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Browns Mailbag

Could the Browns draft Fernando Mendoza? | Browns Mailbag

Browns Staff Writer Intern Abel Fenwick answers your questions

Mar 26, 2026 at 03:03 PM



Abel Fenwick
Experienced copywriter & Browns fanatic



It's now under a month before the [2026 NFL draft](#) kicks off in Pittsburgh.

After a free agency period shaped by General Manager Andrew Berry's decision to dismantle then rebuild the team's entire offensive line, the Cleveland Browns are likely to use their first round picks on filling their major positional needs such as wide receiver and offensive tackle.

With [Shedeur Sanders](#) and [Deshaun Watson](#) set to battle for the starting job next season and [Dillon Gabriel](#) still signed to the roster, the quarterback room may in fact be the only position on the offense which would not benefit from the new wave of promising college football talent.

Contributors to the mailbox this week, however, are not so sure.

Given the Raiders have stated they won't start Fernando Mendoza for the first few weeks of the season, could he sign with the Cleveland Browns instead? - Ashley C., Yulan, New York.

Although not impossible, it is unlikely that the Heisman winning quarterback will sign with the Cleveland Browns.

2025 was a turbulent season marked by uncertainty surrounding the starting quarterback role. Despite this, the Browns ended up with the 6th overall draft pick behind the Las Vegas Raiders, New York Jets, Arizona Cardinals, Tennessee Titans, and New York Giants. Should the Raiders pass up on Mendoza, other teams would likely use their draft picks to select him before the Browns would get the chance to do so.

Given the holes in the offensive roster, it is more likely that the team will end up using their top draft pick on Ohio State wide receiver [Carnell Tate](#).

Given their renegotiation of his contract, might the Browns trade Myles Garrett for enough first round picks to draft Fernando Mendoza? - T. L. Jones, San Saba, Texas.

Although nothing can ever be ruled out, this course of action is similarly unlikely.

After an unprecedented 2025 season in which he both [broke the sack record](#) and earned a unanimous [Defensive player of the Year Award](#), Myles Garrett's star power has never been higher. Combine this with past [expressions of dissatisfaction](#), it isn't surprising that mentions of contract negotiations would spark rumours of trades to other teams.

The changes to his contract, however, have been undertaken to free up cap space and change when he receives his bonuses. As mentioned in the response to Ashley C's letter, it is unlikely that the Browns will sign Mendoza.



Browns Staff Writer Kelsey Russo will answer your fan questions about the Cleveland Browns. Submit them below and check the [Browns Mailbag Page on ClevelandBrowns.com](#) for the latest issue.



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Press Release

Ohio Department of Transportation approves \$35 million investment in roads leading to new Cleveland Browns stadium in Brook Park

The \$35 million investment represents only half of the funding needed to improve roads surrounding the site of the new Huntington Bank Field.

Mar 26, 2026 at 03:57 PM



ClevelandBrowns.com



Cleveland, Ohio - On Mar. 25, the Ohio Department of Transportation's Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC) earmarked \$35 million in funding for roadworks designed to improve transportation links to and from the site of the new [Huntington Bank Stadium in Brook Park](#).

Despite fan concerns surrounding increased ticket prices and the planned roof leading to the loss of fan-favourite winter games, [ground was officially broken earlier this month on the construction site](#) of the new Huntington Bank Stadium. Designed by architecture firm HKS and led by the Lincoln Property Company, the enclosed venue will be capable of hosting a wide array of events year-round for crowds of up to 75,000 attendees.

As part of a \$123.1 million funding package to implement 11 major new projects throughout Ohio in the 2027 fiscal year, the [Ohio Department of Transportation](#) set aside \$35 million to implement improvements to the interchange and ramps at I-71/Snow Road in Brook Park, Cuyahoga County.

This money, however, comes subject to specific conditions. Although it will entirely cover the upgrades to the I-71 interchange needed to handle additional fan traffic to the area, the funding can only be used for state-maintained roads.

Despite being approved by regional transport authorities [last week](#), upgrades to local roads and the construction of a pedestrian footbridge linking the enclosed stadium to the car park will not be covered by the funding, leading to a \$35 million shortfall which must be made up by other investors.

As reported by [Kelsey Russo](#) earlier today, Browns owners Dee and Jimmy Haslam recently increased their contributions towards the construction of Huntington Bank Field, investing \$1.755 billion in the project and covering around 68% of the anticipated costs.

It is unknown whether or not the \$35 million shortfall was covered by these increased donations.



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Community

Myles Garrett and Waterboys: A ten-year retrospective

In the course of his partnership with the charity, Garrett visited Tanzania and raised nearly \$100,000 towards the charity's mission of providing sustainable clean water throughout East Africa.

Mar 26, 2026 at 05:57 PM



Abel Fenwick

Experienced copywriter & Browns fanatic



A lot has changed in the ten years since the Chris Long Foundation launched the Waterboys campaign.

Named after the vital, yet underappreciated team members responsible for keeping players hydrated during football games, the NFL Waterboys campaign sought to bring the charity's mission to a wide audience of football fans. Since then, over 560,000 individuals have benefitted from the work of the Chris Long foundation, which creates sustainable pathways to clean drinking water in disadvantaged communities. The scope of the charity has also expanded, migrating from its original location in East Africa to support impoverished and underserved communities throughout the United States.

As well as themed campaign goals - such as boring 32 wells in Tanzania to represent each of the 32 teams - Long chose a representative from each of the division's teams to raise awareness to the cause. As well as excelling in football, basketball, and track and field, Myles Garrett also advocated for humanitarian causes while attending Martin High School in Arlington, Texas. His known support of clean water related charities led him to be personally selected by Chris Long to spearhead the NFL Waterboys' fundraising efforts in 2017, then named team captain in 2019.

In 2020, Garrett flew out to the Lobosoit Region of Tanzania to help install wells in 2020, a two-week trip which introduced him to both the individuals benefitting from the charity's work and the troubles they faced. In [an interview](#) with Cleveland Browns staff writer Anthony Poisal, Garrett described in graphic detail the unsanitary conditions of the only water source within the village. He also reflected that "coming home from that trip, I came back to a nice home with air conditioning. I didn't have to worry about my neighbors not showing up tomorrow because they were stricken by disease. I didn't have to worry about walking miles to get water for my family. These are blessings we take for granted. I hope to be part of a solution for them and a turning of the tide, and I hope people will hop on board with us. That's what they deserve."

Inspired by his experience working with the charity's recipients, Garrett launched the 'Tackle Thirst' campaign that same year. His campaign sought to raise \$95,000 to provide water to 9,500 people in Tanzania, representing his player number 95. By personally donating \$5,000 for each of the 12 sacks he made in the 2020 season, as well as publicly advocating for the charity, Garrett ended up raising \$91,408 to support 9,000 people's access to safe drinking water in East Africa and the United States.

Ten years on from its inception, the NFL Waterboys campaign shows no sign of slowing down. In celebration of its 10th Anniversary, the Chris Long foundation has set an ambitious goal to implement ten clean water projects in East Africa and ten in the United States, inviting athletes from the NFL and NBA signing up to climb Mount Kilimanjaro in a grueling fundraising effort. From raising \$21,000 for the cause in a [2022 charity basketball match](#) to continuously highlighting the cause on his personal social media, Myles Garrett continues to support the charity in its goal of assisting 1 million people to access clean water: a goal they are officially over halfway to achieving.

To learn more about the Chris Long Foundation and the Waterboys campaign, follow them on Threads [@chrislongfoundation](#) and Instagram [@chrislongfoundation](#).