

Bogut rejoining Warriors, adding depth at center

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — The Golden State Warriors signed Andrew Bogut, who is expected to rejoin the team next week and add depth heading into the playoffs.

The Warriors made the announcement Wednesday, after Bogut was cleared by his Australian team, the Sydney Kings. The Warriors are without Damian Jones, who needed surgery after injuring his left pectoral muscle in December.

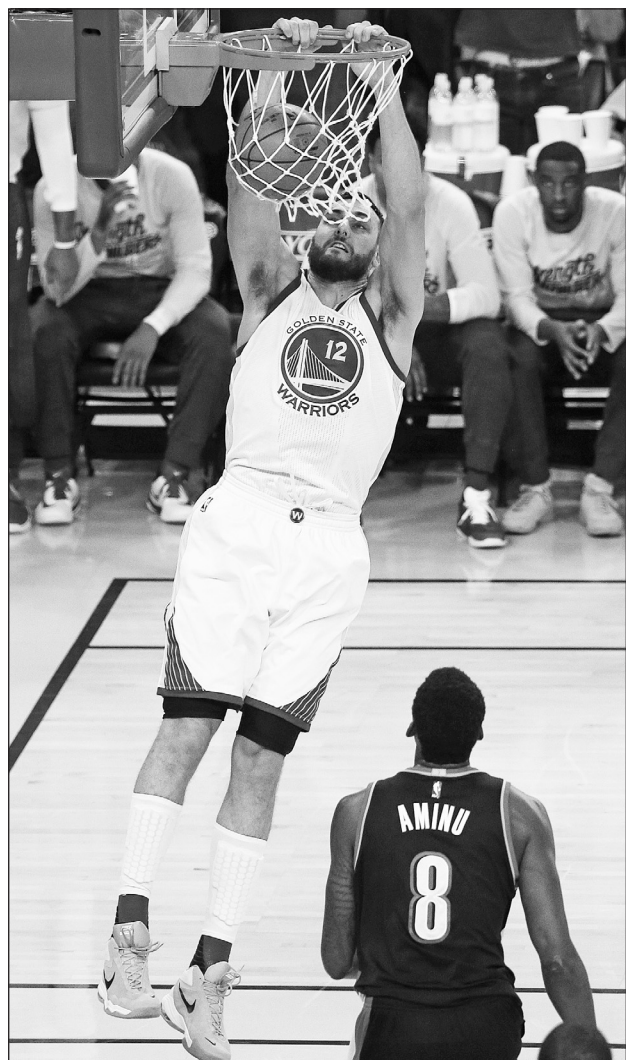
"He's still got something to offer," coach Steve Kerr said. "Whatever role that means, he's ready to accept and take on the challenge and we're excited to have him."

Golden State has struggled defensively, losing in embarrassing fashion at home to Boston 128-95 on Tuesday night, so Bogut's 7-foot presence in the paint could be timely.

He played on the Warriors' 2015 champion team and the 73-win team the following season that lost in Game 7 of the NBA Finals to LeBron James and the Cavaliers.

"I think it will be great for us to have Bogut back," Draymond Green said after Wednesday's practice, when the two-time defending champions met and re-established their goals. "We all know what Bogut brings to the table, so I think it will overall help us, especially going down this stretch where it's going to be a tough run to try to threepeat."

The 2005 No. 1 overall draft pick out of Utah, Bogut appeared in 23 games for the Lakers last season and made five starts. He averaged 1.6



AP photo

In this May 1, 2016, file photo, Golden State Warriors center Andrew Bogut (12) dunks against Portland Trail Blazers forward Al-Farouq Aminu (8) during the first half in Game 1 of a second-round NBA basketball playoff series.

points and 3.4 rebounds in 9.4 minutes.

Bogut was injured in Game 5 of the 2016 NBA Finals and missed the rest of the series. Then he got traded to Dallas to create salary cap room for Golden State to sign Kevin Durant,

who went on to become back-to-back Finals MVP while bringing the franchise two more titles.

The Warriors scouted the 34-year-old in Australia and had to wait on his work visa and clearance from FIBA to sign him.

M4L FROM PAGE 1B

men have the power to do special things and it's my job to bring it out of them."

If you ever listen to Bigler talk about his players, it's immediately evident that those goals haven't changed. If you haven't already done so, take some time to listen to Bigler's interview with Marshall Radio's Ryan Rohlik from after SMSU loss to Northern State University on Tuesday night. He cares about the guys on the team. Not just as basketball players, but as young men.

As the young men leave the men's bas-

ketball program, there's still a deep connection between the team and its alumni. If you scan the stands on most nights, you will often see a number of former players who come back to support the team.

I don't think anyone could put it better than how Bigler ended his radio interview on Tuesday.

"I'm proud to be a Mustang, and I know there's a lot of us out there that feel the same way."

SMSU SB FROM PAGE 1B

both earned NSIC weekly honors with Golling earning NSIC Pitcher of the Week and Johnson, NSIC Player of the Week.

Head Coach, Bailey Bouman, enters her first season at the helm of the SMSU softball program and welcomes a roster of 12 players, led by five seniors and welcomes seven freshman.

Five seniors

•SMSU is led by seniors, Abbie Decker, Shelby Crank, Athena Golling, Sara DeSmet, and Alex Reak.

•Decker, a center fielder, opened the 2019 season hitting .333 with four hits, including a double and a home run.

•Crank, a pitcher/infielder, holds a 4.67 ERA with after one game started in 2019. In three innings pitched, Crank gave up four hits and allowed one

walk, and one strike out.

•Golling holds a 0.58 ERA with two wins on her record after throwing two complete games. Golling tied her career-high 11 strikeouts against Bemidji State, she recorded 15 strikeouts in the two games and allowed one earned run.

•DeSmet, an outfielder, hit .500 with one hit on two ABs. DeSmet doubles to score one RBI and scored two runs.

•Reak, an infielder/designated hitter, hit .556 with five hits with nine ABs. Reak recorded two RBIs with five total bases.

Series history

•SMSU trails the series with Rollins (FL) 0-3 after dropping a double-header last season and dropping a game in the 2003 season.

•The Mustangs haven't faced Florida Tech since the 2003 season with the

only game played in series history. SMSU trails 0-1 after a 1-0 shutout loss on March 8, 2003.

•SMSU has faced Tampa the last two seasons on the spring break trip. Tampa has won all four games played versus SMSU after dropping a double header last season.

•SMSU faced Eckerd three times last season as Eckerd leads the series 2-1. SMSU split the double header on March 4, with a 1-0 shutout victory in St Petersburg, Florida.

Next up

•Following its spring trip, SMSU will open NSIC play on March 26 with a twinbill hosting Sioux Falls.

Content courtesy of SMSU Athletic Communications

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IN THE MARSHALL INDEPENDENT

2019 Figure Skating Show

MUSI-COOL MAGIC

Saturday, March 16
1:30pm & 7:00pm
Red Baron Arena & Expo
Marshall, Minnesota

Tickets:
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5 and younger Free

Available at Hy-Vee and at the door

Presented By:
Southwest Figure Skating Club &
Marshall Community Services

Browns release veteran linebacker Jamie Collins

CLEVELAND (AP) — Jamie Collins had flashes of brilliance with the Browns. Not nearly enough of them, though.

Cleveland released the veteran linebacker on Wednesday with two years remaining on his contract. Collins never lived up to high expectations with New England or the Browns, who were in line to pay him \$10.5 million this season and \$12.5 million in 2020.

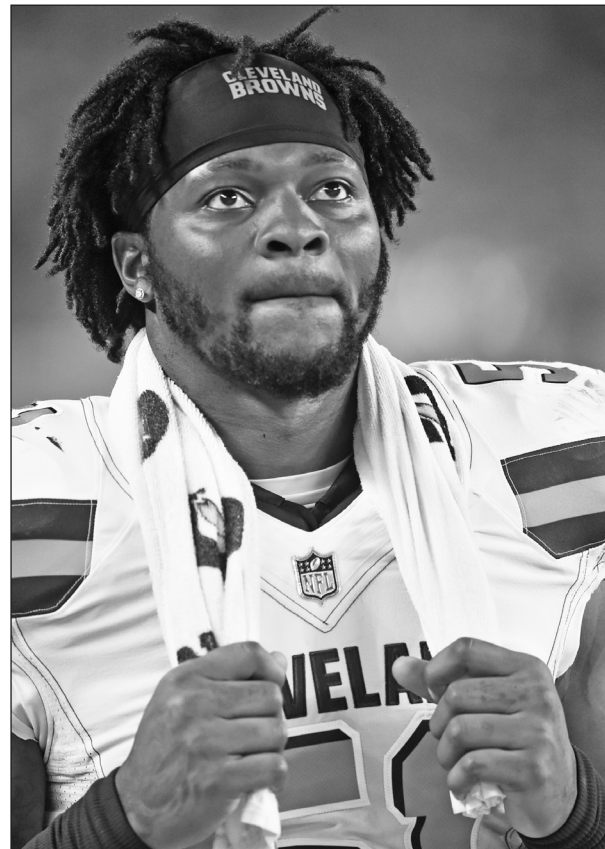
By cutting Collins, the Browns will save \$9.25 million in salary-cap space for 2019, leaving them with around \$80 million to improve a roster that went 7-8-1 last season.

The 29-year-old Collins was acquired in a trade midway through the 2016 season from New England in exchange for a third-round draft choice. Collins made 30 starts for the Browns, with 204 tackles, seven sacks and two interceptions. However, the 6-foot-3, 250-pounder wasn't consistent and drew criticism from fans last season for not hustling.

Browns general manager John Dorsey met with Collins' agents last week at the NFL combine to discuss the player's future.

"We want to thank Jamie for his contributions to the Cleveland Browns," Dorsey said in a statement. "These types of decisions are never easy. Jamie is a respected veteran player in this league and we wish him the best as he continues his career."

Collins started all 16 games last season and finished with a team-high 104 tackles, four sacks and one interception. But



AP photo

In this Aug. 10, 2017, file photo, Cleveland Browns outside linebacker Jamie Collins stands on the sideline during the first half of an NFL preseason game against the New Orleans Saints.

there were long stretches in which Collins seemed to disappear, and in the end the Browns decided his contract — a four-year, \$50 million deal signed in 2017 — didn't match his value.

At the time of his signing, Collins represented another new start for the Browns, who have only made the playoffs once since their expansion reboot in 1999. Now, he's no longer part of a future that appears much brighter if Cleveland has found its franchise quarterback in Baker Mayfield.

Collins' departure

could have a major impact on Dorsey's plans in free agency and the draft. The Browns want to improve their front seven on defense and are focused on adding depth on the line and at linebacker.

While this year's college class of linebackers isn't especially deep, there are some good ones available in free agency, including Baltimore's C.J. Mosley, Philadelphia's Jordan Hicks and Minnesota's Anthony Barr.

Dorsey could also try to improve his defense via trade.

Wolves FROM PAGE 1B

"Our second unit was fantastic tonight," Griffin said after Detroit's 10th victory in 12 games. "We didn't get much execution from the starters in the first half, and I was a big part of that, but the guys came off the bench and saved us."

Luke Kennard scored 21 points and Ish Smith had 19 as four Pistons reserves reached double figures.

"Luke was a plus-29 and Ish was a plus-28, so you can see what kind of impact they had on this game," Pistons coach Dwane Casey said. "We played a great second half, but it was the second unit that kept us in the game."

Drummond, averaging 21.6 points and 16 rebounds in the last 12 games, added 15 rebounds for his 16th straight double-double — the second-longest streak in franchise history. He set the record with 18 last season.

"What changed is he started passing the ball," Casey said. "Earlier in the year, he was hanging onto the ball too long inside and trying to force shots. Now he's kicking it out, which gives everyone better shots."

The Pistons (32-31) moved above .500 for the first time since they got to 15-14 by beating the Timberwolves in overtime on Dec. 19.

Minnesota (30-35) has lost four of five. Karl-Anthony Towns scored 24 points before fouling out.

"Give Detroit credit, they are playing as well as anyone in the league right now," Minnesota coach Ryan Saunders said. "We just have to start playing four good quarters in a row."

The Timberwolves led by 16 until Drummond banked in a 29-foot 3-pointer at the end of the first quarter. The Pistons continued to rally in the second, taking a 57-55 lead before Minnesota ended the half on a 9-3 run.

Minnesota shot 58.1 percent in the half, including 60 percent on 3s, but Detroit kept the game close with a 16-0 edge in points off turnovers.

"You have to take care

of the ball when you have it, and you have to be able to get extra chances by forcing turnovers," Saunders said. "We didn't do any of that tonight."

Detroit led 90-88 going into the fourth quarter and started the period with a 3 by Kennard. Langston Galloway added a four-point play on the next possession to make it a nine-point lead, and Glenn Robinson III's dunk put the Pistons up 99-88.

"Their bench really took it to us all night," Saunders said. "That quick 9-0 run at the start of the fourth quarter really took us out of the game."

Taj Gibson was ejected with 10:07 to go after an elbow to Drummond's throat while the two fought for a rebound. The players had to be separated after the play, which resulted in a seven-point possession and a 16-point lead for Detroit.

"I was just trying to box him out, because he's such a physically strong guy," Gibson said. "I certainly wasn't trying to injure him. I didn't even realize he was hurt. I went to help him up and he came after me."

In all, the Pistons outscored Minnesota 101-60 during a stretch that started with Drummond's first-quarter buzzer-beater and ended in the fourth.

"We are coming in and having a lot of fun," said Thon Maker, who had 10 points off the bench. "We're getting stops and we're running in transition."

Tip-ins

Timberwolves: Minnesota has lost eight straight games to the Pistons, with its last victory coming at the Palace of Auburn Hills on Feb. 8, 2015. ... Minnesota allowed 24 points off turnovers and scored only two.

Up next

Timberwolves: Play at Washington on Saturday.

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL

Marshall section semifinal game moved to Friday

MARSHALL — The Marshall boys basketball Section 2AAA semifinal game against No. 2 Mankato East has been rescheduled to Friday. The Tigers and Cougars will play at 7:45 p.m. at Gustavus Adolphus College.

THE WEEK AHEAD...

A look at what's on tap in area high school and college sports this week:



TODAY

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL

Section 3A North Tournament (at SMSU)
No. 1 Minnesota vs. No. 5 DB, 6 p.m.
Section 3A South Tournament (at Worthington)
No. 1 SWC vs. No. 4 RTR, 6 p.m.
No. 2 MCC vs. No. 3 WWG, 7:30 p.m.

PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL

Section 2AAA Championship (at Gustavus Adolphus College)
No. 1 Waseca vs. No. 3 Marshall, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY

PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL

Section 3A Championship
No. 1 Minnesota vs. No. 2 SWC, 8 p.m.

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL

Section 2AAA Tournament (at Gustavus Adolphus College)
No. 2 Mankato East vs. No. 3 Marshall, 7:45 p.m.

SATURDAY

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL

Section 3A Tournament (at SMSU)
Section 3A North Championship, 7:30 p.m.
Section 3A South Championship, 6 p.m.