

Injured Nebraska QB's Father Says Son's Return Unlikely

BY ERIC OLSON

AP College Football Writer

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — It appears Nebraska's Taylor Martinez has played his last snap for the Cornhuskers.

Martinez's father, Casey Martinez, wrote in an email to The Associated Press on Monday night that the senior quarterback has a "debilitating injury" near the ball of his left foot that could take until February or March to heal fully.

"Taylor's injury happened in week one and after several months of rehab we have discovered that the more he does on it the worse

that it gets," Casey Martinez wrote. "Very, very unfortunate location and aggravating injury that can't be toughed out."

"This is a nightmare way to finish your college career, by getting this kind of injury in the first week of the season, which essentially has cost Taylor his whole senior season as well as many team and personal goals."

Casey Martinez wrote that he has spoken to a foot specialist who works with elite athletes but did not recall the medical term for his son's injury. Coach Bo Pelini originally called the injury a turf toe, but has described it as a sprain the past two weeks.

Taylor Martinez has not spoken to reporters since the Oct. 26 loss at Minnesota.

Asked at his Monday news conference about the possibility of Martinez playing again this season, Pelini said, "I don't know if the chances are real good."

Martinez has been limited to four games. He has had nagging injuries to his shoulder, hip and abdomen, but the injury to his left foot has been the main reason for his absences.

"We feel confident that Taylor will be 100 percent in late February or early March, as he has already been in continuous rehab since his

injury," Casey Martinez wrote. "Right now he wants to just continue rehab and be there for his team anyway possible."

Martinez has been the starter since his freshman year. The senior holds career school records for total offense, yards passing and touchdown passes. Tommy Armstrong Jr. has started five games in Martinez's place.

Martinez missed three games, but returned for the game at Minnesota. He hasn't played since.

Why did he play against the Gophers if he wasn't healthy?

"Because he could tolerate the pain and compete at a level to ex-

cute the game plan, which he did," Casey Martinez wrote. "Playing and practicing on this injury unfortunately just seems to aggravate it, and Taylor was under the impression that he could just tough it out and maybe fight through the pain, which he realized isn't in the best interest of his long-term health."

Nebraska hosts Michigan State in a key Big Ten game on Saturday, and Armstrong will be under center again.

"I hate to speculate and make a bold statement that his college career is over," Casey Martinez said of Taylor, "although, as Bo stated, it doesn't look good."

USD's Seekamp Earns Summit League Honors

ELMHURST, Ill. — South Dakota junior guard Nicole Seekamp was named the Summit League women's basketball Player of the Week for her efforts as the Coyotes opened the season with a 1-1 record.

Seekamp, from Renmark, South Australia, and the reigning Summit League Tournament MVP, averaged 19 points, six rebounds and three steals a game as the Coyotes beat Cal State Fullerton and lost to UC Irvine, both on the road. She finished 11-29 (38 percent) from the field, 2-6 (33 percent) from 3-point range and 88 percent (14-16) from the line.

IUPUI's Mitch Patton and Omaha's C.J. Carter shared men's Summit League honors.



Area Teams Splash Into Winter Season

Six teams, including swimmers from Yankton and Vermillion, competed in the Yankton Tri-State swim meet on Saturday at the Summit Activities Center pool. The meet was one of the first for the winter short-course season. Yankton will host another meet next month.

ABOVE: Yankton's Matthew Freeman competes in the 100-yard butterfly at the Yankton Tri-State swim meet on Saturday at the Summit Activities Center pool.

LEFT: Vermillion's Isabel Telleria comes up for air during her leg in the girls' 9-12 year-old 200-yard freestyle relay at the Yankton Tri-State swim meet on Saturday at the Summit Activities Center pool.

JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Carney At QB Club Wednesday

The Yankton Quarterback Club will meet Wednesday at noon at the Elks Lodge, 504 West 27th Street, Yankton.

This week's speaker is South Dakota High School Activities Association executive director Wayne Carney, who will talk about issues facing the SDHSAA.

The public is invited to attend.

Fernandez, Myers Earn Rookie Honors

NEW YORK (AP) — Jose Fernandez arrived early. Wil Myers made it big after a blockbuster trade.

Neither one needed much time to create a splash, and together they brought both Rookie of the Year awards back to Florida.

Fernandez stood out in a very deep National League class this season, and the precocious Miami Marlins pitcher received 26 of 30 first-place votes from a Baseball Writers' Association of America panel in results announced Monday.

Myers won the American League prize after the Tampa Bay slugger put up impressive offensive numbers in barely half a season. The right fielder was chosen first on 23 of 30 ballots, beating out Detroit shortstop Jose Iglesias and Rays teammate Chris Archer.

"Honestly, when I was called up that didn't even cross my mind. As the season went on I could see I would have a chance," Myers said on a conference call from his North Carolina home. "To be able to win is just a huge honor and I'm very excited about it."

Minnesota Moving Off-Injured Mauer To First

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Joe Mauer will move from catcher to first base on a full-time basis for the Minnesota Twins, hoping to avoid a repeat of the concussion that cut short his 2013 season.

The Twins announced the switch on Monday for the 30-year-old Mauer, who missed the last six weeks of the schedule recovering from his head injury. He took a foul tip off the mask on Aug. 19. During a conference call with reporters, Mauer said he's feeling fine and symptom-free, having begun his offseason workouts.

The sensitivity to light and noise, irritable moods and headaches lingered into October, however, prompting him to seek medical advice from Mayo Clinic doctors and team physicians about the prospect of continuing to play behind the plate.

"When I kept gathering information, to be honest with you, it wasn't really even a decision," said Mauer, who is signed through 2018 with \$115 million remaining on his contract. "I kept searching to see if it was going to be OK, if

it was going to be safe for me to go back there and catch, and I just wasn't finding that."

He added: "All it could take is one foul tip in pitcher's batting practice, and I'm out for two or three months or even more."

Twins general manager Terry Ryan said the organization would've supported whatever Mauer decided was best, even if he felt he could keep playing the position with the most inherent injury risk of anywhere on the field.

"I'm happy that he's chosen to make the transition, but had he decided that he wanted to catch I'm not sure that anybody was going to stand in his way," Ryan said.

Ryan, who traded Mauer's close friend, first baseman Justin Morneau, a couple of weeks after Mauer was hurt, acknowledged this move makes the potential pursuit of Morneau in free agency improbable.

Mauer won the Silver Slugger award for American League catchers this year after batting .324 with 11 home runs and 47 RBIs in 113 games. Taken by the Twins,

his hometown team, with the first pick in the 2001 draft and given the job as a 20-year-old to start the 2004 season, Mauer has been the catcher in 920 games.

"I really enjoy going out there and competing, and I'm thankful still be able to do that. ... But it's frustrating it had to end sooner than I anticipated," he said.

Mauer has three Gold Gloves, three batting titles, six All-Star game selections and the 2009 AL MVP award as a catcher. Can he amass similar accolades at a position crowded with top hitters is to be seen. As for the effect on the value of his \$23 million annual salary, his rotisserie league worth or his Hall of Fame credentials, well, Mauer predictably said he's not worried about any of that.

First there's his family, including wife Maddie and twin infant girls Emily and Maren. Then there's the Twins, who are better off with a healthy Mauer at first base than with an injured Mauer at catcher. The men behind the mask took quite a beating around the majors this season, with

Detroit's Alex Avila, Oakland's John Jaso and Kansas City's Salvador Perez all missing time due to concussions.

"I had one when I was younger, but I probably had several that went undiagnosed. You're just kind of wired to play through it," Mauer said.

Mauer said he sustained "two significant blows" to his head that mid-August afternoon, a makeup game against the New York Mets from April rendered meaningless with both teams buried in the playoff race. With problems with his back and legs behind him, Mauer had been feeling as fit and strong as ever the last two years.

"We wouldn't be having this conversation if I didn't have that concussion," he said.

Former Twins catcher A.J. Pierzynski is among the veteran free agents available this winter, but Ryan said his priority is starting pitching. Josmil Pinto showed some potential after Mauer was out, and Ryan Doumit has plenty of experience. Other options are Chris Herrmann

and Eric Fryer.

Mauer has played 56 games at first base in his career, committing four errors in 536 chances for a sparkling .993 fielding percentage. The natural athleticism that made him a standout point guard and quarterback in high school serves him well anywhere on the baseball field, and he ought to be able to pick up defensively where Morneau left off.

Where Mauer can't match Morneau is with raw power, long widely considered the most important asset at first base, but Mauer has a career .873 on-base-plus-slugging percentage, 20th among all active players regardless of position.

With increased availability and fresher legs, he could easily recalibrate his annual average of roughly 10 home runs. Mauer spoke with Morneau shortly before he addressed the media.

"He was a catcher way back in the day, and he said, 'You're going to be amazed at how much better you feel,'" Mauer said. "I'm looking forward to that."

MMC Women Win; USD, MMC Men Fall On The Road



Mount Marty College's Bud Smith (10) drives to the lane against Presentation College's Chaz Hayward (1) on Monday at the Strode Center in Aberdeen.

ABERDEEN — The Mount Marty College women's basketball team jumped out to a 50-28 halftime lead and coasted to an 87-61 victory over Presentation on Monday.

Freshman Kieran O'Malley scored a game-high 18 points and Raquet Sutera had 15 points to lead Mount Marty. Holly Hegge scored 11 points and had three steals. Cheyenne Lambley netted 10 points on 3-3 shooting from the field and 4-4 shooting from the line. Cassidy Gebhart and Kelli Curtis each had four assists. Kelsey Schmidt added three steals in the win.

For Presentation, 1-4, Janvier Barbarin scored 12 points and Jackie Miller had 10 points. Rachel Furhmann finished with nine points, nine rebounds and four assists.

MMC takes a 2-1 record into Friday's contest with Dakota State. Start time is 7 p.m. at Laddie E. Cimpl Arena.

MOUNT MARTY (2-1)
Cassidy Gebhart 2-5 1-2 6, Cheyenne Lambley 3-3 4-4 10, Holly Hegge 4-6 3-5 11, Kelsey Schmidt 3-3 1-1 8, Allison DeKam 3-5 0-0 6, Logan Wagner 0-2 0-0 0, Kieran O'Malley 5-11 7-7 18, Erica Dreckman 0-3 0-0 0, Kelli Curtis 0-0 0-0 0, Denae Veldkamp 0-0 0-0 0, Haley Froelich 1-1 0-0 2, Kellie Winckler 1-2 0-0 2, Raquet Sutera 6-9 2-3 15, Kelly Amundson 3-3 1-2 7, Samantha Blake 1-1 0-0 2. Totals 24-70 10-13 61.
PRESENTATION (1-4)
Hannah Phillips 2-17 2-2 6, Abbie Geraci 3-11 2-2 9, Rachel Furhmann 3-14 3-4 9, Jackie Miller 4-9 2-3 10, Janvier Barbarin 6-8 0-0 12, Caitlin Robinson 1-1 0-0 2, Kaylee Voorhees 0-2 0-0 0, Shelby Elson 0-0 0-0 0, Sierra Benning 2-3 0-0 6, Taalry Egeness 0-2 0-0 0, Sydney Larson 3-3 1-2 7. Totals 24-70 10-13 61.
Halftime score — Mount Marty 50-28. 3-point field goals — Mount Marty 4-15 (Gebhart 1-3, Schmidt 1-1, Wagner 0-1, O'Malley 1-6, Dreckman 0-2, Sutera 1-2); Presentation 3-18 (Phillips 0-4, Geraci 1-5, Miller 0-3, Voorhees 0-2, Benning 2-3, Egeness 0-1). Rebounds — Mount Marty 32 (Amundson 7); Presentation 27 (Furhmann 9). Turnovers — Mount Marty 19; Presentation 22. Fouls — Mount Marty 16; Presentation 20. Assists — Mount Marty 18 (Gebhart 4, Curtis 4); Presentation 15 (Furhmann 4). Steals — Mount Marty 12 (Hegge 3, Schmidt 3); Presentation 6 (Phillips 4). Blocks — Mount Marty 1 (Blake 1); Presentation 1 (Larson 1). Officials — Dave Carlsrud, John Ruff, Ron Nudell.

Men: Canisius 71, South Dakota 66

BUFFALO, N.Y. — MAAC Preseason Player of the Year Billy Baron scored a game-high 27 points and drilled a go-ahead three-pointer with 57 seconds left to lead Canisius to a season-opening 71-66 win against South Dakota Monday evening at the Koessler Athletic Center.

It was the fourth meeting between the two programs in the last four years and the first time the home team has emerged victorious. Baron made just 6 of 15 shots from the field, but had half of the Griffs' 10 three-pointers and went 10 of 11 from the free-throw line.

Senior center Trevor Gruis needed one rebound to be-