

Hochstein 'Humbled' By Hall Selection

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Hochstein

A day after the announcement that he would be entering the Nebraska Football Hall of Fame, Hartington, Nebraska, native Russ Hochstein was still letting the announcement sink in.

"It's pretty humbling," said Hochstein, in a phone conversation from his summer home in Ashland, Nebraska. He and his family still live in Massachusetts, where he spent much of his NFL career. "Football is the ultimate team sport. I've had a lot of good teammates who deserve to be in there. So I was very honored, honored and excited to be a part of it."

Hochstein's family was also excited about the news.

"We're jumping up and down. My family is all pumped," he said. Hochstein is married with three children, ages 5, 3 and 9 months. "We're having a lot of fun with it. I've been getting a lot of great

phone calls from people. It's been awesome."

Hochstein, a Cedar Catholic graduate, spent 12 years in the NFL, winning Super Bowl titles in 2003 and 2004 with the New England Patriots. A fifth round draft pick of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in 2001, Hochstein signed with New England in 2002. He was traded to Denver in 2009, then was in camp with Arizona in 2012 before signing with the Kansas City Chiefs to finish his career.

He was a three-year starter at Nebraska, twice earning first-team All-Big 12 honors. A co-captain in 2000, he helped the Huskers win the NCAA rushing title, averaging nearly 350 yards per game on the ground.

In Nebraska's memorable 27-24 overtime win over Notre Dame, Hochstein was credited with a school-record tying 23 pancakes

(knock-down blocks).

"I think I'm the product of a very good coaching staff, a very good university and a fun system," he said. "I played with a lot of very good players, and they deserve as much of this credit as anyone else. Those are the guys I competed with every day, both on the offensive side and versus the defense."

His connection to Nebraska and Husker fans are a big part of why Hochstein makes it a point to spend 6-8 weeks in the state each year.

"I was blessed to play 12 years in the NFL, and all through those years I had fans all over Nebraska that would write me letters and stop me when I came into the state, and were always so supportive of us Huskers," he said, thanking the fans for their longtime support. "I was born and raised here, and invested in the state. We try to come back as much as we can."

While his playing days may be over, Hochstein's football days are not. He will be a volunteer football

coach this fall, working with line-men. He is also pursuing business opportunities outside of football.

"I just wanted to get my feet wet," he said about the coaching opportunity. "One of the coaches in the area asked if I wanted to help him out, and I said 'Absolutely.'"

The opportunity to help young players means a lot to Hochstein, not just because of the coaching he received while at Nebraska and in the NFL, but because of the great on-the-field mentors he had as well.

"There were a lot of good upper-classmen above me that taught me and helped me learn how to become a good system player, a good role player," he said. "A lot of great players came before me and tried to pass it on to me, and I tried to do that behind me."

The coaching gig is also a chance to test the waters with that career option.

"I've always wanted to do it because I learned a lot over the years. I was always hoping to give back to

the kids, see if that will help them," he said. "I played a long time, but just because you played doesn't make you a good coach. This is an opportunity to see if I like it and see if I can be good at it."

Hochstein will be honored with three other former Huskers, Carl Johnson, Mike Mandelko and Barrett Ruud. Like Hochstein, Johnson and Mandelko were offensive linemen.

"There are some great players in that group, a lot of good linemen and Barrett Ruud," they're all good players."

This year's Nebraska Football Hall of Fame class will celebrate with an induction dinner on the University of Nebraska campus on Friday, Sept. 5. The class will be introduced prior to Nebraska's football game with McNeese State at Memorial Stadium on Saturday, Sept. 6.

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JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Renner catcher Jake Just, 13, tags out Yankton Reds' Owen Feser as Feser tried to score on a squeeze play during the first game of a VFW Teener baseball doubleheader on Tuesday at Yankton's Riverside Field.

Lakers, Reds Earn Splits

The Yankton Lakers split a VFW Teener baseball doubleheader with the Brookings Bombers on Tuesday, winning the opener 10-0 before dropping the nightcap 18-10.

In the opener, Carter Peterson tossed a one-hit shutout for Yankton, striking out one in the five-inning contest.

Garrett Tennant went 3-3 with two RBI to lead Yankton. Jack Schoenfelder had a hit and two RBI. Peterson, Jackson Somsen and Nate Eichacker each had a hit and a RBI. Caid Koletzky and Miles Carda added hits.

In the nightcap, Yankton rallied from a 10-0 deficit, tying the game at 10 before Brookings scored eight in the top of the seventh.

Koletzky had a hit and two RBI, and Eichacker, Wyatt Duncan, Isiah Woods and Ben Wold each had a hit and a RBI for Yankton. Tennant and Trey Bakke added hits.

Carda took the loss in re-

lief of Jack Schoenfelder. The Lakers host Sioux Falls East today (Tuesday) at 5 p.m.

Legion

Yankton 5, Brandon Valley 3

BRANDON — Yankton's Landon Withrow and Sheldon Gant each had three hits as Post 12 downed Brandon Valley 5-3 in American Legion baseball action on Tuesday.

Withrow and Gant each had a double among their three hits. Gant scored twice, while Withrow drove in a run. Also for Yankton, Mitch Gullikson had two hits and a RBI.

Austin Johnson pitched six innings for the win, striking out three. Tanner Termansen pitched the final three innings, striking out three, for the save.

Yankton, 26-12 overall and

The Reds, 15-19, play in

the Sioux Falls Tournament, beginning on Friday.



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Yankton Lakers second baseman Ben Wold corrals a ground ball during the second game of a VFW Teener baseball doubleheader with the Brookings Bombers on Tuesday at Riverside Field.

BASEBALL | PAGE 8

Mike Miller Rejoins LeBron In Cleveland

CLEVELAND (AP) — Mike Miller had choices. None of them was better than playing with LeBron James again.

Miller has agreed to a \$5.5 million, two-year contract with the Cavaliers, re-uniting the sharp-shooting forward with James, his former teammate in Miami. Miller's contract includes a player option in the second year, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press.

The person spoke Tuesday on condition of anonymity because the deal is not yet signed. Miller will make \$2.7 million next season, and the option is worth \$2.8 million, the person said.

The 34-year-old Miller also was coveted by Dallas and Denver. But the chance to play alongside James was enough to send him to Cleveland. Miller and James played together with the Heat for three seasons, winning two NBA titles. Miller reportedly had a three-year offer from the Mavericks.

Last season, Miller played in 82 games — the most since his rookie season — for Memphis. He shot 46 percent (107 of 233) on 3-pointers and averaged 7.1 points and 2.5 rebounds.

After agreeing to the deal, Miller posted a message on his Instagram account, thanking Grizzlies fans and acknowledging James.

"Thanks to Memphis for a great year!" Miller wrote. "But I'm so excited to be a part of the Cleveland family and their fans. The only thing you can expect from me is everything I have! So excited to reunite with my brother! I know I don't even need to tell you this but I will 'Let It Fly'."

Miller gives the Cavs another outside offensive option and someone to help spread the floor for James, who signed a two-year, \$42 million contract with Cleveland on Saturday.

Although Miller was slowed by injuries during his tenure with Miami, the Heat could always count on him to knock down big shots and James never lost confidence in him.

Miller has made 41 percent of his 3-point attempts during an NBA career that began with Orlando in 2000. The Magic drafted Miller, who played at Florida, with the No. 5 overall pick in 2000. He also has played for Minnesota and Washington.

Iowa's White Wants Hawkeyes To Be More Intense

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Iowa senior Aaron White still can't quite put his finger on why the Hawkeyes collapsed last season.

What White has learned is that the Hawks will need to worry more about their intensity than their expectations in 2014-15.

White will enter next season as the face of the program with Devyn Marble's departure to the NBA. It'll be a major challenge for White, the leading returning scorer from a team that reached as high as No. 10 in the country before losing seven of their last eight games and falling to Tennessee in the opening round of the NCAA tournament.

"Last year was the first time that we expected to do big things. Early on in the year we had guys saying we could go to the Final Four, we had a chance to go to the Sweet Sixteen. That's a lot of pressure on a team, espe-

cially a team that hasn't been in the limelight up until that point. So for myself, and the rest of guys really learned not to buy into anything," White said. "You can't take anything for granted."

To that end, White has done everything in his power to improve this summer. White participated in skills academies hosted by Kevin Durant and LeBron James in the past few weeks. The invitations to those camps are reserved for the nation's top players, and what struck White was how spirited the competition was at all times.

White, a third-team All-Big Ten pick last season, returned to Iowa City intent on pushing his teammates more than ever.

"We've got to really ramp up the intensity," White said. "Even if it's cheering on the sideline or whatever it may be, we've just got to do everything at a high level because that's how the

game is played," White said.

White has also worked this summer to fix his jumper, perhaps the most glaring deficiency in his game.

White shot a career-high 58.4 percent from the floor last season in averaging 12.8 points a game. But the majority of his baskets came from inside the paint, and down the stretch he often passed on open mid-range jumpers.

If White can develop a perimeter game that opponents have to worry about, he could easily emerge as one of the Big Ten's best players next season.

"Half the battle with the jumper is that you have to be confident shooting it," White said. "I wasn't confident shooting the ball at the end of last year and that's why I didn't shoot it. In order for me to perform how I need to perform and to help us is to make open shots."

72-Year-Old Driver Causes Crash, Raises Questions

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — It's been almost two decades since Morgan Shepherd last ran a full Sprint Cup season, and his last national series victory was in 1993.

He can still probably wheel a race car better than you and most of your friends. That doesn't mean the 72-year-old should be racing against the very best drivers in NASCAR.

Shepherd drew scrutiny Sunday at New Hampshire Motor Speedway when he caused Joey Logano to crash.

Shepherd was 40th, 16 laps off the pace, when second-place Logano tried to pass the slower car. Replays show little, just that Logano ended up with a wrecked

car. He then publicly questioned if there should be driving tests for some competitors.

NASCAR dismissed Logano's notion, pointing out Shepherd has been approved to drive since 1970.

Shepherd has 925 starts in NASCAR's top three levels. He's got four career Sprint Cup victories, won 15 Nationwide races and even ran a full Nationwide schedule four years ago at age 69.

"He's been approved for decades," NASCAR vice president of competition Robin Pemberton said. "You take a physical at the beginning of the year. You pass your physical. You pass inspections with your car, you qualify for the race and you run the event. He met

everything he needed to meet."

That's the problem. There is no rule in place — except for drivers under 18 years old — stopping someone from competing in a national level NASCAR race.

Mark Martin, his back aching and his eyesight no longer what it once was, called it quits last year at 54. If he wanted to race next week at Indianapolis, nobody would stop him if he showed up in a car that made the field.

Michael Waltrip, at 51, still runs four races a year. His Hall of Fame brother, Darrell, was 53 when he got out of the car following eight

NASCAR | PAGE 8

OPEN | PAGE 8