

Sports

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Campbell explains silence following Super Bowl loss

By Nicole Yang
GLOBE STAFF

FOXBOROUGH — Rookie left tackle Will Campbell apologized for not speaking to the media Sunday night after the Patriots lost the Super Bowl to the Seahawks, citing his emotions.

"I just want to make sure I had my head on properly before I said anything," Campbell said Tuesday morning at Gillette Stadium. "I didn't want to say anything I didn't need to say. I know that can happen, especially with myself whenever there's emotions involved. I just wanted the night to sleep on things."

Seattle's pass rush steamrolled Campbell for 14 pressures on 53 dropbacks (26.4 percent), according to the NFL's Next Gen Stats. The 14 pressures were the most surrendered by a player in any

► Maye says right shoulder needs rest, not surgery during the offseason. Notebook, C4

game, regular season or playoffs, this season.

Campbell couldn't hold up in pass protection, starting with the 10-yard sack that hampered the Patriots' opening possession. He also was flagged for one of the Patriots' three penalties, a false start on third down near the end of the second quarter.

"The guy in the locker room [after the game] is a young man who has a lot of emotions, who probably doesn't care what he says," Campbell said. "When I get emotional, I tend to have no mind. That's not the way I need to approach this thing. I know myself. And if I would have spoken after, I

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JOHN TLUMACKI/GLOBE STAFF

Left tackle Will Campbell apologized to reporters for not speaking following the Patriots' Super Bowl loss in which he allowed 14 pressures, the most in any NFL game this season.

Reporting for duty

Red Sox ace Crochet likes retooled staff

By Tim Healey
GLOBE STAFF

FORT MYERS, Fla. — After Garrett Crochet joined the Red Sox, signed a long-term contract, dominated to a degree few other pitchers in franchise history have, threw more innings than ever, and capped it all off with a spectacular outing in his first postseason start, he went home to Tennessee and took off a little more time than normal.

His usual reset, four to six weeks, went the full six — and it wasn't about baseball. He and his wife, Rachel, welcomed their first child, a daughter, in November, the last and biggest change in a year full of them.

"I can't really put into words how it's made me feel," Crochet said, meaning that in a good way even if sleep is trickier lately. "I've transformed on the inside. It's a special feeling."

He'll carry that perspective into a new season of grand expectations, for the team and especially for the lefthander.

Crochet, the lone survivor from the 2025 season-opening rotation, is amped about what he sees in this year's group, overhauled by chief baseball officer Craig Breslow in an offseason marked by pitching and defense.

"Sonny [Gray] brings a ton of experience and a ton of strikeouts and innings over the past couple years," Crochet said. "Obviously, we've seen what Ranger [Suárez] has done in the NL and one of the better divisions in baseball [the NL East], and also in one of the more hostile environments in baseball. So I think that we're excited to see him meet the challenge in Boston."

"And [Johan] Oviedo has got an incredible profile, just watching him throw bullpens and stuff like that, you see the pitch

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BARRY CHIN/GLOBE STAFF

Garrett Crochet was on hand for the first day of Red Sox spring training — and the staff ace brought along an altered pitch he worked on in the offseason.



FILE/BRYNN ANDERSON/ASSOCIATED PRESS
Isiah Kiner-Falefa, representing the World Series-winning run for the Blue Jays in Game 7, was forced out at home by Dodgers catcher Will Smith.

Kiner-Falefa wants to play for better playoff memories

PETER ABRAHAM

ON BASEBALL

FORT MYERS, Fla. — Isiah Kiner-Falefa was an inch or two away from history in Game 7 of the World Series last fall, his left foot hitting home plate in the bottom of the ninth inning only a split second after Dodgers catcher Will Smith caught the throw from Miguel Rojas to get a force out.

The Dodgers went on to win the game in 11 innings, denying the Blue Jays their first championship since 1993, and Kiner-Falefa of a career-defining moment.

Three months later, Kiner-Falefa has

buried the memory as best he can, even manipulating the algorithm of his social media accounts to avoid seeing the play.

"It was definitely heart-breaking," he said Tuesday after his one-year, \$6 million contract with the Red Sox became official.

Kiner-Falefa, who turns 31 next month, had options in free agency and chose carefully. He saw the Red Sox as a way back to the postseason and an opportunity to create better memories than what he came away with last fall.

"It was a pretty easy decision," Kiner-Falefa said. "You look at where the ball club is, and you see the additions to the pitching staff."

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Tatum remains vague on return to Celtics

By Adam Himmelsbach
GLOBE STAFF

Celtics forward Jayson Tatum has mostly been completing his Achilles injury rehab behind closed doors, with scattered pod-cast appearances offering occasional morsels about his progress.

But on Monday evening the Celtics created a stir when they sent out a press release saying that Tatum would take part in a practice with the team's G

League affiliate, the Maine Celtics. Then on Tuesday morning, buzz began to spread at the Auerbach Center that Tatum would conduct his first official interview session with Celtics reporters since media day in September.

The prospect of his looming return had begun to gain momentum.

Tatum had a brief chat with Amile Jefferson, a Celtics assis-

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THE 2026 WINTER OLYMPICS

JOHN POWERS

ON OLYMPICS



ANTONIN THUILLIER/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Malinin poised to jump to the next level

Ilia Malinin figured that the Winter Games would be much the same as the World Championships are. The same grand stage, the same rivals, the same programs he'd been cranking out all season.

And then he realized that he was at Olympus. The five rings, the constant flame, the skiers and bobsledders and speedskaters racing through the village. That's why it took the planet's greatest figure skater a few days in Milan to revert to his customary dominance.

"Coming to the Olympics, I thought that I just can take it the same way [as] with any competition, but, in the end, sometimes it really just still overwhelms you," the Quad God said Tuesday after he'd beaten Japanese archrival Yuma Kagiyama convincingly in the short program. "I definitely felt that in the team short program."

Scott Hamilton, who won the gold medal in 1984, can empathize. He arrived in Sarajevo as the three-time world titlist and

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INSIDE

Kicking it off

World Cup FanFest set to be a major attraction this summer at Boston's City Hall Plaza. **C6**

Stating their case

Brookline's Niedeck captures MIAA Nordic championship; Mount Greylock impresses. **C7**