MPR News | Minnesota Now Vikings undefeated streak comes to an end, Gophers have hard-fought loss to Indiana 01M6EZZE363YJQDGSEJ108Y0WT

NINA MOINI: Scary and spooky. The Minnesota Vikings quarterback Kyler Murray says they won't be haunted by yesterday's loss in Detroit, which ended their undefeated record this season. Here's Murray speaking after the game.

KYLER MURRAY: The confidence in the group is not going to waver. I know we have the guys in the locker room and on that side of the ball to be the best, and that's truly how I feel. But again, we've got to go out there and do it on Sundays. And right now, that's just not the case. Just too many-- whether it's me or somebody else, there's too many of my bads, and it's not good enough.

NINA MOINI: 19 to 15 the Lions won. Joining me to talk about what's next for the Vikings in the month of November and some other sports news, our weekly sports contributors, Wally Langfellow and Eric Nelson. Hey, guys. Happy dreary Monday here.

WALLY LANGFELLOW: Yes.

ERIC NELSON: Yeah.

WALLY LANGFELLOW: Happy rainy Monday.

NINA MOINI: Rainy Monday. We've been talking about keeping the haunted and the spooky vibes going. Wally, it seems like that winning streak was broken.

WALLY LANGFELLOW: It doesn't just seem like it. It was.

NINA MOINI: Yeah.

WALLY LANGFELLOW: They lost 19. They're celebrating in Miami and other parts of the country where former Miami Dolphins reside, because every year when the unbeaten team goes down, the 1972 Dolphins, who were 17 and 0, the only perfect team in NFL history, they celebrate. They light up the cigars, and they crack the champagne. So the Vikings were the last unbeaten team this year. So nobody will go unbeaten in the 2026, I guess, or the 2026/2027 season theoretically now because the season leaks into 2027.

But yeah, it was really was a case of the Lions being able to run the football yesterday and the Vikings' inability to run the football. Lions ran for 230 yards, including 153 and a touchdown by Jahmyr Gibbs. The Vikings ran for just 81 yards and, get this, quarterback Kyler Murray was actually their leading rusher at 35 yards. So that's not what you want. Murray passing was 17 of 29, 210 yards, one interception, two touchdowns. I mean, not a horrible day numbers wise, but I think he would agree with you, I think he missed some receivers, he overshot some receivers, he underthrew.

That has to get better. He was sacked three times in the game. And the Vikings did get to Jared Goff four times. They sacked the Lions quarterback four times. So there were some good things that went on, but not enough. Vikings now dropped to 6 and 1. They will host Buffalo next Monday night. Buffalo is also 6 and 1. So this is a key match-up in the National Football League next week. By the way, it's the last ABC Monday Night game of the year. The rest of them will be on ESPN.

The Lions moved to 5 and 2. The Vikings right on their heels are the Bears. They are also 5 and 2, and the Packers 5 and 3. So the division is very, very tight. The Vikings can [INAUDIBLE] any more losses if they want to stay in first place. That much we know.

NINA MOINI: OK. So everyone's on a level playing field right now it seems. Eric.

WALLY LANGFELLOW: Yeah, no doubt. They're all right there.

NINA MOINI: Yeah. Eric, so let's talk about college football. The Gophers played the defending champions on Saturday. How did that go?

ERIC NELSON: Really could have been an epic win, Nina, for the Gophers on Halloween down there in Bloomington, Indiana. But it turned into a frightening loss, if you will. 23 to 16 the Hoosiers were ranked number four in the nation. They are the defending national champs. They were 17 and 0 last season. And I want to be clear, this was a victory, if the Gophers would have won, that could have elevated the program to new heights.

Minnesota definitely would have been ranked this week in both polls. And it looked like the Gophers were going to get the win in Indiana's stadium, so a road victory against the defending champs. They took a 16 to 13 lead. 19 seconds left on a 60 yard field goal from Luke Drzewiecki, their kicker. But Hoosier backup Grant Wilson, who's in his seventh year of playing college football, by the way, connected with Charlie Becker on a 33 yard pass play to Patty McAteer to set up a career long 60 yard kick for Indiana.

McAteer put it through the uprights and for just the second time in Big Ten history, there were multiple field goals of 60 or more yards made in the same season, and this happened in the same game. And just to give this some context, Nina, they started playing football on the Big Ten in 1896. So off to overtime they go. Wilson threw a 25 yard dot to Becker for the game-winning touchdown. Minnesota was unable to score when the Gophers got their possession, so they lose. It's just a dagger defeat, but they cannot pout too long.

Saturday, UCLA takes on Minnesota. That's an 11:00 AM game on Huntington Bank Stadium. Oh, by the way, that's 9:00 AM in the Pacific Time Zone. Think about that. You've got one of the top teams in the nation and you're going to make the second largest television market, greater Los Angeles, get up at 9:00 AM to see the game. The Bruins are ranked fifth in the nation. They're 8 and 0 overall. They're on top of the Big Ten with a 5 and 0 record.

I saw them play two weeks ago out in Pasadena against Wisconsin at the Rose Bowl. They are legit and this will be a huge test for Minnesota.

NINA MOINI: Got it.

ERIC NELSON: And UCLA and Minnesota played four times before, Nina. The 80-- or the 91 Rose Bowl is one of those meetings. The Gophers won 21 to 3, and that's the only Rose Bowl the Gophers have ever won in program history.

NINA MOINI: Let's talk about the Wild, Minnesota Wild. They had a pretty good day yesterday, right? They were in DC. What happened there?

WALLY LANGFELLOW: Yeah, they were in DC playing on the Washington Capitals' home ice. They got off to a quick start, then had to hang on. Washington hung in there for quite a while. Made it a 2 to 1 game. But then the Wild ended up winning the hockey game by a score of 5 to 1. So they sit on top. In their division, they have the best record in the West. They have now won four straight games on the road, which is tremendous because they have played a lot of road games so far this season. So you would think when they [INAUDIBLE] might get better. Let's hope that's the case.

But Kirill Kaprizov got his 500th point yesterday. And he is really the straw that stirs the drink, so to speak, for the Minnesota Wild. And for him to get to 500 this quickly in his career just shows you how dominant he has been in what has been just such a short, young career of his. But as long as he keeps going and as long as they keep Quinn Hughes going like he was again yesterday, the Wild are going to be just fine.

The elephant in the room still is signing Quinn Hughes to that extension. Hopefully, he'll be here long-term, but we don't know that quite yet. He becomes a free agent at the end of this season.

NINA MOINI: I wanted to jump back to with you, Wally. For a second, we were talking about the Vikings and Kyler Murray, and not having the greatest maybe game. I mean, what does that say about the quarterback lineup? Is that something that they would ever mix up again or do you think he just had an off day?

WALLY LANGFELLOW: I think that the Vikings are waiting for Kyler Murray to adjust to their system more than anything. And I'm not sure that what's happening right now is something that is fixable in the short-term. They're going to have to get used to Kyler Murray's skills. And I don't know that they have quite done that yet. The offense has to more adjust to him way around, because right now he's been OK. Not terrible, but not great either. I think that they were hoping for more when they signed him, that's for sure.

NINA MOINI: OK. All right. Thanks to you both so much, Wally Langfellow and Eric Nelson. Appreciate you both as always.

ERIC NELSON: Thanks, Nina.

WALLY LANGFELLOW: All right. Have a good one, Nina.

NINA MOINI: Take care. Wally Langfellow is the founder of*Minnesota Score Sports Magazine* and co-host of the sports talk show *10,000 Takes.* Eric Nelson is the other host of that show and the Minnesota Vikings reporter for Audacy's *Gridiron Gameday* and SiriusXM.