

Suspended Gordon might have more problems

Wide receiver tests positive for marijuana and puts his 2016 NFL season at risk

By Barry Wilner
AP Pro Football Writer

CLEVELAND — Suspended Browns receiver Josh Gordon might be in trouble with the NFL again.

A person familiar with the situation tells The Associated Press that Gordon has “raised a red flag” because of a recent league-administered drug test. The person, who spoke on condition of anonymity because results of NFL drug tests are not made public, says Gordon didn’t have a positive substance abuse test.

But a sample collected in March showed Gordon had traces of marijuana and a diluting substance in his system. The level of marijuana was less than the minimum required by the NFL for a positive test.

MUDDLED SITUATION

Still, the test for Gordon, suspended for all of 2015 for testing positive for alcohol, raised concerns because, the person says, “in the state he is in (within the NFL drug program), anything above a certain amount, even if it is below the threshold, raises a red flag.”

The league, a spokesman for

the Browns, and Gordon’s agent Drew Rosenhaus, all declined to comment.

Fox Sports first reported the story.

Cleveland’s new front office has said little about Gordon, who applied for reinstatement in January. Last week, coach Hue Jackson said it was premature to talk about the former Pro Bowler because his situation had not been resolved. There is no indication when Commissioner Roger Goodell might rule on Gordon’s application.

And now the situation is more muddled.

According to league policy, for Gordon to be reinstated he will have to demonstrate sustained abstinence during his suspension. His past includes several failed marijuana tests in college, too, at Baylor.

PREVIOUS SUSPENSIONS

After Gordon pleaded guilty to driving while impaired on July 5, 2014, in Raleigh, North Carolina, he was required to submit to alcohol testing under the third stage of the league’s mandated program.

Gordon said he drank on a flight to Las Vegas a few days after the 2014 season ended and failed a subsequent test. Gordon had assumed any restrictions ended after the season, but he didn’t clarify that with the league.

Gordon was initially suspended for the 2014 season after



AP PHOTO

A person familiar with the situation tells The Associated Press that Cleveland Browns’ Josh Gordon has “raised a red flag” because of a recent league-administered drug test. Gordon was suspended for all of 2015 for testing positive for alcohol.

testing positive for marijuana. His penalty was later reduced to 10 games after the league and NFL Players Association changed their

substance abuse policies.

Gordon also had to sit out the two games in 2013 for a failed drug test, which he blamed on

taking prescription cough medicine. Gordon led the league with 1,646 yards receiving in 2013 despite that suspension.

Hunter Bailey wins gold medal at Junior Worlds

Tess Johnson and Emerson Smith take silver medals

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VAIL — On Saturday in Are, Sweden, Ski & Snowboard Club Vail freestyle mogul skier Hunter Bailey won the FIS Junior World Ski Championships men’s moguls event. The performance earns him a nomination to the 2016-17 U.S. Freestyle Team.

Bailey has been a member of the U.S. Freestyle Development Team for the past few years, but his dream was to make the U.S. Freestyle Team. He spent the last two seasons since graduating from Vail Mountain School as a full-time post-graduate athlete at Ski & Snowboard Club Vail pursuing that dream.

“This season was not easy for Hunter,” said Ski & Snowboard Club Vail head moguls coach Riley Campbell, who traveled with

the team to Are. “He trained hard and competed well, but he fell short of his potential many times, especially in the all-important NorAm Tour. He was able to stay focused and determined throughout these frustrations and come out with an astounding victory here in Are, Sweden, against the top juniors in the world. Many of these athletes in Are were already seasoned World Cup competitors. Hunter tagged his cork 1080 on the bottom air, and at that moment it was clear he was in the running. This win was Hunter’s last chance to secure a spot on the U.S. Freestyle Team this season. Watching him achieve this dream was one of the most notable moments of my coaching career. This achievement is a true testament to the benefits of hard work and determination.”

Ski & Snowboard Club Vail qualified four of the eight United States athletes who earned the coveted right to compete at Junior Worlds — Kaitlyn Harrell, Tess Johnson, Bailey and Emerson

Smith — along with Matt Leseur, who represented Bermuda at the event.

Bailey was surrounded by Ski & Snowboard Club Vail teammates who also logged outstanding performances at Junior Worlds. Johnson took second for the girls in moguls on Saturday. On Sunday in duals, Smith took second for the boys (after logging a top 10 finish on Saturday in moguls) with Harrell placing fifth (after taking 13th in moguls on Saturday) and Johnson taking ninth for the girls. Leseur took 19th in moguls and 20th in dual moguls for the boys.

“The course here in Are was fairly steep and conditions were spring-like,” Campbell said. “The conditions made for some high intensity skiing and an exciting show. Team Vail took several of the top spots and comprised half of the United States team. Also in our crew was the sole athlete representing Bermuda, Matt Leseur.”

In addition to Bailey, two other Ski & Snowboard Club Vail mogul athletes have qualified for



SPECIAL TO THE DAILY

Ski & Snowboard Club Vail’s Hunter Bailey, left, captured gold at the FIS Junior World Ski Championships men’s moguls event Saturday in Are, Sweden, competing against the top junior mogul athletes in the world, many of whom compete on the World Cup. Tess Johnson, right, finished second in the women’s moguls event that same day.

nomination to the 2016-17 U.S. Freestyle Team — Smith and Harrell as first timers to the team,

along with Johnson, who has qualified for re-nomination to the US Freestyle Team for 2016-17.