

SPORTS

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Myrick’s return lifts Minnesota over Northwestern

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Before he stepped to the podium for his postgame press conference, Minnesota cornerback and kick returner Jalen Myrick stood in a corner of the room, primping his hair to make sure it looked just right.

The outgoing sophomore speed demon has been waiting for a moment like this, and he earned it.

Myrick returned a kickoff 100 yards in the fourth quarter to atone for a penalty on the previous drive and lift Minnesota to a 24-17 victory over Northwestern on Saturday.

Myrick finished second in the 100 meters as a junior at Savannah Christian Prep, and that blazing speed served him well at the game’s crucial moment.

After Northwestern (3-3, 2-1) drove 97 yards to tie the game at 17 midway through the fourth quarter, Myrick raced through a big hole on the left side and out-ran the Wildcats down the sideline for the winning score.

“I’ve been waiting two weeks,” said Myrick, who replaced the injured Marcus Jones as the team’s primary kick returner two weeks ago. “We’ve been working on that return for a long time. It felt like that was the one to break.”

Mitch Leidner was 10 for 15 for 153 yards and ran for two touchdowns and David Cobb added 97 yards rushing on 30 carries for the Golden Gophers (5-1, 2-0 Big Ten), who didn’t lose any momentum during the bye week after a convincing win at Michigan.

“It was a great comeback for the kids mentally,” coach Jerry Kill said. “They just drove down and scored and we could have just went in the tank. This team right now is finding a way to win. That’s a good thing.”

Justin Jackson rushed for 106 yards and Trevor Siemian completed 32 of 50 passes for 269 yards with a touchdown and an interception for Northwestern.

“We met on Monday to talk about the importance



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

In front, Gophers kick returner and cornerback Jalen Myrick runs past Northwestern’s Jaylen Prater (51) en route to returning a kickoff 100 yards for a touchdown in Saturday’s Big Ten Conference game at TCF Bank Stadium.

of special teams,” Wildcats coach Pat Fitzgerald said. “I think I was right. Obviously we failed as coaches to get our guys ready.”

There was nothing flashy about this game between two throwback offenses that prefer to grind games out on the ground and avoid costly mistakes in the passing game, until Myrick turned on the jets.

Cobb averaged just 3.2 yards per carry and Leidner rushed for 31 as well.

Leidner was just 3 for 4 in the first half, but one of those was a 52-yard completion to tight end Maxx Williams in the second quarter. That set up Leidner’s second touchdown plunge of the game to help the Gophers respond after Northwestern had tied the game 7-7 on the previous drive.

The Wildcats had two scoring drives of 16 plays in the first half and Siemian completed 5 of 9 passes for

55 yards on the game-tying drive in the fourth quarter.

The drive started at Northwestern’s 3-yard line, and the Wildcats also took advantage of a pass interference call and two personal fouls to move to the 2-yard line. On third-and-goal from the Minnesota 10, Siemian threw incomplete, but the drive was extended by a roughing the passer call on Briean Boddy-Calhoun. Kill was also penalized on the play for unsportsmanlike conduct after he slammed his headset on the turf and yelled at the officials.

Siemian dived in from the 2 on the next play, but the Wildcats couldn’t cover the ensuing kick, which kept them from improving to 3-0 in the Big Ten for the first time since 2000.

“It was set up perfectly,” Myrick said. “As soon as I caught it, I looked to the left to make sure everything

was cool. The hole was so open, there was (no option) but to go that way. Once I hit it, it went for a touchdown.”

One of the biggest cheers of the day came when the Little Brown Jug was shown on the big screen, a rare appearance in Minnesota for one of the oldest trophies in college football. The Gophers won it for just the second time in 24 games when they dominated Michigan, 30-14, and they had last week off to both celebrate that victory and prepare for an important matchup against Northwestern.

The Gophers have winnable games against Purdue next week and at Illinois on Oct. 25, and this victory puts them in a nice position to challenge in the Big Ten’s West Division.

“We’re halfway up the mountain and the mountain gets a whole lot steeper,” Kill said. “We’ve got a lot of work to do.”

GIRLS SWIMMING AND DIVING

Broncos fifth in Section 7A True Team Meet

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The International Falls girls swimming and diving team picked up a pair of first-place finishes from junior Abby Kostiuk, a runner-up finish from sophomore Emily Saari and a third-place finish from a relay team when the Broncos placed fifth out of nine teams at Saturday’s Section 7A True Team Meet hosted by Mesabi East.

Each team was allowed up to four entries in all 12 events with points being awarded through 36 places. Scoring ranged from 36 points for first to a point for 36th in the individual events, while relays counted double.

Grand Rapids topped the team standings with 1,572 points, followed by Hibbing (1,488), Two Harbors (1,249), Mesabi East (1,156) and the Falls (1,151.5) rounding out the top five.

Kostiuk won both individual events she holds the FHS school records in. She placed first in the 100-yard butterfly (1 minute, 6.68 seconds) with sophomore teammate Emma Misner coming in fourth in 1:09.22. Kostiuk also had the top time in the 100 backstroke (1:05.42) with sophomore teammate Carolann Stone placing ninth in 1:13.6.

Saari, the Broncos’ school record holder in the 100 breaststroke, came in second in that event in 1:16.28 with sophomore teammate Claire Herzig placing fourth in 1:17.99. Mesabi East senior Hailee Jofs won in 1:14.14.

Falls’ 200 medley relay team of Kostiuk, Saari, Misner and Herzig finished third in 2:02.85.

The Broncos also picked up top-10 finishes in five other events, three individual and two relays.

Stone came in seventh in the 200 individual medley (2:39.21). Misner placed ninth in the 200 freestyle (2:16.08). Senior Jessie Hell was ninth in the 1-meter diving (270.35 points).

Kostiuk, Stone, junior Abby Auran and senior Tayler Hebner finished seventh in the 400 freestyle relay (4:15.81),

while Hebner, Misner, Herzig and sophomore Josie Bates placed eighth in the 200 freestyle relay (1:54.37).

The Falls will be back at Mesabi East for another meet Oct. 23.

Section 7A True Team Meet Team scores: Grand Rapids 1,572, Hibbing 1,488, Two Harbors 1,249, Mesabi East 1,156, International Falls 1,151.5, Virginia 1,071, Duluth Denfeld 873, Eveleth-Gilbert 662.5, Chisholm 460.

International Falls finishers

200-yard medley relay – 3. Abby Kostiuk, Emily Saari, Emma Misner, Claire Herzig, 2:02.85; 12. Carolann Stone, Anna Earley, Abby Auran, Josie Bates, 2:13.9; 19. Hannah Kruse, Whitney Gouin, Jessie Hell, Amellia Stewart, 2:21.77; 24. Kate-lynn Kruse, Macey Marcotte, Maren Moseman, Erin Moseman, 2:27.21.

200 freestyle – 9. Misner, 2:16.08; 21. Megan Herly, 2:29.93; 29. Reina Goulet, 2:44.2; 30. Maren Moseman, 2:54.29.

200 individual medley – 7. Stone, 2:39.21; 15. Saari, 2:44.48; 20. Auran, 2:47.96; 30. Morgan Hedlund, 3:11.41.

50 freestyle – 12. Herzig, 28.25; 20. Bates, 29.12; 23. Tayler Hebner, 29.49; 28. Jayde Hall, 32.28.

1-meter diving – 9. Hell, 270.35; 11. Kylie Skallman, 261.25; 17. Bates, 206; 18. Gouin, 163.85.

100 butterfly – 1. Kostiuk, 1:06.68; 4. Misner, 1:09.22; 16. Auran, 1:16.64; 28. Goulet, 1:33.84.

100 freestyle – 18. Hebner, 1:04.62; 23. Hannah Kruse, 1:08.73; 26. Hall, 1:12.1; 27. Stewart, 1:12.54.

500 freestyle – 19. Herly, 6:39.25; 26. Earley, 7:17.59; 29. Maren Moseman, 7:49.49; 30. Hedlund, 7:55.78.

200 freestyle relay – 8. Hebner, Misner, Bates, Herzig, 1:54.37; 19. Stewart, Hall, Herly, Saari, 2:06.1; 24. Katelyn Kruse, Erin Moseman, Skallman, Hell, 2:12.54; 30. Grace Wegner, Hedlund, Goulet, Marcotte, 2:17.01.

100 backstroke – 1. Kostiuk, 1:05.42; 9. Stone, 1:13.6; 17. Hannah Kruse, 1:16.87; 28. Katelyn Kruse, 1:25.89.

100 breaststroke – 2. Saari, 1:16.28; 4. Herzig, 1:17.99; 12. Earley, 1:24.12; 17. Gouin, 1:26.64.

400 freestyle relay – 7. Kostiuk, Auran, Stone, Hebner, 4:15.81; 17. Hall, Herly, Hannah Kruse, Earley, 4:36.29; 24. Gouin, Goulet, Erin Moseman, Stewart, 4:56.73; 29. Hedlund, Katelyn Kruse, Maren Moseman, Marcotte, 5:22.68.

GORDON

► continued from B1

my time in Tulsa. This city and these fans will always hold a special place for me and my family and I want to thank everyone for their unbelievable support over the last few years.

“I have been looking forward to starting my coaching career and beginning the next phase of my life and this isn’t an opportunity I could pass up. Even

though this is extremely difficult, it’s the right decision for me and my family.”

Prior to accepting the coaching position with St. Scholastica, Gordon had signed to play a third season for the Oilers in 2014-15 along with Falls natives and forwards Drew Fisher and Ryan Cramer.

Another Falls native, goalie Brady Hjelle, signed with Tulsa for this season. The Oilers, who will be in their first season in the East Coast Hockey League, play

their first regular-season game Oct. 24 against the Allen Americans.

“I’m sad to leave (the other three players from the Falls), but they understand my decision,” Gordon said.

Gordon, who noted he was reaching the end of this pro playing days, said being a hockey coach is in his long-term career plans.

He said his previous relationship with St. Scholastica men’s hockey head coach Mark Wick led up to him being able to become an assistant with the Division III Saints, who begin practicing Oct. 20.

In his two seasons in Tulsa, the 29-year old Gordon appeared in 113 games and recorded 155 points (62 goals, 93 assists) for a 1.37 points per game average.

In 2013-14, Gordon had his best season as a pro. He led the Oilers in goals (36) and points (89), registered five hat tricks and recorded 22 multi-point games. Gordon finished fourth in the Central Hockey League in scoring and also earned the Oilers’ Most Valuable Player Award.

“No doubt in my mind that Ben is one of the best players to ever lace up the skates at

this level of hockey,” said Oilers head coach Bruce Ramsay. “Not only is he an amazing talent with the way he makes all of his teammates better, he’s also a great leader in the locker room.”

“I have so much respect for Ben as a person and as hockey player and even though I’m sad to see him go, I’m also grateful for the opportunity to coach him and wish him nothing but the best in the future.”

Gordon, a former “Mr. Hockey” finalist in Minnesota, played college hockey at the University of Minnesota before turning pro in

2008. The 5-foot-10, 180-pound wing played his first two seasons in the ECHL and helped the Reading Royals reach the third round of the Kelly Cup Playoffs.

He skated in a total of 25 AHL games with five different clubs and spent the entire 2011-12 season with Dusseldorf (German DEL) before arriving in Oklahoma.

Gordon hangs up his skates with 143 goals and 237 assists in 362 career games. He appeared in 42 playoff games and, despite spending only two seasons in Tulsa, Gordon ranks 15th on the Oilers’ all-time point list.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The Koochiching County Board of Commissioners is requesting letters of interest to fill future vacancies that may occur on the following decision-making bodies:

- Board of Adjustment
- Planning and Zoning Commission

If you are interested in serving on either of these committees please send a letter stating your interest and qualifications to:

Koochiching County
Environmental Services
715 4th Street
Int'l Falls, MN 56649

Letters of interest will be accepted until 4:30 p.m. on Friday, October 31, 2014.

Both committee's meet on demand which typically amounts to once per month. If you have any questions about the functions of these committees please inquire at the Environmental Services Department located in the Koochiching County Courthouse or call, ph. (218) 283-1158; Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Dale Olson
Environmental Services Director
Koochiching County