

SPORTS



Vikings kick returner Cordarrelle Patterson (84) breaks a tackle of the Browns' Eric Martin (56) in Sunday's game at Mall of America Field.

Loss to Cleveland puts Vikings' season in peril

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The quiet in the locker room after the game was almost a respite for the Minnesota Vikings. They'd spent three hours being booed lustily during a sloppy home loss to a team in full-on rebuilding mode.

Sitting at 0-3 with a trip to London coming up, the Vikings' season is teetering on the brink of ruin, and they know it.

Jordan Cameron caught three touchdown passes, including the go-ahead grab in the back of the end zone with 51 seconds left, and the Cleveland Browns overcame a week of turmoil to stun the Vikings 31-27 Sunday.

"We have to fix it," said quarterback Christian Ponder, who heard chants for backup Matt Cassel throughout another uneven performance. "Otherwise we're going to be 0-16."

Ponder rushed for two touchdowns, but he also was 25 of 42 for 228 yards with one interception and one lost fumble. He didn't get much help from an offensive line that has woefully underperformed through three games. The unit allowed six sacks and had a hard time opening holes for Adrian Peterson against Cleveland's determined front seven.

Peterson rushed for 88 yards and a touchdown,

averaged just 3.5 yards per carry and lost a fumble. The offense managed to turn four Browns turnovers into only 10 points and the defense couldn't hold a late lead for the second straight week.

The Browns trailed 27-24 and started at their 45 with 3:21 left. But Brian Hoyer capped a commanding march down the field with a 7-yard pass in the corner to Cameron to win the game.

"We've got to play better defense," said DE Jared Allen, who was shut down by Browns star left tackle Joe Thomas all afternoon. "I don't know if guys underestimated the Browns coming in or what the deal was, but we have to take a long look in the mirror and get better."

The Vikings could live with starting 0-2 with road losses to NFC North foes Chicago and Detroit. But to lose at home to a team that just traded its starting running back and elevated third-string quarterback Hoyer to the starting job in place of Brandon Weeden? That one really stings.

Hoyer completed 30 of 54 passes for 321 yards with three touchdowns in his second career start. He also threw three interceptions, but Ponder and the Vikings couldn't make him pay for it. The chants for Cassel could

be heard loud and clear in the second half.

"It's impossible to not hear them," Ponder said. "But look, we want to win just as bad as the fans, as bad as anyone else. We're more disappointed than they are. We've got to give them something to cheer about."

Josh Gordon made a triumphant return from a two-game suspension with 10 catches for 146 yards and a 47-yard touchdown in the first quarter that tied the game at 7. That let the Vikings know the Browns had no intention of folding after a tumultuous week.

Far from tanking, the Browns threw everything they had at the Vikings. They executed a fake punt and a fake field goal that resulted in an 11-yard touchdown pass from holder and punter Spencer Lanning to Cameron that gave Cleveland a 24-14 lead in the second quarter.

"They just didn't listen to any of the noise and any of the things that were out there, any of the negative things or those types of things," Browns coach Rob Chudzinski said. "They just continued to believe and work hard."

The Vikings are sure to hear plenty of negativity as they get ready to cross the pond to play the Steelers in

London next week. There were mental errors in all three phases, the defense continues to be leaky, and Ponder hasn't shown signs of being the long-term answer at quarterback.

Coach Leslie Frazier said Ponder remains his starter, and the coach made a mistake himself, challenging a muffed punt by Cleveland in the second quarter. But NFL rules prohibit coaches from challenging changes of possession, and referee Bill Leavy doubled down on the errors by mistakenly penalizing the Vikings 15 yards for unsportsmanlike conduct. The Vikings should have just been docked a timeout.

"To come up short and make some of the mistakes that we made, we've got a lot of work to do if we want to get it turned around," Frazier said. "We don't want to be losing home games. It's just not a good thing."

**NOTES:** The Vikings lost CB Chris Cook (groin) and A.J. Jefferson (ankle) to injuries. ... Vikings MLB Erin Henderson had eight tackles, two sacks and an interception. ... Lanning also kicked an extra point, with K Billy Cundiff (quad) hurting. According to the NFL, Lanning became the first player since 1968 with a punt, extra point and TD pass in one game.

Kissane wins Bigfork Valley Challenge 10K

Lexi Erickson  
2nd overall

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Three local runners from the Falls area finished toward the front of the pack in the Bigfork Valley Challenge 10K and 5K races held earlier this month.

Claire Kissane, 26, finished the 10K race first overall in 42 minutes, 31 seconds, while Lexi Erickson, 14, placed second overall in 46:59. The 10K had 32 finishers, nine males and 23 females.

The certified 10K race crossed the Rice and Big Fork rivers on footbridges and followed scenic trails and roads into the countryside.

Kissane was also the overall winner last month in the "Bass Dash 5K" held in the Falls and the top female in the Lady Slipper/Mingo's Miles 5K held during June in Kabetogama.

In the Bigfork Valley Challenge 5K run/walk, 97



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**In front from left, Lexi Erickson (278) and Claire Kissane (595) set their watches prior to the start of the Bigfork Valley Challenge 10K. Kissane placed first overall in 42 minutes, 31 seconds, while Erickson came in second in 46:59.**

walkers, runners and strollers followed the same route, traveling half the distance.

Jake Erickson, 12, placed second overall in 24:38.

Racing season wraps up at Emo Speedway

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Racing concluded for the 2013 season on Saturday at the Emo Speedway, where there was a tribute for Bill Reimer, who died in his WISSOTA Midwest Modifieds racing car at the track two weeks earlier.

Feature winners on the final night of racing included Steve Nordin in the WISSOTA Modifieds, John Hettinga in the WISSOTA Midwest Modifieds and Tylar Wilson in the Street Stocks. Nordin and Wilson also won their respective heats.

**Sept. 7 results**  
**WISSOTA Modifieds**  
**Feature** - Greg Ferris, Tyler Brown, Brian Nelson, Lindsay Bourre, Denny Trimble, Ron Korpi, Glen Strachan, Dwayne Pelepetz.  
**Heat** - Nelson, Ferris, Trimble, Brown, Bourre, Strachan, Korpi, Pelepetz.

**WISSOTA Midwest Modifieds**  
**Feature** - Christopher Leek, Don Scholler, John Hettinga, Paul Veert, Jake Rea, Ken Perry, Anthony Visser, Terry Martin, Brendan Veert, Bill

Reimer, Brody Strachan, Cody Ossachuk.  
**Heat 1** - P. Veert, Leek, Hettinga, Rea, Martin, B. Veert.  
**Heat 2** - Scholler, Ossachuk, Perry, Visser, Reimer, Strachan.  
**Street Stocks**  
**Feature** - Tylar Wilson, Rick Bourre, Ron Westover, Chris Shine, Devin Brown, Dean Kellar, Wes Morriseau  
**Heat** - Wilson, Bourre, Kellar, Shine, Westover, Morriseau, Brown

**Sept. 21 results**  
**WISSOTA Modifieds**  
**Feature** - Steve Nordin, Tyler Brown, Denny Trimble, Glen Strachan, Ron Korpi, Garett Gamsby, Brian Nelson, Lindsay Bourre.  
**Heat** - Nordin, Strachan, Trimble, Brown, Gamsby, Bourre, Nelson, Korpi.

**WISSOTA Midwest Modifieds**  
**Feature** - John Hettinga, Brady Caul, Jake Rea, Cody Ossachuk, Anthony Visser, Ken Perry, Terry Martin, Christopher Leek.  
**Heat** - Caul, Hettinga, Rea, Ossachuk, Visser, Martin, Perry, Leek.

**Street Stocks**  
**Feature** - Tylar Wilson, Ron Westover, Chris Shine, Dean Kellar, Devin Brown, Wes Morriseau, Rick Bourre.  
**Heat** - Wilson, Westover, Shine, Morriseau, Brown, Bourre, Kellar.




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