

RG3, Heisman Finalists Weary, Still Rarin' To Go

NEW YORK (AP) — Robert Griffin III was working on about 4 1-2 hours' sleep after catching an early flight from Florida to New York on Friday.

Not that he was complaining. Griffin will trade sleep deprivation for a chance to bring No. 15 Baylor its first Heisman Trophy any day.

"This is what it is if you're going to play well and your team is doing great things," he said shortly after taking his seat at a table surrounded by reporters and video cameras in a hotel conference room. "People are going to want to talk to you, they're going to want a piece of you. It's exciting."

The Bears' thrilling dual-threat quarterback was one four Heisman finalists to arrive in New York on Friday afternoon, along with LSU defensive back Tyrann Mathieu and running backs Trent Richardson of Alabama and Montee Ball from Wisconsin.

Stanford quarterback Andrew Luck was in Baltimore receiving the Johnny Unitas Award and was scheduled to arrive in Manhattan on Saturday morning, about 12 hours before the Heisman will be presented.

Griffin and the other finalists came

straight from the college football award shows in Orlando, Fla., on Thursday night, where he picked up the Davey O'Brien award as the nation's best quarterback.

Luck entered the season as the clear-cut Heisman front-runner after turning down a chance to be the first pick in the NFL draft to return to Stanford for one more season.

He was excellent, passing for 3,170 yards and 35 touchdowns for BCS-bound Cardinal (11-1).

But on the way to what seemed like an enviable Heisman victory, RG3 zoomed past Luck with a memorable closing month, highlighted by victories against Oklahoma and Texas.

"After the Oklahoma game all the players on the team realized that if we won out and we did it in style ... we'd be here," he said. "I say we'd here because that's who I'm here for. I am here for those guys."

"The Texas game was probably the most pressure we had all year to win a game. And we did it in convincing fashion."

Griffin and the Bears beat Texas 48-24 on Saturday in Waco, Texas, to finish the season 9-3, Baylor's first nine-win season

in 25 years. Lifting Baylor from the doldrums — along with passing for 3,998 yards and 36 touchdowns — is a big part of why Griffin is expected to break a Heisman trend on Saturday night.

Seven of the last eight winners, including Reggie Bush who later vacated the title, played in the BCS national championship game, like Mathieu and Richardson will. The Southeastern Conference rivals meet again Jan. 9 in New Orleans.

"It was a slugfest out there," Richardson said about LSU's 9-6 overtime victory in November. "I can't wait for this rematch."

The recent exception to the BCS title game-Heisman connection was Tim Tebow, who won it in 2007 playing for a Florida team that finished the regular season 9-3.

Griffin has some of that Tebow magnetism: good looks, a bright smile, comfortable in front of the camera and adored by his home fans.

He's not quite Tebow-famous, but he's no longer just a regional star.

"To be in Orlando and have guys screaming, 'RG3!' and 'Sic'em Bears,' that's amazing," he said. "Baylor fans are everywhere now."

Luck and Griffin are both from Texas and were in the same 2008 recruiting class. They could have formed a dynamic quarterback duo at Stanford.

Griffin said he took his only recruiting trip to Stanford and loved the campus. Then-Cardinal coach Jim Harbaugh pitched a two-quarterback system to Griffin, in which Griffin would share the job with Luck.

Griffin was skeptical so he committed to Houston instead, then switched to Baylor when coach Art Briles left the Cougars for Waco, Texas.

"I decided to do what was best for me," Griffin said.

It worked out well for Luck, too. He figures to be the first overall pick in the NFL draft.

Mathieu is trying to become the first defensive back to win the Heisman since Michigan's Charles Woodson in 1997.

The sophomore nicknamed Honey Pounder for his tenacity, size (5-foot-9, 180 pounds) and dyed blonde hair has four return touchdowns this season.

"For me to get here, it just goes to show you how talented we are on the defensive side," he said.

Ball figures he's a long shot to win Saturday night, even though he is one touchdown away from breaking Barry Sanders' single-season mark of 39 set in 11 games back in 1988.

"Not winning the Doak (Walker Award) and being the underdog for the Heisman just sets a fire under me for Oregon," said Ball, who lost out on the Doak Walker award to Richardson on Thursday in Orlando.

No. 9 Wisconsin plays No. 6 Oregon in the Rose Bowl on Jan. 2.

Griffin has developed into the clear favorite.

Two web sites — Heismanpundit.com and Stiffarmtrophy.com — that have been near perfect in projecting the winners over the last decade — both peg Griffin as a comfortable winner.

He tries not to pay attention to the prognosticators.

"Facebook goes crazy with that type of stuff," he said.

"But you just try to block it out. Like I said, you're supposed to be nervous, you're supposed to not feel like you're owed anything and if you're name is called, you stand up and you forget you're speech."

Iowa State Stuffs Hawkeyes

AMES, Iowa (AP) — Royce White scored 17 points, Scott Christopherson added a season-high 16 and Iowa State beat Iowa 86-76 on Friday night, giving the Cyclones their first three-game winning streak over the Hawkeyes since the mid-1980s.

Bubu Palo chipped in with a career-high 14 points for Iowa State (7-3), which last won three in a row over the rival Hawkeyes from 1983-85.

White had 14 points in the first half, when the Cyclones led by as many as 24. Iowa got as close as 13 midway through the second half, but Iowa State pulled away behind Christopherson to give Fred Hoiberg his fifth win in six tries over Iowa as a player and coach.

Devin Marble scored a career-high 21 points to lead the Hawkeyes (5-5), who've lost five of their last seven to drop to .500.

'Pumped Up' Huskers Preparing For No. 10 Gamecocks

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska's players are genuinely excited about playing in the Capital One Bowl against 10th-ranked South Carolina. It looks like the fans are, too.

Nebraska has sold about 8,000 tickets in the five days since the matchup was announced. That's more than the total the school sold for the Holiday Bowl matchup with Washington last year, when a pair of free basketball tickets were thrown in with each sale.

A couple spirited practices this week showed the players' level of excitement.

"Of course there's going to be a different attitude," linebacker Lavonte David said. "Last year we played in the same bowl game two years in a row and played the same team we played already. This year we get a better opportunity, a better bowl game, a much tougher team, an SEC team. The guys are already pumped up."

Washington clearly was a bad draw last year. The Huskers were coming off a loss in the Big 12 championship game for the second year in a row and had to play an opponent they had beaten by 35 points on the road three months earlier.

"Nobody wanted to practice, nobody wanted to do anything. Nobody cared or really wanted to play the game," offensive lineman Jermercus Hardrick said.

Washington won 19-7, and Hardrick said he and his teammates felt the embarrassment until they were able to play the Huskies yet

again in Lincoln in September. Nebraska won that third meeting, 51-38.

"Everybody wants to go out the right way now," Hardrick said. "We don't want to end like last year. I hated that sour taste in my mouth from the Washington game."

The Huskers haven't played a Southeastern Conference team since a 17-14 loss to Auburn in the Cotton Bowl following the 2006 season. Nebraska has won all three meetings with South Carolina, most recently in 1987.

South Carolina (10-2) is having its best season since 1984, with its only losses coming against defending national champion Auburn and on the road to Arkansas.

"The SEC is dominant. They've won the last five (national) titles. That doesn't lie," Hardrick said. "It's a big opportunity for us."

The Huskers (9-3) lost two of their last four games and finished third in the Legends Division in their first year in the Big Ten. They're going for their third straight 10-win season, an accomplishment that would help offset the disappointment of not making it to the conference championship game.

"That was our goal at the beginning of the season," running back Rex Burkhead said. "Still, I think we had a great season. We grew and improved as a team. Sending the seniors out for their last home game against Iowa was a good deal, and hopefully we can do the same in our bowl game."

Report: AAU CEO Accused Of Child Sex Abuse

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Two former basketball players have accused Amateur Athletic Union president Robert "Bobby" Dodd of molesting them as children, according to an ESPN report.

The network reported Friday that the AAU is investigating the claims, which date from the 1980s. One of the players, 43-year-old Ralph West, told ESPN's "Outside the Lines" he was assaulted in Memphis in 1984.

Both West and a second unidentified man said news reports about the Penn State child sex abuse case prompted them to independently confront Dodd in November. The player who spoke to ESPN on the condition of anonymity said he called Dodd on Nov. 11 and that Dodd apologized for the alleged abuse. ESPN confirmed an 18-minute call to Dodd by examining telephone records.

Memphis police said in a statement that it had been contacted by the AAU and was looking into the allegations.

"The Memphis Police Department takes allegations of child sexual abuse very seriously," Memphis Police Director Toney Armstrong said. "Although this case has its challenges due to the amount of time that has passed, it will be thoroughly examined; and if the investigation reveals the law was vio-

lated, the person responsible will be held accountable."

The AAU did not immediately return a call to its Orlando, Fla., headquarters seeking comment. The AAU told ESPN the 63-year-old Dodd has colon cancer and will not return to his post. AAU first vice president Louis Stout will serve as interim president.

Both accusers said they never went to police and only recently told their families.

West said Dodd fondled him, tried to fondle him or masturbated in front of him at Dodd's home in Memphis, the AAU Junior Olympics in South Bend, Ind., and tournaments in Florida, Louisiana and Tennessee.

He told ESPN there were a half-dozen times from 1983-85 in which Dodd either molested or attempted to molest him and that in each incident Dodd would sneak into his room "in the middle of the night and you don't hear anything ... and he's trying to reach his hand in your underwear, basically."

Dodd did not respond to ESPN's requests for comments. His assistant told the network in an email that he had cancer and had retired from the AAU on Nov. 29 for health reasons.

Brookings Surges Past Bucks



Yankton's Connor Fitzsimmons gets off a shot over Brookings' Jordan Vanderbush during the first quarter of the Bucks' 68-56 season-opening Eastern South Dakota Conference loss to the Bobcats on Friday at Bob Jostad Gymnasium.

Girls

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buckets from behind the three-point line on her way to scoring 11 points.

EP-J was led by Keely Bertram's 23 points. Amy Zeller controlled the boards with 12 rebounds.

The Huskies will resume their season on Dec. 16 at Sioux Falls Christian. Canton will be playing on the road again on Dec. 13 as they will travel to Garrettsen.

CANTON (2-0).....12 28 42 47
ELK POINT-JEFFERSON (1-1).....8 14 20 37

Wynot 59, Osmond 39

OSMOND, Neb. — After one quarter of play the score between the Wynot Blue Devils and the Osmond Tigers was knotted up at 11. Wynot then put together a big second quarter to take control of the game.

Wynot outscored Osmond 24-9 in the second quarter on their way to a 59-39 victory Friday night in Osmond, Neb.

Maggie Schulte paced the Blue Devils with 25 points, and Kelsie Higgins ended the game with six points.

Osmond was led by Brianna Kum's 15 points, while Brianna Geutz chipped in 11 points for the Tigers.

Wynot will travel to Leigh for

their next game, and Osmond will be at Plainview. Both games will take place on Dec. 10.

WYNOT (3-0).....11 35 47 59
OSMOND (1-1).....11 20 31 39

Lincoln 51, Sturgis 36

SIOUX FALLS — The Sioux Falls Lincoln

girls got 18 points from Cera Ledbetter in a 51-36 victory over Sturgis on Friday night in Sioux Falls.

Mica Standing Soldier added 16 points and Darby Hugin contributed 12 points.

The Sturgis Scoopers were led by Lynsey Prosser who finished with 15 points. Kahlie Peterson had 12 points on the night.

Gazelles

From Page 8

Loecker scored 12 points and Abby Schulte grabbed six rebounds.

The Bobcats also won the freshman contest 34-27 despite 12 points from Yankton's Sarah Rockne and five from Danielle Schmidt.

YANKTON (1-0).....14 28 41 55
Three-Pointers: YHS 1-3 (Gross 1-1, Cornemann 0-1, Fedders 0-1), BHS 1-4 (Kwasniewski 1-2, Johnson 0-1, Miller 0-1), Total Rebounds: BHS 31 (Miller 9), YHS 27 (Fitzgerald 6), Assists: YHS 9 (Fedders 4), BHS 4 (Kwasniewski 2), Turnovers: YHS 11, BHS 25, Personal Fouls: BHS 23, YHS 15, Fouled Out: None.

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