

Pats get OK to reinstate Deflategate staffers

THE SPORTS XCHANGE

The New England Patriots were cleared by the NFL on Wednesday to reinstate John Jastremski and Jim McNally, the suspended employees who allegedly took air out of game balls in the Deflategate scandal.

“Last week, the New England Patriots requested the reinstatement of both John Jastremski and Jim McNally. The Patriots have satisfied the league’s requirements for reinstatement and the league has granted permission for the employees to return,” the NFL said in a statement.

The Patriots suspended Jastremski, the team’s equipment assistant, and McNally, the team’s officials locker room attendant, after the Ted Wells investigation into whether quarterback Tom Brady and the Patriots conspired to break rules by intentionally deflating game balls in the AFC Championship game.

Jastremski and McNally became central figures in the case due to text messages they exchanged in the weeks and months prior to the January game against the Indianapolis Colts.

In one of the texts uncovered in the probe, McNally referred to himself as “the deflator.”

The Patriots suspended Jastremski and McNally despite the team denying any wrongdoing. Team sources had told ESPN that the club was informed by league officials that if it didn’t suspend Jastremski and McNally, the NFL would do so. Jastremski and McNally have been banned from working for the Patriots until they are cleared by the NFL.

During an appearance on ESPN’s “Mike and Mike” last week, NFL commissioner Roger Goodell was asked whether the suspensions of the two employees came at the request of the league.

“Absolutely not. That was a decision by the Patriots,” Goodell said.

Troy Vincent, the NFL’s executive vice president of football operations, asked recently to meet with Jastremski and McNally.

The two staffers will be banned from the preparing, handling or supervision of the team’s game balls, according to The Boston Globe.

Brady has expressed empathy for Jastremski and McNally, saying he wanted the staffers back with the team.



Sophomore Nigel Beckford, pictured during a 2014 scrimmage, returns to action on Saturday at Tulane. The Black Bears’ starting tailback was suspended for the opener for violating the student-athlete code of conduct.

UMaine

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No. 1 tailback and Cabrinni Goncalves set to be the back-up, UMaine realizes the magnitude of the challenge it will face trying to establish the run against Tulane (0-2).

“After rushing for seven yards against BC, I don’t know that we have anything we can be too confident about right now,” Cosgrove said. “They have a very stout defense.”

The Green Wave has allowed 157.9 rushing yards per contest in losses to Duke and No. 14 Georgia Tech.

UMaine also will head south with a handful of injury issues.

Junior middle linebacker Christophe Mulumba Tshimanga, who suffered a significant bruise to his left leg at Boston College, will not play Saturday. Sophomore strong safety Darrius Hart also did not practice Tuesday and was sporting a wrap on his right knee.

On the offensive side, ju-

nior tight end Jeremy Salmon was a no-go Tuesday with an undisclosed ailment. Salmon also is UMaine’s snapper, so Spencer Carey of Fairfield (long snaps) and Sean Reuss (short snaps) likely would pick up those duties if Salmon can’t play.

On a positive note, junior quarterback Dan Collins did not have any significant lingering problems after taking a hard shot late in the BC game. Collins sustained a contusion to his right cheek but did not suffer a head injury or any concussion symptoms.

MCI

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us what they can do right behind them on their heels,” said coach Bertrand. “It creates competition within the team, but healthy competition, so that when we call on a number he’s ready to go.”

That skill-position depth is complemented by emerging play at the line of scrimmage paced by senior two-way end Dillon Fitts and senior tackle and captain Curtis McLeod, who also occasionally lines up at fullback and anchors the MCI defense from his tackle slot.

They are joined along the

line of scrimmage by classmates Elijah Harvey, Alex Jones, Mike Steeves and Mike Westgate.

MCI also benefits from having a fourth-year starter at quarterback in Vigue, who has grown even more comfortable running the Huskies’ no-huddle offense.

“He’s got so much more confidence, he’s physically much stronger and he’s so much more of a leader,” said Bertrand. “Alex is our rah-rah guy and Greg is the guy who instills confidence in us and Curtis [McLeod] is dominant up front and Brandon is just solid all around, so for us to have those four guys as captains is great, but we’ve got a lot of senior leadership.

TV

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“My passion has always been sports. I’ve played sports since I was eight years old. And now I’ll finally be able to do sports. I also enjoy news so to be able to do both is amazing. I’m really glad they’ve given me this opportunity,” said Biddeford native Binette, who has a bachelor’s degree in

contemporary journalism from Endicott College in Massachusetts and a master’s degree in broadcast and digital journalism from Syracuse University in New York.

She played volleyball, basketball and softball in high school and also played on the club ice hockey team her senior year. She also played volleyball for a year at Endicott.

She served as a sports intern at WSYR-TV in Syra-

“But Greg has definitely developed into one of those key leaders and our kids follow him offensively, for sure.”

Despite the one-sided nature of its first two games — MCI has led by at least 50 points at intermission in each contest — the Huskies are concentrating on fine-tuning what they can control and not concerning themselves with victory margins.

“We’ve got to be prepared every week,” said Vigue, whose team visits 2-0 Mount View of Thorndike on Saturday afternoon. “We can’t assume we’re going to blow a team out. We’ve got to work hard, we’ve got to take care of business up front. We’ve just got to do our jobs.”

cuse and went to work as a news anchor-reporter at news/talk radio station WGAN 560 AM in Portland before coming to WLBZ.

Binette said she enjoys living in the Bangor area and noted that both Goldberg and Mehler have been “very helpful.”

“Lee has been in the business forever and Johnny was in Bangor so he knows the ropes around here. I’ve been having a lot of fun,” said Binette.

Patriots re-sign linebacker Watson

THE SPORTS XCHANGE

The New England Patriots re-signed linebacker Dekoda Watson on Wednesday.

Watson, 27, was released by the Patriots on Aug. 31 after he was signed as a free agent on May 12. The 6-foot-2, 245-pounder, has played in 70 NFL games, with seven starts, and has registered 120 tackles, three sacks, one interception, four passes defended, two forced fumbles and four fumble recoveries during his five-year NFL career with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers (2010-13), Jacksonville Jaguars (2014) and Dallas Cowboys (2014).

Last season, Watson began the season with Jacksonville and appeared in nine games with one start. He posted nine tackles before being released on Nov. 11, 2014, and then signed with Dallas on Nov. 14, 2014. He played in one game for the Cowboys, but did not accrue any statistics. He originally entered the NFL as a seventh-round draft pick by Tampa Bay in 2010 out of Florida State.

In addition, the Patriots signed linebacker Eric Martin to the practice squad and released linebacker Alex Singleton and defensive lineman Jimmy Staten from the practice squad.

Martin, 24, made the 53-man roster out of training camp and played in the opening game against the Pittsburgh Steelers on Sept. 10 before being released on Sept. 12. He was originally signed to

the Patriots’ practice squad on Dec. 29, 2014. The 6-2, 250-pounder entered the NFL as a rookie free agent with New Orleans out of Nebraska on April 28, 2013.

Singleton, 21, originally entered the NFL as a rookie free agent with the Seattle Seahawks on May 2 out of Montana State. He was released by Seattle on Sept. 5 and was signed to the New England practice squad on Sept. 9.

Staten, 24, originally entered the NFL as a fifth-round draft pick by Seattle out of Middle Tennessee State in 2014. He spent the majority of last season on the Seattle practice squad. He was signed to the Patriots’ practice squad on Sept. 7.

Jets QB out at least another week

New York Jets coach Todd Bowles said there is no change in the timetable for quarterback Geno Smith, who has been out since suffering a broken jaw when he was punched in the locker room.

Bowles told reporters Wednesday that Smith will be inactive for at least one more game — Week 2 against the Indianapolis Colts on Monday night.

Smith is still recovering and not practicing after his jaw was broken in two places when he was punched by then-teammate and current Buffalo Bills linebacker IK Enemkpali on Aug. 11.

In Smith’s absence, quarterback Ryan Fitzpatrick threw two touchdowns as the Jets routed the Cleveland Browns 31-10 last Sunday.

Soccer

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back and forth through a maze of defenders before slotting a 10-yarder into the far corner.

“I got a little nervous. I wasn’t sure when I should shoot,” said Lopez-Anido. “We work on never giving up so I stuck with the ball, I eventually got an opening and took the shot. I think I had three people on me so it was a little challenging.”

The dynamic and tenacious Chasse, who controlled the midfield throughout, set the play in motion that led to the third goal. She passed to Lopez-Anido, whose through-ball sent Fridtun in alone on St. Louis down the right side. Fridtun hit a firm 13-yard shot into the far corner.

Phillips gave Class B Old Town a lifeline when she ran on to Brackley’s pass

down the right flank and drilled a 14-yarder into the short-side corner.

But Lopez-Anido sewed it up with two second-half goals as she used her exceptional speed and skills to break in alone after taking passes from Fridtun. St. Louis had alertly raced off her line to stop two other Lopez-Anido breakaways in the second half.

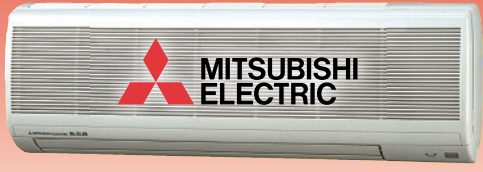
“A lot of my breakaways were due to my teammates’ passing,” said Lopez-Anido. “We have a really good formation where we’re able to get those through-balls.”

“Orono played a great game and we didn’t,” said Old Town coach Mike May. “They moved the ball well, they stayed compact in the middle and they were able to move our defense out of position pretty easily and that hurt us. They also had way more shots on goal.”

Midfielders Emily Hussey and Brackley played well for Old Town as did St. Louis.

Mitsubishi HEAT PUMPS

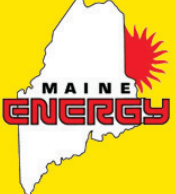
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