

Defensive coordinators are 3 of first 5 NFL head coaching hires

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jesse Minter, Robert Saleh and Jeff Hafley earned their head coaching opportunities on the defensive side of the ball.

Three of the five new hires this coaching cycle are former defensive coordinators. There are five openings still remaining and a few more defensive coaches could get a job, including Sean McDermott, Brian Flores and Vance Joseph.

Maybe the trend is shifting.

NFL teams have often sought offensive coaches in recent years. The success of guys like Sean McVay, Kyle Shanahan and Matt LaFleur inspired organizations to seek the rising offensive coordinators. Liam Coen and Ben Johnson stepped in and led their teams to division titles in their first season as head coaches after leading offenses.

Many teams will continue to prioritize an offensive coach to help develop a franchise quarterback. But finding the best candidate is important and pairing a defensive-minded head coach with the right offensive coordinator can be the right formula, too.

The Patriots hired Mike

Vrabel, a former linebacker, last year. He brought Josh McDaniels back to New England to run the offense. They went from worst to first in the AFC East and are playing the Denver Broncos on Sunday in the AFC championship game.

The Seahawks hired Mike Macdonald, a former defensive coordinator with the Ravens, two years ago. He brought in Klint Kubiak to coach the offense and Seattle faces McVay and the Los Angeles Rams in the NFC championship game.

Minter served as the Chargers defensive coordinator the past two seasons before the Baltimore Ravens hired him on Thursday to replace John Harbaugh, who had given him his first opportunity as an NFL assistant.

Hafley, who was hired by the Miami Dolphins, was Green Bay's defensive coordinator the last two seasons after coaching Boston College.

The Bills, Steelers, Raiders, Cardinals and Browns are still seeking a coach. They have options and interviewed coaches with offensive and defensive backgrounds.

Alex Palou ordered to pay McLaren Racing \$12M in breach of contract suit

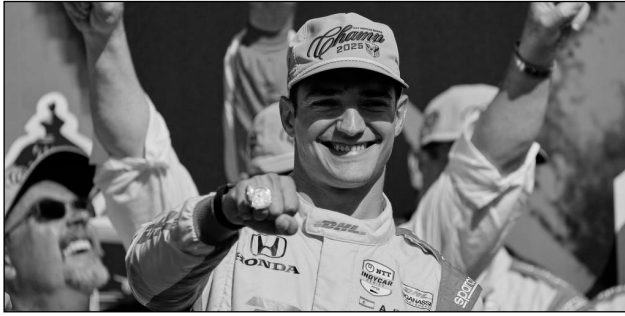
DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Four-time IndyCar champion Alex Palou on Friday was ordered to pay McLaren Racing more than \$12 million in the breach of contract suit the team filed when the Spaniard backed out of two different deals with the racing team.

The Friday ruling from London's High Court came after a five-week trial last year. McLaren initially sought almost \$30 million in damages, but that number was reduced to \$20.7 million as the racing juggernaut sought to reclaim money allegedly lost

in sponsorship, driver salaries and performance earnings.

"This is an entirely appropriate result for McLaren Racing. As the ruling shows, we clearly demonstrated that we fulfilled every single contractual obligation towards Alex and fully honored what had been agreed," said McLaren Racing boss Zak Brown. "We thank the court for recognizing the very significant commercial impact and disruption our business suffered as a result of Alex's breach of contract with the team."

McLaren added it is still seeking interest and



AP file photo

Alex Palou celebrates after winning the IndyCar championship on Aug. 31, 2025, at Nashville Superspeedway in Lebanon, Tenn.

reimbursement of its legal expenses.

Palou was not ordered to pay anything related to Formula 1 losses McLaren said it suffered when Palou decided to remain with

Chip Ganassi Racing rather than move to McLaren's IndyCar team in 2024. All the damages awarded to McLaren were tied to losses the IndyCar team suffered by Palou's change of mind.

Indiana QB Mendoza officially declares for NFL draft

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. (AP) — The Las Vegas Raiders are on the clock, and Heisman Trophy winner Fernando Mendoza is officially available.

Mendoza formally declared for the NFL draft Friday and could be headed to the Raiders with the No. 1 pick in April. Mendoza led Indiana to a 16-0 season and its first national championship with a 27-21 victory against Miami on Monday night.

"Let's get to work," Mendoza wrote in a social media post that included a highlight video. "I'm humbled to announce that I am officially declaring for the 2026 NFL Draft!"

The junior completed 72% of his passes this season for 3,535 yards, with 41 touchdowns and six interceptions. He also ran for seven scores. He played some of his best football in the College Football Playoff, with eight TD passes and no

picks. He ran for a score against the Hurricanes, turning a fourth-and-4 play into a 12-yard scamper that proved to be a pivotal moment in the game. It extended Indiana's lead to 24-14 in the fourth quarter.

Mendoza's decision to turn pro was widely considered a mere formality. The Hoosiers seemingly tipped his NFL intentions when they signed TCU quarterback Josh Hoover during the open transfer portal window.

Mendoza is considered the clearcut top QB in the draft after Oregon's Dante Moore announced he would return to school for the 2026 season. And the Raiders desperately need better quarterback play.

Las Vegas went 3-14 in 2025 and clinched the No. 1 overall pick with a loss to the New York Giants in Week 17. And the franchise will have a new coach after firing veteran Pete Carroll after one season.

Duke QB's motion to reconsider block on enrolling elsewhere speeds up case

By AARON BEARD
AP Sports Writer

Duke quarterback Darian Mensah has managed to speed up the legal case that currently has him blocked from heading to another school.

An attorney for Mensah filed an emergency motion in Durham County Superior Court seeking a judge to "reconsider" the temporary restraining order (TRO) granted to the school that prohibits Mensah from enrolling

elsewhere. That TRO sought by Duke runs through the next scheduled hearing in the case, but Mensah's request argued that enrollment deadlines for other schools expire as early as Friday.

"Consequently, the TRO

Order becomes more than 'temporary,' as it could permanently foreclose opportunities for Mensah to enroll at other collegiate institutions," the motion states.

Additionally, Mensah's motion sought to reschedule

the Feb. 2 hearing date to Friday if a judge didn't reconsider the temporary restraining order. Ultimately, that next hearing was moved up four days to Thursday, according to the state's online courts portal.

The school filed its

lawsuit Monday in Durham County Superior Court, pointing to terms in the two-season contract Mensah signed with Duke for payments tied to his name, image and likeness (NIL) rights in college football through 2026.

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(First published in the Lawrence Daily Journal-World on the 24th of January, 2026)

IN THE 7TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF DOUGLAS COUNTY, KANSAS

IN THE MATTER OF Nadezhda Anatolyevna Galeva

TO CHANGE HER NAME TO Nadya Ana Benson

Lawrence

Case No. 26CV46 Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 60

NOTICE OF HEARING PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL WHO ARE OR MAY BE CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that Nadezhda Anatolyevna Galeva filed a Petition in the above court on the January 21, 2026, requesting a judgment and

Lawrence

order changing her name from Nadezhda Anatolyevna Galeva to Nadya Ana Benson. The Petition will be heard in Douglas County District Court, 111 E 11th St. Lawrence, KS, on March 03, 2026 at 1:30 pm. If you have any objection to the requested name change, you are required to file a responsive reading one or before March 03, 2026, in this court or appear at the hearing and object to the requested name change. If you fail to act, judgment and order will be entered

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upon the Petition as requested by Petition.

(First Published in the Lawrence Daily Journal-World on the 24th of January, 2026)

ORDINANCE NO. 10189 SUMMARY

On January 20, 2026, the Governing Body of the City of Lawrence, Kansas, passed an ordinance entitled:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE

Lawrence

CITY OF LAWRENCE, KANSAS, REZONING APPROXIMATELY 3.7 ACRES FROM M-3 (MIXED CORRIDOR) DISTRICT TO R-4 (RESIDENTIAL HIGH DENSITY) DISTRICT AND AMENDING THE CITY'S "OFFICIAL ZONING MAP," INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE INTO THE CITY CODE AT CHAPTER 20, ARTICLE 2, SECTION 20-201 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF LAWRENCE, KANSAS, 2024 EDITION, AND

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AMENDMENTS THERETO.

The Ordinance rezones approximately 3.7 acres, located at 2222 West 6th Street and 530 Rockledge Road, from M-3 (Mixed Corridor) District to R-4 (Residential High Density) District. The Ordinance is not subject to petition under state law. A complete text of the Ordinance may be obtained or viewed free of charge at the office of the City Clerk, 6 East 6th Street, Lawrence, Kansas 66044. A

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reproduction of the Ordinance is available for not less than 7 days following the publication date of this Summary at www.lawrenceks.org.

This Summary is hereby certified to be legally accurate and sufficient pursuant to the laws of the State of Kansas.

DATED: 1.20.2026

/s/ Toni R. Wheeler
Toni R. Wheeler
City Attorney

Lawrence

(First Published in the Lawrence Daily Journal-World on the 24th of January, 2026)

ORDINANCE NO. 10176

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LAWRENCE, KANSAS, AMENDING CHAPTER 20, ARTICLE 8, SECTION 20-810 OF THE CODE OF

PUBLIC NOTICE
CONTINUED ON B7