



Printed from: *Boston Herald* (<http://bostonherald.com>)

Nate Solder speaks out against bullying

Wednesday, April 3, 2013 -- Jeff Howe

Patriots left tackle **Nate Solder** is used to protecting one of the most revered athletes in the region's history, and today, he broadened those services.

Solder appeared at Eliot Elementary School in Boston with Harlem Globetrotters **"Buckets" Blakes** and **"TNT" Maddox** to speak out against bullying. They spoke to the school for about an hour, played some interactive games and, of course, did some Globetrotters stuff to excite the group.

Solder hilariously introduced himself to the crowd by saying, *"I'm the one your dad is yelling at when **Tom Brady** gets sacked."* But he also noted he was bullied when he was taller than everyone else in his school for sticking out more than the rest.

"Everyone can get bullied," Solder said after the event. "It's so hard for kids who haven't faced it before and don't know how to handle it. To give them some help and guidance and let them know that all of us go through it is really helpful."

Oh, and during the event, a gust of wind blew over a sign, and Solder swooped in to catch it before it landed on Maddox. Being a left tackle is clearly a fulltime job.

"Great guy, great energy, definitely a fast learner, and he saved my teammate, TNT's life," Blakes said. "Something was about to fall directly on her head. It was slow-mo for me when I watched it, and he went and caught it with one hand, that big-guy stuff, that big, protective-guy stuff."

Solder added, *"I'd like to think I'm still an athlete, even though I'm an O-lineman, and did you see me save everyone with that banner, too?"*

More on Solder's offseason in tomorrow's Herald.

Blog:

[The Blitz](#) ^[1]

Author(s):

Jeff Howe

Media:



Printed from: *Boston Herald* (<http://bostonherald.com>)

Nate Solder out to improve

Wednesday, April 3, 2013 -- Anonymous (not verified)

Tackle ready for even better '13

New England Patriots

Thursday, April 4, 2013

Author(s):

Jeff Howe

Patriots Notebook

Finally, Patriots left tackle **Nate Solder** has gotten a feel for a normal offseason.

The 2011 first-round pick's camp debut was held up due to the lockout, which stunted every second-year player's growth during the following offseason. Even as strange as it sounds, young players need to learn how to navigate their downtime, particularly as they prep for an upcoming season.

"I think it's more the timing. I knew how much time to take off, how intense to start working out and maintain body weight, strength, everything over the break," Solder told the Herald yesterday while speaking out against bullying at the Eliot Elementary School in Boston. "I have a little more time under my belt, but I feel like every year the expectations have risen, so I certainly feel that the expectations have risen another level, so I think my play should also rise."

Solder returned home to Colorado for a bit after the season and then spent a couple weeks in Hawaii before ratcheting up his efforts for the 2013 campaign. He feels the knowledge he has gained, the comfort level of knowing his true position and the consistency from one year to the next will help him improve upon a steady season of protecting **Tom Brady**.

"I think the experience that I have will help me play better," Solder said. "The time I spent working out getting physically better, the time I spend in OTAs and camp preparing ourselves mentally and physically will all add up to being a better player."

Giant leap on tap?

Julian Edelman is continuing his two-day visit with the Giants today, according to a

source. There has been some discussion about a reunion between Edelman and the Pats, but things obviously have not panned out at this point.

Edelman's foot is apparently fine. He was running routes with Brady a few days ago.

Ducks DE in for look

The Patriots have scheduled pre-draft visits with a handful of high-caliber prospects, and one of them is an eye-popper.

The Pats will host Oregon defensive end **Dion Jordan**, Florida State defensive end **Tank Carradine**, Washington cornerback **Desmond Trufant**, Alabama offensive lineman **D.J. Fluker** and Oklahoma wide receiver **Kenny Stills**, according to a source. Former LSU cornerback **Tyrann Mathieu** will be in town tomorrow.

Jordan, who will visit in two weeks, would be a terrific fit on the edge because he can attack the quarterback and drop into coverage, depending on his assignment. The problem, though, is he is considered to be a top-5 pick, and he might not make it past the Jaguars at No. 2.

So why would the Patriots use one of their 30 official visits when they're sitting at No. 29? Most likely, they're trying to do some background work on a big prospect who could terrorize the league for years to come. Maybe it helps for competitive scouting purposes, or maybe they'd like to get an early read on a player who would be scheduled to hit free agency after the 2017 season. Or, perhaps they're seeking some additional information on an Oregon teammate or Pac-12 opponent.

Of course, the enticing thought is **Bill Belichick** is loading up to make a serious trade, but the Patriots would have to tap into the 2014 draft to pull off such a maneuver. The likelihood of that happening would seem to rival the Pats' chances of wrangling cornerback **Darrelle Revis** from the Jets.

Welker speaks up

Wes Welker kept a Patriots state of mind yesterday while discussing his highly publicized breakup earlier this offseason.

Welker maintained the split never got personal and noted the unfortunate business side of the game can lead to instances when a perfect match must end.

"Though it's kind of the unfortunate part of the business, it is what it is," Welker told ESPN Radio. "You try and find what works for you, as far as financially, and as a player and everything else. At the end of the day, fortunately or unfortunately, it kind of just worked out the way it did."

Welker made the radio rounds and also disclosed to "The Dan Patrick Show" the temperament of his first conversation with Brady as a member of the Broncos.

"We were both a little bit disappointed in a way of not being able to play together, but he

was happy for me,” Welker said. “He’s a standup, good guy. It was tough, but that’s the way it goes.” . . .

Rob Gronkowski was eliminated in the Madden NFL 25 cover balloting by Vikings RB Adrian Peterson.

Source URL:

http://bostonherald.com/sports/patriots_nfl/new_england_patriots/2013/04/nate_solder_out_to_improve