

SPORTS

Vikings top Bears 23-20 in overtime

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Adrian Peterson thought his Minnesota Vikings had won and lost the game against Chicago about three times during a dizzying, exhilarating overtime.

When the game was finally over, after two missed kicks and two made kicks, three changes of possession and one premature celebration, he walked off the Metrodome turf a winner, the nagging groin injury that has bothered him for weeks feeling just fine.

Peterson carried the ball 35 times for 211 yards and Blair Walsh kicked a 34-yard field goal in overtime to lift the Vikings to a wild 23-20 victory over the Bears on Sunday.

Walsh drilled his winner after a 39-yarder earlier in overtime was wiped out by a penalty and a 57-yard miss put the Bears in prime position to close it out.

But the normally reliable Robbie Gould missed a 47-yarder for the Bears, leaving the door open for the tireless Peterson. He rushed nine times for 51 yards in overtime alone, including 30 on the final drive that set up Walsh.

“You’re at an all-time high because you think you’ve got a victory, and then you’re sitting there waiting for what the call is and you’re at an all-time low,” Peterson said. “Ultimately we were able to give him another opportunity and he nailed it.”

Matt Cassel threw for 243 yards with one touchdown and one interception in relief of the injured Christian Ponder for the Vikings (3-8-1), who tied Green Bay last week.

Peterson’s fifth career 200-yard game helped him surpass 10,000 yards for his career in just 101 games, third fastest to do it behind Eric Dickerson and Jim Brown.

“It’s been my mindset since I was young to be the best to ever play,” Peterson said. “You’ve got to believe it in order to accomplish it.”

Gould’s wife gave birth to the couple’s first child at 1 a.m. Sunday, and he hopped a flight from Chicago shortly after to get to the game. He said that wasn’t an excuse for the miss.

“It was one of the greatest days of my life, and I’m happy for my wife and my little boy,” Gould said. “Sorry I couldn’t do it for my teammates like I did for my wife this morning.”

Alshon Jeffery had 12 catches for 249 yards and two touchdowns for the Bears (6-6), who led by 10 points midway through the fourth quarter. Matt Forte rushed 23 times for 120 yards and Josh McCown was 23 of 36 for 355 yards with two touchdowns and no interceptions for the Bears.

Greg Jennings had seven catches for 78 yards and a touchdown for the Vikings and was halfway up the tunnel early in overtime when

Walsh’s 39-yard field goal sailed through the uprights for an apparent victory. But Rhett Ellison was flagged for a facemask while trying to block Devin Hester. Jennings had to hustle back on to the field for another play on third down to try to gain some of the yardage back. Peterson was thrown for a 3-yard loss and Walsh’s 57-yard field sailed wide left, giving the Bears the ball just across midfield.

Chicago drove into Vikings territory before a decision by rookie head coach Marc Trestman cost it dearly. On second-and-7, the coach elected to let Gould try a 47-yarder. His kick went wide right, giving the Vikings new life.

“We were definitely in range, and I didn’t want to at that point in time risk a possible penalty that would set us back, similar to what happened on the other side, or a fumble of some kind,” Trestman said. “Something unique.”

With their second straight tie looming, Cassel hit Jennings for 17 yards, and the offense then rode Peterson to get Walsh in position for a second try.

He buried this one, capping an unlikely comeback and prompting owner Zygi Wilf to rush the field and hug his players.

Jeffery caught touchdown passes of 80 and 46 yards in the third quarter to give the Bears a 20-10 lead. Vikings defensive



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

Vikings running back Adrian Peterson (28) eludes the tackle of Bears defensive back Tim Jennings (26) in Sunday’s game at the Metrodome. Peterson rushed for 211 yards on 35 carries in Minnesota’s 23-20 overtime victory over Chicago.

back Chris Cook was ejected after the second one for bumping side judge Laird Hayes while arguing for a pass interference call.

But just when Jeffery had seemed to suck the life completely out of the Metrodome, Peterson delivered a jolt against a Bears defense missing five starters. Peterson ran through four tacklers for a 19-yard run that set up an 8-yard touchdown pass from Cassel to Jennings with 7:41 to play in regulation.

The Vikings faced fourth-and-11 from their 8 with under two minutes to play, but Cassel positioned them

for Walsh’s 30-yard field goal with 24 seconds to play.

Amazingly, both teams still had a chance to win in regulation after that kick. Gould’s 66-yard prayer in the final seconds landed in Cordarrelle Patterson’s arms in the end zone, but his bid to match the miracle return from Auburn’s Chris Davis that beat Alabama on Saturday was stuffed.

When it was all over, the Bears were in no mood to talk about the craziness of the game.

“We’ve got to put up a win in the win column. ... The standings don’t matter if you don’t win football

games,” said McCown, playing again for the injured Jay Cutler.

NOTES: Bears DE Julius Peppers had 2 1/2 sacks. ... Bears LB Khaseem Greene had an interception. ... Ponder left in the second quarter with a concussion. ... Patterson had a 33-yard TD run in the second quarter, making him the first Vikings rookie to have score on a return, a catch and a run in the same season. ... Vikings LB Erin Henderson dressed but did not play after it was revealed last week he was arrested for DWI and possession of a controlled substance.



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

Minnesota quarterback Matt Cassel (16) runs with the ball in front of Bears defensive end Corey Wootton (98) while Minnesota offensive tackle Phil Loadholt (71) looks on in the second half of Sunday’s game at the Metrodome.

Vikings start yet another week with QB unsettled

EDEN PRAIRIE (AP) — The quarterback in use at the end of all three wins by the Minnesota Vikings this season has been Matt Cassel.

For all of the sparks he has provided to the Vikings’ uneven offense, Cassel has begun another week without clarity on his place on the depth chart. Coach Leslie Frazier declined Monday to declare Cassel the new starter, despite a concussion for Christian Ponder the coach said he’s “concerned about.”

That doesn’t mean Cassel won’t be back under center this weekend when the Vikings (3-8-1) play at Baltimore. Frazier, however, said there’s no rush to decide.

“Just going to see where Christian is as we get into the week a little bit and see how things go as we move forward,” Frazier said.

Ponder must pass NFL

protocol testing to be cleared. If he doesn’t recover in time, Frazier and the Vikings again wouldn’t even have to bench him, per se. Prior to playing Pittsburgh Sept. 29 in London, Ponder was ruled out because of a broken rib. Cassel passed for 248 yards, a team-high total this season, and the Vikings were victorious.

Ponder took a hit to the head late in the second quarter Sunday against Chicago. So, Frazier was asked, why not name Cassel the starter now after his performance in the 23-20 overtime triumph by the Vikings?

“You could easily do that, but I think for us it would be wise to talk things through,” Frazier said, glancing at his wristwatch. “There’s no reason at this point on Monday at 12:40 that we have to make a decision. We can talk it through and do what’s best. But Matt did a terrific job in relief yester-

day afternoon leading our team to victory.”

Cassel completed 20 of 33 passes for 243 yards, one touchdown and one interception in just the second half. His throw to Rhett Ellison was on target but bobbed at the goal line by the backup tight end late in the fourth quarter and picked off by Khaseem Greene. Cassel even raced over to make a forceful tackle of Green at midfield.

“I was upset. I was playing with anger. I hope he felt that, too,” Cassel said, laughing.

The nine-year veteran has basically been counted out of the quarterback carousel since Josh Freeman replaced him Oct. 21 for that cringe-worthy Monday night game against the New York Giants. That was Freeman’s only turn, and Ponder has been the starter since.

Though Ponder played one of his best games in the

Nov. 7 win over Washington, Cassel came in after Ponder dislocated his shoulder. He went 4 for 6 for 47 yards in the fourth quarter that night. But Frazier has said for several weeks he believes Ponder gives the Vikings their best opportunity for victory, leaving Cassel as the backup.

“We’ve definitely had some discussions about where he is and his role. But he’s been a pro throughout,” Frazier said.

Cassel said Monday he doesn’t know why he hasn’t been considered as a starter since the Oct. 13 game against Carolina, a 35-13 defeat by a Panthers team that hasn’t lost since then.

“I don’t make those types of decisions. At the same time, I’m not always in agreement with what decision they might go,” Cassel said. “But at the same time, you deal with those decisions.”

Notice

Dog and Cat License

Within the City Limits of International Falls all dogs and cats are required to be licensed annually. Dog and Cat License for 2014 are available at the City Administrator's Office, 600 4th Street or the Borderland Humane Society Holding Facility 1410 Highway 71.

According to the City Code Sec. 10-11 It is unlawful for the owner of any dog or cat to permit such animal to run at large. Any dog shall be deemed to be running at large with the permission of the owner unless it is a durable leash secured to an object which it cannot move and on the premises of the owner, or on a leash and under the control of an accompanying person of suitable age and discretion. Any cat shall be deemed to be running at large with the permission of the owner unless it is on the premises of the owner.

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