

TAILGATE GUIDE

Boilers begin NFL careers



SCREENSHOT

Former Purdue football players Zander Horvath (left) and George Karlaftis exchange jerseys after playing against each other in Week 2 of the NFL season.

BY CAMERON SULLIVAN
Staff Reporter

Defensive end George Karlaftis and fullback Zander Horvath competed against each other on opposing teams for the first time Sept. 15, and commemorated the meeting by exchanging jerseys after the game.

That was the second consecutive game with a touchdown for Horvath, marking the first time an NFL running back has done so since 1942, the Los Angeles Chargers announced during the game.

The Kansas City Chiefs defeated the Chargers 27-24 in Week 2 of the NFL season, the first matchup between two of the Boilermakers' four recent draftees.

Horvath was selected as the 39th pick of the seventh round. He earned 1,181 rushing yards and eight touchdowns during his four years at Purdue. While Horvath was a utility running back for the Boilers, he has primarily been a full back for the Chargers, a situation he was in

when he first came to Purdue.

"When (Horvath) came in these doors, I said, 'Look man, full back, special teams and the role can grow from there, maybe,'" Purdue running back coach Chris Barclay said Tuesday. "He understood the assignment and he just took it and he got better and better and better. And now he's in the same scenario in the league, so he's been prepared for this for years now."

Barclay said he wasn't shocked Horvath had performed well early on, adding he ordered a Horvath Chargers jersey.

"I'm just so proud of him," Barclay said. "I got my hats and everything, but I just ordered my jersey. It's authentic, numbers raised and everything. It's gonna be here in a couple of days."

The Kansas City Chiefs selected Karlaftis as the 30th overall pick, the first of his former teammates off the board in late April.

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Hoot at homecoming

Boilers prepare for Owls' two-beaked attack

BY ALEX TRICK
Staff Reporter

Coming off of a tough loss, Purdue will face a team it's never met on the field before, but one that is part of head coach Jeff Brohm's coaching journey.

The Boilermakers (1-2, 0-1 Big Ten) will play Florida Atlantic (2-2, 1-0 Conference USA) Saturday for Purdue's homecoming game at Ross-Ade Stadium in the first-ever matchup between the two schools.

Brohm's connection to the Owls' football program dates back to 2009, when he was hired as quarterbacks coach

er and a coach," Brohm said. "Definitely any time I coach, I think of a lot of things that he did, and how and why he did it, and try to do the best I can to emulate that."

Even though FAU is in the Group of Five, the group of conferences that typically do not compete in the national championship, Boilermakers will still look to cut down on undisciplined mistakes like penalties, which contributed to Purdue's last-minute loss to Syracuse.

Purdue currently ranks 124th out of 130 teams in the Football Bowl Subdivision for penalty yards given up per game, a figure that Brohm

happen again.

"It starts with me. I have to make sure that happens, and we all need to do a better job, including myself, with making sure we win the penalty battle."

Sixth-year quarterback Aidan O'Connell has thrown for 1,000 yards this season, helping the Boilermakers rank sixth in the FBS in passing yards per game. FAU quarterback N'Kosi Perry has thrown for 987 yards this season. He is also tied for fourth in the FBS in passing touchdowns with 10, and has an additional



DAVID HICKEY | SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Sixth-year quarterback Aidan O'Connell receives a snap during Purdue's Sept. 11 season opener against Penn State. The Boilers will face Florida Atlantic at home Saturday.

by the same head coach he played under while at Louisville. Brohm played a role in building the Owls' program up from the ground after it started in 2001.

"(Howard Schnellenberger) treated me great as a play-

said has to change.

"I sat down in front of the whole team and staff (Sunday), and we watched all of our penalties through the season," Brohm said. "It wasn't a matter of if we agreed with it or not, it was a matter of how we can make sure this doesn't

two from rushing.

One caveat is Perry has played a fourth game, one more than Purdue. Despite one fewer game, O'Connell has thrown the ball 11 more times than Perry. O'Connell throws an average of around 333 per game, fourth nationally, while Perry has thrown an average of about 247 yards per game, 43rd nationally.

Perry can do this because of the Owl offense's two-beaked attack, using running back Larry McCammon III as a weapon out of the backfield. McCammon averages 7.3 yards per carry, ranking seventh nationally among running backs. Against Syracuse, Purdue held the Orange's star running back Sean Tucker to just 2.3 yards per carry, down from his average of 6.1 last season.

In pass defense, Florida Atlantic gives up around 275 passing yards per game, while the Boilermakers give up just around 195.

Purdue will still be without senior linebacker Jalen Graham, who has been sidelined since sustaining an injury in Week 1. Both senior running back King Doerue and senior wide receiver Broc Thompson did not play against Syracuse due to injury. Brohm said it is "too early to tell" if either Doerue or Thompson will play against FAU, noting Thompson was "probably doubtful."



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The homecoming game will kickoff at 7:30 p.m. Saturday and will be televised on Big Ten Network.