

NFL | BROWNS

Chubb returns from COVID, 'beat up' Mayfield will start

By The Associated Press

BEREA

Nick Chubb returned to the Browns in shorts, sleeveless and raring to run. Cleveland's star back was activated from the reserve/COVID-19 list on Friday. He is cleared to play Sunday when the Browns host the winless Detroit Lions, beginning a crucial three-game stretch.

Chubb tested positive for the virus on Nov. 9 and had to miss last weekend's 45-7 loss to the New England. Now that he's healthy, Chubb said he's prepared to carry the ball as often as the Browns need.



TNS photo/CLEVELAND.COM

Browns running back Nick Chubb says he'll be 'ready for whatever' on Sunday.

"I'm ready for whatever," he said. Coach Kevin Stefanski also said quarterback Baker Mayfield will start after he sat out one day this week to rest shoulder, foot and knee injuries. On Wednesday, Mayfield said he has never been so "beat up" in his career.

The temperature was near freezing and snow flurries were falling Friday as the Browns (5-5) began practicing behind their facility. Chubb, though, was dressed as if it was mid-August at training camp.

"It's great to have No. 24 back," said Myles Garrett, the Browns' star defensive end and NFL sacks leader. "He's the man. One of the best in the league and a great locker room guy. It's great to see him out here, especially in no sleeves. He doesn't care about this cold."

When he spoke to reporters later, Chubb wished he had dressed differently.

"It's killing me now," he said. "I stopped moving. Now I feel it."

Chubb, who is third in the league with 721 yards rushing despite missing three games, was activated along with rookie punt returner/running back Demetric Felton.

Cleveland's offense isn't the same without the 25-year-old Chubb,

who rushed for 137 yards and two touchdowns against Cincinnati on Nov. 7 — a 41-16 win that seemed to be a turning point for the Browns as it ended a tumultuous week that included wide receiver Odell Beckham Jr.'s release.

But two days after the Browns blasted the Bengals, Chubb tested positive.

The two-time Pro Bowler didn't show symptoms of the virus, and Chubb said he only felt poorly for one day. The bigger stress, however, came when he couldn't play as the Patriots embarrassed the Browns.

"Yeah, it was hard to watch for sure," he said. "Seeing my team out there and not having things go our way, it was hard for me to watch. But it's a new week, a new opportunity. We still have everything ahead of us. We got to come out here, had a great practice and got to

keep moving forward."

Notes

Garrett said he's on good terms with coordinator Joe Woods. Following the loss at New England, Garrett complained the Browns didn't make any adjustments. "I don't think there was ever like a rift between us," Garrett said. "There was never a problem. I was frustrated because I felt like we could have done more. He's got a tough job just like I do."

CBs Troy Hill (neck) and A.J. Green (concussion) and WR Anthony Schwartz (concussion) will not play Sunday.

WR Donovan Peoples-Jones was back and limited after missing Thursday with a groin issue. He's listed as questionable along with DE Takka McKinley (groin).

CLEVELAND BROWNS

WATCH

RECORD 5-5 **PCT.** .500 **PF** 231 **PA** 241

LAST GAME
Lost last Sunday at New England, 45-7

NEXT GAME
vs. Detroit
1 p.m., Sunday
TV: FOX
RADIO: WJMK
100.9 FM

COMING UP

11/28	12/5	12/12	12/19	12/25
BAL 8:20 p.m. NBC	BYE WEEK	BAL 1 p.m. CBS	LV TBD	GB 4:30 p.m. FOX
HOME GAME			AWAY GAME	

NFL Standings

AMERICAN CONFERENCE						NATIONAL CONFERENCE																					
East			South			North			West			East			South			North			West						
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA				
Buffalo	6	3	0	.667	280	135	Tennessee	8	2	0	.800	278	232	Dallas	7	2	0	.778	284	195	Arizona	8	2	0	.800	287	189
New England	7	4	0	.636	300	177	Indianapolis	5	5	0	.500	288	230	Philadelphia	4	6	0	.400	257	231	L.A. Rams	7	3	0	.700	271	227
Miami	3	7	0	.300	177	252	Jacksonville	2	7	0	.222	149	232	N.Y. Giants	3	6	0	.333	179	216	San Francisco	4	5	0	.444	216	212
N.Y. Jets	2	7	0	.222	161	296	Houston	1	8	0	.111	128	258	Washington	3	6	0	.333	185	246	Seattle	3	6	0	.333	181	186

Thursday's game
New England 25, Atlanta 0

Sunday's games
Baltimore at Chicago, 1 p.m.
Detroit at Cleveland, 1 p.m.
Green Bay at Minnesota, 1 p.m.
Houston at Tennessee, 1 p.m.
Indianapolis at Buffalo, 1 p.m.
Miami at N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.
New Orleans at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.
San Francisco at Jacksonville, 1 p.m.
Washington at Carolina, 1 p.m.
Cincinnati at Las Vegas, 4:05 p.m.
Dallas at Seattle, 4:25 p.m.
Dallas at Kansas City, 4:25 p.m.
Pittsburgh at L.A. Chargers, 8:20 p.m.
Open: Denver, L.A. Rams

Monday, Nov. 22
N.Y. Giants at Tampa Bay, 8:15 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 25
Chicago at Detroit, 12:30 p.m.
Las Vegas at Dallas, 4:30 p.m.
Buffalo at New Orleans, 8:20 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 28
Atlanta at Jacksonville, 1 p.m.
Carolina at Miami, 1 p.m.
N.Y. Jets at Houston, 1 p.m.
Philadelphia at N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Indianapolis, 1 p.m.
Tennessee at New England, 1 p.m.
L.A. Chargers at Denver, 4:05 p.m.
L.A. Rams at Green Bay, 4:25 p.m.
Minnesota at San Francisco, 4:25 p.m.
Cleveland at Baltimore, 8:20 p.m.
Open: Kansas City, Arizona

Monday, Nov. 29
Seattle at Washington, 8:15 p.m.

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division				Southeast Division					
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB		
Brooklyn	11	5	.688	—	Miami	11	5	.688	—
Philadelphia	9	7	.563	2	Washington	10	5	.667	½
New York	8	7	.533	2½	Charlotte	9	7	.563	2
Boston	7	8	.467	3½	Atlanta	7	9	.438	4
Toronto	7	9	.438	4	Orlando	4	11	.267	6½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division				Northwest Division					
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB		
Dallas	9	5	.643	—	Utah	10	5	.667	—
Memphis	8	7	.533	1½	Denver	9	6	.600	1
San Antonio	4	11	.267	5½	Portland	8	7	.500	2½
New Orleans	2	14	.125	8½	Oklahoma City	6	8	.429	3½
Houston	1	14	.067	8½	Minnesota	6	9	.400	4

Thursday's Games
Miami 112, Washington 97
Golden State 104, Cleveland 89
Memphis 120, L.A. Clippers 108
Minnesota 115, San Antonio 90
Philadelphia 103, Denver 89
Utah 119, Toronto 103

Friday's Games
Golden State at Detroit, late
Indiana at Charlotte, late
L.A. Lakers at Boston, late
Orlando at Brooklyn, late
L.A. Clippers at New Orleans, late
Oklahoma City at Milwaukee, late
Chicago at Denver, late
Dallas at Phoenix, late
Toronto at Sacramento, late

Saturday's Games
Houston at New York, 5 p.m.
Miami at Washington, 7 p.m.
New Orleans at Indiana, 7 p.m.
Charlotte at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Oklahoma City at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
Memphis at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Orlando at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
Philadelphia at Portland, 10 p.m.
Utah at Sacramento, 10 p.m.

Sunday's Games
Dallas at L.A. Clippers, 3:30 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Detroit, 6 p.m.
Denver at Phoenix, 8 p.m.
New York at Chicago, 8 p.m.
Toronto at Golden State, 8:30 p.m.

Monday's Games
Brooklyn at Cleveland, 7 p.m.
Charlotte at Washington, 7 p.m.

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

SATURDAY'S REGIONAL FINALS
(All games at 7 p.m.)

Division V
Region 17
1. Mt. Vernon (12-0) vs. 2 Canfield South Range (13-0) at Niles McKinley Bo Rein Stadium

Region 18
2 Elyria Catholic (11-2) vs. 5 Ottawa-Glandorf (10-3) at Clyde Joe and Sharon Wilson Field

Region 19
2 Canal Winchester Harvest Prep (9-2) vs. 5 Wheelersburg (10-3) at Waverly Raider Field

Region 20
3 Camden Preble Shawnee (13-0) vs. 5 Versailles (12-1) at Trotwood-Madison Miami Valley Hospital SportsPlex

Division VI
Region 21
3 New Middletown Springfield (12-1) vs. 4 Mogadore (10-3) at Salem Sebo Stadium

Region 22
3 Carey (12-1) vs. 5 Liberty Center (11-2) at Bowling Green High School West Jefferson

Region 23
1 Beverly Fort Frye (10-1) vs. 3 West Stafford (12-1) at Logan Chieftain Stadium

Region 24
2 Harrod Allen East (10-3) vs. 4 Coldwater (11-2) at Sidney Memorial Stadium

Division VII
Region 25
3 Warren John F Kennedy (9-2) vs. 4 Dalton (11-2) at Marlington Stadium

Region 26
1 Hopewell-Loudon (12-1) vs. 3 Lima Central Catholic (11-2) at Findlay Donnell Stadium

Region 27
1 Newark Catholic (12-1) vs. 3 Shadyside (11-1) at New Philadelphia Woody Hayes Quaker Stadium

Region 28
1 Maria Stein Marion Local (13-0) vs. 6 St. Henry (10-3) at Wapakoneta Mercy Health Ford Field

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

TOP 25 SCHEDULE

Friday
No. 17 Houston vs. Memphis, late
No. 23 San Diego St. at UNLV, late

Saturday
No. 1 Georgia vs. Charleston Southern, Noon
No. 2 Alabama vs. No. 21 Arkansas, 3:30 p.m.
No. 3 Cincinnati vs. SMU, 3:30 p.m.
No. 4 Oregon at No. 24 Utah, 7:30 p.m.
No. 5 Ohio St. vs. No. 7 Michigan St., Noon
No. 6 Notre Dame vs. Georgia Tech, 2:30 p.m.
No. 8 Michigan at Maryland, 3:30 p.m.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

TOP 25 SCHEDULE

Norfolk St. 90, BGSU 84
NORFOLK ST. (5-0)
Bankston 7-10 1-3 15, Chambers 1-1 0-0 2, Anderson 1-2 0-0 3, Bryant 5-9 4-4 16, Ings 3-12 6-9 12, Jenkins 5-7 2-2 17, Hawkins 6-13 1-2 13, Tate 2-4 0-0 5, Ford 0-1 1-2 1, Brown 2-5 2-4 6, Jones 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 32-64 17-26 90.

BOWLING GREEN (0-1-3)
Reece 4-5 2-2 10, Gordon 5-10 6-9 19, Mills 2-7 0-0 4, Diggs 6-15 0-0 17, Plowden 2-9 9-10 14, Fulcher 4-7 1-2 11, Curtis 2-7 1-2 6, Young 0-3 2-2 2, Turner 0-3 0-0 0, O'Neal 0-0 1-2 1, Elssser 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 25-66 22-29 84.

Halftime: Bowling Green 39-37, 3-Point Goals: Norfolk St. 9-16 (Jenkins 5-6, Bryant 2-5, Tate 1-1, Anderson 1-2, Hawkins 0-2), Bowling Green 12-40 (Diggs 5-12, Gordon 3-6, Fulcher 2-4, Curtis 1-4, Plowden 1-6, Young 0-2, Mills 0-3, Turner 0-3). Fouled Out: Bryant, Turner. Rebounds: Norfolk St. 37 (Bankston 9), Bowling Green 38 (Reece, Fulcher 7). Assists: Norfolk St. 12 (Ings 5), Bowling Green 13 (Gordon 4). Total Fouls: Norfolk St. 25, Bowling Green 23. A. 1,325 (4,387).

Browns look to rebound from blowout loss, host winless Lions

By The Associated Press

CLEVELAND

The starting quarterback is injured and won't be close to 100%. The passing game isn't producing nearly enough big plays or points and the season has grown desperate.

And you thought the winless Detroit Lions had issues?

The Cleveland Browns have similar problems.

Shaken by an embarrassing, humbling 38-point loss at New England last week, when Patriots coach Bill Belichick seemed to enjoy toying with his former team, the Browns (5-5) head into Sunday's matchup against the Lions (0-8-1) without any more wiggle room in a season going sideways.

Their hopes of winning the AFC North, making the playoffs and perhaps a Super Bowl title run seem a bit far-fetched at the moment. But in a nonsensical season in which elite teams are few and far between, anything seems possible.

"We're within striking distance," said Browns left guard Joel Bitonio, who has been on more than a few roller-coaster rides in Cleveland since 2014. "We're not where we want to be, but we have everything left. There's a lot less room for error now, but we're good."

Actually, it's hard to figure out the Browns — one of the NFL's most talented yet unpredictable teams.



TNS photo/AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

The Browns might try to get wide receiver Jarvis Landry more involved in what has been a stagnant passing offense in recent weeks.

Two weeks ago, they overpowered Cincinnati 41-16 while playing their most complete game this season. A week later, it was just the opposite as the Browns couldn't do anything right.

The past few days have been filled with corrections and reflection.

"It's a humbling process," said quarterback Baker Mayfield, who expects to face

the Lions despite shoulder, foot and knee injuries. "It's very easy to look around and try to find excuses, but when it comes down to it we have seven more games right now to be able to figure out how to make it work."

"And we have a lot of division games in front of us, and that's the most important part."

The Browns aren't good enough to take anyone lightly, especially the Lions, who managed a 16-16 tie last week at Pittsburgh and were within a missed field goal in overtime of shocking the Steelers.

Detroit returned from its bye week emphasizing the run on offense and playing with the same intensity on defense that has kept the Lions in most games.

Bitonio played on Cleveland's 0-16 team in 2017, when the Browns lost twice in OT and lost four other games by four points or less. He said the Lions will not be overlooked.

"They play as hard as anybody," said Bitonio, who has warned his younger teammates about the pitfalls of overconfidence. "It's not like you're at Alabama, just walk in and beat a team. Records don't mean anything. You come out, you have to perform."

"You just have these games where it's like, 'Oh, this team should win.' But it's the NFL, so anything can happen."

DETROIT (0-8-1) AT CLEVELAND (5-5)

TIME/TV: Sunday, 1 p.m., FOX
SERIES RECORD: Lions lead series 19-5.
LAST MEETING: Lions beat Browns 38-24 on Nov. 12, 2017 at Detroit.
LAST WEEK: Lions tied Steelers 16-16; Browns lost to Patriots 45-7.
TURNOVER DIFFERENTIAL: Lions minus-1; Browns minus-1.
LIONS PLAYER TO WATCH: D'Andre Swift. The second-year running back had career highs with 130 yards rushing and 33 carries last week. Swift has a career

best with 50 receptions and 420 yards receiving, leading all RBs in receptions and ranking second in yards receiving.
BROWNS PLAYER TO WATCH: WR Jarvis Landry. The three-time Pro Bowler wants more touches and coach Kevin Stefanski might try to feed him. Landry has been slowed by a knee injury that kept him out for four games.
KEY MATCHUP: Lions TE T.J. Hockenson vs. Browns LBs and secondary. Hockenson (48 catches) is one of Detroit's primary offensive

weapons, so he'll get plenty of attention from Cleveland's defense, which has struggled against tight ends. Rookie LB Jeremiah Owusu-Koramoah has shown he can cover and could draw the assignment.
KEY INJURIES: Lions S Tracy Walker (concussion) and CB Jerry Jacobs (groin) were injured against the Steelers. ... Browns RB Kareem Hunt (calf) isn't quite ready to return and will miss his fifth game.

— The Associated Press

Browns to honor Maxton Soviak at halftime

From staff reports



Register photo/ERIN CALDWELL

A chair reserved for Soviak at Edison's Sept. 10 football game against Norwalk included his jersey number, a wrestling singlet and the flag of the U.S. Navy Hospital Corpsman.

The Browns will honor military personnel, veterans and their families throughout Sunday's game at FirstEnergy Stadium as part of the NFL's Salute to Service initiative in November.

Navy Corpsman Maxton Soviak, an Edison High School graduate who was killed in August during a terrorist attack at the Kabul airport in Afghanistan, will be honored during the game.

CrossCountry Mortgage will present Edison football coach Jim Hall with a check for \$100,000 in Soviak's honor. The gift will be used

for enhancements to the school's athletic facilities. The ceremony will take place during halftime.

"It's an incredible gift and very deserving," said Hall. "Having them reach out and do this is incredible."

Soviak, who was killed along with 12 other U.S. military members, played football at Edison. His family and members of Edison's football team will be special guests of the Browns.

The Browns will honor several others, including Anthony Yassall, a 95-year old World War II veteran and Purple Heart recipient who lives in Northeast Ohio.