



Sports

DB's Weekly Take: The 2020 rookie quarterback class could be one of the best ever

by **Danny Barletta**
SPORTS EDITOR
daniel.barletta@uconn.edu

Photos via AP

The 1983 quarterback draft class will forever be the gold standard, boasting three hall-of-famers who are among the top-25 quarterbacks of all time: Dan Marino, John Elway and Jim Kelly.

The next best quarterback class has to be 2004, which also had three passers that will almost definitely wind up in Canton someday: Philip Rivers, Ben Roethlisberger and Eli Manning.

We've reached the point of this season where I've seen enough to make a way-too-early prediction that the 2020 quarterback class will someday be looked at in a similar way as the previous two historic classes. The top three quarterbacks chosen in this year's NFL Draft back in April — Joe Burrow, Tua Tagovailoa and Justin Herbert — appear to be the real deal, and as long as their respective teams can build around them, there could be significant success in all their careers.

The Cincinnati Bengals drafted Burrow first overall, and everyone knew they planned to start him right away after they released longtime starter Andy Dalton. Cincinnati as it's currently constructed is not the best place for a rookie quarterback to get thrown into the fire. There's a reason the team secured the No. 1 overall pick with a 2-14 record. They have a bottom-10 defense in the league, a sub-par offensive line and are still developing in every area.

However, Burrow has found a way to look good even in that environment. Across eight games, he's thrown for 2,272 yards (good for eighth in the league), 11 touchdowns and just five interceptions. He's completed 67% of his throws and has shown surprising mobility, rushing for 130 yards and three touchdowns. The team is just 2-5-1, but we have to remember how bad the team was last year. It looks like Burrow may triple the Bengals' win total this year, and that's even with the defense allowing over 400 yards per game.

Burrow seems to be getting comfortable with the receivers around him, namely Tyler Boyd and fellow rookie Tee Higgins,

who have both caught three touchdowns so far. Based on what I've seen in the early career of Burrow and knowing how much he can improve, I believe he will follow in the footsteps of Ken Anderson, Boomer Esiason, Carson Palmer and Dalton to become the next franchise quarterback for the Bengals. And if they can shore up on the defensive side of the ball, he may go beyond what any of them ever did and win a Super Bowl.

The Miami Dolphins selected Tagovailoa with the fifth overall pick. Despite his slightly alarming injury history, the Dolphins

believed he could be their first true franchise quarterback since Marino retired back in 1999. He started the season as the backup to Ryan Fitzpatrick, and I thought they were going to give him the whole year to develop. But after Week 6, Miami announced Tagovailoa would be taking over.

He's made two starts so far. In the first one, he didn't have to do much, throwing for just 93 yards and a touchdown; the defense and special teams provided the bulk of

start against the Arizona Cardinals, he was tremendous. He outdueled Kyler Murray in a 34-31 win, throwing for 248 yards and two touchdowns and running for another 35 yards.

The Dolphins are in position for a playoff spot right now at 5-3, and Tagovailoa seems like the guy who can get them there. I know it's a really small sample size, but everything we've seen from him so far seems to replicate what we saw in his amazing college career at Alabama. If he can stay healthy and the Dolphins continue to improve as they have since Brian Flores took over, there's no reason Tagovailoa can't become one of the biggest stars in the league.

Although the Los Angeles Chargers got the third quarterback in the draft with Herbert at No. 6, they might have gotten the biggest prize. Herbert is the frontrunner for Offensive Rookie of the Year so far, and he wasn't even supposed to be the starter so soon. Tyrod Taylor started the season as the quarterback, but after Week 1, he went down with a chest injury. Herbert stepped up and played so well that they had to leave him in.

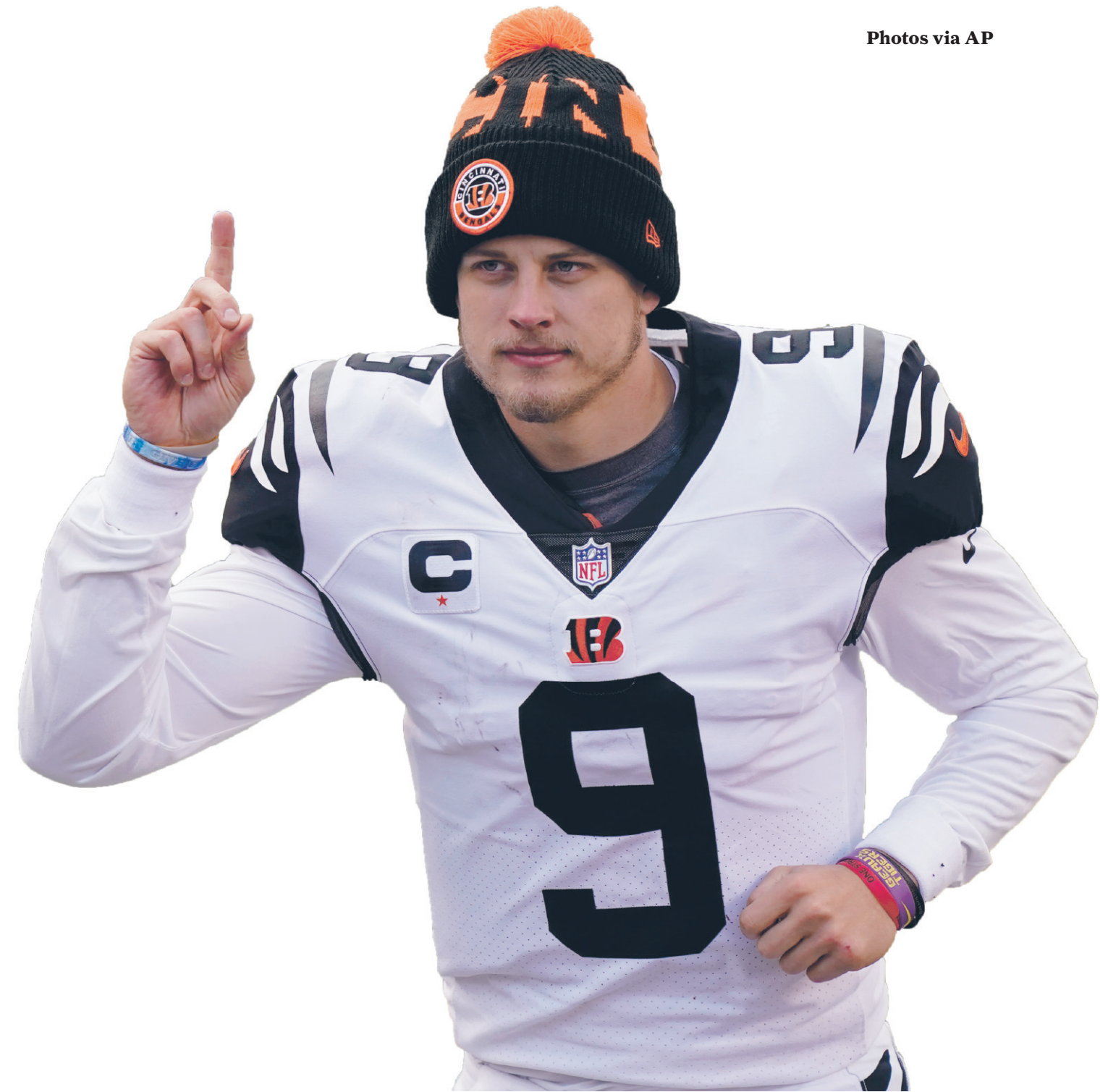
In seven games so

far, Herbert has thrown for 2,146 yards, 17 touchdowns and five interceptions. He's also rushed for 166 yards and two touchdowns. His passer rating of 104.7 and QBR of 77.5 rank ninth and 10th in the league this year, respectively. Herbert has simply been incredible in his rookie campaign. He always looks poised and relaxed in the pocket and makes far more good decisions than bad ones, something you don't often see from rookies.

The problem for Herbert so far has been the results. The

team is just 1-6 in his starts, which is unbelievable given how well he has played. Every loss has been by one possession, and two have been in overtime. It appears the Chargers' curse of not being able to win close games has continued even with the departure of Rivers, so that's a problem the team is going to have to fix. But they definitely have the right guy at quarterback. If I had to venture a prediction, I would say Herbert will have the best overall career of any of these three star rookies.

However, I believe all of them have the potential to be amazing players in this league. They may not be Marino, Elway and Kelly, but Burrow, Tagovailoa and Herbert will definitely leave their legacy on the NFL in the next decade.



WHAT TO KEEP AN EYE ON THIS WEEK

Games we're watching this week

vs.

TitansColts

Teams we're paying attention to

Trenton Thunder

Athletes we're paying attention to

James Rodriguez

INSTAGRAM OF THE DAY

@uconn
Have you been caught wearing your mask?

TWEETS OF THE DAY

Jorge Eckardt
@jorge_eckardt31

The Seahawks defense was better in the four games Jamal Adams missed than they were in the four games he played.

Without: 433.5 yards allowed per game, 28.25 points allowed per game.

With: 478 yards allowed per game, 32.5 points allowed per game.

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Mike'd Up

Three trades I'd like to see this offseason

by Mike Mavredakis
STAFF WRITER
michael.quinn-mavredakis@uconn.edu

Photos via Flickr

It's offseason time, also known as "I am going speculate on roster moves because I am incredibly bored with no baseball on" time. This is exactly that. Here are five trades I would personally love to see this offseason, including one mega deal to keep your attention for the next six months.

NOLAN ARENADO AND TREVOR STORY TO THE NEW YORK METS

New York Mets get: 3B Nolan Arenado and SS Trevor Story

Colorado Rockies get: RHP Noah Syndergaard, SS Amed Rosario, OF Pete Crow-Armstrong and RHP Matthew Allan

Before you write this whole article off entirely, give me a chance on this one.

Why the Mets would do it: The Mets are under new ownership, after the wealthiest owner in baseball, Steve Cohen, completed the purchase of the team on Friday. He is conceivably looking to spend, considering he is worth over \$14 billion.

This would be a splash that would make Mets fans go crazy. You want to bring in shiny free agents this off-season? Attract them with two top-10 players in the league. Arenado has been unsettled in Colorado

could be on the move. Story has one year of control left as well. This would be a highly risky investment, but it would also give the Mets an opportunity to extend themselves during the year like the Dodgers did after trading for Mookie Betts. It also allows the players time to create a relationship with the team to then up their chances of being re-signed.

While the teams would be trading some really interesting pieces, none of them are sure things at this point.

Why the Rockies would do it: As I said before, Arenado has been upset with management for some time now and they only have so much time with Story left. This would probably enrage Rockies fans to no end, that is almost certain. However, this could be a great deal for them as well.

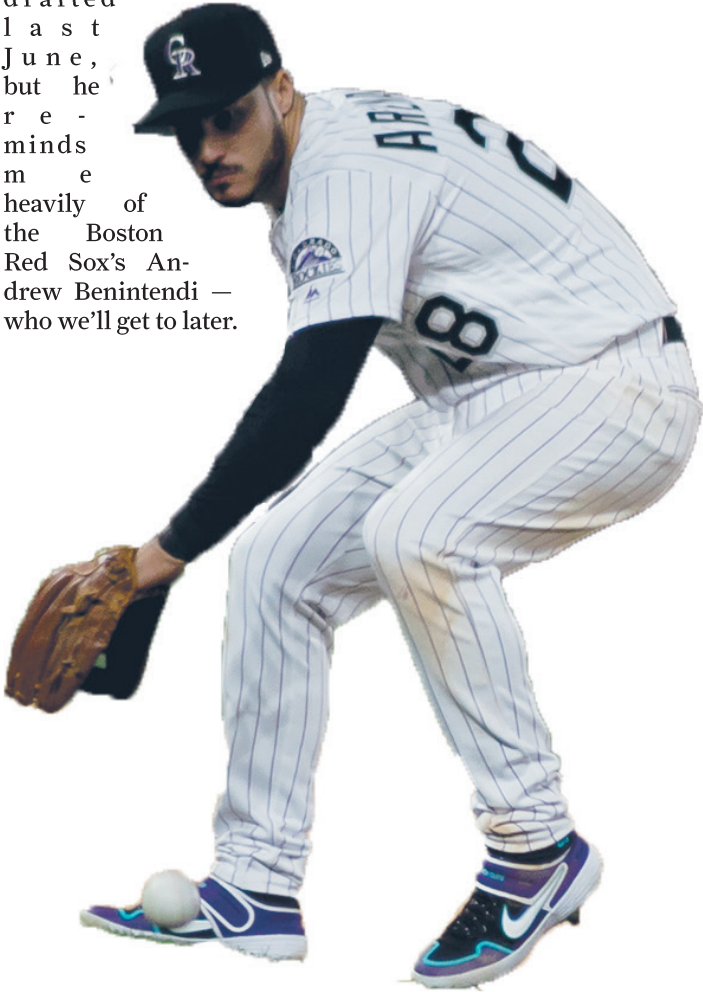
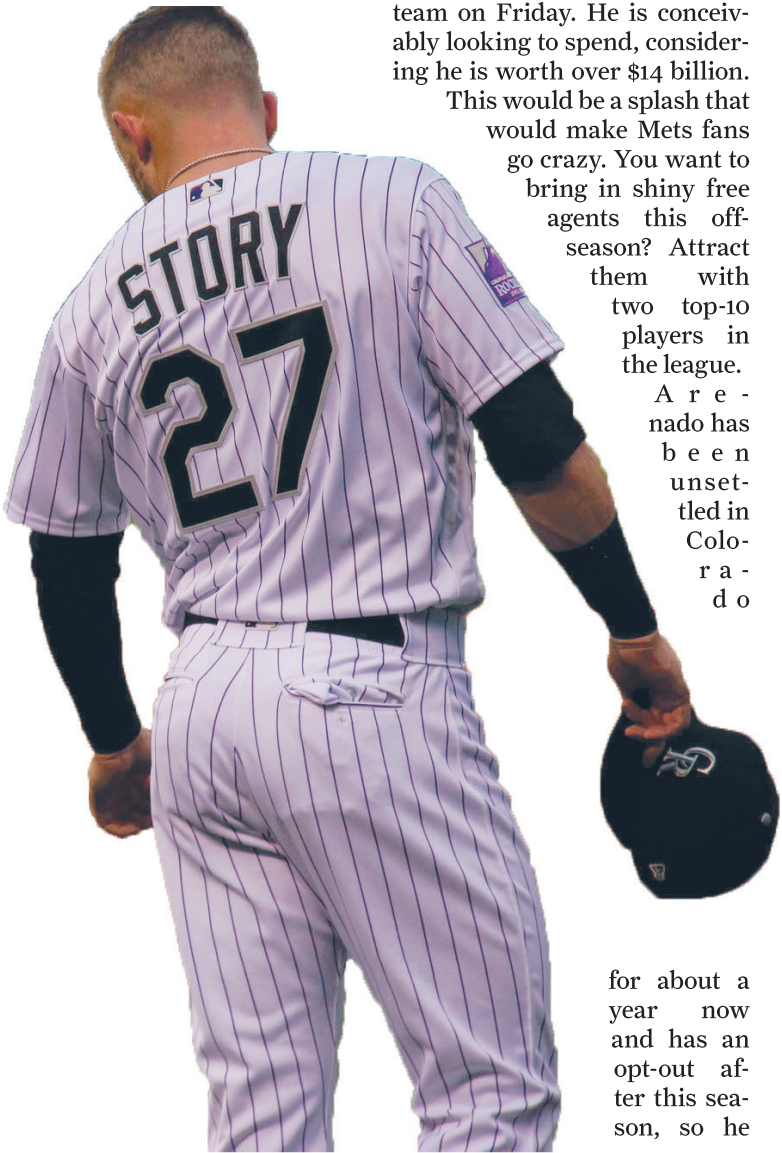
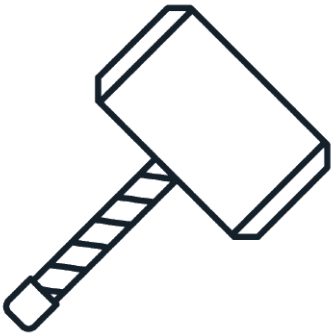
They need pitching, badly. Syndergaard gives them pitching now, with potential for the future, and Allan gives them a potential frontline starter down the line. He is a first-round talent that slipped to the third-round two seasons ago because of signability concerns.

Syndergaard has a year left of control, just like Story, so the same theory applies. It gives the Rockies, who are known as more of a mid-market team, time to woo Syndergaard into a long-term deal. It also gives them the chance to cut bait with him if it doesn't work out. He is currently coming back from Tommy John surgery, so he likely won't see the field until after opening day but there is hope for him to be back for then.

Rosario would plug immediately into Story's spot at shortstop or could move over to third base if needed. In 10

career games at Coors Field, the 24-year-old has a .947 OPS, which is his third-best mark at any ballpark he has played more than five games at. He also rakes at Dodger stadium, so a move to the NL West could suit him. He has been significantly better away from Citi Field than at it in his career so far, with an abysmal .607 OPS at home to a very solid .791 OPS at away parks. It makes sense on paper.

The Rockies would also pick up a potentially top-40 MLB player in Pete Crow-Armstrong, who has a plus hit-tool and is considered the best defensive outfielder in his draft class. He was just drafted last June, but he reminds me heavily of the Boston Red Sox's Andrew Benintendi — who we'll get to later.



ANDREW BENINTENDI TO THE CLEVELAND INDIANS

Cleveland Indians get: Andrew Benintendi and \$3.3 million

Boston Red Sox get: Cal Quantrill

Benintendi needs a change of scenery. He hasn't hit well since about the first half of 2018. It's time for the Red Sox to move on from him.

Why the Indians would do it: The Indians would be buying low on a potentially solid outfield piece. He has struggled the past couple of seasons and doesn't hit free agency until after the 2022 season, so he has a couple more years of control. Giving up Quantrill could be a tough ask, but the Indians have more than enough pitching at the current moment. They need outfielders and if Boston is willing to give up Benintendi and pick up half of his contract next year, then I don't see why they wouldn't do it.

Why the Red Sox would do it: It's time to rebuild again in Boston. They essentially benched Benintendi to let him heal from his injury after he started the 2020 season 4-for-39 through 14 games. They might not be ready to spring the rebuild just yet with Cora re-hired, but I think this would be a beneficial move for them.

They haven't had any problems developing position player talent in recent years, but they can't seem to

figure it out on the mound. The last good starter they developed was Jon Lester, who made his major league debut in 2007. They started 16 different pitchers last season, in 60 games. Yep, you



FRANCISCO LINDOR TO THE PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES

Philadelphia Phillies get: SS Francisco Lindor

Cleveland Indians get: SS Luis Garcia, OF Simon Muzziotti and OF Mickey Moniak

This is not an exciting trade by any stretch. I'm sorry to say, Indians fans, I have a feeling you will be as disappointed or even more so than Red Sox fans after they dealt Betts in February.

Why the Phillies would do it: They are losing their starting shortstop this off-season as Didi Gregorius is a free agent once again and this is a bargain-bin price for a top-20 MLB player. They

have the money and they can figure out the prospects later. This is a move they should make.

They're giving up a few mid-tier prospects, nothing crazy. Moniak has been an utter disappointment since going No. 1 overall in 2016 and they have enough bodies in their major league outfield to sustain a blow to their depth.

If they can trade for Lindor now, it'll help soften the blow if J.T. Realmuto leaves in free agency and gives fans another player to cheer for aside from Bryce Harper.

Why the Indians would do it: They have no choice. It's trade Lindor and his projected \$19.5 million salary or go deeply in the red. They can grab a few promising prospects and hope they come out okay on the other side.



read that right — one for every 3.75 games played.


Quantrill is 25 years old and has five years of control left, so honestly it could take more than Benintendi and cash to get this deal done. If they could get Quantrill, though, I don't think Chief Baseball Officer Chaim Bloom should blink before he says yes.

Throwback Photo of the Day | Get up



In this file photo, the UConn Huskies volleyball team play the Tulane Green Wave at Gampel Pavilion on October 21, 2018. The match resulted in 3 sets taken by the Green Wave and zero sets claimed by the Huskies. FILE PHOTO/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Hey Dave: Can Southampton secure a placement for European competition?



Southampton FC

@SouthamptonFC

STOP THE COUNT

PREMIER LEAGUE STANDINGS

POS	CLUB	PL	GD	PTS
91	SOUTHAMPTON	8	+4	16
92	LIVERPOOL	7	+2	16
93	LEICESTER CITY	7	+8	15
94	TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR	7	+9	14
95	EVERTON	7	+4	13
96	WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS	7	0	13
97	CHELSEA	7	+7	12
98	ASTON VILLA	6	+6	12
99	ARSENAL	7	+2	12
10	MANCHESTER CITY	6	+1	11
11	NEWCASTLE UNITED	8	-3	11
12	LEEDS UNITED	7	0	10
13	CRYSTAL PALACE	7	-3	10
14	WEST HAM UNITED	7	+3	8
15	MANCHESTER UNITED	6	-4	7
16	BRIGHTON & HOVE ALBION	8	-3	6
17	FULHAM	7	-7	4
18	WEST BROMWICH ALBION	7	-10	3
19	BURNLEY	7	-9	2
20	SHEFFIELD UNITED	7	-7	1

SOUTHAMPTON FOOTBALL CLUB 2020/21

Southampton FC, a soccer team in England, tweets out a photo of the Premiere League Standings on Nov. 6, 2020, while also poking fun at the current state of politics in the United States.

by David Sandoval
STAFF WRITER
david.sandoval@uconn.edu

We're about a quarter of the way done with Premier League fixtures, and already we've seen quite a few shocking placements. These include Everton's short stint at the top, both Manchester clubs in 10th or below and Sheffield United going from 9th last season to dead last. However, some clubs have drastically improved. For this column, I'll be focusing on Southampton, which were at the top of the league at the beginning of matchday eight, but fell to 4th after the rest of the games were played. The last time Southampton finished in the top half of the table was the 2016/17 season, where they placed in 8th.

At this rate, I think the Saints this season, along with a couple other clubs, have potential to remain on the upper half of the table. But to be strong enough to secure a top five placement and get European competition? That's where their chances start to get a bit slim, but not by much.

First off, Southampton started this season with back-to-back defeats. Since then, they haven't

lost a game; only equalizing once against Chelsea. Looking at their future schedule, the Saints will be tested by some of the larger teams to remain in the top half of the table. Their next game will be on the road against Wolves and, quite honestly, the game can go either way as both squads are relatively strong in their own ways.

Some other games that will test Southampton's strength will be Man United on Nov. 29 and Man City on Dec. 19. Even though neither Manchester club is doing that well on the table, it's their squad depth that could end up having the upper hand, especially in City's case. I don't think Southampton's squad is poor, especially since they picked up Kyle Walker-Peters from Tottenham and Theo Walcott on loan from Everton, but compared to other giant clubs fighting for European placements, their depth is only okay.

As I said, some of the key players Southampton brought in were Walker-Peters and Walcott. Out of the two, Walker-Peters has proven to be a more successful signing. Playing every game this season, the 23-year-old defender won half of his duels, about three-quarters of his tackles and currently has a

high pass accuracy of 80%. Walcott, on the other hand, has only played half of the games so far, that half being the more recent games. While he hasn't scored yet, the loanee has managed to provide two assists, which I would say is fairly decent when you compare his season last year with two goals and four assists. It should also be noted he was a consistent starter for Everton as well.

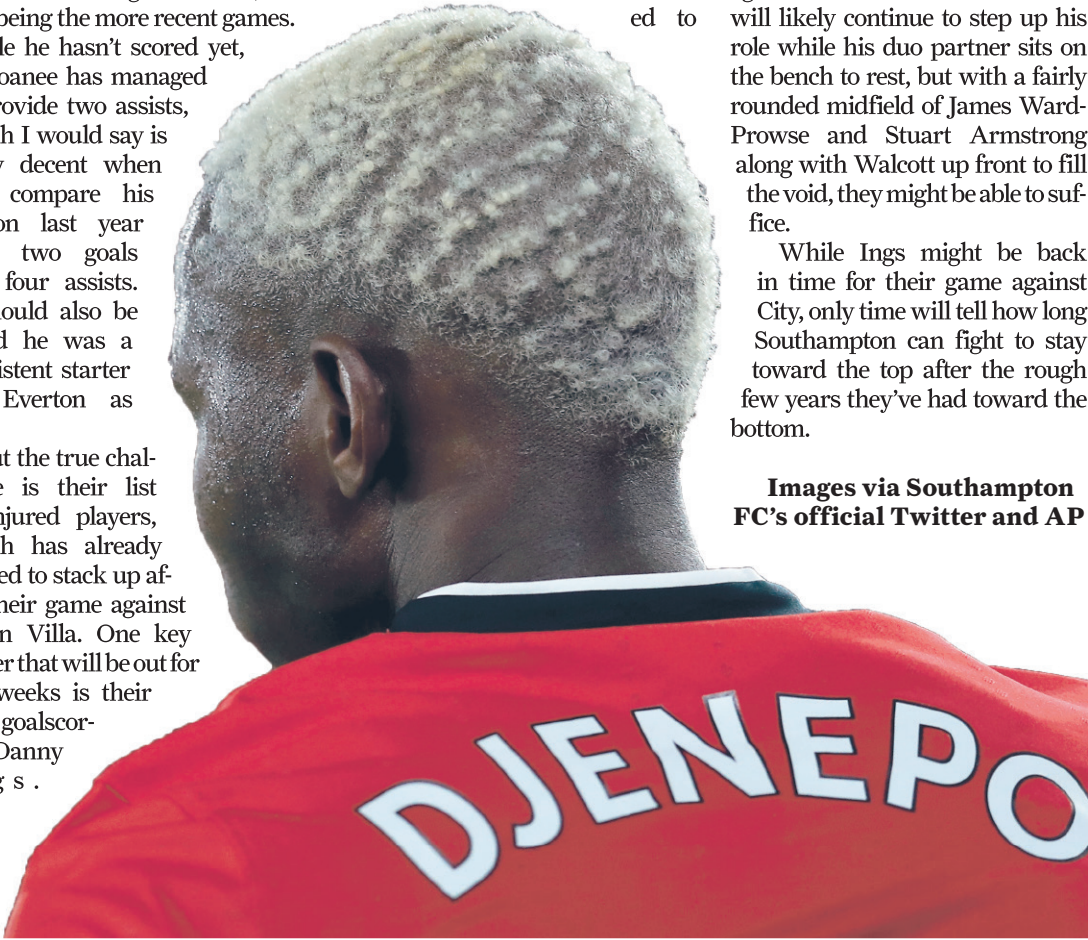
But the true challenge is their list of injured players, which has already started to stack up after their game against Aston Villa. One key player that will be out for 4-6 weeks is their top goalscorer, Danny Ings.

While he's been crucial in the Saints' progression so far, the club has started to

prove its success without the Englishman after securing a 2-0 win against Newcastle. Che Adams will likely continue to step up his role while his duo partner sits on the bench to rest, but with a fairly rounded midfield of James Ward-Prowse and Stuart Armstrong along with Walcott up front to fill the void, they might be able to suffice.

While Ings might be back in time for their game against City, only time will tell how long Southampton can fight to stay toward the top after the rough few years they've had toward the bottom.

Images via Southampton FC's official Twitter and AP



Brewers’ Williams, Mariners CF Lewis win Rookie of the Year

(AP) — Much like one of his lofty leaps at the wall, Kyle Lewis soared above the field.

The center fielder for the Seattle Mariners won the AL Rookie of the Year award Monday night, and Milwaukee Brewers reliever Devin Williams took home the NL honor.

The 25-year-old Lewis received all 30 first-place votes in balloting by the Baseball Writers’ Association of America. He is the 12th unanimous winner of the AL award, joining a prestigious list that includes Carlton Fisk, Derek Jeter, Mike Trout and Aaron Judge.

“It’s just a great first step for me and being in that category, it’s just really special,” Lewis said.

Williams made his own history, becoming the first pitcher to win Rookie of the Year without recording a save or making a start during his award-winning season — reflecting the increased importance of the bullpen in today’s game. He is the first Rookie of the Year for Milwaukee since Ryan Braun in 2007.

“I don’t really think that saves are the end-all be-all,” Williams said on a conference call during a vacation in Jamaica. “If I come up in the seventh inning and I go through one through five, I think that that can be pretty valuable as well.”

The 25-year-old Lewis was one of baseball’s breakout stars during the pandemic-shortened season, batting .262 with 11 homers and 28 RBIs in 58 games. He led big league rookies with 37 runs, 90 total bases and a .364 on-base percentage.

Lewis also made a couple of memorable plays in center, robbing Oakland’s Ramón Laure-



Milwaukee Brewers’ Devin Williams throws during an intrasquad game at Miller Park in Milwaukee, in this Tuesday, July 21, 2020, file photo. Williams won the NL Rookie of the Year award on Monday, Nov. 9, 2020. PHOTO BY MORRY GASH, AP FILE

ano of a grand slam on Sept. 14. He is the first player to win the award for Seattle since Ichiro Suzuki in 2001.

San Diego Padres second baseman Jake Cronenworth and Philadelphia Phillies infielder Alec Bohm tied for second in NL balloting by the Baseball Writers’ Association of America. Chicago White Sox center fielder Luis Robert finished second in the AL race, followed by

Houston Astros right-hander Cristian Javier.

Lewis and Robert had similar seasons, with fast starts followed by slow finishes. Lewis batted just .147 in September, and Robert hit .136 with 32 strikeouts in 23 games in the final month.

Lewis was selected by Seattle with the No. 11 overall pick in the 2016 amateur draft out of Mercer University. He broke

into the majors last year, appearing in 18 September games with the Mariners.

The Georgia native is the beginning of what could be a formidable young outfield in Seattle. Jarred Kelenic, who was acquired in a trade with the New York Mets, and Julio Rodriguez are ranked among baseball’s top prospects.

“I think we got a great chance to build a really strong core of

guys, and those are two guys that are super talented. Top of the scale when you’re talking about talent,” Lewis said. “I think we really do have a great chance to turn into one of those rebuilding teams that ends up having a great group of guys move up together and progress together.”

Williams, a St. Louis native, was selected by Milwaukee in the second round of the 2013 draft. He had Tommy John surgery while he was in the minors and made his big league debut last year.

This season, Williams teamed with closer Josh Hader to form a shutdown tandem at the back end of the Brewers’ bullpen. He allowed one earned run in 22 appearances — a home run by Pittsburgh’s Colin Moran on July 27.

Featuring a devastating changeup and a four-seam fastball that gets into the upper 90s, Williams was practically unhittable. The 26-year-old right-hander went 4-1 with a microscopic 0.33 ERA, striking out 53 in just 27 innings.

The last reliever to take home the honor in either league was Craig Kimbrel for Atlanta in 2011.

Williams missed Milwaukee’s loss to the champion Dodgers in the first round of the playoffs because of shoulder soreness.

“I’m doing a little bit of rehab still, but it’s feeling good,” Williams said.

The Managers of the Year will be announced by the BBWAA on Tuesday night, followed by the Cy Young Awards on Wednesday and the MVPs on Thursday.

Syracuse’s Jim Boeheim facing lawsuit in fatal crash

SYRACUSE, N.Y. (AP) — Syracuse basketball coach Jim Boeheim is being sued over a fatal accident he was involved in nearly two years ago.

According to Syracuse.com, the family of Jorge Jimenez, who was struck and killed by an SUV driven by Boeheim in February 2019, alleged the coach’s actions were “negligent, reckless and wanton.” The four-page lawsuit was filed Monday in Onondaga County Supreme Court by attorney Terence O’Connor and seeks an unspecified settlement.

The accident occurred amid icy conditions on the night of Feb. 20, 2019, after a mid-week game in the Carrier Dome. The 51-year-old Jimenez was a passenger in a car that had skidded on the eastbound side of Interstate 690 heading out of the city and came to a stop perpendicular across two of three lanes. The victim had exited the disabled car and was struck and killed near the guardrail when Boeheim approached the scene and swerved to avoid hitting the car.

A police report said Boeheim was not driving “reckless, unreasonable or with gross negligence.” Onondaga County District Attorney William Fitzpatrick concluded that Boeheim was speeding, but the accident investigation by Syracuse police concluded that the crash could still have been deadly even if the Hall of Fame coach had been following the speed limit. There was no evidence that drugs or alcohol played a role and no charges were filed.

According to state law, the family had three years to file a lawsuit. A call from The Associated Press seeking comment from O’Connor was not immediately returned. According to Syracuse.com, Boeheim had not yet responded in court papers.

The 75-year-old coach declined comment through a university spokesman.



In this Oct. 17, 2017, file photo, Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim speaks to reporters during the NCAA college basketball team’s media day in Syracuse, N.Y. The Carrier Dome was built in the late 1970s at a cost of \$26.85 million. “I remember. I was very skeptical playing in there,” Boeheim said. PHOTO BY SCOTT SCHILD, THE POST-STANDARD VIA AP, FILE