

Finalists announced for Gaziano lineman award

BY ERNIE CLARK
BDN STAFF

SOUTH PORTLAND — Seamus McKaig of Orono and Jacob Doyon of Messalonskee of Orono are among the six finalists for the 2014 Frank J. Gaziano Memorial Offensive and Defensive Lineman awards announced Friday.

HIGH SCHOOL REPORT

McKaig is one of three finalists for the defensive lineman award, along with Zordan Holman of Cheverus of Portland and Hunter Bowen of Windham. Doyon, Zach Davis of Windham and Benjamin Zuke of Thornton Academy in Saco are finalists for offensive lineman honors.

From those finalists, one offensive lineman and one defensive lineman each will receive a \$5,000 scholarship — the largest award of its kind in the nation — and a first-place trophy. The four runners-up each will receive \$1,000.

The Frank J. Gaziano award winners will be announced during a luncheon ceremony Saturday, Jan. 24, at the Augusta Civic Center.

The scholarship and awards program for Maine high school football linemen was created in 2010 in memory of Frank J. Gaziano, founder of National Distributors in South Portland and a former college All-American and professional football player with a lifelong passion for local sports.

Former Canadian Football League quarterback Quinton Porter of Portland will be the guest speaker at

this year's Gaziano banquet. Porter was named the Maine Gatorade and USA Today Player of the Year in 2000 while playing for Portland High School.

He went on to star at Boston College before signing as an undrafted free agent with the Houston Texans in 2006 and later played for the Hamilton Tiger Cats and Montreal Alouettes in the CFL.

In 2010, Porter founded First Down Training, a youth football initiative in Portland to provide quality football instruction to young players throughout the state while giving them the tools they need to be successful in life.

The annual Gaziano award recipients are determined by a selection committee based on strong leadership on the field, in the classroom and in the community.

For more information or to contribute to the Frank J. Gaziano scholarship fund, visit gazianolinemanawards.org.

Houlton, Calais doubleheader on tap

A noteworthy Class C basketball doubleheader is set for Saturday night in Houlton.

The defending state champion Houlton boys squad was scheduled to host perennial power Calais on Friday night, but bad weather Down East earlier in the day forced that game to be pushed back to a 6 p.m. start on Saturday.

Both teams are among the favorites in Eastern Maine Class C again this winter, with Houlton (7-2 and ranked seventh in the division) led by first-team All-Maine senior forward Kyle



The finalists for the 2014 Frank J. Gaziano Memorial Offensive and Defensive Lineman Awards are (clockwise from left): Zach Davis of Windham, Jacob Doyon of Messalonskee, Benjamin Zuke of Thornton Academy, Seamus McKaig of Orono, Zordan Holman of Cheverus and Hunter Bowen of Windham.

Bouchard and fellow veterans Jake Drew and Christian Crane.

Calais (7-1) and ranked third in the division, counters with the senior nucleus of Tyler Niles, Kyle Johnson, Andre Paul

and Nathan Newell.

That game will be followed at 7:30 p.m. by an originally scheduled girls game between the two schools. Calais, the defending Class C state champion, is led by University of Maine-bound

senior guard Maddy McVicar, while Houlton counters with a young and talented roster that has featured junior forward Katie Condon and freshman guard Kolleen Bouchard.

Calais enters the contest

with an 8-1 record good for second place in the Eastern C standings, while Houlton is 6-1 and ranked eighth.

The two girls' teams last met in last winter's regional semifinals, with Calais advancing with a 53-29 victory.

Jury selection begins in Hernandez trial

BY DANIEL LOVERING
REUTERS

FALL RIVER, Massachusetts — Jury selection began on Friday in the trial of former New England Patriots player Aaron Hernandez, who is accused of fatally shooting a semi-professional football player near his Massachusetts home in June 2013.



Hernandez

Hundreds of potential jurors filed into Fall River Superior Court in Fall River, Massachusetts, to fill out questionnaires as part of the jury selection process, which will continue into next week.

Hernandez, 25, has been charged with killing Odin Lloyd, whose bullet-riddled body was found in an industrial park near Hernandez's house in North Attleborough,

Massachusetts, on June 17, 2013. He also faces various firearms-related charges.

The former tight end had been a rising star in the National Football League with a \$41 million contract with the Patriots when he was arrested and cut from the team days after Lloyd's body was found.

Lloyd, 27, had been dating the sister of Hernandez's fiancée, Shayanna Jenkins. Prosecutors said he and Hernandez had argued after Lloyd socialized at a nightclub with people Hernandez disliked.

Two of Hernandez's friends, Ernest Wallace and Carlos Ortiz, also were arrested in the slaying and will be tried separately. All three men have pleaded not guilty.

Hernandez has since been charged with killing two other men who prosecutors contend he shot dead outside a Boston nightclub in 2012 after a dispute over a spilled

drink. He also has pleaded not guilty in that case.

In the first of three sessions on Friday, Massachusetts Superior Court Associate Justice Susan Garsh addressed 125 potential jurors and introduced prosecutors as well as Hernandez, who appeared wearing a jacket and tie, and his attorneys.

Garsh has summoned more than 1,100 potential jurors from Bristol County over three days to fill out questionnaires to help determine their suitability for jury service. The number will be narrowed to 18, including six alternates, in the coming days.

The trial is expected to last six to eight weeks, and prosecutors have assembled a list of nearly 300 potential witnesses, according to Bristol County district attorney's office.

Last month, Garsh ruled the jury hearing the Lloyd case will not be told about the Boston killings. In that case, prosecutors contend Hernan-

dez flew into a rage over a spilled drink and tailed two strangers, Cape Verdean nationals Daniel Abreu and Safirido Furtado, killing them outside a nightclub.

Hernandez's roster of high-powered Boston attorneys, including James Sultan and Michael Fee, have helped him win key early procedural victories, said Boston College law professor Robert Bloom.

"The prosecution has a tremendous amount of resources, and it's very rare that a criminal defendant can match those resources," Bloom said.

Prosecutors are heading into the trial under the leadership of a new district attorney, Thomas Quinn, who was named to the post on an acting basis last week after predecessor Sam Sutter was elected mayor of Fall River.

Quinn, a 16-year veteran of the Bristol County district attorney's office, said the change at the top will not affect trial strategy.

Patriots sign safety Chung to extension

THE SPORTS XCHANGE

The New England Patriots signed starting safety Patrick Chung to a three-year contract extension Friday.

ESPN.com reported that the deal could be worth up to \$8.2 million and includes \$3.4 million in guarantees.

Chung was New England's 2009 second-round draft choice out of Oregon, but he was not re-

signed in 2013 at the conclusion of his rookie deal. He signed a three-year contract with the Eagles, where he played for his college coach, Chip Kelly, but he was cut after one year and signed again with the Patriots.

Chung was scheduled to be a free agent after this season. According to ESPN, as part of the extension, Chung received a \$2.4 million signing bonus and will earn base salaries of \$1 million in 2015, \$1.4 million in 2016 and \$1.8 million in 2017. The deal includes roster bonuses of up to \$200,000 in each season with an additional \$500,000 in incentives in 2016 and 2017.

Chung started 15 of 16 games and has seven passes defended, one interception and 85 tackles this season.

Bucs hire Koetter as offensive coordinator

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers have hired Dirk Koetter as their new offensive coordinator. Koetter, a 30-year coaching veteran in college and the NFL, had spent the last three seasons as the Atlanta Falcons' offensive coordinator. The Falcons terminated



Koetter

coach Mike Smith last week and gave Koetter permission to seek a lateral move.

The Buccaneers needed an offensive coordinator after going through the 2014 season without one.

Shortly after he was hired last year, coach Lovie Smith brought in Jeff Tedford as

his coordinator, but Tedford left the team in August to deal with a health issue. Quarterbacks coach Marcus Arroyo served as the play-caller for an offense that ranked 30th in the NFL.

Before running the Falcons' high-powered offense (ranked eighth in 2014), Koetter spent five years (2007-11) as the Jacksonville Jaguars' coordinator.

Koetter also was head coach at Boise State and Arizona State.

Said Bucs head coach Lovie Smith, "I'm very excited to welcome Dirk to our staff. With over three decades of experience at both the college and the NFL level, Dirk has a proven track record as a top offensive coordinator. During his time in Atlanta, he led one of the most productive offenses in the league and I believe he will enjoy similar success here with the exciting young players we have on offense. It became very apparent early in our conversations that we share some of the same philosophies regarding the offensive side of the ball and I look forward to working with Dirk as we begin preparing for the 2015 season."

Chung was scheduled to be a free agent after this season. According to ESPN, as part of the extension, Chung received a \$2.4 million signing bonus and will earn base salaries of \$1 million in 2015, \$1.4 million in 2016 and \$1.8 million in 2017. The deal includes roster bonuses of up to \$200,000 in each season with an additional \$500,000 in incentives in 2016 and 2017.

Chung started 15 of 16 games and has seven passes defended, one interception and 85 tackles this season.

Bears tab Pace as general manager

Ryan Pace will be the next general manager of the Chicago Bears.

The team agreed to hire the veteran personnel man who spent 14 seasons with the New Orleans Saints in various roles, including the past two as director of player personnel.

Pace replaced Phil Emery, who was fired Dec. 29 after three seasons as general manager. Pace will be the third general manager in five years for the Bears. Jerry Angelo, like Pace and Emery a first-time GM, was fired after the 2011 season.

Pace started with the Saints as a scouting assistant in 2002 and helped build a team that won the franchise's first Super Bowl title (XLIV).

The decision to hire Pace might be viewed as a mild upset. The favorite for the job was considered to be Chris Ballard of the Kansas City Chiefs, who worked under Angelo in Chicago. Ballard interviewed with the Bears on Wednesday.

The first task for Pace will be helping management find a head coach.

Buckeyes defense relishes facing Ducks' Mariota

BY MARLA RIDENOUR
AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The accomplishment wouldn't rival a national championship, but could be even more rare.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

If Ohio State defeats Oregon on Monday night to win the first College Football Playoff title, the Buckeyes would have beaten the three finalists for the 2014 Heisman Trophy — Oregon quarterback Marcus Mariota, Alabama wide receiver Amari Cooper and Wisconsin running back Melvin Gordon — in three consecutive games.

"Wow, I didn't realize that," OSU coach Urban Meyer said.

They would have bested the nation's leading rusher, second-leading receiver and third-leading passer, in terms of yardage.

The OSU defense held Gordon to 76 yards on 26 carries while rolling over the Badgers 59-0 Dec. 6 in the Big Ten Championship.

Cooper caught nine passes for 71 yards and two touchdowns in OSU's 42-35 upset of No. 1 Alabama in the Sugar Bowl.

Now comes Mariota, the landslide Heisman winner, who has thrown for 4,121 yards and 40 touchdowns



PHOTO CREDIT

Florida State Seminoles cornerback Ronald Darby (left) closes in on Oregon Ducks quarterback Marcus Mariota at the Rose Bowl on Jan. 1.

this season with only three interceptions and rushed for 731 yards and 15 TDs.

In three years directing the Ducks' up-tempo offense, the redshirt junior has thrown for 103 scores and picked up 29 more with his feet. He has only 13 interceptions in 1,130 passing attempts.

But while the Buckeyes respect Mariota — with senior defensive tackle Michael Bennett saying Mariota's Heisman speech meant a lot to him because of the quarterback's humility — they are not intimidated.

"I relish it a lot. I hope his fourth pick comes to me," OSU sophomore safety Vonn Bell said.

Sophomore defensive end Joey Bosa said, "I wouldn't

say we're scared of anybody, really. We've just got to pay attention to where he is and what he's doing at all times."

It seemed to have touched a nerve with freshman linebacker Darron Lee when he was asked if he takes pride in stopping big-name players.

"We don't go out on the field and try to make anybody better than who they are," Lee said. "People had Alabama as the greatest team to ever walk this Earth — you have no idea how annoying that was. I was like, 'Oh, my God, please stop.'"

Mariota is a great football player and a great quarterback, obviously, I mean he won the Heisman. But we don't go out and make him bigger than what he is.