

Redskins have extra motivation against Pats

SPORTSDIRECT

After dispatching of the top two challengers to their supremacy in the AFC East, the undefeated New England Patriots venture out of division play when they host the Washington Redskins on Sunday (1 p.m., FOX-TV).

The Patriots have had a couple extra days of rest following a 36-7 mauling of Miami on Oct. 29 that put them three games clear of the New York Jets atop the AFC East.

The Redskins know what they are up against in New England, which is scoring a league-best 35.6 points per game.

"You know, on paper, it looks like (a mismatch), but that's motivation for us, obviously," Washington coach Jay Gruden said. "Really, anytime you have a chance to play a football game on Sunday in Foxborough, you've got to be ready to play, mentally and physically, obviously."

The Redskins are also

rested coming off a bye week that followed a pulsating last-minute victory versus Tampa Bay in which they erased a 24-point deficit to stay alive in the NFC East. Washington will get a boost to its passing game with the return of DeSean Jackson, who has been sidelined since the season opener due to a hamstring injury.

ABOUT THE REDSKINS (3-4): Washington quarterback Kirk Cousins is coming off his best game of the season, throwing for 317 yards

and three touchdowns, and figures to benefit from the return of speedy wideout Jackson, who averaged a league-best 20.9 yards per catch in 2014. Tight end Jordan Reed has 35 receptions despite missing two games and hauled in 11 passes for two TDs in the win over the Buccaneers. The Redskins' running game has hit a wall over the past three games with rookie Matt Jones rushing for 60 yards on 27 carries and Alfred Morris gaining 41 yards on 25 attempts.

ABOUT THE PATRIOTS (7-0): Quarterback Tom Brady is having perhaps the best season of his storied career, tying for the league lead with 20 touchdowns against only one interception after throwing for 356 yards and four scoring passes versus Miami. Wideout Julian Edelman is averaging more than seven catches per game while tight end Rob Gronkowski continues to be the league's biggest nightmarish matchup with seven touchdown

receptions and four 100-yard games. Dion Lewis has emerged as a dangerous receiving threat out of the backfield while the defense allows 19 points per game and has 26 sacks.

EXTRA POINTS: Brady has thrown for at least two TD passes in seven straight games. ... Cousins has tossed two interceptions in four of his seven contests this season. ... Patriots DE Chandler Jones recorded a pair of sacks last week and is tied for the league lead with 8.5.



JEROME MIRON | USA TODAY

Sprint Cup Series driver Joey Logano answers questions Friday before practice for the AAA Texas 500 at Texas Motor Speedway.

NASCAR

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Kenseth drew a two-race suspension on Tuesday for purposely wrecking leader Logano during an Eliminator Round race as part of the Chase for the NASCAR Sprint Cup. Kenseth was trailing by 10 laps and appeared to be retaliating against Logano, who had turned Kenseth with five laps remaining at Kansas two weeks earlier when they were battling for the lead.

Logano of Team Penske finds himself last among the eight remaining drivers in NASCAR's Chase for the Sprint Cup point standings. Logano was leading the race when contact with Kenseth

of Joe Gibbs Racing sent his No. 22 Ford into the wall. The incident occurred on Lap 254 of the scheduled 500-lap event. Kenseth, involved in an earlier wreck, was nine laps down at the time of the crash.

Kenseth expressed disappointment with the results of his appeals and thought he was being "unfairly made the example" because NASCAR does not have clear rules on penalties for retaliation.

"I am not going to change who I am, I'm not going to change what I stand for, I'm not going to change how I race," Kenseth said Thursday. "I've been in this business a long time. I feel I've had a pretty good career to this point and I feel like I'm going to continue to have

the respect on the racetrack that I feel I deserve."

Kenseth is eligible to return for the season finale at Homestead-Miami Speedway the weekend of Nov. 20-22.

Logano, having won a series-high six races this year, now likely must win this weekend at Texas or the following week at Phoenix in order to be one of the four drivers eligible for the championship.

"I'm not convinced this is a bad thing," Logano said Friday. "Our team is more fired up than ever. I'm more focused than ever. I'm pretty pumped up about being here at the racetrack today. ... Is it the way we wanted it to go? No. Of course not. Did we get the finish we felt like we deserved that day? No.

But this team has plenty of confidence."

Logano said he was disappointed when fans cheered after Kenseth rammed his car into the wall.

"Was I surprised to see the fans' reactions after something like that happened last week? Yes I was. I was disgusted by it," Logano said. "That was what I don't think any racer would expect out of it."

"But I am going to look at the silver lining on this one — there are more No. 22 T-shirts and Joey Logano T-shirts and hats around. ... I have more fans than I have ever had before, and I love it and I appreciate every one of them. They're very good people. They're not the ones throwing things on the racetrack."

Giants seek stronger defensive effort against Bucs

SPORTSDIRECT

After being gashed for seven touchdown passes last week, the New York Giants could see a key cog return to the defensive line on Sunday when they visit the Tampa Bay Buccaneers (4:05 p.m., FOX-TV).

Veteran Jason Pierre-Paul may be in line to make his season debut following a horrific fireworks attack in July, perhaps aiding an ailing pass defense that failed to harass Drew Brees in New York's 52-49 shoot-out loss last week. The Giants were going to announce his playing status on Saturday.

Pierre-Paul registered a team-high 12.5 sacks last season for the Giants, who have mustered a league-low

nine in 2015. Coach Tom Coughlin hasn't publicly divulged if the former South Florida star will have a happy homecoming on Sunday, only saying "if he's ready, we'll play him. If he's not ready, then we'll take more time."

Tampa Bay's Jameis Winston is hardly in the stratosphere of Brees, but the top overall pick has thrown four touchdown passes to help his team win two of its last three games. Winston didn't throw an interception for the third straight contest as the Buccaneers bounced back from surrendering a 24-point lead to post a 23-20 overtime victory over NFC South-rival Atlanta last week.

ABOUT THE GIANTS (4-4): Although bested by Brees on the scoreboard, Eli Manning's career-high six-

touchdown performance drew rave reviews — with three of those scores ending up in the hands of Odell Beckham Jr. The duo could be in for another solid outing if Manning repeats his previous effort versus Tampa Bay as the veteran quarterback threw for a personal-best 510 yards and three scores in a 41-34 victory in 2012. Beckham, who reeled in eight receptions for 130 yards against New Orleans, shares the league lead in touchdown receptions (seven) with Arizona's Larry Fitzgerald and New England tight end Rob Gronkowski.

ABOUT THE BUCCANEERS (3-4): After struggling in each of the previous two seasons, Doug Martin could enjoy a field day facing a Giants defense that is yielding a

league-high 427.5 yards per contest. Martin was held to just 71 versus the Falcons after amassing 365 in his previous three for Tampa Bay, which is fourth in rushing (131.3 yards per contest) this season. The Buccaneers may need to lean on Martin with wideout Vincent Jackson (knee) in line to miss his second straight contest and tight end Austin Sefarian-Jenkins (shoulder) likely to be out for his sixth.

EXTRA POINTS: Tampa Bay WR Mike Evans has been held to just three catches in three of his last four outings. ... New York's Will Tye will get the start as fellow TE Larry Donnell (neck) was ruled out on Thursday. ... The Giants are a league-best plus-10 in turnovers.

Champs

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player. When she shoots, she puts it where the goalie can't reach it."

He added the tall 16-year-old junior also is "very strong on the ball."

Fridtun, speedy striker Becky Lopez-Anido and influential midfielder Brinsley Chasse have been the offensive catalysts. They each have about 15 goals and 15-20 assists.

"[Fridtun] has really helped us connect passes and has introduced a new element to our team," said Lopez-Anido who, along with several others, has encouraged Fridtun to shoot more.

"Back home, they told me to shoot more, too," said Fridtun. "I try to shoot when I can."

The other newcomer who has been a key to Orono's success is diminutive outside back Brooklynne White.

"She is a smart player. She's very calm, she has good skills, she makes great decisions, and she uses her body very well, all 95 pounds of it," said Djajak.

Bangor has received a team-high 16 goals to go with four assists from fresh-

man striker Libby Speckhardt, and Bella Varisco has been outstanding at center back.

"Libby can receive the ball with her back to the goal, her first touch is great and she can shoot real well with both feet," Bangor coach Joe Johnson said. "Bella understands the game, she's very smart, very athletic and very good with her feet."

Hermon has received vital contributions from freshmen back Emma Allmon, backstriker Allison Treat and striker Olivia Nash.

"Emma is a very strong defender with great feet, Allison is a versatile left-side player who can make great crosses, and Olivia is very fast who can get in behind defenders. She has four goals," Hermon coach M.J. Ball said.

For Ashland, freshman starter Olivia Tardie has supplied stability to the midfield, according to coach Peter Belskis. Fleet-footed

Kassandra Nelson provides a spark and goal scoring punch (eight goals) off the bench, and Camryn Deabay is a strong, physical defensive midfielder. Senior Samantha Watt returned to Ashland after living in North Carolina for three years and has helped provide valuable depth in the back.

Suspended FIFA chief Blatter in hospital

REUTERS

ZURICH — Suspended FIFA president Sepp Blatter, his federation mired in a corruption crisis, is in hospital for medical checks but should be discharged soon, his U.S. lawyer said on Friday.

His former public relations officer, Klaus Stoeckler, said the 79-year-old Swiss, who was last month suspended for 90 days by the Ethics Committee of soccer's world governing body, was under "tremendous pressure from so many sides". He said he was suffering stress but was at home.

Later, however, Blatter's U.S. based lawyer Richard Cullen issued a statement saying:

"Because there have been media inquiries, I am announcing that President Blatter is in the hospital for a medical checkup. He is fine and expects to be home shortly."

FIFA, which is based in Zurich, has been in turmoil since 14 football officials and sports marketing executives, including two FIFA vice-presidents, were indicted by the United States in May.

Since then, Swiss authorities have opened their own investigation into FIFA's activities, and the Ethics Committee has suspended both Blatter and Michel Platini, the president of the European

governing body UEFA who had been favourite to replace him, for 90 days.

"He (Blatter) is under medical evaluation, the doctors took him out for a few days, the doctors expect to him be back (in circulation) around Thursday or Friday of next week," said Stoeckler.

"He is under tremendous pressure from so many sides and perhaps this is a little bit difficult for a man who is not the youngest. ... I saw him this morning and he will recover."

Blatter, who often impresses observers with his boundless energy, has been FIFA president since 1998.

He won a fifth mandate in May but, as pressure mounted, performed an about-turn four days later, announced he was stepping down and called a new Congress, which will take place in Zurich in February, to choose his successor.

In September, the Swiss attorney general's office initiated criminal proceedings against Blatter over a \$2.1 million payment from FIFA to Platini in 2011 for work carried out by the Frenchman between 1998 and 2002.

Both men, who are suspended pending a full Ethics Committee investigation, have denied any wrongdoing. Blatter has said he still hopes to take part in the congress in February.

Sports A.M.

Ex-NFL star McNabb gets 18 days in jail for DUI

PHOENIX — Former NFL star quarterback Donovan McNabb was sentenced to 18 days in jail on Friday after pleading guilty to misdemeanor drunken driving in Arizona, a court official said.

McNabb, an ex-Philadelphia Eagles standout, also received 72 days of home detention following the jail sentence and must complete 30 hours of community service and undergo counseling under the plea deal in Gilbert Municipal Court, administrator Adam Walterson said.

Police said the retired NFL veteran was arrested on June 28 after rear-ending a vehicle stopped at an intersection for a red light at about 11:30 p.m. in Gilbert, a suburb southeast of Phoenix.

Laboratory results showed McNabb's blood-alcohol content was 0.171 percent, considered to be "extreme DUI" under Arizona law, police said.

UMPI 7th at national cross country meet

LAKELAND, Florida — The University of Maine-Presque Isle men's cross country team finished seventh in the United States Collegiate Athletic Association's national championship meet Friday.

Sully Jackson paced UMPI with a 29th-place finish in 29 minutes, 58 seconds over the 8K course.

He was followed by Corey Hebert (48th, 31:27), Connor Hrynuik (59th, 31:30), Andrew Hunt (54th, 31:53), Saul Nunez (60th, 32:13), Trevor Levesque (65th, 32:40), Mitchell St. Peter (74th, 33:11) and Matthew Forshey (91st, 34:29).

Berea (Ky.) College won the title

behind first-place finisher Emmanuel Kimmei (26:32). SUNY-Environmental Science and Forestry was second and was followed by SUNY-Delhi, Paul Smith's (N.Y.) College and Alfred State (N.Y.) of 15 scoring teams.

Mets offer Murphy \$15.8M for one year

The New York Mets made a one-year, \$15.8 million qualifying offer Friday to postseason standout and free agent Daniel Murphy.

Murphy has until Nov. 13 to decide, but no free agent has accepted a qualifying offer over the past three off-seasons. If he declines, the Mets will receive a compensatory draft pick once he is signed.

Murphy stood out in New York's stunning ride to the 2015 World Series, setting major league record by hitting homers in six consecutive postseason games and was named MVP of the Na-

tional League Championship Series against the Chicago Cubs.

He batted .281 with 14 homers and 73 RBIs during the regular season.

Blues sign Havlat

The St. Louis Blues signed forward Martin Havlat to a one-year contract Friday and activated defenseman Kevin Shattenkirk from injured reserve.

Shattenkirk, 26, has missed the last 10 games after he suffered a lower-body injury on Oct. 13. The 6-foot, 208-pound defenseman has posted one assist and six penalty minutes in three appearances this season.

Havlat's one-year, two-way deal is worth \$600,000 at the NHL level and \$200,000 if he is in the American Hockey League.

Havlat, 34, spent last season with the New Jersey Devils, where he registered 14 points (five goals,

nine assists) and 10 penalty minutes in 40 regular-season games. The 6-2, 209-pound forward was originally drafted by Ottawa in the first round (26th overall) of the 1999 NHL draft.

Jets' Mangold to play Sunday

New York Jets center Nick Mangold is expected to play against the Jacksonville Jaguars on Sunday after missing one game due to a neck injury.

Quarterback Ryan Fitzpatrick was listed as probable with his own injury. The right-handed Fitzpatrick will start Sunday's game despite tearing ligaments in his left thumb last Sunday.

Backup quarterback Geno Smith (non-throwing shoulder) also is listed as probable. Safety Calvin Pryor (ankle) has been ruled out while receiver Brandon Marshall (toe/ankle) is questionable.

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