Browns QB McCown out for season

THE SPORTS XCHANGE

Josh McCown will miss the rest of the season with a broken collarbone, Cleveland Browns head coach Mike Pettine said Tuesday.

Where the Browns turn next at quarterback is unclear, and Pettine was in no mood to discuss the decision the day

after Cleveland **NOTEBOOK** lost on a gameending blocked field goal return for a touchdown

on "Monday Night Football." McCown left Monday's game and was replaced by Austin Davis, who threw an interception late but with Baltimore's Matt Schaub returned the favor, the Browns were in position to win the game with a 51-yard field goal.

The kick was blocked and returned for a game-winning touchdown by the Ravens as time ex-

McCown started the game because Johnny Manziel, who had been named the team's starter for the rest of the season, was sent back to the bench and relegated to No. 3 quarterback against the Ravens. Manziel was being punished for reportedly lying to the team about when a video of him partying took place.

Manziel claimed the video was old, per ESPN Cleveland, but the team learned it had been shot dur-

ing the Browns' bye last weekend. On Monday night, despite a cou-

ple of critical mistakes, Schaub made enough plays to earn another start this week at Miami.

"It's been a while, but it felt good," Schaub said. "We had a good week of practice and meetings, and good preparation, and felt good out there. I was seeing things pretty clearly. I wasn't really surprised by too much."

Schaub went 20-of-34 for 232 yards and two touchdowns. However, he also threw a pair of interceptions — one for a Browns' 52yard touchdown and another in the final minute of play that could have potentially led to Cleveland's game-winning field goal.

Instead, defensive end Brent Urban, playing in his first career game, blocked a 51-yard field-goal attempt by Travis Coons. Safety Will Hill picked up the loose ball and ran 64 yards for the Ravens' 33-27 victory as time expired.

Baltimore extended its NFL record of having each of its 11 games decided by eight points or less. This time, however, the outcome was in their favor.

"We're battle tested," Hill said. "We've all been fighting all year long, no matter the ups and downs, the injuries, people getting cut. It doesn't matter. We believe in each other. Faith and guts. That's all we have now. We'll continue to fight and be

the best Raven team we can be."

At the end of the game, Ravens head coach John Harbaugh praised Schaub, who snapped a six-game losing streak as a starter and won for the first time since December 2013.

'What he's going to think about are the two interceptions," Harbaugh said. "That's just the way he is. He comes up to me and I can see the look on his face. And it's like, 'Dude, you won the game. You and us, we win together. We lose together. It's a team effort.' He's capable of playing winning football."

Bills DT Williams placed on IR

Buffalo Bills defensive tackle Kyle Williams was placed on injured reserve.

The Bills signed three players Tuesday, including defensive tackle T.J. Barnes, defensive end Lavar Edwards and linebacker Kevin

Barnes was signed off the practice squad of the New York Jets. He's a 6-7, 364-pound three-year veteran. In addition to time with the Jaguars, Barnes played in 12 games with the Jets.

Edwards signed off the practice squad of the Dallas Cowboys, has also played for the Chicago Bears, Oakland Raiders and Tennessee Titans since entering the league as a fifth round pick (142nd overall) in 2013 with the Titans.

Reddick joins the 53-man roster of the Bills after spending time on the team's practice squad earlier in the season. He was an undrafted free agent in 2013.

Williams had season-ending left knee surgery after six weeks of treatment on his torn meniscus failed to bring relief.

Browns bring back WR Pryor

Terrelle Pryor is rejoining the Cleveland Browns as a wide re-

He played the position with the team throughout training camp after entering the NFL as a quarterback with the Oakland Raiders.

Pryor missed most of training camp with a pulled hamstring after making the conversion from quarterback. Coach Mike Pettine said in August that Pryor was turning heads.

He was waived on Sept. 10 and replaced by running back Robert

Pryor could also serve as the emergency quarterback for the

Starter Josh McCown is likely to miss the rest of the season with a collarbone injury.

Dolphins re-sign C McClendon

Veteran offensive lineman Jacques McClendon signed with the Miami Dolphins, who released linebacker James-Michael Johnson.

calendar year since head coach ailments that have cut into

Bill Belichick's New P

atriots (10-1) have had to deal

with a real loss. While New England dropped the 2014 season fi-

nale to the Buffalo Bills, it was a

meaningless game that saw

As much as the team was

disappointed with Sunday

night's loss, it may be bol-

stered by the report of

Gronkowski not being lost

for just a game or two — the

Patriots host the Eagles on

Sunday and then will travel to

the Texans for another Sun-

day night affair on Dec. 13 —

Even if Gronkowski is lost

feet wet in the second half.

loss at Green Bay.

for the season.

McClendon has played in 23 career games with five starts.

He gives the Dolphins insurance for Mike Pouncey, who injured his foot Sunday against the New York Jets.

McClendon was signed by the Dolphins as an unrestricted free agent on April 22, 2015 but was released before Week 1 of the regular

season on Sept. 11. McClendon re-signed with the Dolphins on Sept. 14 and appeared in one game at Jacksonville (Sept. 20) prior to being released on Sept.

Giants sign OG Gettis

Offensive guard Adam Gettis was signed to the New York Giants' active roster from the practice squad of the Oakland Raiders.

Gettis spent most of the season on the Giants practice squad. He was released Nov. 4 and signed with the Raiders.

The Giants were without center Weston Richburg and guard Justin Pugh due to injuries in Sunday's loss to the Washington Redskins. They lost Geoff Schwartz (fractured left leg) in the game.

Gettis, 26, has worked with most of the offensive linemen on the roster and understands coordinator Ben McAdoo's scheme. Because of other injuries, he lined up with the first team offense for several reps in training camp.

College football top four remain same

THE SPORTS XCHANGE

Nothing changed among the top four in the latest College Football Playoff rankings released Tuesday night.

Clemson (12-0), one of two unbeaten teams remaining in the Football Bowl Subdivision, maintained its grip on the No. 1 spot that it has held for five weeks. The Tigers face North Carolina in the Atlantic Coast Conference championship game on Saturday night with a chance to secure the top seed in the

four-team playoff. Alabama (11-1), which enters the Southeastern Conference championship game against Florida on Saturday with one loss, remained solidly at No. 2 and was followed again this week by No. 3 Oklahoma, which solidified its spot with a decisive win at rival Oklahoma State last Saturday to claim the Big 12 championship.

At No. 4 again was Iowa (12-0), the country's other unbeaten team. The Hawkeyes won the Big Ten West Division, and they face East Division co-champion and fifth-ranked Michigan State (11-1) in the conference

Hockey

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"And I believe part of the rea-

son there is parity in college

hockey is because of the player

pool such as it exists right now

without having restrictions

placed on it," Gendron added. 'Certain schools who may not

have the resources to success-

fully compete for certain players

[ages 17-18] are able to compete

by having a larger player pool."

cludes four 21-year-olds, three

20-year-olds, a 19-year-old and

an 18-year-old.

Arena

Continued from Page B5

wait until the America East

press release comes out be-

fore he comments on the

tourney coming to Portland.

at Binghamton University's

Events Center in Vestal.

New York, last season and

will be held there again on

March 5-6.

The tournament was held

UMaine's freshman class in-

The Big Ten schools

haven't won a national cham-

championship game Satur-

day night in Indianapolis. The winner of the Big Ten game appears to be headed

to the CFP semifinals. Ohio State is right behind its Big Ten brethren this week at No. 6. The Buckeyes (11-1) moved up with a resounding win at Michigan

Rounding out the top 10 were Stanford (10-2), which plays USC in the Pac-12 title game Saturday; Notre Dame (10-2); Florida State (10-2) and North Carolina (11-1), which moved up four

Oklahoma State and Michigan fell out of the top 10 after their losses

The final rankings will be released at noon Sunday.

UCF job goes to Oregon's **Scott Frost**

Central Florida hired Oregon offensive coordinator Scott Frost as head coach on Tuesday.

Frost takes over a program reeling after the resignation of George O'Leary. UCF was 0-12 in 2015.

Frost was offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach at Oregon since 2013.

Gronk

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locker room with a slight limp, but on Monday, reports indicated that the injury was not serious and he could return to the field as early as Sunday night at Houston.

An MRI confirmed that Gronkowski has a bruised right knee but no tears, a source told ESPN on Monday.

Gronkowski was in the locker room walking around as reporters entered but did not answer questions after the Broncos handed the Patriots their first loss of the season.

Gronkowski cut through bad weather and the Denver defense to make six catches for 88 yards and a touchdown before being knocked out of the game.

The injury occurred with 2:49 remaining in the fourth quarter when Broncos defensive back Darian Stewart hit Gronkowski low on an incomplete pass. Gronkowski's leg whipped back as it made contact with Stewart.

Gronkowski has dealt with injuries in the past. He broke his forearm on Nov. 18, 2012, and tore his ACL on Dec. 8, 2013.

'He has been through a lot. He is a tough guy," Patriots quarterback Tom Brady said Monday.

Meanwhile, it has been a full

Danny Amendola (knee) missed last week and could

Brady's core of pass catchers.

Lewis (ACL) is on injured re-

serve and Julian Edelman

(foot) could be out until the

postseason following surgery.

Pass-catching back Dion

rookie Jimmy Garoppolo get his No, the last time the Patriremain sidelined for a group that also saw little-used thirdots faced true defeat was exactly one year ago — Nov. year receiver Aaron Dobson 30, 2014 in a 26-21 hard fought (ankle) land on IR.

As such, a New England offense that had topped 30 points in six consecutive games has now been at 27 or fewer in four straight, including two one-score wins and the team's first loss of the season on Sunday night.

New England is in the unfamiliar spot of losing on the scoreboard as well as the familiar spot of losing yet another player to injury. Dealing it's the latest in a long list of with the latter will make it

more difficult to overcome the former and move forward, but next-man-up is a way of life in Foxborough, as it is in pretty much all 32 NFL cities by this point in the season.

"I've been in the NFL long enough to know it's part of the deal," tight end Scott Chandler said. "Injuries don't always pick who they come upon. It happens to everyone and you've got to be ready to move on as a team and have the next guy step up and make plays. I think if you sit there and dwell on it, it might (be overwhelming), but we can't do that. We don't have a choice. We've got to move on."

Said cornerback Malcolm Butler: "When you're out there, it's a 100 percent risk you can get injured. You don't want those things to happen, but it's next man up and you just have to keep on moving."

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Under the current tournament format, the quarterfinals

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Renouf

also sidestep checkers at the point in order to get into shooting lanes.

He said he has become more confident rushing the puck and is "more comfortable in the offensive zone."

pionship since 2007. Yet they have 23 titles between them. Gendron pointed out that

Division I college hockey has the highest Academic Progress Rate in the country. The Academic Progress Rate, which has been in place since 2003, is based on players' grades, their progress toward their degrees and their staying-in-school rate. It also takes into consideration players who leave school early but eventually finish their degrees.

NCAA statistics revealed that the four-year score of 985 (based on a scale up to 1,000), concluding with the 2013-14 season, tied men's hockey with fencing and water polo among men's sports, but hockey was

with more than 22 teams.

"The point is there is nothing wrong with the way it is. We have kids graduating, and 30 percent of NHL players were trained at the college level so, obviously, college hockey has also served as a development program for elite players," Gendron said.

He is "distressed" that this proposal wasn't first discussed with the other conferences.

"That's not right. Hockey is unique because you have schools of varying resources and sizes, and you also have Division III schools with Division I hockey programs. To propose legislation without consulting other schools makes me wonder what their the top score among sports motivation is," he said.

and semifinals will be held at the Events Center and the championship game will be hosted by the higher seed.

Last year, second seed Albany hosted the final after top seed Maine was upset by Hartford in the semifinals, 65-54.

Albany topped Hartford 84-75 to capture its fourth consecutive AE tournament title. Bourgue indicated that the league's athletic directors are

likely to stick with the current The Cross Insurance Arena and the University of Maine

and logs a ton of minutes. The 6-foot-3, 209-pound

Renouf had one goal and 10

assists in 34 games as a

3 & 9 in 39 games last sea-

son. He is tied on the team

on three goals and five as-

co-hosted the Ice Breaker hockey tournament in October, which involved North Dakota, Michigan State and Lake Superior State in addition to UMaine. North Dakota won the tournament.

Creech said following the Ice Breaker Tournament that UMaine expected to submit a bid to host a hockey regional in Portland. The earliest UMaine could host one was for the 2017-18 season and those sites aren't expected to be announced until next September.

He plays in all situations a four-game winning streak into this weekend's homeand-home Hockey East set with New Hampshire. They will host UNH on Friday freshman before notching night before playing in Dur-

ham the next night. "We feel good. We're fired The Black Bears will take huge for our confidence."

in points with eight points up," said Renouf. "If we could get two more wins before the break, it would be For subscriptions, call 990-8219