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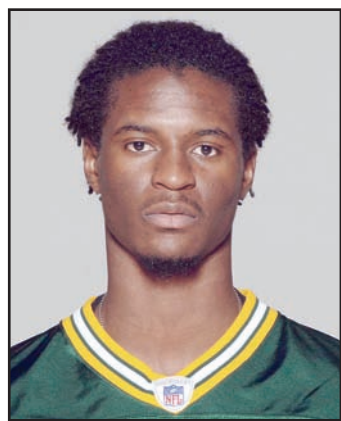
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SPORTS

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Ex-Mav Dendy making most of chance with Packers



PATRICK DENDY
DB, Green Bay Packers
2000 McNeil HS grad

Second-year cornerback fights his way from practice squad to active roster

By JEFF CASPERSEN
Sports Editor

The NFL limelight has yet to and may never shine on Patrick Dendy. But that's OK with the 2000 McNeil graduate, who scrapped and fought his way onto the Green Bay Packers roster with an unwavering resolve and back-breaking work ethic.

"He's up running while we're asleep," said Patrick's mother, Jean.

Dendy's hard work hasn't gone unnoticed. The second-year cornerback has flashed brilliance on the Packers practice

squad and in limited game action over the course of the past two seasons.

Now the 24-year-old is getting his long-awaited shot to shine. With the recent release of Ahmad Carroll, Dendy saw ample playing time as Green Bay's nickel defensive back in the Packers' 34-24 win at Miami on Sunday. And the Dolphins aired it out on the Packer secondary, with quarterback Joey Harrington tossing up an NFL-record 62 pass attempts. Dendy also saw plentiful turf time in a Oct. 8 loss to visiting St. Louis.

Dendy's path to becoming an NFL con-

tributor has been neither glorious nor easy. Injuries have abated his progress in recent years, costing the Rice University graduate a shot at the 2004 NFL draft and hurting his chances in 2006.

As a junior at Rice, Dendy suffered a hamstring tear while running the 40-yard dash at Rice's NFL Pro Day workout. That more or less cost him a selection in the draft.

"It set me back a little bit," Dendy recalled. "I couldn't run for about four or five months."

That would have been enough to do

many in, but Dendy kept fighting. He went on to finish up an economics degree at Rice, all the while putting in grueling twice-a-day workouts at PLEX, a Houston sports facility for professional athletes.

"[The injury] just made me work harder," he said. "It made me really just respect the opportunity I get to play. It made football mean a lot more to me."

The hard work paid off. Green Bay came calling, signing Dendy to a free-agent contract in April of last year. He was released

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NEWS & NOTES

14-5A harriers hit course tomorrow

Old Settlers Park is the site of tomorrow's District 14-5A cross country meet.

The action begins with the 3,200-meter varsity girls race at 8:30 a.m., followed by the 5,000-meter varsity boys race at 9 a.m.

Junior varsity and freshmen races are also on the schedule.

District 14-5A Cross Country Meet

Friday, Oct. 27
At Old Settlers Park

MEET SCHEDULE

Time	Division	Meters
8:30 a.m.	Varsity girls	3,200
9 a.m.	Varsity boys	5,000
9:30 a.m.	JV girls	3,200
10 a.m.	JV boys	5,000
10:30 a.m.	Freshman girls	3,200
11 a.m.	Freshman boys	5,000

NASCAR's Kasey Kahne coming to Round Rock

NASCAR driver Kasey Kahne, currently eighth in the Chase for the Nextel Cup, is set to make an appearance at Round Rock's Sportsman Warehouse from 6 to 8 p.m. on Nov. 2.

Kahne will be in the Lone Star state for the Nov. 5 Dickies 500 at Fort Worth's Texas Speedway.

Four races remain in the Nextel Cup Series season.

14-0!

Dragons wrap perfect season

By JEFF CASPERSEN
Sports Editor

Round Rock's goal of running the District 14-5A table came to fruition on Tuesday, as the host Dragons sent McNeil home in three games (25-21, 25-14, 25-17) to wrap up a 14-0 district volleyball season.

The usual suspects paced Round Rock in this one, with senior Che'z Colter belting 17 kills in her final regular-season match at the prep level. Emily Danks (three aces), Shelbi Chipman (four aces) and Christina Marcum (three aces) were on fire from the service line and setters Michelle Miller (25 assists) and Shayla Mareah (12 assists) distributed the ball well for the district champion Dragons.

"We showed a lot of heart and a lot of guts and so did McNeil," Round Rock coach Diane Watson praised. "I could see a lot of things out there that McNeil has changed."

The Mavericks progressed mightily within the course of the district slate, going from 3-4 in the first round to 6-1 in the second round. Watson believes the talent was always there for McNeil.

"I think they found themselves," she said. "I don't think they made huge improvements as much as they came together as a team."

The playoff-bound Mavericks, who closed out the district campaign at 9-5 and in a three-way tie for second with Georgetown and Pflugerville, kept themselves in the match with 10 kills from Julie Weilnau and nine from Sarah Arldt. Kelli Becerra dished out 22



Photos by MATT NORRIS, Leader Staff

Round Rock senior Che'z Colter elevates to spike the ball in the Dragons' Tuesday volleyball win over visiting McNeil.

assists.

It's hard for McNeil coach Karen Huffman to be too upset with her team, given how the squad closed out the season.

"That's what I told the kids,"

the second-year coach began. "Winning six of the last seven matches, we already accomplished so much. The journey's not over yet."

These two young teams are

14-5A VOLLEYBALL

2006 Final Standings

	W	L	GB	Pct.
Round Rock**	14	0	—	1.000
McNeil*	9	5	5.0	.643
Georgetown*	9	5	5.0	.643
Pflugerville*	9	5	5.0	.643
Westwood	8	6	6.0	.571
Cedar Park	4	10	10.0	.286
Leander	3	11	11.0	.214
Stony Point	0	14	14.0	.000

**-clinched district title
*-clinched playoff berth

Tuesday's results

Pflugerville d. Stony Point 25-13, 25-11, 25-17
Westwood d. Cedar Park 25-22, 25-11, 25-21
Round Rock d. McNeil 25-21, 25-14, 25-17
Georgetown d. Leander 23-25, 25-23, 25-17, 25-20



McNeil freshman Alexandra Alexander goes low to make a dig in Tuesday's match.

Round Rock ISD's only playoff qualifiers.

McNeil opens the postseason on Monday or Tuesday while the Dragons, ranked 14th statewide in the latest Texas Girls Coaches Association Class 5A poll, rest through a bi-district bye before playing an area-round match Nov. 2, 3 or 4. Round Rock does have a warm-up match scheduled at home against Bowie on Saturday.



Photo by BOB THOMAS for the Leader

Jessica O'Shoney spikes one of her several kills in Hutto's win at Taylor Tuesday night.

PREP VOLLEYBALL ROUNDUP

Hippos run table in 18-3A

Leader Staff Report

TAYLOR — Jessica O'Shoney smashed 20 kills and collected eight blocks as Hutto finished off a perfect District 18-3A campaign with a 25-16, 25-22, 25-16 win at Taylor on Tuesday.

Sydney Maxey added nine kills and Jordan Sliva and Chelsy Covington each tallied six for the 8-0 district champion Hippos. Angelica Arroyo set up a number of those big hits with 35 assists.

Hutto, 31-4 overall, will now ready for the Class 3A Region III playoffs, which begin next week. The Hippos will enjoy a first-round bye.

Warriors end season on strong note

AUSTIN — Westwood closed out its season on a positive note, beating host Cedar Park in straight games (25-22, 25-11, 25-21) Tuesday.

The Warriors closed out the season with an 8-6 District 14-5A record, good for fifth place overall. A late-season win over Georgetown nudged Westwood into the playoff race but a loss to McNeil last week cost the Warriors a chance at the postseason.

On Tuesday, it was Lindsey Schmid and Jessica Bowden pacing the Westwood attack with eight kills apiece. Kaleigh Colson (17 assists) and Sydney Jennette (10) shared setting duties and Haylee Staton finished with 13 digs.

Stony Point falls to Pflugerville

PFLUGERVILLE — Stony Point's turbulent season came to an end with a 25-13, 25-11, 25-17 loss at Pflugerville on Tuesday.

The Tigers closed out the District 14-5A season at 0-14. Stephanie Scully had seven kills and Jerica Mims five to pace Stony Point.

Round Rock, McNeil meet in battle of playoff hopefuls

ALSO ON DECK: Surging Warriors look to deal Timberwolves their first loss of 2006

District 14-5A

McNeil (4-3, 1-3) at Round Rock (5-2, 2-2), 7:30 p.m. LOCATION: Dragon Stadium

Both McNeil and Round Rock direly need a win to better their playoff aspirations in this all-Round Rock ISD affair.

The Dragons, sitting in fourth place in the 14-5A standings, pummeled Georgetown 41-19 last week. Marcus Jackson's 174 rushing yards and two touchdowns and a big night (150 yards passing; 54 yards, two TDs rushing) from quarterback Brent Hotard nudged Round Rock to victory and to 2-2 in district.

McNeil, on the other hand, found itself on the losing side of a 42-24 rout at the hands of stadium mate Westwood.

Cedar Park (7-0, 4-0) at Westwood (6-1, 3-1), 7:30 p.m. LOCATION: RRISD Sports Complex

Westwood further asserted the claim that it's for real with a 42-24 win over McNeil last week.



FRIDAY NIGHT HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Chase Rich further asserted the claim that he's the best pocket passer in the area, picking apart the Maverick defense for 320 yards and five TDs on 20-of-28 passing. Rich now has a District 14-5A-best 1,767 yards to go along with 18 TDs.

Undefeated Cedar Park is next for the Warriors, who could all but seal a playoff berth with a win.

The Timberwolves have gone down to the wire with their last two opponents, edging Stony Point 14-13 thanks to a missed extra point two weeks ago and beating Pflugerville with a last-second 65-yard TD pass from quarterback Travis Watson to receiver Jamie Knight.

Stony Point (2-5, 0-4) at Pflugerville (2-5, 1-3), 7:30 p.m. LOCATION: Kuempel Stadium

Neither Stony Point nor Pflugerville are bad teams, yet both nor the District 14-5A cellar. Hard-luck losses have been the

norm for this pair, who face each other on Friday.

Last week, Leander dealt Stony Point its fourth loss by five points or less, while it took Cedar Park a last-second TD pass to upend the Panthers.

Junior running back Zavier Gooden provided a major bright spot for Pflugerville in defeat, racking up 170 yards on the ground and busting a 75-yard rushing score.

In their 27-24 loss to Leander, the Tigers saw the return of senior feature back Cameron Bell (19 carries, 53 yards) from a knee injury and a 7-for-10, 109-yard passing performance from sophomore quarterback Nykolas Mckissic.

District 18-3A Hutto (6-1, 2-0) at Liberty Hill (4-2, 1-0), 7:30 p.m. LOCATION: Panther Stadium

How good is Hutto? Friday's battle of

Class 3A heavyweights will tell us just that.

Liberty Hill, which has gauntleted through a tortuous schedule, plays host to the 5-2 Hippos in what more than likely will prove to be a showdown for the District 18-3A title.

Liberty Hill last played two weeks ago, crushing Rockdale 56-20. But it's the Panthers' early-season schedule that opens eyes. Liberty Hill gave Cuero — Class 3A's No. 1 team according to the Associated Press — a run for its money in Week 3 before losing 31-27. No. 8 Wimberley barely beat the Panthers 48-44 in Week 4.

Hutto's toughest tests have come in a 29-14 loss to No. 3 Giddings in Week 3 and in a 33-14 win over Cameron Yoe in Week 6.

The Hippos are coming off a 49-24 romp of Rockdale in which quarterback Jeremy Kerley accounted for 198 yards and four TDs between the passing and running game.