

A fifth-round pick barges into the Titans’ right guard battle

BY TERESA M. WALKER
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The Tennessee Titans starting one rookie on offense this season has been likely since they drafted wide receiver Carnell Tate at No. 4 overall in April.

Now, a fifth-round selection is pushing hard to grab the Titans’ open job as their starting right guard.

Fernando Carmona Jr. was the lone rookie starter on offense for the Titans in their preseason opening win at San Francisco and is likely to start again Sunday night when Tennessee hosts the defending Super Bowl champion Seattle Seahawks.

“He put his foot in the door, and he’s doing everything he can to throw his shoulder through,” coach Robert Saleh said of Carmona.

The competition for right guard started this offseason between veteran Cordell Volson, who started 48 of 50 games played with Cincinnati between 2022 and 2024,



Tennessee Titans guards Jackson Slater, right, runs through a drill with Fernando Carmona Jr., left, during the NFL football team’s training camp on Aug. 4 in Nashville, Tenn.

and Jackson Slater, a fifth-round draft pick in 2025. Carmona used his physical style with a touch of nasty to push his way up the rotation.

The result has been a lot of praise, which Carmona said Wednesday was awe-

some.

“I’m hearing it in the film room there’s a lot things I need to work on, and I’m going to continue to improve and grow,” Carmona said.

He has size at 6-foot-5 and 316 pounds. Carmona pol-

George Walker IV | Associated Press

ished up his playing style by finishing his college career at Arkansas in the Southeastern Conference the past two seasons. He then worked on himself and technique working with offensive line coach Duke Manyweather fixing some of his

flaws before the NFL draft.

Carmona can cover up his rookie mistakes with how he talks with veteran center Austin Schlottman to his left and right tackle JC Latham on the other side.

“It starts with communication, so they at least know what to do,” Saleh said. “Then from there you just take it, let your God-given ability take over.”

Carmona also is learning quickly thanks to trying to block All-Pro defensive tackle Jeffery Simmons and lineman John Franklin-Myers every day. Franklin-Myers said a rookie can need a moment to feel like he’s welcome or belongs in the NFL with Carmona working hard and trying to own his position.

“He wants to battle, he wants to go against me, he wants to go against Jeff,” Franklin-Myers said. “He wants to go against the best guys, and he wants to get better. He wants to pull you to the side, ask you the questions, maybe even take some extra reps if you’re

willing and able, depending on the day.”

Carmona said a rookie wants to go up against the best and facing off against Simmons in training camp will make game days that much easier. Simmons also isn’t shy about sharing advice with the rookie.

“Being a rookie, there’s a lot of things I need to grow on, and he sees a lot of those flaws in me,” Carmona said. “And it’s just awesome having that veteran leader being able to tell you what he sees and how it can improve my game.”

Latham, who played with veteran Kevin Zeitler beside him last season, called Carmona humble and a hard worker with a great attitude.

“When he messes up or he feels he could have did better, he’s blunt,” Latham said. “He’s extremely transparent about himself and communicating about himself on what he himself needs to do to be better. And you want to be around a guy like that, a guy who’s not going to sugarcoat it.”

Young QBs to get extended looks when the Steelers host the New York Jets

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PITTSBURGH — Will Howard and Drew Allar dazzled at times in their NFL preseason debuts for the Pittsburgh Steelers.

The challenge for both young quarterbacks heading into a visit from the New York Jets on Friday? Doing it again.

They won’t lack for opportunities after coach Mike McCarthy said Wednesday that Howard and Allar will split snaps against New York while starter Aaron Rodgers and longtime backup Mason Rudolph get the night off.

“We’ve got two games here, and I want to see those guys play as much as possible,” McCarthy said.

Howard will start, with Allar coming on in relief. The duo combined to lead four touchdown drives in last week’s victory over Green Bay, looking plenty comfortable in McCarthy’s detailed and decidedly quarterback-friendly offense.

McCarthy added he’s comfortable with what he’s seen from Rudolph since the start of organized team activities and is more curious about seeing Howard and Allar try to take another solid step forward.

The club has been coy about whether it would con-

sider carrying four quarterbacks when rosters are trimmed to 53 at the end of the month, a number that is considered a bit of a luxury. McCarthy hasn’t ruled it out, and assistant general manager Andy Weidl said Wednesday that it will be McCarthy’s call.

Allar is eager to get back to work after throwing for a pair of scores and running for another against Green Bay.

“I think it’s just continuing to be clean with my decisive decision-making and just be clean in my footwork and protections and everything like that,” he said. “Just master the fundamentals at this point to allow me to go out there and just play fast.”

Allar, who starred at Penn State — about a 2 1/2-hour drive from Pittsburgh — has already won over a portion of the fan base. There was an audible “Drewwww” when he entered the game in the second half last week, and he did little to dampen enthusiasm after showcasing some of the physical skills that made him such an intriguing prospect to McCarthy.

The 22-year-old Allar shrugged off the attention, saying it comes with the territory when you play

quarterback, be it for the Nittany Lions or in the NFL.

“I feel like (Penn State) kind of prepared me for everything,” Allar said.

Well, not quite everything. McCarthy is considered a quarterback guru, and Allar’s opening weeks as a pro were spent essentially re-learning the position, from footwork to hand placement to cadence. He’s made considerable progress in a short amount of time, though there remains plenty to work on.

“I was kind of swimming mentally back in like rookie OTAs, and OTAs,” Allar said. “That’s kind of how it is for every rookie really. So it was just getting through that phase and trying to digest it and retain as much

information as possible.”

Howard, who didn’t play at all last season after injuring his hand early in training camp, went through a similar process. He also dropped about 15 pounds by design — going from 245 to around 230 — in an effort to help him move around a little better in the pocket.

That mobility was on display during a 2-minute drill against Green Bay that included a handful of connections with tight end Robert Tonyan, including a 22-yard strike that brought Pittsburgh to the goal line. Perhaps even more impressive than the result of the plays were the decisions made by Howard to make them happen.

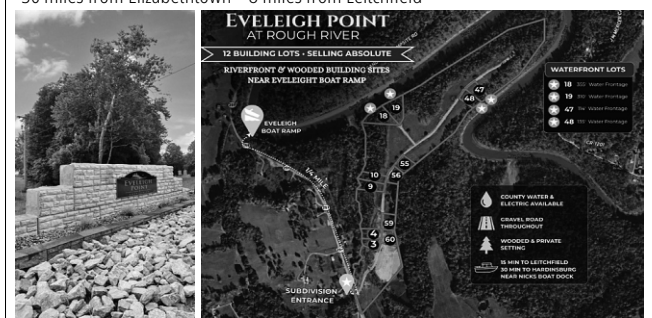


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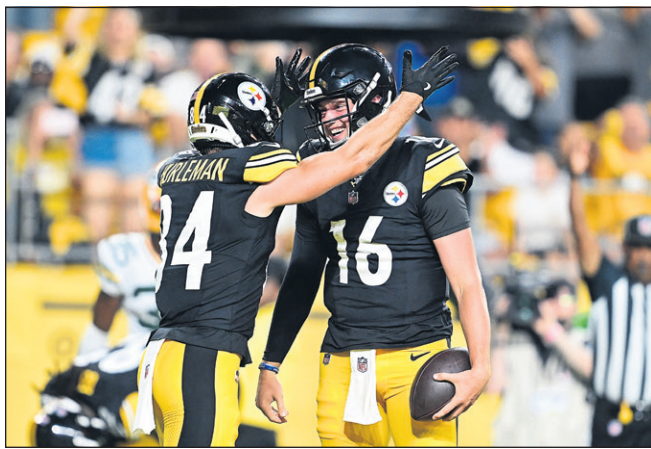
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David Derner | Associated Press

Pittsburgh Steelers running back Max Hurlman (84) and quarterback Drew Allar (16) celebrate Allar’s touchdown run in the second half of a preseason NFL football game against the Green Bay Packers in Pittsburgh on Aug. 13.

MESSENGER-INQUIRER

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DID YOU KNOW?



By Duke Brubaker

St. Louis Cardinal rookie Joshua Baez did something that’s never been done in the MLB on August 15th, 2026 and will probably never be seen again. He is the 1st player in MLB history to hit 3 home runs in his 1st three plate appearances. He’s also the youngest STL player with a 3-HR game, and he’s the 4th STL player to homer on the 1st pitch of his MLB career.

Jake Rogers broke a 122 year old MLB record by playing for 4 different MLB teams in just 21 days. He suited up for the Detroit Tigers, Baltimore Orioles, Boston Red Sox, and Chicago White Sox in 3 weeks.

Scottie Scheffler is closing in on Tiger Woods’ career PGA Tour earnings record. After winning the FedEx St. Jude Championship, Scheffler’s career PGA Tour earnings reached approximately \$119.96 million, putting him only about \$1 million behind Tiger Woods’ record of \$120,999,166. And Scottie won the FedEx by 8 strokes!

Baseball actually had a “fourth out” situation this month. A Red Sox-Blue Jays game produced an extremely unusual scoring/rules situation involving a potential fourth out. MLB itself had to explain exactly what happened. Space is limited here, so I’d have to explain it to you in person!

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Notice is hereby given that **Dan Igleheart of 2911 Veach Road, Owensboro, KY 42303** has filed an application with the Energy and Environment Cabinet to construct a 26X70 post frame building. This property is located approximately at 37.744187° W, -87.101090° N. Any comments or objections can be submitted via email to : DOWFloodplain@ky.gov Kentucky Division of Water, Floodplain Management Section, 300 Sower Blvd. Frankfort, KY 40602. Call 502-564-3410 with questions.

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Public Notice

Notice is hereby given that **Daviess County Fiscal Court, 2620 KY Highway 81, Owensboro, KY 42301**, has filed an application with the Energy and Environment Cabinet to replace the Old Hwy 54 Bridge over Hurricane Branch with a composite box beam bridge. The site is located approximately 0.27 miles west of Old Hwy 54 intersection with Karns Grove Road near Philpot, KY, in Daviess County. Any comments or objections can be submitted via email to : DOWFloodplain@ky.gov Kentucky Division of Water, Floodplain Management Section, 300 Sower Blvd. Frankfort, KY 40601.

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The Owensboro Independent Board of Education is proposing a general fund tax levy of 85.6 cents on real property and 86.2 cents on personal property. The General Fund tax levied in fiscal year 2026 was 84 cents on real property and 85.3 cents on personal property and produced revenue of \$17,325,030.41. The proposed General Fund tax rate of 85.6 cents on real property and 86.2 cents on personal property is expected to produce \$17,879,287.91. Of this amount \$1,616,383.35 is from new and personal property. The compensating tax for 2027 is 81.5 cents on real property and 85.3 cents on personal property and is expected to produce \$17,081,426.11. The proposed rate is expected to generate more revenue than received in the preceding year. The general areas to which revenue of \$554,258 above 2026 revenue is to be allocated are as follows: Cost of collections, \$8,314; building fund, \$30,484; instruction, \$360,822; transportation, \$51,546; and maintenance of plant, \$103,092. This information is published pursuant to KRS 160.470. The proposed tax rate is not subject to recall under KRS 132.017. The General Assembly has required publication of this advertisement and information contained herein.