

Rodgers says he’s not holding teams hostage

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Aaron Rodgers is in no rush to make a decision about his future.

The free-agent quarterback said during an appearance on “The Pat McAfee Show” on Thursday that he is “not holding anybody hostage” as he weighs whether to return for a 21st season. Rodgers was released by the New York Jets in March. The 41-year-old four-time NFL MVP has visited the Pittsburgh Steelers and talked with the Minnesota Vikings in recent weeks, but said there are certain things going on in his personal life that are currently taking precedence over anything related to football.

“I have a couple people in my inner circle that are battling some difficult stuff,” Rodgers said. “I have a lot of things that are taking my attention and have, beginning in January, away from football.”



Seth Wenig — AP
New York Jets quarterback Aaron Rodgers runs onto the field before an NFL football game against the Miami Dolphins on Jan. 5 in East Rutherford, N.J.

Rodgers added that committing to a team is a “big thing” and indicated he will only do so when he’s ready to be all-in. He did cut down rumors that he was holding out for a multi-year contract or a big payday, saying that

\$10 million for one season would be enough to get him to sign. “I told every single one of the teams I talked to (that) it wasn’t about the money,” Rodgers said. The Steelers currently have plenty of cap space

and plenty of room on the roster for Rodgers. Mason Rudolph and Skylar Thompson are the only two quarterbacks currently under contract. Rodgers tried to surreptitiously visit Pittsburgh’s facility last month, flying

into a regional airport and renting a Chevy Malibu in an effort not to draw attention to himself. Rodgers said it was important to meet with Steelers coach Mike Tomlin and general manager Omar Khan and get a feel for the city. He left without an agreement, though everyone from Tomlin to team president Art Rooney II has indicated the meeting was productive. Rodgers also has relationships with Pittsburgh offensive coordinator Arthur Smith and quarterbacks coach Tom Arth, who worked alongside Rodgers in Green Bay during the 2006 off-season. While Pittsburgh feels like the most natural fit for Rodgers — who also worked out with recently acquired Steelers wide receiver DK Metcalf — he also said that retirement “could still be a possibility” and he doesn’t seem to be in any sort of rush

even with the NFL draft looming next week. “This entire time I haven’t felt like I owed anybody a decision at any point,” he said. “(I told them) if you need to move on, need to do something, by all means, nothing but love and respect if that’s a decision to be made.” Rodgers has also been in contact with Minnesota coach Kevin O’Connell and talked to New York Giants coach Brian Daboll, whom Rodgers said has a “beautiful football mind.” Rodgers indicated he has kept the lines of communication open, but is prioritizing his personal life at the moment. “I don’t think it was fair to the Steelers or anyone to make a decision while I’m dealing with a lot off the field,” he said.

Meet Jobu, the good luck charm behind Blues’ run

BY JOE HARRIS
ASSOCIATED PRESS
ST. LOUIS — The force behind the St. Louis Blues’ late-season playoff push cannot be found in the box score. He has not scored a single goal. His addition can’t be found on the NHL’s transaction wire.

It’s Jobu. Yes, the same Jobu from 1989 baseball comedy “Major League.” The team has given center stage — well, a spot in the locker room — to a replica of the Jobu doll from the movie, in which the voodoo-practicing character Pedro Cerrano offers rum and a cigar to remove the fear from his bat so he can hit a curveball. Six years since “Gloria” was the anthem of the Blues’ franchise-first Stanley Cup run in 2019, Jobu’s arrival is the latest good luck charm, his presence felt by the entire roster. Local media noticed Jobu’s arrival in late February. When asked about his origins, the standard reply from Blues players is that the doll just showed up. You know, like magic.



St. Louis Blues via NHL
This image shows Jobu, the doll from the 1989 movie “Major League,” in the locker of the NHL hockey club St. Louis Blues.

While it is not clear if the team offered Jobu rum or cigars to get a blessing for their sticks, what is clear is that the Blues have been the hottest team in the league since Jobu’s arrival. They were eight points out of the final wild-card spot in the Western Conference when the season resumed out of the 4 Nations Face-Off break. St. Louis went 19-4-3 since, including a franchise-record 12-game winning streak to move into a playoff spot. Jobu has his own stall — with a nameplate — in the center of the Blues dressing room at Enterprise Center next to forward Zack Bolduc.

“It’s basically our corner, and no one can sit there,” Bolduc said. Instead of a cigar, Jobu has a rolled piece of hockey tape in his mouth. He was even in the team photo of the entire organization, taking a prominent place on the front row. Jobu will accompany the team to open the playoffs this weekend in Winnipeg. He also gets his own locker with a nameplate on the road. “Even in Nashville, I got the lower seat and he got the full seat,” Blues forward Pavel Buchnevich said. “It’s like OK, you’ve got to respect him.”

Goalie Jordan Binnington said Jobu has been known to fire the team up. He credited Jobu’s speech during the second intermission in a 2-1 win at Colorado on March 29 as a much-needed spark. “He brought a vocal element to the room,” Binnington said, though he didn’t expand on the specifics. “You’ve got to understand his language if you want to know what he says.” Blues center Robert Thomas concurred with Binnington, simply saying, “I think we all felt it, yeah.” Coach Jim Montgomery is good with all of this and has embraced Jobu’s presence. “One of my favorite sports movies of all time, especially comedies,” Montgomery said of “Major League.” “I wish we could get Charlie Sheen to do an ad for us. I thought that would be great.” If the Blues embracing an offbeat rallying cry sounds familiar — it is. The team had the entire St. Louis region singing Laura Branigan’s 1982 hit sing, “Gloria,” during the spring of 2019.

The song became synonymous with the Blues during their improbable run from last in the league in January to hoisting hockey’s most coveted trophy that June. While Jobu’s singing talent is unknown, it is clear that Jobu is the new “Gloria” for Blues players. “He’s one of the leaders in the locker room, that’s all I’ll say,” defenseman Cam Fowler said. This team may not have had the worst record in the league like in 2019, but it did have to jump four teams in the season’s final two months to make its first playoff appearance since 2022. St. Louis also took off after a midseason coaching change, like in 2019 when Craig Berube took over. The Blues have gone 35-18-7 since Montgomery’s arrival on Nov. 24. It all has Blues veterans feeling 2019-type vibes. “You just have to get in,” Blues captain Brayden Schenn said. “And there’s momentum swings throughout the playoffs, and it’s just an exciting time.”

US to play Czechs at women’s ice hockey worlds

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
CESKE BUDEJOVICE, Czech Republic — Jennifer Gardiner and Sarah Fillier both struck twice and Canada grabbed a spot in the semifinals at the women’s ice hockey world championship by routing Japan 9-1 on Thursday. Canada will play Finland for a spot in the final, and the United States will meet host Czech Republic in Saturday’s other last-four matchup. Captain Marie-Philip Poulin assisted on Julia Gosling’s power-play goal as she became the fourth player to reach 200 appearances for Canada. Claire Thompson had a goal and two assists, and Ella Shelton, Emily Clark and Sophie Jaques also scored for Canada. Renata Fast had three assists. Thompson opened the scoring and Gardiner doubled the lead late in the first period before Mei Miura scored for Japan to make it 2-1 in the second on a breakaway. Canada, the defending champion, answered with goals from Shelton, Fillier and Gosling in a span of 3:14 later in the period to jump to a 5-1 lead. Gardiner added her second early in the final period for her fifth overall at the tournament and a lead of the goal scoring table. Fillier and Clark made it 8-1 with goals scored 48 seconds apart before Jaques finished the demolition with 59 seconds to go. Earlier, the United States blanked Germany 3-0 to reach the semifinals. Kelly Pannek, Lacey Eden and Alex Carpenter each scored and captain Hilary Knight registered an assist to extend her record at the worlds to 51. Aerin Frankel made 12 saves in the

shutout. Germany last scored against the U.S. at the worlds in 2008. “Today was an important game, we battled and continued to fight,” U.S. coach John Wroblewski said. “Germany is a tough, physical team and we stuck to our game and got the win.” Pannek one-timed a shot from the left circle for her third goal at the tournament 5:36 into the quarterfinal. Eden added the second midway through the opening period from the slot. Carpenter scored from close range with 1:07 remaining in the second period. The U.S. has reached the final in all 23 previous worlds and won 10 titles. In the following game, Natálie Mlýnková scored a hat trick as the Czech Republic produced a five-goal opening period en route to a 7-0 rout of Switzerland and a fourth straight semifinal appearance. Mlýnková scored two power-play goals and added another short-handed. Tereza Vaníšová and Kristýna Kaltounková each had a goal and two assists, and Daniela Pejšová, and Denisa Křížová also scored for the Czechs, who claimed bronze in two of the previous three years of the championship. Klára Peslarová stopped 14 shots for her shutout. Earlier, Finland beat Sweden 3-2. Jenniina Nylund and Ronja Savolainen put Finland, next year’s bronze medalist, 2-0 ahead in the opening period. Sweden answered through goals from Ebba Hedqvist and Josefin Bouveng in the second. Susanna Tapani gave the Finns the lead for good with 8:14 remaining in the frame.

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Jun. 2nd Sept. 2nd Dec. 1st
Pickup your FREE shred bag at the Public Works Department located at:
HARDIN COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER
150 North Provident Way, STE. #223, Elizabethtown, KY
PHONE: 270-360-9207 | WWW.HCKY.ORG
Drop your full bag off at the Hardin County Road Department located at 501 Bacon Creek Rd. on the days listed between 1:00pm - 2:00pm

BOWLING GREEN, KY
EQUIPMENT AUCTION
THURSDAY, MAY 15th • 10am CST
Auction will be held at: **United Producers Inc Stockyard,**
4350 Louisville Rd, Bowling Green, KY 42101
No Consignments Accepted After: Tuesday, May 13th!
• LIVE ONSITE BIDDING OR BID ONLINE •
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LEGAL NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that Rafferty Development LLC of 947 Shaker Mill Road, Bowling Green, KY 42103, has filed an application with the Energy and Environment Cabinet to construct a 70ft x 130ft commercial building. The property is located on the southeast corner of the intersection of Dixie Highway and Dixie Valley Loop Road, West Point, KY located approx. 8900 feet South of Ohio River. Any comments or objections concerning this application shall be directed to: DOWFloodplain@ky.gov and received by 5/10/2025, Kentucky Division of Water, Floodplain Management Section, 300 Sower Boulevard Frankfort, Kentucky 40601. Phone: (502) 564-3410.

LEGAL NOTICE
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
Notice is hereby given that the City of Elizabethtown will receive sealed bids for the Outdoor Music Venue project – Bid Package 3 – General Construction Bids at the Office of the City Clerk, City Hall, 200 West Dixie Avenue, Elizabethtown, KY 42701, until 1:00 pm on Thursday April 24, 2025. A formal bid opening will be held on April 24, 2025 at Pritchard Community Center, 404 South Mulberry Street, Elizabethtown, KY at 2:00 pm. at which time each bid will be opened and read aloud.
The Outdoor Music Venue is being developed on a green-field site along Commerce Drive, to include a stage and stage house, administration building, storage building, restrooms and concessions, and parking lots to serve performances attracting crowds up to 10,000 patrons.

A pre-bid meeting will be held on Monday April 7th at the Elizabethtown Tourism and Convention Bureau office located at 1030 North Mulberry Street, Elizabethtown, KY at 2:00pm. A site visit will follow.
Any party interested in bidding on this project is encouraged to contact the City’s Construction Manager, Congleton-Hacker Company. The project contact is Tim Mattingly: tmatingly@congleton-hacker.com. Plans, specifications, bid packages and detailed bidding requirements may be obtained from the City’s construction manager.
Bidders are encouraged to carefully read the bid documents and visit the site.
Bid bonds in the amount of 5% of the total bid are required. Performance and payment bonds in the amount of 100% of the contract amount are required upon the execution of the contract. Contractors and subcontractors will be required to comply with all Kentucky workers’ compensation and unemployment insurance requirements. The successful bidders will also be required to maintain a City business license during the entirety of the contract.
The City of Elizabethtown intends to award the contract on the best evaluated bid. The City reserves the right to reject any and all bids or to let individual bid packages for the project as a whole or in part, and to waive any formalities or irregularities in the bids received where the best interest of the City may be served.
No bid may be withdrawn after the scheduled bid closing time for a period of 60 days.
Any questions regarding the project should be addressed by email to tmatingly@congleton-hacker.com.
/s/ Honorable Jeffrey H. Gregory, Mayor
Attest: Jessica J. Graham, City Clerk