

Raiders Offense Faces Tough Test With Injuries, Vikings



NHAT V. MEYER/BAY AREA NEWS GROUP/TNS
Oakland Raiders quarterback Derek Carr (4) throws against the New York Jets during the third quarter on Sunday at O.co Coliseum in Oakland, Calif. Oakland plays Minnesota this coming Sunday.

BY JOSH DUBOW
AP Sports Writer

ALAMEDA, Calif. (AP) — Since returning from the bye, the Oakland Raiders offense has been on a run this team hasn't seen in 20 years. With quarterback Derek Carr engineering an offense that includes big-play receivers on the outside in Michael Crabtree and Amari Cooper, a dangerous running game led by Latavius Murray and a strong offensive line, the Raiders

have topped 34 points in three consecutive games for the first time since 1995. Oakland could be in for a tough test this week against Minnesota. The Vikings (6-2) are the only team not to allow more than 23 points in a game this season and the Raiders might need to end that streak without three key offensive players with Murray, Cooper and center Rodney Hudson nursing injuries that forced them to miss practice Wednesday.

Of late, little has stood in Oakland's way. The Raiders have scored 106 points the past three weeks in beating San Diego and the New York Jets and losing on a late field goal to Pittsburgh. But Carr feels there's even more the offense can do. "We were kind of mad at ourselves because there was so much more we feel like we could do," Carr said. "The stats and all that are fun for people to look at. But for us, we turn the film on and are like, 'Man,

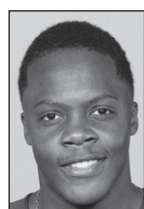
we missed that opportunity or that play or that chance.' That's what hurts us." There could be few opportunities for big plays if Cooper, Murray or Hudson is sidelined Sunday. Cooper did not practice with an injured quadriceps that he appeared to hurt last Sunday in Pittsburgh. There was no word on the severity of the injury. Murray left last week's loss

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Zimmer Says Vikings QB Bridgewater Is 'Progressing Nicely'

BY JON KRAWCZYNSKI
AP Sports Writer

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. (AP) — Even after suffering a concussion that appeared to knock him out cold on the turf last Sunday, Minnesota Vikings quarterback Teddy Bridgewater was able to greet his teammates warmly as they came off the field following another victory. Bridgewater was back at practice on Wednesday, keeping the optimism high that he will be back on the field this Sunday in Oakland.



Bridgewater

he needed to start the game this weekend, but Zimmer did say he is looking for more out of the passing game, which ranks 30th in the league.

"He's progressing nicely," coach Mike Zimmer said. Bridgewater was a limited participant during the first practice of the week and was unavailable for comment.

As promising as Bridgewater has looked at times in his second season, particularly late in games, Zimmer said he is looking for the poised youngster to let loose more often earlier in the games.

"We have to do better in our passing game, there's no question about it," Zimmer said. "Sometimes it's protection. Sometimes it's the routes. Sometimes it's (receivers) covered. Sometimes we're not making the correct reads or the correct throws. So we've got to do better there."

Linebackers Anthony Barr (hand) and Eric Kendricks (ribs) were held out of practice on Wednesday, two key absences to watch as the week progresses. Kendricks missed the game last week and his backup — Audie Cole — was lost for the season with a broken left ankle.

He was knocked out of the game against St. Louis on Sunday by a hit to the head from Rams defensive back Lamarus Joyner, one of several hits by the Rams that had Zimmer steamed after the game. Veteran Shaun Hill replaced Bridgewater in the fourth quarter and did just enough to help the team to a 21-18 overtime victory that helped the Vikings (6-2) move into a tie with Green Bay for first place in the NFC North.

The Vikings signed linebacker Jason Trusnik on Monday to add some depth at the position, and he was in uniform for practice on Wednesday. He played for Vikings defensive coordinator George Edwards previously in Miami.

"Shaun's got a great grasp of things, he's extremely smart," Zimmer said. "It's really about just going out there and getting reps and executing it. I think we're fortunate to have Shaun. ... He gets the ball out. He knows where to go. He's accurate." It appears that Hill will not

Recruits

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it," assistant coach Greg Binstock said. "I have no doubt he will fit right in with our long sprint group and I can't wait to see him exceed his own expectations."

Viborg-Hurley's Hora Headed To Augie

Abby Hora has known for a year where she was going to college. Augustana University in Sioux Falls. Now a senior at Viborg-Hurley High School, Hora — a basketball standout — had previously verbally committed to the coaching staff at the Division II school, but had to wait 12 months to make it official.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/MIKE KING
Irene-Wakonda's Gabe King will attend Northern State University and compete in men's basketball for the Wolves.

"I really like their coaches, and their head coach really reminds me of (former V-H coach) Pat Kraning. He's calm but he's effective," Hora said Wednesday, the day she officially signed.

There were certainly other possible destinations for Hora. She could have waited to see if a Division I offer was thrown her way, but ultimately she didn't want to wait. Augustana was the best fit.

"They have a lot of guard play, which is what I like to do. They're a perimeter team."

"I didn't have any regrets or anything, I was just glad to decide," Hora said. "Signing today puts it all in place, and now I can focus on the high school career and finishing that out."

Hora, who enters her season with 1,639 points, 395 rebounds and 255 assists, earned first team All-State honors last season when she guided Viborg-Hurley to the State B Tournament. She averaged 24.6 points, 7.8 rebounds, 3.9 assists and 2.8 steals per game as a junior.

As Hora embarks on her senior season with Viborg-Hurley, she has one goal left on her to-do list: A state championship.

But it was more than just basketball that landed her at Augustana, Hora said. Interested in pursuing a nursing major, Hora said she was impressed by the school's 100 percent acceptance rate for nursing students.

"We'll be a quick team; won't have as much height (as last year), but we've been working hard all preseason to get back there," Hora said.

"I obviously wanted to enjoy my time there and do well in basketball, but I also had to look past those four years," she said. "I can't play basketball forever."

Bon Homme's Rothschild Signs With Augie

Morgan Rothschild is taking her state championship talents to Sioux Falls. The Bon Homme High School senior signed Wednesday to run track at Augustana College in Sioux Falls, where she look to transition her high school momentum to the Division II ranks.

"It's going to be so different, but I'm excited to see that difference," Rothschild said. "Especially in a small town where track isn't the biggest sport, and it's hard to think big somewhere. I'm anxious to see what they have in store."

Rothschild, from Tabor, won the Class A state 300-me-

ter hurdles title this spring as a junior and was the all-class gold medalist in the event. She owns personal bests of 44.94 in the 300 hurdles and 59.61 in the 400-meter dash. The small-campus feel in a big city was something that also attracted Rothschild, she said. "I just really liked how close-knit they were," said Rothschild, who is undecided on a major. "I like how the academic part was close-knit, too."

I-W's King Signs With Northern

Gabe King made his recruitment to Northern State University official on Wednesday. King, a 6-foot-5 senior guard for Irene-Wakonda High School, averaged 22 points, 14 rebounds and 6 blocks last season as a junior. "Gabe is the kind of player that can fill a stat sheet," NSU head coach Paul Sather said in a release. "He is a very good shooter, but his feel for the game is what sets him apart."

Avon's Cap Headed To Mankato

After a junior season when she averaged a double-double, Avon High School standout forward Heidi Cap has signed to play basketball at Division II Minnesota State-Mankato. Cap, from Tripp, averaged 12.9 points and 10.7 rebounds per game last season and earned All-Little Missouri Valley Conference honors. She is also a state qualifier in cross country and track.

"Heidi brings us the strong and physical inside presence that is important to compete in our league," head coach Emilee Thiesse said in a release. "She has a natural feel for playing inside the paint and rebounding the basketball."

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Claeys

FROM PAGE 8

a best friend having him around all the time. So it was great to see them smile again," Claeys said.

raising, community involvement and endorsements. The remainder of the package is for supplemental retirement contributions: \$400,000 for next year, \$500,000 for 2017 and \$600,000 for 2018.

Claeys was the acting head coach for seven games in 2013, too, when Kill stepped back for seven games to focus on his health after a series of seizures and the Gophers went 4-3. He has a different personality than the fiery Kill, but they're both natives of rural Kansas with similar philosophies about running the program.

If the university were to decide to fire Claeys during that time due to unsatisfactory results on the field, the buyout would be half of the remaining base salaries. So, for example, it would cost \$250,000 to fire him after 2017.

With Claeys as the defensive coordinator, the Gophers have held 27 of their last 35 opponents to a score below their average.

Claeys is one of nine current FBS head coaches who didn't play college football. He joined Kill in 1995 at Saginaw Valley State for a \$3,000 salary to coach the defensive line, before becoming defensive coordinator at Emporia State in 1999 and continuing on to Southern Illinois in 2001 and Northern Illinois in 2008.

"We believed in Tracy and his leadership," Goetz said. The Gophers (4-5, 1-4 Big Ten) play Saturday at eighth-ranked Iowa. They finish the schedule at home against Illinois and 23rd-ranked Wisconsin.

That was plenty of time to prepare for the job, but his wardrobe still needed work. Claeys bought a new navy blue sport coat for his introductory news conference.

Claeys will make a prorated portion of \$1.3 million for the remainder of this season. His contract, starting Feb. 1, 2016, will include a \$500,000 base salary and \$500,000 in supplemental compensation for media appearances, fund-

"The most uncomfortable part of the job is the coat and tie. I'd much rather wear a sweater," Claeys said. "But I told Beth that one of her main jobs is, that when we schedule events, to let me know what the attire's supposed to be."

Class 11A

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Jordan Lueth (120-856 yards, 9 TD), Joe Hanisch (96-530 yards, 6 TD) and quarterback Dan Skinner (44-313, 7 TD) have all been contributors in the run game.

"The great thing about our defense is that we had eight kids that started last year at some time or another," Mueller said. "We've got 16 kids we could call starters."

"On the running side we're a four-headed monster," Mueller said. "It speaks to our balance, and to the job our offensive line has done. (Linemen) Hunter Hanley (Sr., 6-3, 284) and Bryce Edberg (Sr., 6-3, 277) are both getting recruits at the Missouri Valley Football Conference level."

When analyzing the game, Mueller cautioned against putting much credence into time of possession.

Skinner has also been 39-68 passing for 561 yards and four scores. Noah Vettrus (12-151 yards, 2 TD), Lueth (8-124 yards, 2 TD) and Sam Swier (4-90 yards) have been primary targets.

"They are so explosive, you can't blink," he said of Madison. "In their overtime win against Sioux Falls Christian (during the regular season), Madison only had seven possessions, but they scored on five of them."

"Danny can make things happen," Mueller said of his quarterback.

Because of the Bulldogs' quick-strike attack, West Central has to guard against letting mistakes snowball. "We can't let one mistake turn into two or three. We have to play clean football, error-free football," Mueller said.

Hanley has a team-best 58 tackles, but several other players have similar tackle numbers. Kobe Moldrem has a team-best three interceptions, with Rechtenbaugh recording two.

For Madison, the focus is on keeping things at an even keel. "We need to play like we have all year: play loose and have fun," Hodgen said. "We cannot get wound up in the moment. I don't want them to feel that pressure."

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CLASS 11A CHAMPIONSHIP

Madison (11-0) vs. West Central (10-1)
7:30 p.m. • Radio: KJAM (103.1 FM, 1390 AM, Madison), ESPN-SF (99.1 FM, Sioux Falls), KSOO (1140 AM, Sioux Falls), KWSN (1230 AM, Sioux Falls) • TV: SDPB

MADISON OFFENSE					WEST CENTRAL OFFENSE						
Pos	No	Name	Ht	Wt	Yr	Pos	No	Name	Ht	Wt	Yr
SE	1	Brady Balogh	5-10	164	Sr.	TE	43	Sam Swier	6-1	220	Sr.
RB	4	Mason Leighton	6-0	161	Jr.	T	60	Aaron Mallinger	5-8	185	Jr.
RB	22	Brody Frederiksen	5-8	166	Sr.	G	63	Hunter Hanley	6-3	284	Sr.
OL	71	Nate Guthmiller	6-2	200	Jr.	C	59	Alex Klein	6-2	235	Sr.
OL	79	Austin Lohsandler	6-7	227	Jr.	G	61	Bryce Edberg	6-3	277	Sr.
QB	14	Mitch Hansen	6-0	205	Sr.	T	52	Dylan Masterson	6-0	195	Sr.
LB	21	Matthew Palli	5-11	190	Sr.	SE	18	Justin Sebert	6-0	185	Sr.
OL	68	Tyler Janke	6-0	175	Jr.	QB	1	Dan Skinner	6-0	160	Sr.
OL	73	Cole Leighton	6-1	185	Jr.	RB	31	Jordan Lueth	5-11	185	Sr.
OL	52	Jakob Poppens	6-3	201	Sr.	FB	41	Joseph Hanisch	6-0	190	Jr.
TE	6	Jaxon Janke	6-2	174	So.	RB	36	Jonah Rechtenbaugh	5-10	160	Sr.

MADISON DEFENSE					WEST CENTRAL DEFENSE						
Pos	No	Name	Ht	Wt	Yr	Pos	No	Name	Ht	Wt	Yr
DB	1	Brady Balogh	5-10	164	Sr.	DE	86	Riley Hollander	6-2	192	Jr.
DB	4	Mason Leighton	6-0	161	Jr.	DT	63	Hunter Hanley	6-3	284	Sr.
DB	5	Noah Guse	5-10	153	Jr.	DE	61	Bryce Edberg	6-3	277	Sr.
LB	21	Matthew Palli	5-11	190	Sr.	DE	51	Cody Pearson	6-0	200	Sr.
OL	68	Tyler Janke	6-0	175	Jr.	ILB	60	Aaron Mallinger	5-8	185	Jr.
DE	32	Marcus VandenBosch	6-1	188	Jr.	OLB	69	Tyndall Peterson	5-10	183	Jr.
LB	62	Dylan Williams	5-10	159	Sr.	OLB	52	Dylan Masterson	6-0	195	Sr.
DE	71	Nate Guthmiller	6-2	200	Jr.	CB	24	Kobe Moldrem	5-10	174	Jr.
DT	88	Brayden Gilbert	6-3	202	Sr.	S	2	Noah Vettrus	6-2	165	Sr.
LB	64	Brad Hoff	6-0	266	So.	S	31	Jordan Lueth	5-11	185	Sr.
DB	6	Jaxon Janke	6-2	174	So.	CB	36	Jonah Rechtenbaugh	5-10	160	Sr.

LEADERS		LEADERS	
RUSHING: Brodie Frederiksen (219-1,401 yards, 31 TD), Mitch Hansen (94-537 yards, 6 TD)	PASSING: Mitch Hansen (107-191, 2,073 yards, 22 TD, 7 INT)	RUSHING: Jonah Rechtenbaugh (197-1,117 yards, 19 TD), Jordan Lueth (120-856 yards, 9 TD), Joe Hanisch (96-530 yards, 6 TD), Dan Skinner (44-313 yards, 7 TD)	PASSING: Dan Skinner (39-68, 561 yards, 4 TD, 1 INT)
RECEIVING: Mason Leighton (25-592 yards, 7 TD); Brady Balogh (22-397 yards, 3 TD); Jaxon Janke (18-456 yards, 8 TD); Brodie Frederiksen (14-206 yards, 1 TD)	DEFENSE: Marcus VandenBosch (109 tackles, 13 TFL, 6 sacks); Nate Guthmiller (93 tackles, 10.5 TFL, 8 sacks); Jaden Janke (81 tackles, 12 TFL, 2 sacks); Jaxon Janke (78 tackles, 6 TFL, 5 INT); Noah Guse (59 tackles, 4 TFL, 3 INT); Mason Leighton (35 tackles, 5 INT)	RUSHING: Hunter Hanley (58 tackles); Noah Vettrus (35 tackles, 1 INT); Jonah Rechtenbaugh (34 tackles, 2 INT); Dylan Masterson (34 tackles); Aaron Mallinger (34 tackles); Bryce Edberg (34 tackles); Riley Hollander (34 tackles); Justin Sebert (33 tackles, INT); Kobe Moldrem (18 tackles, 3 INT)	

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Class 9AA

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big factor in the outcome. "One thing that killed us in the first meeting was penalties. We had three holding calls in the red zone that took us out of potential scores," Hooks said. "Those are things

that we have to clean up." Kolousek agreed. "We have to execute and limit the number of mistakes," he said. "They are an excellent team. It's going to be another good 281 battle." Game time is scheduled for 1:30 p.m.

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