

Inside

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SIDELINE



Leading off

Minnesota forward Kevin Garnett set a team record with 24 rebounds during the Timberwolves' 114-94 win over Sacramento Friday night at Target Center. Minnesota outscored the Kings 34-14 in the third quarter to pull away.

For pro basketball, see Page D3.



Today's ticket

Cardinals at Giants Arizona and the NFL's No. 1 receiver, David Boston, collide with Jason Sehorn and New York. Coverage begins at 12:30 p.m. KVRr (Channel 10)



Inside

In an attempt to make up for the loss of former MVP Jason Giambi, the Oakland Athletics traded for David Justice Friday. For pro baseball, see Page D6.

40s

The Score

The temperature during the second round of the Williams World Challenge Friday in Thousand Oaks, Calif. Despite the cold, Vijay Singh warmed up enough to fire a 66, good for a one-stroke lead over tournament host Tiger Woods. For pro football, see Page D2.

Speaking

"We were madder than a rhino with a hernia."

-Lavar Arrington, Washington linebacker, on his 43-yard interception return that set up a field goal during the Redskins' 20-10 win over Arizona Sunday. For pro football, see Page D6.

Trivia time

This is Rory White's second tenure with the F.M. Beez. What was the team's record in his first season?

Turn the page for the answer.

Purple Priders missing in action

The Minnesota Vikings met with an above-average level of success from 1968-2000. There was an average of 12 regular-season victories per year and two trips to the NFC Championship game. It was the most success the team had since its heyday of Bud Grant and the Purple People Eaters.

The success of 1968-2000 bred not only many new Vikings fans, but many of the over-the-top, WWF-influenced variety. It was during this period when Vikings' fans were at their most overbearing, their most obnoxious. Any attempt to look at the Vikings with any sort of candor was met with derision and boorishness.

There is the story of the local sports radio talk-show host, doing his show from a tavern, who had to be escorted from the premises by security personnel after offering commentary that was less than supportive of the Vikings. Some customers of the establishment wanted to inflict unnecessary roughness.

There also was opinion offered in this space that did not meet the exacting specifications of some Vikings boosters. The nasty e-mail and phone-message responses were numerous if, for example, we offered a view of Cris Carter or Randy Moss that didn't meld with what the fans wanted to believe about their heroes. More than once during those glorious three seasons, the following suggestion was made by fans unhappy with what they'd read: If you don't like the Vikings, why don't you move to Wisconsin?

We kid you not, gentle readers. There are those among us who apparently base their residency on the professional football franchise for which they root. These same people obviously follow the logic that if you don't openly profess your love for all things purple, you must be a Green Bay Packers fan and therefore would be more at home in Wisconsin.

Is there any more damning evidence that this country's education system isn't properly preparing our youth for the real world?

That brings us to this season, which has been muted by tragedy and disappointment. The Vikings are wildly inconsistent and, save for a whipping of the Packers, haven't given their fans much reason to get worked into a lather.

McFEELY: Page D4

Culpepper may be out for season

Associated Press
EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. — Minnesota Vikings quarterback Daunte Culpepper won't play this weekend and may be out for the season because of his sprained left knee, according to news reports late Friday.

Culpepper has experienced more swelling and pain in cartilage near the sprained ligament against Chicago Nov. 25. Arthroscopic surgery may be needed to clean out the joint, the Star Tribune of Minneapolis and CBS SportsLine.com reported.

Culpepper was downgraded Friday on the team's injury report from probable to questionable. He sat out most of practice Thursday and all of Friday's practice.

CULPEPPER: Page D6

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SPORTS

Forum

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Bad luck of the Irish

Former coach, player troubled by false claims

Associated Press
If it had just been a matter of a couple of varsity letters, coach George O'Leary's faulty biography might not have troubled some of Notre Dame's football family quite so much. But the missing master's degree was quite another matter.

Five days after accepting one of the most coveted jobs in college football, O'Leary resigned late Thursday, admitting his resume contained inaccuracies about earning three football letters at the University of New Hampshire and receiving a master's degree from New York University.

Notre Dame speaks out

►Talking back: Former coach Ara Parseghian and former player Mike Golic were troubled by the false academic credentials presented by George O'Leary.



"I feel sorry for everybody connected with this," longtime Irish coach Ara Parseghian said. "That bio has been in the Georgia Tech guide for a number of years. Every year, you read your own bio and you can correct any mistakes. You add or delete things every year. All those years it was in there. How did it get in there? I can't understand how you could go all those years and not catch or correct it."

Parseghian, who won two national championships in 11 years at Notre Dame, was more troubled by the master's degree.

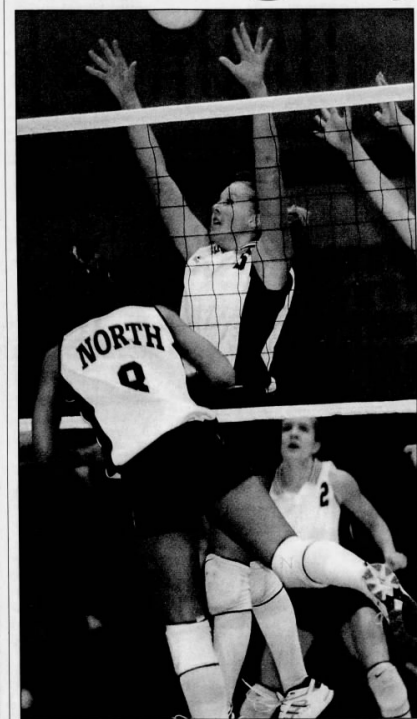
"The academic credentials, that's a little different," he said. "What does coaching have to do with not getting a letter? The other thing, the master's, goes to a different level."

Mike Golic, who played defensive end at Notre Dame from 1981-84, agreed with Parseghian.

O'LEARY: Page D5

HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL

Shining Crystal



Senior returns to spark Packers

By Heath Hotzler
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Crystal Schaeffer puts a lot of pressure on herself to spark the West Fargo volleyball team.

That's why it was difficult for the senior outside hitter to watch from the sidelines after an Achilles tendon injury forced her to miss the Packers' first 13 matches.

"It was really hard," Schaeffer said. "Especially the first two games, I'm a leader and it's my job to get the team fired up."

Schaeffer, injured during the second day of practice, returned to the lineup Friday night against Eastern Dakota Conference foe Fargo North.

She didn't disappoint. Although coach Randy Holzmann feared she might need time to get readjusted, Schaeffer proved otherwise, drilling 14 kills and leading the Packers with 23 digs as the defending North Dakota Class A state champions scored a 3-1 victory.

"She's one of the best passers we've ever had at West Fargo," Holzmann said after the 15-2, 11-15, 15-10, 15-7 win. "The whole team feels more confident when she's in there. She's so calm and relaxed on the floor."

Schaeffer was confident she would be able to perform at her highest level against the Spartans, despite having just four full days of practice.

PACKERS: Page D4

West Fargo's Mackenzie Close goes up high to block a Fargo North kill attempt during the Packers' 3-1 win over the Spartans Friday night.

North routs Central

Top-ranked Spartans continue to roll



Spartans 90, Knights 50

►The story: North started the game on an 18-2 run and never looked back.

►Key player: Senior Tommy Leske played the Spartans with 21 points.

►Inside: Area roundup, D4.

By Eric Peterson
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Grand Forks Central coach Todd Olson knew the numbers weren't favorable Friday night at the Fargo North gym.

Central returned one starter and six points and five rebounds per game worth of production as the team played its first game of the season.

North, on the other hand, had a game under its belt and loads of experience back.

The disparity showed as the No. 1-ranked Spartans rolled to a 90-50 victory in North Dakota Eastern Dakota Conference boys basketball.

"North is probably the most talented team I've seen since I started coaching 11 years ago," Central coach Todd Olson said. "We've played one game and we played the best team we'll play all year."

North improved to 2-0 overall and 2-0 in EDC points, coming off a 64-57 victory over rival Fargo South in the Spartans' season-opener two Fridays ago.

"Our intensity, that was the biggest thing," North coach Brent Offendahl said. "The kids played well together. I didn't know what to expect out of Central. They lost a lot of seniors."

SPARTANS: Page D4



Sander Gorbner / The Forum

Fargo North's Josh Persons, left, shoots over Grand Forks Central's Rick Hammargren Friday.