



David Samson / The Forum

West Fargo Sheyenne running back Barika Kpeenu is looking to have a big season for the Mustangs and kicked off the year with four touchdowns in the season opener against Grand Forks Red River. Kpeenu switched to No. 2 this year after donning a No. 20 jersey his junior season. No. 2 is more than just his favorite number. "It's my mom's birthday, her birthday is Dec. 2," Kpeenu said. "And whenever I see No. 2, I always remember there's two things that go above me — my Lord and savior Jesus Christ, and my family."

Playing for more than himself

Sheyenne running back Kpeenu playing for former classmate, Black Lives Matter

By Carissa Wigginton
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West Fargo

West Fargo Sheyenne running back Barika Kpeenu grew up watching Nancy Grace on primetime TV with his mom. He saw Trayvon Martin's name flash across the screen in 2012, and he didn't understand why his mom was crying.

It was the same confusion two years later with the news of Tamir Rice's death, and other police killings of unarmed Black people that followed.

"You see that and you're like, why? Why is that happening? You're a little kid and you don't understand that," Kpeenu said. "You see your mom crying and you never know why. Why is she crying? And now I'm living in it and I'm seeing it and I'm like, wow, this is actually something that needs to be fixed and needs to be handled."

There was more to Kpeenu's game Friday than just lighting up the scoreboard. Kpeenu, who committed to play football at North Dakota State in April, exploded for four touchdowns in the Aug. 28 season opener against Grand Forks Red River.

Kpeenu looked up and pointed to the sky after all four of his rushing touchdowns Friday. He was playing for more than himself.

"BLM" was written in black marker on the white tape around his wrist as a nod to the Black Lives Matter movement. The point to the sky was also a tribute to a former classmate, Ben Merck, who died last November after being diagnosed with ALS the month before.

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West Fargo Sheyenne's Barika Kpeenu gives a sky point after scoring as the sun sets Friday, Aug. 28, over Essentia Health Mustangs Stadium.

“ I'm not the type of person to judge you on what your political beliefs are, because everyone's different, everyone has their own side of things. But you see this and you see people are dying. Everyone has one life. And you've taken away a life where you never know what happened.

BARIKA KPEENU, West Fargo Sheyenne running back

NDSU will allow 10K fans to see Bison play Central Arkansas

By Jeff Kolpack
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FARGO — A much-anticipated decision on how many people will be able to get into Gate City Bank Field at the Fargo-dome on Oct. 3 is in. North Dakota State will allow 10,000 fans to see the Bison take on Central Arkansas.

The facility has a capacity of 18,700 for football games and with standing-room only tickets can handle crowds in excess of 19,000. Fans will be required to wear masks.

Take note: there will be several more restrictions than the basic **FANS:** Page D2



Michael Vosburg / Forum Photo Editor

North Dakota State will accommodate up to 10,000 fans for its Oct. 3 game against Central Arkansas.

FCS playoff field next spring may be 16 teams

By Jeff Kolpack
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FARGO — Missouri Valley Football Conference commissioner Patty Viverito has been pushing for a 16-team FCS playoff field this spring. It appears she'll get her wish.

The Division I Football Championship Committee on Monday formally recommended that

the Division I Football Championship Subdivision playoffs will be conducted between April 18 through May 21, 2021, with a field of 16 teams.

Viverito, a member of the Football Oversight Committee, said two weeks ago discussions centered between a 12- or 16-team field, down

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BRIEFS



David Samson / The Forum

West Fargo student fans are seated apart during volleyball play against Grand Forks Central on Monday, Sept. 1, 2020, at West Fargo High School.

West Fargo sweeps Grand Forks Central in volleyball

WEST FARGO — West Fargo claimed a 25-5, 25-20, 25-10 high school volleyball win over Grand Forks Central Tuesday night. Halle Erickson led West Fargo with 15 kills and 14 assists while Erin Binstock had 9 kills and 8 digs. Olivia Soine had 17 assists and 6 digs. West Fargo is now 5-0 overall.

South sweeps Wahpeton in high school volleyball

WAHPETON, N.D. — Fargo South swept Wahpeton 25-10, 25-21, 25-17 in high school volleyball Tuesday night. Emma Dalby had 8 kills and Maya Krause had 7 kills and 12 digs for South. Christina Henry has 22 assists for South while Laura Green has 12 digs, Gen Gard had 9 service aces and Laura Green had 4 service aces.

Davies claims volleyball win over North

FARGO — Fargo Davies claimed a 29-27, 25-15, 25-12 home high school volleyball win over Fargo North Tuesday night. Olivia Marcil led

Davies with 9 kills while Ava Wild and Grace Solberg each had 8 kills. Maggie Krueger had 26 assists for Davies while Justice Thielges had 15 digs and Wild had 10 digs. Davies improves to 4-2 overall while North falls to 3-3.

Shanley tops Sheyenne in high school volleyball

FARGO — Fargo Shanley posted a 25-15, 24-25, 25-18, 25-17 high school volleyball win over West Fargo Sheyenne Tuesday night. Sheyenne was led by Kailee Waasdorp who

had 10 kills and Brooke Johnson who had 8 kills. Alexis Burke had 21 digs and Waasdorp had 14 digs. Kennedy Colter and Kenzie Urbanec each had 15 assists.

Moorhead boys soccer tops Sauk Rapids-Rice 5-1

SAUK RAPIDS, Minn. — Five different players scored to lift Moorhead to a 5-1 high school boys soccer win over Sauk Rapids-Rice Tuesday night. Saif Allawi scored the first goal for Moorhead followed by goals from Yousif Alshihimani, Max Hodny, Tamba Ngolloe and Mohamed Namug.

Pina belts grand slam to help RedHawks remain red hot

FARGO — Third baseman Leo Pina belted a grand slam in the first inning to spark the Fargo-Moorhead RedHawks to a 7-3 victory against the Sioux Falls Canaries on Tuesday in American Association baseball at Newman Outdoor Field. The RedHawks (25-27) have won eight consecutive games to surge back into playoff contention. F-M is 2 1/2 games behind Sioux Falls (27-24) for second place in the American Association. The top

two teams in the league make the postseason. Pina went 2-for-4 with four RBIs with and scored one run. First baseman Correlle Prime went 2-for-4 with two runs scored and improved his season batting average to .359. RedHawks left-handed starter Kevin McGovern pitched 5 1/3 innings, allowing three earned runs on four hits, to earn the victory. Right-hander Ryan Williams pitched 3 2/3 innings of scoreless relief to earn the save. Forrest Allday, Drew Ward, Christian Ibarra and Sam Dexter all had two hits for F-M.

Forum staff reports

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL SCOREBOARD

Table with columns: American League, East, West, W, L, Pct, GB. Lists teams like Tampa Bay, NY Yankees, Toronto, Baltimore, Boston with their records.

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Table with columns: Detroit, Milwaukee, NY Yankees, Tampa Bay 3, NY Mets, Atlanta 10, Boston 3, Chicago 10, St. Louis 5, Cincinnati 5, Pittsburgh 9. Lists game results.

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Table with columns: Philadelphia 6, Washington 0, Philadelphia 6, Washington 0, Philadelphia 6, Washington 0. Lists game results.

Table with columns: Monday's late results, Chi. White Sox 8, Minnesota 5, Chi. White Sox 8, Minnesota 5. Lists game results.

Table with columns: American League, Monday's Results, Tampa Bay 4, Toronto 3, Seattle 2, Tampa Bay 5, Kansas City 2, Cleveland 1, Oakland (Luzardo 2-1) at Seattle (Margevicius 1-2), PPD. Lists game results.

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Table with columns: Atlanta 10, Boston 3, ATL ab r hbi BOS ab r hbi. Lists game results.

Table with columns: St. Louis 16, Cincinnati 2, STL ab r hbi CIN ab r hbi. Lists game results.

Table with columns: Miami 3, Toronto 2, TOR ab r hbi MIA ab r hbi. Lists game results.

Table with columns: San Diego 6, Colorado 0, San Diego 6, Colorado 0. Lists game results.

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