

Golden Bears Football is Back

BY THOMAS PRESNALL

WITH SCHOOL BACK in session and the last days of sunny weather approaching quickly, that could only mean one thing: Football. Is. Back.

The Golden Bears have played two games since students returned to campus, and while they have not emerged victorious in either, nobody can say that they did not do all they could to win. On September 1st, the Golden Bears took on Augustana at Seafoam Stadium before traveling to play Southwest Minnesota State (SMSU) on September 10th.

Against Augustana, QB Conner Cordts showed off his arm as he threw for 172 yards and a touchdown. Jaylin Richardson proved to be just as dangerous of a threat as Cordts as he led the team in receiving yards with 59 yards on 5 catches while also rushing for 38 yards on 11 carries. WRs Drew Enke and Jaheim Arnold each had good contributions to the passing game as well, with Enke racking up 39 yards on two catches and Arnold picking up 34 yards with one catch respectively.

The defense accounted well for themselves with DB Cyrus McClure picking off the Augustana QB twice and LB Brayden Hilgemann adding a sack. The Golden Bears were able to keep Augustana to a measly 62



yards throwing but were gashed on the ground for a total of 267 yards.

When facing SMSU nine days later, CSP performed even better in all facets of the game. Cordts put up 170 yards and spread the ball to a number of pass catchers, with five putting up 20 or more receiving yards. However, the trio of running backs—Jaylin Richardson, Jaire Moore, and Gayflor Flomo—showed up in a big way as they rushed for a combined 266 yards on 32 carries.

In a statement from Robert Kraklow, an offensive graduate assistant with the Golden Bears, he said that the team has “a trio of really talented and downhill running backs that make the run game look as strong as ever,” and Flomo, Richardson, and Moore certainly proved him correct.



Photo Credit: Justin Oakman

Against SMSU's offense, the Golden Bear defense managed to once again pick off the opposing QB twice, once with McClure and the other with Hilgemann. The defense held SMSU QB to 106 yards and no touchdowns, but their Achilles heel reared its ugly head once again as the opposing offense rushed for 295 yards.

Over the next two weeks, the Golden Bears will play Sioux Falls at Seafoam Stadium on the 17th before traveling to Nebraska to play Wayne State on the 24th. The Golden Bears have proved that they have a QB who can sling the ball all over the field and a stable of running backs capable of putting up monster numbers. All

that remains to be seen is if the defense can stop the run without sacrificing any of the success that they've had in the secondary.

Kraklow summarized the Golden Bears best at the end of his statement regarding CSP's upcoming game against SMSU, that they will give “SMSU the best we have to offer and we believe that our best will lead to a win,” and if the Golden Bears can play to the level that everyone believes they can reach, then Kraklow will be proven right yet again.

Minnesota Vikings Update

BY THOMAS PRESNALL

FOOTBALL SEASON IS back and the Minnesota Vikings are already 2-1. The Vikings played their first game on September 11th against their division rival, the Green Bay Packers, and it's safe to say that they manhandled the reigning MVP and his team on offense and defense as they won the game comfortably 23-7.

Kirk Cousins threw for a solid 269 yards and two touchdowns. His offensive line held up very well against a Packers front that boasted three first-rounders, Preston Smith who collected 9 sacks the previous year, 1st team All-Pro De'Vondre Campbell, and Rashan

Gary. Only Gary, one of the aforementioned first-rounders, managed to get a sack on Cousins. Running backs Dalvin Cook and Alexander Mattison put up decent numbers on the ground. Cook rushed for 90 yards on 20 carries while his running mate tacked on another 38 yards with 8 carries.

While Cousins and Cook both had solid games, it was the third piece of the puzzle, wide receiver Justin Jefferson, who indeed ran the Packers out of Minnesota. #18 in purple and white caught 9 balls for 184 yards and 2 touchdowns. For anyone who watched the game, it became clear very early on that Jefferson was going to have a big game as the Packers couldn't seem to stop him from getting the ball.

On the defensive side of the ball, the Vikings managed to put Aaron Rogers on the ground numerous times, with Jordan Hicks, Danielle Hunter, Za'Darius Smith, and D.J. Wonnum each collecting a sack during the game. The front seven of the Vikings also held the two-headed monster the Packers had at running back in check all game as neither Aaron Jones nor A.J. Dillon had managed to reach 50 rushing yards throughout the game.

The secondary, spear-headed by the stellar play of the veteran Harrison Smith, held Rogers and Co. to

a paltry 195 yards passing and 0 passing touchdowns. To put the icing on the cake, Smith managed to snag the first interception that Rogers has thrown to an NFC North opponent in thirteen games.

The Vikings have always given the Packers fits during the season, stealing at least one game from their rivals in the past two seasons.

The win against the Packers is certainly a great way to start the season, but now Cousins, Jefferson, and Cook must show that they can sustain the level of excellence they showed on Sunday throughout the season. The NFC North should be a fairly easy slate for them, save for the Packers whom they will face again in Week 17, but things do not get easier from there. The Vikings will have the chance to prove that they are more than just a playoff contender when they face the likes of the Buffalo Bills, the Miami Dolphins, the New Orleans Saints, and the Indianapolis Colts.

Given the talent on the team, it's not a stretch to say that they will win more than 10 games this season, and barring any significant injury, the NFC should see the Vikings still playing as January rolls around and the playoffs start.

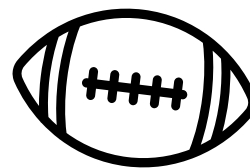


Photo Credit: Megan Conelly