

Reusse: Augsburg edges Gustavus in thriller. **C2**

Top 10 Sports section in the nation

Awarded by the Associated Press Sports Editors (2023)

Wild's Brodin moves on without Dumba at side. **C3**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2023

★ StarTribune

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SPORTS



ERIN HOOLEY • Associated Press

Gophers running back Darius Taylor, right, fought his way for a touchdown Saturday, when he ran for 198 yards at Northwestern.

NORTHWESTERN 37, GOPHERS 34 (OT) 11 a.m. Saturday vs. Louisiana (BTN)

U's 21-point lead vanishes

Northwestern tied it at the end of regulation and quickly prevailed in OT.

By RANDY JOHNSON
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EVANSTON, ILL. — One more defensive stop. Or one more first down gained. That's all the Gophers needed to win in regulation.

Instead, they blew a 21-point fourth-quarter lead to Northwestern, which got the tying 11-yard touchdown pass from Ben Bryant to A.J. Henning with two seconds left in the fourth quarter.

Then in overtime, Minnesota settled for Dragan Kesich's 20-yard field goal, and the Wildcats, on their first play of the extra session, got a 25-yard touchdown pass on throwback

play from Bryant to a wide-open Charlie Mangieri for a 37-34 victory at Ryan Field.

The loss dropped the Gophers to 2-2 overall and 1-1 in the Big Ten, while Northwestern improved to 2-2 and 1-1.

The Gophers got the ball first overtime and reached the Wildcats 10-yard line on Athan Kaliakmanis' 15-yard completion to Corey Crooms Jr. After Bryce Williams gained 7 yards

on first-and-goal and 1 yard on second down, Kaliakmanis threw high and incomplete for tight Brevyn Spann-Ford near the end zone on third down.

The loss spoiled a big day for Gophers true freshman running back Darius Taylor, who rushed 31 times for 198 yards and two touchdowns. Kaliakmanis completed his first eight passes as the Gophers built a See **GOPHERS** on C9 ▶

WHEN THE HATE HITS,



VIKINGS PLAYERS FACE A DIFFICULT DECISION

By ANDREW KRAMMER • andrew.krammer@startribune.com • Star Tribune illustration

Alexander Mattison isn't quitting social media. Akayleb Evans did. The two Vikings players chose different paths in navigating the negative impacts of the platforms that are big business for the NFL and its players but can open them up to harassment that is harmful to their mental health.

Mattison showed that dark side recently, when he shared on Instagram what he said was one of 60-plus "disgustingly disrespectful messages" following the Vikings' Week 2 loss in Philadelphia. The message included multiple racial slurs aimed at Mattison, who is Black, and told him to kill himself.

Teammates voiced support for Mattison, saying they all must set boundaries and avoid online strains on mental health. Social media offers often unregulated channels of anonymous praise and hatred. It can also connect fans with their favorite players and galvanize support in ways never done before.

"You don't have to look at it," Vikings receiver K.J. Osborn said, "but in this day and age, that's where a lot of stuff is."

Mattison said he won't be deterred in "spreading light" on social media, whether that's chatting up random fans, giving away tickets or exposing hateful remarks that he said are often related to fantasy football.

See **VIKINGS** on C5 ▶**VIKINGS VS. L.A. CHARGERS** Noon Sunday (FOX9) • **Jim Souhan:** Kirk Cousins or Justin Herbert? **C5**

L.A. ANGELS 1, TWINS 0 1:10 p.m. Sunday (BSN)

Twins manager now managing twins

LA VELLE E. NEAL III



Rocco Baldelli held his first press conference on Friday in nearly a week. It was a meaty one, as nearly a quarter of his Twins roster was off on rehabilitation assignments in St. Paul and a room

full of intrepid reporters needed updates.

Baldelli was stumped when someone asked what would happen to outfielder Byron Buxton after Sunday, when the minor league season ends, while he still needs rehab games.

"What day is it today?" the Twins manager asked. When told it was Friday, he leaned back in his chair. "Oh,

shoot. Honest to God, I had no idea."

Baldelli's desk included caps, notes, air freshener, a soccer ball, coffee mugs, reporters' recording devices and an explanation for his absent-mindedness.

A cigar. And a quality cigar at that: a Rocky Patel model.

"Is that a good one?" Baldelli asked a cigar aficionado in his office. The

answer was "yes," and Baldelli looked forward to lighting up the present he received for becoming a father for the second — and third — time.

This cigar tradition recently has been twisted; instead of the proud papa handing out stogies, some now receive them. But this gift-giver should have

See **NEAL** on C2 ▶

RENÉE JONES SCHNEIDER • renee.jones@startribune.com

Twins manager Rocco Baldelli, talking to his team in the clubhouse after it clinched the AL Central title on Friday night, just welcomed twin sons Enzo and Nino to his family.