

VIKINGS + NFL PLAYOFFS



Game, season's goals remain just out of reach

The story of Sunday's 31-24 Vikings playoff loss to the Giants — and perhaps the ultimate epitaph on the 2022 season — was much like wide receiver Justin Jefferson's fate on the first-quarter play above: coming up short. A season of harrowing victories ended with a long walk off the U.S. Bank Stadium turf for first-year coach Kevin O'Connell, far left. Quarterback Kirk Cousins knelt in the huddle, left, and tried to conjure up one more last-minute rally, only to have his final completion to tight end T.J. Hockenson also fall short. But during pregame warmups for Parker Peterson, right, the 3-year-old daughter of cornerback Patrick Peterson, things were still looking up — at Jefferson, Dad's exceptional teammate.

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