

Pro Bowl not time off for Titans rookie

Young should see plenty of playing time behind starter Manning



By GREG BEACHAM
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HONOLULU

Vince Young didn't see this trip to Hawaii as a vacation. The Tennessee quarterback figured a rookie should never stop learning, even at the Pro Bowl.

So Young mined his fellow stars for any vein of information during the week leading up to today's game at Aloha Stadium. He got solid coaching advice from the AFC's Bill Belichick, while Peyton Manning spoke with him about resilience.

Oh, and every Pro Bowl player taught Young that it's important for the rookies to buy the drinks while everybody is sitting on the beach.

"It's been great. My head's kind of spinning, but it's a great time," said Young, who will back up Manning and Carson Palmer in the NFL's 57th all-star game. "I learned something every day. I'm just looking for-

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Reggie Wayne
Colts wide receiver on Titans quarterback Vince Young, his teammate for today's Pro Bowl

ward to playing in the game and having one more great experience to finish the year."

Young is the first rookie quarterback to make the Pro Bowl since Dan Marino. But he's just one star on the loaded AFC roster for the conference's 37th meeting since the merger in a laid-back series tied 18-18.

Manning, the Super Bowl MVP, will start with league MVP LaDainian Tomlinson before an impressive defense led by Miami's Jason Taylor

and Denver's Champ Bailey takes the field.

Even with standouts at every position around him, Young still attracts attention with his stunning physical abilities, particularly among players who hadn't seen him in person.

"We razz him a little bit because he's a rookie, but he seems really mature," Kansas City tight end Tony Gonzalez said. "You have to be mature at that position. He's already headed toward a great career. Hopefully Carson and Peyton can teach him a little something."

"I'm just glad he's on my team now," Indianapolis receiver Reggie Wayne said. "He's a freak out there, and there's lots of freaks at this game. He's got all kinds of skills."

Young got this opportunity through a little serendipity, since he wasn't an original selection to the Pro Bowl after a debut season he called "good, but not great."

Though he went 8-5 as a starter with seven rushing touchdowns, his

passing was admittedly erratic as the Titans missed the playoffs.

When San Diego's Philip Rivers was forced to drop out of his first trip because of a foot injury last month, the NFL waited nearly two weeks to name Young to the game. Tom Brady apparently declined a Hawaii invitation.

Baltimore's Steve McNair also declined, but for a very good reason: He wanted Young, his friend and successor in Tennessee, to have the opportunity he already had enjoyed.

Young should see plenty of playing time behind Manning, the Pro Bowl's career leader in yards passing and TD throws. He gladly acknowledged being on cruise control all week after leading the Colts to their Super Bowl victory and isn't likely to play much.

But Young, a native of Houston, welcomes every learning opportunity.

"He said he'd throw a touchdown pass to me, just for the people back home," Houston Texans receiver Andre Johnson said.

BASKETBALL

NEW YORK

Stern adds Anthony, Howard to All-Star team

Carmelo Anthony is going to the All-Star game after all.

The NBA's leading scorer was picked by commissioner David Stern on Friday as an injury replacement and will make his first All-Star game appearance on Feb. 18 in Las Vegas.

Stern also added Dallas forward Josh Howard to the Western Conference team. He needed to replace Houston center Yao Ming and Utah forward Carlos Boozer, who are injured.

Anthony is averaging an NBA-high 30.8 points but wasn't voted in by the fans and then wasn't chosen as a reserve by West coaches. He missed 15 games when Stern suspended him for his role in the brawl at Madison Square Garden in December.

PONTIAC, Mich.

Accused chair-thrower in Palace brawl jailed

The only person charged with a felony in the November 2004 brawl during a Pacers-Pistons game at The Palace of Auburn Hills, Mich.,

will spend the next six months in jail after a judge determined he violated his probation.

Bryant Jackson was found guilty of a probation violation by Oakland County Judge Rae Lee Chabot on Wednesday because he did not attend anger management classes or pay \$6,000 in restitution.

COLUMBUS, Ohio

Oden has to wait for blocked-shots total

It took almost 24 hours, but Ohio State center Greg Oden has another personal best.

Ohio State statisticians had to watch a videotape of the Buckeyes' 76-63 win against Michigan on Tuesday before coming up with official game totals that showed Oden with a career-high seven blocked shots.

The school's computer system went down midway through the first half and did not come back up until the second half.

An unofficial boxscore distributed after the game had the Buckeyes with 14 blocked shots and Oden, a 7-foot freshman center, with six. Instead the Buckeyes ended up with 13 blocks, and Oden had seven.

GOLF

HONOLULU

Wie suffers injury to wrist while running

Michelle Wie injured her wrist in a fall while running and is wearing a hard cast that will keep her away from golf for at least a month, a family spokesman said Friday.

Spokesman Jesse Derris said the 17-year-old injured her left wrist this week and that her doctors expect it will take four to six weeks to heal. Wie's right wrist was tightly taped from an injury last month at the Sony Open, where she missed the cut.

Wie wasn't planning to play in either the SBS Open or the Fields Open the next two weeks in Honolulu when the PGA Tour season gets under way. But she could miss the Kraft Nabisco Championship, the first PGA major of the year, on March 29.

LOS ANGELES

Woods makes it official: He won't play next week

Tiger Woods didn't enter the Nissan Open at Riviera next week, putting on hold his seven-tournament winning streak on the PGA

Tour until the Accenture Match Play Championship in Arizona.

It was only the second time that Woods has skipped the Nissan Open, which gave him his first PGA Tour exemption in 1992 at age 16. It is considered his hometown tournament because he grew up about 30 miles away in Cypress, Calif.

He did not list a reason for not playing this year.

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif.

Mickelson, Furyk lead Pebble Beach Pro-Am

Phil Mickelson only had to cope with the cold and rain. The missing element Friday was wind, and that helped him sail to a 5-under 67 and a share of the lead with Jim Furyk at the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am.

Mickelson continued to find his stride on the greens, making three straight birdies on the back nine at tame Pebble Beach, then catching Furyk with a simple up-and-down for birdie at the par-5 18th to reach 12-under 132.

Furyk (No. 2 in the world) and Mickelson (No. 6) had a three-shot lead over rookie John Mallinger and Kevin Sutherland.

TENNIS

OSTRAVA, Czech Republic

Berdych defeats Blake in Davis Cup matchup

James Blake lost to Tomas Berdych 6-1, 2-6, 7-5, 7-5 Friday, leaving the United States tied 1-1 with the Czech Republic in the Davis Cup.

Andy Roddick defeated Davis Cup rookie Ivo Minar 6-4, 4-6, 6-2, 6-3 earlier in the day to give the United States the early lead in the first-round World Group match.

The doubles match in the best-of-five series is today, with reverse singles set for Sunday.

Even though the 2½-hour match was played on slow red clay, Blake and Berdych attacked as though they were on a hard court, volleying at the net and going for daring winners.

Boosted by a boisterous crowd of 7,500 at the CEZ Arena, the 12th-ranked Czech took advantage of a disputed line call to finish off the sixth-ranked American. In the fifth game of the fourth set, Blake was convinced he had a vital break when Berdych appeared to double fault. But the umpire ruled the serve was in, and Berdych came back to claim the game four break points later.

LOCAL

PREP FOOTBALL

Whiteland, CG players named to region team

Four area high school football players were named to the Indiana Football Coaches Association All-Region team for Region 8 this week.

Both Whiteland and Center Grove had two players named to the team of seniors.

Whiteland offensive lineman Jared Lasiter and quarterback/defensive back Adam Money made the squad along with Center Grove defensive lineman Chad Fox and kicker/punter Ian McGarvey.

The association also recently announced its All-Academic All-State team, and 11 county players were selected in Region 8.

Whiteland led the way with four selections, while Center Grove had three honorees.

Members of the All-Academic All-State team for Region 8 were Alex Bailey, Andrew Perkins, Kyle Wheat and Money of Whiteland; Jake Duke, Zach Duke and Nick Marcum of Center Grove; Austin Davis and Bennie Waters of Franklin; Andrew Swishelm of Greenwood; and Kyle Baird of Indian Creek.

• IU

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1)

and red tie, and there has been talk that students will dress in red or shake baby rattles.

Whatever happens, Weber said he understands this much: Indiana will be hostile.

"This will definitely be a tough environment for us to deal with," Weber said Friday. "We're not going to Ohio State or Wisconsin, so this will be one of the toughest environments we face all season."

Illinois (18-8, 6-5) has bigger concerns on the court.

The Illini's top two scorers and rebounders, forwards Warren Carter and Shaun Pruitt, are not 100 percent because of a flu bug that has hit players, the university and much of central Illinois hard.

And guard Chester Frazier, who leads the team in assists, also was

limited in practice Thursday because of nagging ankle and groin injuries.

Illinois needs all three to play at a high level to win.

Then there's Indiana's great disparity at home and on the road.

The Hoosiers (16-6, 6-3) have shot 47.5 percent at home, compared with 41.3 on the road, and have scored 11.4 points per game more inside Assembly Hall than outside it.

"It seems to be more accentuated with them," Weber said. "(A.J.) Ratliff and Rod Wilmont make more 3s at home than on the road, and they seem to get more transition going and be more aggressive at home."

Sampson, too, would rather keep basketball front and center.

With no midweek game, he spent the time leading up to the game urging his players to do four things better: rebound, play through foul trouble, draw more fouls and overcome adversity.

He hopes the Hoosiers will respond with a more aggressive performance than the first meeting with Illinois.

"Do I think we have to attack them differently? Yes, I think we have to attack them," Sampson said. "The last game, we kind of walked the ball up the court, but we didn't attack them."

Sampson also was upset after an 81-75 loss at Iowa on Feb. 3, primarily with the Hoosiers' poor rebounding and great disparity in free-throw shooting.

The Hawkeyes scored nearly half their points (32) from the free-throw line.

For the Hoosiers to keep pace with the Big Ten's co-leaders, No. 3 Ohio State and No. 4 Wisconsin, Sampson needs to get that discrepancy fixed.

"If I could change one thing about our team, I wish we could get to the foul line better," he said. "But we can't get other teams to foul us when we're shooting 3s."

REGISTRATION

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