

# SPORTS

## SIJHL HOCKEY

# Fort Frances Lakers win ninth straight

### JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The Fort Frances Lakers benefited from a two-goal, one-assist performance of Colton Spicer and defeated the Minnesota Iron Rangers, 5-2, Wednesday evening in Superior International Junior Hockey League action.

With the home victory, the Lakers extended their winning streak to nine games while also improving to 10-1-0-1 on the season.

After Spicer's first of the night accounted for the lone goal of the opening period, Minnesota's Eric Madison tied the game at 2:03 of the second period.

Fort Frances answered right back, getting goals from 2013 Falls High School graduate Lucas DeBenedet and Brent Aiken to go up 3-1 after 40 minutes.

Matt O'Dea pulled the Iron Rangers back to within one 4:51 into the third period, but once again the Lakers countered on goals by Kevin Kurm and Spicer to wrap things up offensively.

Shots on goal ended up 29-25 in favor of Fort Frances with Jordan Cartney picking up the win in net. Erick Majerle recorded the loss for Minnesota.

The Lakers are back in action at 7:30 tonight when they host the Wisconsin Wilderness at Ice for Kids Arena.

**Fort Frances 5, Minnesota 2**  
**Minnesota 0 1 1 - 2**  
**Fort Frances 1 2 2 - 5**



Lucas DeBenedet

# QB Ponder likely to start for Vikings vs. Packers

EDEN PRAIRIE (AP) — The quarterback carousel hasn't stopped turning for the Vikings and it seems to spin more wildly out of control each week.

After an awful debut on Monday night, Josh Freeman reported to team headquarters this week with concussion-like symptoms. The short week will make it difficult for him to gain clearance to play Sunday night against Green Bay.

Step right up, Christian Ponder. It's your turn to hop on for another ride when the Vikings (1-5) host the Packers (4-2).

Ponder started the first three games of the season, was injured and then lost his job to backup Matt Cassel. Cassel played well in a victory over Pittsburgh and poorly in a loss to Carolina two weeks ago, prompting coach Leslie Frazier to turn to the newly signed Freeman against the New York Giants on Monday.

Freeman went 20 for 53 for 190 yards and one interception in the loss to the



Christian Ponder

was diagnosed with the concussion symptoms, thrusting Ponder back into the middle of the action.

"At the quarterback position, you want to know who is going to be lining up week-in and week-out," Frazier said Wednesday. "But that's the circumstance where we are and Christian will do a good job for us on Sunday night."

When the season started, it was Ponder who was cast as the franchise quarterback. He had been inconsistent in his first two seasons in the league after being taken 12th overall in 2011. But GM Rick Spielman and Frazier were confident that he would follow the path

Giants, but coach Leslie Frazier said Tuesday that he would stick with Freeman going forward as the starter.

Then Freeman had come to an end. Ponder was clearly disappointed with the decision, and he didn't get a lot of help from a lackluster offensive line in the process, but he bit his tongue and moved forward as Freeman was brought in to take over.

"He's a competitor and he wants to be out there for sure. But he's handled it well," Frazier said. "Our conversations have been positive. We even talked last week about the possibility of something like this happening, just being ready. When you're in a backup role it takes one play for you to have to be the starter so you've got to make sure your mind is right and you're doing what you've got to do to

prepare to go out and play and play well. So he's been good. It's tough though, but he's a competitor and he wants to be out there. And he will be, it looks that way."

Veteran receiver Greg Jennings, who will be facing his former team for the first time this week, said he hopes Ponder has learned from his time on the sideline.

"Any time you have to take a backseat, any time you have to sit down for a minute, it gives you time to reflect and I think he's done that," Jennings said. "He's seen how important it is to play at a high level at that position. But even more importantly, how important that position is to the overall success of the team and what it takes to actually hold that position."

"It's not just about your quarterback play, it's about how you lead off the field as well and on the field, how you command the huddle, how you demand things of your teammates. I think he's had the opportunity to see that."

## Gophers-Cornhuskers preview

(AP) — Coming off its second bye week in a month, Nebraska will head to Minnesota fresh and well-positioned in the Big Ten Legends Division race.

The No. 25 Cornhuskers may also see the return of their quarterback.

Taylor Martinez practiced Sunday for the first time since mid-September. Coach Bo Pelini said the fourth-year starter could play against the Gophers (5-2, 1-2 Big Ten) today if he can put more stress on his injured left foot.

Martinez, who had been doing individual drills the past couple weeks, was back running Nebraska's offense in practice.

"He's got some rust in some areas he has to get cleaned up," Pelini said Monday. "I thought he looked good. We didn't give him a lot. We'll just see how it goes as the week goes on and see how he feels."

The Huskers (5-1, 2-0) have played just twice since Sept. 21 and are a half-game

behind Michigan State in the Legends Division.

They start the second half of the season against a Minnesota team that bounced back from losses to Iowa and Michigan with a 20-17 win at Northwestern last week. Pelini said the Gophers' victory didn't surprise him.

"Minnesota is getting better. I think they believe in what they're doing," he said. "I shouldn't say I'm glad it happened. Hopefully it got our guys' attention. I'm sure it did."

Receiver Kenny Bell said the Gophers' win was "definitely an eye-opener" even though Northwestern was without injured players Kain Colter and Venric Mark.

"It's not going to change the way we prepare," Bell said. "We're going to prepare the same way we'd prepare to play Alabama or Ohio State. We're going to really buckle down these next six weeks. The realization of how open this thing is... Guys are really wanting it."

# No hard feelings: Vikings' Jennings preps for Pack

GREENBAY, Wis. (AP)—Just kidding!

The offseason comments from receiver Greg Jennings questioning former Packers teammate Aaron Rodgers' leadership and whether the quarterback had become bigger than the team? Jennings, who signed with the archrival Minnesota Vikings in the offseason, said they were all made in jest.

What a coincidence — the Packers visit Minnesota on Sunday night in Jennings' first game against his former teammates.

"It wasn't meant to hurt anyone's feelings," Jennings said Wednesday in a conference call. "It was just really messing around initially and then everyone kind of blew it a little bit out of proportion."

As if there weren't enough story lines between the fierce NFC North rivals.

The Packers (4-2) are back atop the division following a three-game winning streak despite being riddled with

injuries. The most serious one has been the neck injury to tight end Jermaine Finley, who coach Mike McCarthy said remained hospitalized



Greg Jennings

Wednesday after getting hurt in the 31-13 win last weekend over the Browns.

The reeling Vikings (1-5) could be going back to Christian Ponder at quarterback after Josh Freeman reported to team headquarters this week with concussion-like symptoms following the 23-7 loss Monday night to the Giants.

But back to those thinly veiled shots at Rodgers.

"I probably took it a little too far," Jennings said. "No, I was happy there. Obviously there's things that go on throughout life that you wish would be different. But

it is what it is. You have to roll with the punches."

Jennings said repeatedly that he's moved on. As a refresher, a couple lines from Jennings' comments to the Star Tribune in July.

"For me, I'm such a team person ... I'm going to defer to the team, to the team, to the team. And I think when you reach a point where you're not deferring any longer, it's no longer really about the team."

"Don't get me wrong, '12' is a great person ... But when you hear all positives, all positives, all positives all the time, it's hard for you to sit down when one of your teammates says, 'Man, come on, you've got to hold yourself accountable for this.' It's hard for someone to see that now because all they've heard is I'm doing it the right way, I'm perfect."

For his part, Rodgers is focused on his current teammates.

"With the way my life is

right now and with my job as a leader on this football team and quarterback," Rodgers said, "I just don't have the energy to spend time thinking about those things."

Not that it's completely out of his mind. It's just not a priority.

"I didn't say anything about forgetting. I just said focusing," Rodgers said. "It's about what you should spend energy focusing on and thinking about and worrying about."

Jennings was Rodgers' top target in the quarterback's first four years as a starter, going over the 1,000-yard mark from 2008-2010 and coming up just short in 2011. He finished with a career-low 366 yards last season after missing half the year with a torn lower abdominal muscle. Jennings' 205 receptions in Green Bay are third on the franchise's career list, behind Donald Driver (363), who retired after last season; and Antonio Freeman (213).

## ICE ARENA SCHEDULE 10/28-11/3

Date .....	Time .....	Location.....	Comments .....
10-28.....	4:00pm-5:30pm .....	Bronco Arena .....	Bronco Boys Hockey Captains Practice
10-28.....	6:00pm-8:30pm .....	Bronco Arena .....	Bronco Girls Hockey Practice
10-28.....	8:40pm-10:00pm .....	Bronco Arena .....	Bantam TRYOUTS
10-28.....	2:15pm-3:30pm .....	Kerry Park Arena .....	RRCC Women's Hockey Practice
10-28.....	4:10pm-5:10pm .....	Kerry Park Arena .....	Mighty Mite Practice
10-28.....	5:10pm-6:10pm .....	Kerry Park Arena .....	Squirt Practice
10-28.....	6:20pm-7:30pm .....	Kerry Park Arena .....	Pee Wee TRYOUTS
10-28.....	7:45pm-8:45pm .....	Kerry Park Arena .....	Girls U10/12 Practice
10-29.....	6:10am-8:10am .....	Bronco Arena .....	Figure Skating: Seniors
10-29.....	6:10am-8:10am .....	Bronco Arena .....	Figure Skating: Seniors
10-29.....	4:00pm-5:30pm .....	Bronco Arena .....	Bronco Boys Hockey Captains Practice
10-29.....	6:00pm-8:30pm .....	Bronco Arena .....	Bronco Girls Practice
10-29.....	8:40pm-10:00pm .....	Bronco Arena .....	Bantam TRYOUTS
10-29.....	2:15pm-3:30pm .....	Kerry Park Arena .....	RRCC Women's Hockey Practice
10-29.....	4:10pm-5:10pm .....	Kerry Park Arena .....	Termitte Practice
10-29.....	5:10pm-6:10pm .....	Kerry Park Arena .....	Squirt Practice
10-29.....	6:20pm-7:30pm .....	Kerry Park Arena .....	Pee Wee TRYOUTS
10-29.....	7:45pm-8:45pm .....	Kerry Park Arena .....	Girls U10/12 Practice
10-30.....	6:10am-8:10am .....	Bronco Arena .....	Figure Skating: Seniors
10-30.....	4:00pm-5:15pm .....	Bronco Arena .....	Bronco Boys Captains Practice
10-30.....	5:30pm-7:00pm .....	Bronco Arena .....	Bronco Girls Practice
10-30.....	7:15pm-8:15pm .....	Bronco Arena .....	Figure Skating: Junior Privates
10-30.....	2:15pm-3:30pm .....	Kerry Park Arena .....	RRCC Women's Hockey Practice
10-30.....	4:10pm-5:10pm .....	Kerry Park Arena .....	Mighty Mite Practice
10-30.....	5:10pm-6:10pm .....	Kerry Park Arena .....	Squirt Practice
10-30.....	6:20pm-7:20pm .....	Kerry Park Arena .....	Girls U10/12 Practice
10-30.....	7:45pm-8:45pm .....	Kerry Park Arena .....	Open Adult Hockey
10-31.....	6:10am-8:10am .....	Bronco Arena .....	Figure Skating: Seniors
10-31.....	4:00pm-5:30pm .....	Bronco Arena .....	Bronco Boys Captains Practice
10-31.....	6:00pm-8:30pm .....	Bronco Arena .....	Bronco Girls Practice
10-31.....	8:45pm-10:00pm .....	Bronco Arena .....	Figure Skating: Seniors
10-31.....	2:15pm-3:30pm .....	Kerry Park Arena .....	RRCC Women's Hockey Practice
10-31.....	4:10pm-5:10pm .....	Kerry Park Arena .....	Termitte Practice
10-31.....	5:30pm-7:00pm .....	Kerry Park Arena .....	Pee Wee TRYOUTS
10-31.....	7:15pm-8:30pm .....	Kerry Park Arena .....	Bantam A Practice
11-1.....	6:10am-8:10am .....	Bronco Arena .....	Figure Skating: Seniors
11-1.....	4:00pm-5:30pm .....	Bronco Arena .....	Bronco Boys Captains Practice
11-1.....	7:15pm-8:15pm .....	Bronco Arena .....	Figure Skating: Junior Group
11-1.....	8:15pm-9:45pm .....	Bronco Arena .....	Figure Skating: Seniors
11-1.....	4:10pm-5:10pm .....	Kerry Park Arena .....	Mighty Mite Practice
11-1.....	5:20pm-6:20pm .....	Kerry Park Arena .....	Squirt Practice
11-1.....	6:30pm-7:30pm .....	Kerry Park Arena .....	Girls U10/12 Practice
11-1.....	7:45pm-9:00pm .....	Kerry Park Arena .....	Open Adult Hockey
11-2.....	9:00am-9:45am .....	Bronco Arena .....	Figure Skating: Basic 1-3
11-2.....	9:45am-10:45am .....	Bronco Arena .....	Figure Skating: Basic Privates
11-2.....	10:45am-11:30am .....	Bronco Arena .....	Figure Skating: Basic 4-8
11-2.....	11:30am-12:00pm .....	Bronco Arena .....	Figure Skating: Snow Plow Sam
11-2.....	12:30pm-1:45pm .....	Bronco Arena .....	Open Family Skating
11-2.....	2:00pm-3:00pm .....	Bronco Arena .....	Figure Skating: Junior Group
11-2.....	3:00pm-4:00pm .....	Bronco Arena .....	Figure Skating: Synchro
11-2.....	4:30pm-5:45pm .....	Bronco Arena .....	Open Adult Hockey
11-3.....	12:00pm-12:45pm .....	Bronco Arena .....	Figure Skating: Basic 1-3
11-3.....	12:45pm-1:45pm .....	Bronco Arena .....	Figure Skating: Basic Privates
11-3.....	1:45pm-2:30pm .....	Bronco Arena .....	Figure Skating: Basic 4-8
11-3.....	2:30pm-3:00pm .....	Bronco Arena .....	Figure Skating: Snow Plow Sam
11-3.....	3:00pm-4:00pm .....	Bronco Arena .....	Figure Skating: Junior Privates
11-3.....	4:15pm-5:15pm .....	Bronco Arena .....	Open Family Skating
11-3.....	5:30pm-6:45pm .....	Bronco Arena .....	Open Adult Hockey

**“Meet and Greet” Eric Johnson**  
*Candidate for MN House of Representatives, District 3A*  
**Tuesday, October 29, 2013**  
**Thunderbird Lodge Banquet Room,**  
**Rainy Lake**  
**6:00 pm – 8:00 pm**  
*Hors d'oeuvres will be served*  
*Cash bar*

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