

# Titans

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ing against bigger defensive linemen. Brewer leans on his athleticism, speed and technique to battle bigger defensive linemen.

“People can say all they want to do, but if you cut on the film and the tape, I win against the best of the best, the biggest,” Brewer said. “So you can say what you want to say about my weight but if you look at the film, film don’t lie.”

One of the defensive linemen that Brewer has been going against every day is Jeffery Simmons, one of the three Titans to get at least eight sacks last season. Simmons said he’s faced

off against plenty of bigger guards than Brewer.

“He got the heart of a lion, and that’s the type of guy, that’s the type of things we need on the offensive line,” Simmons said. “Just his grit.”

That’s why Vrabel compared Brewer to a cheap, chewy cut of meat.

“He understands the angles and trying to get the guys, and understands pad level and technique,” Vrabel said of Brewer. “And those are a lot of things that he can do that somebody that’s bigger can’t, just the way that he moves. I just like the way he competes. I like the way that he shows up to work every day and is willing to compete.”

# Scully

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red-haired, blue-eyed Scully grew up playing stickball in the streets.

As a child, Scully would grab a pillow, put it under the family’s four-legged radio and lay his head directly under the speaker to hear whatever college football game was on the air. With a snack of saltine crackers and a glass of milk nearby, the boy was transfixed by the crowd’s roar that raised goosebumps. He thought he’d like to call the action himself.

Scully, who played outfield for two years on the Fordham University baseball team, began his career by working baseball, football and basketball games for the university’s radio station.

At age 22, he was hired by a CBS radio affiliate in Washington, D.C.

He soon joined Hall of Famer Red Barber and Connie Desmond in the Brooklyn Dodgers’ radio and television booths. In 1953, at age 25, Scully became the youngest person to broadcast a World Series game, a mark that still stands.

He moved west with the Dodgers in 1958. Scully called three perfect games — Don Larsen in the 1956 World Series, Sandy Koufax in 1965 and Dennis Martinez in 1991 — and 18 no-hitters.

He also was on the air when Don Drysdale set his scoreless innings streak of 58 2/3 innings in 1968 and again when Hershiser broke the record with 59 consecutive scoreless innings 20 years later.

When Hank Aaron hit his 715th home run to break Babe Ruth’s record in 1974, it was against the Dodgers and, of course, Scully called it.

“A Black man is getting a standing ovation in the Deep South for breaking a record of an all-time baseball idol,” Scully told listeners. “What a marvelous moment for baseball.”

Scully credited the birth of the transistor radio as “the greatest single break” of his career. Fans had trouble recognizing the lesser players during the Dodgers’ first four years in the vast Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum.

“They were 70 or so odd rows away from the action,” he said in 2016. “They brought the radio to find out about all the other players and to see what they were trying to see down on the field.”

That habit carried over when the team moved to Dodger Stadium in 1962. Fans held radios to their ears, and those not present listened from home or the

car, allowing Scully to connect generations of families with his words.

He often said it was best to describe a big play quickly and then be quiet so fans could listen to the pandemonium. After Koufax’s perfect game in 1965, Scully went silent for 38 seconds before talking again. He was similarly silent for a time after Kirk Gibson’s pinch-hit home run to win Game 1 of the 1988 World Series.

He was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1982, received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame that year, and also had the stadium’s press box named for him in 2001. The street leading to Dodger Stadium’s main gate was named in his honor in 2016.

That same year he received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Barack Obama.

“God has been so good to me to allow me to do what I’m doing,” Scully, a devout Catholic who attended mass on Sundays before heading to the ballpark, said before retiring. “A childhood dream that came to pass and then giving me 67 years to enjoy every minute of it. That’s a pretty large thanksgiving day for me.”

In addition to being the voice of the Dodgers, Scully called play-by-play for NFL games and PGA Tour events as well as calling 25 World Series and 12 All-Star Games. He was NBC’s lead baseball announcer from 1983-89.

While being one of the most widely heard broadcasters in the nation, Scully was an intensely private man. Once the baseball season ended, he would disappear. He rarely did personal appearances or sports talk shows. He preferred spending time with his family.

In 1972, his first wife, Joan, died of an accidental overdose of medicine. He was left with three young children. Two years later, he met the woman who would become his second wife, Sandra, a secretary for the NFL’s Los Angeles Rams. She had two young children from a previous marriage, and they combined their families into what Scully once called “my own Brady Bunch.”

He said he realized time was the most precious thing in the world and that he wanted to use his time to spend with his loved ones. In the early 1960s, Scully quit smoking with the help of his family. In the shirt pocket where he kept a pack of cigarettes, Scully stuck a family photo. Whenever he felt like he needed a smoke, he pulled out the photo to remind him why he quit. Eight months later, Scully never smoked again.

# SHADY SPOT ON THE COURSE



These two fawns found a shady spot to watch area golfers during a high school match on Tuesday afternoon at Henry Horton Golf Course.

Tribune Photo by Chris Siers

# Braves make flurry of trades looking for another title run

By **PAUL NEWBERRY**  
AP Sports Writer

ATLANTA — Looking to replicate the deals that helped carry them to a World Series title in 2021, the Atlanta Braves added another starting pitcher, bolstered their bullpen and bulked up the outfield ahead of the trade deadline Tuesday.

After acquiring corner outfielder Robbie Grossman from the Detroit Tigers late Monday, general manager Alex Anthopoulos started the day finalizing a deal that brought right-hander Jake Odorizzi from the Houston Astros in exchange for former Atlanta closer Will Smith.

Then, barely beating the clock before the 6 p.m. EST deadline, the Braves landed Los Angeles Angels closer Raisel Iglesias for reliever Jesse Chavez and pitching prospect Tucker Davidson.

The flurry of trades, which also included Monday’s less-prominent deal that brought Washington infielder Ehire Adrianza back to Atlanta to help fill in while Ozzie Albies recovers from a broken foot, was reminiscent of the moves Anthopoulos pulled off at the 2021 deadline.

The Braves can only hope they lead to the same result.

A year ago, with the outfield plagued by injuries, off-field issues and failed expectations, Anthopoulos was able to assemble a whole new unit with deadline trades for Jorge Soler, Eddie Rosario and Adam Duvall, combined with the acquisition two weeks earlier of Joc Pederson.

All four played major roles in the Braves capturing their first World Series title since 1995. Rosario was MVP of the NL Championship Series, while Soler claimed the honor in a World Series victory over the Astros.

The deal for Odorizzi cost the Braves another big part of their championship team.

Smith had 37 saves for the Braves during the 2021 regular season and a dominant postseason, tossing 11 scoreless innings with six saves over 11 appearances.

But Smith willingly gave up the ninth-inning slot when the Braves signed longtime Dodgers closer Kenley Jansen during the offseason, and the lefty faltered in a less-prominent role.

In 41 appearances, Smith was 0-1 with a 4.38 ERA and five saves, giving up 35 hits — including seven homers — and 21 walks over 37 innings for a WHIP of 1.514.

In his last four appearances with the Braves, Smith surrendered six runs in three innings. He is making \$13 million in what is likely the final year of his contract, which includes a \$13 million club option for 2023 with a \$1 million buyout.

Despite his struggles, it was hard for manager Brian Snitker and the rest of the bullpen to see Smith go.

“He was a big part of this team,” Snitker said. “When you go through what we went through last year all together and come out on top, there’s a bond there. There’s a spot in your heart for guys like that.”

Atlanta, with the third-best record in the NL and going into Tuesday trailing the East-leading New York Mets by 3 1/2 games, was willing to give up Smith to provide another option for the rotation.

Ian Anderson has struggled and former All-Star Mike Soroka appears unlikely to contribute much this season after two major Achilles’ tendon injuries. Also, there are concerns that 13-game winner Kyle Wright, in his first full big league season, and rookie sensation Spencer Strider could tire down the stretch.

Smith was expendable with three more effective lefties — A.J.

Minter, Tyler Matzek and Dylan Lee — in a bullpen that could receive a further boost from former Padres closer Kirby Yates, who is closing in on his return to the big leagues after Tommy John surgery.

It seemed the Braves were done dealing, but Anthopoulos pulled off a last-minute trade for another reliever with extensive experience as a closer.

The 32-year-old Iglesias held that role over four seasons in Cincinnati before moving to the Angels in 2021. The right-hander matched his career high with 34 saves, and added 16 more this season despite some struggles. He has a 4.04 ERA, a WHIP of 1.065 and 48 strikeouts in 35 2/3 innings.

“It came together late, with like two minutes to go,” Anthopoulos said. “We were afraid it wasn’t going to get done.”

The Braves pulled off the deal with a team mired in a dismal season, even though it meant picking up the bulk of the \$58 million, four-year contract Iglesias signed before the season. He is set to make \$16 million each of the next three seasons.

“It surprised me,” Iglesias said of the trade. “I wish we could be in a better place right now. Hopefully I can help the Braves win. I will prepare. It will be great being with that team and to compete.”

The 38-year-old Chavez pitched effectively for the Braves after being acquired from the Cubs in April, going 1-1 with a 2.11 ERA in 31 appearances. Now he’s moving on to his third team of the season, paired in a deal with a 26-year-old lefty whose biggest claim to fame was getting a surprise start in last year’s World Series.

Davidson lasted only two innings against the Astros, and he’s spent most of this season in Triple-A. In four appearances with the Braves, he was 1-2 with a 6.46 ERA.

# Titans’ Woods, Farley push through ACL recovery

By **TERESA M. WALKER**  
AP Pro Football Writer

NASHVILLE — Titans wide receiver Robert Woods and cornerback Caleb Farley worked together on their own individual drill Monday during a special teams period at training camp.

In full pads. No knee braces protecting repaired left ACLs.

It’s a very welcome sight for the Tennessee Titans with both expected to start this season and both making impressive recoveries from the torn ACLs that ended the 2021 season for each.

Woods tore his left ACL at practice Nov. 12 while with the Rams. Farley tore his left ACL on Oct. 18 that ended the first-round draft selection’s rookie season.

That put them on similar timelines for their recoveries. So they started working together not long after the Titans traded for Woods.

The veteran and the

cornerback practiced with the team during the offseason program and were on the field to start training camp last week — without knee braces — and practiced Monday in the team’s first session in pads.

And they’ve had pretty much a “full workload” aside from a couple of drills, according to Titans coach Mike Vrabel.

“I didn’t give it much thought,” Vrabel said. “I just wanted to make sure that what they’re doing is helping them and that they’re progressing and they keep responding well to the work that they’re doing.”

Farley has been benefiting not only from having a rehab partner, but almost a master class picking the brain of a receiver going into his 10th NFL season.

“It helps me think better, play better, be more comfortable,” Farley said. “It gets my confidence up. All those different dynamics, it helps me play better.”

Both Woods and Far-

ley share a track background so part of their routine became running a hill next to a parking lot once a week. They also pushed each other as they worked to strengthen each knee.

“He’s a resource for me as well,” Woods said of Farley. “I know he’s a young player, but he’s young, talented, strong, fast, quick.”

Woods says he started training without the brace after the Titans’ offseason program ended, focusing on track work to help regain his explosion. His work was tested last weekend when the receiver went up for a pass from Ryan Tannehill with Farley defending, and Woods came down with the ball on that left leg.

ACL recovery is not easy and is different for every player.

Titans left tackle Taylor Lewan admitted to reporters in June he struggled throughout the 2021 season after tearing his ACL in October 2020. Linebacker

Bud Dupree tore his in December 2020 and said in June he felt like himself for just one game: the Titans’ divisional playoff loss in January.

“People talk about it, and we know the timetable,” Dupree said. “We know how long it really takes. The doctor can say one thing. Your body got to tell you something else.”

Woods is targeting being ready for the season opener as the Titans host the New York Giants on Sept. 11.

“My biggest objective is being ready for Week One,” Woods said. “I’m honing in on everything we’re doing, every practice, trying to get some reps with Ryan. ... If Coach asks me to go out there I’ll be ready to go.”

The Titans also are counting on Woods to be one of their new starting wide receivers. Tannehill has been working with Woods since the offseason program building chemistry and timing thanks to Woods’ quick healing.