

Seahawks Back On The Gridiron



Photo/Jaylen Bennett

By Jaylen Bennett

The Seattle Seahawks stepped back onto the gridiron for the first time in 2015 for what is starting to become known as a renewed rivalry between two league heavyweights, though most of the impact players played little if at all. The Denver Broncos were in town for the first preseason game of the season for the boys in blue and green.

Players described the feeling in the stadium as electric, most likely from the skills of rookie Wide

Receiver/Kick Returner Tyler Lockett. Lockett, who had a stellar 103 yard kickoff return for a touchdown, was a pick for game MVP by many Seahawk veterans in the locker room. Seattle ended up losing Friday night's game 22-20, but there were many impressive feats to take from this game. Defensive Lineman Frank Clark, Seattle's other rookie draft pick, claimed Seattle's game-high in tackles with nine. The majority of the Seahawks claimed that the theme for

the preseason was improvement. "We did all right..." said Wide Receiver Doug Baldwin, who played minimal minutes in the game, "...for the first preseason game it's going to be sloppy". Defensive End Cliff Avril, who described the game as "a show of love for the 12's" added that, "we would love to win every game, but fortunately it's preseason and we can still work out the kinks." With all the pros and cons from this game, the

pressing issue that the Seahawks need to figure out ASAP is what to do with the Offensive Line. As the shuffle of the front five continues, Offensive Line Coach Tom Cable continues to look for that perfect mix and chemistry. A positive from the game is that second-year player Gary Gilliam looked strong throughout camp, so he was given a crack at the starting lineup. The negative was that Coach Cable was unimpressed with the pass protection as Tavaris

Jackson suffered a leg injury in the third quarter. Now that Jackson is temporarily down with an injury, the Seahawks look to add former Kansas State Quarterback Jake Waters, who completed 66% of his passes last season for 3501 yards with 22 touchdowns and only seven interceptions. Without Tavaris Jackson, Seattle's only backups to Russell Wilson are R.J. Archer and former Quarterback turned Wide Receiver BJ Daniels.

Daniels took snaps from under center as a fill-in for Monday's practice and was named the third string Quarterback for the Seahawks next game 8/21 5pm PDT at Kansas City. Seattle's remaining Preseason schedule is 8/29 at San Diego, 9/3 vs. Oakland before beginning the Regular Season Sunday, September 13 at NFC West rival St. Louis.

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About Half Are Proficient In First Round Of New State Tests

By DONNA GORDON BLANKINSHIP Associated Press

(AP) - About half of Washington students scored proficient the new, more challenging statewide tests in the first year they were given across the state.

Superintendent of Public Instruction Randy Dorn says he's pleased with those results. They meet expectations for the new tests and are better than what was expected nationally.

But no one is happy with the Common Core test results for the students who will be seniors in high school this year. They passed at much lower levels, in part because all the students who opted out of the tests this past spring were assigned a score of zero.

When those zeros are added to the scores of students who actually took the tests, only 26 percent scored proficient on the new English language arts exam and only 14 percent got a college-ready score on the math test. When the zeros are left out of the equation, just over half of high school students scored proficient on the English test and 29 percent were proficient on the math test.

Dorn says the Legislature needs to make another attempt to fix the high school assessment system and should have passed a bill he supported this past session, which would have given tests a much lower weight in the graduation requirements.

At a news conference after the test results were released, he reminded parents and students that the assessments show how students are doing at one point in time.

Dorn encouraged parents to encourage their children to take the exams so they can know how they're doing. About half of Washington's eleventh-graders decided not to take the new tests known as the "Smarter Balanced" tests or the Common Core tests. They are based on the new national academic standards known as the Common Core.

Students did better on the previous statewide exams, with much higher proficiency numbers. But state education officials urged people not to compare the two, very different exams.

"To compare the two. It's unfair to both the students and the system," said Gil Mendoza, deputy superintendent for K-12 education.

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