

SPORTS



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27TH ANNUAL AMSOIL DULUTH NATIONAL SNOCROSS

NEW KING TO BE CROWNED

Hibbert's retirement opens up podium to younger riders

By Jon Nowacki
jnowacki@duluthnews.com

Lincoln Lemieux was at home in West Barnet, Vt., in May when he received a text from his girlfriend saying that Tucker Hibbert had retired from snocross racing at age 33. Lemieux was shocked. Hibbert was the Michael Jordan of the sport, the all-time winningest rider who Lemieux idolized growing up. Later, Lemieux competed against Hibbert on the Amsoil Championship Snocross series. The series kicks off with the 27th annual Amsoil Duluth National Snocross today through Sunday at Spirit Mountain, and the fact Hibbert won't be there racing hasn't sunken in for fans and racers alike.



Photos by Gary Walton / RideX365.com

Ski-doo rider Lincoln Lemieux is one of the riders looking to fill the void after the retirement of snocross legend Tucker Hibbert. Lemieux races with Aurora-based Scheuring Speed Sports.

AMSOIL DULUTH NATIONAL SNOCROSS

What: 27th annual world's largest three-day snowmobile race

When: Today-Sunday

Where: Spirit Mountain

Tonight's featured event: \$10,000-to-win Amsoil Dominator

Forecast: High temperature of 41 today with a chance of evening showers; 36 for Saturday and 25 for Sunday

Tickets: Adults, \$40-\$43 per day or \$75 package; ages 6-12, \$35 and \$55; 5 and under free

Shuttle service: From Proctor fairgrounds for \$10 per car; from Powerhouse Bar for \$7 per person, \$15 for weekend

Lemieux said of Hibbert's retirement. "It opens up a spot on the podium every weekend, for sure, because he was so consistent and so fast. Last year he had one of the best seasons ever. He went out on top."

Just how dominating was Hibbert? He captured his 11th Pro title last season, winning 11 of 17 finals and 27 of his 34 qualifying races. He kick-started the season last Thanksgiving by sweeping the Duluth

25 on Sunday, has three wins over the last two seasons and was the only Ski-doo rider to win last year. In fact, only three riders won last year: Hibbert (11 wins), Kamm (five) and Lemieux (one).

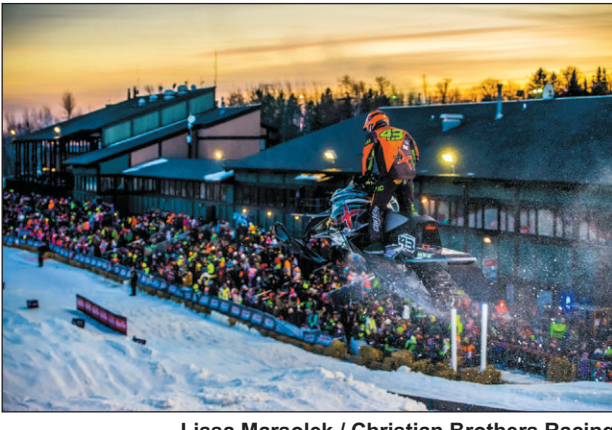


Lemieux



Kamm

Lemieux finished fifth in the points last season and should benefit from an improved sled. "Ski-doo really did their homework," team owner Steve Scheuring said. "They came out with a fantastic sled. I feel 10 times more confident going into this year. Lemieux has always had the talent and work ethic, and now he's got the sled to back it up. I truly believe Lincoln will be the one filling Tucker's shoes."



Lissa Marsolek / Christian Brothers Racing

Arctic Cat rider Logan Christian soars through the air at last year's Amsoil Duluth National Snocross at Spirit Mountain. Christian is one of the riders looking to fill the void after the retirement of snocross legend Tucker Hibbert.

National Pro titles for the sixth time in his career. Who's going to fill those snow boots? "I hope it's me,"

Lemieux said. "I think I'm one of the hardest workers, and I'm in better shape. I train as hard as I can." Lemieux, who turns

Kamm was second in points last season, Christian was third and Petter Narsa was fourth. Kamm, 24, could be the heir apparent, having won the points championship in 2017 and coming off a strong end to last



Christian

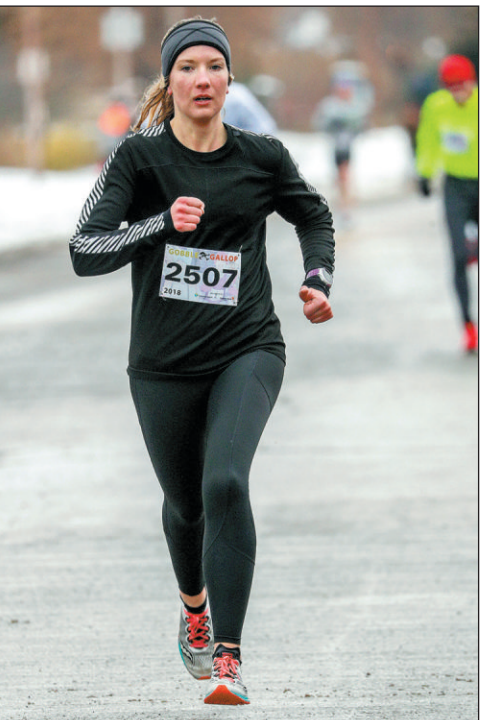
SNOCROSS: Page B5



Photos by Clint Austin / caustin@duluthnews.com

Runners, including Boniface Kongin (1113) of Kenya, leave the starting line of the Gobble Gallop 5K in Duluth on Thursday morning. Kongin was the overall winner with a time of 15:00. Earlier this year, Kongin placed second in the Twin Cities Marathon. For more, see Page B2.

Galloping before gobbling



Aria Plewa of Duluth approaches the finish line of the Gobble Gallop 5K in Duluth on Thursday morning. Plewa was the women's winner with a time of 18:45.

Rise of Bears means Vikings, Packers fight just to stay in division race

By Chris Tomasson
St. Paul Pioneer Press

EAGAN, Minn. — After the Minnesota Vikings and Green Bay Packers tied 29-29 in Week 2 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay, talk turned to the Week 12 rematch in Minneapolis 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 team would be

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

"I definitely didn't expect to be sitting where we're sitting, but our record is what it is," Green Bay quarterback Aaron Rodgers

said. "Obviously, Minnesota has a strong team. They're probably surprised where they're sitting as well. So I don't think either of us is out of the division race."

The Vikings lost a key game 25-20 at Chicago last week. The Bears, who beat the Lions 23-16 on Thursday in Detroit, have a much easier schedule to close the season than Minnesota.

VIKINGS: Page B5

With brawny Jets coming to town, Wild shuffle lines

By Brian Murphy
St. Paul Pioneer Press

ST. PAUL — Thursday morning brought the Minnesota 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. today at Xcel Energy Center, since the Jets blew the Wild out of the 2018

postseason. Boudreau's 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.

Marcus Foligno also moved up to left wing with Jonathan Eriksson Ek and Jordan Greenway. Niederreiter

found himself sharing left wing with reserve Matt Hendricks alongside Eric Fehr and J.T. Brown.

Niederreiter finished minus-3 with no shots in Minnesota's 6-4 victory Wednesday night over the Ottawa Senators. The Wild narrowly escaped with the win after Ottawa rallied for three goals in the third period to tie the game 4-4.

WILD: Page B3

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SCOREBOARD

TODAY'S EVENTS

Basketball

NBA

Timberwolves at Brooklyn, 11 a.m. (KDAL-AM 610/KDAL-FM 103.9)

COLLEGE WOMEN

Cornell at Minnesota, 3 p.m.

Wisconsin vs. Pittsburgh (Nashville, Tenn.), 5 p.m.

Hockey

NHL

Winnipeg at Wild, 3 p.m. (FSN/WDSM-AM 710/WDSM-FM 98.1)

COLLEGE MEN

Wisconsin at Michigan, 6:30 p.m.

Michigan State at Minnesota, 7 p.m. (FSN)

COLLEGE WOMEN

Minnesota at St. Lawrence, 3 p.m.

Minnesota Duluth at Clarkson, 5 p.m.

Harvard at Wisconsin, 7:07 p.m.

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS

Duluth Denfeld at Minnehaha Academy, 1 p.m.

Cloquet-Esko-Carlton vs. Lakeville North (Bloomington), 3 p.m.

Superior vs. Wausau West (Eau Claire, Wis.), 6:30 p.m.

Ashland at Amery, 7 p.m.

Eveleth-Gilbert at Red Wing, 7:30 p.m.

Little Falls at International Falls, 7:30 p.m.

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS

Duluth Marshall at St. Cloud tournament, TBA

Ashland at Mosinee, 1:30 p.m.

Hibbing vs. Blaine (Grand Rapids), 5 p.m.

Blake at Proctor-Hermantown (Proctor), 7 p.m.

White Bear Lake Area at Grand Rapids-Greenway, 7 p.m.

Edina at Duluth (Heritage Center), 7:30 p.m.

Princeton at Cloquet-Esko-Carlton, 7:30 p.m. (WKLK-AM 1230)

Friday's Games

Minnesota at Brooklyn, 11 a.m.

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

Houston at Detroit, 6 p.m.

Boston at Atlanta, 6:30 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.

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.

Utah at L.A. Lakers, 9:30 p.m.

Saturday's Games

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.

NCAA Division II Playoffs Saturday's Second Round

Hillsdale (10-2) at Notre Dame College (11-0), 11 a.m.

Northwest Missouri State (10-2) at Ferris State (12-0), noon

Slippery Rock (10-2) at New Haven (9-2), noon

Bowie State (9-3) at Valdosta State (10-0), noon

Wingate (9-3) at Lenoir-Rhyne (11-1), 1 p.m.

Indianapolis (10-1) at Ouachita Baptist (11-0), 1 p.m.

Texas A&M-Commerce (10-2) at Tarleton State (11-0), 1 p.m.

Colorado State-Pueblo (11-1) at Minnesota State-Mankato (11-0), 1 p.m.

NCAA Division III Playoffs Saturday's Second Round

RPI (9-1) at College of Brockport (11-0), 11 a.m.

Johns Hopkins (10-1) at Frostburg State (10-0), 11 a.m.

Centre College (10-1) at Mount Union (11-0), 11 a.m.

Randolph-Macon (9-2) at Muhlenberg (10-1), 11 a.m.

St. Norbert (10-1) at Wisconsin-Whitewater (11-0), noon

Berry (10-1) at Mary Hardin-Baylor (11-0), noon

Whitworth (10-0) at St. John's (11-0), noon

Bethel (10-1) at North Central (10-1), noon

Tampa Bay.....15 6 1 0 31

Toronto.....15 7 0 0 30

Buffalo.....14 6 2 0 30

Boston.....11 6 4 0 26

Montreal.....11 7 4 0 26

Detroit.....10 9 1 1 22

Ottawa.....9 10 3 0 21

Florida.....8 8 1 2 19

Metropolitan Division

W L OT SO Pts

Columbus.....12 7 1 1 26

NY Rangers.....12 8 2 0 26

Washington.....11 7 2 1 25

Carolina.....10 8 2 1 23

NY Islanders.....10 8 1 1 22

New Jersey.....9 9 2 0 20

Pittsburgh.....8 8 2 2 20

Philadelphia.....9 10 2 0 20

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

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

Today's Games

NY Rangers at Philadelphia, 12 p.m.

Edmonton at Anaheim, 3 p.m.

Winnipeg at Minnesota, 3 p.m.

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.

Pittsburgh at Boston, 6:30 p.m.

Chicago at Tampa Bay, 6:30 p.m.

Florida at Carolina, 6:30 p.m.

Colorado at Arizona, 7 p.m.

Nashville at St. Louis, 7 p.m.

Ottawa at Dallas, 8 p.m.

Vancouver at San Jose, 8 p.m.

Aurora at Wesleyan, 3 p.m.

WIAC Today's Games

Eau Claire at Finlandia, 6:15 p.m.

Nichols at Stevens Point, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday's Games

Northland at Superior, 7 p.m.

Eau Claire at Finlandia, 3 p.m.

St. Thomas/Utica at Stevens Point, TBD

COLLEGE WOMEN WCHA

Team.....W-L-T-SW Pts

Minnesota (11-2-1)..... 9-2-1-0 28

Wisconsin (13-1)..... 7-1-0-0 21

Ohio State (11-5)..... 7-3-0-0 21

Minn. Duluth (5-6-1)..... 3-6-1-1 11

MS-Mankato (5-5-2)..... 2-5-1-1 8

Bemidji St. (2-12-1)..... 2-7-1-0 7

St. Cloud St. (5-11-1)..... 2-8-0-0 6

Today's Games

Minnesota Duluth at Clarkson, 5 p.m.

Minnesota State-Mankato at Lindenwood, 2 p.m.

Minnesota vs. St. Lawrence, 3 p.m. (at Vermont)

Harvard at Wisconsin, 7 p.m.

Saturday's Games

Minnesota Duluth at Clarkson, 2 p.m.

Minnesota State-Mankato at Lindenwood, 2 p.m.

Syracuse/Vermont vs. Minnesota, TBD (at Vermont)

Harvard at Wisconsin, 8:07 p.m.

LOCAL NAMES & NEWS



Clint Austin / caustin@duluthnews.com

Boniface Kongin of Kenya approaches the finish line of the Gobble Gallop 5K in Duluth Thursday morning. Kongin was the overall winner with a time of 15:00. Earlier this year Kongin placed second in the Twin Cities Marathon.

News Tribune

RUNNING

Kongin, Plewa win Gobble Gallop

Kenyan Boniface Kongin braved the cold to win the 13th annual Gobble Gallop 5K on Thursday in Duluth.

Kongin, who placed second in the Twin Cities Marathon last month and trains out of Albuquerque, N.M., covered the 5-kilometers in 15 minutes. Former champion Scott Behling of Duluth was second in 15:12.

Aria Plewa of Duluth won the women's race in 18:45, with Samantha Lapp of Urbana, Ill., second in 19:25.

COLLEGE MEN'S BASKETBALL

Slow start sinks Yellowjackets

Austin Heidecker had 13 of his 18 points in the first half as Wisconsin-River Falls built a 39-23 halftime lead en route to a 75-55 nonconference victory over Wisconsin-Superior in a late game Wednesday night at Mertz Mortorelli Gymnasium in Superior.

Matt Keller was one of four players in double figures with 19 points for the Falcons (3-1).

Montroy Scott was the lone player in double figures with 20 points for the Yellowjackets, who shot just 33 percent in the first half and 37 percent for the game (1-4).

JUNIOR HOCKEY

Robbel, Magicians blank wilderness

Jack Robbel had a 41-save shutout to lead the Minnesota Magicians to a 2-0 victory over the Minnesota Wilderness in a North American Hockey League game late Wednesday night at Northwoods Arena in Cloquet.

Konner Lundeen and John Keranen scored goals for the Magicians, who lead the Midwest Division with 36 points.

Ryan Fanti had 24 saves for the Wilderness, who are fifth in a tight Central Division race with 23 points.

SPORTS BRIEFS

NHL

Penguins place goalie Murray on IR

The Pittsburgh Penguins placed goaltender Matt Murray on injured reserve because of a lower-body injury, the team announced Thursday.

A two-time Stanley Cup-winning goalie, Murray, 24, has struggled through the worst season of his four-year NHL career, sporting a 4-5-1 record, .877 save percentage and 4.08 goals-against average. In his first three seasons, Murray was 68-28-8 and had never sported a save percentage below .907 or GAA higher than 3.00.

The Penguins plan to call up goaltender Tristan Jarry on an emergency basis from their AHL affiliate in Wilkes-Barre/Scranton later on Saturday, according to executive vice president and general manager Jim Rutherford.

-News service reports

Business Announcements

Have any business announcements you'd like to share with our readers? These paid announcements include:

- Hires and promotions
- Honors and awards
- General internal news, including election of board officers
- Completion of professional development milestones, such as training and certification

Business Announcements start at \$25 for up to 7 inches of space. Each additional inch is an additional \$10. To submit your announcement, go to duluthnews-tribune.com, hover over the business link and click on the "submit a business announcement" that pops up in the black box. If you have any questions, email fcbusinessannouncements.com.



Badgers reach championship game in Bahamas

Field Level Media D'Mitrik Trice scored a career-high 25 points Thursday, hitting 7 of 8 3-point attempts as No. 25 Wisconsin pulled away in the second half to reach the championship game of the Battle of the Bahamas.

Kobe King added 14 for the Badgers (5-0), who play No. 4 Virginia tonight in the championship game. The Sooners (4-1) will play Dayton today in the third-place game.

Wisconsin center Ethan Happ stuffed the stat sheet with 14 points, 12 rebounds and five assists, and Nate Reuvers chipped in 12

points. Christian James tallied 18 points to lead the Sooners, and Aaron Calixte hit for 10, but they couldn't cope with Wisconsin's consistency or hot shooting. The Badgers committed only eight turnovers and canned 14 of 22 3-pointers, including a blistering 7 of 8 after halftime.

King hit a layup with 15:21 left to cap a 12-3 run that gave Wisconsin a 45-34 lead. After James dunked with 13:29 left to pull Oklahoma within 50-41, the Badgers closed out the game's competitive phase by scoring 10 straight points.



Kevin Jairaj / USA Today Sports Wisconsin Badgers forward Nate Reuvers (35) blocks the shot of Oklahoma Sooners forward Brady Manek (35) during the second half at Imperial Arena.

Jackson's pick-six in the fourth quarter lifts Bears over Lions

Field Level Media

Eddie Jackson returned an interception 41 yards for the go-ahead touchdown with six minutes remaining, and the Chicago Bears held on for a 23-16 Thanksgiving Day victory over the host Detroit Lions.

Chicago quarterback Chase Daniel, who hadn't started a game since Dec. 28, 2014, when he played for Kansas City, completed 27 of 37 passes for 230 yards and two scores. Daniel filled in for Mitchell Trubisky, who missed the game with a shoulder injury but is reportedly expected to be back in Week 13.

Tarik Cohen caught seven passes for 45 yards and a touchdown for the Bears (8-3), who won their fifth straight.

Matthew Stafford completed 28 of 38 passes for 236 yards for Detroit (4-7) but threw two key fourth-quarter interceptions.

The Lions were missing two key offensive players, as running back Kerryon Johnson and receiver Marvin Jones sat out with knee injuries.

Stafford's 43-yard pass to Kenny Golladay set up LeGarrette Blount's second 4-yard touchdown run of the game, giving Detroit a 13-9 lead with 1:35 left in the third quarter. The Lions' 2-point conversion attempt failed.

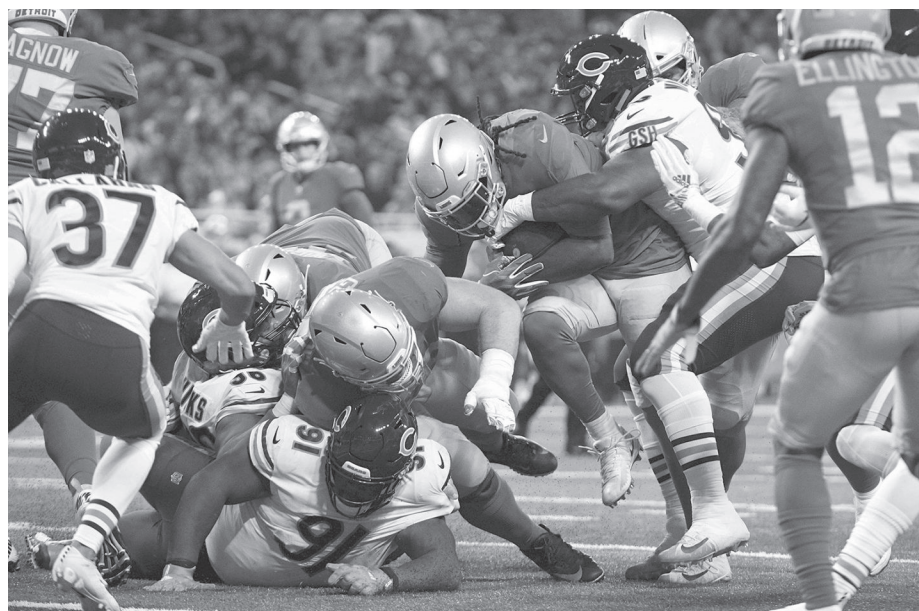
The Bears regained the lead with 13:40 remaining on Daniel's 14-yard pass to Cohen, capping an 82-yard drive. Detroit tied it with 7:44 left on Matt Prater's 20-yard field goal.

The Lions then forced a punt, but on the next snap, Jackson stepped in front of tight end Michael Roberts and sauntered 41 yards into the end zone 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 end zone with 1:07 left. Detroit still had three 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.

The Bears moved ahead in the final minute of the half on Daniel's 10-yard strike to Taquan Mizzell. Chicago tried a 2-point conversion, but Daniel's pass was incomplete.



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.

Cooper, and the Dallas Cowboys celebrated Thanksgiving by working their way into a tie for first place in the NFC East with the win in Arlington, Texas.

Prescott and Cooper connected for touchdowns on back-to-back drives in the third quarter — scores of 40 and 90 yards — to blow the game open for the Cowboys (6-5).

Trailing 31-20 in the fourth quarter, the Redskins (6-5) stuffed Ezekiel Elliott on a fourth-and-inches try with 5:27 left to get the ball back at their own 32. However, safety Antwaun Woods came up with the Cowboys' third interception of Washington quarterback Colt McCoy four plays later.

After another stop, the Redskins drove inside the Cowboys' 15 but settled for a 31-yard Dustin Hopkins field goal with 1:13 left in the game.

Cooper had eight catches for 180 yards and the two touchdowns. Prescott, under siege in the first half when he was sacked four times and hit 10 times, was rarely pressured in the second half. He finished 22 of 31 and rushed six times for 18 yards.

Elliott added 143 total yards, including his 18th career 100-yard rushing game and NFL-best sixth this season.

Dallas went up 24-13 on the 90-yard score on an in-cutting route from left to right. Prescott hit Cooper on the numbers between three Washington defenders. Cooper did the rest, running away from the Redskins' secondary down the left sideline for the final 75 yards.

To further deflate Washington, Demarcus Lawrence intercepted McCoy a few plays later and the avalanche of momentum fell on Dallas' side. Prescott capped the ensuing drive, twice evading a sack — one attempt by Jonathan Allen and the other by Preston Smith — to score on a 5-yard run on a broken play.

Elliott lifted Prescott into the oversized, red Salvation Army kettle behind the end zone to celebrate the TD, and the Cowboys led 31-13.

McCoy was intercepted three times and sacked three times. He completed 24 of 38 passes for 268 yards in his first week as a starter since Alex Smith sustained a broken leg.

Running back Kirby Bibbs punched in a 1-yard touchdown over center with 11:43 left in the game, and the Redskins opted for an extra point to trail 31-20.



Tim Heitman / USA Today Sports

Dallas Cowboys wide receiver Amari Cooper (19) breaks a tackle of Washington Redskins cornerback Fabian Moreau (31) and scores a touchdown in the third quarter at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas on Thursday.

The Cowboys reclaimed the lead midway through the third quarter on a third-and-2 play-action pass from Prescott to Cooper, who made his third third-down reception of the game and sprinted 40 yards to paydirt. Dallas went up 17-13 on the score.

Washington claimed its first lead with 9:02 left in the third quarter. McCoy threw a 10-yard 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 second quarter.

Table with 2 columns: Team, Score. Dallas 31, Washington 23. Includes quarter-by-quarter breakdown and key plays.

Table with 2 columns: Team, Stat. TEAM STATISTICS for Dallas and Washington, including First Downs, Total Net Yards, Rushes-Yds, etc.

Table with 2 columns: Team, Stat. INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS for key players like Prescott, Elliott, McCoy, etc.

Saints 31, Falcons 17

NEW ORLEANS — Drew Brees threw four touchdown passes and the New Orleans defense forced four turnovers and suffocated the Atlanta running attack as the Saints won their league-best

10th consecutive game with a 31-17 victory over the Falcons on Thursday night, Nov. 22, at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome.

Brees didn't have to throw often — he completed 15 of 22 for 171 yards — because the Saints (10-1) controlled the ball on the ground with 150 yards, 89 by Alvin Kamara and 52 by Mark Ingram II.

With the Falcons defense concentrating on trying to stop receiver Michael Thomas and Kamara, Brees' four scoring passes went to four unheralded receivers: TommyLee Lewis for 28 yards, Austin Carr for 12, Dan Arnold for 25 and Keith Kirkwood for 5.

The improved Saints defense smothered the Atlanta running attack, allowing just 26 yards on 16 carries. The Saints also sacked Atlanta quarterback Matt Ryan six times and forced five fumbles, recovering three, and intercepted Ryan once.

Brees' third touchdown pass of the game — a 25-yarder to Arnold on which the second-year tight end laid out in the end zone — put New Orleans up 24-3 with 5:59 left in the third quarter.

Table with 2 columns: Team, Score. New Orleans 31, Atlanta 17. Includes quarter-by-quarter breakdown and key plays.

Table with 2 columns: Team, Stat. TEAM STATISTICS for New Orleans and Atlanta, including First Downs, Total Net Yards, Rushes-Yds, etc.

Table with 2 columns: Team, Stat. INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS for key players like Brees, Kamara, Ingram, etc.

NFL STANDINGS

NFL Standings table showing conference (East, South, North, West) and division (AFC, NFC) records for various teams.

NFL Week 12

Today's Games

Chicago 23, Detroit 16
Dallas 31, Washington 23
New Orleans 31, Atlanta 17

Sunday's Games

Packers at Vikings, 7:20 p.m. (KBJR Ch. 6)
Jacksonville at Buffalo, noon
Cleveland at Cincinnati, noon
New England at N.Y. Jets, noon (CBS3)
N.Y. Giants at Philadelphia, noon (KQDS Ch. 21)
San Francisco at Tampa Bay, noon
Seattle at Carolina, noon
Oakland at Baltimore, noon
Arizona at L.A. Chargers, 3:05 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Denver, 3:25 p.m. (CBS3)
Miami at Indianapolis, 3:25 p.m.

Monday's Game

Tennessee at Houston, 7:15 p.m. (ESPN)

Packers' Graham aims to play with broken thumb

Field Level Media

Green Bay Packers tight end Jimmy Graham returned to the practice field on Thursday on the heels of breaking his thumb in last week's game against Seattle.

Graham had not practiced yet this week but is set to attempt to play with a heavily bandaged broken thumb when the Packers return to the field Sunday night against the Minnesota Vikings. Graham, who was officially limited, was seen at practice sporting a bulky wrap around his finger.

While it is unknown how quickly Graham will return to game action, he was seen testing his thumb by catching passes from quarterback Aaron Rodgers.

Graham, who turns 32 on Saturday, has 34 receptions for 452 yards and two touchdowns this season, the first in Green Bay for the nine-year veteran with previous stints in New Orleans and Seattle.

The Packers, 4-5-1 and fighting for their playoff lives, also have tight ends Lance Kendricks, Marcedes Lewis and Robert Tonyan in case Graham can go Sunday.

Several key players missed Thursday's practice, as defensive lineman Mike Daniels (foot), linebacker Nick Perry (knee) and cornerbacks Kevin King (ankle) and Bashaud Breeland (groin) all remained out. Safety Kentrell Brice (ankle) was downgraded from limited on Wednesday to DNP on Thursday, while wideout Randall Cobb (hamstring) was again limited.

Daniels is expected to miss a few weeks after injuring his foot against the Seahawks.

Green still sidelined

Seven-time Pro Bowl receiver A.J. Green was sidelined for the Cincinnati Bengals' practice yet again with a lingering toe injury, an indication that his status remains up in the air for Sunday's game against the Cleveland Browns.

After head coach Marvin Lewis expressed optimism about the status of his star receiver after Green did not practice a day earlier, Green didn't participate Thursday and remains uncertain to return Sunday after missing two straight games.

After getting off to a 5-3 start, the Bengals have been outscored 75-35 in losing the two games without Green, who leads the team with six touchdown catches this season. The 30-year-old Green, who has surpassed 1,000 receiving yards in six of his prior seven seasons, has caught 45 passes for 687 yards in 2018.

Darnold remains a non-participant

New York Jets quarterback Sam Darnold remained a non-participant at practice, putting his availability for Sunday's game against the New England Patriots in serious doubt.

For the second straight day, Darnold was in full uniform at practice but did not participate in quarterback drills. The rookie has shed the walking boot on his right foot since the team returned from its Week 11 bye, but he appears likely to miss his second consecutive game.

Darnold injured his right foot during the Jets' Nov. 4 loss against the Miami Dolphins.

Cowboys 31, Redskins 23

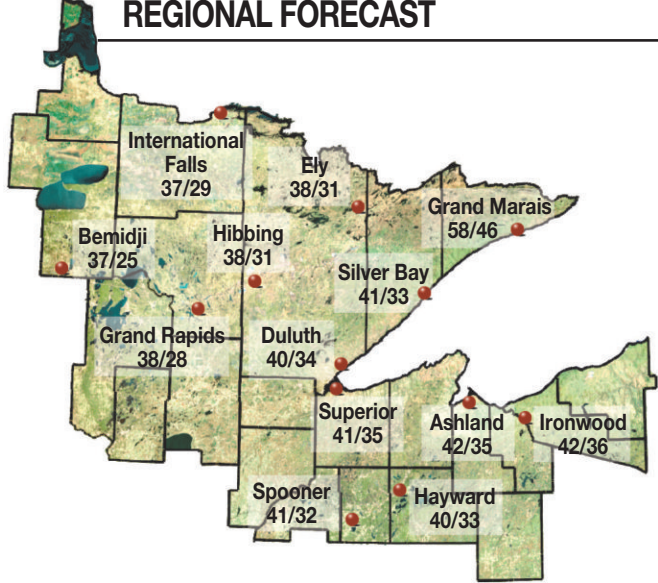
Dak Prescott threw for a season-high 289 yards with two long scoring passes to Amari



Misty AM & Rainy PM
A mild, foggy and drizzly day is in store for us today. A warmer shopping morning is likely with light drizzle and fog. Rain today will change into a rain/snow mix tonight. Cooler temperatures and northerly winds return lake effect snow for the south shore late Sunday into Monday. Lake effect may last through the majority of the upcoming week.

Weather forecast grid for TODAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY, MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY. Includes temperature ranges (e.g., 34/40) and weather conditions like FOG, Wintry Mix, Getting Cooler, S. Shore Snow, More Lake Effect, U.P. of Michigan Snow, More light Lake Effect.

REGIONAL FORECAST



Check out the latest Pressroom Podcast



every Wednesday at duluthnews Tribune.com

UV INDEX



Values indicate the exposure to the sun's ultraviolet rays. Value is the highest for the day. 0-2 low; 3-5 moderate; 6-7 high; 8-10 very high; 11+ extreme

AROUND THE NATION

Table showing today's Hi/Low/W for various cities across the United States, including Albuquerque (58/32/s), Chicago (52/43/p), New York (50/44/p), and Los Angeles (69/54/p).

Heating Degree Days

An index of energy consumption indicating how many degrees the day's mean temperature fell below 65 degrees.
Yesterday 42
Season to date 1918
Last season to date 1880
Normal season to date 1876



MINNESOTA FORECAST

Forecast table for Minnesota with columns for City, Thu, Fri, and Sat. Includes cities like Albert Lea, Alexandria, Bemidji, and Duluth.

WISCONSIN FORECAST

Forecast table for Wisconsin with columns for City, Thu, Fri, and Sat. Includes cities like Appleton, Eau Claire, Green Bay, and Milwaukee.

AIR QUALITY INDEX



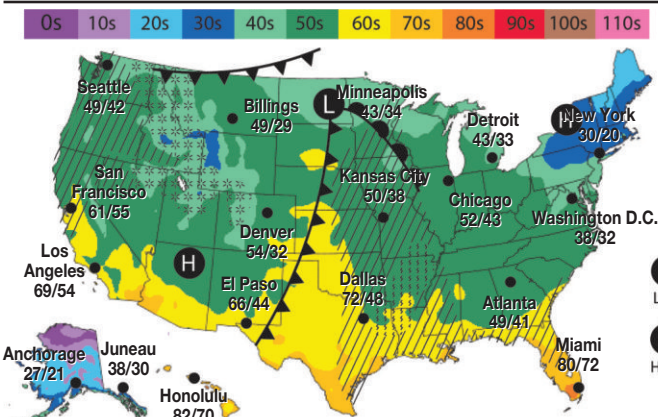
Primary pollutant: Particles

Source: airnow.gov

SUN & MOON

Sunrise Today 7:22 a.m.
Sunset Today 4:26 p.m.
Moonrise Today 5:15 p.m.
Moonset Today 7:32 a.m.

NATIONAL FORECAST



AROUND THE WORLD

Table showing today's Hi/Low/W for various cities worldwide, including Acapulco, Amsterdam, Athens, and Beijing.

DULUTH DODGE PRESENTS CHEVROLET, NISSAN, TOYOTA, FORD, RAM & GMC Pre-Owned Truck BLOW OUT!

2016 RAM 2500 LARAMIE MEGA CAB 4X4. NADA Value \$53,675. Price \$50,999. #X5425A

2018 RAM 2500 DIESEL CREW CAB 4X4. ONLY 2,700 MILES! NADA Value \$49,990. Price \$49,990. #21108A

2015 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1500 LTZ CREW CAB 4X4. NADA Value \$38,315. Price \$38,183. #21013

2016 FORD F-150 4X4 PLATINUM CREW CAB 4X4. NADA Value \$42,275. Price \$36,483. #X5668A

2017 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1500 LT CREW CAB 4X4. NADA Value \$34,525. Price \$33,983. #X5737A

2015 FORD F-150 CREW CAB 4X4. NADA Value \$33,625. Price \$32,990. #X6017A

2017 TOYOTA TACOMA CREW CAB 4X4. NADA Value \$33,075. Price \$32,483. #X5672A

2015 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1500 LT CREW CAB 4X4. NADA Value \$31,750. Price \$30,983. #21042

2015 FORD F-150 XLT SUPER CREW 4X4. NADA Value \$31,475. Price \$30,883. #X5796A

2018 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1500 QUAD CAB LT 4X4. NADA Value \$33,000. Price \$30,537. #21072

2016 TOYOTA TACOMA CREW CAB 4X4. NADA Value \$29,775. Price \$28,983. #X5508A

2015 FORD F-150 CREW CAB 4X4. NADA Value \$31,200. Price \$27,990. #X5738A

2017 NISSAN FRONTIER PRO-4X CREW CAB 4X4. NADA Value \$30,775. Price \$27,983. #20927

2014 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1500 LT 4X4. NADA Value \$29,075. Price \$25,990. #X5943A

2014 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1500 LTZ CREW CAB 4X4. NADA Value \$29,175. Price \$25,990. #X5817B

2014 FORD F-150 SUPER CREW 4X4. NADA Value \$29,825. Price \$24,090. #X5521A

2009 GMC SIERRA 1500 SLE CREW CAB 4X4. NADA Value \$17,475. Price \$16,990. #X5775C

2009 FORD F-150 XLT SUPER CREW 4X4. NADA Value \$30,775. Price \$14,990. #21071A

2013 FORD F-150 SUPER CREW 4X4. NADA Value \$17,125. Price \$14,990. #T1083A

2011 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1500 LT CREW CAB 4X4. NADA Value \$18,550. Price \$13,883. #21045A

Duluth Dodge Jeep RAM logo, address 4755 MILLER TRUNK HWY, website WWW.DULUTHDODGE.COM, and various service guarantees like 'Guaranteed Credit Approval' and '60 Pro-owned Vehicle PROTECTION'.