

# The Vikings: Update on the Season

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**S**O FAR, THE VIKINGS are having an excellent start to their season with more wins than losses. On October 9, the Vikings won 29-22 against the Chicago Bears; this was predicted to be a challenging game for the Vikings. A few injuries that occurred during this game included players Ty Chandler and Akayleb Evans. Chandler suffered from a broken thumb

and Evans was diagnosed with a concussion from an onside kick in the second half. The Vikings are playing well and many predict it may be because of their connections with their new head coach and their strategies to push their more prominent stars.

If the Vikings continue their winning streak, they are sure to climb higher than they have in a long time. With their star running back Dalvin Cook and wide receiver Justin Jefferson, they have two strong playmakers at the helm. Jefferson totaled 154 receiving yards which was about half of the team's 319 yards. Cook rushed for 94 yards against the

Bears. Cook played 57% of the snaps against the Bears as the backfield playing time split has been more 60/40 with Mattison after Cook's shoulder injury three weeks before the Bears.

With the new head coach, Kevin O'Connell, the team feels that they are connecting with him better than former head coach Mike Zimmer, who never really had informal or formal meetings with them. According to the NFL, Dalvin Cook said, "It's a different feeling for me, just having a head coach in the offensive meetings, period. And having him tell us how he feels. We never met with Zim, so it's different having K.O. around all the time and feeling his personality and his love." Cook is expressing the confidence that the Minnesota Vikings are feeling currently with the number of wins they have early in the season.

In October, the Minnesota Vikings were ranked first in the NFC North with a 5-1 record to kick off the start of the season. As for the other teams in the NFC North, the Green Bay Packers are at 3-3, the Chicago Bears are 2-4, and the Detroit Lions are 1-4. With these scores in mind, the chances for the Vikings to reach the top of the NFC Conference as the NFL prepares for the Superbowl are high. Vikings fans still have high hopes for the team to make it all the way to the Superbowl as long as they can improve on the weaknesses and get their players off of the injury reserve.

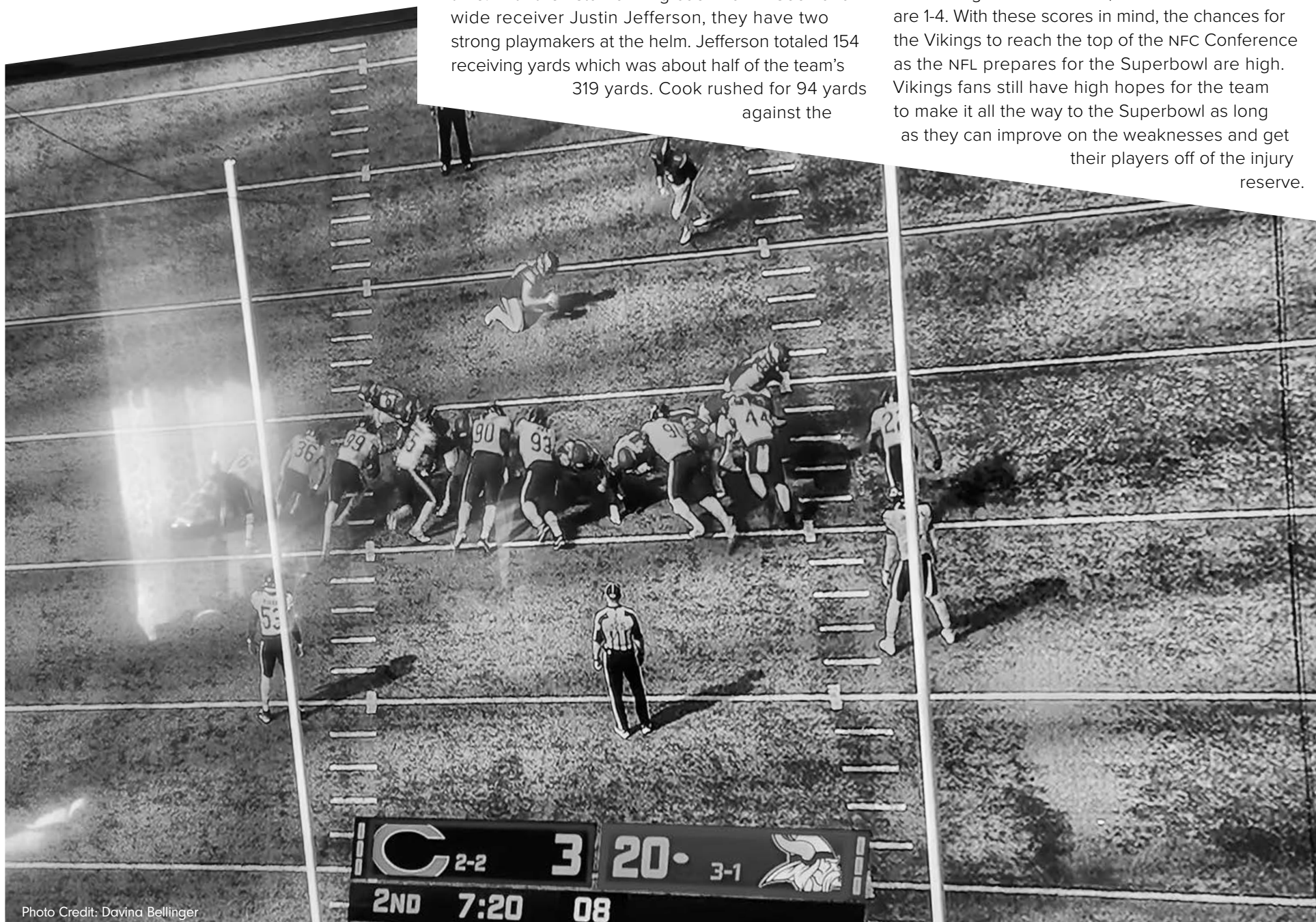


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