PORTS 11 | THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2021 | BRAINERD DISPATCH

BRAINERDDISPATCH.COM



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

Kelly Humphrey / Brainerd Dispatch

BRAINERD HEADS ON THE ROAD TO FACE ANDOVER

By Conrad Engstrom Sports Writer

oming 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 7-5Atitle in the COVID-19 shortened season.

"You want to build off

the success you did have last vear, 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 ouarterback 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

BRAINERD: Page 13



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 preseason finale 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 left by Smith.

best thing for him for his longevity," Zimmer said. "If we would'ye 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

COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL Rinicker, Raiders knock down Itasca

ITASCA — Megan Rinicker col- enced team as Itasca is just startlected 10 kills, three digs, three

Rinicker

blocks and one ace serve as the Central Lakes College Raiders swept Itasca 3-0 Wednesday, Sept. 1. Haley Schleper 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-

ing 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."

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 Schleper 10 kills, 2 ace serves, 3 digs, 1 set as-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 Watland 1 kill Division: CLC 1-0. Overall: CLC 5-4. Next: Central

set assists to go with three kills

Grace Peabody dished out 24 Lakes hosts Northland 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 8.

Cubs throw two-hit shutout, sweep Twins

Field Level Media Frank Schwindel hit a three-run home run and Justin Steele and Adbert Alzolav 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.

rare four-inning save. He allowed just one two Brent Rooker sinhit and no walks while gles. The Twins man-



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 Alzolay garnered a major league save.

Minnesota's hits were

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.

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 Ryan, acquired in the the game's only scoring.

AREA GIRLS TENNIS

W-DC wins on the road at Roseau

Packer didn't drop a doubles team of lof Jamie point on her way to a No. Barthel-Kelanie Olda-1 singles victory to help kowski scored a 6-2, 6-2 Wadena-Deer Creek to a 6-1 victory over Roseau Wednesday, Sept. 1.

Libby Hartman won sa Glodowski 6-0, 6-0 her No. 3 singles match No. 2: Corra Endres (WDC) def. Jessie Danielson 6-2, 6-4

ROSEAU — Madison 6-0, 6-2 and the No. 3 ViCtOry. WDC 6, Roseau 1

Singles No. 1: Madison Packer (WDC) def. Maris

No. 3: Libby Hartman (WDC) def. Kate Kennedy 6-0, 6-2 No. 4: McKenzie Reed (Ro) Kelly Muckala 6-3, 7-5

Doubles No. 1: KatieRae Fiemever-Anna Fiemever (WDC) def. Maddy Verbout-Erin Brand 6-1, 1-6, 6-3

No. 2: Mercedes Schulz-Kayla Meeks (WDC) def. Karli Wensloff-Emma Johnson 7-5, 6-4 No. 3: Jamie Barthel-Kelanie Oldakow-

ski(WDC) def. Keli Wibbels-Kyle Winkler 6-2, 6-2

Next: Wadena-Deer Creek at Bel-grade-Brooten-Elrosa Triangular 9 a.m Friday, Sept. 3.

Virginia 7, Aitkin 0 VIRGINIA — Macy

Paulbeck forced a firstset tiebreaker at her No. 2 singles spot in the Aitkin Gobblers 7-0 loss to Virginia Wednesday, Sept. 1.

The Gobblers move to 0-4 and will face Eveleth-Gilbert Thursday, Sept. 9. Virginia 7, Aitkin 0

Singles No. 1: Ava Fink (V) def. Breanna Hines 6-0, 6-2 No. 2: Anna Fink (V) def. Macy Paulbeck

7-6 (3), 6-0 No. 3: Ella Lamppa (V) def. Sam Mu 6-2.6-1 No. 4: Alli Fink (V) def. Madi Lehrer 6-3

6-2 Doubles

No. 1: Paige Maki-Ava Seppala (V) del Ashlyn Berg-Sophie Ryan 6-1, 6-3 No. 2: Abby Kramer-Miricle Paulsen (V) def. Kayli Bill-Bailey Gabrio 6-1, 6-3 No. 3: Theresa Anderson-Sydney Spe

(V) def. Alex Brucker-Alivah Favaz 6-0, 6-0 Overall: A 0-4. Next: Aitkin at Eveleth-Gil bert 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 9.

Gophers can't wait to get out of the gate against daunting foe

By Andy Greder St. Paul Pioneer Press

P.J. Fleck is a big fan of the Kentucky Derby.

Before "The Run for the Roses" in 2019, Fleck and wife Heather dressed up for a trip to Churchill Downs. He wore salmon-colored pants and a form-fitting blue sport coat; she had on a matching pinkand-red dress and one of those trademark big flowing hats. They enjoyed pre-race festivities on the red carpet.

In May, the Gophers played their spring game on the same day as the latest edition of The Derby, and hours before the 147th running, Fleck was wish-ing reporters a "Happy Derby Day" as he recapped the U's performance in a scrimmage that featured much less pomp and circumstance.

In July, Fleck compared the Gophers' season opener against fourth-ranked Ohio State at 7 p.m. Thursday to the world-famous horse race.

"Have you ever ridden a horse in the Kentucky Derby?" he asked a reporter at Big Ten Media Days in Indianapolis. "I haven't either. But I can imagine right before you get into the chute and they open that gate, that anticipation that you feel. And then when they open the gate, you go! The anticipation playing a top-five team to open the season at Huntington Bank Stadium with the crowd being back the first time, a sellout crowd, our third straight, with a top-five opponent, it's awesome.'

to The Post."

The U opens the 2021 season against one of college football's thoroughbreds on national TV on Thursday. The Gophers have sold about 6,000 new season tickets and are anticipating a sellout crowd, picking up after the big crowds they had to close the 2019 season. The defending Big Ten champion and national runner-up Buckeyes come to Minnesota as 14-point favorites over a Gophers team that went 3-4 in front of no fans last season, and due to the pandemic, declined to participate in the postseason.

When handicapping the Big Ten, the Buckeyes are the favorite at minus-110 odds to win the conference for a fifth straight time, according to sportsbettingdime.com. Wisconsin is plus-400; Penn State is plus-600; Minnesota is in the middle of the pack at plus-2400.

The Gophers are projected to finish fourth in the Big Ten West, according to the annual cleveland.com preseason poll, behind Wisconsin, Iowa and Northwestern. But internally, the Gophers' goal is to win the division and maybe have a rematch against the Buckeyes in the Big Ten Championship Game on Dec. 4.

"We know it's an enormous challenge," Fleck said of the opener.

While Fleck brought a colorful sports metaphor to describe the first game, it's still a football game. "Our players are taught to be humble enough

bugler for the playing of "Call you if you're not at your best but confident enough to know that you can beat anybody if you are at your best," he said. "They're trained that way. And it's just like the Derby — there are so many horses, and on any given day, one can beat the other."

Glen Mason has allegiances to both the Gophers and Buckeves. He plaved at Ohio State in the 1970s and was an assistant coach in Columbus from 1978-85 before he served as Gophers head coach from 1997-2006. But he didn't hesitate in picking the Gophers to win on Thursday.

"I think it's going to be a close game," Mason said Mon-day on KFAN. "I think it will be some crazy play where they win it.'

That's not how the betting money has come in on the opener. The initial line was set at the Buckeyes being a two-touchdown favorite, and it hasn't move more than 1/2 a point over the past month.

"Ninety percent of the bets and 86 percent of the money on BetMGM is on Ohio State, Dan Wetzel shared on the College Football Inquirer podcast Monday. One factor in the outcome and the spread will be the health of Gophers receiver Chris Autman–Bell, who is considered a game-time decision by Fleck after he injured his ankle Aug. 12. Fleck has said "CrAB" has improved, but emphasizes his overall health will factor in the decision to play him or not.

The Gophers' two best wins Cue the Kentucky Derby to know that anybody can beat of Fleck's tenure were head-



Jesse Johnson / USA Today Sports

Minnesota Golden Gophers head coach P.J. Fleck leads the team onto the field before a Nov. 30, 2019, game against the Wisconsin Badgers at TCF Bank Stadium.

night."

lined by the running game: beating Wisconsin on the road to close the 2018 regular season and topping Auburn in the Outback Bowl on New Year's Day 2020. Both games saw Minnesota controlling the line of scrimmage and running the ball to victory, highlighted by long, back-breaking drives in both Ws.

"We take big pride in holding the ball," running back Mo Ibrahim said. "That is one of coach Fleck's biggest things each game."

With the most-experienced offense line in college football in front of Ibrahim, the reigning Big Ten running back of the year, that appears to be the best recipe for the Gophers to pull off an upset to open 2021.

"We know what we are get-ting ourselves into," Ibrahim said. "(Ohio State) represent ... the whole Big Ten very well. They go to the playoff every year. Those guys will be prepared. It just gives us a little boost knowing that we have to long tim be on our 'A' game Thursday feeling."

U defensive end Boye Mafe will be expected to make big plays on the other side of the ball and against the Buckeyes lauded offensive line. "It's a very talented team, top to bottom, they have a lot of depth," Mafe said. "They are traditionally a talented team ... We are preparing for that. It's exciting because it's another challenge. You don't want to go against Joe Schmo."

The Gophers have an edge in experience at quarterback. Tanner Morgan is 18-8 as a starter, while CJ Stroud will be taking his first start.

After the horses race out of the chute - er, the opening kickoff — it's a football game again, and Morgan can't wait, especially after spending fall camp in a no-contact jersey.

"Whenever you take your first hit, it's almost like, 'I'm a football player again," Morgan said. "I haven't been hit in a long time. It's kind of a good

Minnesota receiver Autman-Bell's status is still hazy

Bv Andv Greder St. Paul Pioneer Press Gophers head football P.I. Fleck doesn



(Sunday). He's a little healthy enough to con- from the Falcons, Briean more kind of advanced tribute to Minnesota's Boddy-Calhoun from the make that call, along with our medical team."

in terms of a game-time upset bid of No. 4 Ohio Titans, Kiondre Thomdecision. But I won't State in Thursday's sea- as from the Browns and make that call. Chris will son opener? Will he warm up to play at Huntington Bank Stadium? Might he be used as a decoy in the game, or can he be a legitimate target for quarterback Tanner Mor-

Craig James from the Eagles.

like to talk about players' injuries, but he can be willing to talk around them.

After No. 1 receiver Chris Autman–Bell injured his ankle when he was taken down in a horse-collar tackle during an Aug. 12 practice, Fleck first said on Aug. 16 that "CrAB" did not suffer a serious injury and was considered "week-to-week."

By Aug. 23, Autman-Bell had progressed, in Fleck's words, to "day-to-day," and the coach stayed with that designation when talking about it on Aug. 27. But there were some qualifiers included in Fleck's quote, followed by a bottom line.

"He's kind of moved from week-to-week to somewhat day-to-day now," Fleck said. "We are excited about the progJesse Johnson / USA Today Sports

Minnesota Golden Gophers wide receiver Chris Autman-Bell (7) catches a pass and rushes with the ball for first down in the first quarter against the Purdue Boilermakers Nov. 20, 2020, at TCF Bank Stadium in Minneapolis.

ress he's making. We are going to do what's another update on Autbest for Chris, first. We are going to make sure Chris is healthy enough included more progress to do whatever, whether and the same baseline. it's practice, whether it's reps, whether it's playing in a game. But we will take that one day at a time."

On Monday, Fleck gave man-Bell's status on his KFAN radio show. It

"He's doing great, guys; he really is," Fleck said. "He's really come a long way. He was out there at practice running

Fleck said the team's doctors will make the final decision.

"He has been working his way back into it; I think that's the thing," Fleck continued. "He feels great. He's pretty healthy, but is he ready to play in a game yet? That's where we've got to make sure, just because he's healthy and ready to go, is he truly ready to play in a game? I think that is what the doctors really look at."

That's where the rub might be. If Autman-Bell has progressed as much as Fleck has said over the past few weeks, is it enough to not risk re-injury and setting back his availability to a week-toweek status?

Can Autman-Bell be thers, Chris Williamson toso (Panthers).

gan? Or is it best for Autman-Bell to rest and keep rehabbing his ankle to be available for a few weeks during nonconference play? After Thursday's game, the U will face Miami (Ohio) at home on Sept. 11, travel to play Colorado in Boulder on Sept. 18 and host Bowling Green on Sept. 25. The Big Ten schedule restarts at Purdue on Oct. 2.

Gophers in NFL

Six former Gophers players were released by NFL teams on Tuesday: Rodney Smith and Jon Celestin from the Pan-

There were two previous exits from NFL rosters during training camp: Burnsville's Kamal Martin (Packers) and Maple Grove's Sam Renner (Buccaneers). On Aug 24, Martin was released by Green Bay, and Renner was cut and given an injury settlement.

Minnesota has 12 former players on initial 53-man NFL rosters: Antoine Winfield and Tyler Johnson (Buccaneers); Rashod Bateman (Ravens); Maxx Williams and Chris Streveler (Cardinals); Damien Wilson (Jaguars); Carter Coughlin (Giants); Benjamin St-Juste (Washington); Blake Cashman (Jets) De'Vondre Campbell (Packers); Eric Murray (Texans), and Ryan San-

Vikings looking to re-sign backup QB Sean Mannion

Team claims former NDSU standout Ellefson off waivers

By Chris Tomasson St. Paul Pioneer Press

EAGAN, Minn. -Backup quarterback Sean Mannion could be returning to the Minnesota Vikings

A source said it's anticipated the Vikings will re-sign Mannion, who played with them the past two seasons and was released by Seattle on day released punter Britton Wednesday. The Vikings had planned to sign quarterback Jake Browning to the practice squad after they waived him Griffen and DePaola. on Tuesday, but that changed when Mannion was let go by the Seahawks.

The Vikings announced

re-signings of defensive end Everson Griffen and long snap-per Andrew DePaola. Those moves had been expected since meniscus in last Friday's pre-Minnesota on Tuesday released the vested veterans who didn't have to go through waivers to clear up roster spots for them.

The Vikings on Wednes-Colquitt, also a vested veteran, and indications are he will return in the same manner as

Minnesota added more depth Ellefson off waivers from Jack-

Wednesday, including the in 2020 out of North Dakota State. He had one catch last season for the Jaguars. Starter Irv Smith Jr. suffered a torn season finale at Kansas City, likely ending his season. On Tuesday, the Vikings acquired tight end Chris Herndon from the New York Jets.

The Vikings placed Smith Jr., running back Kene Nwangwu and wide receiver Dan Chisena on injured reserve, which requires players to miss at least three games. In addition, they at tight end by claiming Ben waived defensive end Jalyn Holmes, who played for them sonville. A native of Hawley, the past three seasons. If he a number of roster moves Minn., Ellefson went undrafted clears waivers and the Vikings

want to put him on the practice squad, they have two spots open.

The Vikings announced 14 players for their 16-man practice squad. Signed were running backs Ameer Abdullah and A.J. Rose Jr., guards Dakota Dozier and Kyle Hinton, tight end Zach Davidson, safety Myles Dorn, defensive end Kenny Willekes, cornerbacks Tye Smith and Parry Nickerson, tackle Zack Bailey, fullback Jake Bargas, linebacker Tuf Borland and wide receivers Myron Mitchell and Whop Philvor.

All were let go by the team Tuesday. Abdullah, Dozier and Tye Smith are vested veterans who didn't have to go through will against decisions that were made."

all went unclaimed.

Tight end Shane Zylstra, a Spicer, Minn., native who was waived by Minnesota on Tuesday, joined Detroit's practice squad after not getting an immediate offer from the Vikings.

A source said the Vikings wanted to sign defensive end Hercules Mata'afa to the practice squad before ultimately deciding against it. Mata'afa, who got into 19 games the past two seasons for Minnesota, was informed of the team's decision on Sunday. He then put out a statement thanking the Vikings for his time with them and saying he had "no ill

Lynx continue to surge, turn back slumping Liberty

Field Level Media 25 points and hit four key free throws in the erty (11-17), who have final seconds, while Napheesa Collier added 21 with 14 rebounds Tuesday night, as the off berth by percentage short-handed Minnesota Lynx won their third straight game, 74-66 over the visiting New York Liberty.

With Minnesota (16-9) ahead 68-66, McBride hit a pair of free throws with 21.7 seconds remaining in regulation and two more with 14.3 to go. Despite playing without star Sylvia Fowles (shoulder) and fellow starter Layshia Clarendon (lower leg) — and losing forward Damiris Dantas early in the third quarter with an apparent injury — the Lynx won for the 11th time in 13 games.

Kayla McBride had Sabrina Ionescu each scored 17 for the Liblost a season-high five straight, and are clinging to the final playpoints.

New York entered averaging a WNBA-best 10.4 made 3-pointers, but went 5-of-24 from distance and shot 32.4 percent overall.

New York scored the first five points of the game, but Minnesota ended the back-andforth opening quarter on a 7-0 run to lead 20-15.

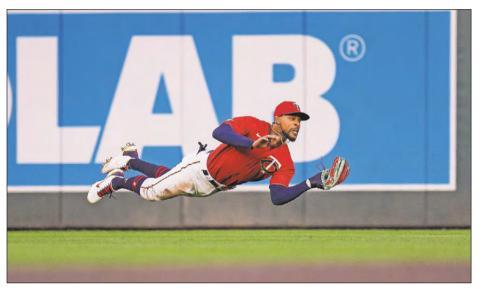
McBride and Collier combined for all but 12 of Minnesota's points in the first half, which it led 39-37 at the break.

After Laney's basket drew New York within

Betnijah Laney and and Minnesota surged. Successive buckets from Collier and Aerial Powers (10 points) gave the Lynx some breathing room (52-47), and later Minnesota scored the final five points of the quarter: Powers' traditional three-point play and a Collier basket off an offensive rebound to give the Lynx a 57-49 lead entering the final period.

Minnesota led by as many as nine early in the fourth, but New York clawed its way back and twice got within two points — 65-63 via Ionescu's 3-point basket with 1:32 to play and 68-66 on three free throws by Michaela Onyenwere (11 points, 10 rebounds).

Yet, McBride's key 48-47 with 2:16 left in free throws put the the third quarter, Collier game away for the hosts.



Brad Rempel / USA Today Sports

Minnesota Twins outfielder Byron Buxton makes a diving catch against the Chicago Cubs in the second inning Tuesday at Target Field

Schwindel and Happ homer as Cubs down Twins

Field Level Media Frank Schwindel and Ian Happ hit home runs to lead the Chicago Cubs to a 3-1 victory over the Minnesota Twins on Tuesday night in the opener of a two-game

series at Minneapolis. iust seven hits while improving to 25-43 on the road this season. Rodriguez Manuel (3-2) pitched two hitless innings of relief to pick up the win. Rowan Wick struck out two of the three batters he faced in a 1–2–3 ninth to earn his first save. Luis Arraez doubled, scored a run and had two hits for Minnesota, which went 1-for-8 with runners in scoring position. John Gant (4-9) took the loss despite allowing just two runs on three hits and no walks over five innings. He struck out

five Chicago, making its first appearance at Target Field since 2015, jumped out to 1-0 lead in the first inning on Schwindel's seventh home run of the season, a 421-foot drive into Robinson Chirinos had the bullpen in center. It an RBI triple for Chica- was the second straight go, which finished with game in which Schwindel homered. The Twins tied it in the bottom of the first. Arraez led off with a double off the wall in left-center, advanced to third on a single by Byron Buxton and scored on a sacrifice fly by Jorge Polanco. The Cubs took a 2-1 lead in the second. Matt Duffy led off with a single and scored two outs later when Chirinos lined a drive over the glove of left fielder Brent Rooker. The ball caromed off the bottom of the wall in left-center and scooted along the threw Arraez out at the warning track before

Buxton could retrieve it. Chirinos ended up with his first triple of the season.

Chicago had a chance to blow the game open in the seventh when it loaded the bases with no outs. However, Twins reliever Tyler Duffey came in and struck out Alfonso Rivas, Chirinos and Andrew Romine to get out of the jam. Happ made it 3-1 in the eighth with his 17th homer of the season, a towering 437-foot drive off Caleb Thielbar into the third deck down the left field line. The Twins loaded the bases with one out in the bottom of the eighth off Michael Hermosillo. Adam Morgan took over on the mound and got Max Kepler to pop out to second baseman Duffy in shallow right, and Duffy then whirled and plate to end the inning.

SCOREBOARD

BASEBALL

Professional

MLB

w

41

Central

W 78 65

63 59 58

73 72

66 47

68

65 55 55

Central

West

w

West W L Pct 78 55 .586

60 .549 62 .537

68 .493 12.5 86 .353 31.0

L Pct GB 61 .534 — 64 .515 2.5 67 .492 5.5 76 .420 15.0 78 .414 16.0

 L
 FCI
 GB

 52
 .609
 —

 63
 .533
 10.0

 64
 .515
 12.5

 75
 .440
 22.5

 85
 .361
 33.0

L Pct GB

 84
 48
 .636
 -

 84
 49
 .632
 .5

 71
 63
 .530
 14.0

 61
 72
 .459
 23.5

W L Pct GB 81 52 .609 —

t 49 .632 — 56 .579 7.0 59 .563 9.0 62 .530 13.5 91 .311 42.5

ral L Pct GB 56 .582 — 64 .504 10.5 71 .470 15.0 72 .450 17.5 75 .436 19.5

GB

5.0 6.5

American League

Tampa Bay NY Yankee

Boston

Toronto

Baltimore

Chi. White Sox

Cleveland

Minnesota

Houston

Oakland

LA Angels Texas

Philadelphia

Washington Miami

Milwaukee

Cincinnati St. Louis Chi. Cubs Pittsburgh

San Francisco LA Dodgers San Diego

American League Tuesday's Results Baltimore 4, Toronto 2 Tampa Bay 8, Boston 5 Oakland 9, Detroit 3

Calvana 9, Detroit 3 Cleveland 7, Kansas City 2 LA Angels 6, NY Yankees 4 Seattle 4, Houston 0 Wednesday's Results Seattle 1, Houston 0

NY Yankees 4. LA Angels 1

Foronto 5, Baltimore 4 Boston 3, Tampa Bay 2 Detroit 8, Oakland 6 Cleveland (Allen 1-5) at Kansas City (Kowar 0-2), 7:10 p.m. **Thursday's Games** Oakland (Manaea 8-9) at Detroit (Manning 2,5), 12(10 p.m.

3-5), 12:10 p.m. Boston (Rodriguez 10-7) at Tampa Bay (McClanahan 9-4), 6:10 p.m.

Cleveland (McKenzie 3-5) at Kansas City,

Tuesday's Results St. Louis (Mikolas 0-1) at Cincinnati (Gray 7-6), PPD

Philadelphia 12, Washington 6 NY Mets 3, Miami 1, 7 innings San Diego 3, Arizona 0 Milwaukee 6, San Francisco 2 LA Dodgers 3, Atlanta 2 **Wednesday's Results** St. Louis 5, Cincinnati 4, 7 innings Arizona 8, San Diego 3 Cincinnati 12, St. Louis 2, 7 innings Philadelphia (Nola 7-7) at Washington (Espino 4-4), PPD Milwaukee (Anderson 4-8) at San Francis-co (Gausman 12-5), 8:45 p.m.

Atlanta (Fried 11-7) at LA Dodgers (Scher-zer 4-0), 9:10 p.m. **Atlanta (Fried 11-7) at LA Dodgers (Scher-**zer 4-0), 9:10 p.m. **Thursday's Games** Philadelphia at Washington, 12:05 p.m.

Philadelphia 12, Washington 6

Toronto 5. Baltimore 4

7:10 p.m National League

Colorado

Arizona

NY Mets

National League East W Atlanta 70

Seattle

Kansas City

Detroit

AREA EVENTS

Thursday, Sept. 2

FOOTBALL Brainerd at Andover 7 p.m. Little Falls at Glencoe-Silver Lake 6 p.m.

Pequot Lakes at East Grand Forks 6 p.m. Pierz vs. Holdingford at Sauk Centre 7 p.m. Hawlev at Pillager 6 p.m. Pine River-Backus at Walker-Hacken-sack-Akeley 7 p.m. Verndale at Hillcrest Lutheran 7 p.m.

Wadena-Deer Creek at Staples-Motley 7 p.m. VOLLEYBALL

Sartell at Brainerd 7 p.m. Mille Lacs at Aitkin 7:15 p.m. Pine River-Backus at Crosby-Ironton 7:15 p.m. Little Falls at Fergus Falls 7:15 p.m Staples-Motley at Menahga 7:15 p.m Wadena-Deer Creek at Perham 7:30 p.m.

GIRLS TENNIS Brainerd at St. Cloud Tech Triangular

1:30 p.m. Crosby-Ironton at Detroit Lakes Triangular

9 a.m. Pequot Lakes at Perham 10 a.m.

CROSS-COUNTRY

Staples-Motley at St. Olaf Invite 10 a.m. Wadena-Deer Creek at New York Mills 10 a.m.

GIRLS SOCCER St. Cloud Apollo at Brainerd 7 p.m. Becker at Little Falls 5:15 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 3 FOOTBALL

Aitkin at Crosby-Ironton 7 p.m. VOLLEYBALL

Fourth at Lake Region 5:30 p.m. Upsala at Pillager 1:15 p.m.

GIRLS TENNIS Wadena-Deer Creek at Belgrade-Broo-ten-Elrosa Triangular 9 a.m.

CROSS-COUNTRY

Brainerd, Pequot Lakes, Pillager, Pine River-Backus in Run for the Melon at Forestview Middle School 10 a.m. BOYS SOCCER

Fourth at Lake Region 4 p.m.

TV AND RADIO

Thursday, September 2

BASKETBALL WNBA: Los Angeles at Minnesota, 7 p.m., BSN

FOOTBALL:

College football: Temple at Rutgers, 5:30 p.m., BTN College football: Boise State at UCF, 6 p.m., ESPN College football: Ohio State at Minnesota,

7 p.m., FOX, WWWI-FM 95.9, KKIN-AM

(930), KLTF-AM (960), KVKK-AM (1070), WWWI-AM 1270, KAKK-AM (1570)

- GOLF
- Euro Tour: DS Automobiles Italian Open, 6:30 a.m., GOLF Korn Ferry Tour Championship, 9 a.m.,

GOLF PGA Tour Championship, noon, GOLF

OLYMPIC SPORTS:

Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games, 2 a.m. and 8 p.m., NBCSN International Swimming League, 1 p.m., CBSSN

SOCCER

2022 FIFA World Cup qualifier: U.S. vs. El Salvador, 9 p.m., CBSSN

TENNIS:

U.S. Open: Second-round matches, 11 a.m., ESPN U.S. Open: Second-round matches, 5

p.m., ESPN2

Friday, September 3

Formula One: Dutch Grand Prix practice, 4:25 a.m., ESPN2

NHRA drag racing: Indianapolis qualifying, 6 p.m., FS1

BASEBALL:

MLB: Minnesota at Tampa Bay, 6 p.m., BSN, KKIN-FM (94.3), KUAL-FM (103.5), WYRQ-FM (92.1), KWAD-AM (920)

FOOTBALL:

Milwaukee (Lauer 4-5) at San Francisco (Webb 8-3), 2:45 p.m. Miami at NY Mets (Carrasco 0-2), 6:10 p.m. Pittsburgh at Chi. Cubs, 7:05 p.m. Atlanta at Colorado, 7:40 p.m. Attanta at Colorado, 7:40 p.m. Interleague Tuesday's Results Texas 4, Colorado 3 Chi. White Sox 4, Pittsburgh 2 Chi. Cubs 3, Minnesota 1 Wednesday's Results Colorado 9, Texas 5 Chi. White Sox 6. Pittsburgh 3. Chi. White Sox 6, Pittsburgh 3 Chi. Cubs 3, Minnesota 0 Wednesday's results
 Chi. Cubs 3, Minnesota 0

 CHC
 ab r hbi MIN
 ab r hbi

 Ortega cf
 4 0 00
 Buxton cf
 4 0 00

 Schwndi dh
 4 1 13
 Polanco 2b4 0 00

 Happ If
 4 0 10
 Rfsnydr rf
 3 0 00

 Wisdom 3b
 4 0 00
 Dundsn 3b 3 0 00
 00

 Romine c
 3 0 00
 Rocker If
 2 0 20
 2 1 00 Jeffers c 3 0 00 3 0 00 Astudil 1b 3 0 00 3 1 10 Simmons ss20 00 Rivas 1b Alcntr ss Romine 2b Arraez ph 1 0 00 30 3 4 3 Totals 28 0 20 003 000 000 — 3 000 000 000 — 0 Totals Chi. Cubs Minnesota LOB—Minnesota 5, Chicago 1. 2B— An.Romine (2). HR—Schwindel (7). SB—I. Happ (3). IP H RER BB SO Chi. Cubs Steele W, 3-2 Alzolay S, 1 5 1 0 0 3 3 4 1 0 0 0 5 Minnesota Ryan L, 0-1 Coulombe Minaya 1 0 0 0 0 0 HBP—Rooker (by Steele). Umpires—Home, Bruce Dreckman; First, Nick Mahrley; Second, Ron Kulpa; Third, Joe West. T—2:28. A—21,784 (42,035)

3 0 11 Rortvdt c 2 0 10 4 0 00 Rfsnydr ph1 0 10 Chrnos c Romine ss Jeffers c 1 0 00 Simmons ss20 00 Gordon ph 1 0 00 Totals 34 3 7 3 Totals 31 1 91 110 000 010 - 3 Chi. Cubs 100 000 000 - 1 Minnesota Minnesota 10000000-1 E-Donaldson 1. LOB-Minnesota 7, Chi-cago 6. 2B-Arraez (15), Wisdom (8). 3B-R.Chirinos (1). HR-I.Happ (17), Schwindel (6). SB-Sano (2). CS-Bux-ton (1). IP H RER BB SO Chi. Cubs 4 1-3 6 1 1 0 Davies M.Rodriguez W, 3-2 2 0 0 0 2 0 Heuer H, 3 1 3 0 0 1 1 Heuer H, 3 A.Morgan H, 3 2-3 0 0 0 0 0 Wick S, 1 Minnesota 1 0 0 0 0 2 53220 Gant L. 0-3 5

 1
 3
 0
 0
 1

 1
 0
 0
 0
 3

 1
 1
 1
 1
 0
 2

 Minaya Duffey Thielbar 1 0 0 0 R.Garza Inherited runners-scored—Heuer 1-0 A.Morgan 3-0, M.Rodriguez 2-0, Duffey 3-0. HBP—R.Chirinos (by R.Garza). WP— Gant (2). Umpires—Home, Joe West; First, Bruce Dreckman; Second, Nick Mahrley; Third, Ron Kulpa T-3:34. A-22,224 (42,035) BASEBALL **Class C State Tournament** Third-round Saturday, Sept. 4 Sobieski vs. Dumont at Waconia 11 a.m. Second-round results Friday, Aug. 27 Waconia 3, Folev 0 Sunday, Aug. 29 Watertown 8, Avon 1 Sobieski 6. Isanti 5 Opening-round results

BASKETBALL

Saturday, Aug. 21 Sobieski 2, Windom 0

Foley 6, Stark 4

Sunday, Aug. 22 Princeton 1, St. Stephen 0

Professional WNBA					
Eastern Conference					
	w	L	Pct	GB	
Connecticut	21	6	.778	_	
Chicago	14	13	.519	7	
Washington	10	16	.385	10.5	
New York	11	17	.393	10.5	
Atlanta	6	19	.240	14	
Indiana	6	19	.240	14	
Western Conference					
	w	L	Pct	GB	
Las Vegas	19		.731	_	
Seattle	18		.643	2	
Minnesota	16		.640	2.5	
Phoenix	16		.615	3	
Dallas	11		.423	8	
Los Angeles	10	17	.370	9.5	
Tuesday's Game					
Indiana 74, Los A					
Connecticut 85, W					
Minnesota 74, Ne					
Phoenix 103, Chio		33			
Thursday's Gam	es				
Atlanta at Dallas,	7 p.m				
Los Angeles at Mi	nnesc	ota, 1	7 p.m.		
Chicago at Las Ve			n.		
New York at Seat	tle, 9	p.m.			
Tuesday's Result					

Minnesota 74. New York 66

NEW YORK (66) R.Allen 3-13 0-0 7, Laney 6-15 4-4 17, Ionescu 4-12 8-8 17, Onyenwere 3-12 3-3 11, Howard 4-12 0-2 8, Shook 3-3 0-0 6, Richards 0-1 0-0 0, Whitcomb 0-3 0-0 0. Totals 23-71 15-17 66. MINNESOTA (74) N.Collier 8-19 5-6 21, McBride 8-18 7-7

25, Dangerfield 1-6 1-2 3, Achonwa 0-3 0-0 0, Dantas 0-3 0-0 0, Carleton 2-5 0-0 5, Banham 3-10 0-0 8, Shepard 0-1 2-2 2, Powers 2-4 6-7 10. Totals 24-69 21-24 74.

New York 15 22 12 17 — 66 Minnesota 20 19 18 17 — 74 3-Point Goals—New York 5-24 (Onyenw-

ere 2-7, Laney 1-2, R.Allen 1-4, Ionescu 1-7, Howard 0-2, Whitcomb 0-2), Minnesota 5-26 (McBride 2-6, Banham 2-7 Carleton 1-3, Powers 0-1, N.Collier 0-3, Dangerfield 0-3, Dantas 0-3). Fouled Out-None, Rebounds-New York 38 (Onyenwere 10), Minnesota 43 (N.Collier 14). Assists-New York 12 (lonescu 6). Minnesota 10 (Banham 5). Total Fouls-New York 21 (Laney 5), Minnesota 21 (Carleton, Dangerfield, Achonwa 4) -3,221

College football: North Carolina at Virginia Tech, 5 p.m., ESPN College football: Duke at Charlotte, 6 p.m.,

CBSSN College football: Michigan State at Northwestern, 8 p.m., ESPN College football: South Dakota State at

Colorado State, 8 p.m., FS1

GOLF

Furo Tour: DS Automobiles Italian Open 6:30 a.m., GOLF Korn Ferry Tour Championship, 9 a.m., GOL F

PGA Tour Championship, noon, GOLF OLYMPIC SPORTS:

Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games, 2 a.m. and 9 p.m., NBCSN TENNIS: U.S. Open: Third-round matches, 11 a.m., ESPN U.S. Open: Third-round matches, 5 p.m. ESPN2

TRACK AND FIELD: Diamond League, 1 p.m., NBCSN

VOLLEYBALL:

Women's college volleyball: Georgia at Nebraska, 6 p.m., BTN Women's college volleyball: Washington at Illinois, 8 p.m., BTN

Tuesday's results

 Chi. Cubs 3, Minnesota 1

 CHC
 ab
 r hbi MIN
 ab
 r hbi

 Ortega cf
 3
 0
 10
 Arraez 2b
 4
 1
 20

 Hrmsli ph
 1
 0
 00
 Buxton cf
 4
 0
 10
 Hrmsll ph Schwndl dh
 HrmsII ph
 1
 0
 0
 Buxton cr
 4
 0
 1.0

 Schwndi dh
 4
 1
 11
 Polanco dh2
 0
 11

 Happ If
 4
 1
 11
 Dnldsn 3b
 0
 00

 Wisdom 3b
 4
 0
 10
 Kepler rf
 3
 0
 10

 Duffy 2b
 3
 1
 10
 Sano 1b
 4
 0
 10

 Heyward rf
 4
 0
 10
 Rooker If
 2
 0
 10

 Rivas 1b
 4
 0
 0.0
 Cave ph
 2
 0
 00

BRAINERD

From Page 11

they run some stuff similar to Coon Rapids, so that's one of the benefits of it being a short week."

Receiver Sam Musungu is another returner who led Andover in receiving touchdowns last year with five. He caught 17 passes for 239 yards.

Andover's leading rusher Caden Wheeler also returns. He rushed for 289 yards on 68 carries and four touchdowns in 2020

"The way our offense is built I think we are really good at taking what the defense gives us," Tom Develice said. "Last year, what the defense gave us was the opportunity to throw the ball more. We would love to run the ball more efficiently and effectively, but if that's not there we will turn to air. We feel we have to run the ball in order to have the success we want this year."

Freed liked what he saw of



Getty

with only one interception in the home opener.

'He definitely showed some nerves in the first quarter, but he started to settle down and I think what we saw on film is he has the potential to make plays," Freed said. "He looks downfield when he scrambles and for a young quarterback that can be tough. He has a knack for eluding pressure which is a good skill to have."

As with any Brainerd offense, they will continue to look to establish the run. Nathaniel Staehling and Damen Bentho combined for 160 yards last week

"They've been known to be a pressure, very quick defense," Freed said. "They move and bring a lot of pressure and they don't stay

on blocks for very long. We are going to have to take advantage of block sustaining and slow down their pressure if we can. For as good as their offense looks, hopefully, our offense can have sustained drives and control time of possession."

A strong running game could be the key as Andover isn't used to playing teams with strong ground games.

"I think we have to honor that," Tom Develice said. "We have to be willing to say that we are going to stop the run, but be disciplined with our safeties and defensive backs when it is a pass.'

Turnovers played a role in the Warriors' win last week as they forced four Coon Rapids turnovers. That's a trend Freed hopes continues against Andover.

"Turnovers come from being at the right place and the right time," Freed said. "And we talk a lot about having the opportunity to force those things. It's something we constantly preach that if we can get ourselves in those

right places we can force some fumbles and get some interceptions."

It's the first meeting between the two programs, but Tom Develice was on Blaine's coaching staff when Blaine played Brainerd in the 6A playoffs in 2012.

"It's nice that we get to play other opponents that you otherwise would not," Tom Develice said. "Luckily, I've seen Brainerd before when I was at Blaine. So I've been able to preach to them that Brainerd has great tradition, great history and has kids that work really hard. It's a team that is out of the metro area and sometimes those teams are built differently." Brainerd Warriors (1-0) Offense

QB: 7-Marcello Getty, 15-Eli Hoelz RB: 22-Nathaniel Staehling, 20-Damen Bentho, 28-Jesse Rodman WR: 2-Jed Klang, 8-Matt Huesmann, 11-Ethan Win-

dorski, 14-Reece Isle, 16-Sam Spieker, 15-Eli Hoelz TE: 84-Mitchell Degen, 86-Caleb Lange, 80-Henry

Hopkins
Hopkins
DL: 60-Dominik Waytashek, 57-Carter Springer, 66-Caden Jager, 67-Jacob Borgstrom, 73-Dalton Barrett, 76-Elijah Hanson, 51-Josh Albright, 68-Mason Callstrom, 71-Kolbie Bernu
Defense
DL: 53-Grant Gardiepy, 54-Riley DeRosier, 95-Max
Barber, 89-Jack Schafer, 5-Eli Wiskow, 56-Mitchell
Wind, 50-Rhyen Buckmaster
LB: 17-Jacob Holm, 25-Cam Langerman, 52-Brady
Toensing, 60-Dylan Wgeishofski, 42-Dylan Gross, 21-Conner Erickson Hopkins

FOOTBALL

Professional

Week 1 Thursday's Games Dallas at Tampa Bay, 7:20 p.m. Sunday's Games Jacksonville at Houston, 12 p.m. Pittsburgh at Buffalo, 12 p.m. N.Y. Jets at Carolina, 12 p.m. Arizona at Tennessee, 12 p.m. L.A. Chargers at Washington, 12 p.m. Minnesota at Cincinnati, 12 p.m. San Francisco at Detroit, 12 p.m. Philadelphia at Atlanta, 12 p.m. Seattle at Indianapolis, 12 p.m. Miami at New England, 3:25 p.m. Cleveland at Kansas City, 3:25 p.m. Denver at N.Y. Giants, 3:25 p.m. Green Bay at New Orleans, 3:25 p.m. Chicago at L.A. Rams, 7:20 p.m. Monday's Games Baltimore at Las Vegas, 7:15 p.m.

DB: 31-Ethan Derosier. 22-Nathaniel Staehling DB: 31-Ethan Derosier, 22-Nathaniel Staehling, 23-Dillon MacLaughlin, 82-Ethan Olson, 30-Kouper Seidel, 27-Dawon Piepho, 35-Brandon Stark, 26-Gaven Schwen, 43-Izayah Schultz, 38-Aiden Sills, 36-Daric Caughey, 31-Nathan Herkenhoff **Special Teams** K: 18-Ryan Westerberg, 88-Andrew Albright P: 22-Nathaniel Staehling, 2-Jed Klang Long Snapper: 84-Mitchell Degen, 8-Matt Hues-mann mann Hallin Holder: 22-Nathaniel Staehling Warriors Schedule Regular Season Aug. 27, hosts Coon Rapids — won 21-6 Sept. 2, at Andover 7 p.m. Sept. 17, hosts Moorhead 7 p.m. Sept. 17, hosts Moorhead 7 p.m. Oct. 1, hosts Mexandria 7 p.m. Oct. 4, hosts Rogers 7 p.m. Oct. 20, at Buffalo 7 p.m. Class 6A Playoffs Oct. 20; at Buffalo 7 p.m. Class 6A Playoffs Nov. 5: Round Twe of Class 6A Playoffs Nov. 5: Round Twe of Class 6A Playoffs Nov. 11-13: Class 6A Cuarterfinals Nov. 26-27: Class 6A Semifinals Nov. 26-27: Class 6A Finals North Central Red Subdistrict Subdistrict Records Holder: 22-Nathaniel Staehling Subdistrict Records Subdistrict Records Sartell 1-0 (1-0), Brainerd 1-0 (0-0), Alexandria 0-0 (0-0), Bemidji 0-0 (0-0), Moorhead 0-0 (0-0), Sauk Rapids 0-0 (0-0), St. Cloud Tech 0-1 (0-1) Week One games Brainerd at Andover St. Cloud Tech at Moorhead Pagers rd Bamidii Rogers at Bemidji Alexandria at Hutchinson Sauk Rapids at Sartell Week Zero results Brainerd 21, Coon Rapids 6 Sartell 20, St. Cloud Tech 6 Sartell 20, St. Cloud le Team Stats Brainerd Rushing: 41-178 Passing: 4-13-98 Total Offense: 54-276 Opponents Rushing: 32-81 Passing: 14-27-178 Total Offense: 59-259 **CONRAD ENGSTROM** may be reached at 218-855-5861 or conrad.engstrom@ brainerddispatch.com. Follow on Twitter at www.twitter.com/the rad34.