

# SPORTS

## & OUTDOORS WEEKEND

**VIKINGS 33. NEW ENGLAND 26**  
Week 13: Dec. 4 vs. New York Jets, noon (Ch. 4)

# With all the trimmings



## Thielen TD, late stops stir holiday glee in Vikings

**VIKINGS INSIDER**  
BEN GOESSLING

Four hours before the Vikings' Thanksgiving night game against the Patriots, Kevin O'Connell walked into the home locker room at U.S. Bank Stadium and was stunned at how many players were already in the building.

The team had absorbed its worst loss ever in Minneapolis four days earlier; the Thursday night game presented the Vikings an opportunity to quickly expunge that 37-point defeat against the Cowboys. If they felt that game was out of character, the 33-26 victory they produced against the Patriots — sweating it out the whole way — was a return to the form that has them on the precipice of an NFC North title.

"It just kind of shows how excited guys were to get out here and show that energy, that excitement, that brotherhood we have in this locker room," wide receiver Adam Thielen said. "I think that's what helped us prevail."

After Kirk Cousins found Thielen for a go-ahead touchdown with 9:40 left, the Vikings' pass rush conjured its biggest plays of the night, stopping the Patriots' final two drives with sacks from Danielle Hunter and Khyiris Tonga.

The victory improved the Vikings' record to 9-2, giving  
See **VIKINGS** on C7 ▶

### INSIDE

- Justin Jefferson breaks NFL mark for receiving yards in first three seasons. **C5**
- A view of U.S. Bank Stadium on Thanksgiving night. **C6**

### THANKFUL NIGHT

The Vikings' Jalen Nailor (83, left) celebrated with teammate Josh Metellus after tackling New England's Marcus Jones on a punt return in the fourth quarter. Below, Vikings receiver Adam Thielen (19) savored his tiebreaking touchdown catch in the fourth quarter on Thursday.

Photos by CARLOS GONZALEZ  
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## After three games in 12 days, Vikings are still a mystery

**JIM SOUHAN**



The Vikings improved to 9-2 with a 33-26 victory over New England on Thursday night at U.S.

Bank Stadium. They have the second-best record in the NFL.

This means the Vikings are only about six weeks away from defining just how good they are, or aren't.

We didn't find out on Thursday. Given their easy schedule and the shoddy nature of the division, we may not know until the playoffs.

Four days after losing by 37 points to Dallas, the Vikings resumed their winning ways. In 2022, their winning ways involve luck.

The officials ruled that an obvious touchdown catch by Patriots tight end Hunter Henry was an incompleteness, costing New England four points.

The officials missed a hold on a kickoff return for a touchdown by Kene Nwangwu, and the Vikings had an awful offensive possession revived by a running-into-the-punter penalty, allowing them to drive for a touchdown.

Danielle Hunter appeared to trip Mac Jones on a sack  
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