

Taken under the wing of Revis



Joe Paterno has been the Nittany Lions' head coach since 1966. (GETTY)

Paterno, 84, to return to practice

Legendary Penn State football coach Joe Paterno will return to practice today, three days after an on-field collision with a player on Sunday.

The 84-year-old Paterno, in his 46th season leading the Nittany Lions, was released from the hospital yesterday. His right arm and hip were injured when he was blindsided by a player, the school said in a statement.

Paterno was able to walk away after the incident, but the record 401-game winner was taken to Mount Nittany Medical Center for tests.

No further details on his condition were provided by the school. (REUTERS/AMNY)

Yao tipped for HOF fast track

Yao Ming, the towering Chinese NBA center who retired last month due to chronic injuries, could join the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame next year as a contributor to the game.

According to John Dol-eva, the Hall's president and CEO, Yao's nomination as a contributor makes him eligible to skirt the five-year waiting period for retired players. (AMNY)



Kyle Wilson, the Jets' 2010 first-round pick out of Boise State, had 21 combined tackles last year. (GETTY)

After drills with Jets star, Wilson confident at DB

BY RODERICK BOONE
Special to amNewYork

It's Darrelle Revis' version of paying it forward. The shut-down cornerback saw a little of himself in Kyle Wilson after the nickelback's somewhat uninspired rookie campaign — and it was this, in the end, that pushed Revis to pick up the phone and invite Wilson to his Arizona hideout.

"Last year was rough for him, being a rookie," Revis said yesterday. "I've been through that stage as a rookie as well. Veteran guys did it for me when I was younger — Laveranues Coles ... those types of guys. I'm just returning the favor."

The duo spent a lot of time together. "I worked on everything with him," Revis said. "Just life — being a person."



Revis

Rex Ryan already has noticed a change in Wilson. When asked who has seemingly improved the most, the coach hedged

at first, saying that it was too early to tell, before deciding that, no, sometimes you just can. "Kyle," Ryan said. "He's different. He's carrying himself differently. I just think he looks different."

There's no question as to the 24-year-old Wilson's athletic ability, Revis said.

"He had an up-and-down year last year," he said. "You can say it to him as much as you want ... but he needs reps. ... I remember my rookie year. It was tough. My head was spinning ... left and right."

Wilson, a Piscataway, N.J., native, seems to have a slight swagger about him. Confidence, he said, wasn't the issue, though Ryan and

'VETERAN GUYS DID IT FOR ME WHEN I WAS YOUNGER. ... I'M JUST RETURNING THE FAVOR.'

Darrelle Revis

defensive coordinator Mike Pettine seem to disagree.

"It was just a learning experience," Wilson said. "I go out each day and try to improve."

And how much did Revis help? "From the attitude standpoint, it really came from myself," Wilson said. "Nothing against him or anything, but it's really all about me and what I do out there. Obviously I'm trying to learn from guys like him ..."

"I'm definitely more comfortable than I was last year," he said. "I was appreciative."

Roderick Boone is a Newsday staff writer.

Eagles' extreme makeover highlights NFC East moves

BY KYLE STACK
Special to amNewYork

A division that typically has two or three teams fighting for the top spot may have one squad that is head-and-shoulders above its rivals. At least, that's how it looks on paper. Catch up here with the NFC East's major acquisitions for 2011:

From left: DeMarco Murray, David Baas, Ronnie Brown and Tim Hightower (PHOTOS: GETTY)



DALLAS

GRADE B-

Addition by subtraction has been the Cowboys' means of improvement.

Gone are RB **Marion Barber**, WR **Roy Williams**, G **Leonard Davis** and OT **Marc Colombo**. Their replacements are apparently going to come through the draft — third-round pick RB **DeMarco Murray**, fourth-rounder G **David Arkin** and first-rounder OT **Tyron Smith** will add youth to what had been an aging roster. A team still brimming with talent, Dallas may be better served by not making a big splash in free agency for once.



GIANTS

GRADE C+

The loss of TE **Kevin Boss** to Oakland may not hurt as much as it seems. While

seven of his 10 touchdowns in the past two seasons were caught inside the red zone, Boss had just eight red-zone catches overall. That production can be replaced by likely starter TE **Travis Beckum**. Longtime offensive linemen C **Shaun O'Hara** and G **Rich Seubert** were released, ensuring that much of QB **Eli Manning's** protection will look different. The signing of ex-49ers C **David Baas** is a decent start, but the O-line may be one step behind the Eagles.



PHILADELPHIA

GRADE A-

CBs **Nnamdi Asomugha** (five years, \$60 million) and **Dominique Rodgers-**

Cromartie (acquired with a 2012 second-rounder from Arizona for QB **Kevin Kolb**) improve a coverage unit that allowed 31 passing TDs last year (tied for second-worst). DEs **Jason Babin** (five years, \$28 million) and **Cullen Jenkins** (five years, \$25 million) aid an above-average pass rush. Asomugha, Babin and Jenkins are all 30 or older, however. Versatile newcomer RB **Ronnie Brown**, formerly of Miami, will be one half of a dynamic pairing with RB **LeSean McCoy**.



WASHINGTON

GRADE B

The typically absent-minded Redskins made one of the craftiest 2011 free-

agent signings by inking ex-Ravens CB **Josh Wilson** to a three-year, \$13.5 million deal, forming an impressive play-making duo with CB **DeAngelo Hall**. Ex-Giants DT **Barry Colfield** (six years, \$36 million) will be the nose tackle for the 3-4 defense; he could also play defensive end, if necessary. Watch for RB **Tim Hightower**, traded from the Cardinals: Coach Mike Shanahan's one-cut-and-run-up-the-field philosophy fits Hightower's rushing style.