

## Cowboys get Cassel from Bills with Romo out

## Stellar performances from fill-ins show depth of Steelers

PITTSBURGH, Sept 23, (AP) — The NFL's second-leading rusher is about to lose his starting job on the Pittsburgh Steelers.

The wide receiver who has already quadrupled his entire 2014 output remains a placeholder, at least for now.

And if DeAngelo Williams and Darrius Heyward-Bey are being honest, they're fine with it. Then again, considering the players they've been filling in for, they don't really have a choice.

Williams will step aside for All-Pro Le'Veon Bell when Bell returns from a two-game suspension on Sunday at St. Louis.

Heyward-Bey will almost certainly see his spot in the rotation change when Martavis Bryant has his four-week league-enforced absence end next month.

While Pittsburgh coach Mike Tomlin made it a point to thank the 32-year-old Williams for his contributions, including 127 yards rushing in the Steelers' season-opening loss to the Patriots and a team-record-tying three rushing touchdowns in last Sunday's romp over San Francisco, Tomlin left little doubt Tuesday about who will be in the backfield with quarterback

Ben Roethlisberger in St. Louis.

"I'm going to play Le'Veon Bell," Tomlin said.

Williams, who called Pittsburgh's top-ranked offense "a beautiful puzzle," made sure to take a bow after his three scores versus the 49ers. Consider it a signature move for the professional wrestling fan, one that might have to be put on the shelf with Bell back in the fold.

## FOOTBALL

Bell's suspension resulted from his arrest on drug and DUI charges in August 2014. The 23-year-old finished second in the league in all-purpose yards in 2014 and trimmed his body fat to 4 percent during the offseason. He believes he's in the best shape of his life and is easily one of the best receiving backs in the NFL.

Yet Williams showed there is plenty of power left in his legs even after a decade in the NFL. His three short scoring runs against San Francisco highlighted his ability to find a crease at the goal line or create one on his own, something Bell is still working on.



Pittsburgh Steelers inside linebacker Ryan Shazier (50) grabs San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick (7) by the jersey as he scrambles in the fourth quarter of an NFL football game on Sept 20 in Pittsburgh. Kaepernick got loose but was tackled down field. (AP)

"He showed he can come in and help this team," Bell said. "We are different

styles of runners, so I think they will use us both."

And the Steelers will surely find a way to keep Heyward-Bey in the mix even after Bryant completes his suspension for violating the league's substance abuse policy.

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**Matt Cassel** is headed to **Dallas** in a trade as the **Cowboys** try to bolster their depth at quarterback while **Tony Romo** is sidelined at least seven games because of a broken left collarbone.

The Cowboys acquired Cassel from **Buffalo** on Tuesday, sending a fifth-round NFL draft pick in 2017 to the Bills and getting their seventh-round pick that year.

Both teams announced the trade, and two people familiar with the deal told The Associated Press about the draft picks involved because the rounds of the picks weren't disclosed.

**Brandon Weeden** is expected to start for Dallas on Sunday against **Arizona**, but Cassel is a veteran with far more experience than the fourth-year pro. He has 71 starts in 90 games over 11 seasons, not counting the opener this year when he took the first snap for the **Bills**.

The **Cowboys** (2-0) traded for the 33-year-old Cassel a few hours after

putting Romo on the injured list. Romo was injured in last weekend's 20-10 win at Philadelphia, and the earliest he can return to the team is Nov. 22 at Miami.

Weeden, who turns 32 next month, has lost eight straight games as a starter, including last year against Arizona when Romo was out with a back injury. The skid goes back to his two-year stint in Cleveland, where he had a 5-15 record.

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 In an effort to create a family-friendly environment on game day, the **Vikings** announced on Tuesday that they will install lactation suites at their temporary home, TCF Bank Stadium, as well as in their new stadium set to open next season.

The Vikings say two Mamava suites for nursing mothers will be fully operational by the time the team hosts the **Kansas City Chiefs** on Oct. 18.

The Vikings also plan to have the pods in the new US Bank Stadium.

Each 4-foot (1.2 meter) by 8-foot (2.4 meter) unit is private and mobile. They are furnished with benches and an electrical outlet for plugging in breast pumps.

## Hazlewood to go back to basics

## Tainted trio will tarnish Pak league's image

LAHORE, Sept 23, (RTRS) — Involving the tainted trio of Salman Butt, Mohammad Asif and Mohammad Amir will be "extremely dangerous" for the reputation of the inaugural Pakistan Super League (PSL), former captain Ramiz Raja has said.

Former captain Butt and pacemen Asif and Amir were cleared by the International Cricket Council (ICC) to return to competitive cricket from Sept 2 after serving bans for a fixing scandal in 2010.

The trio have been put under strict monitoring by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) and local media have ruled out an international return for any of them before February.

The inaugural PSL, to be held in February in either United Arab Emirates or Doha, is likely to feature them but Raja feared it would be a setback for the image of the Twenty20 competition which will also feature players including Kevin Pietersen, Shakib Al Hasan and Dwayne Bravo.

"I have solid views regarding this matter. The crime committed by them is unforgivable," Ramiz, now a commentator, told Dawn News.

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 As a new-look Australia bid to get back to winning ways in Bangladesh after their humbling Ashes defeat, paceman **Josh Hazlewood** will stay at home hop-

## CRICKET

ing to recapture the consistency that deserted him at the wrong time in England.

Along with left-arm strike bowler **Mitchell Johnson**, Hazlewood has been rested from the Bangladesh tour to recharge for upcoming series against New Zealand and West Indies.

Both of the fast men bowled well in patches in England but failed to make an impression when the series was on the line.

"I think I started very well, the first two Tests were probably the best for me, then things caught up with me," Hazlewood told Cricket Australia's website (cricket.com.au).

"I think I just probably lacked consistency in the third and fourth Tests.

"I probably tried to do a bit too much with the ball.

"You see that Dukes ball swinging and nipping around and you try and do too much, rather than just be patient.

"I think the Australian wickets are going to be a bit flatter and it will suit that, you have to be a bit patient and wait for wickets."

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 England fast bowler **Mark Wood** has been awarded a central contract following his impressive performances against New Zealand and Australia this year.

The 25-year-old took 19 wickets in six Test matches and bowled Australia's **Nathan Lyon** at Trent Bridge to seal England's Ashes victory.

One-day and Twenty20 captain **Eoin Morgan** was also added to the nine players who were already on central contracts.

## City money to Bucks new arena

## King promises athleticism, but not NBA championship

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey, Sept 23, (AP) — Brooklyn Nets general manager Billy King reached his goal of reducing the payroll and getting younger players in the NBA offseason.

He didn't talk of a championship Tuesday for the first time in several years during his annual media day before training camp.

"We have a chance to make the playoffs," King said. "We're going to build and develop our young guys. The goal in the offseason was to get under the (luxury) tax line (of \$84.7 million) and we did that. We wanted to reduce payroll, get under the luxury tax and get more athletic and younger."

It's a far different message than when

## BASKETBALL

Russian owner Mikhail Prokhorov bought a majority share of the team in 2010 and proclaimed the Nets would win a championship within five years or Prokhorov, one of Russia's most eligible billionaire bachelors, would get married.

Well, Prokhorov is still single.

"We didn't win the championship with the team we had," King said. "That was the goal. We didn't do that. When we traded to get Paul (Pierce), Joe (Johnson) and KG (Kevin Garnett), we thought we had a two-year window to win a championship. I don't know why it didn't work. I honestly don't. We went as far as we could with those guys."

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 A city council in Milwaukee on Tuesday approved its piece of the \$250

## Kuwaiti basketball squad vow better performance vs Palestine

CHANGSHA, China, Sept 23, (KUNA) — On the heels of losing a match earlier today against Hong Kong in the 28th FIBA Asia Championship, currently being held in the Chinese city of Changsha from Sept 23 - Oct 3, Kuwait national basketball team players vowed to turn things around in their match with Palestine tomorrow.

In remarks to KUNA, the Kuwaiti players admitted the tough going they had ahead of them, in a great part due to their modest preparation compared to other teams.

Lack of physical attributes and fitness figured high in the defeat against the team from Hong Kong, said the Kuwaiti basketballer Abdullah Tawfiq, noting the Kuwaiti

players were adamant to give a better performance tomorrow.

His teammate Yousif Burahma said tomorrow's match against the team from Palestine would be daunting as the Palestinian players have shown great dexterity and capability to turn things around as they did in their match with the team from the Philippines, when they came from behind scoring a 75-73 win.

Kuwaiti basketballer Mishari Budahoom agreed with his teammates that they should put their loss to Hong Kong behind them and concentrate on their match with Palestine tomorrow. He thanked the staff and the coach of the Kuwaiti team for their efforts and their infinite support of the players.



Linda Melanie Villumsen (center), of New Zealand, celebrates winning the women's elite time trials, with second-place finisher Anna Van Der Breggen (left), of the Netherlands, and Lisa Brennauer (right), of Germany at the UCI Road World Championships cycling races in Richmond, Virginia on Sept 22. (AP)

## Kiwi Villumsen wins world time trial title

## Breggen second

## Bid to restore credibility

RICHMOND, United States, Sept 22, (AFP) — Danish-born New Zealander **Linda Villumsen**, five times previously on the podium without a victory, broke through on Tuesday to win the women's individual time-trial at the **World Road Cycling Championships**.

The 30-year-old Kiwi, who won last year's Commonwealth Games time-trial, captured the world crown by completing the 29.9 kms (18.5 miles) course in 40mins 29.87secs.

Dutch star **Anna Van der Breggen** was the runner-up, 2.54 seconds back, with 2014 world champion **Lisa Brennauer** of Germany third, 5.26 off the pace.

"I just can't believe it. I really can't believe it," Villumsen said. "Everything has turned out my way. It's incredible."

## CYCLING

Villumsen, who became a New Zealand citizen six years ago, was third at worlds in 2009, 2010 and 2012, and second in 2011 and 2013. She was also fourth in the 2012 London Olympics, missing a medal by less than two seconds.

"It's difficult being every time on the podium and nearly there and not quite there and almost there," Villumsen said. "It all worked out my way today and it feels great."

Racing over the longest women's world time-trial course in 20 years helped, Villumsen said.

"I like a longer course," she said. "Usually I fade out a little bit. On a longer course I hold myself back. When I was halfway and I wasn't empty, I thought, 'This is going well.'"

Even after she moved into the lead, she was scared she might miss out again until her dream finally came true. "I don't really know how I did it. I could only think: 'go as fast as I can,'" she said. "At the end, I was like, 'I'm not going to say anything until the last rider is across.'"

German-born Australian **Katrin Garfoot** was fourth, just ahead of two-time reigning Olympic champion

## UCI approves reforms for men's professional cycling

RICHMOND, Virginia, Sept 23, (AP) — The UCI announced a series of reforms Tuesday aimed at streamlining the calendar and providing the top level of men's professional cycling with a more stable operating environment.

While full details of the reforms were not disclosed, the sport's global governing body did confirm that there will be a maximum of 18 WorldTour teams from 2017-19. Three-year licenses will be granted on criteria that includes ethics, finances and competitiveness.

A limited number of new races will be added to the schedule, and new and existing races will be subjected to a strict set of standards to ensure the highest level of competition.

Teams will also be required to follow rules on how they manage riders and staff.

"These are important changes that will help to further enhance men's professional road cycling and aide its global growth and development," said UCI president **Brian Cookson**, who has been pushing for reforms since taking office two years ago. "I believe that these measures will help to bring greater stability and growth to men's professional road cycling."

Kristin **Armstrong**, a 42-year-old American and two-time world champion back from retirement.

Armstrong was the second of 44 riders on the course, leaving nearly 2 1/2 hours before last-out **Brennauer**, but had the time to beat entering the final wave of riders.

Drama built as Villumsen, third out in the final wave, reached 7km 6.43 seconds ahead of **Armstrong**, and Van der Breggen trimmed that interval best by four seconds.

From there, Villumsen set the pace all the way to the finish.

"I expected a big fight for the medals," Brennauer said.

The reforms follow a long, often acrimonious series of negotiations with major teams and race organizers over the future of the sport. But missing were several contentious ideas, including the shortening of major stage races and the implementation of a relegation system.

The reforms were announced after a meeting of the Professional Cycling Council and their approval by the UCI's management committee during this week's world championships.

The three-year license structure is designed to encourage sponsors to invest in the sport by ensuring teams are more stable, while the additional races and streamlined schedule could help to showcase the sport to more fans in a way that is easier for them to follow.

Meanwhile, teams must ensure that riders are properly supported and supervised, which includes strict anti-doping controls. This measure is being implemented after a series of doping cases on the **Astana** squad called into question how much self-policing there was among teams.

There were also changes announced to the world rankings system.

"The UCI is sending a strong signal to cycling fans, broadcasters and commercial partners about the continued improvements and organizational structures of our sport," Cookson said. "This is an important moment for professional cycling and another major step forward as we continue to restore trust and credibility."

Van der Breggen, 25, added to a season that saw her win the Women's Giro d'Italia and La Course by Le Tour as well as the Dutch time-trial title.

"It's nice to be on the podium," she said. "My season has gone better than I expected. I'm very happy."

Brennauer, 27, claimed the last podium spot only two days after helping **Velocio** capture a fourth consecutive women's team time-trial crown.

"I tried not to overpace it," Brennauer said. "I tried to save enough for the last straight. I'm pretty happy with my strategy. With that climb at the end there's not much you can hold back."

## BASKETBALL

In the West, **Maya Moore** had 20 points and eight rebounds to help the **liberty** reach the conference finals by defeating the **Los Angeles Sparks** 91-80.

The Liberty trailed 72-71 with 1:46 left when **Kiah Stokes** hit a layup off a nifty assist from **Rodgers**. After a steal on the other end by **Rodgers**, she hit a layup with 58 seconds left to give New York a three-point lead.

**Epiphany Prince** then hit a 15-footer with 20 seconds left, and **Ivory Latta's** 3-pointer was blocked with 5 seconds remaining as New York held on for the win.



Phoenix Mercury's Candice Dupree (4) drives to the basket against Tulsa Shock's Odyssey Sims (0) during the first half of the opening game of a WNBA basketball Western Conference semifinal series on Sept 17 in Phoenix. (AP)