SCOREBOARD

BASEBALL

S.D. CLASS B LEGION TOURN.

July 24-28 at Salem Friday's Games Vermillion 8, Garretson 4 Spearfish 13, Webster 3, 6 innings West Central 18, Tabor 8, 7 innings McCook-Miner 10, Groton 9 Saturday's Games

Garretson 6, Tabor 3, Tabor elimi nated Groton 8, Webster 0, Webster

West Central 8. Vermillion 6 McCook-Miner 5, Spearfish 4 Sunday's Games

Vermillion 10, Groton 0, 6 innings,

Groton eliminated Spearfish 7, Garretson 4, Garretson McCook-Miner 10, West Central 9

Monday's Games West Central 11, Spearfish 1, 7 innings, Spearfish eliminated McCook-Miner 5, Vermillion 4, Ver-

million eliminated Tuesday's Games McCook-Miner 17, West Central 5, McCook-Miner wins championship

S.D. CLASS A LEGION TOURN. July 29-Aug. 2 at Brookings

GAME 1: S.F. West vs. R.C. Post 320, 10 a.m. GAME 2: R.C. Post 22 vs. Aberdeen, 1 p.m. GAME 3: Watertown vs. Yankton,

5 p.m. GAME 4: Pierre vs. Brookings, 8 Thursday's Games

GAME 5: Game 1 loser vs. Game 3 loser, 10 a.m GAME 6: Game 2 loser vs. Game 4 loser, 1 p.m. GAME 7: Game 1 winner vs. Game

GAME 8: Game 2 winner vs. Game GAME 9: Game 6 winner vs. Game GAME 10: Game 5 winner vs. Game

8 loser, 3 p.m. GAME 11: Game 7 winner vs. Game

Saturday's Games GAME 12: Game 9 winner vs. Game 11 loser, 1 p.m. GAME 13: Game 10 winner vs. Game 11 winner, 4 p.m. NOTE: Pairings for Games 12 and 13 will not match previous opponents against each other unless absolutely

Sunday's Games GAME 14: Game 12 winner vs. Game 13, the winner of Game 11 auto-

matically draws a bye in Game 14. S.D. 15-16 VFW MINORS TOURN. July 31-Aug. 2 at Yankton

Yankton vs. Pierre, 1 p.m. Brookings vs. S.F. West, 3:15 p.m. Renner vs. Watertown, 5:30 p.m. S.F. East vs. Yankton, 7:45 p.m. Saturday's Games S.F. West vs. Renner. 11 a.m.

Pierre vs. Brookings, 1:15 p.m. Watertown vs. S.F. East, 3:30 p.r FIFTH: 5th seed vs. 6th seed, 5:45 Sunday's Games

4th seed vs. 1st seed, 10:30 a.m.
3rd seed vs. 2nd seed, 12:45 p.m.
THIRD: Semifinal losers, 3 p.m. CHAMPIONSHIP: Semifinal win-

NEB. AREA C1 SENIOR LEGION July 24-28 at Creighton, Neb.

O'Neill 10. Ainsworth 7 Valentine 11, Neligh-Oakdale 4 Creighton 8, Gordon 3 Gordon 16, Neligh-Oakdale

BY EDDIE PELLS

AP National Writer

Embarrassing as the deba-

cle in Boston may have been,

chances are it will be nothing

more than a distant memory

Olympics finally rolls around.

That's still more than

two years away, and the U.S.

Olympic Committee has seven

weeks to replace Boston with a

more willing candidate — one

that shows more enthusiasm

withstand the criticism and

come in a contest against

others.

Paris, Rome, Budapest and

questions that will invariably

Odds are that city would be

Los Angeles, where Mayor Eric

Garcetti has already expressed

USOC does call. San Francisco

and Washington were also on

group of domestic candidates.

people have pretty short memories," said Chuck Wiel-

'We live in an age where

gus, the executive director of USA Swimming. "I think there's

a great desire among people

within international sport to

see the Olympics come back to

Putting a U.S. city in play

idea among those gathered in

international Olympic leaders

were meeting to vote on where

to hold the 2022 Winter Games.

Because the official deadline to

enter a city for the 2024 Games

isn't until Sept. 15, the news

about Boston wasn't taken as

a sign the U.S. was out of the

been a long time since they

had a good candidate," said

"We always would welcome a bid from the States. It's

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, where

still seemed like a popular

the short list of the USOC's

a willingness to listen if the

for hosting the games, and can

when the vote for the 2024

Saturday's Games

Crofton 9. O'Neill 3 O'Neill 8, Gordon 5, Gordon elimi-

Ainsworth 14. Valentine 9. Valentine Crofton 11, Creighton 3 Monday's Games Creighton 11, O'Neill 5, O'Neill Los Angeles Crofton 6, Ainsworth 4, Ainsworth

Kansas Citv

Minnesota

Oakland

Monday's Games

West Division

W L 55 43

Tampa Bay 5, Detroit 2

Kansas City 9, Cleveland 4

Arizona 4, Seattle 3, 10 innings

Arizona at Seattle, 10:10 p.m.
Oakland at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10 p.m

(F.Hernandez 12-5), 2:40 p.m. Atlanta (Foltynewicz 3-2) at Baltimore (Tillman 7-7), 6:05 p.m.

ronto (Dickey 4-10), 6:07 p.m

(Lewis 10-4), 7:05 p.m.

Thursday's Games

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Atlanta

Milwaukee

Los Angeles San Francisco

Monday's Games

Arizona

San Diego

Philadelphia (J.Williams 3-7) at To-

Chicago White Sox (Quintana 5-9) 3oston (Porcello 5-10), 6:10 p.m. N.Y. Yankees (Tanaka 7-3) at Texas

L.A. Angels (Richards 10-7) at Hou-

Detroit at Baltimore, 6:05 p.m.

N.Y. Yankees at Texas, 7:05 p.m.

L.A. Angels at Houston, 7:10 p.m.

Seattle at Minnesota 7:10 n m

East Division

West Division

W 56 L 44

44 51 53

42 55

Baltimore 2, Atlanta 1, 11 innings

Chicago Cubs 9, Colorado 8

Arizona 4. Seattle 3. 10 innings San Francisco 4 Milwaukee 2

St. Louis 4, Cincinnati 1

Philadelphia 3, Toronto 2

N.Y. Mets 4, San Diego 0

Cincinnati 4. St. Louis 0

Miami 4, Washington 1 Colorado at Chicago Cubs, 8:05

Pittsburgh at Minnesota, 8:10 p.m.

Tuesday's Games Baltimore 7, Atlanta 3

.520

.460

.376

.582 .531 .449 .430

.480 .470

.433 12 1/2

GB

58 63

N.Y. Yankees 6. Texas 2

Tuesday's Games
Baltimore 7, Atlanta 3

lednesday's Games

(Archer 9-7), 11:10 a.m.

.550 .480 .460 .440

Tuesday's Games Creighton 7, Crofton 0 CHAMPIONSHIP: C

NEB. AREA C2 SENIOR LEGION July 24-28 at Pender, Neb.

Friday's Games
Tekamah-Herman 8, Wisner-Pilger 5 Battle Creek 4, Laurel-Concord 3

Philadelphia 3, Toronto 2 Saturday's Games Chicago White Sox 9, Boston 4 Laurel-Concord 8, Stanton 4, Stan Tampa Bay 10, Detroit 2 Kansas City 2, Cleveland 1 N.Y. Yankees at Texas, 8:05 p.m. Pender 8. Tekamah-Herman 7 Hartington 13, Battle Creek 9 ..A. Angels at Houston, 8:10 p.m. Pittsburgh at Minnesota, 8:10 p.m.

Crofton 13.

Sunday's Games Tekamah-Herman 8 Laurel-Con-Wisner-Pilger eliminated Pender 7, Hartington 1 Monday's Ga

mah-Herman 11, Hartington 10, Pender 9, Battle Creek 2, Battle Creek eliminated Tuesday's Games GAME 14: Pender vs. Tekemah-

GAME 14: Pender vs. Tekemah-Herman, 5 p.m. GAME 15: Pender vs. Tekemah Herman, if necessary, immediately after

man, ppd., field conditions

Tuesday's Games

DISTRICT 6B AMATEURS July 23-Aug. 1 at Irene

Thursday, July 23 Crofton 25, Scotland 0, 5 innings Wynot 11 Irene 8 Friday, July 24 Menno 3, Lesterville 0 Tabor 8, Freeman 3, 10 innings

Sunday, July 26 Irene 10. Scotland 0, 7 innings Scotland eliminated Freeman 4, Lesterville 3, Lesterville

Tuesday, July 28 Crofton 3, Wynot 2 GAME 8: Menno vs. Tabor, 8 p.m. GAME 9: Irene vs. Game 8 loser. 6 p.m. (Winner is Rep #2/3) GAME 10: Wynot vs. Freeman 8 . (Winner is Rep #2/3)

Saturday, August 1 CHAMPIONSHIP: Crofton vs. Game 8 winner, 7:30 p.m. (Loser is Rep #1)

DISTRICT 7B AMATEURS Wednesday, July 22 Harrisburg 2, Canton 0 Akron 4, Vermillion 3, 10 innings Garretson 13, Lennox 3, 7 innings Friday, July 24

Saturday, July 25 Lennox 9, Vermillion 2, Vermillion Sunday, July 26

CHAMPIONSHIP: Garretson 6, Larchwood 3 (Loser is Rep #1)

Tuesday, July 28 Harrisburg 5, Lennox 4 (Harrisburg is Rep #2/3)

AMERICAN LEAGUE East Division

GB .571 .505 .500 6 1/2

of Spain.

44 57 .436 13 1/2 Wednesday's Games Central Division 38 46 50

Pittsburgh (Liriano 6-6) at Minnesota Santana 2-0), 12:10 p.m. Colorado (E.Butler 3-6) at Chicago 8 1/2 .531 8 1/2 .490 12 1/2 Cubs (Lester 5-8), 1:20 p.m. Arizona (Corbin 1-3) at Seattle (F.Hernandez 12-5), 2:40 p.m. Milwaukee (Fiers 5-8) at San Francisco (Peavy 2-4), 2:45 p.m. .480 13 1/2 .455 16

Castro to Albuquerque (PCL). Called un

LHP Aaron Laffey, RHP Justin Miller and SS Cristhian Adames from Albuquerque. Sent RHP Miguel Castro to Albuquerque.

Donovan Solano on paternity leave

Reinstated 2B Dee Gordon from the

tioned RHP David Goforth to Colorado

Springs (PCL), Reinstated RHP Wilv

NEW YORK METS — Activated LHP Jonathon Niese from paternity leave. Added RHP Tyler Clippard to their

25-man roster, Optioned RHP Logar

Verrett to Las Vegas (PCL). Transferred RHP Erik Goeddel to the 60-day DL. PITTSBURGH PIRATES — As-

signed INF Steve Lombardozzi outright

tioned RHPs Mitch Harris and Sam Tuiv-ailala to Memphis (PCL). Reinstated LHP

Acquired RHP Jonathan Papelbon and cash considerations from Philadelphia for RHP Nick Pivetta. Agreed to terms

with Papelbon on a contract extension

through 2016 season, Designated C Dar

Butler for assignment. Optioned OF Matt den Dekker to Syracuse (IL). Assigned

INF Emmanuel Burriss outright to Syra-

cuse. Reinstated OF Jayson Werth from the 60-day DL and 1B Ryan Zimmerman

from the 15-day DL.

American Association

AMARILLO THUNDERHEADS

SIOUX FALLS CANARIES — Re-leased INF Mike Broad.

Jaime Garcia from the 15-day DL. WASHINGTON NATIONALS

ST LOUIS CARDINALS — Or

to Indianapolis (IL)

ralta from the 15-day DL.

MIAMI MARLINS - Placed 3E

MILWAUKEE BREWERS — Op-

Atlanta (Foltynewicz 3-2) at Baltiore (Tillman 7-7), 6:05 p.m Philadelphia (J.Williams 3-7) at Toronto (Dickey 4-10), 6:07 p.m. San Diego (T.Ross 6-8) at N.Y. Mets (B.Colon 9-9), 6:10 p.m.

Washington (Fister 3-6) at Miami Baltimore 2, Atlanta 1, 11 innings Chicago White Sox 10, Boston 8 (Koehler 8-6), 6:10 p.m.
Cincinnati (DeSclafani 5-7) at St.
Louis (Lackey 9-5), 7:15 p.m.
Oakland (Chavez 5-10) at L.A. Dodgers (Kershaw 8-6), 9:10 p.m

Thursday's Games
San Diego at N.Y. Mets, 11:10 a.m.
Washington at Miami, 11:10 a.m. Atlanta at Philadelphia, 6:05 p.m. Pittsburgh at Cincinnati, 6:10 p.m. Colorado at St. Louis, 6:15 p.m. Chicago Cubs at Milwaukee, 7:10

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL— Suspended New York Mets RHP Jenrry Mejia for 162 yames following a posi-tive test for Stanozolol and Boldenone Detroit (Verlander 0-3) at Tampa Bay Kansas City (Guthrie 7-6) at Clevend (Kluber 5-11), 11:10 p.m.
Pittsburgh (Liriano 6-6) at Minnesota vioation of Major League Baseball's Joint Drug Prevention and Treatment (E.Santana 2-0), 12:10 p.m. Arizona (Corbin 1-3) at Seattle

American League
BOSTON RED SOX — Claimed RHP Jean Machi off waivers from San Francisco, Transferred RHP Clay Buch-

holz to the 60-day DL.

CLEVELAND INDIANS — Traded OF David Murphy to the Los Angeles Angels for SS Eric Stamets. Optioned 1B Jesus Aguilar to Columbus (IL), Selected the contract of LHP Michael Roth from Columbus. Transferred LHP Nick Haga-done to The 60-day DL. DETROIT TIGERS - Optioned LHP

ston (McCullers 4-3), 7:10 p.m.
Oakland (Chavez 5-10) at L.A.
Dodgers (Kershaw 8-6), 9:10 p.m. Kyle Ryan to Toledo (IL), Recalled RHP Buck Farmer from Toledo KANSAS CITY ROYALS — Designated RHP Joe Blanton for assignment. Kansas City at Toronto, 6:07 p.m. Chicago White Sox at Boston, 6:10

LOS ANGELES ANGELS tioned 3B Kyle Kubitza to Salt Lake (PCL). Recalled INF Efren Navarro from Salt Lake. Placed OF Matt Joyce on the 7-day DL, retroactive to Monday. Acquired OF David DeJesus from the Tampa Bay Rays for RHP Eduar Lopez Designated RHP Jeremy McBryde for

signment. NEW YORK YANKEES — Recalled RHP Diego Moreno from Scranton/ Wilkes-Barre (IL). Optioned RHP Nick Goody to Scranton/Wilkes-Barre.
OAKLAND ATHLETICS — Traded
UT Ben Zobrist and cash considerations to Kansas City for RHP Aaron Brooks and LHP Sean Manaea. Recalled RHP R.J. Alvarez and INF Max Muncy from Nashville (PCL). Sent OF Coco Crisp to Stockton (Cal) for a rehab assignment

TORONTO BLUE JAYS — Agreed to terms with RHP Phillippe Aumont on

TAMPA BAY RAYS — Optioned INF Jake Elmore to Durham (IL). Reinstated

SS Asdrubal Cabrera from the 15-day

National League
ATLANTA BRAVES — Agreed to terms with 1B Jordan Lennerton on a minor league contract. Placed LHP Manny Banuelos on the 15-day DL, retroactive to July 25. Purchased the contract of RHP David Carpenter from Gwinnett (IL).

CHICAGO CUBS — Recalled RHP Dallas Beeler from Iowa (PCL). Optioned RHP Yoervis Medina to lowa, Agreed to

terms with LHP Ryan Buchter on a minor league contract.

CINCINNATI REDS — Optioned LHPs John Lamb and Brandon Finnegan to Louisville (IL). Assigned INF/OF Chris

Dominguez outright to Louisville.

COLORADO ROCKIES — Traded
SS Troy Tulowitzki and RHP LaTroy Arizona at Seattle, 10:10 p.m.
Oakland at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10 p.m Hawkins to Toronto for SS Jose Reves and RHPs Jeff Hofmann, Miguel Castro Milwaukee at San Francisco, 10:15

AREA CALENDAR

Wednesday, July 29 BASEBALL, LEGION State Fourn. at Brookings (Yankton Watertown, 5 p.m., KYNT-AM,

Brady for his role in using underinflated

footballs during last season's AFC cham-pionship game. Reduced the three-game suspension of Pittsburgh RB Le'Veon Il to two games.

CHICAGO BEARS — Signed DL David Carter to a one-year contract and WR A.J. Cruz to a three-vear contract ived I B Jonathan Brown CINCINNATI BENGALS — Waived/ injured WR James Wright. Placed LBs

Vontaze Burfict and Sean Porter and DE Margus Hunt on the PUP list and OT Cedric Ogbuehi on the non-football njury list. CLEVELAND BROWNS — Signed OL Erle Ladson, Waived DB Micah Pel-

DALLAS COWBOYS - Waived/ injured LB Cameron Lawrence, OT Ryan Miller and RB Ryan Williams. Signed LB Justin Anderson, RB Gus Johnson and C Ronald Patrick DETROIT LIONS — Signed CB R.J.

Barre (IL), Deleted INF Billy Fleming to

BASKETBALL

National Basketball Association

Women's National Basketball Association SAN ANTONIO STARS — Signed I

FOOTBALL

National Football League

NFL — Upheld the four-ga ispension of New England QB 1

Nikola Jokic to a multi-vear contract.

Valeriane Ayayi.

DENVER NUGGETS - Signed C

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS Released RHP Kurt McCune.

LAREDO LEMURS — Released Placed DT Sen'Derrick Marks and S James Sample on the PUP list. MIAMI DOLPHINS — Re-signed QB Josh Freeman.

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS — Re-

Atlantic League
BRIDGEPORT BLUEFISH — Sent leased DT Brodrick Bunkley. Placed WR Marques Colston, S Jairus Byrd and DL OF Fehlandt Lentini to Long Island to complete an earlier trade.

LONG ISLAND DUCKS — Signed Glenn Foster on the PUP list.

NEW YORK JETS — Signed WR
Austin Hill. Released PK Andrew Furney. SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

LHP Rich Hill. Released OF Prentice Placed OL Trent Brown, RB Carlos Eastern League
TRENTON THUNDER — Added
INF Cito Culver from Scranton/Wilkes-Hyde, LB Aaron Lynch and WR DeAndre Smelter on the Active/Non-Football Inju-ry List. Placed G/C Daniel Kilgore on the

GOLF. DAKOTAS TOUR Mar-

6B at Irene (Game 9 — Game 8 loser vs. Irene, 6 p.m., KVHT-FM: me 10 — Game 7 loser vs. Free-n, 8 p.m., KVHT-FM) BASEBALL, LEGION State A Tourn. at Brookings (Yankton, KYNT-AM, KVHT-FM)

Active/Physically Unable to Perform List. HOCKEY National Hockey League
PHILADELPHIA FLYERS — Signed
Sean Couturier to a multi-year con-

PITTSBURGH PENGUINS — Traded C Brandon Sutter and a 2016 third-round draft pick to Vancouver for F Nick Bonino, D Adam Clendening and a 2016 second-round draft pick. Signed F Eric Fehr to a three-year contract. TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS — Signed F Mitch Marner to a three-year,

entry-level contract. ADIRONDACK THUNDER

Named Brian Sersch equipment man-. IDAHO STEELHEADS — Agreed to

ms with F Jake Fallon.

READING ROYALS — Agreed to terms with F Mike Pereira. Signed Fs Justin Crandall, Cam Reid, Joe Re-hkamp and lan Watters and D Jordan Heywood, Curtis Leonard and Sam SOCCER

MLS
NEW YORK RED BULLS — Signed Shaun Wright-Phillips. COLLEGE

INTERCOLLEGIATE TENNIS AS-SOCIATION — Named Dan Johnson director of communications.

BERRY — Named Katie Crump

women's assistant basketball coach. CHOWAN - Announced its wom en's swimming program will join the Bluegrass Mountain Conference in the 2016-17 academic year. JACKSONVILLE STATE — Named

Friday, July 31
BASEBALL, LEGION State
A Tourn. at Brookings (Yankton,
KYNT-AM, KVHT-FM)

ton (Yankton vs. Pierre, 1 p.m. Brookings vs. S.F. West, 3:15 p.m.

Renner vs. Watertown, 5:30 p.m.

S.F. East vs. Yankton, 7:45 p.m.)

town; 13-14 Minors State Tourn. at Water-town; 13-14 Minors State Tourn. at Sioux Falls

vent Financial Charity Pro-Am at Fox Run GC

GOLF, DAKOTAS TOUR Thri-

15-16 Minors State Tourn

BASEBALL, VFW TEENER

Andres Amores imen's and women's I FES-McRAE — Named Andrev com men's assistant lacrosse coach.

MANHATTAN — Named Frank

Darby men's golf coach. McMURRY - Named Rob Yeatts men's assistant basketball coach.

NEW JERSEY CITY — Named Robyn Burton women's basketball coach.

SAN FRANCISCO — Named Matt Hiserman pitching coach.

SOUTH CAROLINA AIKEN –
Named Joanna Reitz women's assistar

basketball coach. SOUTH CAROLINA UPSTATE — Named Josh Chavis men's assistant

Ashton Broyld from the football team. WAGNER - Announced men's basketball F Marquis Salmon is tranferring from Utah Valley.
WESTERN NEW ENGLAND —

Named Mike Sugermeyer wrestling WISCONSIN-OSHKOSH — Named

Turning Two



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Yankton second baseman Mike Janish makes the turn to complete a first-inning double play during the Tappers' matchup with Mitchell in amateur baseball action on Tuesday at Bob Tereshinski Stadium at Riverside Field. The game was not complete at presstime.

Vikings

FROM PAGE 7

'There've been years that we haven't had these expectations, and it's not quite as fun." said linebacker Chad Greenway, who's started his 10th season.

"Obviously, it's nice to be sitting in a situation where everyone is excited for the team, excited about the direction of the organization."

Here are some key story lines to know about the Vikings this season:

SPRY PETERSON: Despite his initial disinterest in resuming his career in Minnesota, Peterson has rejoined the team with the assurance he'll make \$13 million this year even if he were to get hurt as well as a fresh wave of determination to prove his worth, status and ability at

age 30. Factoring in the unexpected season-long break for his body from the wear and tear of the position, Peterson ought to be primed for a strong performance after fallout from the child abuse case he was involved in that limited him to one game and 21 carries.

'Of course not being able to participate and play with my guys hurt, but just being around my family and being able to relax and let the body rest was awesome, so I'm excited to get back out there and get back into the swing of things," Peterson said.

WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE: Bridgewater's apprenticeship lasted less than three games into his first year, when Matt Cassel broke his foot and needed season-ending surgery. His touchdown (14) and interception (12) totals and yards per attempt average (7.3) were nothing special, but his completion rate (64.4) was the third-highest in NFL history for a rookie. Most importantly, he showed the Vikings plenty of confidence

Minnesota Vikings (7-9 In 2014)

OPENED CAMP: July 26, Minnesota State University, Mankato, Min-

LAST YEAR: Lost five of first six games without RB Adrian Peterson before rookie QB Teddy Bridgewater made some strides down stretch of coach Mike Zimmer's first season despite leaky OL and lack of dominant WRs. Zimmer's defense ranked seventh in yards passing allowed, major improvement in area that's lagged for decades. DE Everson Griffen shined in first full year as starter. Rookie LB Anthony Barr showed flashes of ability before season-

IMPORTANT ADDITIONS: WR Mike Wallace; CBs Terence Newman and Trae Waynes; LB Eric Kendricks; QB Shaun Hill. Also, Peterson played in only one game last year before child abuse case involving his son emerged, keeping him tied up in Texas court and with NFL-NFLPA conflicts.

IMPORTANT LOSSES: FB Jerome Felton; WR Greg Jennings; LG Charlie Johnson; LB Jasper Brinkley; QB Matt Cassel.

CAMP NEEDS: Get Peterson going again after long layoff. Keep Bridgewater healthy. Create chemistry between him and Wallace. Figure out how to get more out of WR Cordarrelle Patterson, who slumped badly after promising rookie season. Solidify RG spot, with Brandon Fusco moving to LG to replace Johnson. Boost confidence of LT Matt Kalil after rough year. Get rookies Waynes and Kendricks up to speed on Zimmer's defense. Establish starting

SS to play next to budding star Harrison Smith. **EXPECTATIONS:** Starting to get national acclaim as team on rise in NFC, Vikings should be on track for winning record. Whether that's good enough to get playoff spot, let alone best Green Bay in NFC North, will depend on Bridgewater's progress, offensive line's improvement and Zimmer's continued ability to fluster opposing offenses with his aggressive, deceptive scheme.

and poise.

"Obviously we don't have to worry about that position right now. It's good. That position is such a difficult position, such an important position, in our league in the NFL that it's nice to go into camp knowing that this is our guy," Zimmer said. BLOCKING BETTER: The

offensive line was one of the biggest problems last season, and season-ending injuries for right guard Brandon Fusco in September and right tackle Phil Loadholt in November only worsened the situation. Left tackle Matt Kalil's struggles drew the most attention, but the entire group will be under pressure to pave the way for Peterson and keep Bridgewater from getting banged up. Fusco has moved to the left side, with Mike Harris the early leader in the competition at right guard.

STILL GOING STRONG? With safety Harrison Smith, cornerback Xavier Rhodes, linebackers Anthony Barr and Eric Kendricks and defensive tackle Sharrif Floyd, the Vikings will likely have five starters on defense from their past four drafts. That doesn't include cornerback Trae Waynes, their first-round selection this year, who will certainly get plenty of playing

One of the keys to this group, though, will be the ability of Greenway, defensive end Brian Robison and cornerback Terence Newman to perform this season beyond their ages (combined years: 101) in addition to being savvy leaders. Robison has started his ninth season with the team. Newman is in his 13th year in the NFL, his first with Minnesota after signing as a free agent.

POSITIONS OF IMPOR-TANCE: Kendricks has to earn the starting job, with Audie Cole also in competition, but the second-round draft pick from UCLA was acquired with solidifying a middle linebacker position that has been in flux for the past several years. The other spot under scrutiny is at safety, opposite Smith, where incumbent Robert Blanton is being challenged by Antone Exum, Andrew Sendejo and Anthony Harris.

Brady

FROM PAGE 7

joying a beer at the Barking Crab, a waterfront seafood shack, before heading to Fenway Park to catch the Red Sox game when a reporter delivered the most unwelcome news.

What? That's absolutely not fair," the Brooklyn resident said. "Four games is outrageous. The punishment doesn't fit the crime.'

Brady was suspended for his role after the team used underinflated footballs

salvage things by cutting ties in time to get another city on board. "In some ways, the USOC said, 'Let's see if this works," USA Gymnastics President

'We could still salvage something here and put a decent bid out there. Los Angeles' proposal incorporated many of the area's most famous sites: Santa Monica beach, Rodeo Drive in Beverly Hills, the Rose Bowl, the Hollywood sign. The cen-

Juan Antonio Samaranch Jr.,

The last two candidates have faltered under the weight of their own missteps, sometimes-toxic relationship with the IOC. New York finished fourth out of five finalists for the 2012 Olympics. Chicago was last in the running

If USOC Finds A New City, Boston

Debacle Could Be Forgotten

IOC executive board member

for 2016. The USOC skipped the 2020 bid to make sure it got things right this time around. At a meeting in January, the board went with Boston, choosing the new, never-done-this-before candidate over Los Angeles, which has hosted the Ölympics in 1932 and 1984. San Francisco and Washington were not in

the mix at the end. It was a grand — some sav. inexcusable — miscalculation. How could the USOC not have gauged the unsteadiness of the bid and the amount of opposi-

tion in Boston? But the leadership tried to

Steve Penny said of the Boston selection. "They went down that road. It didn't pan out like they hoped. But they're saying,

terpiece would be an expanded Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, which stands as a rarity in the United States since it was designed to be ringed by a

during their romp over the

AFC championship game in

said it expects to challenge

the decision in court. The

and docked a pair of draft

picks but haven't appealed

Brady's suspension would

the new season kicks off in

make a difference: With or

ultimately be reduced before

Others boasted it won't

without Brady, the defending

Super Bowl champs will find

The players' union has

Patriots were fined \$1 million

Some fans were confident

Indianapolis Colts in the

January.

that penalty.

September.

There would be hurdles to overcome.

running track.

"There is very little appetite in California for public funding of sports facilities," said Mark an attorney for the San Diego Chargers. But most of the key venues

that would be used at an L.A. Olympics are already built. And by 2024, there's a good chance an NFL team or teams will have built at least one stadium that could be up and running. There could be opposition, though the lack of an organized

group when the city was first in

the mix for 2024 stood in stark

contrast to Boston, where a

protest group was already active and even showed up at a USOC meeting to hang a banner. Details have been vague both about how the city would fund an Olympics and whether Garcetti would be willing to

sign the host city contract that government leaders in Boston The USOC has contacted

Los Angeles and a meeting is expected soon. "If we bid, our city's existing world class venues would make an Olympics in Los Angeles profitable just as in 1984 and 1932," Jeff Millman,

a senior adviser to the mayor, said in statement. Despite those hurdles, Los Angeles is not a city that needs to be sold on the Olympics. It has, on the whole, embraced its previous role as host, and much has been made about its ability to run the games on a surplus and with a minimum of public financing. The 1984 Olympic torch remains on display at City Hall.

a way to win, just as they

always do. "No matter what happens with the Patriots, they always overcome whatever challenges are in front of them." said Mike Sturtevant, an assistant general manager at the Battery Park Lounge, an upscale sports bar in the city's financial district. "They'll adapt and they'll prevail. They won't let it get to them."

Even if the suspension holds, Sturtevant said, it would at least give backup quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo a chance to prove his

"That's how Brady got his

shot. He was a backup," he said. "Who knows? Maybe this opens up opportunities.

A number of fans noted the Patriots started off last season with a middling record and obituaries were already being written about Brady's career before the team turned things around and won it all.

"It's tough to be upset when they just won the Super Bowl a few months ago," said Brian Long, a Rockland, Massachusetts, native, as he downed a beer at a downtown bar wearing a throwback Boston Braves cap and a Bruins T-shirt. "I'm a fan

as much as anybody, but I'm not going to go out there and picket and stuff. It's just not that big a deal for me.'

But he voiced the frustration felt in all corners of Patriots Nation that the four-time Super Bowl winners team received a raw deal throughout the "Deflategate" controversy.

"I'm not trying to be this obnoxious, Boston sports fan that's totally biased, but if this was the Jets or any other team, I don't think people would really care," Long said. "There's a real, palpable hatred of the Patriots out



(Deb Overseth, Jeff Dayhuff) 8:20 am Hy-Vee Foods (Mike Weber) Thursday, July 30 7:40 am Yankton Chamber

(Carmen Schramm)

8:20 am Yankton Conv/Vis

Bureau (Stephanie Moser)