Heyward, who was fined \$5,787 last week, violated the NFL’s rules again on Sunday by putting “IRON” and “HEAD” on his eye black.

Heyward faces an \$11,576 fine for a second violation of the rules. Players are permitted to use eye black to reduce glare from sunlight or bright stadium lights, but the NFL’s uniform policy is against “personal messages.”



Heyward

Craig Heyward died at the age of 39 in 2006 after a seven-year battle with a recurring brain tumor. The former full-back played parts of 11 seasons in the NFL from 1988 to 1998.

Cam Heyward told ESPN that he was not given permission from the NFL to wear the eye black, but the league will hear his appeal of the original fine Tuesday. He is not sure whether he will get fined again but plans to keep wear-

ing the eye-black tribute.

“That’s the goal,” Heyward said after the Steelers’ 25-13 win over the Arizona Cardinals. “There have been others, and I’m not going to name any names, that have worn it to support cancer. I don’t want to get involved in it, but it’s bigger than me. I’m not going to shy away from the fight against cancer, and I’m going to support them in any way possible.”

ering has led the Trojans to a 12-2 regular season.

The gifted Pickering is one of the offensive catalysts for the Trojans and has led them to a 12-2 regular season record.

She marshals the midfield and is an effective defender. Pickering has impressive stick skills and is one of the team leaders.

Brady

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34-27 triumph Sunday night.

Avoiding Deflategate talk, Brady focused on the latest victory, not the one in January that prompted the most controversy of his storied career.

“(The Colts defense) played pretty good,” Brady said. “I thought they competed really hard. Our execution was off at times, so it was a good win. They definitely did some things to challenge us. Obviously, this was a good win on the road.”

The Colts (3-3) set up two New England touchdowns with special teams mistakes — a failed onside kick in the first half and a failed fake punt from their own 37-yard line with 1:12 remaining in the third quarter.

Brady, who completed 23 of 37 passes for 312 yards and an interception, directed a seven-play, 80-yard touchdown drive to begin the third quarter, capping it with a 25-yard scoring pass to tight end Rob Gronkowski. The reigning Super Bowl champion Patriots (5-0) grabbed a 27-21 lead on the play.

Later in the quarter, the Colts lined up in an unusual punt formation, with nine players standing to the far right side on a fourth-and-2 situation. The ball was snapped to special teams player Colt Anderson, who was tackled for a 1-yard loss, giving the ball to Brady and the prolific New England offense at the Indianapolis 35.

Six plays later, Brady threw an 11-yard touchdown pass to running back LeGarrette Blount (16 carries, 95 yards) with 12:48 left in the fourth quarter.

What we learned about the Patriots

1. Playing in a hostile environment against a team and a fan base that doesn’t

think he plays by the rules, Brady proved once again why he may be the best at his position in this generation. With the controversy over partially inflated footballs on their minds from January, the Colts and their fans were hoping to see Brady play poorly. Just the opposite was the case.

2. Can there be a better three-pronged pass catching group than wide receivers Danny Amendola and Julian Edelman and tight end Rob Gronkowski? The trio had a collective 16 catches for 205 yards and two touchdowns. Each time New England needed to convert on third down, one of those three usually was the target.

3. The Patriots’ defense gave up a pair of first-half touchdowns, but it limited Andrew Luck to 13 completions in 28 second-half attempts and allowed no points after halftime until 1:19 remained. New England especially was good at denying the deep ball. Luck’s longest completion covered 27 yards. Patriots defensive end Chandler Jones had 2.5 sacks.

Game notes

• Brady, in what is becoming a potential MVP season, has completed 139 of 197 passes for 1,699 yards and 14 touchdowns in five games. Until being picked off by Colts S Mike Adams on Sunday night, he had not been intercepted. He finished 23-for-37 for 312 yards and two touchdowns at Indianapolis.

• Kicker Stephen Gostkowski remains perfect on the season, 12-for-12 on field-goal attempts and 20-for-20 on extra points. He made two field goals and four extra points Sunday night.

• Edelman has a team-leading 40 catches for 449 yards and four touchdowns. He finished with six receptions for 50 yards and a touchdown Sunday against Indianapolis.

Sponsor

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Savings Bank Ball Kids Program,” and donate game tickets to local nonprofit organizations that focus on serving girls in the community.

Bangor Savings Bank also has implemented a season-long scoring challenge during which it will donate \$2 to the women’s basketball program for every point scored by the Black Bears.

Last season, UMaine scored 1,954 points, which would have meant \$3,908 for the program.

“Bangor Savings has made a commitment to making the community stronger, and they’ve seen a special opportunity here in terms of developing leadership in our young women,” said UMaine head coach Richard Barron.

The press conference also featured video comments from Sen. Susan Collins, who applauded the efforts of the team and the bank.

“This partnership highlights the importance of encouraging more women to seek leadership roles throughout our society,” Collins said. “A hallmark of the entire UMaine athletics program is the pursuit of excellence in competition, in the classroom and in community involvement,” she added.

Senior Liz Wood spoke on behalf of the team in expressing its collective gratitude for the backing Bangor Savings Bank will be providing.

“I want to really thank Bangor Savings Bank for supporting us and helping us to continue to create this culture that will create young leaders in the future, much like the ones sitting in front of us today,” she said.

Football

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we talked about,” he said.

He indicated that both Collins and Belcher, who was 3-2 as the starter after Collins was injured in 2014, are likely to play in Saturday’s CAA home game

against Stony Brook.

UMaine encountered complications on Saturday when wide receivers Jared Osumah and Jaleel Reed went down with injuries in the first half and did not return. The Black Bears also used redshirt freshman Cody Levy after starting tackle Jamil Demby reagravated a leg injury.

Finalists

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“She is the most field hockey-obsessed player I’ve ever coached,” said McLaughlin.

McLaughlin said she is ecstatic to have two players among the Miss Maine Field

Hockey finalists and said Field and Hogan are exceptional leaders. They are two of the team’s tri-captains.

The aggressive Wood has been a stellar goaltender throughout her career at Winslow, leading the Black Raiders of coach Mary Beth Bourgois to the Class C state championship a year ago.

The talented Wood, who has lightning-quick reflexes, has been stingy again this season as Winslow has allowed just 14 goals in 14 games en route to a 10-3-1 regular season record.

She also has been a calming influence with her composure for Winslow and has posted six shutouts.

Thornton Academy’s Pick-