

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL



Kelly Humphrey / Brainerd Dispatch

Brainerd Warrior running back Damen Benthon carries the ball Friday against Coon Rapids at Adamson Field.

BRAINERD HEADS ON THE ROAD TO FACE ANDOVER

By Conrad Engstrom
Sports Writer

Coming off a Week Zero win, Brainerd will look to make it two in a row Thursday, Sept. 2, on the road against Andover in Week One.

After watching the film of the 21-6 win over Coon Rapids, Warriors head coach Jason Freed thinks the mistakes can be easily fixed.

“A lot of the mistakes we made were a fundamental thing or a mental mistake,” Freed said. “Sometimes the film is better than you thought the game went and sometimes it shows other things. Overall, I think the film is pretty true to how we played on Friday.

We saw opportunities on offense that we didn’t take advantage of and on defense a lot of the things we saw were true.”

A challenge for Freed and his staff is keeping his team fresh on a short week and playing against a team that is opening its season.

“We’ve talked a lot about that early in the week here,” Freed said. “It’s really important in a short week like this to be smart and diligent about what we practice. We talk a lot about the mental part of things and watching film and getting them prepared in that sense. It’s a little bit rushed. Usually, you don’t have a short week like this at the beginning

Brainerd at Andover

When: 7 p.m.
Where: at Andover
Last result: Never played.
The series: 0-0.
Twitter: @the_rad34
Radio: KLIZ-AM (1380)
Web Stream: www.kliz.com.

of the year and it poses its own challenges, but we will make sure our kids are physically ready to go.”

The Andover Huskies are coming off a 2020 season that saw them finish 7-0 and with a Section 7-5A title in the COVID-19 shortened season.

“You want to build off

the success you did have last year, but you also need kids to understand that last year was last year and this year is this year,” Huskies head coach Tom Develice said. “I think that our kids like it when we do have success and it can drive some of our offseason dedication, but there’s always that fine line that it is a new year.”

Develice watched Brainerd’s Week Zero win over Coon Rapids and is excited to play them.

“Just trying to get kids’ nerves down,” he said. “We had the opportunity to watch the game last week, so we feel one of the big advantages Brainerd has is those first game jitters

Brainerd has gotten out of their system. We just want to get settled in as quickly as we can and see where things are at.”

Andover has many returning pieces from last year’s team, including quarterback Connor Develice who started six games for the Huskies and threw for 1,330 yards and 16 touchdowns in 2020.

“They are a very dynamic team,” Freed said. “They bring back a quarterback who is very efficient. They are going to attack the whole field, so it will force us to have to be disciplined on the inside. We are going to have to play assignment football. Formation wise

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Ben Ludeman / USA Today Sports

Minnesota Vikings tight end Irv Smith Jr. (84) celebrates a touchdown during the second quarter against the Seattle Seahawks on Sunday, Aug. 18, 2019, at U.S. Bank Stadium.

Vikings TE Smith Jr. out for ‘a while’ after knee surgery

By Dane Mizutani
St. Paul Pioneer Press

A potential breakout season for Irv Smith Jr. appears to be over before it ever began.

Though coach Mike Zimmer wouldn’t flat out say if the out-of-nowhere knee injury was season-ending, he did confirm that Minnesota Vikings’ 23-year-old tight end had surgery on Wednesday morning to repair his meniscus. He apparently injured his knee in last week’s pre-season game against the Kansas City Chiefs.

The decision to repair the meniscus rather than remove it completely typically carries a recovery time of four to six months.

“They repaired the meniscus, which is the

best thing for him for his longevity,” Zimmer said. “If we would’ve took the meniscus out from what I understand — again, I’m not a doctor or a trainer — he would’ve had an arthritic knee and his career would’ve been shortened.”

Asked if he was hopeful that Smith could return at some point this season, Zimmer responded, “We don’t know yet. He had surgery this morning. It’ll be awhile though.”

Regardless, the Vikings have started to prepare for life without Smith, flipping a fourth-round draft pick to the New York Jets on Tuesday to get tight end Chris Herndon. He will team up with fellow tight end Tyler Conklin to fill the void left by Smith.

COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL

Rinicker, Raiders knock down Itasca

ITASCA — Megan Rinicker collected 10 kills, three digs, three blocks and one ace serve as the Central Lakes College Raiders swept Itasca 3-0 Wednesday, Sept. 1.

Haley Schlepfer added 10 kills, three kills and two ace serves and Jacey Rydberg went for eight kills, eight set assists, three ace serves and three digs.

“We looked like a more experi-

enced team as Itasca is just starting the season,” Raiders head coach Jane Peterson said. “We missed a ton of serves, which made the scores closer than what it was, but we’re trying to serve aggressively, which is new for some people. When you jump from high school to college it’s different because we use the serve as an offensive part of the game. It’s a different kind of mindset at this level and we’re trying to figure it out.”

Grace Peabody dished out 24

set assists to go with three kills and two digs for the Raiders who have won five straight.

Itasca 9 15 18
Central Lakes 25 25 25
Raider statistics
Elle Sutton 1 kill, 2 digs
Haley Schlepfer 10 kills, 2 ace serves, 3 digs, 1 set assist
Gabbie Enneking 3 digs, 1 ace serve
Sarah Bennett 13 digs, 1 set assist
Grace Peabody 3 kills, 2 digs, 24 set assists
Megan Rinicker 10 kills, 3 digs, 1 ace serve, 3 blocks
Tori Plemel 4 kills
Jacey Rydberg 8 kills, 3 ace serves, 3 digs, 2 blocks, 8 set assists
Jaime Johnson 6 kills, 2 ace serves, 3 digs, 1 block
Brooke Wattland 1 kill
Division: CLC 1-0. Overall: CLC 5-4. Next: Central Lakes hosts Northland 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 8.



Rinicker

Cubs throw two-hit shutout, sweep Twins

Field Level Media

Frank Schwindel hit a three-run home run and Justin Steele and Adbert Alzolay combined for a two-hit shutout as the Chicago Cubs completed a two-game sweep of the Minnesota Twins with a 3-0 victory on Wednesday in Minneapolis.

Schwindel homered for the third consecutive game, giving him eight on the year. Andrew Romine doubled and scored a run for Chicago, which finished with just four hits.

Steele (3-2) allowed just one hit over five innings to pick up his third major league victory and first as a starter. He walked three and also hit a batter while striking out three.

Alzolay garnered a rare four-inning save. He allowed just one hit and no walks while



Bruce Kluckhohn / USA Today Sports

Minnesota Twins starting pitcher Joe Ryan throws a pitch against the Chicago Cubs in the first inning Wednesday at Target Field in Minneapolis.

striking out five to seal the Cubs’ second shutout victory in the past four games. Alzolay needed just 40 pitches to record the final 12 outs and notch his first major league save.

Minnesota’s hits were two Brent Rooker singles. The Twins man-

aged just one run and one extra-base hit in the series.

Joe Ryan (0-1) took the loss in his highly anticipated major league debut. He gave up three runs on three hits and a walk over five innings while striking out five.

Ryan, acquired in the

Nelson Cruz trade from the Tampa Bay Rays on July 22 and a starter on the silver-medal winning U.S. Olympic team, had four 1-2-3 innings and retired the final seven batters he faced. He threw 89 pitches, 60 for strikes.

Ryan, pitching in front of approximately 50 friends and family who made the trip from the San Francisco Bay Area to watch the game, retired the first six batters he faced before running into trouble in the third inning.

Alfonso Rivas led off the inning with a walk and advanced to third on Romine’s one-out double off the wall in right. After Rafael Ortega flied out to center, Schwindel hit a 384-foot homer into the left field bleachers to account for the game’s only scoring.

