

# CHEERING FOR THE CARDINALS

By Erica Dischino edischino@wctrib.com

tudents from Willmar Public Schools had the opportunity to cheer on the Cardinals football team Wednesday before they head for today's Class AAAA state championship game at U.S. Bank Stadium.

The team was greeted with

cheers, chants, signs and lots of excitement from their fans at Kennedy, Lakeland and Roosevelt elementary schools and Willmar Middle School.

The Willmar Cardinals football team takes on the SMB (St. Paul Academy/Minnehaha Academy/Blake) Wolfpack in the Prep Bowl finals, set for 4 p.m. today in Minneapolis.





TOP: Willmar's Jake Evans, left, and Charlie Farhat, along with the rest of the Willmar football team, are greeted by kindergarten fans Wednesday as they walk through a hallway of Roosevelt Elementary in Willmar.

BOTTOM LEFT: Willmar's Drey Dirksen gives high-fives Wednesday to students at Lakeland Elementary School. Students from Willmar Public Schools had the opportunity to cheer on the Cardinals football team Wednesday before they head to today's state championship game.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Kennedy Elementary students Ashton Setrum, 8, with Jacob Ramos, 8, high five players from the Cardinals football team Wednesday before the team heads to today's state championship game at U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis.

## State's best square off

## Willmar preps for athletic, undefeated SMB

By Joe Brown

ibrown@wctrib.com

Willmar football is on the cusp of school history. When the Cardinals walk onto the US Bank Stadium turf at 4 p.m. Friday against undefeated SMB, Willmar will try to win its first ever state football championship.

But you wouldn't know that from seeing practice this week.
"It's been like any other week of practice," said Car-

dinals head coach Jon Konold. "They've gone through the same prep, they know the magnitude and know what's at stake. They've been loose and having fun and have been practicing well."

But the SMB Wolfpack are appearance this year. not like any team Willmar has come across this year.

Academy, Minnehaha Academy and The Blake School in its fourth year of existence, SMB has gone 35-5 in that time while making its first state



Willmar defensive lineman Carter Ochsendorf chases down Tanner Bauman during practice Tuesday at St. John's University in Collegeville.

some of the best junior ath-A co-op between St. Paul letes in Minnesota. Per 247 Sports, linebacker Kaden Johnson is the top junior recruit in the state while safety/receiver Craig McDonald is ranked sixth.

"SMB's got a lot of talented The Wolfpack also boasts skill position players," Konold said. "And they're pretty big up front. It's going to be a great challenge.

McDonald in particular is a player Willmar has its eyes on.

**STATE:** Page B2

### **CLASS A STATE FOOTBALL**



BOLD head coach Steve Solem talks to his team during halftime of Friday's game against Paynesville at Paynesville High School.

## Top dogs BOLD, M/W meet for Class A crown

Warriors and Mahnomen/Waubun ranked No. 1 and No. 2 entire season

By Jake Schultz jschultz@wctrib.com

BOLD head coach Steve Solem is one win away from riding off into the sunset like few legends have before him. That last win won't come easy, though.

Mahnomen/Waubun stands in the way of the perfect cap to **TOP DOGS:** Page B2

Solem's career and the Warriors' strong season. The Thunderbirds will try to play spoiler in the Class A state championship game at 10 a.m. Saturday at U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis.

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## **GIRLS HOCKEY** Delano/Rockford grounds Willmar

## L/DC tops Storm, River Lakes edge Hutch

By Jake Schultz jschultz@wctrib.com

DELANO — Delano/ Rockford shut out Willmar 6-0 Tuesday evening thanks to a lopsided shot

The home team outshot the Cardinals 42-13 and scored three second period goals while Delano/Rockford netminder Grace Glasrud blanked the Cardinals. Glasrud earned

differential.

sixth goal, a power play effort by Anna Keranen.

Chloe Kuechle scored the game's first two goals and Meghan Staunton finished with a pair of goals and two assists. Keranen tallied two assists and her third period goal.

The Cardinals will look to get back on track following the holiday with a pair of home conference games next week, starting

an assist with her team's with Fergus Falls at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Willmar Civic Center.

### Delano/Rockford 6,

#### Willmar 0

Willmar
Delano/Rockford
1 3 2—6
FIRST PERIOD – D: Chloe Kuechle (Anna Keranen, Emily Olson) 5:45
SECOND PERIOD – D: Kuechle (Keranen) 2:46 ... D: Grace Daly (Ava Reierson, Meghan Staunton) 8:03 ... D: Staunton (Mary Beth Kivisto, Daly) 8:57
THIRD PERIOD – D: Staunton (Olson) 14:14 ... D: Keranen (Alex Von Holtum, Grace Glasrud) 16:08 pp
GOALIE SAVES/SHOTS – Willmar: Savana Knutson 36/42 ... Delano/Rockford: Glasrud

### Litchfield/DC 6,

### Morris/Benson 0

Litchfield/Dassel-Cokato scored four goals in the third period and allowed just six Morris/Benson shots on the way to a 6-0

Sophia Hillmann scored twice in the third period and assisted another goal as her team logged 52 shots.

FIRST PERIOD - L: Kristin Foley (Cassy

THIRD PERIOD - L: Sophia Hillmann (Ella Hansen) 0:31 ... L: Sydney Braaten (Emma DeWolf) 2:52 ... L: Hillmann 9:41 ... L: Alyssa Olson (Hillmann) 13:05 GOALIE SAVES/SHOTS – Morris/Benson

Area: Leah Thompson 46/52 ... Litchfield/DC: Avery Stilwell 6/6

#### River Lakes 3,

#### **Hutchinson 2**

River Lakes bounced back from a 1-0 deficit tnrough one period to edge Hutchinson on the road Tuesday.

Brooke Lemke and Hannah Zimmer each scored in BECOND PERIOD - R: Brooke Lemke 7:41 ... R: Hannah Zimmer 15:56 THIRD PERIOD - R: Kianna Roeske (Lemke) 13:37 ... H: Alex Hantge (Maddy Seifer, Berthiaume) 16:59 pp GOALIE SAVES/SHOTS - River Lakes: Nicole Wander 9/11 ... Hutchinson: Alia Reiger 29/32

the second period to give the Stars a second period lead, which they never relinquished. Kianna Roeske scored on a pass from Lemke in the third period to deliver what proved to be the game-winning



Willmar quarterback Drey Dirksen sets to throw during passing drills at practice Tuesday at St. John's University in Collegeville.

### Joe Brown / Tribune

"He's a lot like our quar-At quarterback, Jalen terback. He makes plays top dual threats. While Konold said. "We have to talented kid," Konold said. rated as the No. 2-ranked be able to contain him. We junior football recruit can't let him get outside

and he returns punts and er, ranked 10th in the kicks. He plays all over the nation among juniors per place and we have to iden- ESPN.

ESPN. points per game, the most mismatches and see if we points SMB has allowed can run the football on was 15, to Orono in the Section 5AAAA semifinals and in last week's 23-15 state semifinal win against

Tuesday at St. John's University in Collegeville.

"Looking at their scores,

them."

Willmar head football coach Jon Konold sends signals to his offense during practice

Prep Bowl, the Cardinals have put more of the starters on the scout team to emulate SMB's athlet-

icism.

"We wanted to give our guys better looks," Konold said. "The big thing is their quarterback scrambling and the shiftiness In preparation for the of their running back. We have to be sharp on our substitutions and make sure we're matching up the way we want to."

### TOP DOGS

**STATE** 

From Page B1

"He's going to make

some plays. He's a very

"They move him around a

From Page B1

often the Prep Bowl isn't necessarily the matchup of the top two teams and yet that's exactly what happened

this year in Class A. BOLD, looking for its third state title under Solem, sat at No. 1 in QRF Minnesota-Scores. net nearly all year while Mahnomen/Waubun earned the No. 2 spot after posting an undereated season to this point with seven shutouts.

Thunderbirds' The defense could be a worry for a dominant Warriors team that has won 12 games by an average of 47.7 points. Mahnomen/ Waubun has allowed a meager 5.1 points per game — just 61 total points while scoring 38.3 points per game. Mahnomen/ Waubun allowed just 35 points in its first three games of the season before turning in five consecutive shutouts.

The Thunderbirds have yet to allow a point in the Class A state tournament, routing Deer River in the quarterfinals 42-0, then defeating Springfield 38-0 in the semifinals game immediately after BOLD's 37-7 win against Blooming Prairie at U.S. Bank Stadium.

Team speed Mahnomen/Waubun's standout trait. Seemingly every player on the roster has the ability to move quickly in open space and that has caused every team fits.

BOLD, however, may have the speed to compete. BOLD's size is often have to offer. the thing that other teams

Steve Fields

Minnesota Attorney

FIELDS LAW FIRM

tity where he's at."

Suggs is one of the state's with his feet and arm, lot. They put in outside, in in the state, Suggs is a the pocket." the slot, in the backfield renowned basketball play-

The defense is where

Thunderbirds also have Izaiah Asher, who has put up a couple of big games in the state tournament, running 11 times for 153 yards and a touchdown.

Realistically, the Warriors will not need to worry much about the pass. Heading into last week's semifinal, Starkey had thrown for just 360 yards all season but he 212 yards and a pair of BOLD. touchdowns, all of which

went to Treston Spalla. This newfound passing game is likely an aberration but could be enough to make the Warriors respect a possible deep ball. Should the ball go to the air at all, BOLD will have the guys to deal with it. Ryan, a Mr. Football finalist Luke Ryan, mans the free safety position and has 14 interceptions. On top of that, Vosika and quarterback/defensive back Jordan Sagedahl have proven to be shutdown defenders, as well. Solem calls them the best group of athletes he's ever had in the defensive backfield.

In general, Solem says this team compares well to his state championship teams in the past.

"If you look at the state championship teams we had, they were big on the line and moved well and the runnings backs were just tough," he said. "We had a good tight end and a good wideout.

"We have all of that right now," Solem said. "Defensively, (those teams) played well together and Saturday.

eight touchdowns. The they're doing a good job of that now. They had a good kicker and a good punter and we've got that. All the pieces are there, we just can't afford to make mistakes. Those always hurt. We can't afford to miss an extra point or get caught on an onside kick or anything else so the hands team is in. So we need to

stay away from mistakes." This is the first year turned in a few big plays Mahnomen and Waubun against Springfield to combined for football, skew the scouting report, but Mahnomen has quite completing four passes for the tradition, not unlike

> Mahnomen is the only team that returned to the state tournament this season from last year's field. Mahnomen lost to eventual champions Minneota in the quarterfinals. That loss aside, Mahnomen has played in 13 Prep Bowls, winning eight championships with five sec-

> ond-place finishes. BOLD is back in the Prep Bowl for the first time since 2014 when the Warriors lost to Holdingford in the Class AA championship game 20-18 in double overtime. Mahnomen actually defeated BOLD in the Prep Bowl in 1998 by a 27-26 score and won the Class C title in 1992 while BOLD lost the Class B title

> to St. Cloud Cathedral 7-6. BOLD won back-to-back titles in 1990 and 1991 for Solem's two state titles while Mahnomen won four-straight Class C titles from 1990-1993.

> There's no telling if this year's Class A champions will go on a run like both teams did in the early '90s but it's clear history is on the line for both teams

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Jake Schultz / Tribune

BOLD's Gavin Vosika lunges for an extra yard in Saturday's 50-6 victory over Ottertail Central in the Class A state quarterfinal in Alexandria.

Pigskin Picks - Prep Bowl					
The Pickers	Last We	ek	This Sea	ason	
Tom Larson, Sports Editor	12-2		159-39		
Jake Schultz, Sports Writer	10-4		156-42		
Joe Brown, Sports Writer	11-3		151-47		
Curt Hogg, former Sports Writer	10-4		160-38		
Ben Brewster, former Sports Writer	10-4		160-38		
State Semifinals	Tom	Jake	Joe	Curt	Ben
Class AAAA					
Willmar vs. SMB	Will	Will	Will	Will	Will
Class A					
BOLD vs. Mahnomen/Waubun	BOLD	BOLD	BOLD	BOLD	BOLD
9-Man					
Spring Grove vs. Mountain Lake	ML	SG	SG	ML	ML
Class AA					
Barnesville vs. Caledonia	Cal	Cal	Cal	Cal	Cal
Class AAA		D.	D.1		D.1
Rochester Lourdes vs. Fairmont	Fair	RL	RL	Fair	RL
Class AAAAA	OTA	0	0	0	0
Owatonna vs. St. Thomas Academy	STA	Owa	Owa	Owa	Owa
Class 6A	FP	LNI	LNI	ΙN	IN
Eden Prairie vs. Lakeville North	EP	LN	LN	LIN	LIN

latch on to when discussing the Warriors but with have to offer is pretty darn athletes like Gavin Vosika and Luke Ryan, BOLD should be able to run with the best the Thunderbirds

best the Thunderbirds good.

On offense, running back Parker Syverson and quarterback Jon Starkey are the key guys. Syverson ran 190 With that in mind, the times for 1,714 yards and

21 touchdowns and Starkey added 1,195 yards on 170 carries with 15 touchdowns. In addition to the two main threats, Tayvis Zima is somebody to look out for. He ran the ball 50

times for 505 yards and

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## With rise of Bears, Vikings-Packers fighting simply to stay in NFC North race

**By Chris Tomasson** St. Paul Pioneer Press

EAGAN, Minn. — After the Vikings and Packturned to the Week 12 rematch that many figured would decide the NFC North.

After all, the two teams have combined to win the past seven division titles and there was no reason to believe that another Minnesota. team would be in the race.

But a lot has changed the past couple of months. The Chicago Bears (8-3) have taken over the division lead, and Sunday night's rematch at U.S. Bank Stadium between surprised (by the division of football that day and it the Vikings (5-4-1) and standings). You've got to Packers (4-5-1) has become almost an elimination game in the division race.

"I definitely didn't

Rodgers said. "Obviously, place in the NFC North. Minnesota has a strong team. They're probably surprised where they're coach Mike McCarthy. "I ers tied 29-29 in Week sitting as well. So I don't clearly understand every-2 at Lambeau Field, talk think either of us is out of thing that goes into this." the division race."

game 25-20 at Chicago game played in 80-degree beat the Lions 23-16 on two straight, and the Thursday in Detroit, have a much easier schedule next three. to close the season than

"You get what you earn," Vikings running back Latavius Murray said. "We've had a number of injuries earned our record. Green come at us the following Bay has earned theirs, and the Bears have earned theirs, so you can't be respect what every team has done, and so I just know we can be a lot bet-

expect to be sitting where game is decisive for both although he was able to we're sitting, but our teams. The winner will lead a dramatic comeback record is what it is," Green claim the season tie- win. Bay quarterback Aaron breaker and be in second

"It's an important game," said Packers

Both teams struggled The Vikings lost a key after that Week 2 overtime last week. The Bears, who heat. The Vikings dropped Packers lost two of their

> "The length of the game ... really affected our team probably the next couple weeks just because we week or two and I think that game played into it because we played a lot was hot," McCarthy said.

The Packers played that day with a hobbled Rodgers. He suffered a sprained left knee in The Sunday, Nov. 25, Week 1 against the Bears,



Jeff Hanisch / USA TODAY Sports

Minnesota Vikings wide receiver Stefon Diggs (14) rushes with the football after catching a pass during overtime against the Green Bay Packers at Lambeau Field on Sept. 16.

(now)," Rodgers said. for season-high totals of les Rams and one was at "Obviously, I'm not wearing the brace anymore. I was in the shotgun or pistol the majority of that game, I think just about all that game, so it's nice to be able to move around like I'm accustomed to."

Rodgers completed 30 of 42 passes for 281 yards and a touchdown in his duel with Vikings quarterback Kirk Cousins, who "I feel a lot more mobile completed 35 of 48 passes ton and the Los Ange-

425 yards and four touch-

regaining his mobility, Vikings coach Mike Zimlike his old self, unfortunately."

0-5 on the road. Their schedule has been brutal. Three of the road losses to approach it. From here were to division leaders New England, Washing-

Seattle.

The Vikings also have Asked about Rodgers lost on the road against the Rams. And following Sunday's game, they have mer cracked, "He looks consecutive games at New England and Seattle.

ately." "This is playoff sea-Still, the Packers are son for us," the Vikings' -5 on the road. Their Sheldon Richardson said. "That's how you've got on out, it's playoff season until we can't play any

## Wild shuffle lines with brawny Jets coming to town

**By Brian Murphy** 

St. Paul Pioneer Press

ST. PAUL — Thursday morning brought the Wild together for a brief practice at Xcel Energy Center before players scattered for Thanksgiving,

Coach Bruce Boudreau shuffled his line combinations in advance of Minnesota's first game against Winnipeg, at 3 p.m. Friday at Xcel Energy Center, since the Jets blew the Wild out of the 2018 postseason.

His top line remained intact with Eric Staal centering Jason Zucker and Mikael Granlund. But right wing Nino Niederreiter was demoted to the fourth line while Charlie Coyle was elevated to the second unit with Mikko Koivu and Zach Parise.

with Jonathan Eriksson Ek and Jordan Green- with reserve Matt Henhimself sharing left wing and J.T. Brown.



Brace Hemmelgarn / USA TODAY Sports out and get the job done," Could not see the second period against the Vancouver Canucks at Xcel Energy Center on Nov. 15. Coyle has been elevated to the second unit with Mikko Kojvu and Zach Parios.

Brace Hemmelgarn / USA TODAY Sports out and get the job done," Staal said. "That's all you're after." Parise said. "If we can get in with possession, that'll be the Marcus Foligno also Vancouver Canucks at Xcel Energy Center on Nov. 15. Coyle has been elevated to the moved up to left wing second unit with Mikko Koivu and Zach Parise.

Niederreiter finished ry Wednesday night over middle of a four-game it behind their defense to way. Niederreiter found dricks alongside Eric Fehr minus-3 with no shots the Ottawa Senators. The road trip having lost 6-3 make them go the whole in Minnesota's 6-4 victo- Wild narrowly escaped Wednesday at Calgary, length of the ice.'

rallied for three goals in points ahead of Winnipeg the third period to tie the game 4-4.

"The second period I thought once it got to three-nothing, it was like pond hockey, run and gun," Boudreau said after the game. "And we talked about it between periods, so I thought the guys played, or tried to play, the right way. But once they made it 4-2 and then that goal that made it 4-3, I knew we were going to be on our heels."

Staal netted the game-winner with six minutes remaining, his second goal of the game, to relieve the pressure.

"It was big to turn it back in our favor, gut it

come to town in the remember to keep getting

with the win after Ottawa The Wild (28) are two (26) behind Central Division-leading Nashville (33 points).

The Wild's first game against the Jets since being eliminated by Winnipeg in five games of their first-round series last season is a Friday matinee at the X. Winnipeg outscored Minnesota 16-9 in that series, including shutouts in Games 4 and 5.

Not much has changed with the Jets, who are big, fast and lethal in transi-

"It can be a frustrating game against them if you keep allowing yourself to get stopped in the neu-Meanwhile, the Jets best thing. Otherwise,

## Double teams should mean 'easy offense,' yet Towns, Wolves struggle with them

By Jace Frederick

St. Paul Pioneer Press Timberwolves' offense turnovers in the quarter was rolling in the first

Minnesota had 56 points on 55 percent 11-point advantage. shooting. Its star player, Karl-Anthony Towns, had 13 points, 11 in the second quarter. Shots were falling, points were coming easy and everyone was rolling.

Then Denver adjusted. Over the first 24 minutes, the Nuggets largely covered Towns with attention isn't anything just one defender in the new to him. Yet it continpost. Coach Tom Thibo- ues to give him problems. deau knew a change was Minnesota's all-star cen-

happened. Though the turnovers a game. His Wolves knew what was previous career high was coming, they couldn't 2.6. adapt to it. Their offense stymied. Minnesota for

scored just 18 points on 26 percent shooting. The MINNEAPOLIS — The team committed seven — four of which belonged half of Wednesday's loss to Towns — as Dento Denver. ver flipped a six-point halftime deficit into an

"They went to the double team," Thibodeau said. "That was a prob-

It shouldn't be. Towns is in his fourth NBA season, and the all-star has been a dominant offensive force for the bulk of that time. Extra defensive

In the five games since coming. At the break, he Minnesota traded Jimmy told Towns to prepare for Butler to Philadelphia, Denver double-teaming Towns has committed 28 turnovers — 5.6 per game. For the season, And that's exactly what Towns is averaging 3.7

Thibodeau said "it hitting the first open to make plays." It seems post. He said whoever's "Just got to read," Covhould be easy offense" man," Thibodeau said. as though he has hesitath man is going to double ington said, "and we've or Minnesota when "And when we do that, ed at times when doubled, Towns has to make him-got to react." in the third quarter was should be easy offense"

dedicates two players to

open shot. "When the second defender comes, part stand that. He was adabeing a primary scorer is was coming Wednesday, said spacing is key when getting off the ball quick, adding he's "just trying the opponent doubles the

opponents double team the offense is easy. You which has led him into self available as an easy Towns. When a defense want two on the ball. ... So the responsibility of cover one, someone on those players is to make look for the pass," Towns man at the top of the play offense should get an the right play, and we've said. "I just wasn't doing has to flash to the weak got to do better."

Minnesota Timberwolves center Karl-Anthony Towns (32) and Denver Nuggets forward Juan Hernangomez (41) get

Towns seems to under-

tangled in the fourth quarter at Target Center on Wednesday, Nov. 21.

"I was getting ready to

what I needed to do." Maybe there's more his teammates can do to help of the responsibility of mant he knew the double him. Robert Covington

outlet.

**Brad Rempel / USA TODAY Sports** 

Covington said the high side, and someone has to cut to open the weak side up. That activity and spacing should give Towns more options for where to go with the ball.

## Jackson's pick-six lifts Bears over Lions

Jackson returned an tions. interception 41 yards for the go-ahead touchdown two key offensive players, with six minutes remaining, and the Chicago on Johnson and receiver Bears held on for a 23-16 Thanksgiving Day victory over the host Detroit

Chicago for Kansas City, complet- 1:35 left in the third quar-Daniel filled in for Mitchinjury but is reportedly expected back in Week 13.

and a touchdown for the field goal. Bears (8-3), who won their fifth straight.

for 236 yards for Detroit Roberts and sauntered 41

The Lions were missing as running back Kerry-Marvin Jones sat out with knee injuries.

to Kenny Golladay set up Detroit still had three quarterback LeGarrette Blount's sec-Chase Daniel, who hadn't ond 4-yard touchdown started a game since Dec. run of the game, giving 28, 2014, when he played Detroit a 13-9 lead with ed 27 of 37 passes for ter. The Lions' 2-point 230 yards and two scores. conversion attempt failed.

ell Trubisky, who missed lead with 13:40 remainthe game with a shoulder ing on Daniel's 14-yard DeShawn Shead forced pass to Cohen, capping a fumble against tight an 82-yard drive. Detroit Tarik Cohen caught tied it with 7:44 left on linebacker Jarrad Davis seven passes for 45 yards Matt Prater's 20-yard returned it 20 yards to

The Lions then forced pleted 28 of 38 passes front of tight end Michael Blount's 4-yard run.

el Media (4-7) but threw two key yards into the end zone

— Eddie fourth-quarter intercep- to give the Bears a 23-16 advantage with six minutes left.

Stafford responded by driving the Lions 64 yards into the red zone, but he was intercepted by Kyle Fuller's in the Stafford's 43-yard pass end zone with 1:07 left. timeouts remaining, but Cohen's 10-yard carry on third-and-9 let the Bears run out the clock.

Chicago led 9-7 at halftime.

Detroit created the first The Bears regained the good opportunity of the game when cornerback end Trey Burton, and the Chicago 40.

The Lions methodically a punt, but on the next drove for nine plays and Matthew Stafford com- snap, Jackson stepped in finished off the drive on

Chicago got on the



**Tim Fuller / USA TODAY Sports** 

Detroit Lions running back LeGarrette Blount (29) runs for a touchdown during the third quarter against the Chicago Bears at Ford Field on Thursday, Nov. 22.

40-yard field goal.

half on Daniel's 10-yard conversation, but Dan-The Bears moved ahead strike to Taquan Mizzell. iel's pass was incomplete.

board on Cody Parkey's in the final minute of the Chicago tried a 2-point

# Cooper, Cowboys run away from Redskins

Field Level Media

threw for a season-high Ezekiel Elliott on a sured in the second half. Lawrence intercepted starter since Alex Smith McCoy threw a 10-yard 289 yards with two long fourth-and-inches try He finished 22 of 31 and scoring passes to Amari with 5:27 left to get the rushed six times for 18 Cooper, and the Dal- ball back at their own 32. yards. las Cowboys celebrated However, safety Antwaun Thanksgiving by working Woods came up with the yards, including his 18th their way into a tie for Cowboys' third intercep- career 100-yard rushing first place in the NFC East tion of Washington quarwith a 31-23 win over terback Colt McCoy four this season. the Washington Redskins plays later. on Thursday, Nov. 22, in Arlington, Texas.

drives in the third quar- the game. ter — scores of 40 and Cooper had eight catch— the rest, running away 90 yards — to blow the es for 180 yards and from the Redskins' secgame open for the Cow- the two touchdowns. ondary down the left

quarter, DALLAS — Dak Prescott Redskins (6-5) stuffed 10 times, was rarely pres-

Redskins drove inside the an in-cutting route from Prescott and Cooper Cowboys 15 but settled for left to right. Prescott hit connected for touch- a 31-yard Dustin Hopkins Cooper on the numbers downs on back-to-back field goal with 1:13 left in between three Washing-

Prescott, under siege in sideline for the final 75 Trailing 31-20 in the the first half when he was yards.

the sacked four times and hit

Elliott added 143 total game and NFL-best sixth Dallas went up 24-13

After another stop, the on the 90-yard score on ton defenders. Cooper did

Washington, Demarcus yards in his first week as left in the third quarter. McCoy a few plays later sustained a broken leg. and the avalanche of and the other by Preston to trail 31-20. Smith — to score on a play.

into the oversized, red tion pass from Prescott Cowboys led 31-13.

three times and sacked on the score. three times. He complet-

Oklahoma City 123, Golden State 95

Friday's Games

Minnesota at Brooklyn, 11 a.m.

Memphis at L.A. Clippers, 2:30 p.m.

New Orleans at New York, 6:30 p.m. Cleveland at Philadelphia, 6:30 p.m. Washington at Toronto, 6:30 p.m.

San Antonio at Indiana, 7 p.m.

Utah at L.A. Lakers, 9:30 p.m. Saturday's Games

Miami at Chicago, 7 p.m. Charlotte at Oklahoma City, 7 p.m.

Phoenix at Milwaukee, 7:30 p.m.
Orlando at Denver, 8 p.m.
Portland at Golden State, 9:30 p.m.

Houston at Cleveland, 6:30 p.m.
New Orleans at Washington, 7 p.m.
Chicago at Minnesota, 7 p.m.
Denver at Oklahoma City, 7 p.m.

Boston at Dallas, 7:30 p.m. San Antonio at Milwaukee, 7:30 p.m.

Sacramento at Golden State, 7:30 p.m.

Houston at Detroit, 6 p.m. Boston at Atlanta, 6:30 p.m. Running back Kapri

momentum fell on Dal- Bibbs punched in a 1-yard las' side. Prescott capped touchdown over centhe ensuing drive, twice ter with 11:43 left in the evading a sack — one game, and the Redskins attempt by Jonathan Allen opted for an extra point

The Cowboys reclaimed 5-yard run on a broken the lead midway through the third quarter on a Elliott lifted Prescott third-and-2 play-ac-Salvation Army kettle to Cooper, who made his behind the end zone to third third-down recepcelebrate the TD, and the tion of the game and sprinted 40 yards to pay-McCoy was intercepted dirt. Dallas went up 17-13

Washington claimed ond quarter.

further deflate ed 24 of 38 passes for 268 its first lead with 9:02 TD pass to slot receiver Trey Quinn, who set up to score with a 30-yard punt return.

> Elliott gave the Cowboys a 7-0 lead by capping the opening drive of the game with a 16-yard touchdown run. After depositing six on the scoreboard, Elliott stuffed \$21 — matching his uniform number — in the kettle.

> Vernon Davis pulled the Redskins even at 7, hauling in a 53-yard touchdown pass from McCoy with 7:04 left in the sec-

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East						
	W	L	Т	Pct PF	PA	
New England	7	3	0	.700 280	236	
Miami	5	5	0	.500 199	256	
N.Y. Jets	3	7	0	.300 208	254	
Buffalo	3	7	0	.300 137	251	
South						
	W	L	Т	Pct PF	PA	
Houston	7	3	0	.700 239	205	
Indianapolis	5	5	0	.500 298		
Tennessee	5	5	0	.500 178	189	
Jacksonville	3	7	0	.300 176	219	
North						
	W	L	Т	Pct PF	PA	
Pittsburgh	7	2	1	.750 299	225	
Baltimore	5	5	0	.500 237	181	
Cincinnati	5	5	0	.500 256	312	
Cleveland	3	6	1	.350 218	263	
West						
	W	L	Т	Pct PF	PA	
Kansas City	9	2	0	.818 404	294	
L.A. Chargers	7	3	0	.700 262	209	
Denver	4	6	0	.400 228	235	
Oakland	2	8	0	.200 170	293	
National Football Conference						

East 5 0 6 0 7 0 .545 220 229 Washington Philadelphia .400 205 231 N.Y. Giants .300 215 263 South **T** 0 0 Pct PF PA New Orleans .900 378 239 Carolina .600 260 252 6 0 7 0 .400 263 276 .300 267 329 Atlanta Tampa Bay North W L T 8 3 0 Pct PF PA .727 317 211 Chicago Minnesota 550 241 229 Green Bay 450 247 243 .364 238 286 West **W L T** 10 1 0 Pct PF PA 909 389 282 L.A. Rams .500 246 216 .200 230 266 .200 145 248

Arizona Week 12 Thursday's Games Chicago 23, Detroit 16 Dallas 31, Washington 23 Atlanta at New Orleans, 7:20 p.m.

Sunday's Games N.Y. Giants at Philadelphia, 12 p.m. New England at N.Y. Jets, 12 p.m. Cleveland at Cincinnati, 12 p.m. Seattle at Carolina, 12 p.m. Jacksonville at Buffalo, 12 p.m. San Francisco at Tampa Bay, 12 p.m. Oakland at Baltimore, 12 p.m. Arizona at L.A. Chargers, 3:05 p.m. Miami at Indianapolis, 3:25 p.m. Pittsburgh at Denver, 3:25 p.m. Green Bay at Minnesota, 7:20 p.m. Monday's Games Tennessee at Houston, 7:15 p.m. Week 13

Thursday's Games New Orleans at Dallas, 7:20 p.m. Sunday's Games
Baltimore at Atlanta, 12 p.m.
Denver at Cincinnati, 12 p.m. Carolina at Tampa Bay, 12 p.m. Chicago at N.Y. Giants, 12 p.m. Buffalo at Miami, 12 p.m. L.A. Rams at Detroit, 12 p.m. Arizona at Green Bay, 12 p.m.

Cleveland at Houston, 12 p.m. Indianapolis at Jacksonville, 12 p.m. N.Y. Jets at Tennessee, 3:05 p.m. Kansas City at Oakland, 3:05 p.m. Minnesota at New England, 3:25 p.m. San Francisco at Seattle, 3:25 p.m L.A. Chargers at Pittsburgh, 7:20 p.m. Monday's Games Washington at Philadelphia, 7:15 p.m.

Chicago 23 Detroit 16 Chicago 0 9 0 9 014— 23 0 7 63— 16 Detroit Second Quarter
DET—Blount 4 yard rush (Prater kick), 9:03.

Thursday's results

CHI—Parkey 40 yard field goal, 3:58.
CHI—Mizzell 10 yard pass from C.Daniel (Robinson II pass from C.Daniel - failed), 0:40.

Florida DET—Blount 4 yard rush (Golladay pass from Stafford - failed), 1:35. Fourth Quarter
CHI—Cohen 14 yard pass from C.Daniel
(Parkey kick), 13:40.
DET—Prater 20 yard field goal, 7:44. Washington Carolina

CHI-E.Jackson 41 yard interception return

TEAM STATISTICS				
	CHI	DET		
First Downs	19	17		
Total Net Yards	264	333		
Rushes-Yds	15-38	24-111		
Passing	226	222		
Sacked-Yds Lost	4-12	2-14		
Comp-Att-Int	28-38-0	28-38-2		
Punts	5-47.0	5-45.4		
Punt Returns	4-46	3-25		
Kickoff Returns	1-17	0-0		
Interceptions Ret.	2-41	0-0		
Penalties-Yards	3-20	5-54		
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	0-0		
Time of Possession	27:14	32:46		
INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS				
RUSHING- CHI, Cohen 3-14, J.Howard 7-13				
M:II 4 7 O D:-	1 4 4 DE	T DI		

Mizzell 1-7, C.Daniel 4-4. DET, Blount 19-88, Riddick 2-12, Zenner 2-9, Ellington PASSING- CHI. C.Daniel 27-37-0-230

PASSING- CHI, C.Daniel 27-37-0-230, A.Miller 1-1-0-8. DET, Stafford 28-38-2-236. RECEIVING- CHI, Gabriel 7-49, Cohen 7-45, T.Burton 4-28, A.Miller 3-41, Robinson II 2-37, Mizzell 2-21, C.Daniel 1-8, Bellamy 1-7, J.Howard 1-2, DET, Riddick 7-48, Ellington 6-28, Golladay 5-90, M.Roberts 3-16, Bellore 2-12, Blount 1-15, TJ.Jones 1-15, An.Jones 1-4, Zenner 1-4, Willson MISSED FIELD GOALS- CHI, None. DET,

 Dallas 31 Washington 23

 Washington 0 7 610— 23

 Dallas 7 3 14 7— 31

DAL-E.Elliott 16 yard rush (Maher kick), 10:02. 10:02. Second Quarter WAS—V.Davis 53 yard pass from C.McCoy (Du.Hopkins kick), 7:04. DAL—Maher 28 yard field goal, 1:28.

Third Quarter WAS—T.Quinn 10 yard pass from C.McCoy(-

Kick failed), 9:02.

DAL—A.Cooper 40 yard pass from Prescott (Maher kick), 6:47. DAL-A.Cooper 90 yard pass from Prescott (Maher kick), 2:10. Fourth Quarter

DAL—Prescott 5 yard rush (Maher kick), 14:11. —Bibbs 1 yard rush (Du.Hopkins kick),

WAS—Du.Hopkins 31 yard field goal, 1:13. TEAM STATISTICS

	WAS	DAL
irst Downs	18	20
otal Net Yards	331	404
ushes-Yds	20-80	34-146
assing	251	258
acked-Yds Lost	3-17	4-3
omp-Att-Int	24-38-3	22-31-0
unts	5-45.6	6-47.8
unt Returns	2-40	0-0
ickoff Returns	1-44	1-19
terceptions Ret.	0-0	3-14
enalties-Yards	4-25	4-30
umbles-Lost	2-0	1-0
ime of Possession	26:37	33:23
IDIVIDUAL STATISTIC		
USHING- WAS, A.Pet		
Coy 5-28, Bibbs 3-17. D		ott 26-12
Prescott 6-18, Rd.Smith		
ASSING- WAS, C.M.		-38-3-26
DAL, Prescott 22-31-0-3	289.	

68. RECEIVING- WAS, Jo.Reed 6-75, Doctson

6-66, T.Quinn 5-26, Bibbs 3-19, V.Davis 2-73, A.Peterson 2-9. DAL, A.Cooper 8-180, E.Elliott 5-22, Jarwin 2-25, Gallup 2-19, N.Brown 1-22, Olawale 1-10, Hurns 4-7, Poselut 5, Schult 1 (migust 1) 1-7, Beasley 1-5, Schultz 1-(minus 1). MISSED FIELD GOALS- WAS, None, DAL,

HOCKEY

Buffalo

Boston

Montreal

NY Islanders 9 9 2 0 20 60 63 8 8 2 2 20 69 67 9 10 2 0 20 65 76 Philadelphia

Western Conference **Central Division** Winnipeg Colorado Dallas

Calgary Edmonton Vegas Arizona Los Angeles 21 7 13 1

Tuesday's Games

Edmonton 4, San Jose 3, OT

Wednesday's Games

New Jersey 5, Montreal 2

NY Rangers 5, NY Islanders 0

Pittsburgh 5, Dallas 1 Washington 4, Chicago 2 Carolina 5, Toronto 2 Buffalo 5, Philadelphia 2 Detroit 3, Boston 2, OT Detroit 3, Boston 2, OT Tampa Bay 7, Florida 3 Nashville 4, St. Louis 1 Minnesota 6, Ottawa 4 Vegas 3, Arizona 2, OT Anaheim 4, Vancouver 3 Calgary 6, Winnipeg 3 Colorado 7, Los Angeles 3 Friday's Games Montreal at Buffalo, 3 p.m. NY Islanders at New Jersey, 3 p.m. Detroit at Washington, 3 p.m. Calgary at Vegas, 5 p.m. Toronto at Columbus, 6 p.m.

Colorado at Arizona, 7 p.m. Nashville at St. Louis, 7 p.m. Ottawa at Dallas, 7 p.m.

**BASKETBALL** 

### National Basketball Association

Eastern Conference Atlantic W L Pct GB 15 4 .789 — 13 7 .650 2.5 9 9 .500 5.5 5.5 7.0 **Boston** 11 .421 7.0 14 .263 10.0 Brooklyn 5 14 .263

Central

W L Pct
13 4 .765
11 7 .611
8 7 .533
5 13 .278 GB Milwaukee 2.5 Indiana 2.5 3.33 4.0 3.278 8.5 2.14 .125 10.5 Southeast W L P Detroit Chicago L Pct 8 .529 9 .500 Charlotte Orlando 11 .353 11 .353 15 .167 3.0 3.0 6.5 Washington

Western Conference Northwest L Pct GB W 6 .667 6 .647 7 .611 10 .444 11 .389 Portland .5 Oklahoma City 1.0 4.0 5.0 Denver 8 7 Minnesota **Pacific** L Pct 6 .647 7 .632 7 .588 8 .556 **W** GB L.A. Clippers Golden State L.A. Lakers 1.0 10 10 Sacramento Phoenix 14 .176 8.0 Southwest

Fest L Pct 5 .706 7 .562 8 .556 9 .471 9 .471 2.5 2.5 4.0 San Antonio Wednesday's Games Charlotte 127, Indiana 109 Philadelphia 121, New Orleans 120

10

Houston

New Orleans

Pct GB

Toronto 124, Atlanta 108
New York 117, Boston 109
L.A. Lakers 109, Cleveland 105
Chicago 124, Phoenix 116
Houston 126, Detroit 124
Milwaukee 143, Portland 100
Denver 103, Minnesota 101
Dallas 119, Brooklyn 113
Memphis 104, San Antonio 103
Sacramento 119, Utah 110
Oklahoma City 123, Golden State

24 10 12 0 2 22 73 88 21 10 10 1 0 21 61 69 23 10 12 0 1 21 61 70 20 9 9 2 0 20 51 51 21 7 13 1 0 15 44 68

NY Rangers at Philadelphia, 12 p.m. Edmonton at Anaheim, 3 p.m. Winnipeg at Minnesota, 3 p.m. Pittsburgh at Boston, 6:30 p.m. Chicago at Tampa Bay, 6:30 p.m. Florida at Carolina. 6:30 p.m.

Vancouver at San Jose. 8 p.m.

### **TRANSACTIONS** Thursday

Football

Football
Mational Football League
Arizona Cardinals - Added LB Vontarrius
Dora to the practice squad.
Cincinnati Bengals - Placed DT Josh Tupou
on IR, Signed NT Niles Scott.
Detroit Lions - Cut DE Eric Lee.
New Orleans Saints - Cut G Chaz Green.
Oakland Raiders - Placed DT Justin Ellis on
IR/Designated for Return list IR/Designated for Return list.

National Baskethall Association Brooklyn Nets - Assigned SG Dzanan Musa and SF Rodions Kurucs to Long Island and SF I (NBAGL).

National Hockey League
Arizona Coyotes - Announced RW Josh
Archibald has served his suspension.
Assigned RW Mario Kempe to Tucson Calgary Flames - Placed D Michael Stone

and RW Michael Frolik on IR.
Colorado Avalanche - Waived C Marko Dano.
Dallas Stars - Assigned D Ben Gleason to
Texas (AHL). Recalled D Taylor Fedun from Texas (AHL). Edmonton Oilers - Acquired D Chris Wideman from the Ottawa Senators for a conditional 2020 sixth-round draft pick.

Clorida Panthers - Waived D Josh Brown.

Montreal Canadiens - Recalled D Brett Kulak from Laval (AHL). Philadelphia Flyers - Assigned RW Nico-las Aube-Kubel to Lehigh Valley (AHL). Recalled LW Tyrell Goulbourne from Lehigh

Pittsburgh Penguins - Placed G Matt Murray on IR. Recalled G Tristan Jarry from Wil-kes-Barre/Scranton (AHL). Vancouver Canucks - Assigned C Brendan Gaunce to Utica (AHL). Recalled C Reid Boucher from Utica (AHL).

Vegas Golden Knights - Assigned RW Tomas Hyka to Chicago (AHL). Recalled RW Daniel Carr from Chicago (AHL).

### **LOCAL CALENDAR** Friday, Nov. 23

Girls Hockey River Lakes at Roseau, 7:30 p.m.

Marshall Tournament MBA vs. Marshall, 3:45 p.m. Girls Basketball Tip-Off Classic - Sleepy Eye-St. Mary's Central Minnesota Christian Sci Sleepy Eye-St. Mary's, 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 24

Girls Hockey River Lakes at Warroad, 1 p.m. Girls Basketball

Tip-Off Classic - Sleepy Eye-St. Mary's Central Minnesota Christian School vs. Sleepy Eye, 4 p.m.

#### State Football Playoffs Prep Bowl XXXVII

Friday, Nov. 23 10 a.m. Nine-Man: Spring Grove (13-0) vs. 10 a.m. Nine-wan: Spring Grove (13-0) v Mountain Lake (12-0) 1 p.m. Class 2A: Caledonia (12-0) vs. Barnesville (11-2) 4 p.m. Class 4A: SMB (12-0) vs. Willmar (11-1)

(11-1) 7 p.m. Class 6A: Eden Prairie (10-1) vs. Lakeville North (12-0) Saturday, Nov. 24 10 a.m. Class 1A: BOLD (13-0) vs. Mahnomen/Waubun (12-0)

1 p.m. Class 3A: Rochester Lourdes (13-0) vs. Fairmont (11-1) 4 p.m. Class 5A: Owatonna (12-0) vs. St. Thomas Academy (12-0)

### State Semifinals Thursday, Nov. 15 Nine-Man: Spring Grove 48, Crom-

well-Wright 12 Class 2A: Caledonia 40, Paynesville 6 Class 4A: SMB 23, Waseca 15 Class 6A: Eden Prairie 34, Blaine 14

Friday, Nov. 16 Nine-Man: Mountain Lake Area 42, Mountain

Iron-Buhl 8 Class 2A: Barnesville 34, Minneapolis

North 20 Class 5A: Owatonna 39, Elk River 8 Class 4A: Willmar 62, St. Paul Johnson 20 Class 6A: Lakeville North 35, Lakeville South 13

Saturday, Nov. 17 Class 1A: BOLD 37, Blooming Prairie 7 Class 1A: Mahnomen/Waubun 38, Springfield 0 Class 3A: Rochester Lourdes 25, Pierz 20

Class 3A: Fairmont 29, Perham 14 Class 5A: St. Thomas Academy 33, Bemidji

### **SPORTS ON TV** Friday, Nov. 23

### Auto Racing: Formula One: Abu Dhabi Grand Prix prac-

tice, 2:55 a.m. ESPN2 College Basketball:
Battle 4 Atlantis third-place: Teams TBD,
10:30 a.m., ESPN AdvoCare Invitational semifinal: Teams TBD, 10:30 a.m., ESPN2

Battle 4 Atlantis championship: Teams TBD, 1 p.m., ESPN Wooden Legacy semifinal: Teams TBD, 1 p.m., ESPN2

Robert Morris at Purdue, 1 p.m., BTN

Las Vegas Invitational third-place: Teams TBD, 3 p.m., FOX Chattanooga at Michigan, 3 p.m., BTN AdvoCare Invitational semifinal, 3:30 p.m.,

Marshall at Maryland, 5 p.m., BTN Las Vegas Invitational championship, 5:30 p.m., FOX NIT Tip-Off third-place: Teams TBD, 6 p.m., ESPN2

Emerald Coast Classic: George Mason vs. Cincinnati, 6 p.m., CBSSN Cleveland State at Ohio State, 7 p.m., FS1 NIT Tip-Off championship: Teams TBD, 8

p.m., ESPN2
Emerald Coast Classic: Baylor vs. Ole Miss, 8:30 p.m., CBSSN
Las Vegas Invitational third-place: Teams
TBD, 9 p.m., FS1

IBD, 9 p.m., FS1
Wooden Legacy semifinal: Teams TBD, 10:30 p.m., ESPN2
Las Vegas Holiday Invitational championship: Teams TBD, 11:30 p.m., FS1
College Football:
Houston at Memphis, 11 a.m., ABC

Houston at Memphis, 11 a.m., ABC Nebraska at Iowa, 11 a.m., FOX Texas at Kansas, 11 a.m., FS1 Akron at Ohio, 11 a.m., CBSSN Arkansas at Missouri, 1:30 p.m., CBS Virginia at Virginia Tech, 2:30 p.m., ABC Teams TBA, 2:30 p.m., CBSSN Teams TBA, 3 p.m., ESPN Oregon at Oregon State, 3 p.m., FS1 Oklahoma at West Virginia, 7 p.m., ESPN Washington at Washington State, 7:30 p.m., FOX College Hockey:

Michigan State University at Minnesota, 7 p.m., FSN Anchorage Alaska at North Dakota, 7:30 p.m., MidcoSN College Volleyball: Minnesota at Penn State, 7 p.m., BTN

PGA Tour: ISPS Handa Melbourne World Cup, 7 p.m., GOLF

European Tour: Hong Kong, midnight, GOLF Minnesota at Brooklyn, 11 a.m., FSN

New York Rangers at Philadelphia, noon, NBC Winnipeg at Minnesota, 3 p.m., FSN Chicago at Tampa Bay, 6:30 p.m., NBCSN

Premiership: Harlequins at Worcester, 1:30 p.m., NBCSN

Saturday, Nov. 24 Auto Racing: Formula One: Abu Dhabi Grand Prix prac-Emerald Coast Classic championship Teams TBD, 6 p.m., CBSSN

College Football: Florida at Florida State, 11 a.m., ABC Michigan at Ohio State, 11 a.m., FOX Syracuse at Boston College, 11 a.m., ESPN Purdue at Indiana, 11 a.m., ESPN2 Teams TBA, 11 a.m., FS1 Western Kentucky at Louisiana Tech, 11 a.m., CBSSN

Auburn at Alabama, 2:30 p.m., CBS Maryland at Penn State, 2:30 p.m., ABC Teams TBA, 2:30 p.m., ESPN Teams TBA, 2:30 p.m., ESPN2 Teams TBA, 2:30 p.m., CBSSN Illinois at Northwestern, 2:30 p.m., BTN Minnesota at Wisconsin, 2:30 p.m., ESPN or ESPN2 Teams TBA, 3 p.m., FS1

Rutgers at Michigan State, 3 p.m., FOX Bayou Classic: Southern vs. Grambling State, 4 p.m., NBCSN Kentucky at Louisville, 6 p.m., ESPN2 South Carolina at Clemson, 6:30 p.m., ESPN Teams TBA, 6:30 p.m., FS1

Notre Dame at Southern California, 7 p.m.

Teams TBA, 7 p.m., FOX Nevada at University of Las Vegas, 8:30 p.m., CBSSN Teams TBA 9:30 n m ESPN2 Teams TBA, 10 p.m., FS1

College Hockey: Michigan State University at Minnesota, 7 p.m., FSN+ Anchorage Alaska at North Dakota, 7:30 p.m., MidcoSN College Volleyball:
Wisconsin at Penn State, 7 p.m., BTN
College Wrestling:

Purdue at Iowa, noon, BTN PGA Tour: ISPS Handa Melbourne World Cup, 7 p.m., GOLF European Tour: Hong Kong, midnight, GOLF

Chicago at Minnesota, 7 p.m., FSN

Chicago at Willingsott, P. P. P. Skling:
FIS Alpine World Cup: Xfinity Killington Cup,
Women's Giant Slalom, noon, NBCSN
FIS Alpine World Cup: Xfinity Killington Cup,
Women's Giant Slalom, 2 p.m., NBC Soccer:

Premier League: Teams TBA, 8:55 a.m., Premier League: Chelsea at Tottenham, 11:30 a.m., NBC

Auto Racing: Formula One: Abu Dhabi Grand Prix, 7:05 a.m. ESPN2 CFL:

Sunday, Nov. 25

106th Grey Cup: Teams TBD, 5:30 p.m., College Basketball:

AdvoCare Invitational championship: Teams TBD, noon, ESPN Women's: Stony Brook at Penn State, noon, AdvoCare Invitational third-place: Teams

TBD, 3 p.m., ESPN2
Wooden Legacy championship: Teams TBD, 9:30 p.m., ESPN2 Teams TBA, noon, CBS Teams TBA, noon, FOX

Teams TBA, 3:25 p.m., CBS Green Bay at Minnesota, 7:20 p.m., NBC NHL: Skiing: FIS Alpine World Cup: Xfinity Killington Cup, Women's Giant Slalom, noon, NBCSN

7:25 a.m., NBCSN Bundesliga: Werder Bremen at SC Freiburg, 8:30 a.m., FS1

Premier League: Huddersfield Town at Wolves, 9:55 a.m., NBCSN MLS Eastern Conference Championship:

New York at Atlanta

WILLMAR, MINN.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2018

\$1.00



Joe Brown / Tribune

This season, the Willmar football players have been honoring Jenna Reynolds with a sticker on their helmets. Jenna Reynolds, 13, died on

PLAYING FOR JENNA

laggert Reynolds and his family live by the creed: "Live every day by the moment." They don't look ahead because there may not be a tomorrow. That's been the reality for the Reynolds

By Joe Brown

Taggert's mom, Brenda, has been battling various forms of cancer for 12 years. And this past July, his younger sister Jenna passed away after her own battle with

Still, Taggert is living in the moment. With a heavy heart, he has helped the Willmar football team reach its biggest moment: a showdown today with SMB (St. Paul Academy/Minnehaha Academy/Blake) in the Prep Bowl. "Have the best day you can that day, then keep moving forward," Taggert said. "Keep walking, keep pushing, be strong."

'Make the best of it'

Battling cancer has been the norm for the Reynolds family. Brenda has Li-Fraumeni Syndrome, which makes her susceptible to develop certain kinds of cancer while being unable to suppress tumors. Today, she's battling lung cancer and is undergoing chemotherapy at home.

"Things are holding stable," Brenda

In February 2016, the family received stunning news: Jenna had a brain tumor. In March 2016, Jenna had the first of four surgeries to remove the

She underwent radiation, chemotherapy and participated in clinical trials to rid her body of

**JENNA:** Page A8

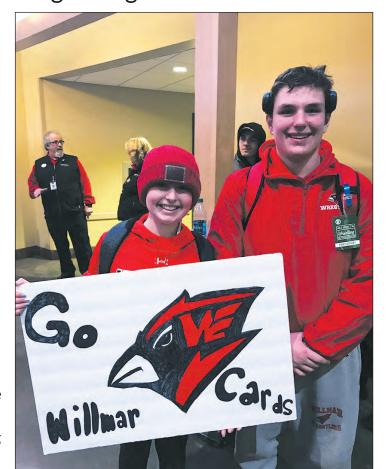


Photo submitted by Brenda Reynolds Unable to play basketball anymore due to a brain tumor, Jenna Reynolds, left, turned to art, making a poster for her brother Taggert and the Willmar wrestling team during the state wrestling tournament last season.

I use my sports to go get it all out. Get my anger out. Get my questioning out. Just let it out and play harder. That's what I use for my inspiration.

**TAGGERT REYNOLDS** 

More Willmar Cardinal football coverage on B1.

# Murder suspect defers entering a plea

By Anne Polta

July 18 after a battle with cancer.

apolta@wctrib.com

WILLMAR – A suspect in the stabbing death last month of a 24-year-old Willmar man deferred entering a plea during a brief initial appearance Wednesday in Kandiyohi County District Court.

Caleb Aaron Blue, 35, faces a second-degree Blue murder charge in connection with the death of David Medellin Jr. The Wednesday's

victim's body was found Judge Dwayne Knutsen field east of Willmar.



hearing.

known as

state to request a DNA Blue, also sample from the suspect.

DNA was collected when Caleb Aaron Blue was arrested but the Jorgenson, Kandiyohi County Attornext nev's Office asked for an appear in additional sample, saying court Jan. it would aid in analyzing 31 for an the evidence gathered by omnibus investigators at the scene and elsewhere, includ-During ing vehicles allegedly hearing, involved in the crime.

\$2 million bail.

and Medellin Blue video in the Jackpot Junction casino near Morton in the early morning hours of Oct. 25.

The motive for Medel- rural road. Blue allegedlin's murder remains ly stabbed Medellin, who then ran into the field.

reportedly were seen on charged as an accomplice. Lori Jean Harris Gafkjen, 51, of Brooten, after Medellin's death jail and he was an inmate. According to the crimi- and drove him to Glennal complaint filed in the wood for medical treat- three felony counts of case, Blue allegedly drove ment of a deep cut on his aiding an offender.

Blue is being held in the Medellin back to Willmar hand. Gafkjen also was Oct. 31 in a muddy farm granted a motion by the Kandiyohi County Jail on and made him get out of with Blue when both were the vehicle on a gravel arrested Nov. 5 outside a motel in Anoka County.

Gafkjen is a former correctional officer at the A second suspect is Kandiyohi County Jail but was no longer employed there in October. She and Blue allegedly met while allegedly picked up Blue she was working at the

She is charged with

## Young woman alleges harassment by Montevideo Police chief

## Court has granted temporary restraining order

**By Linda Vanderwerf** lvanderwerf@wctrib.com

MONTEVIDEO – An 18-yearold woman has been granted against Montevi-

some of a sexual

requested by

A harassment restraining order is a civil court action.

A temporary restraining order a harassment restraining order prohibits Christopher from having contact with the woman deo Police Chief through phone calls, email or social networking. He is also pher, alleging that barred from the woman's home hundreds of texts, order will be in effect until November 2020 unless it is changed by the court after the hearing Nov. 28 hearing.

p.m. Nov. 28 in Chippewa Coun- the woman wrote that Christo-

ty District Court in Montevideo. pher was an acquaintance - the father of a taekwondo classmate and a Facebook friend. In 2017, when she was 17 years old, they began a casual texting and messaging, "and it was fine."

The woman alleges that things changed Nov. 7, when Christopher's texts and Facebook meshe has sent her or place of employment. The sages became sexual in nature him stalking her in person, she hundreds.

When the increase in texting In her petition for the started, "I usually conversed Christopher is scheduled for 2 restraining order, filed Nov. 15, with him, because I didn't know how else to respond," the

woman wrote in the petition.

She alleged that Christopher called her "tempting" and said he wanted to kiss her "starting with my collarbone and move down.'

Christopher would ask where she was and ask her to come find him. "When I refuse, he continues to ask and ask....," she wrote. While she's not aware of and much more frequent. She wrote, he has said, "Next time said the texts numbered in the I'm up there, I'll stalk you," referring to the city where she goes to college.

The woman wrote that she felt frightened and threatened by Christopher and feared retal-

iation from him for filing the petition. She also wrote that she feared the harassment would continue.

"I feel like he is using his power and his relationship with my family," she wrote. "He feels that gives him the right."

Attempts to contact Christopher and Montevideo City Administrator Steve Jones were unsuccessful Wednesday. Montevideo

City Council President Marvin Garbe said in a telephone interview that he was aware of the situation, but he referred questions about the city's reaction to it to Jones.

TUESDAY:

Men's Day -\$2 off Men's Haircuts & 20% off Men's Products

**WEDNESDAY:** Kids' Day -\$2 off Kids' Haircuts

THURSDAY: Ladies Day -15% off all Services or Products

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**WEATHER** OPINION

**OBITUARIES** A2 **FAITH** 

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85186 00140

### **JENNA**

From Page A1

But in January 2018, Jenna was again diagnosed with a brain tumor. In July, there was significant tumor growth that was too aggressive for chemo or surgery. Jenna was put in hospice

Taggert remembers the calamity around the house in those final days.

"There was a lot of nurses staying at our house. Both my aunts are nurses and RNs, so they stayed overnight for six, seven days until (Jenna) passed," Taggert said. "We had family there every day. There was not a lot of privacy. We woke up every day and there's people at our house, people coming to visit, people bringing food. Sometimes it was really overwhelming, especially when people started coming in and started talking to you."

In a dour situation, Jenna didn't want her family dwelling over her in those final days.

"She basically told us: 'Why waste these last few days with her?" Taggert said. "Have fun, make the best of it. She shouldn't bring us down; she should be inspiring

Jenna died on July 18, at 13 years old, leaving behind her parents, Troy and Brenda, her twin sister, Jorja, and her older brother.

"I think the family felt a sense of calm when she passed because she had been suffering a lot," said Willmar head football coach Jon Konold. "They had that closure."

Around the time of Jenna's death, Willmar had its football camp, and Taggert had an



Photos by Joe Brown / Tribune As a sophomore, Taggert Reynolds has made an impact as the center on the Willmar offensive line.

outlet for his sorrow.

**Getting it out** 

Being around the guys helped ease Taggert's pain. Along with his mom's cancer battle, sports have proven to be Taggert's catharsis in

"I use my sports to go get it all out," said Taggert, who also wrestles and throws shot put and discus on the track team. "Get my anger out. Get my questioning out. Just let it out and play harder. That's what I use for my inspiration. It's going to be tough after the season ends. But as soon as wrestling starts, I'm better."

Konold added, "He wants to be around the guys. He wants to make

sure he's staying busy and I think that helps him."

The center for the Cardinals' offense, Taggert has shown poise uncommon for a sophomore.

"He's got a lot of leadership qualities. He's only a sophomore, but he's the most vocal kid on the line," Konold said. "He also plays a little nasty, and he's brought that to the table. He and Andrew Reigstad have that nasty streak to them and the other guys have bought into that and developed into doing those things as well."

Through Taggert and the team's success, sports have also provided a getaway for the rest of the family.

"It gives us something



Willmar's Taggert Reynolds, right, puts a block on a Becker defender during a regular-season game on Oct. 12 at Hodapp Field.

Taggert's a kid that has a good head on his shoulders. He also has a good support system and I can't say that enough. Coaches, kids, teachers, they look out for him when we can't. He's really taken all this and turned it into a way to better himself.

#### **BRENDA REYNOLDS**

to look forward to every week," Brenda said. "It's pulled family and friends together. He's got a good little cheering section with family. It brings us all together through this time and we keep revisiting each other and staying active, and it's fun at the same time."

Taggert's family is fully invested. They're talking to him after every game and pointing out every big block he makes while watching a replay of the contest.

After years of watching his mom battle cancer, Taggert knows the therapeutic benefits of his family's cheers.

"(A) big thing about battling this with my mom is staying happy," Taggert said. "When you're happy, your body fights better. The way you fight when you're not sad or down, you have a will. You keep pushing. And my mom's fighting as hard as she can."

#### A constant reminder

Taggert doesn't need to look far to find motivation. On the back of every player's helmet is a tribute, with a sticker with Jenna's name between a pair of wings.

"We pray before every game. I play for her this season," Taggert said, showing off the worn sticker on his No. 59 helmet. "I dedicated my season to her, to play harder and play my best for her."

Brenda said one of the other sophomores on the team, Tyler Ludwig, came up with the sticker memorial.

"(Taggert) said, 'I'm fine with it as long as it says Jenna or has to do with her and not me," Brenda said.

"The day we put them on, I got tears in my eyes," Taggert said. "But now when I see them, I get happy. I use it as an inspiration and know she's always with me

during the games and she's watching over us, keeping us safe from injuries and pushing us through games."

With Taggert pushing through personal pain, Willmar got back to state for the first time since 1988, which was the start of Brenda's senior year at Willmar High School.

"Taggert's a kid that has a good head on his shoulders," Brenda said. "He also has a good support system and I can't say that enough. Coaches, kids, teachers, they look out for him when we can't. He's really taken all this and turned it into a way to better himself."

This afternoon the Cardinals will play in their first state final since 1973, hoping to win the Class AAAA championship for the school's first football title.

"To be able to support these boys succeeding and putting their heart into this, it's huge," Brenda said. "Being able to follow them in a community that has poured their hearts out to support us, it's been great. Seeing all the boys, especially Taggert, overcoming something like this, dedicating games to (Jenna), it's just amazing.'

Through it all, Taggert has lived in the moment. Win or lose, Jenna's inspiration has pushed Taggert to get better. Helping Willmar achieve a first for the school would be the ultimate tribute to his sister.

"I can't put into words what I would feel," he said. "It would just be so amazing to get it for her, my mom and the whole family. It would be an awesome feeling to play with the best team Willmar's had, possibly ever."





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