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The Free Press, A7, Thursday, September 3, 2020

Cousins isn't worried about contracting virus

Vikings QB follows protocols out of respect for others

By Dave CampbellAP Pro Football Writer

MINNEAPOLIS — Kirk Cousins said he's sensitive to concerns about CO-VID-19 and believes in the importance of wearing a mask to help protect others, as the Minnesota Vikings quarterback tried to clarify comments on a newly released podcast that came across as dismissive of the coronavirus.

In a wide-ranging interview for an NFL-themed podcast recorded about six weeks ago but not released until Wednesday, Cousins said his worry on a scale of one to 10 of being infected is "about a 0.000001." He said he's confident in his health, fitness and exposure level as safeguards.

"I'm going to go about my daily life. If I get it, I'm going to ride it out. I'm going to let nature do its course, a survival of the fittest kind of approach, and just say, 'If it knocks me out.' I'm going to be OK," Cousins told host Kyle Brandt for an episode on The Ringer Podcast Network. Brandt is also an NFL Network morning

show host

"Even if I die, I die. I kind of have peace about that," Cousins said. "That's really where I fall on it, so my opinion on wearing a mask is really about being respectful to other people. It really has nothing to do with my personal thoughts."

On a video conference call with reporters several hours after the podcast was posted, Cousins pointed to his Christian faith as the source of his peace. He said he realizes why others in high-risk categories of older age or underlying conditions must take more precaution.

"I just don't have a great deal of personal fear surrounding contracting the virus," he said. "Again, that's unique to my circumstances, unique to my situation, a lot of factors that are unique to me and would be extremely different to any number of other people." The online backlash was strong enough to prompt the Vikings to move the 32-year-old's regularly scheduled media session up one day. Cousins said again he has no personal concern of catching the virus but apologized for the cavalier take he delivered on the podcast.

"What I wanted to say then, what I would echo again now, is that while

Please see COUSINS, Page A8

announces

spring schedules

ST. PAUL — The Upper

Midwest Athletic Confer-

ence has announced spring

schedules for football, men's

and women' soccer and vol-

leyball after the fall confer-

ence season was postponed

The UMAC also tentative-

ly rescheduled the men's and

women's golf championship

Bethany Lutheran, a mem-

ber of the UMAC, competes

in men's and women's soccer

The men's and women's

soccer teams will compete in an eight-game, round-

robin schedule over five weeks with all nine teams

qualifying for the postsea-

son tournament. Each team will play four home and

four road games during the

regular season. The season

would begin Saturday, April

3, and end Saturday, May 1.

The postseason tourna-

ment will be held the week

will compete in a four-team

tournament with high seed

and championship game to

determine the wchampion.

will play in a consolation

No. 9 seeds will play in a

quarterfinal game on Mon-

day, May 3. The semifinals

for both brackets will take

place Wednesday, May 5.

The championship games,

along with a third-place

game and seventh-place

game, will be contested

The UMAC volleyball

season will also consist

of an eight-game, round-

with each team playing in

four home and four road

contests. Contests are

Saturday, April 3.

robin format over five weeks

scheduled to begin Saturday,

UMAC volleyball coaches

are exploring options for a

postseason tournament.

competition in the spring

segment for golf — beyond

— and for cross country will

the UMAC Championship

continue to be explored.

Plans for additional

March 6, and will conclude

Saturday, May 8.

The remaining five teams

tournament. The No. 8 and

hosting the semifinal rounds

of May 3. The top teams

from the regular season

in those sports due to the

COVID-19 pandemic.

for April 29-May 1.

and volleyball.

The Free Press

BRIEFS

Dantas scores 28 in Lynx victory

BRADENTON, FLA. — Damiris Dantas scored a career-high 28 points, including the go-ahead basket with just under five minutes left, and the Minnesota Lynx edged Chicago 86-83 Wednesday.

Dantas made all five of her 3-point attempts but it was a layup that put Minnesota up for good at 80-79. Crystal Dangerfield extended the lead with a three-point play.

With 34.4 seconds left, Courtney Vandersloot got Chicago within two and the Sky got the ball back with 17.6 left. But Vandersloot lost the ball driving and Odyssey Sims added a free throw with 3.1 left.

Minnesota (12-5) has won six of its last eight games and has already qualified for the playoffs. The win gave Minnesota a season sweep of Chicago and the tiebreaker.

Houston defeats Minnesota United

HOUSTON — Ariel Lassiter scored two second-half goals and the Houston Dynamo stretched their unbeaten streak to four with a 3-0 win over the Minnesota United on Wednesday night. It was the second straight win for Houston (2-2-4),

which beat Sporting Kansas

City on the road Aug. 25.

Darwin Quintero, who was traded to Houston from Minnesota (3-3-2) in November, scored in the 28th minute in his first game against his former team. It was Quintero's third goal in the last two games.

Gophers' Robbins is eligible immediately MINNEAPOLIS — Min-

nesota transfer center Liam Robbins was granted immediate eligibility by the NCAA, the university announced Wednesday.

Robbins made the switch in April after two seasons at Drake. The 7-foot, 235-pound Robbins will have two years remaining.

As a sophomore in 2019-20, Robbins led the Bulldogs with 14.1 points, 7.1 rebounds and 2.9 blocks per game, landing on the AllMissouri Valley Conference second team. His 99 blocks were fifth in the country and a program record.

Robbins is a nephew of Gophers coach Ed Conroy. *The Associated Press*

With seasons postponed, fall coaches face

UNCERTAINTY



The Free Press

Minnesota State's Alivia Garbe (5) was set to be a senior this fall. With fall seasons postponed, athletes like Garbe face tough decisions.

Recruiting likely to be impacted

By Kevin Dudley

kdudley@mankatofreepress.com

Ror Minnesota State soccer coach Brian Bahl, things we're OK early in the summer.

While he was well aware of what the COVID-19 pandemic had done to the spring sports, the tide seemed to be changing in early June, with all the buzz pointing toward fall sports being able to proceed with some restrictions.

But that changed as the summer went on, leading to the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference's board of directors to cancel all fall competitions and championships and suspending all athletic competition through Dec. 31.

Now, with fall sports in a state of limbo, Bahl and other coaches face a lot of uncertainty when it comes to roster construction.

"It's a heartbreaking decision that kind of fell upon us," Bahl said. "I'm crushed for our whole team ... especially heartbroken for the senior class."

It starts with the seniors, who now have to make the decision between moving on or coming back for another season. The NCAA has granted all fall athletes an extra season of eligibility.

For Bahl, there was supposed to be 11 seniors on a team that made an impressive run to the elite eight last year. As of now, Bahl doesn't have decisions from any of

Please see MSU, Page A8



The Free Pres

Minnesota State's Molly Riley is one of 11 seniors on the soccer team who will need to decide whether or not to return.

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mayoclinichealthsystem.org



Scorecard

TV Today

Schedule subject to change and/or blackouts Thursday, September 3 AUSTRALIAN RULES FOOTBALL 4 a.m. FS2 — AFL: Carlton at Greater Western 4:30 a.m. (Friday) ESPN2 — AFL: Collingwood at Brisbane

AUTO RACING 3:55 a.m. (Friday) ESPN — Formula One: Practice 1, Autodromo Nazionale Monza, Monza, Italy

8 p.m. South Alabama at Southern Mis-CBSSN

CYCLING 5:30 a.m. — UCI: The Tour de France, Stage 6, Le Teil to Mont Aigoual, 118 miles

GOLF — EPGA Tour Golf: The Estrella Damm

N.A.Andalucia Masters, First Round, Real Club Valderrama, Cadiz, Spain 8 a.m. GOLF — EPGA Tour Golf: The Estrella Damm N.A.Andalucia Masters, First Round, Real Club

Valderrama, Cadiz, Spain 5 a.m. (Friday) GOLF — EPGA Tour Golf: The Estrella Damm

N.A.Andalucia Masters, Second Round, Real Club Valderrama, Cadiz, Spain HORSE RACING

Noon FS2 — NYRA: Saratoga Live, Saratoga Race Course, Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

KBO BASEBALL 4:25 a.m. ESPN2 — SK at KT 4:25 a.m. (Friday) FSPNFWS - Kiwoom at Hanwha

12:30 p.m. MLBN — Chicago Cubs at Pittsburgh OR Texas at Houston (2 p.m.) 3 p.m

MLB BASEBALL

MLBN — Washington at Philadelphia 6 p.m MLBN — San Diego at Los Angeles OR Toronto at Boston (7:30 p.m.)

8:30 p.m MLBN — Arizona at Los Angleles Dodgers NBA BASKETBALL 5:30 p.m.
TNT — Eastern Conference Semifinals: To-

ronto vs. Boston, Game 3, Disney's Wide World of Sports Complex, Orlando, Fla. 8 p.m TNT — Western Conference Semifinals: Denver vs. LA Clippers, Game 1, Disney's Wide

World of Sports Complex, Orlando, Fla. NHL HOCKEY 6 p.m. NBCSN — Eastern Conference Second Round

Philadelphia vs. NY Islanders, Game 6, Scotia-bank Arena, Toronto 8:45 p.m NBCSN — Western Conference Second

Round: Vegas vs. Vancouver, Game 6, Rogers Place Arena, Edmonton, Alberta RUGBY 8:30 a.m. FS2 — RFL: Castleford at Salford

3 a.m. (Friday)
FS1 — NRL: Cronulla-Sutherland at Newcastle 5 a.m. (Friday) FS2 — NRL: Melbourne at South Sydney

SOCCER (MEN'S) 1:30 p.m. ESPN2 — UEFA Nations League: Germany vs. Spain, League A Group 4, Mercedes-Benz Arena,

Stuttgart, Germany 9 p.m FS1 — Liga MX: Monterrey at Tijuana **TENNIS**

11 a.m.
ESPN — ATP/WTA: The U.S. Open: Second Round, Flushing, N.Y.

6 p.m.
ESPN — ATP/WTA: The U.S. Open: Second Round, Flushing, N.Y. ESPN2 — ATP/WTA: The U.S. Open: Second Round, Flushing, N.Y.
WNBA BASKETBALL

5:30 p.m. CBSSN — Atlanta vs. New York, IMG Acad-

Week in sports

THURSDAY Mankato West boys cross country at Roches-

Mankato West girls tennis vs. Winona, 4:30 n m West courts Mankato West girls cross country at Roches-

ter Mayo, 5 p.m.

Mankato West girls soccer at Owatonna

Mankato West boys soccer vs. Owatonna 7 p.m., Caswell North
Mankato West girls swimming vs. Austin,

7 p.m., East pool

Mankato East boys cross country vs. Farib-Mankato East girls cross country vs. Faribault.

5 p.m. Mankato East/Loyola girls swimming vs. Wi-

nona, 4:30 p.m., East pool Mankato East/Loyola girls tennis vs. North-field, 4:30 p.m., Bethany Lutheran courts

Mankato East girls soccer at Rochester John Marshall, 7 p.m.
Mankato Loyola/Cleveland boys cross country

hosts Loyola Invitational, 4 p.m., Good Counsel

Mankato Loyola/Cleveland girls cross country

hosts Loyola Invitational, 4 p.m., Good Counsel

FRIDAY

Mankato East boys soccer vs. Rochester John Marshall, 7 p.m., Caswell North Mankato Loyola girls soccer vs. Worthington

5 p.m., Loyola field Mankato Loyola boys soccer at Worthington,

American League						
East Division						
	W	L	Pct	GB		
Tampa Bay	26	12	.684	_		
New York	20	15	.571	41/2		
Toronto	19	16	.543	51/2		
Baltimore	16	20	.444	9		
Boston	12	25	.324	131/2		
Central Divi	sion					
	W	L	Pct	GB		
Cleveland	23	14	.622	_		
Chicago	22	15	.595	1		
Minnesota	22	16	.579	11/2		
Detroit	17	17	.500	41/2		
Kansas City	14	23	.378	9		
West Division						
	W	L	Pct	GB		
Oakland	22	12	.647	_		
Houston	20	15	.571	21/2		
Seattle	15	22	.405	81/2		
Texas	13	22	.371	91/2		
Los Angeles	12	24	.333	11		

Tuesday's Games Miami 3, Toronto 2 N.Y. Yankees 5, Tampa Bay 3 Baltimore 9, N.Y. Mets 5 Atlanta 10. Boston 3 Detroit 12, Milwaukee Cleveland 10, Kansas City 1 Minnesota 3, Chicago White Sox 2 Texas 6, Houston 5, 10 innings Oakland at Seattle, ppd. Wednesday's Games N.Y. Mets 9, Baltimore 4 Toronto 2, Miami 1 Atlanta 7, Boston 5 Cleveland 5, Kansas City 0 Houston 2, Texas 1 Tampa Bay 5, N.Y. Yankees 2 Milwaukee 8, Detroit 5 Minnesota 8, Chicago White Sox 1

San Diego at L.A. Angels Thursday's Games

Texas (Lynn 4-1) at Houston (Greinke 2-0), 1:10 p.m.

N.Y. Yankees (Happ 1-1) at N.Y. Mets (Gsellman 0-0), 3:10 p.m.
San Diego (Clevinger 1-1) at L.A. Angels (He-

aney 2-2), 6:10 p.m. Toronto (Walker 3-2) at Boston (Pérez 2-4), Chicago White Sox (Cease 4-2) at Kansas City

National League

			_	
East Division	1			
	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	21	14	.600	_
Philadelphia	17	15	.531	21/2
Miami	16	16	.500	31/2

16 12 21 22 .353 81/2 Central Divis Pct GB Chicago 21 .600 St. Louis Milwaukee .500 .457 14 16 16 3½ 14 19 21 23 Cincinnati .432 10 Pct GB .730 .595 27 22 18 18 14 10 15 19 San Diego

.486

Tuesday's Games Miami 3, Toronto 2 St. Louis 16. Cincinnati 2 Philadelphia 6, Washington 0 Baltimore 9, N.Y. Mets 5 Atlanta 10. Boston 3 Detroit 12, Milwaukee 1 Chicago Cubs 8, Pittsburgh 7, 11 innings L.A. Dodgers 6. Arizona 3

San Francisco 23, Colorado 5 Wednesday's Games Colorado 9. San Francisco 6 N.Y. Mets 9, Baltimore 4 Toronto 2, Miami 1 Cincinnati 4. St. Louis 3 Philadelphia 3, Washington 0 Chicago Cubs at Pittsburgh Atlanta at Boston Detroit at Milwaukee Arizona at L.A. Dodgers

Colorado

San Diego at L.A. Angels Thursday's Games Chicago Cubs (Mills 3-2) at Pittsburgh (Brubaker 0-0), 12:35 p.m. Washington (Sánchez 1-4) at Philadelphia (Eflin 2-1), 3:05 p.m. N.Y. Yankees (Happ 1-1) at N.Y. Mets (Gsell-

man 0-0), 3:10 p.m.
San Diego (Clevinger 1-1) at L.A. Angels (Heanev 2-2), 6:10 p.m. Arizona (Weaver 1-5) at L.A. Dodgers (Kershaw 4-1), 8:40 p.m.

NBA playoffs

All Times Central All games in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. FIRST ROUND (Best-of-7)

Tuesday, Sept. 1 Denver 80, Utah 78, Denver wins series 4-3 Wednesday, Sept. 2 Oklahoma City vs. Houston CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS

(Best-of-7)

Boston 102, Toronto 99, Boston leads series Wednesday, Sept. 2 Miami 116, Milwaukee 114, Miami leads se-

Thursday, Sept. 3 Toronto vs. Boston, 5:30 Denver vs. L.A. Clippers. 8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 4 Milwaukee vs. Miami, 5:30 p.m. HOU/OKC vs. L.A. Lakers, 8 p.m

WNBA

ONFERE	NCE					
W	L	Pct	G			
11	7	.611	-			
8	9	.471	2			
5	12	.294	5			
4	11	.267	5			
4	13	.235	6			
2	14	.125				
WESTERN CONFERENCE						
W	L	Pct	G			
13	3	.813	-			
12	4	.750				
12	4	.750				
12	5	.706	- 1			
10	7	.588	3			
6	10	.375				
x-clinched playoff spot						
	W 11 8 5 4 4 2 2 ONFER W 13 12 12 10 6	11 7 8 9 5 12 4 11 4 13 2 14 ONFERENCE W L 13 3 12 4 12 4 12 5 10 7 6 10	W L Pct 11 7 .611 8 9 .471 5 12 .294 4 11 .267 4 13 .235 2 14 .125 ONFERENCE W L Pct 13 3 .813 12 4 .750 12 4 .750 12 5 .706 10 7 .588 6 10 .375			

Tuesday's Games Connecticut 70, New York 65 Atlanta 102, Indiana 90 Phoenix 92, Las Vegas 85 Wednesday's Games Minnesota 86, Chicago 83 Los Angeles at Dallas Washington at Seattle Atlanta at New York, 5:30 p.m. Las Vegas at Connecticut, 7 p.m. Indiana at Phoenix, 9 p.m.

Lynx box score

MINNESOTA (86) Carleton 3-4 0-0 8. Collier 3-9 2-2 8. Dantas 10-13 3-4 28, Dangerfield 7-14 1-1 15, Sims 4-11 1-3 9, Herbert Harrigan 4-7 0-0 10, McCall 0-0 2-2 2. Banham 0-3 0-0 0. Brown 0-3 0-0 0.

Johnson 2-10 1-2 6. Totals 33-74 10-14 86. CHICAGO (83) Copper 4-10 2-2 10. Hebard 1-1 0-0 2. Dolson 3-4 1-2 8, Quigley 9-18 3-3 23, Vandersloot 4-10 2-2 13, Mavunga 1-2 0-0 2, Parker 9-15 0-0 20, Williams 1-6 0-0 3, Colson 1-1 0-0 2. Totals 33-

Minnesota 28 Chicago 24 16 24 19 — 83 3-Point Goals—Minnesota 10-19 (Dantas 5-5, Carleton 2-3, Herbert Harrigan 2-3, Brown 0-2, Collier 0-2), Chicago 9-30 (Vandersloot 3-7, Parker 2-3, Quigley 2-10, Dolson 1-2, Wil-liams 1-5, Copper 0-3). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds-Minnesota 32 (Collier 9), Chicago 37 Parker 15). Assists—Minnesota 23 (Dangerfiel I, Chicago 23 (Vandersloot 12). Total Fouls—

Minnesota 14, Chicago 16. **NHL** playoffs

All times CDT (Best-of-7) Tuesday, Sept. 1

Philadelphia 4, N.Y. Islanders 3, OT, N.Y. Islanders leads series 3-2
At Edmonton, Alberta

Vancouver 2, Las Vegas 1, Las Vegas leads Wednesday, Sept. 2

At Edmonton, Alberta Colorado vs. Dallas Thursday, Sept. 3 At Toronto N.Y. Islanders vs. Philadelphia, 6 p.m At Edmonton, Alberta Las Vegas vs. Vancouver, 8:45 p.m

Friday, Sept. 4 At Edmonton, Alberta x-Vancouver vs. Las Vegas, TBD x-Colorado vs. Dallas, TBD

MLS Eastern Conference

Eastern Conferen	ıce						
	W	L	-	Γ	Pts	GF	GΑ
Columbus	6	1	2	2	20	13	2
Toronto FC	5	1		3	18	14	8
Orlando City	4	2		3	15	16	11
Philadelphia	4	2		3	15	12	9
Montreal	4	3		1	13	11	9
New York City FC	4	5)	12	8	8
New England	2	2		5	11	7	8
New York	3	4	2	2	11	7	10
Atlanta	3	4			10	7	8
D.C. United	2	4		3	9	9	13
Cincinnati	2	4		3	9	6	12
Nashville SC	2	4		2	8	5	9
Chicago	2	5		2	8	8	14
Inter Miami CF	1	6		1	4	6	11
Western Confere	nce						
		W	L	Т	Pts	GF	GΑ
Sporting Kansas Cit	ty	5	2	2	17	19	13
Seattle		4	1	2	14	13	5
Minnesota United		3	3	2	11	14	14
Portland		3	2	2	11	12	14
Real Salt Lake		2	1	4	10	11	8
FC Dallas		2	1	4	10	8	5
Houston		2	2	4	10	14	13
Los Angeles FC		2	2	3	9	16	15
San Jose		2	2	2	8	12	13
LA Galaxy		2	3	2	8	10	13
Colorado		2	3	2	8	10	14
Vancouver		2	6	0	6	7	16
NOTE: Three poi	nts	for	vic	tory	, one	poin	t for

Sunday, August 30 Nashville 1, Miami 0 Seattle 3, Los Angeles FC 1 Tuesday, September 1 Montreal 1, Toronto FC 0

Wednesday, September 2 Miami 0, Atlanta 0, tie Chicago 0, Cincinnati 0, tie Columbus 1, Philadelphia 0 D.C. United 1, New York 0 Houston 3 Minnesota 0 New York City FC 2, New England 0 Orlando City 1, Nashville 1, tie FC Dallas 1, Sporting Kansas City 1, tie Seattle at Real Salt Lake, 9:30 p.m. LA Galaxy at Portland, 10:30 p.m. San Jose at Los Angeles FC, 11 p.m

Saturday, September 5 Sporting Kansas City at Houston, 8 p.m. Atlanta at Orlando City, 8 p.m. Toronto FC at Vancouver, 9:30 p.m. Colorado at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.

Sunday, September 6 New York City FC at D.C. United, 7 p.m. Philadelphia at New York, 7 p.m. Cincinnati at Columbus, 7:30 p.m. New England at Chicago, 7:30 p.m Nashville at Miami, 8 p.m. Real Salt Lake at Minnesota, 8 p.m. Portland at Seattle, 10 p.m. Los Angeles FC at LA Galaxy, 10:30 p.m.

Wednesday, September 9 FC Dallas at Minnesota, 8 p.m. Toronto FC at Montreal, 8 p.m. Atlanta at Miami, 8 p.m. Houston at Colorado, 9 p.m. Los Angeles FC at Real Salt Lake, 9:30 p.m

Thursday, September 10 San Jose at Seattle, 10 p.m.

Saturday, September 12 New York at D.C. United, 7 p.m. Cincinnati at New York City FC, 7 p.m. New England at Philadelphia, 7:30 p.m Miami at Orlando City, 7:30 p.m. Columbus at Chicago, 7:30 p.m. Atlanta at Nashville, 8:30 p.m. Colorado at Real Salt Lake, 9:30 p.m.

Minnesota United

0 Minnesota Houston 1 2 — 3 First half—1, Houston, Quintero, 3 (Rodri quez), 28th minute. Second half—2, Houston, Lassiter, 1 (Elis) 65th; 3, Houston, Lassiter, 2 (Elis), 70th.

Goalies-Minnesota, Greg Raniitsingh, Davn St Clair; Houston, Marko Maric, Cody Cropper.
Yellow Cards—Struna, Houston, 79th; Boxal Minnesota, 84th; Zahibo, Houston, 90th, Referee—Allen Chapman. Assistant Referees—Corey Parker, Chris Elliott, Daniel Radford 4th Official—Luis Guardia.

Lineups Minnesota—Greg Raniitsingh: Michael Boxall Chase Gasper, Romain Metanire, James Musa Hassani Dotson, Jan Gregus (Emanuel Reynoso 71st), Robin Lod (Ethan Finlay, 60th); Raheer Edwards (Kevin Molino, 60th), Marlon Hairstoi (Jacori Hayes, 71st), Mason Toye (Luis Amarilla

Houston—Marko Maric; Maynor Figueroa Adam Lundqvist, Kiki Struna, Zarek Valentin Darwin Ceren, Memo Rodriguez (Nico Lemoine 82nd), Matias Vera (Wilfried Zahibo, 82nd); Niko Hansen (Alberth Elis, 55th), Darwin Quintero (Boniek Garcia, 74th), Christian Ramirez (Arie

Transactions

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL — Suspender P Aroldis Chapman, from New York Yankees for three-days for intentionally throwing a pitch to the head area in a game against Tampa Bar on Sept. 1. Suspended manager Aaron Boone from New York Yankees, for one game with ar undisclosed fine. Suspended manager Kevir Cash, from Tampa Bay, for one game with a

American League BOSTON RED SOX — Placed LHP Kyle Hart on the 10-day IL. Recalled RHP Andrew Triggs from the alternate training site

DETROIT TIGERS — Recalled CF Derek Hil from alternate training site. Placed CF JaCoby Jones on the 10-day IL MINNESOTA TWINS — Donaldson from 10-day IL. - Activated INF Jos

TAMPA BAY RAYS — Activated RHP Char lie Morton from 10-day IL. Optioned INF Briar O'Grady to alternate training site. TORONTO BLUE JAYS — Activated RHP Ross Stripling to active roster. Optioned RHP Sear Reid-Foley to alternate training site.

National League CHICAGO CUBS — Placed LHP Jose Quintana on the 10-day IL. Recalled RHP Jason Adam from the alternate training site.

CINCINNATI REDS — Activated LF Jess

LOS ANGELES DODGERS — Activated RHP Walker Buehler from the 10-day IL. Optione LHP Scott Alexander to alternate training site. MIAMI MARLINS - Place RHP Elieser Hei ndez on the 10-day IL. Recalled INF Eddy Alva

rez from alternate training site. NEW YORK METS — Activated C Robinso Chirinos, INF Todd Frazier and RHP Miguel Castro. Optioned RHPs Ariel Jurado, RHP Franklyr Kilome and C Ali Sanchez to alternate training

PITTSBURGH PIRATES — Activated RHF Joe Musgrove for 10-day IL. Activated OF Bryan Reynolds from paternity list. Optioned INF/OF Jose Osuna. Designated RHP Carson Fulmer to the alternate training site ST LOUIS CARDINALS — Placed OF Dexte Fowler on the IL. Optioned RHP Ryan Meisinge

to alternate training site. Activated INF Rangel Ravelo from the IL. Signed RHP Akeem Bostick. Recalled LHP Rob Kaminsky from the alternate training site. BASKETBALL National Basketball Association

NBA COMMISIONERS — Fined F Marcu

Morris, from LA Clippers, \$35,000 for recklessl striking above the shoulders, in a game with Da las Mayericks on Aug. 30. Fined G Luka Doncid from Dallas Mavericks, \$15,000 for throwing th ball off the legs of a game official in a game with LA Clippers on Aug. 30. Fined Boston G Mrcus Smart \$5,000 for violating the league's anti-flop ping rules during a game vs. Toronto on Sept. 1 FOOTBALL National Football League ATLANTA FALCONS — Signed QB Kyle Lau

CAROLINA PANTHERS — Signed LB Jame

Onwualu to active roster.

CINCINNATI BENGALS — Signed HB Joe Mixon to a four-year contract extension DALLAS COWBOYS — Waived QB Clayton Thorson, OL Adam Redmond, WR Devin Smith, OT Pace Murphy, OT Mitch Hyatt and OT Wyatt

DETROIT LIONS — Signed T Taylor Decker to a multi-year contract extension.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS — Waived RB Ton Brooks-James, LB Jordan Fehr, DE Stacy Keel and DE Anthony Zettel. Place DE Kenny Willeke

NEW YORK GIANTS — Re-Signed C Jon Hala pio. Signed WR Johnny Holton and LS Carsor Tinker, Waived T Jackson Dennis, Waived DB

Jaquarius Landrews. Waived TE Rysen John to SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS - Signed DL Cam

eron Malveaux to a one-year contract.
TENNESSEE TITANS — Signed DB Doug
Middleton. Waived G Avery Gennesy. National Hockey League ST. LOUIS BLUES - Traded G Jake Allen to

Canadian Hockey League HAMILTON BULLDOGS — Signed D Artvor Grushnikov to a standard players agreer SOCCER

MLS — Named John Kimball as interim president of Utah Soccer.

FC CINCINNATI — Aquired W Alvaro Barreal from Club Atletico Velez Sarsfield USL Championship

Major League Soccer

USL — Supended MF Eli Crognale, from Bir mingham Legion FC, for one game following his red card for two cautionable offenses in a matcl against North Carolina FC on Aug. 29. Suspend ed MF Ryan Williams, from New Mexico United for one game following his red card for two cau tionable offenses in a match against Colorad Springs Switchbacks FC on Aug. 29. Suspender MF Rafael Garcia, from OKC Energy FC, for one game following his red card for two caution offenses against Austin Bold FC on Aug. 29. National Women's Soccer League

ORLANDO PRIDE — Signed MF Chelse Washington. Signed G Brittany Wilson. COLLEGE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA — Named Jackie Manuel as women's basketball Director of Personnel, Development and Recruit-

ing Operations.

THE CITADEL — Named Josh Hayes to the men's basketball coaching staff

Prep athletes are coping

All summer, it seemed like three questions kept popping up surrounding high school sports.

Would seasons happen? Would all seasons happen? What would they look like?

The answer to the first two questions ended up being yes, a major victory for those involved with high school athletics.

However, now that activities have started, we're starting to get some early returns on the third question. And the answer

is simple: different.

The Free Press But that's OK. because the answers to the three questions we asked all summer won't matter unless teams can make it through their respective seasons without a COVID-19 outbreak.

DUDLEY

And to do that, different was probably going to be necessary. And for different to work, the people involved were going to have to embrace it.

The fall seasons are still young, but if the early returns are any indication, it seems the people involved are doing just that.

Physical changes are

a great place to start, as there have certainly been plenty.

A lot has been made of the switch to virtual swim meets, which seem to be working well. Swimmers seem to be embracing the challenge of competing against themselves and their teammates, even

though it will certainly lead to slower times.

Next week, Albert Lea is scheduled to come to East for a dual meet, a nice reward for athletes that have had the very nature of their sport uprooted.

On the local cross

country courses, things look widely different, as the massive invitationals of the past don't exist this year. However, that hasn't stopped the experienced runners from pushing forward.

Better yet, a plethora of new runners have joined the sport with their own fall season postponed, hoping to find a new hobby or improve at a different sport.

Local tennis also looks different, as I had a coach tell me he has adjusted certain drills at practice to

In soccer, the game with the most contact, coaches have taken a similar approach trying to come up

allow for more distancing.

with innovative ways to improve skills while practicing distancing as much as possible. Despite all the physical

changes, there's a common thread that seems to run through the atmosphere surrounding high school sports.

A good mindset.

Whether it's taking the precautions, embracing the way a respective sport has changed or trying something new, it seems like most people involved are willing to make sacrifices so that this thing can work. Even without the postseason, the happiness just to be participating is notice-

There's still a long way to go and positive tests are

inevitably coming. But if the people involved continue to approach this pandemic the way they seem to be so far, hopefully those dreaded outbreaks

are held to a minimum. Kevin Dudley is a Free Press staff writer. Email him at kdudley@mankatofreepress.com. Twitter @ Dudley7Kevin.

Twins welcome Donaldson back

Reynaldo López (0-2)

struggled again, getting

aldson's two-run double

only five outs before Don-

By Dave Campbell

The Associated Press MINNEAPOLIS — Josh Donaldson returned from the injured list with two hits and two RBIs for the Minnesota Twins, who backed José Berríos with three home runs and beat the Chicago White Sox 8-1

on Wednesday night. Jake Cave and Miguel Sanó hit solo shots, Eddie Rosario had a two-run homer and Berríos (3-3) pitched six sharp innings for the Twins. Two of Chicago's four errors directly contributed to Minnesota's highest score in 19 games.

in the second prompted a call to the bullpen. Chicago (22-15) fell one game behind AL Central leader Cleveland (23-14), with Minnesota (22-16) in third place, 1 ½ games back. López has logged just 9 ²/₃ innings in four turns this season, having missed

about a month because of shoulder soreness. He managed to keep the Twins from scoring after loading the bases with no outs in the first, but Cave took him He was only 4 for 22 with deep in the next inning on a drive that grazed the

to snag it over the wall in front of the bullpen. The Twins stopped a six-game losing streak

glove of center fielder Luis

Robert as the rookie tried

Tuesday, boosted by the return of starting pitcher Michael Pineda from suspension and center fielder Byron Buxton from a sore shoulder. Donaldson, the marquee winter addition for the

Twins on a \$92 million contract, missed exactly half of the 60-game season with a calf strain that has dogged him in the past. four walks in seven games before getting hurt.

COUSINS: More delivery meals for QB strict protocols at team because of virus-related

Continued from Page A7 the virus does not give me

White Sox starter

a great amount of personal fear, there's still great reason for me to engage in wearing a mask and social distancing and washing my hands as frequently as I can and following protocols that have been set in place obviously to be respectful and considerate of other people," Cousins

Regardless of anyone's views on the virus, all NFL players, coaches and staff, of course, are subject to

headquarters this year. Cousins said himself on Twitter a couple of weeks before reporting to training camp that "health and safety has to come first." The league announced four new confirmed posi-

tive tests among players and six new confirmed positives among other personnel from 58,621 tests administered to a total of 8,739 players and team personnel between Aug. 21-29. Sixty-seven players opted

out of the 2020 season

health concerns. The Vikings, of course, are counting on their

quarterback to be available for all 16 games. Even if Cousins were to be asymptomatic, an ill-timed positive test could keep him out of action. "I find myself ordering

delivery a lot more than I did last season, and I just think it's just in our team's best interest for us to be at work, go home and not try to maximize your exposure outside of those two places," Cousins said.

MSU: Fall athletes must make tough decision seniors — Alivia Garbe, kind of (caused) a little bit

Continued from Page A7 his seniors regarding the

future, as many are still trying to get over losing the season. "The senior class has

been a really consistent class during their time here," Bahl said. "They would've played a big role in what we thought was going to be a really great season for us." MSU soccer seniors and

redshirt seniors include Taylor Cottew, Jessica Craigmile, Claire Barresi, Brittaney Kroll, Molly Riley, Lauryn Smith, Brooke Valiukas, Molly Sarafolean, Danielle Tazic, Zoe Wright and Carly Czaplewski. While the senior class is

big for the soccer team, it's a different story when it comes to the MSU volleyball team. Interim coach Corey

Phelps only has three

Mara Quam and Micayla Porter — who have also not made decisions yet. Phelps said that one of the biggest concerns his

players had was the status

of a potential spring season, an idea that has been thrown around, but has no concrete plan at this point. "We're still holding hope that we're going to have some sort of a season, so we can have at least some

spring," Phelps said. Looking ahead, clarity for fall coaches may not be coming anytime soon. A spring season played without championships likely won't count against eligibility, which could

conference matches in the

delay decisions even more. That's something that will likely affect recruiting

for years to come. "Other than the commitments we already have, it's of a pause to the pace of our recruiting that we normally would have going," Bahl said. Directly tied to roster crunches will be budget

concerns. It's possible

schools could have a hard

time honoring scholarships

depending on the toll the pandemic takes. All these layers of uncertainty have led coaches to a day-by-day approach, with it being impossible to predict what's next.

"The ramifications of this pandemic are going to be widespread across all divisions and programs,' Phelps said. "It's just about trying to figure out what this thing will look like once we get it under control and it's behind us."

Kevin Dudley is at kdudley@mankatofreepress. com. Twitter @Dudley7Kevin.

NASCAR THIS WEEK

SPEED FREAKS

A few questions we had to ask ourselves

Look deep into that playoff roster. Who might make a surprising

GODSPEAK: Give me Matt DiBenedetto because he has nothing to lose at this point. Making the playoffs was the No. 1 goal. KEN'S CALL: I'll go with Aric Almirola. He's had a bunch of top-10 streaks this year, and that's no accident. I'll say he makes the first two playoff cuts and is among the final eight.

Does the Daytona win propel William Byron to possible playoff success?

GODSPEAK: Absolutely. The hardest win is the first. Now that young Byron has tasted victory, he will want more success. He gets to the Elite Eight.

KEN'S CALL: Nope. If his playoffs are alive through the first round and he gets to Talladega, it helps his confidence there. And that's not saying much because confidence in a pack-race is fleeting.

GODWIN'S PICKS FOR DARLINGTON

WINNER: Chase Elliott **REST OF TOP 5:** Denny Hamlin, Kevin Harvick, Kyle Busch, Kurt Busch

FIRST ONE OUT: Ricky Stenhouse

DARK HORSE: Tyler Reddick **DON'T BE SURPRISED IF:** Elliott charges out of the gate for the NASCAR playoffs.

BY THE NUMBERS

First-time Cup Series winners this season

6 Points margin that kept Jimmie Johnson out of playoffs

Years NASCAR has used knockout playoff format

Drivers who have scored first career Cup win at Daytona summer race

16 Drivers in the Cup Series

DAYTONA MOTOR MOUTHS

The Motor Mouths remember when playoffs were strictly for those who use sticks and balls (or pucks, as our loyal Canadian readers might suggest).





Jimmie Johnson's attempt to make the playoffs ended in a shower of sparks after he was swept into a Big One at Daytona. [NEWS-JOURNAL/NIGEL COOK]

THROUGH THE GEARS

Jimmie Johnson's decline remains very mysterious

By Godwin Kelly

Daytona Beach News-Journal USA TODAY NETWORK

ASCAR's brass wanted to notch up the tension level for its Cup Series regular-season finale by moving Race 26 to Daytona International Speedway.

It worked.

Because "plate racing" is so unpredictable and creates an equal playing field for all drivers, the Coke Zero Sugar 400 was an edge-of-your-seat event from start to finish.

The playoff field was not determined until the last few grinding laps of competition.

Now it's time to buckle up for the 10-race playoffs ...

FIRST GEAR: It is unknown why the No. 48 Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet, wheeled by Jimmie Johnson, fell off the rails then plunged off a cliff after the 2017 season. Johnson is winless the last three years.

Johnson won his seventh Cup championship in 2016 then started going into decline. The last handful of laps at Daytona knocked him out of this year's playoffs by six points. He will leave the No. 48 team at season's end.

"Definitely disappointed to not be in the playoffs — that was the No. 1 goal to start the year," he said. "But when I look back at the disqualification at Charlotte and then missing the Brickyard 400 due to my COVID-19 positive test and only miss it by six points - we did all we could this year. I'm so thankful for Hendrick Motorsports and the career that I've had there."

SECOND GEAR: Crew chief Chad Knaus and Johnson won seven championships together at Hendrick Motorsports. Ironically, it was Knaus' current driver

William Byron who helped knock Johnson from the playoffs.

"I hate it for Jimmie," Knaus said. "He's one of my best friends. He was the first guy that came by pit road and looked up at me, revved up the engine, gave me thumbs up.

"He means the world to me. He's a great man and brother of mine. It hurts me, but it is what we do, we compete. We've got to go do what we need to do."

THIRD GEAR: The 16-driver playoff field was set when the checkered flag fell at Daytona. Round 1 includes races at Darlington, Richmond and Bristol, then four drivers will be eliminated.

And this is where that racing for playoff points comes into play. Kevin Harvick enters the postseason with a 57-point advantage on 16th-place Matt DiBenedetto, which means Harvick can have one bad outing in the next three knockout rounds and still make the Championship Round.

Last year, Kyle Busch used his points cushion to point his way into the seasonfinale and won the championship. This time around he only scored four playoff points and has no wins.

"We put ourselves in a great spot again and had a fast race car, a good driving race car and was just hoping we could maintain that position for the rest of the day and get a win, that's what we're trying to look for," Busch said of Daytona. "Thought we had a shot to do that."

FOURTH GEAR: At Daytona, Tyler Reddick caused the first Big One in Turn 4 on Lap 153. Ryan Newman was caught in the mess and knocked out of the race.

"He obviously just ran out of talent," Newman said of Reddick. "It seems like you can win a couple of Xfinity championships and still stick your head where the sun don't shine when the time comes right."

OUESTIONS & ATTITUDE

Compelling questions ... and maybe a few actual answers

Did Daytona work as planned?

In terms of giving NASCAR the drama it desired for the regular-season finale, there was practically no way it could fall short. Literally, at least 30 of the 40 entries were capable of winning, and it showed in the late laps when some guys were within sight of their first career win and one of them — William Byron, aka "Willie B" or "Billy the Kid" — did just that. If it's not the pre-playoff race next year and beyond, it's scheduling malpractice.

When is a special paint scheme not so special?

Several "throwback" paint jobs for Darlington look great (the No. 3's Junior Johnson tribute is a favorite), but others are just ho-hum because, frankly, every week seems to bring "special" paint schemes. There were so many changes between Dover two weeks ago and Daytona last week, you didn't know who's who until the number came into view. Here's hoping (again) permanent paint schemes are part of NAS-CAR's future.

Ken Willis, ken.willis @news-jrnl.com

CUP STANDINGS

1. Kevin Harvick	2057
2. Denny Hamlin	2047
3. Brad Keselowski	2029
4. Joey Logano	2022
5. Chase Elliott	2020
6. Martin Truex Jr.	2014
7. Ryan Blaney	2013
8. Alex Bowman	2009
9. William Byron	2007
10. Austin Dillon	2005
11. Cole Custer	2005
12. Aric Almirola	2005
13. Clint Bowyer	2004
14. Kyle Busch	2003
15. Kurt Busch	2001
16. Matt DiBenedetto	2000
17. Jimmie Johnson	660
18. Erik Jones	593
19. Tyler Reddick	579
20. Christopher Bell	486

WHAT'S ON TAP

(All times Eastern)

CUP SERIES: Southern 500 SITE: Darlington Raceway (1.366mile oval)

TV SCHEDULE: Sunday, race (NBC Sports Network, 6 p.m.)

XFINITY: Sports Clips 200 **SITE:** Darlington Raceway TV SCHEDULE: Saturday, race (NBC, 12:30 p.m.)

GANDER RV & OUTDOORS TRUCK SERIES: South Carolina Education

Lottery 200 **SITE:** Darlington Raceway

TV SCHEDULE: Sunday, race (Fox Sports 1, 2 p.m.)

AND WINNERS

Feb. 9: Clash at Daytona (Erik Jones) Feb. 16: Daytona 500 (Denny Hamlin) Feb. 23: Las Vegas (Joey Logano) March 1: Fontana (Alex Bowman)

March 8: Phoenix (Joey Logano) May 17: Darlington (Kevin Harvick) May 20: Darlington (Denny Hamlin) May 24: Charlotte (Brad Keselowski)

2020 CUP SERIES SCHEDULE May 27: Charlotte (Chase Elliott) May 31: Bristol (Brad Keselowski)

June 7: Atlanta (Kevin Harvick)

June 10: Martinsville (Martin Truex Jr.) June 14: Homestead-Miami (Denny Hamlin)

June 22: Talladega (Ryan Blaney) June 27: Pocono (Kevin Harvick)

June 28: Pocono (Denny Hamlin) July 5: Indianapolis (Kevin Harvick) July 12: Kentucky (Cole Custer)

July 15: Charlotte All-Star Race (Chase Elliott)Sept. 6: Darlington July 19: Texas (Austin Dillon)

July 23: Kansas (Denny Hamlin) Aug. 2: New Hampshire (Brad Keselowski)

Aug. 8: Michigan (Kevin Harvick)

Aug. 9: Michigan (Kevin Harvick)

Aug. 16: Daytona Road Course (Chase Elliott) Oct. 18: Kansas

Aug. 22: Dover (Denny Hamlin)

Aug. 23: Dover (Kevin Harvick) Aug. 29: Daytona (William Byron)

Sept. 12: Richmond

Sept. 19: Bristol Sept. 27: Las Vegas Oct. 4: Talladega Oct. 11: Charlotte

Oct. 25: Texas Nov. 1: Martinsville Nov. 8: Phoenix







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CLINT

KEVIN HARVICK Bonus points cushy as a My

DENNY HAMLIN Yet another Cup oppor-**Pillow** tunity is at hand

MARTIN TRUEX JR. Wow, eight straight top-fives

JOEY LOGANO 0-for-13 at Darlington

CHASE ELLIOTT Daddy won a million bucks at Darlington

KEN WILLIS' TOP 10 NASCAR DRIVER RANKINGS

BRAD KESELOWSKI Will finish fourth this week

JIMMIE **JOHNSON** Stays in our top 10, for now

KYLE BUSCH Is there a switch he can flip?

ALMIROLA BOWYER Mr. Hunch's How long will playoff his playoffs last sleeper