

SPORTS + THE RHODE ISLANDER

Pats game postponed; Newton has COVID-19

New England's quarterback Cam Newton looks to pass in last Sunday's game against the Las Vegas Raiders at Gillette Stadium. He has tested positive for the coronavirus and will not play this week against the Chiefs. (THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / KRIS CRAIG)



By Mark Daniels
Journal Sports Writer

Patriots quarterback Cam Newton has tested positive for coronavirus, and the NFL on Saturday announced that it will move New England's game against the Chiefs from Sunday afternoon to Monday or Tuesday. The Patriots canceled their Saturday afternoon flight from Providence to Kansas City, and the team was waiting to hear back about more results from tests that players and coaches took

on Saturday morning. The team announced that the first round of tests all came back negative.

A statement from the Patriots read: "Late Friday night, we received notice that a Patriots player tested positive for COVID-19. The player immediately entered self-quarantine. Several additional players, coaches and staff who have been in close contact with the player received point of care tests this morning and all were negative for COVID-19. "We are in close consultation

with the NFL, as well as our team of independent doctors and specialists, and will follow their guidance regarding our scheduled trip to Kansas City and game against the Chiefs. The health and safety of our team, as well as our opponent, are of highest priority."

On Saturday, Newton was placed on the COVID-19 reserve list.

The NFL also issued a statement: "In consultation with See NEWTON, C2

COVID's wrath on NFL may be starting

By Jarrett Bell
USA TODAY

The NFL's worst week yet in battling COVID-19 has another sudden face: Cam Newton.

As the league grapples with the Tennessee Titans outbreak that forced the postponement of a matchup against the Pittsburgh Steelers, one of the NFL's biggest fears came to fruition when a second game was put on ice after Newton was placed on the COVID-19 reserve list on Saturday.

The showdown at Arrowhead Stadium pitting the New England Patriots and defending Super Bowl champion Kansas City Chiefs has been postponed, perhaps to be played on Monday or Tuesday, after Newton and Chiefs practice squad quarterback Jordan Ta'amu, according to multiple reports, tested positive.

Obviously, the setback for the star quarterback — in the midst of an impressive comeback season — threw a last-minute wrench into hopes of upsetting the Chiefs. Even if the game is played early next week, Newton wouldn't play — unless his test result turns out to have been false.

In any event, Newton's case, coupled with the Titans outbreak, hammers home the tenuous nature of the NFL's plans to play a full season — and the havoc that can be wreaked in the hours before the bulk of the week's games are to be played — while in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic.

It appears no other Patriots have been placed on the list with Newton, or that any coaches or staff have tested positive for COVID-19. In a statement released late Saturday morning, the Patriots

See NFL, C2

FOR A FRIEND



Patriots running back J.J. Taylor (42) is tackled by Raiders linebacker Nicholas Morrow during the second quarter of the Sept. 27 game at Gillette Stadium. Taylor wears the name of his friend, Tank Goodman, on his helmet to honor his former teammate. (USA TODAY SPORTS / BRIAN FLUHARTY)

Late teammate 'Tank' never far from Pats RB J.J. Taylor's mind

By Mark Daniels
Journal Sports Writer

J.J. Taylor sat in front of his locker just moments before the biggest game of his life. Quiet, he was staring at the silver helmet in his hands. Taylor wasn't looking at the Patriots decal or the red face mask, or thinking about making his NFL debut.

Instead, his focus was the name on the back of the helmet. In all caps, it reads, "TANK GOODMAN."

The name means everything. It elicits every emotion. It reminds him of the best times. And the pain, loss and

heartbreak. "Before the game, I'd probably spend about five to 10 minutes just looking at the back of my helmet," Taylor said. "Just reminiscing."

This season, several players have names on the backs of their helmets as part of the NFL's Say Their Stories initiative. They're doing it to honor victims of systemic racism and police brutality, as well as social justice heroes.

But Taylor took it in a different direction to honor his longtime friend.

Goodman was killed this summer in an act of gun violence. He was 23 and one of

Taylor's closest friends. That's whom Taylor's thinking about before each NFL game. It's the name on his mind when he first runs on the field and the person he prays for before each kickoff.

"Right now, with everything going on and just knowing how much he meant to me as a friend, it means a lot," Taylor said. "It means the world."

A 5-foot-6 undrafted rookie free agent, Taylor is already an inspiration for making the team's roster. What people don't see is the pain he's dealing with or the motivation

See TAYLOR, C3



Jamal "Tank" Goodman at Centennial High School in California. (COURTESY OF MATT LOGAN)

Filly Swiss Skydiver beats Authentic to win Preakness Stakes



Swiss Skydiver (4), ridden by Robby Albarado, wins the 145th Preakness Stakes ahead of Authentic (9), ridden by John Velazquez, at Pimlico Race Course, Saturday in Baltimore. (AP/STEVE HELBER)

By Stephen Whyno
The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Filly Swiss Skydiver added another memorable moment to a topsy-turvy Triple Crown season.

Jockey Robby Albarado made a power move to pass favored Authentic around the far turn, and Swiss Skydiver beat him by a neck after a stretch duel in the Preakness Stakes run without fans Saturday. She's the sixth filly and first since Rachel Alexandra in 2009 to win the Preakness, which this year served as the third leg of the Triple Crown for the first time.

"Just a real honor to be around a horse like this," said trainer Kenny McPeck, who won his

first Preakness and second Triple Crown race. "It's a special moment."

Swiss Skydiver went off at odds of 11-1 and upset 3-2 favorite Authentic, who came in off winning the Kentucky Derby. Jesus' Team was third at 40-1 and Art Collector fourth at 2-1. The 145th running of the Preakness at a mostly empty Pimlico Race Course came four weeks after the Kentucky Derby and 3 1/2 months since the Belmont as they were held out of order for the first time since the 1930s.

McPeck won a Triple Crown race for the first time since 2002 Belmont with Sarava, which was the biggest upset in the history of that race. Swiss Skydiver was the first filly to run the race since

2014, when Ria Antonia finished last.

Albarado made sure nothing like that would happen, taking the chance given to him by John Velazquez when Authentic's Hall of Fame jockey John Velazquez abandoned the rail.

"I had an opportunity," Albarado said. "I took advantage of the rail. Johnny stayed off the fence there, made a conscious decision to move at that time. Give or take now. If I make that move now or I wait and get smothered."

Swiss Skydiver avenged her loss in her only other competition against colts, when she finished second to Art Collector in the

See RACING, C4

NFL WEEK 4 PRIMER

Cardinals (2-1) at Panthers (1-2)

Sunday, 1 p.m. ET, Fox
BetMGM.com line: Cardinals by 3½
Cardinals' keys: With All-Pro RB Christian McCaffrey out (ankle), the Panthers have to find different ways to manufacture offense.
Cardinals' keys: Coach and offensive play-caller Kliff Kingsbury should embrace a more run-heavy strategy with RB Kenyan Drake and backup Chase Edmonds.
 — Tim Weaver, Panthers Wire

Jaguars (1-2) at Bengals (0-2-1)

Sunday, 1 p.m. ET, CBS
BetMGM.com line: Bengals by 3
Jaguars' keys: Ride the ground game with RB James Robinson, owner of 210 yards and three TDs on a 4.9-yard-per-carry average.
Bengals' keys: A lack of pressure, especially amid the absence of DT Geno Atkins, has played a huge role in Cincinnati's inability to stop the run.
 — Chris Roling, Bengals Wire

Browns (2-1) at Cowboys (1-2)

Sunday, 1 p.m. ET, Fox
BetMGM.com line: Cowboys by 4½
Browns' keys: Forcing the Cowboys to hone in on the run should allow QB Baker Mayfield time to find Odell Beckham Jr.
Cowboys' keys: QB Dak Prescott has 1,188 passing yards while Amari Cooper, Michael Gallup, CeeDee Lamb and Cedrick Wilson have all had 100-yard games this season.
 — K.D. Drummond, Cowboys Wire

Saints (1-2) at Lions (1-2)

Sunday, 1 p.m. ET, Fox
BetMGM.com line: Saints by 4
Saints' keys: A healthy dose of RB Alvin Kamara and a leaky Lions defense should be enough to get New Orleans' offense back in rhythm.
Lions' keys: Look for them to try to establish the run. If the Lions can pull a safety into the box, look for play-action and QB Matthew Stafford to stretch the field.
 — Erik Schlitt, Lions Wire

Vikings (0-3) at Texans (0-3)

Sunday, 1 p.m. ET, Fox
BetMGM.com odds: Texans by 3½
Vikings' keys: RB Dalvin Cook is coming off 181 yards rushing in Week 3.
Texans' keys: QB Deshaun Watson has thrown an interception in every game this season. DE JJ Watt collected two sacks in Week 2 but was silent in Pittsburgh.
 — Mark Lane, Texans Wire

Seahawks (3-0) at Dolphins (1-2)

Sunday, 1 p.m. ET, Fox
BetMGM.com line: Seahawks by 6½
Seahawks' keys: Look for QB Russell Wilson to get aggressive with play-action early and try to connect with WR DK Metcalf downfield against Miami's retooled secondary.
Dolphins' keys: Keep QB Ryan Fitzpatrick clean in the pocket. He hasn't had a turnover in his last two games.
 — Kyle Crabbs, Dolphins Wire

Chargers (1-2) at Buccaneers (2-1)

Sunday, 1 p.m. ET, CBS
BetMGM.com line: Buccaneers by 7
Buccaneers' keys: Mix things up and force Chargers QB Justin Herbert into rookie mistakes.
Chargers' keys: WRs Keenan Allen and Mike Williams and TE Hunter Henry should be active. DE Joey Bosa and the rest of the Chargers' defensive front will have to put consistent pressure on Bucs QB Tom Brady.
 — Luke Easterling, Bucs Wire

Ravens (2-1) at Washington (1-2)

Sunday, 1 p.m. ET, CBS
BetMGM.com line: Ravens by 13
Ravens' keys: Run with efficiency, let QB Lamar Jackson make plays with his feet and his arm and shut down a questionable Washington offense.
Washington's keys: If it can stop the run and force a couple of turnovers through the air, Washington might be able to get its offense into a rhythm.
 — Zachary Neel, Washington Wire



New England quarterback Cam Newton has reportedly tested positive for the coronavirus, leading to the league postponing the Patriots' game with the Chiefs. PAUL RUTHERFORD/USA TODAY SPORTS

Patriots (2-1) at Chiefs (3-0)

Postponed
 The Patriots-Chiefs game has been postponed due to positive coronavirus tests, reportedly including Patriots quarterback Cam Newton, while the NFL said a player with Kansas City also tested positive. The NFL said the game will be played Monday or Tuesday, which would be possible only if there is no wider spread of the disease on the rosters.
 — Associated Press

Bills (3-0) at Raiders (2-1)

Sunday, 4:25 p.m. ET, CBS
BetMGM.com line: Bills by 3
Bills' keys: If Buffalo can slow Raiders RB Josh Jacobs, the Bills should have no problem shutting down the Vegas offense.
Raiders' keys: Make stops in the red zone. QB Derek Carr will need to keep the team ahead of the chains and throw downfield. Can the Raiders cut back on turnovers and penalties?
 — Marcus Mosher, Raiders Wire

Eagles (0-2-1) at 49ers (2-1)

Sunday, 8:20 p.m. ET, NBC
BetMGM.com line: 49ers by 7
Eagles' keys: QB Carson Wentz can't rely so heavily on TE Zach Ertz. Wentz has to lean on his receiving corps and attack a weak 49ers secondary.
49ers' keys: Maintain efficient QB play. Between Jimmy Garoppolo and Nick Mullens, the 49ers' quarterbacks have yet to commit a turnover this season.
 — Kyle Madson, Niners Wire

Falcons (0-3) at Packers (3-0)

Monday, 8:15 p.m. ET, ESPN
BetMGM.com line: Packers by 7
Falcons' keys: They might not have WR Julio Jones (hamstring), but QB Matt Ryan still has playmakers, including WR Calvin Ridley.
Packers' keys: QB Aaron Rodgers should be able to spread the ball around and find the weak points, especially if the run game with RB Aaron Jones gets going.
 — Zach Kruse, Packers Wire

Colts (2-1) at Bears (3-0)

Sunday, 4:25 p.m. ET, CBS
BetMGM.com line: Colts by 2½
Colts' keys: Lean heavily on RB Jonathan Taylor against a Bears defense that's been vulnerable in the run game.
Bears' keys: Lean on RB David Montgomery to establish a balance on offense. Chicago has found its pass rush over the last two games with six total sacks.
 — Alyssa Barbieri, Bears Wire

Giants (0-3) at Rams (2-1)

Sunday, 4:05 p.m. ET, Fox
BetMGM.com line: Rams by 12½
Giants' keys: They must stop the Rams' ground game, which has been much more efficient this season than it was last year.
Rams' keys: RBs Darrell Henderson and Malcolm Brown should get a bunch of touches, as will RB Cam Akers if he's able to return after missing Week 3.
 — Cameron DaSilva, Rams Wire

TAYLOR

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behind it all.

Taylor entered his first NFL training camp in May. He now carries his friend's name with him every Sunday.
 "It was hard," the young running back said. "Now, I'm not just doing it for me anymore. I wasn't doing it for me in the first place. It was for my family, those who believed in me or those who looked up to me, but now I'm doing it for him — to keep his legacy going."

An early bond

Jamal "Tank" Goodman was always stocky for his age. He always loved football. That's why the nickname "Tank" was fitting.
 The first time Ja Reese heard it was when she dropped her son off at his first football practice at Centennial High School in Corona, California. Players were running the 40-yard dash, and when he took off, a coach yelled, "Where did this tank come from?"
 The name stuck.

A quiet kid, Goodman stood 5-3 and weighed upward of 230 pounds as a teenager. On the field, he developed into a competitive, hard-hitting linebacker.

"Oh, he loved football. He played from the time he was 9," said Reese. "He just really, really took to it. It even provided him a scholarship at Dixie State. He really enjoyed it. He actually went into Centennial as a running back, but they needed a linebacker. He had really not played defense, but he was athletic and ended up thriving."
 Goodman wasn't the next star running back. Instead, it was his friend, Taylor — a 160-pound dynamo. Taylor entered Centennial as a sophomore and was a year behind Goodman.

"It was a bond instantly," said Centennial coach Matt Logan. "They all played for similar previous coaches and played against each other. They're all really the type of comical type kids who would bag on each other, have fun.



J.J. Taylor's helmet honors his late friend, Tank Goodman.

It was a close-knit group."

In 2015, Goodman made first-team All-State as a linebacker and Taylor did the same as a running back. The pair bonded in part because of football, but they were also alike. Off the field, they were quiet but on the field, their actions spoke volumes.

"[Jamal] would always talk about how good J.J. was and said he's just really quiet. As they got older, I told J.J., I could see the reason why he and my son developed the friendship, because my son was very quiet," Reese said. "They were very similar in that kids that have talent, just remarkable talent, but just we're not the showboaters."
 "They enjoyed the sport and

enjoyed playing it. ... They were very competitive on the field, but came off the field as gentle, caring people."

Tragedy strikes

Goodman ended up at Dixie State University in Utah because of football, but his goal was to make an impact off the field. He was in the process of completing a bachelor of science degree in criminal justice when his life came to a tragic end on June 23.

That night, his roommate, Tommy Bradshaw Jr., admitted to police that he shot Goodman in the chest. This allegedly happened because Goodman knocked loudly on Bradshaw's bedroom door,

according to court documents. Bradshaw, 27, was arrested and charged with one count of first-degree felony murder.

At the time, Goodman was working with youths at a juvenile detention center and he wanted to make a difference after earning his degree. His mother said he was living with Bradshaw to help him.

The nickname "Tank" was appropriate, due to his stature, but not an indication of who he was.
 "He was funny, he was goofy. Some would call him a big ole fuddy duddy bear," Taylor said. "He got the name Tank because he's a big dude, but he was a real good dude at heart and just a real genuine person."

The news crushed Taylor. The friends talked almost daily. Their group from Centennial got together constantly to play PlayStation. They called themselves the 'PS Squad.' No matter what was happening in life, they took the time to play, trash talk and catch up. Taylor always looked forward to those moments.

"I got a few good friends that we all keep in contact to this day. And he was one of the few that I talked to almost every day," Taylor said. "Even though it was maybe through PlayStation or whenever I came home from college, we all hung out and went to play basketball. He was one person that was just a constant person in my life."
 Goodman's death happened a month before Taylor's first NFL training camp. He struggled with how much he missed and leaned on past coaches for guidance.

"At first, it was very difficult losing a friend, especially a friend that was as close to me as he was," Taylor said. "It was kind of hard to be in the right mental state about anything, really."
 The advice he took to heart was that he should honor and play for Goodman.

Honoring 'Tank'

The email sat in Reese's inbox and she wasn't sure what to do. Initially apprehensive, she spoke with Candy Crary of the NFL on Aug. 31. Crary explained how players were honoring people in the name of social justice.

Although her son's situation was different, his name was among those requested.

Reese was shocked.
 "For my son to be honored in that way, I was just completely floored," Reese said. "As a parent, I know the type of child that my son was. Even the person that took his life he was helping. For him to be honored at that level was actually breathtaking. For his name to be recognized at a national level is something big, because I'm in the process of starting a foundation. Now people across the world will want to know — 'who is this Tank Goodman?'"

Initially, Reese didn't know Taylor requested the name. People back in Corona didn't even know it was happening until after Taylor made his NFL debut against Miami. When word got around, he took a picture and sent it to friends and coaches. The gesture resonated with everyone who knew Goodman.

"It brought tears to my eyes to see," said Logan. "Everybody down here thought it was a truly, truly remarkable tribute to our fallen teammate and friend. It was amazing."

Following the game, Taylor had an emotional phone call with Reese. The pain is still fresh. It won't go away anytime soon, but that helmet made for a nice moment for people who truly needed it.

"His mom ended up calling me after my first game, and she told me how much it meant to her for me to put his name on the back of his helmet and how much it meant for her family," Taylor said. "I guess you could say it was a little bittersweet."

"It was emotional. I cried," Reese said. "It's bittersweet. For me, it was exciting, but then it was like, 'Wow, why does he have to be honored in such a way when he could have been [here]?' People saw the light that he shared on so many when he was alive. So it was very, very emotional, but a happy emotional, because he used his platform to recognize my son."

Jamal "Tank" Goodman is gone, but not forgotten. J.J. Taylor has made sure of that.