

Willmar boys, girls both win CLC cross country championships

By Joe Brown and Jake Schultz Tribune Sports Willmar ne Willmar cross country team maintained its place atop the Central Lakes Conference.

Another one returned after a six-year hiatus. For the first time since 2012, the Cardinal girls and boys are both conference champions after Tuesday's CLC championship meet at Eagle Creek Golf Club.

"All seven of our boys were All Conference or honorable mention. And lsat week, Sartell beat us here pretty easily, so that was a huge turnaround," said Willmar head coach Jerry Popp. "The girls, they had a good day

but not a great day. If the girls pull it all together, they'll be pretty formidable."

Thanks to a 2-3-4 finish from Serena Monson, Leah Hansen and Heidi Schmitz, the Willmar girls won their seventh straight CLC championship with 40 points, holding off Alexandria (52) and Rocori (56).

"We've been going back-and-forth a lot," Monson said about the competition between

teammates. She ran a time of 19 minutes, 21.7 seconds, bested only by Sartell's Ingrid Buiceag-Arama's 19:18.2.

Monson added, "We all push each other and it's

CLC: Page B2

Madison adds punch to NLS' attack

Wildcats' dominant new weapon has team optimistic about section crown

By Jake Schultz jschultz@wctrib.com

NEW LONDON — Payton Madison says his favorite part about playing football is blocking.

touchdowns?" "Um, New London-Spicer quarterback and teammate Wildcats' varsity team this Brandon Adelman said incredulously.

OK, so maybe blocking is the senior running back's football with his current second favorite part of teammates growing up. football. But one glance But rather than follow at the towering Madison his friends into the high and it's clear the worst school football path, he part of football for most hit the road to play junior of his opponents is try- hockey in Omaha, Nebrasing to wrap him up. In a ka.

world where athletes and coaches fudge heights and weights for competitive advantage and deception, Madison fills out every bit of his listed 6-foot-4, 235-pound frame.

Madison is new to the season, although he grew up in New London-Spicer school district and played

A standout forward, Madison played 22 games for the Omaha AAA Lancers' 16-and-under team in the North American Prospects Hockey League during the 2016-2017 school year. After one year in the junior hockey circuit, Madison decided he was ready to return home, although that meant sitting out the fall semester due to Minnesota State High School League pol-



icy. Except that wasn't entirely true, either. Madison, a man among boys NLS: Page B2

Jake Schultz / Tribune

New London-Spicer's Payton Madison runs down the line with a pair of Holy Family defenders in his wake in an Aug. 30 game at New London-Spicer High School.

Tom Larson / West Central Tribune

Benson's Claire Ricard, middle, fires a shot over Montevideo's Jasmyn Kronback (9) and Madalyn Kilibarda (4) during a match on Tuesday at Benson High School.

Benson downs Montevideo in four

Willmar wraps up CLC championship at Apollo

By Jake Schultz and Joe Brown **Tribune Sports**

BENSON — Benson jumped out to a two-set lead and fended off Montevideo's rally with a strong fourth set on Tuesday at Benson High School.

Benson won 25-21, 25-15, 23-25 and 25-15.

The Braves' Claire Ricard had 13 kills and a pair of solo blocks and Rachel Berens had 12 kills, three service aces and a pair of solo blocks.

Mariah Ahrndt had 21 set assists, served three aces and also had eight kills and 12 digs.

Ellie Moesenthin had 12 set assists and 12 digs.

Benson 3, Montevideo 1

Montevideo (9-18) Benson (8-14) 21 15 25 15 25 25 23 25 Montevideo Stats not provided Benson

assists: Ahrndt 21, Berens 2, Moesenthin 12, Mitteness 4 ... Hitting (kills): Ahrndt 8, Berens 12, Beth Cain 2, Wieber 1, Claire Ricard 13, Abby Lundebrek 1, Mitteness 1... Blocking (aces): Ahrndt 1, Berens 2, Ricard 2, Lundebrek 1... Digs (5 or more): Ahrndt 12, Doscher 7, Moesenthin 8, Wieber 12, Mitteness 19

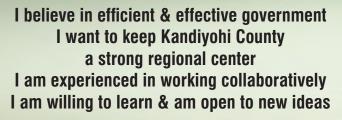
Willmar 3, St. Cloud Apollo 0

For the second straight year, Willmar wrapped up the Central Lakes Conference championship after sweeping St. Cloud Apollo on the road Tuesday, 25-8, 25-17, 25-15.

"Winning it last year was a surprise, so trying to repeat this year was a goal of ours," said Cardinals head coach Traci Grussing. "Not only winning it but going undefeated in the conference is special.

With Cambrie Parker (four ace serves, 10 digs) holding serve, Willmar was able to jump out to a huge lead early en route to the sweep. Caitlin Ogdahl had a teamhigh 14 kills with four ace serves, and Carly Wedel came up with 33 set assists, five kills, eight digs and a block. Starting

Serving (aces): Mariah Ahrndt 3, Rachel Berens 3, Zoe Doscher 2, Ellie Moesenthin 1, Maranda Wieber 1, Abbie Mitteness 1 ... Set **VOLLEYBALL:** Page B2



Prepared & paid for by Berg for County Commissioner District 1 2605 15th St. SW, Willmar, MN 56201



VOLLEYBALL

From Page B1

in her first game, Regan Bos tallied nine kills and two blocks.

Before Section 8AAA seeding takes place Sunday, the Cardinals (18-5, 11-0 CLC) will compete in a two-day tournament in Moorhead, starting on Friday against Totino-Grace. Willmar (18-5) 25 25 25 Apollo (7-15) 8 17 15 Willmar

Serving (aces): Abby Stark 2, Cambrie Parker 4, Caitlin Ogdahl 4, Abby Teisinger 1 ... Set assists: Carly Wedel 33, Stark 3 ... Hitting (kills): Wedel 5, Ogdahl 14, Bailey Olson 9, Sydney Olson 4, Grace Marti 2, Re-gan Bos 9, Teisinger 2, Sophie Kobienia 1 ... Blocking (aces): Wedel 1, B. Olson 1, Marti 2, Bos 2, Teisinger 1 ... Digs (5 or more): Stark 16, Callie Slagter 7, Parker 10, Wedel 8 St. Cloud Apole St. Cloud Apollo No stats provided

BOLD 3, ACGC 0

BOLD clinched the West Central Conference championship with a 3-0 win against ACGC.

The Warriors started strong, holding the Falcons to nine points in the first set. Brenna Weis led the way with 27 digs. BOLD (22-2) 25 25 25 ACGC (3-17) 9 19 11 BOLD

Serving (aces): Makayla Snow 4, Brenna Weis 2, Ashley Trongard 1, Morgan Schmitz 1 ... Set assists: Snow 23 ... Hitting (kills):

NLS

From Page B1

even at the junior hockey level,

suited up to play junior varsity

"Dominant," said NLS head coach Dan Essler. "Totally dom-

While Madison tore apart

junior varsity, he looked on as his

friends and former middle school

teammates posted a 7-4 record

and earned a spot in the Section

Led by Adelman, running back

Sam Stageberg, wide receiv-

er Kelly Bennetts and a strong

offensive line, the Wildcats aver-

aged 33.1 points per game (fifth-

best tally in Class AAA) and

avenged their regular-season

loss to Albany with a 28-20 play-

off win over the Huskies. Ulti-

mately, however, Pierz proved to

be too much to handle and the

6AAA championship.

football.

inant."

Hughes **2019** 11 1

Tom Larson / West Central Tribune

Benson's Claire Ricard, middle, fires a shot over Montevideo's Jasmyn Kronback (9) and Madalyn Kilibarda (4) during a match on Tuesday at Benson High School.

Steffel 10, Trongard 8, Schmitz 4, Devyn O'Halloran 4 ... Blocking (aces): Trongard 2, Steffel 2, Snow 1 ... Digs (5 or more): Weis 27, Schmitz 11, Steffel 9 ACGC

Serving (aces): Shayna Hobson 1 ... Set assists: Rachel Wilner 6 ... Hitting (kills): Lindsey Minnick 2, Hobson 3, Erika Tagtow 1, Erika Bagley 1 ... Blocking (aces): Hobson 1, Tagtow 1... Digs (5 or more): Jenana Den-ton 9, Minnick 5

YME 3, Ortonville 0

Yellow Medicine East won its 17th match in a row with a sweep of Ortonville.

Madison Hinz collected 30 set assists and Meeghen Dahlager racked up 12

state champions.

pared to last year.

The Wildcats are eager for

another shot at the Pioneers and

Madison could be the missing

piece to defeating the reigning

NLS is 6-1 with one regu-

lar-season game remaining - a

7 p.m. home game today against

Albany. The Wildcats are averag-

ing 45 points per game, an 11.9

point increase per game com-

Madison's addition creates

a new dynamic for an already

high-powered offense. Stageberg

continues to get his yards as a

second-year starter but Madi-

son provides plenty of punch to complement Stageberg's shifty

Stageberg leads the team with

nine rushing touchdowns and he

has 579 yards on 71 carries (8.2

yards per carry). Madison leads

the team with 580 rushing yards

on 58 carries (10 yards per carry)

Pioneers defeated the Wildcats and seven rushing touchdowns. you just accept your role out

title.

kills, just ahead of teammate Mackenzie Dyrdahl's 11.

YME (19-5) 25 25 25 Ortonville (3-13) 18 12 11 Yellow Medicine East Serving (aces): Madison Hinz 3, Jadyn Sakry 1, Mackenzie Dyrdahl 4, Lily Jaenisch 1, Alli Steffen 3 ... Set assists: Hinz 30, Meeghen Dahlager 2, Dyrdahl 1 ... **Hitting (kills):** Hinz 2, Sakry 2, Anayansi Flores 4, Dahlager 12, Dyrdahl 11, Steffen 6 ... **Blocking (aces):** Hinz 2, Flores 2, Dahlager 1, Dyrdahl 1 Digs (5 or more): Sakry 5, Dahlager 8, Stef-Ortonville Stats not provided

Morris/CA 3,

Minnewaska 0

security blanket for Adelman,

hauling in nine passes for 219

The duo's proficiency also

opens up the field for Adelman.

"If we don't have to throw it

If he ever needs to pass, that is.

and we can just keep scoring

while running the ball I'll take

it," Adelman said. "I just want

throughout this vaunted offense.

Madison's blocking prowess

means he doesn't worry about

touches and his mate in the

ries)," Stageberg said. "I love

seeing him just run kids over and

I love running right behind him

every play. We love it out there.

Either way, as long as the ball is

in the end zone, we'll get hyped

together. There's too many guys

on this team that could be the

key player on another team so

"I think it's fun (to share car-

backfield doesn't either.

That selflessness is echoed

the points. I could care less."

yards and two touchdowns.

newaska team with a 26–24 win in the second set before cruising to a three-set win. Lexi Pew finished with

a match-high 10 kills for the Tigers.

Morris/CA (16-7) 25 26 25 Minnewaska (9-14) 20 24 10 Morris/Chokio-Alberta Serving (aces): Bailey Marty 2, Riley Deck-

er 1, Kenzie Stahlman 2, LaRae Kram 3. er 1, Kenzie Stahiman 2, Lakae Kram 3 ... Set assists: Marty 1, Liz Dietz 9, Decker 1, Kram 21 ... Hitting (kills): Sophie Carlson 5, Kenzie Hockel 6, Emma Berlinger 5, Lexi Pew 10, Marty 4, Jen Solvie 4 ... Blocking (aces): Carlson 1, Hockel 1, Pew 1 ... Digs (5 or more): Hockel 7, Marty 9, Decker 13, Kram 7

Minnewaska Serving (aces): Sierra Lindemann 1, Sara Geiser 1, Geiser 1, Avery Hoeper 1, Emily Harste 1, Grace Bartles 1 ... Set assists: Geiser Glade Barlies T... Set assists. Generation 20, Lindemann 1, Kristen Glover 1 ... Hitting (kills): Lindemann 2, Ellie Danielson 9, Emma Thorfinnson 5, Hoeper 4, Alexis Piekarski 3 ... Blocking (aces): Danielson 1 ... Digs (5 or more): lindemann 7, Danielson 12, Geiser 6, Hoeper 8

Paynesville 3. Osakis 1

Paynesville's Abby Schaefer came up big in a win over Osakis on Tuesday, finishing with 21 kills, a pair of ace serves and 23 digs.

Her Bulldogs teammate Skylar Bayer had 15 kills, served three aces and had 17 digs.

Jenna Lundquist and **/innewaska 0** Madi Leyendecker han- 11 kills and four blocks and Morris/Chokio-Alberta dled the majority of set- Grace Illies had nine kills

40-14 on their way to a state Madison has also been a go-to there and it's more fun." The only thing Madison cares about is getting his name called

41 set assists.

MACCRAY 3,

day.

verines.

CM (3-18)

BBE 3,

Pierz 0

Cedar Mountain 0

Paynesville

 Osakis (13-9)
 21 21 25 10

 Paynesville (18-4)
 25 25 23 25

 Osakis
 Stats not provided

Paynesville Serving (aces): Madi Leyendecker 1, Sky-lar Bayer 3, Abby Schaefer 2, Kylee Everson 1 ... Set assists: Jenna Lundquist 19, Ley-endecker 22, Bayer 1, Schefer 1, Brynn John-son 1 ... Hitting (kills): Lundquist 3, Bayer

Sofi F ... midding (kins): Euroduis 5, Bayer 15, Schaefer 21, Johnson 6, Sammy Peder-son 2, Ashley Ley 1, Harley Kunstleben 3 ... Blocking (aces): Johnson 1, Pederson 1 ... Digs (5 or more): Lundquist 6, Olivia Riley 19, Bayer 17, Schaefer 23

Piper Asche earned her

1,000th career kill in a 3-0

MACCRAY victory Tues-

Asche finished with

a team-best 14 kills and

Sydney Thein tallied 37 set

assists to power the Wol-

MACCKAY Serving (aces): Sydney Thein 2, Ella Bourne 2, Danni Burns 1, Abigail Pieper 3 ... Set assists: Thein 37 ... Hitting (kills): Thein 5, Burns 7, Gabby Randt 5, Kylee Kim-pling 7, Piper Asche 14, Annie Dykema 4 ...

Blocking (aces): Kimpling 1 ... Digs (5 or more): Thein 7, Bourne 9, Burns 10, Kate

BBE's Emily Knight had

MACCRAY (16-13) 25 25 25 Cedar Mountain Stats not provided MACCRAY

more): Thein 7, Bourne 9, Bi Hultgren 12, Pieper 8, Asche 8

10 9 8

21 21 25 10

as lead blocker. "When we run a counter trey. I'm not big into that because I don't get to block," Madison said. "I don't care if I get the ball once or 50 times."

This no-drama situation is perfect for any head coach and Essler is grateful for the new weapon.

"He's a great lead blocker and that takes the pressure off Sam because if he keeps running the ball as well as he does and the defense is focusing on Sam, all of a sudden Payton, having the success he's had running the ball, it opens things up for Sam, opens things up for himself," Essler said. "The diversity of the offense is really helpful. Then it takes pressure of Brandon at quarterback because now they're sucking up on the run. It opens the passing game as well." Even though Madison wasn't be.

held off a tough Min- ting duties, combining for and four ace serves in a win over Pierz on Tuesday.

> Ally Gruber also had nine kills. Karsee Kampsen had 30 set assists and Emily Kern had four service aces and seven digs.

BBE (21-4) 25 25 25 Pierz (5-17) 16 15 19 BBE

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BBE Serving (aces): Brittany Berge 2, Emily Kern 4, Grace Illies 4, Jenna Dingmann 1, Karsee Kampsen 1 ... Set assists: Berge 1, Illies 1, Kampsen 30 ... Hitting (kills): Illies 1, Kampsen 30 ... Hitting (kills): Ally Gruber 9, Berge 4, Knight 11, Illies 9, Kampsen 1, Katherine Mastey 4 ... Blocking (aces): Knight 4, Kampsen 1 ... Digs (5 or more): Gruber 6, Emily Kern 7, Illies 5, Ding-mann 5, Kampsen 5 Pierz

Stats not provided

BLHS 3, LP/HT 0

Lake-Hec-Buffalo tor-Stewart made quick work of Lester Prairie/ Holy Trinity on Tuesday in Hector.

BLHS' Rachel Dean had 14 kills and Sara Kottke had six kills, an ace serve, a block and 10 digs. Allison Dornseif had 23 set assists.

LP/HT (2-20) 14 15 14 BLHS (10-16) 25 25 25 Long Prairie/Holy Trinity

Stats not provided

Buffalo Lake-Hector-Stewart Serving (aces): Marissa Ebbers 1, Sara Kottke 1, Katie Buboltz 2, Chloe Ufkes 2, Allison Dornseif 1 ... Set assists: Dornseif 23 ... Hitting (kills): Ebbers 3, Alyssa Petersen 2, Kottke 6, Rachel Dean 14, Kimberly Novotny 3, Dornseif 1 ... Blocking (aces): Kottke ... Digs (5 or more): Petersen 6, Kottke 10, Buboltz 5, Dornseif 5

on last year's team last year, he is eager for another shot at a state berth along with the rest of his teammates.

In fact, the Wildcats have used #BringItHome as a rallying cry in the locker room and on social media throughout the season. Before they get there, though, the Wildcats have Albany to look forward to at least once, and possibly twice if the two teams

meet in the playoffs. The Wildcats and Huskies offer a clash of styles. NLS enters today's game tied for the third-highest scoring offense in Class AAA while Albany features Class AAA's stingiest defense, allowing just 5.7 points per game.

"For Albany, we just need to do what we've been doing," Essler said. "We know what they run defensively. They've used the same defense the last 25 years. We just hope we're bigger, faster, stronger than they are.

With Madison, they just might

top five spots for a score

Mike Kvaal with a first-

place time of 17 minutes,

The United girls had

showing at 20:51.5. Canby/

Minneota's Grace Drietz

won the girls' race with a

28 points, led by Isabel

Schirm's second-place

14.3 seconds.

of 15. Leading the way was

CLC

From Page B1

nice having that push." Popp said of Monson, "In the last four meets, she's been our number one runner. She's steadily coming on."

Hansen's third-place time was 19:31.7, followed by Schmitz at 19:40.3 as the trio, along with Lyndi Koosman (15th, 20:30.8) were named All-Conference for finishing in the top 15. Amel Dayib (16th, 20:41.4) and Elsie Duininck (22nd, 20:59.5) were honorable mentions for placing 16th-25th. The Willmar boys showed off the power of the pack as well with a 3-4-5 finish that helped the Cardinals to 34 points, holding off Sartell with 64 and Alexandria with 76 to win the CLC after three straight years of finishing as the runner-up. Leading the Willmar pack was Fuad Bashir with a third-place time of 17:10.5. Mason Wendt was fourth at 17:18.5, followed by Hudeife Mire at 17:19.5. Sauk Rapids' Sam Ringger won with a time of 16:43.8. "It was kind of cold, but it was amazing to run with my teammates," Bashir said. "It was kind of tough (with the wind and hills) but it's fine if vou work hard. ... Coach tells us to go hard and stick with the leader.' Adnan Muhumed (ninth, 17:28.5), Colin Ò'Farrell (13th, 17:36.6) and Harley Anez (15th, 17:39.5) made the All-Conference cut while Cael Carlson (24th, 18:05.5) was pegged as an honorable mention. Along with the pair of varsity wins, Willmar teams won five of the six races on Tuesday. "Varsity is obviously an emphasis but our emphasis is top to bottom. We don't ever want to say we have to rebuild, we reload," Popp said. "(The) only way that happens is

having those JV and middle school programs behind you. We have a 7th-through-12th-grade program."

speed.

On Monday, some members of the team will run at the Left Wright meet in Crystal before the top runners on both squads will compete in the Section AA championship on Thursday, Oct. 25 at Gale Woods Farm in Minnetrista.

London-Spicer boys were eighth.

The New London-Spicer girls team placed sixth and the Litchfield girls came home in seventh.

Boys

Team scoring 1010 56 (2) Mound Westonka (1) Annandale 56 (2) Mound Westonka 79 (3) Dassel-Cokato 99 (4) Glencoe-Sil-ver Lake 101 (5) Rockford 136 (6) Litchfield 136 (7) Watertown-Mayer 147 (8) New Lon-don-Spicer 155

CA took five of the top 15 runners, including Malory Anderson whose 15th place finish actually rounded out the team score of 40 for the win. Maddie and Meredith Carrington finished in second and third place.

Boys

Sports

Central Lakes Conference Championship

Boys

Team scoring (1) Willmar 34 (2) Sartell 64 (3) Alexandria 76 (4) St. Cloud Apollo 83 (5) St. Cloud Tech 152 (6) Sauk Rapids 183 (7) Brained 186 (8) Rocori 192 (9) Fergus Falls 200

Individual

TOP FIVE — (1) Sam Ringger, Sauk Rapids 16:43.8 (2) Liebon Mohamed, St. Cloud Apol-lo 16:49.7 (3) Fuad Bashir, Willmar 17:10.5 (4) Mason Wendt, Willmar 17:18.5 (5) Hude-ife Mire, Willmar 17:19.5 Willmar — (3) Bashir (4) Wendt (5) Mire (9) Adnan Muhumed 17:28.5 (13) Colin O'Farrell 17:36.6 (15) Harley Anez 17:39.5 (24) Cael Carlson 18:05.5

Carlson 18:05.5

Girls

Team scoring (1) Willmar 40 (2) Alexandria 52 (3) Roco-ri 56 (4) Sartell 80 (5) Fergus Falls 157 (6) Brainerd 171 (7) St. Cloud Apollo 214 (8) St. Cloud Tech 230

Individual

TOP FIVE — (1) Ingrid Buiceag-Arama, Sartell 19:18.2 (2) Serena Monson, Willmar 19:21.7 (3) Leah Hansen, Willmar 19:31.7 (4) Heidi Schmitz, Willmar 19:40.3 (5) Merideth Theis, Rocori 19:40.7

Willmar — (2) Monson (3) Hansen (4) Schmitz (15) Lyndi Koosman 20:30.8 (16) Amel Dayib 20:41.4 (22) Elsie Duininck 20:59.5 (34) Hannah Quinn 21:51.8 (37) Isabel LaRue 22:06.3

Wright County Conference Championship

The Annandale boys and girls teams won Wright County Conference championships on Tuesday.

The Litchfield boys team placed sixth and the New

WE FIX **BOILERS...**



Individual

LITCHFIELD — Ben Ammermann 17:51.74; Fyler Peterson 19:3.26; Devin Steinhaus 19L04.66; Andrew Joedeman 19:18.24; George Tepfer 19:48.75; Owen Boerema 20:15.68; Joshua Green 20:31.56

NEW LONDON-SPICER — Carter Andreson 19:41.94; Caden Lien 18:46.02; Diego Rojas 19:08.88; Ty Bisek 19:29.65; Ander Arnold 19:41.95; Tlno Mendoza 19:49.96; Isaac Gratton 20:59.52

Girls

Team scoring (1) Annandale 47 (2) Rockford 65 (3) Glencoe-Silver Lake 69 (4) Mound Weston-ka 76 (5) Dassel-Cokato 100 (6) New Lon-don-Spicer 138 (7) Litchfield 212

Individual NEW LONDON-SPICER -Grace Gratton 21:21.43; Stella Depuydt 21:56.66; Jaden Coahran 23:03.79; Raeann Holmquist Coahran 23:03.79; Raeann Holmquist 23:32.03; Taylor Harrier 23:57.24; Maddie Bisek 24:00.26; Lili Sampson 25:00.40 LITCHFIELD — Camryn Iverson 23:43.65; Tayler Jutz 24:38.09; Courtney Carlson 24:51.58; Ruby Radunz 24:58.62; Vail Kaping 24:59.71; Adriana Iverson 25:01.67; Maken-na Holtz 26:25.76 na Holtz 26:25.76

West Central Conference Championship

Morris/Chokio-Alberta's Crystal Nohl edged Sauk Centres Jessica Klopfleisch by .44 seconds for 12th place in what proved to be a deciding match at the West Central **Conference Championship** Tuesday afternoon in Montevideo. Nohl's onepoint advantage gave Morris/CA a one point differential to win the WCC Championship.

The boys, who sported the individual champion with Noah Stewart, also took first place, just three points ahead of Melrose.

Team scoring 1) Morris/Chokio-Alberta 38 (2) Melrose (3) Benson/KMS 57 (4) Montevideo 123) Sauk Centre 156 (6) BOLD/BLHS 157 (7) insurance 155 Minnewaska 165 Individual

TOP FIVE — (1) Noah Stewart, Morris/ CA, 17:09.92 (2) Preston Poepping, Mel-rose, 17:29.000 (3) Solomon Johnson, Mor-ris/CA, 17:44.95 (4) Bradey Ascheman, B/ KMS, 18:03.09 (5) Jay Even McGee, B/KMS, 18:04.10 BENSON/KMS — Ascheman; Even Mc

18:04.10 BENSON/KMS — Ascheman; Even Mc-Gee; Will Magaard 18:07.27; Jacob Stallings 19:23.15; Mike Nagler 19:34.44; Jaron Fur-ney 19:49.34; Landon Thompson 20:10.83 BOLD/BLHS — Nathan Frank 18:27.99; Skylar Senkyr 19:15.64; Blaine Schmoll 21:29.42; Cole Visser 22:26.92; Caeden Gluesing 23:00.27; Sam Gardeen 23:03.18 MINNEWASKA — Isaiah Testa 19:12.61; Maeson Tank 19:38.75; Aiden Tank 21:07.38; Nick Ankeny 21:17.47; Jaden Anderson

Maeson Tank 19:38.75; Aiden Tank 21:07.38; Nick Ankeny 21:17.47; Jaden Anderson 23:35.71; Grant Hendren 26:18.39 MONTEVIDEO — Bryce Nelson 19:11.29; Aaron Roelike 19:16.05; Dain Winters 19:46.94; Bryton Nelson 20:08.25; John VanRavenswaay 20:40.60; Connor Walz 20:43.72; Rigo Turrubiates 20:51.18 MORRIS/CHOKIO-ALBERTA — Stewart; Johnson; Ben Hernandez 19:06.02; Brad-ley Rohloff 18:51.79; Jared Boots 19:08.57; Thomas Tiernan 19:45.76; Colton Wohlers

Thomas Tiernan 19:45.76; Colton Wohlers 20:14.08

Girls

Team scoring (1) Morris/Chokio-Alberta 40 (2) Sauk Cen-tre 41 (3) Melrose 66 (4) Benson/KMS 98 (5) Montevideo 128 (6) BOLD/BLHS 151 Individual TOP FIVE — (1) Sophia Kluver, SC, 20:46.95 (2) Maddie Carrington, Morris/CA,

10P FIVE — (1) Solphia Kluvel, Sc., 20:46.95 (2) Maddie Carrington, Morris/CA, 21:90.65 (3) Meredith Carrington, Morris/CA, 21:41.64 (4) Kayla Meyer, Melrose, 21:47.13 (5) Allie Mitteness; RikMs, 21:50.04
 BENSON/KMS— Mitteness; Natalie Jorschumb 22:45.50; Sophia Miller 24:39.65; Katlyn Peters 24:51.60; Ana Juarez Hernandez 25:01.43; Hannah Helms 25:29.09; Kaitlyn Berreau 26:20.43
 BOLD/BLHS — Victoria Garcia 23:35.61; Maleia Ryberg 24:35.53; Molly Hildreth 25:11.67; London Prokosch 28:11.46; Hanna Larson 28:11.70
 MINNEWASKA — Sydney Hagen 22:27.09; Kristen Glover 23:28.70; Elsey Hagen 24:09.22; Molly Hjell 24:31.03
 MONTEVIDEO — Addie Opdahl 24:20.68; Hayley Voller 24:33.75; Hailey Dirksen derson 24:57.95; Emma Stueck 25:16.55; Auron 44:57.95; Emma Stueck 25:16.55; Auron 44:57.96

derson 24:57.95; Emma Stueck 25:16.55; Aurora Wymar 27:02.62

MORRIS/CHOKIO-ALBERTA — Maddie Carrington; Meredith Carrington; Caryn Mar-ty 22:57.33; Crystal Nohl 23:00.93; Malory Anderson 23:14.57; Kaylie Raths 23:50.23; Katya Lackey 23:56.26

320-222-3993

by Preston Carlson's fifthplace time of 17 minutes, 18.2 seconds, were second with a score of 69, four points behind Holdingford. The Bulldog girls were fourth with 117.

Central Minnesota

The Holdingford boys

Waverly-Winsted girls

came away as Central

Minnesota Conference

champions Tuesday at

Collinwood Regional Park

The Paynesville boys, led

Conference

in Cokato.

Championship

and Howard Lake-

Boys

Team scoring (1) Holdingford 65 (2) Paynesville 69 (3) Osakis 88 (4) Pierz 110 (5) Maple Lake 123

(6) Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted 127 (7) Royalton 130 (8) St. John's Prep 180 (9) Eden Valley-Watkins/Kimball 254

Individual

TOP FIVE — (1) Christopher Borash, Roy-alton 16:55.7 (2) Jake Andres, Pierz 17:07.4 (3) Carter Grove, Osakis 17:10.6 (4) Michael Miller, Maple Lake 17:14.3 (5) Preston Carl-son, Paynesville 17:18.2 Paynesville — (5) Carlson (12) Ryan Thomas 17:43.1 (13) Andrew Zwiefel 17:44.2 (14) Longe Dirtchet 17:45.6 (26) Kodin Lud

(14) James Pritchett 17:45.6 (25) Kadin Ludvig 18:48.3

Girls

Team scoring (1) Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted 25 (2) Maple Lake 62 (3) Eden Valley-Watkins/Kim-ball 79 (4) Paynesville 117 (5) Pierz 126 (6) Royalton 154 (7) Osakis 166 (8) St. John's Prep 241

Individual TOP FIVE — (1) Gracie Mallak, HL-W-W 19:01.1 (2) Sophie Pribyl, Maple Lake 19:33.8 (3) Gwen Helgeson, HL-W-W 19:38.2 (4) Brooke Baumann, HL-W-W 19:46.1 (5) Erin Borash, Royalton 20:07.4 Paynesville — (12) Macy Carlson 20:28.2 (15) Natalie Lieser 21:06.6 (18) Ellie Zimmer-mann 21:19.8 (36) Erica Gaebe 23:25.8 (40) Paine Frenchick 24:12.5

Paige Frenchick 24:12.5

Camden Conference Championship

Lac qui Parle Valley/ Dawson-Boyd completed a clean sweep of the Camden Conference championship meet Tuesday in Cottonwood.

The LQPV/DB boys in particular blew away the competition, winning the



Boys

time of 19:07.1.

Team scoring (1) Lac qui Parle Valley/Dawson-Boyd 15 2) Canby/Minneota 63 (3) Lakeview 103 (4) Drtonville 111 (5) MACCRAY/RCW 146 (6) (Claw Medicine Sent 150 (7) Derder Wort Yellow Medicine East 159 (7) Border West 169 (8) Tracy-Milroy-Balaton 173 (Inc) Cen-tral Minnesota Christian

Individual

Individual TOP FIVE — (1) Mike Kvaal, LQPV/DB 17:14.3 (2) Zeke Sather, LQPV/DB 17:22.6 (3) Eean Allpress, LQPV/DB 17:41.6 (4) Ma-son Brehmer, LQPV/DB 17:40.4 (5) Griffin Johnson, LQPV/DB 17:50.5 LQPV/DB — (1) Kvaal (2) Sather (3) All-press (4) Brehmer (5) Johnson MACCRAY/RCW — (18) Justin Schrupp 19:40.3 (27) Brandan Hoberg 20:44.2 (31) Richard Vaughn 21:42.8 (37) Tyler Froland 22:03.1 (38) Bryan Larson 22:07.1 YME — (6) Rory Shackelford 17:55.0 (25) Tate Schulte 20:33.2 (42) Caleb Jans 23:10.0 (45) Drake Lieser 23:17.6 (47) Luke Kluver

(45) Drake Lieser 23:17.6 (47) Luke Kluve

CMCS — (28) Levi Lundgren 21:01.7 (36) Cameron Van Der Puy 21:56.8

Girls

Team scoring (1) Lac qui Parle Valley/Dawson-Boyd 28 (2) Canby/Minneota 30 (3) Ortonville 94 (4) Yel-low Medicine East 103 (5) Border West 119 (Inc) Central Minnesota Christian, Lakeview, MACCRAY/RCW, Tracy-Milroy-Balaton

Individual

TOP FIVE — (1) Grace Drietz, C/M 19:07.1 (2) Isabel Schirm, LQPV/DB 20:51.5 (3) Grace Hegland, LQPV/DB 21:12.9 (4) Anika Fernholz, LQPV/DB 21:20.6 (5) Braeleyn Merritt, C/M 21:22.6 LQPV/DB — (2) Schirm (3) Hegland (4) Fernholz (9) Taylor Shelstad 22:09.4 (11) Alex

Stitt 22:38.7

YME — (14) Kylie Knollenberg 23:23.4 (21)
 Time — (14) Kylle Kilolienberg 23.23.4 (21)

 Sanjana Pullan 24:27.6 (27) Kenzie Kotek

 25:46.4 (28) Courtney Winter 25:52.5 (31)

 Violet Anderson 26:22.3

 CMCS — (10) Reegan Duininck 22:28.9

 MACCRAY/RCW — (30) Katelyn Tuve

26:00.1

See prep tennis and swimming results at wctrib.com and in Thursday's print edition.





Doug Bernhagen net/Countertop/Flooring Specialist

On the girls side, Morris/

The perfect pregame speech, featuring Vikings **QB Kirk Cousins**

By Dane Mizutani St. Paul Pioneer Press

EAGAN, Minn. — To the shock of most of his teammates, Kirk Cousins barreled into the pregame huddle a couple of weeks ago with the Vikings ready to run onto the field for kickoff against the Philadelphia Eagles.

"I'm changing it up today!" Cousins screamed. "I've got it, guys!"

With everyone's eyes fixated on him, the 30-year-old quarterback ripped off his helmet, fixed his hair, and dove headfirst into a passionate 30-second sermon. mixed fire and fury with a few choice words (sorry, Dad) following his grand entrance.

speech built toward a quickly obliged. "In precrescendo. "Finish every block! Finish every tackle! Finish every play! Finish the damn game!"

That got the Vikings pumped and headed pumped and headed Once again, Cous-toward a rousing 23-21 ins managed to set the They didn't look anything defense. like the team that lost its previous two games.

Coincidence? Well, nose tack- to Cardinals signal-caller le Linval Joseph, who is Josh Rosen. "You can suf-more or less in charge focate him! Make his life of the Vikings' pregame miserable! All game long! speechifying, ready to mess with the juju. Instead, he implored Cousins could have started The son of a preacher, he Cousins to take the mic speaking in tongues and it again before last week's wouldn't have mattered. game against the Arizona He was preaching to the Cardinals.

"We talked all week flight back, he said, 'You wrestler Dan Gable."

about finishing!" Cousins got it next week,'" Cous-hollered as his pregame ins recalled, noting he game he looked at me and pointed. That was enough for me to know I better bring it. I gave him the thumbs up.'

victory over the reigning Vikings ablaze, this time Super Bowl champions. turning his focus to the

"I've been a rook-ie quarterback before," Cousins said, referring wasn't Get us the ball back!"

At that point, it seems, choir. He closed sermon "He told me on the with an ode to legendary



Brace Hemmelgarn / USA TODAY Sports Kirk Cousins (8) celebrates his touchdown during the third quarter against the Arizona Cardinals at U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis on Sunday.

"I shoot, I score!" Cousins shouted, imploring his teammates to join in. "You shoot, I score!"

What followed was another stellar performance from the Vikings (3-2-1), who beat the Cardinals 27-17.

For those keeping track at home, that means the Vikings are 2-0 when Cousins gives a pregame speech. Not bad for a guy who refers to himself as "a reluctant leader" when it comes to being a vocal presence.

Maybe that's what has made the pregame speeches so effective.

doesn't really say much, so when he gets in there, he gives us that juice," safety Jayron Kearse said. "It's like, 'Dang. This is Kirk saying this.' It's different from when a guy like Everson Griffen is saying it because he's always juiced up. It's different when it comes from a guy like Kirk because he usually doesn't say much."

While some players, including Kearse, have been surprised by Cousins' recent outbursts, left guard Tom Compton has come to expect them from one of his best friends.

"That's just Kirk," Compton said with a laugh. "He gets fired up. I've seen it before. That's just how he is on game day. He's always ready to go. He's got really good energy, and when a guy has that, he can say pretty much anything to get the guys going."



James Lang / USA TODAY Sports

Minnesota Vikings quarterback Kirk Cousins huddles with teammates before going out for pregame warmups before the game against the Philadelphia Eagles at Lincoln Financial Field in Philadelphia on Oct. 7.

What is more important team for handing him the "Well, a guy like Kirk he in a pregame speech, the keys right away and givwords or the energy?

er Laquon Treadwell said. on toes along the way, "It has to be real. You especially considering the have to feel the truth behind it. There's some guys that just got through the motions up there and say whatever. If it's from the heart, we can feel it. That's what he does a good job of. He just speaks from the heart and says what's on his mind at the time."

"It's a healthy combi-nation of both," defensive end Stephen Weatherly added. "Sometimes guys have too much passion and their words get lost. Other times guys have the right words and not the right gusto. He has a

great balance of both." Since becoming the face of the franchise after val," Cousins said when signing a three-year, \$84 million contract in the offseason, Cousins has been navigating the best ways to lead from his what he tells me. I try to It raises the question: new role. He praised the keep him happy."

ing him a license to lead. "Just as long as it's That said, he wanted to from the heart," receiv- make sure he didn't step team has a locker room full of leaders.

"In Week 6 going into Week 7, I think we're past tiptoeing in," Cousins said. "In April and May there was kind of time to feel my way through things. Maybe a little bit even in July. As soon as the season gets going, it is full steam ahead. I've got to be me and lead anyway I can."

He has been doing that with his stellar play. But lately, that's meant giving the pregame speeches, something Cousins has no problem doing moving forward.

"You'll have to ask Linasked if he plans to continue the trend next week against the New York Jets. "It's his show. I just do







Photos by Troy Taormina / USA TODAY Sports

(Left) Houston Astros third baseman Alex Bregman (2) throws out a Boston Red Sox base runner in the seventh inning of Game 3 of the 2018 ALCS playoff baseball series at Minute Maid Park on Tuesday night. (Right) Boston Red Sox centerfielder Jackie Bradley Jr. (19) watches the ball hit for a grand-slam home run in the eighth inning against the Houston Astros in Game 3.

Bradley, Red Sox slam Astros for 2-1 ALCS lead

Field Level Media

HOUSTON — Jackie Bradley Jr. crushed a two-out grand slam in the eighth inning, and the Boston Red Sox stunned the Houston Astros 8-2 on Tuesday in Game 3 of the American League Championship Series

The Red Sox grabbed a 2-1 series lead in the best-of-seven set with Game 4 set for Minute Maid Park on Wednesday. The Astros have dropped consecutive games for the first time since Aug. 30-31 against the Los Angeles Angels.

Bradley capped a nightmarish outing for Astros closer Roberto Osuna, who made his series debut and his first appearance in 10 days. Osuna was at first undone by bad luck, with Red Sox shortstop Xander Bogaerts reaching on a swinging bunt with one out before Rafael Devers added a single with two outs on an 0-2 count.

Osuna, who entered seeking to

left foot with a 1-2 pitch to load the bases. He followed by hitting another pinch hitter, Mitch Moreland, with another two-strike pitch to force in a run and extend the deficit to 4-2.

Bradley then drilled a 1-1 fastball into the right field seats, an 386foot blast.

Red Sox right-hander Nathan Eovaldi (1-0) limited the Astros to two runs on six hits and two walks over six innings. He struck out four. Four Boston relievers blanked the Astros while allowing just one hit total over the final three innings.

Astros left-hander Dallas Keuchel survived a rocky start to his outing, allowing two runs on four hits and two walks over five innings despite surrendering three consecutive hits to open the top of the first inning.

Boston's Mookie Betts, Andrew Benintendi and J.D. Martinez

keep the deficit at 3–2, then grazed reached in succession to open the pinch hitter Brock Holt on the game, with Martinez plating Betts game, with Martinez plating Betts with an opposite-field double to right. Benintendi scored on an RBI groundout from Bogaerts, but Keuchel held the line there.

> In the third inning, Houston got a sensational leaping catch at the wall from left fielder Tony Kemp to rob Steve Pearce of a two-RBI hit.

Pearce got his revenge in the sixth, launching a 456-foot solo home run to left off Astros righthander Joe Smith (0-1), snapping a 2–2 tie in the process.

Eovaldi allowed back-to-backto-back homers in his previous outing at Minute Maid Park, as a member of the Tampa Bay Rays earlier this season. On Tuesday, he surrendered only an RBI single to Marwin Gonzalez in the first inning and a run-scoring double by Alex Bregman in the fifth.

Brace Hemmelgarn / USA TODAY Sports

Minnesota Wild forward Mikael Granlund (64) celebrates his goal with forward Zach Parise (11) during the second period against the Arizona Coyotes at Xcel Energy Center on Tuesday night.

Staal, Granlund score to lead Wild past scuffling Coyotes

Field Level Media

and Mikael Granlund each scored their second goals of the season, and Devan Dubnyk made 31 saves as the Minnesota Wild beat the Arizona Coyotes 2-1 on Tuesday in Saint Paul, Minn.

Staal slipped the puck into an open net after a scramble in front of the goal at 6:18 of the third period following a hard shot by Ryan Suter for the winning goal in a game that featured strong play by goaltenders Dubnyk and Darcy Kuemper.

Brendan Perlini scored on a power play for the Coyotes, who are last in the league with three goals and have not scored an evenstrength goal in five games this season. They have been shut out three times.

Dubnyk made a pad save on a point-blank shot by Oliver Ekman-Larsson to protect the Wild's lead with seven minutes remaining.

Kuemper had 26 saves in his first start of the season. The Coyotes out-shot the Wild 32-28 and have outshot their opponents in all five games this season.

Perlini scored on a power ST. PAUL — Eric Staal play at 13:12 of the first period for a 1-0 lead. Perlini skated in on the right side and flipped a wrist shot that glanced of Dubnyk's left shoulder and into the top of the net from a severe angle on the right side.

Granlund tied the game at 1 at 3:40 of the second period, beating a partially screened Kuemper high on his glove side with a shot from high in the slot.

Kuemper kept the game tied with two sprawling saves in the second period, stopping Staal on a 3-on-1 break eight minutes into the period and denying Zach Parise from pointblank range with four minutes remaining.

The Wild played without center Mikko Koivu, whose wife went into labor Tuesday afternoon. Koivu has three assists and four points. They suited up only 11 forwards and were down to 10 when center Matt Hendricks left with an apparent left leg injury with 55.6 seconds remaining in the first period and did not return.

Sports

What has to go right for Wolves to suceed

By Jace Frederick

St. Paul Pioneer Press MINNEAPOLIS — The Timberwolves snapped a 14-year playoff drought last season, supposedly ending their fans' suffering. Then came this offseason.

Still, after months of drama and turbulence, the Timberwolves enter this season with a possibility of making a second straight postseason appearance. But there are more than a few things that need to go their way:

Jimmy Butler stays

Let's be clear, Butler staying in Minnesota is not good for the team's long-term health as a franchise. The All-NBA wing has made it clear he does not plan to re-sign with the Wolves next offseason, and it wouldn't be wise for Minnesota to let a talent like Butler walk for nothing. But, looking at just this season alone, Butler makes the Timberwolves better — more so than anything the team could get in a trade return. He reportedly told general manager Scott Layden that the Wolves can't win without him. Minnesota's repugnant preseason only reiterated that that are great. When he's notion. The Wolves need Butler's intensity, effort player. We have to have and defensive prowess. him in that attack mode He makes up for a lot more."

of things they lack. With Butler, the Wolves are a top-eight team in the West this season. Without him, they aren't.

Andrew Wiggins improves

Wiggins is the first to admit he didn't play well last season. He didn't score often or nearly efficiently enough to cover up the weaknesses in other aspects of his game. He still didn't create enough for others, crash the glass or make enough strides defensively. This is the first season of Wiggins' massive five-year contract extension. He's going to have to improve by leaps and bounds to play at a level worthy of it, and move the Timberwolves forward as a franchise. Some of that stems from skill development, but a lot of it comes from his effort and intensity.

"He has great athleticism. and that's got to translate into things," coach Tom Thibodeau "Whether it's a said. rebound or busting out with the ball, finishing in transition, running the floor hard — we want to take advantage of that moving without the ball, cutting. those are things attacking, he's a special



Kelvin Kuo / USA TODAY Sports

Minnesota Timberwolves head coach Tom Thibodeau reacts during the first quarter against the Los Angeles Clippers at Staples Center in Los Angeles on Oct. 3, 2018

The bench is better

The Timberwolves' bench was a disaster for much of last season. There's a chicken-andegg argument of whether the reserves were bad because Thibodeau didn't play them, or if Thibodeau didn't play them because they were bad. Regardless, Thibodeau needs to get more out of that unit if the Wolves are to stand a chance this season. Additions in the form of Anthony Tolliver, Derrick Rose and Josh Okogie could all make a difference, if they're given the opportunities.

Tom Thibodeau adapts

The Timberwolves need to improve and evolve throughout the season if they're going to keep pace in the ever-improving Western Conference. If that's going to be the case, their coach needs to do so with them. Part of that is identifying strengths and weaknesses and compensating for them correctly, and part of it might include listening more to players and what they're seeing on the court. Point guard Jeff Teague brought

up a couple times last season where he felt as though there were things the team could be doing differently, and players in training camp suggest-ed the positives of incorporating more switching into the Wolves' defensive schemes. Whether they're right or not, if the Wolves stumble out of the gates, something will need to change.

People get along

The Timberwolves are finally utilizing the same five-man starting lineup on opening night in consecutive seasons. Their head coach is starting his third season at the helm. This all suggests stability finally has arrived in Minnesota. Not quite.

But after a tumultuous offseason, Minnesota needs to find at least some level of normalcy during the regular season to keep things from spiraling further out of control. It's tough to win games in spite of constant spats between players, coaches and front-office members. Put simply: Everyone must do their best to get along.

Easy enough, right?

The questions facing **Timberwolves this season**

By Jace Frederick St. Paul Pioneer Press

Will Jimmy Butler be

Will the Timberwolves make the playoffs?

Will Tom Thibodeau survive the season? Thibodeau's seat was Tyus Jones and Taj Gibson

interested in getting off Gorgui Dieng's contract, It's hard to picture it already widely considered are on the final years of

Despite drama, **Timberwolves** believe they can be good

ByJace Frederick St. Paul Pioneer Press

MINNEAPOLIS — An offseason filled with discontent, a massive contract extension and a high-profile, hyper-public trade request officially comes to an end for the Timberwolves on Wednesday night, Oct. 17, when they open the 2018-19 season in San Antonio.

And Jimmy Butler is slated to be there for it.

Minnesota ended a playoff drought last spring that weighed the franchise down for the better part of 14 years, but the Wolves are saddled with so much more baggage this fall. This drama doesn't figure to end when the Wolves finally play a game that counts, but rather flips to the next chapter in what feels like a never-ending saga.

The question is whether the Ŵolves' undeniable talent will be enough to outweigh the disdain and distractions present in and around the franchise as the team embarks on another 82-game journey.

It certainly wasn't in the preseason, an exhibition campaign in which the Wolves won just one game and rarely looked competitive as players fielded as many questions regarding Butler's trade situation as anything they did on the court.

"It's awfully tough to have situations like they are having right now and not allow it to impact your team," ESPN analyst and former NBA coach Mark Jackson said on a con-ference call. "So that's the concern. They're still talented enough to win games, but it wears on you."

Wolves coach Tom Thibodeau has downplayed the effects of any such distractions in training camp, but that's no surprise.

"It's rare to get a reaction out of him," guard Derrick Rose said. "With tion out of him," him, he's been calm. We haven't talked about it, it don't seem like it's both-

for Butler, but until then, the Wolves have their leader back on the floor, which is probably a positive for their short-term prospects.

"I want to help every-body be better," Butler said Sunday. "I want y'all to win games. My name is still attached to this thing, I'm still here, so we better win."

Thibodeau said he's sure Butler will give the team everything he has while he's in a Wolves' uniform. Teammate Anthony Tolliver isn't sure Butler is capable of anything less. "It's not in his DNA to

slack," Tolliver said. "He only knows one way. No matter what's going on off the court, whatever, once he's between the lines and has our jersey on, he's going to play and every-thing is going to be about

winning and that's it." Butler's mere presence figures to help raise the Wolves' play from their anemic preseason performance. Tolliver said the Wolves didn't take the preseason as seriously as they should have — an inexcusable mentality for a team that has still accomplished so little. But Butler's energy and intensity is a likely antidote for the lifelessness the Wolves put on display for most of the exhibition season.

As for the team's current chemistry, which was questioned for much of last season and highlighted this summer, Rose said there's "room for growth."

"We don't even have an identity of how we're going to play offensively and defensively. So you've just got to build those things along the way," Rose said. "We all know it's going to take some time. It's going to take all of us being on the same team and fighting through the hard times together."

The situation Minnesota finds itself in appears to be an uphill battle, but the Wolves remain confident they're a better team than what they've shown to this point. "I think we've came and we've made some adjustments, we've fixed some things and we've been able to work on ourselves more," center Karl-An-thony Towns said. "I feel very confident." Not just in Minnesota's ability to compete, but to contend. "Teams could be who they are and where they're from, I don't care. We're here in the north, we're chilling here in Minnesota and we're expected to bring that competition and that hunger to every single team we play," Ťowns said. "Where we stand? I feel we stand next to anyone in this league, and that's how I truly feel." That's a bold statement for a team that has no idea how many minutes or what type of play it's going to get from it's All-NBA wing — or how long said wing is going to be around. Thibodeau was asked how Butler will gel with the starters after just The team has vowed to re-entering practice last

traded?

It's possible the Timberwolves' hesitancy to deal Butler for less than what they think is an adequate deal will result in a better offer than anything they've had sent their way during training camp. That remains to be seen. The real question is whether Butler will be dealt at all between now and the trade deadline. At some point, Minnesota must decide if it's worth getting something anything — for the allstar wing, or if the team should ride out the season with Butler and live with the results, knowing he has no plans of re-signing here next offseason.

Our prediction: Yes. At some point, whether it's because of a slow start from the team, more pressure applied by Butler or a deal that truly wows the Timberwolves, Minnesota will deal Butler. It's hard to see the Wolves allowing such a valuable rent best player, but here asset to walk next summer for free.

right now, with all the turmoil and drama surrounding the franchise, but Minnesota is still verv much in the conversation for one of the Western Conference's eight playoff spots. Yes, much will have to go right, but it's possible. The over/under season win totals posted by Las Vegas sports books for the Timberwolves have hovered right around the 41-win mark. If the Wolves go over that number, they'll be right there.

Our prediction: No. If they trade Butler, it's hard to see the Timberwolves being good enough to hang with some of the West's top teams this season. If they keep Butler, the drama and distractions that will come with having him on the roster will be a lot for the Wolves to overcome. It's hard to pick a win total without knowing exactly what the Timberwolves will do with their curgoes nothing: 38 (and 44 losses).

hot coming into this season. Throw in the fact that Jimmy Butler — the man Thibodeau brought in — wants out, and Thibodeau and Co. are having a tough time finding a good deal for him, and the seat only figures to get hotter. The pressure is on the coach to get this team off to a good start. If things spiral out of control early, Thibodeau's days in Minnesota may be numbered.

Our prediction:No. If Thibodeau can "circle the wagons" and get everyone to play well together, he'll deserve a lot of praise. But it's hard to think much good can come of this season given the situation the Timberwolves are starting in. And it's even harder to see Thibodeau surviving a disappointing campaign.

How many trades will the Timbérwolves make?

are endless. Obviously, the Butler deal is the one everyone is talking about. But Minnesota is always line.

their current deals, and Jeff Teague has an upcoming player option this offseason. Depending on the season's trajectory, it might be prudent for the Timberwolves to unload talent for assets before the deadline. Or maybe the Wolves will play well — as they did for much of last season with this very core — and put themselves in a position to add pieces pre-deadline to help make a push for home-court advantage in the first round of the playoffs. That's the beauty within all of this chaos, there are so many ways in which this Timberwolves' season could go.

Our prediction: This is an exercise in dart throwing, but let's roll with two trades. Having already predicted Jimmy Butler gets dealt, that leaves room for one more. Something between these two happens: Tyus Jones is dealt - the rumors of Phoenix's The possibilities here interest in the Apple Valley product are as loud as ever – or Taj Gibson is moved to a contender at the dead-

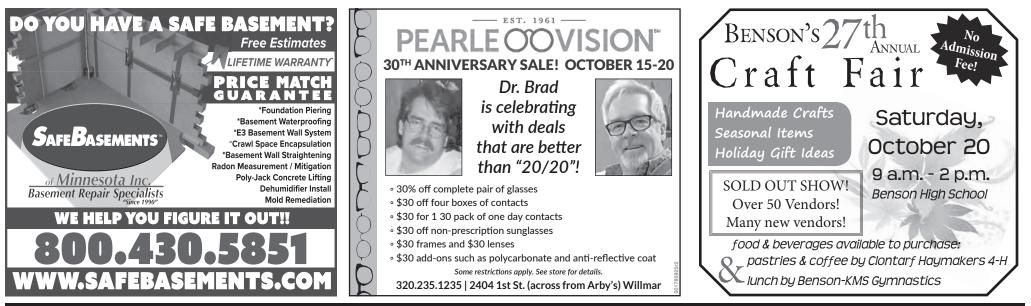
ering him much."

Not much usually does, besides a question from a reporter Tuesday asking Thibodeau about discrepancies between accounts of exactly when the All-NBA guard asked to be traded. Thibodeau said it was just before training camp; Butler told ESPN it was days after last season ended.

"We're not going to keep getting into that. We're going to talk about the Spurs, that's what we're going to talk about," Thibodeau said. "I mean, you guys want to keep the drama going. We're not going there.

Thibodeau's plan seems simple: Put your head down, keep working and charge forward. Will it work? It has to if Minnesota is to keep pace in the high-powered Western Conference. The truth is the Wolves' chances of doing just that are better with Butler on the roster, regardless of any distractions that may come with his presence.

continue to look for a trade week.



Sports

Gophers coach P.J. Fleck says Shannon Brooks' status with team 'is evolving'

By Andy Greder

St. Paul Pioneer Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Gophers running back Shannon Brooks and his surgically repaired knee were cleared to play for the first time Saturday, Oct. 20, against Nebraska, but an ongoing Minneapolis city attorney's office investigation into allegations of domestic assault against him have put that season debut in serious doubt.

"His status is evolving each day," Gophers coach P.J. Fleck said Tuesday.

After Brooks was released from jail Monday as the city attorney's office declined to press charges over a fight with his male roommate Sunday, he returned to the team but did not practice on Tuesday. It doesn't appear Brooks will practice until the city attorney's office comes to some resolution in its investigation.

BTN

"One thing that we are always have every bit of information that we possibly can before we make decisions," Fleck said. "Shannon understands that, and I know our administration understands that as well."

Fleck said a decision on Brooks' playing status will be made jointly by him and athletics director Mark Coyle. Fleck said he had no timeline to make a decision about Brooks' status for Saturday, but "there comes a time where a kid doesn't practice, you're not going to play him in games."

The Gophers (3-3, 0-3 Big Ten) play the Cornhuskers (0-6, 0-4) at 2:30 p.m. Saturday at Memorial Stadium in Lincoln.

On Tuesday, Fleck made it a point to reiterate a few things about the incident: no charges were filed, no injuries were reported and the incident was between two males.

"I just want to make sure that I going to make sure is that we continue to reiterate that," Fleck said.

Brooks was arrested early Sunday morning after a 911 caller reported a domestic assault at a Minneapolis apartment where he and his roommate live. The Minneapolis police report stated there were no injuries.

"The City Attorney's Office has reviewed the case and will not be filing charges, the office said in a statement released when Brooks was released from jail Monday. "... There will be further investigation and pending the results of that investigation, a decision to file charges will be reviewed again."

The Gophers are expected to start Mohamed Ibrahim at running back against the Cornhuskers on Saturday. He won Big Ten freshman of the week for 23 carries for 157 yards and two touchdowns in Minnesota's 30-14 loss to second-ranked Ohio State on Saturday.

SCOREBOARD

OUALCOMM IG

Jake Roth / USA TODAY Sports

Minnesota Golden Gophers running back Shannon Brooks (23) celebrates after a 17-12 win over the Washington State Cougars at Qualcomm Stadium in San Diego, Calif., on Dec. 27, 2016.

Wednesday, Oct. 17

Football Rocori at Willmar, 7 p.m. Albany at New London-Spicer, 7 p.m. Glencoe-Silver Lake at Litchfield, 7 p.m. ACGC at Sauk Centre, 7 p.m. Benson at Minnewaska, 7 p.m. Morris/CA at BOLD, 7 p.m. Osakis at Montevideo, 7 p.m. Dawson-Boyd at Ortonville, 7 p.m. Royalton at KMS, 7 p.m. LQPV at Minneota, 7 p.m. MACCRAY at Edgerton/Ellsworth, 7 p.m. Red Rock Central at RCW, 7 p.m. Canby at YME, 7 p.m. Hancock at Brandon-Evansville, 7 p.m. BLHS at Nicollet, 7 p.m. BBE at Upsala/Swanville, 7 p.m. Paynesville at Maple Lake, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 18 Volleyball

KMS, BLHS at Underwood invitational, 9 a.m.

SPORTS ON TV

Wednesday, Oct. 17

College Volleyball: Women's: Rutgers vs. Penn. State, 6 p.m., BTN

Golf: LPGA Legends Tour: Senior LPGA Championship, 3 p.m., GOLF PGA Tour: CJ Cup at Nine Bridges, 9 p.m.,

High School Football:

Davies vs. West Fargo, 7 p.m., MidcoSN High School Game of the Week: Sheyenne vs. South, 7 p.m., WDAY and KBMY NBA:

New Orleans vs. Houston, 7 p.m., ESPN Minnesota vs. San Antonio, 7:30 p.m., FSN Dallas vs. Phoenix, 9:30 p.m., ESPN MI B

ALCS Playoffs, 7 p.m., TBS NHL:

New York Rangers vs. Washington, 6 p.m. NBCSN

Boston vs. Calgary, 8:30 p.m., NBCSN Soccer: CONCACAF 2019 World Cup Women's

Soccer: Final, 7 p.m., FS1

Thursday, Oct. 18 Boxing: Golden Boy Boxing, 9 p.m., ESPN2

College Football: Stanford vs. Arizona State, 8 p.m., ESPN College Soccer: Women's: Ohio State vs Purdue. 5 p.m.

Golf: European Tour Golf: Andalucia Valderrama Masters, 5 a.m., GOLF European Tour Golf: Andalucia Valderrama Masters, 8:30 a.m., GOLF PGA Tour: CJ Cup at Nine Bridges, 9 p.m., GOLF NBA: Chicago vs. Philadelphia, 7 p.m., TNT Los Angeles Lakers vs. Portland, 9:30 p.m., TNT MLB: ALCS Playoffs, 7 p.m., TBS NFI Denver vs. Arizona, 7 p.m., FOX FOOTBALL Professional American Football Conference East WL Pct PF PA Miami 2 2 3 4 .667 130 .667 176 145 148 0 0 New England N.Y. Jets 0 0 .500 165 139 .333 76 138 - 4 Souti W L 3 3 (3 3 0 3 3 0 5 0 orth Buffalo PctPFPA.500109126.500135137.50087107.167152180 Jacksonville Houston Tennessee Indianapolis North Pct PF PA .667 153 77 .667 174 158 .583 171 154 W 4 4 L 2 2 2 3 .667 .667 .583 Baltimore Cincinnati 0 Pittsburgh Cleveland 2 3 West L T 1 0 0 .417 128 151 Pct PF PA .833 215 172 .667 175 144 .333 120 154 .167 110 176 w WL 51 42 24 15 Kansas City L.A. Chargers Denver Oakland **Nation**

Football Conference East

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New Orleans

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Nomen's: Iowa vs. Minnesota, 7 p.m., BTN

Arizona 1 5 0 .167 82 139 Week 6 Thursday's Games Philadelphia 34, N.Y. Giants 13 Sunday's Games L.A. Chargers 38, Cleveland 14 Houston 20, Buffalo 13 Pittsburgh 28, Cincinnati 21 Atlanta 34, Tampa Bay 29 Miami 31, Chicago 28, OT Washington 23, Carolina 17 Seattle 27, Oakland 3 Minnesota 27, Arizona 17 N.Y. Jets 42, Indianapolis 34 L.A. Rams 23, Denver 20 Dallas 40, Jacksonville 7 Baltimore 21, Tennessee 0 New England 43, Kansas City 40 Monday's Games Green Bay 33, San Francisco 30 Week 7 Thursday's Games Tennessee vs L.A. Chargers, at London, England, 8:30 a.m. Houston at Jacksonville, 12 p.m. Cleveland at Tampa Bay, 12 p.m. Cleveland at Tampa Bay, 12 p.m. Cleveland at Tampa Bay, 12 p.m. Detroit at Miami, 12 p.m. New Orleans at Baltimore, 3:05 p.m. Dallas 4Washington, 3:25 p.m. L.A. Rams at San Francisco, 3:25 p.m. L.A. Rams at San Francisco, 3:25 p.m. L.A. Rams at Atlanta, 7:15 p.m.

BASEBALL

Professional
Postseason Baseball Glance
WILDCARD SHOWDOWN
(Best-of-1)
American League
Wednesday, Oct. 3: New York 7, Oakland 2
National League
Tuesday, Oct. 2: Colorado 2, Chicago 1
DIVISIONAL PLAYOFF
(Best-of-5; x-if necessary)
American League Boston 3, New York 1
Friday, Oct. 5: Boston 5, New York 4
Saturday, Oct. 6: New York 6, Boston 2
Monday, Oct. 8: Boston 16, New York 1
Tuesday, Oct. 9: Boston 4, New York 3
Houston 3, Cleveland 0
Friday, Oct. 5: Houston 7, Cleveland 2
Saturday, Oct. 6: Houston 3, Cleveland 1
Monday, Oct. 8: Houston 11, Cleveland 3
National League
Milwaukee 3, Colorado 0
Thursday, Oct. 4: Milwaukee 3, Colorado 2
Friday, Oct. 5: Milwaukee 4, Colorado 0
Sunday, Oct. 7: Milwaukee 6, Colorado 0
Los Angeles 3, Atlanta 1
Thursday, Oct. 4: Los Angeles 6, Atlanta 0
Friday, Oct. 5: Los Angeles 3, Atlanta 0
Sunday, Oct. 7: Atlanta 6, Los Angeles 5
Monday, Oct. 8: Los Angeles 6, Atlanta 2 LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP
LEAGUE CHAINFIONSHIP

(Best-of-7; x-if necessary) American League Houston 1, Boston 1 Saturday, Oct. 13: Houston 7, Boston 2 Sunday, Oct. 14: Boston 7, Houston 5 Tuesday, Oct. 16: Boston, 8, Houston 2 Wednesday, Oct. 17: Boston at Houston, 7:39 p.m. 7:39 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 18: Boston at Houston, 7:09 p.m. x-Saturday, Oct. 20: Boston at Houston, 4:09 p.m. x-Sunday, Oct. 21: Houston at Boston, 6:39 National League Milwaukee 2, Los Angeles 1 Friday, Oct. 12: Milwaukee 6, Los Angeles 4 Saturday, Oct. 13: Los Angeles 4, Milwau-Monday, Oct. 15: Milwaukee 4, Los Angeles 0 Tuesday, Oct. 16: Milwaukee at Los Angeles,

FC Dallas

Seattle FC

San Jose

for draw

Saturday's Games

Sporting KC Los Angeles FC Portland

Real Salt Laix LA Galaxy 12 ... Vancouver FC 12 12 12 Minnesota United 11 18 40uston 9 14 7 19 4 20

WLT

9 7

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16 15

4 20 8

Colorado 2, Minnesota United FC 0 D.C. United 1, FC Dallas 0

New England 2, Orlando City SC 0

NOTE: Three points for victory, one point

Pts GF GA:

51 61 49

46 51 34

20 48 69

8:09 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 17: Milwaukee at Los Angeles, 4:05 p.m. x-Friday, Oct. 19: Los Angeles at Milwaukee,

7:39 p.m. x-Saturday, Oct. 20: Los Angeles at Milwau-kee, 8:09 p.m. WORLD SERIES

WorkLo Schleis (Best-of-7; x-if necessary) Tuesday, Oct. 23: at American League Wednesday, Oct. 24: at American League Saturday, Oct. 26: at National League x-Sunday, Oct. 27: at National League x-Sunday, Oct. 28: at National League x-Tuesday, Oct. 30: at American League x-Wednesday, Oct. 31: at American League

HOCKEY

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Calgary 5 3 2 0										
San Jose 6 2 3 1 Los Angeles 6 2 3 1 Vegas 6 2 4 0										
Los Angeles 6 2 3 1 Vegas 6 2 4 0	National Basketball Association									
Edmonton 3 1 2 0	East	tern Co		ence						
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Monday's Games	Winnipeg 3, Carolina 1				.000	.5				
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Montreal 7, Detroit 3		Philadelphia	0		.000	1.0				
Ottawa 4, Dallas 1		Centi W	L	Det	CD					
Nashville 4, Minnesota 2		Chieses	0	_	Pct .000	GB				
Tuesday's Games		Chicago Cleveland	0		.000	_				
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Vancouver 3, Pittsburgh 2, O Colorado at NY Rangers, 6 p	m	Indiana	0		.000	_				
Florida at Philadelphia, 6 p.m		Milwaukee	0		.000	_				
Carolina at Tampa Bay, 6:30		wwwaukee	Southe							
Arizona at Minnesota, 7 p.m.			W	L		GB				
Edmonton at Winnipeg, 7 p.n	n.	Atlanta	0	_	.000	GD				
Buffalo at Vegas, 9 p.m.	Charlotte	0		.000	_					
Wednesday's Games	Miami	0		.000						
St. Louis at Montreal, 6 p.m. NY Rangers at Washington,	Orlando	0		.000						
Boston at Calgary, 8:30 p.m.	Washington	0		.000	_					
NY Islanders at Anaheim, 9 p		tern Čo								
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Western Conference		Tuesday's Gam		aı						
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Tuesday's Games Boston 105, Philadelphia 87 Oklahoma City at Golden State, 9:30 p.m. Wednesday's Games Milwaukee at Charlotte, 6 p.m. Brooklyn at Detroit, 6 p.m. Memphis at Indiana, 6 p.m. Miami at Orlando, 6 p.m. Atlanta at New York, 6:30 p.m. Cleveland at Toronto, 6:30 p.m New Orleans at Houston, 7 p.m. Minnesota at San Antonio, 7:30 p.m. Utah at Sacramento, 9 p.m. Denver at L.A. Clippers, 9:30 p.m. Dallas at Phoenix, 9:30 p.m Thursday's Games Chicago at Philadelphia, 7 p.m. Miami at Washington, 7 p.m.

L.A. Lakers at Portland. 9:30 p.m.



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