

PAPER CHASE

HARPER HOLDUP SEEMS TO BE ABOUT BRAGGING RIGHTS



STILL IN THE RUNNING FOR FREE AGENT BRYCE HARPER



San Francisco Giants
The Giants met with Harper for a second time in Tuesday, and the two sides are now reportedly discussing a 10-year deal rather than a short-term alternative.

2018
Wins.....73
Losses.....89
Fifth in NL West



Los Angeles Dodgers
The Dodgers were thought to have bowed out of the Harper race, but they met with him earlier this week and are reportedly interested in trying to do a short-term deal.

2018
Wins.....92
Losses.....71
Won NL West



Philadelphia Phillies
Though long considered the favorites to land Harper, the Phillies were concerned about the Dodgers' re-entry into the sweepstakes. Philadelphia did not sign Manny Machado and could go 0-for-2 in their pursuit of the biggest free agents in a decade.

2018
Wins.....80
Losses.....82
Third in NL East



Washington Nationals
Nationals owner Mark Lerner told NBC Sports Washington last Friday that the team has "moved on" from Harper and claimed they had not heard from Harper's camp in "a couple months."

2018
Wins.....82
Losses.....80
Second in NL East



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ROBERT COHN; ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOGRAPHS

When free-agent outfielder Bryce Harper turned down the Washington Nationals' offer of 10 years and \$300 million at the end of last season, he narrowed the pool of potential suitors to a select few willing to pay more.

By ADAM ZIELONKA
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

All indications are that Bryce Harper wants to be baseball's highest-paid player.

When the star slugger turned down a 10-year, \$300 million offer from the Washington Nationals at the tail end of his last season with the club, he narrowed his pool of potential suitors to the select few willing to go bigger than that number.

In the 120-plus days since free agency began, signing Harper has been an elusive task for the handful of teams pursuing him, while former Orioles star Manny Machado signed with the San Diego Padres for the same length and total value Washington offered Harper.

Then, this week, another young star earned his payday before Harper. The Colorado Rockies awarded their four-time All-Star and six-time Gold Glove winner, Nolan Arenado, a new eight-year, \$260 million contract.

Arenado's deal has a \$32.5 million average annual value, second behind the \$34.42 million for pitcher Zack Greinke, but a record for a positional player. Arenado has a full no-trade provision and can terminate the deal after three seasons.

Arenado's deal is the second financial splash by midmarket NL West teams during spring training after San Diego landed Machado.

In a way, this has turned the traditional power structure in MLB — the big spenders based in New York and Los Angeles the smaller-market teams scraping by with low payrolls — on its head.

More pertinently, if Harper wants to become the highest

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Harper's excellent adventure now looks more like a bad horror flick

Surely, the finale is approaching and the credits are about to roll as "Bryce Harper's Unfortunate Offseason" fades to black.

Expected to be a blockbuster adventure, it has been a dud of a horror flick, with Harper and agent Scott Boras as the victims and the market playing the killer.

The latest slashing was delivered Tuesday by the Colorado Rockies, who signed their All-Star third baseman



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Nolan Arenado to an eight-year contract that averages \$32.5 million per year, a position-player record. Harper and Boras had barely recovered from the wounds San Diego inflicted by signing Manny Machado for \$300 million, the richest free-agent contract in major sports history.

You might recall that Harper turned down \$300 million from the Nationals. That was supposed to be his floor; other teams would erect the walls

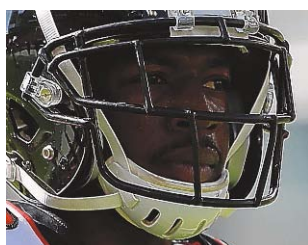
and ceiling. Boras had talked up Harper's free agency for years, amid suggestions that the slugger could become baseball's first \$400 million player.

Three spring trainings ago, Harper said "don't sell me short" when asked about a potential \$400 million deal.

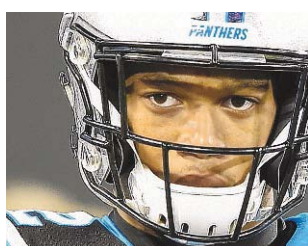
It's safe to say he'll come up short, not even close enough to require a measurement.

Chasing the last dollar has its rewards and it makes score-keeping simple. But it also entails some risk. Though Harper

» see **SNYDER** | B15



Falcons receiver Calvin Ridley



Panthers receiver D.J. Moore



Broncos receiver Courtland Sutton

NFL

College wideouts face tough jump up to NFL

By MATTHEW PARAS
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

INDIANAPOLIS | Minnesota Vikings general manager Rick Spielman gave some advice to his son J.D., a wideout at Nebraska. Knowing what it takes for receivers to have success at the professional level, Spielman said he told him it's not just enough to be able to win matchups on physical talent alone.

Spielman's message was simple: Learn the technique.

"You have to look at the physical ability, but a lot of times these guys are coming in having played basketball on grass," Spielman said of evaluating college wide receivers. "They never get in a

huddle. ... I looked at a lot of receivers that have never really had to sit there and face a top corner that's going to jam you off the line of scrimmage. That's all new."

Year after year, rookie wide receivers struggle to make an impact in the NFL. In 2018, only seven of the 34 wideouts drafted finished with at least 500 yards. Of those seven, just three — Atlanta's Calvin Ridley, Carolina's D.J. Moore and Denver's Courtland Sutton — gained more than 700 yards. None reached 1,000.

This year, the Redskins have a major need at wide receiver. But as they meet with prospects at the scouting combine this week,

» see **REDSKINS** | B15



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Forward Tom Wilson thinks the Capitals' slow starts may be because every team wants to give the defending Stanley Cup champions their best.

CAPITALS

Sloppy finishes, slow starts plague Capitals

By ADAM ZIELONKA
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The Washington Capitals are a second period team. That's the good news.

The Capitals have scored 86 of their 217 goals this season in the second period, including four in Tuesday night's 7-2 drubbing of the Ottawa Senators. They've allowed just 64 in the middle frame this season, an average of one per game.

It's the bookends of games where Washington has been lackluster lately: slow starts and, occasionally, protecting one-goal leads at the end of the third period. They're separate problems, but taken together, it could spell

a difficulty to keep up intensity for a full 60 minutes — a bigger issue come playoff time.

The Capitals allowed a goal 3:40 into their loss to Buffalo last Saturday, a goal 21 seconds into the game the following day against the New York Rangers and two goals in 7:10 to Ottawa.

Tom Wilson thinks it might be because every team wants to give the defending Stanley Cup champions their 100 percent best.

"Teams definitely want to come out and play hard against us right away. They know that they need to," Wilson said Wednesday. "We've got a good team in this locker room, and it's our job to

» see **CAPITALS** | B15



Politics, sure, but sports has no room for hate

Here we go again ... with a twist. Another athlete has made national headlines for his political views, for stances that drew attention from the White House. But this time, President Trump is singing the player's praises instead of calling him an SOB.



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AGAIN!"

Ha! You thought sports and politics don't mix!

Actually, this is good. Anything that causes us to look

tweeted Saturday after the San Francisco 49ers selected the Ohio State defensive end. "You will be a great player for years to come, maybe one of the best. Big Talent! San Francisco will embrace you but most importantly, always stay true to yourself. MAKE AMERICA GREAT



ASSOCIATED PRESS

The San Francisco 49ers drafted defensive end Nick Bosa with the second overall pick at last week's NFL draft. President Trump sent a congratulatory tweet on Saturday to Bosa, a longtime Trump supporter.

inward and ask difficult questions — like who we really are and what we really believe — is welcome. Maybe some of us will pull our heads from wherever and open our eyes.

Bosa is a big supporter of the commander in chief, previously tweeting that Trump and Ronald Reagan are GOATS (you know: Greatest of All Time). Nothing wrong with that. Like everyone else, he's entitled to back the politicians of his choice.

If Bosa wants the world to know who he's with, so be it. Bosa also previously tweeted

his displeasure with Colin Kaepernick, calling the former 49ers quarterback "a clown;" Marvel's "Black Panther," which he said is the company's worst movie; and Beyoncé, dismissing her music as "complete trash."

Again, perfectly reasonable to expect art and politics to be criticized by some and not by others.

The fact is, Bosa's thinking probably aligns with a large percentage of NFL owners and a substantial number of NFL fans.

» see SNYDER | B11

PRETENDERS OR CONTENDERS

FOR MVP HOPEFULS HARDEN, ANTETOKOUNMPO, IT'S TIME TO STEP UP

By TIM REYNOLDS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The MVP front-runners are in some trouble. ■ It's a virtual certainty that either Milwaukee's Giannis Antetokounmpo or Houston's reigning MVP James Harden will win the coveted award this season. And while the voting results there won't be known until June 24, the only results that truly matter right now to both players are the ones that were determined on Sunday — and the ones that are coming on Tuesday.

■ Antetokounmpo and the Bucks were handed their worst loss of the season, point Celtics No. 1

overall seed the home-court edge in their Eastern Conference semifinal series. And the Rockets were angered by what they felt were a series of calls that didn't go their way in a 104-100 loss to Golden State on Sunday in Game 1 of a West semifinal series. ■ Both matchups resume with Game 2s on Tuesday: Boston at Milwaukee and Houston at Golden State. ■ "Right now, we've got to focus on playing better," Antetokounmpo said after Milwaukee fell 112-90 in Game 1. "Obviously, it was one of the toughest tasks we've had all season long and especially at home. We've just got to regroup ... and be ready for Tuesday." ■ The Bucks were frustrated by Boston's defense; Milwaukee's 90 points represented its third-lowest

» see NBA | B11

James Harden and the Rockets are down 0-1 to the Warriors in the West semifinals.

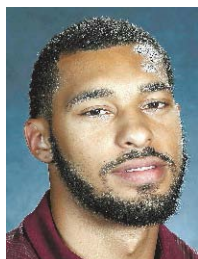
Giannis Antetokounmpo was limited in the Bucks' 22-point loss to the Celtics in Game 1 of the East semifinals.




REDSKINS

Sweat eager to prove Redskins got draft steal

By MATTHEW PARAS
THE WASHINGTON TIMES



Sweat

Montez Sweat was at a Top Golf with 40 to 50 members of his family and friends at his side when the NFL draft began last Thursday. Once projected to go in the top 10, the 22-year-old edge rusher watched and listened as team after team made their picks — and his name remained on the board.

As the night went on, Sweat's friends and family kept coming up to him to offer words of encouragement.

"There was definitely a lot of support there," Sweat said. "It was close friends, my grandparents,

my sister, all of them just walking up to me, just telling me, 'Just keep the faith, you're going to get a chance. Just stay humble and keep the chip on your shoulder.'"

Eventually, the phone rang. It was Redskins coach Jay Gruden, telling Sweat the Redskins had ended Sweat's fall by trading back into the first round for the 26th pick. Washington sent their second round pick and a 2020 second-rounder to the Indianapolis Colts to make the move.

By drafting Sweat, the Redskins, in theory, selected one of

» see REDSKINS | B11



ASSOCIATED PRESS

In two seasons at Mississippi State, Washington Redskins first-round draft pick Montez Sweat had 22½ sacks at defensive end. Sweat was considered one of the draft's top pass rushers.

NATIONALS

Kieboom showing poise, making history

By DAVID DRIVER
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON TIMES



CARDINALS AT NATIONALS
Tuesday: 7 p.m.; TV: MASN
washingtontimes.com/sports

The three Kieboom brothers grew up playing baseball together in suburban Atlanta, and years later, the sport still keeps the family close.

Trevor Kieboom is a college player-turned-agent while oldest brother Spencer is a catcher in the Nationals system who has spent time in the majors in recent years. So it's not surprising that younger brother Carter — the 21-year-old shortstop who is Nationals' latest phenom — would not be intimidated by being called up to the big leagues.

But poise and maturity are one thing. Making baseball history in your first weekend in the majors

is another.

The Nationals became the first team in Major League Baseball history to have three players under the age of 22 hit homers in the same game as Juan Soto, 20, Victor Robles, 21, and Kieboom all went deep Sunday against the Padres in a 7-6 11-inning win.

It was the second homer in three games for Kieboom, who made his major league debut just two days earlier as his brother Trevor and other family members

» see NATIONALS | B11



Trade request objections show fans' selfishness

There's been a lot of coverage lately about players who request — no, demand! — to be traded. Their desire to work elsewhere has caused great consternation among some fans and media members, who fret that these players are upsetting the natural order.

Detractors insist that the universe isn't supposed to work like that.

Only management gets to decide if and when a player is shipped out.

You say he loves being part



DERON SNYDER

of that franchise? Sorry. He and his family are entrenched in the community? Tough. He's being sent to a horrible situation with a terrible organization? Oh well.

That's part of the job and comes with the territory.

The same imbalance of power surfaces in the private sector from time to time. When a company decides to relocate its headquarters, some lucky workers get to choose between keeping their job or staying put. I imagine former employees of the Baltimore Colts weren't required to

steal away in the middle of the night, but they likely can offer moving advice to current employees of the Oakland Raiders.

The general public has a lot more empathy for transplanted office workers than, say, wide-out Demaryius Thomas, who earlier this month was traded from New England to the New York Jets. Thomas didn't request, demand or suggest a move.

Jaguars cornerback Jalen Ramsey

ASSOCIATED PRESS



Nonetheless, he went from a favorite for the Super Bowl to a contender for the toilet bowl.

I know, I know. Pro athletes make a whole lot more money than average Joes and Janes, enjoying an income level that disallows any dissatisfaction over working conditions. If players on the Miami Dolphins have an issue with management's blatant tanking, they must shut up and bear it, expressing gratitude for the opportunity to earn NFL paychecks.

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NFL WEEK 3 | REDSKINS VS. BEARS



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington Redskins quarterback Case Keenum is sacked by Chicago Bears safety Eddie Jackson in the first half of Monday's game. Full coverage, washingtontimes.com/sports.

KYLE ALLEN CAROLINA PANTHERS

- **Week 3:** Panthers 28, Cardinals 20
- **Allen's line:** 19 of 26 passing for 261 yards and four touchdowns.

- **Replaced:** Cam Newton, who is out indefinitely with an ailing foot. The 9-year veteran was the 2015 NFL MVP.



TEDDY BRIDGEWATER NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

- **Week 3:** Saints 33, Seahawks 27

- **Bridgewater's line:** 19 of 27 passing for 177 yards and two touchdowns.

- **Replaced:** Drew Brees, who suffered a torn ligament in his thumb in Week 2. The 12-time Pro Bowler and Super Bowl champion is expected to return when he is healthy.



GARDNER MINSHEW JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS

- **Week 3:** Jaguars 20, Titans 7
- **Minshev's line:** 20 of 30 passing for 204 yards and two touchdowns.
- **Replaced:** Nick Foles, who suffered a fractured collarbone in Week 1 against the Kansas City Chiefs. The former Super Bowl MVP is expected to miss the majority of the season with a possible Week 11 return.

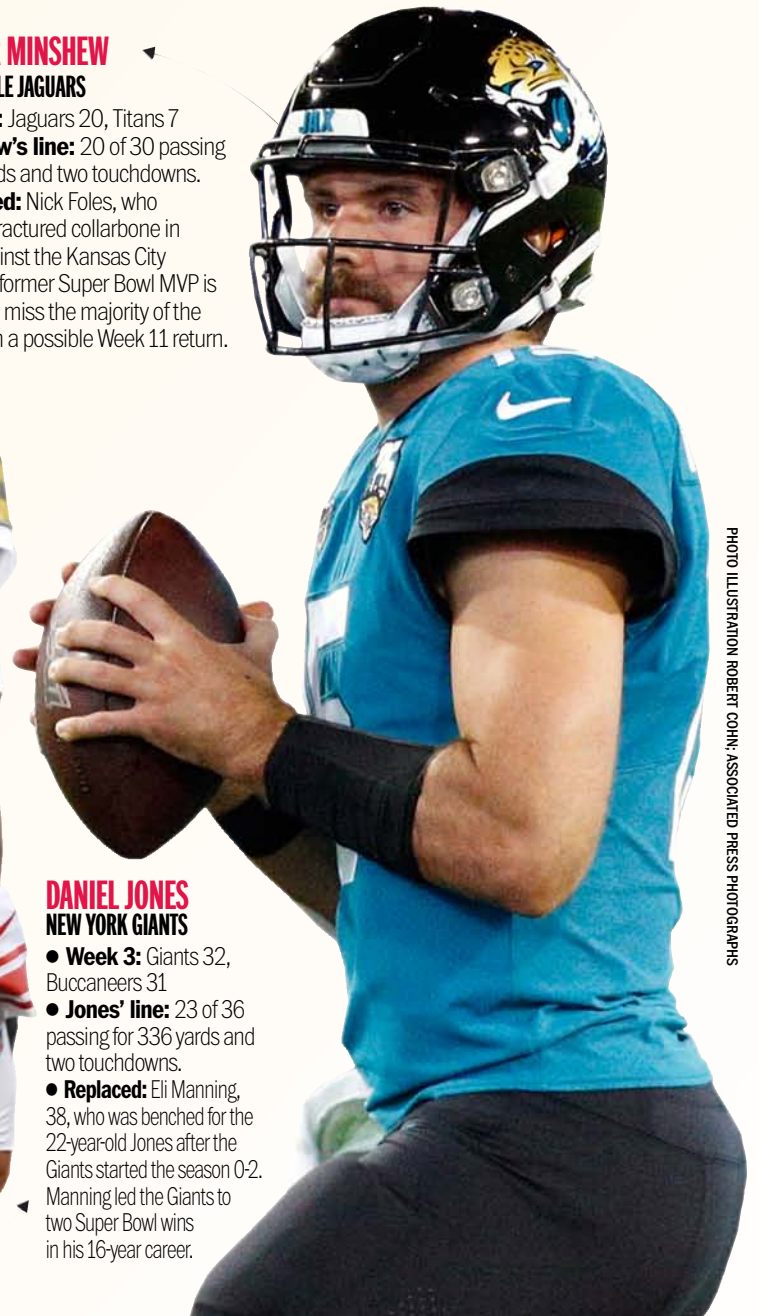


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION ROBERT COHN; ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOGRAPHS

MASON RUDOLPH PITTSBURGH STEELERS

- **Week 3:** 49ers 24, Steelers 20
- **Rudolph's line:** 14 of 27 passing for 174 yards with two touchdowns and one interception.
- **Replaced:** Two-time Super Bowl champion Ben Roethlisberger, who will miss the season with an elbow injury.



DANIEL JONES NEW YORK GIANTS

- **Week 3:** Giants 32, Buccaneers 31
- **Jones' line:** 23 of 36 passing for 336 yards and two touchdowns.
- **Replaced:** Eli Manning, 38, who was benched for the 22-year-old Jones after the Giants started the season 0-2. Manning led the Giants to two Super Bowl wins in his 16-year career.

STARS ARE BORN

NEW QUARTERBACKS LOOK MORE LIKE POTENTIAL STARTERS THAN SUBSTITUTES

By BARRY WILNER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Oh, the moans and groans in Nawlins. The consternation in Steeltown. The woe is me refrains in Carolina's Queen City.

The joke's on me attitude in Jax. And the tabloid screams in the Big Apple.

Maybe all of that dread and disgust will quiet down, at least for a week. Hey, folks, the new guys at quarterback did pretty darn well for your teams.

On football

Teddy Bridgewater was steady in place of Drew Brees, guiding the Saints to victory in Seattle, as tough a place to win as any. Kyle Allen, probably most

famous in the NFL for once being a teammate of Kyler Murray's at Texas A&M, was a revelation in place of Cam Newton as the Panthers got their first victory of the season, in Arizona.

Gardner Minshew is making Jaguars fans wonder why he was

a sixth-round draft pick, stepping in for Nick Foles and looking like a starter (and future star).

Daniel Jones, the guy who caused Giants general manager Dave Gettleman to be vilified for

» see NFL | B11

NATIONALS

Fedde, Voth seek to make Nationals' postseason roster

By DAVID DRIVER
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON TIMES

When Washington Nationals ace Max Scherzer missed several starts during two stints on the injured list this summer, young pitchers Austin Voth and Erick Fedde filled in with mixed success.

Whether or not that helped them earn spots on the Nationals' playoff roster is still unclear.

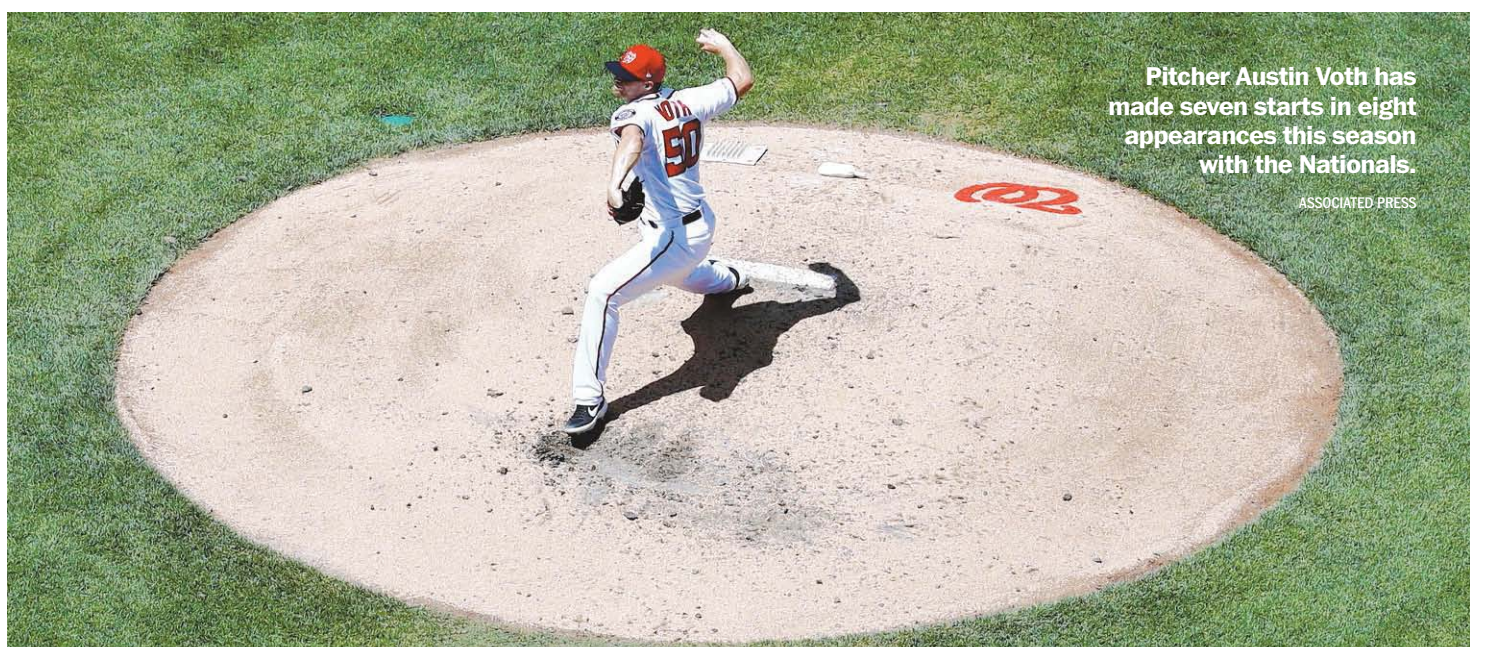
"I guess it is the back of my mind," Fedde said. "I really hope

so. This roster is so deep and talented. It will be interesting to see."

The final decision likely will make an important mark on the playoff identity of the Nationals, who were in a virtual tie with the Milwaukee Brewers (86-70) for the top wild-card spot Monday as they began a five-game home series against the Philadelphia Phillies.

Voth tried to aid the cause

» see NATIONALS | B11



Pitcher Austin Voth has made seven starts in eight appearances this season with the Nationals.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

