Mendoza era with Raiders starts after Cousins trade

BY MARK ANDERSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HENDERSON, Nev. — The eyes of Las Vegas Raiders fans now turn to Fernando Mendoza — finally.

He became the Raiders' starting quarterback after the club traded Kirk Cousins to Minnesota just ahead of Tuesday's NFL trade deadline. Fourth-year pro Aidan O'Connell, who has 17 career starts, also is on the roster.

"Thank you Raider Nation!" Cousins posted on social media along with a photo of him and Mendoza walking together. "Go get em @fernandomendoza."

Raiders fans have been looking forward to this moment since it became clear at the end of last season Las Vegas would get the No. 1 pick in this year's draft. Mendoza won the Heisman Trophy and led Indiana to a national championship, winning the title with Raiders owner Mark Davis, part owner Tom Brady and general manager John Spytek watching from the sideline.

"We're all kind of staring the future in the face here with Fernando, and Kirk was open with that when we got him," Spytek said. "We had to basically decide if we want to go forward (with Cousins) here over the last eight games, or do we want to take what Minnesota's offering? Ultimately, we decided to do that."

The team has been searching for a quarterback to lead the once-proud franchise back to the glory days that included winning three Lombardi Trophies. A fourth nearly came in the 2002 season when the Raiders last appeared in the Super Bowl.

It's been a long, dry stretch since. Two postseason appearances. No playoff victories.

Whether Mendoza and his strong right arm will be the one to break the drought is the question that hovers over the organization and almost certainly will define the legacies of Spytek and first-year head coach Klint Kubiak.

Both raved about the high-level practices that Mendoza put together in recent weeks "where we really had to make a hard decision today," Spytek said.

"His work habits also allow us to make this trade because we feel that he's ready to go and we're excited to have him take the ball for a game here on Sunday," Kubiak said.

Mendoza will be challenged immediately Sunday at home against defending Super Bowl championship Seattle. A road trip follows to Denver, which played in last season's AFC championship game and is competing with Kansas City for the AFC West title.

"This in no way signifies we are punting on the season or looking forward to 2027," Spytek said. "We have a big game this week against the defending world champs, and we intend to attack it like we would any week."

The Raiders (4-5) ranked eighth with 26.4 points per game with Cousins at QB. That despite a run game that is second worst with a 71.3-yard average.

Cousins signed a deal with a $20 million guarantee — Atlanta picked up $8.7 million of that — as a veteran placeholder until it was time to give Mendoza the call. Cousins repeatedly said the best quarterback should play, be it him or Mendoza.

Given that Cousins clearly was the better quarterback in training camp and then followed with a regular season in which he threw 20 touchdown passes, second to the 23 of the Bengals' Joe Burrow.

That production gave Raiders management more freedom to bring Mendoza along slowly, and Kubiak said that was the correct approach with the rookie.

"I think with the right role model, that would accelerate his growth," Kubiak said, "and we had the right role model."

Now that the trade has been made, it's on Mendoza to show if he is indeed the quarterback the Raiders and their fans have long waited to see.

"Everything we've asked him to do in practice, I think he's exceeded those expectations," Kubiak said. "We all know that live bullets Sunday is far different from practice. However, he's showed us that he's ready, not only physically but mentally."

McCarthy makes his first Giants home start against the desperate Commanders

BY STEPHEN WHYNO
ASSOCIATED PRESS

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Riffing off John Harbaugh's stated aim of going 1-0 each week, Malik Nabers thinks the New York Giants' game Thursday night against Washington is worth double after their meeting last month ended with neither team getting a victory.

"We're trying to go 2-0 since we finished off in a tie last time, which we should have won," New York's top receiver said.

His coach agrees.

"This is for all the marbles," Harbaugh said. "It's a tie right now. This is the tiebreaker."

That is their perspective, but the gap is much wider. Nabers, Harbaugh and the Giants at 5-2-1 are looking to pad their lead atop the mediocre NFC East, while the 2-5-1 Commanders are playing to keep their fading hopes going and save their season.

"This is a very important one for the team: Stay in the fight," Washington offensive lineman Sam Cosmi said. "They're the divisional leaders, so it is a must-win in that aspect of things. Any time we lose, we just continuously dig a deeper hole. ... From now on, I think a lot of these games are going to be must-win games to have our name in the running for playoffs."

Despite losing their most important player on offense, quarterback Jaxson Dart, and defense, linebacker Brian Burns, the Giants are in the driver's seat to finish first in the division and host a playoff game. They have a long way to go.

The next step toward completing that goal is winning in primetime in QB J.J. McCarthy's first home start since joining in a trade from Minnesota in late September. McCarthy is set to play despite injuring his right hip Sunday at Philadelphia and returning to finish the game.



Matt Slocum | AP

New York Giants quarterback J.J. McCarthy (18) looks to pass during the first half of an NFL football game against the Philadelphia Eagles in Philadelphia, Sunday, Nov. 8.

"The importance is to be out there as much as I possibly can," said McCarthy, whose rookie year in 2024 was wiped out by torn meniscus in his right knee and last season with the Vikings limited to 10 games by multiple other injuries. "No matter what happens, no matter what narratives one can draw, it's being out there with my brothers and doing whatever I can to help the team be successful."

McCarthy is facing a familiar look, given that Washington defensive coordinator Daronte Jones was an assistant on staff in Minnesota from 2023-25 under Brian Flores. The Commanders rank third-worst in the NFL against the pass.

"Just keep watching the film, seeing what he does, understanding how they're going to use him in that scheme," said Commanders cornerback Mike Sainristil, who was college teammates with McCarthy when they won the national title at Michigan. "Coach is going to do a great job to make sure we're going to be set up the right way to go out there and execute. We just have to make sure as players we do that."

NEED TO KNOW

Washington (2-5-1) at N.Y. Giants (5-2-1)

When/where to watch: Thursday, 8:15 p.m. EST, Amazon Prime.

Latest odds: Giants by 2½.

Against the spread: Commanders 4-4; Giants 6-2.

Last week: Commanders lost to Rams 20-13; Giants beat Eagles 19-11.

Last meeting: Giants and Commanders tied 27-27 on Oct. 11 at Washington.

Series record: Giants lead 108-75-6.

MATCHUP TO WATCH

Giants running back Cam Skattebo vs. the Commanders defense. Rain is in the forecast, and Skattebo is good to go after tearing a hamstring muscle in overtime Oct. 25 at Houston and missing the Eagles game. Washington is actually 12th in the league against the rush, and Skattebo could again get the bulk of the carries, especially after no trade materialized for Jonathan Taylor.

STATS AND STUFF

- Washington won the previous four meetings before the tie earlier this season. The last time the Giants beat the Commanders was Nov. 19, 2023.
- The Commanders last won a Thursday night game in 2022.
- Jayden Daniels is one of only 33 quarterbacks who have thrown at least 110 passes this season without an interception.
- Running back Rachaad White has 83 yards on 17 carries over the past two weeks.
- Receiver Stefon Diggs is one touchdown catch away from being the 30th player in league history to 80 in his career.
- Linebacker Sonny Styles, taken with the seventh pick in the draft, is the only rookie with 13-plus tackles in three games.

Former NFL coach Ryan turns himself in after allegedly hitting Nashville pedestrians

BY KRISTIN M. HALL AND HANNAH FINGERHUT
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Former NFL coach Rex Ryan turned himself in to Nashville police Wednesday on misdemeanor charges after he allegedly hit two pedestrians with his truck in a popular area downtown last week and then drove off after an argument, police said.

Ryan was driving a pickup truck when he allegedly ran over the feet of both individuals, who had the right of way crossing a main street in Nashville's honky-tonk and music tourist district Thursday night, police said in a release Wednesday.

The pedestrians involved, who sustained minor injuries, waved Ryan down at another red light and said he stepped out to argue with them, according to police. They took a photo of the driver and the truck's license plate, police said.

Ryan, an ESPN football analyst, was on the network Sunday for the NFL pregame show and Monday for a morning show, both of which are taped in New York.

Ryan "immediately surrendered" himself to authorities after learning of the charges, his attorney, David Raybin, said Wednesday.

"From the outset, Coach Ryan has been fully cooperative with law enforcement and he intends to remain cooperative as the case moves forward," Raybin said. "Because we just received the warrant today, we currently have limited information regarding the allegations."

Ryan was charged with two counts of leaving the scene of an accident, two counts of failure to give information or render aid and two counts of failure to obey a traffic control signal, according to court records. All are misdemeanors.

A judicial commissioner set Ryan's bond at $6,000, but he qualified for pretrial release, according to the Davidson County Sheriff's Office. That means he was released on non-financial conditions. He is scheduled to appear in court next month.

Ryan is a former head coach of the Buffalo Bills and New York Jets, leading the Jets to the AFC championship game in consecutive years after the 2009 and 2010 seasons.

While with the Jets, Ryan became one of the team's — and the NFL's — most popular figures, especially during his first few seasons as coach, because of his brash, colorful approach in news conferences that became must-watch TV.

He has not coached since being fired by the Bills with one game left in the 2016 season, though he has since expressed an interest in coaching and interviewed in 2025 for the Jets' head coaching vacancy when Aaron Glenn was hired.

His father, the late Buddy Ryan, was an NFL coaching legend who famously coordinated the 1985 Chicago Bears defense that was one of the best in history. Seth Ryan, one of Rex Ryan's two sons, is currently in his first season as the Jets' passing game coordinator.

Ryan is best known now for his work at ESPN as one of the analysts on the network's NFL pregame show.

"We are aware and are in touch with Rex," ESPN said in a statement Wednesday.

Fingerhut reported from Des Moines, Iowa. Associated Press writers Dennis Waszak Jr. in Florham Park, New Jersey, and Joe Reedy in Cleveland contributed.

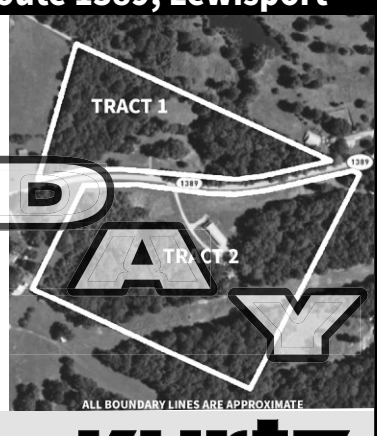
GARAGE SALE
WEST-Hayden Bdg Rd, 4855
Estate Sale - Part 2
Nov 13th & 14th
8AM-4PM
Reduced prices, new household items, clothing, and furniture have been added.

LEGAL NOTICE
The following vehicle stored at J&D Towing, (270)240-4212, 1011 W. 4th St., Owensboro KY will be sold at auction on 11/20/26.

2019 Mercedes E300
VIN# 55SWF8DB5KU308240
Owner: Zacharia Cox
Lein Holder: Westlake Financial

LEGAL NOTICE
PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that P & R Properties Plus, LLC of 6735 HWY 2830 Owensboro, KY 42303, has filed an application with the Energy and Environment Cabinet to construct a 2000 sq ft house, 50x40 living space w/ 7'x50' covered porch on front, w/ 12'x30' deck on rear of house. The property is located approximately at 37.825829° W, -87.029471° 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 40601. Call 502-564-3410.

Black Sheep ANTIQUES
Moving Sale
Dr. Vaughn Sanders
2129 South Stratford Drive
Owensboro, KY 42301
Thursday, Nov. 12, 9am-4pm
Friday, Nov. 13, 9am-4pm
Saturday, Nov. 14, 9am-2pm
Dr. Sanders has decided to sell his lovely home. He was quite the extensive traveler and has lots of unique and unusual items, along with nice furnishings, household decor and garage tools and miscellaneous. Items included in this sale: two beautiful dining room table and chairs sets, Chippendale mahogany lighted breakfront, very nice breakfast set with chairs, nice blue leather sofa, blue leather club chair with ottoman, blue leather wing back recliner, camelback upholstered loveseat, pair of upholstered wingback, chairs, beautiful grandfather, clock with bonnet top, cherry slant front secretary, mahogany lingerie chest, Lane cedar chest with bombay front, mahogany tiered corner table with tooled leather top, Duncan Phyfe piecrust table, cherry console/sofa table, white iron daybed, pair of French Provencial end tables, French Provencial armchair with woven cane back, two bow-front mahogany chests, multiple televisions, antique steamer/travelers trunk, Demilune table, stepback cabinet with open shelving, electric recliner, upholstered coffee table-style ottoman, various styles of coffee tables, mid-century-modern console stereo, very nice multiple piece wall unit perfect for a desk/office or entertainment center, gentleman's armoire with drawers and hanging bar, multiple side/end tables, lamps, Persian rugs, jewelry chest, multiple military trunks, various military insignia, including dog tags, uniform buttons, pins & patches, spurs, costume jewelry, vintage hats, Designer sunglasses (Fendi, Kate Spade, Laura Bogetti, TURA, Cazal, etc.), purses (Aigner, Talbots, etc.), Star Wars figures - new inbox, Micro Machines - new in box, 10-speed bicycle, dollhouse furniture, outdoor poly wicker patio chaise, side chair and coffee table, Revere Ware copper pots & pans, tons of kitchenwares, gadgets & small appliances, landscaping stones, hand tools, lawn & garden tools. There is just too much to mention in the sale, and we are still finding great things!
To view photographs of items visit estatesales.org or you can always call Donna at 270-903-7859 with questions.
Cash or check with proper ID, 3% fee will be added to card purchases. We also accept Venmo. All sales are final and all items purchased are as-is. No returns or refunds. KY sales tax of 6% charged, unless a resale exemption certificate is presented. We are not responsible for accidents.
YOU MUST bring help to move large items as we DO NOT have staff to assist. All items must be removed by 2pm on Saturday.

ABSOLUTE LIVE & SIMULCAST
AUCTION
Thurs., Nov. 12th - 10 AM
10082 State Route 1389, Lewisport
23.294 ACRES IN TWO TRACTS


FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT KELSEY EDGE, AUCTIONEER
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