

NFL: Vikings' running back could be out for the season

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ry over the defending Super Bowl champion Dallas Cowboys.

"I don't know how we stack up against other teams in the league, but I do know that there's not any team in the league that plays harder than this group," said Chicago coach Dave Wannstedt, who won for the third time in his last four trips to the Metrodome. "This football team deserved to win this game."

The battered Bears, who got a boost from the return of several injured players, built a 15-3 halftime lead behind Dave Krieg's passing and their first rushing touchdown of the season, a 1-yard dive by Rashaan Salaam. They held the Vikings (5-3) to a franchise-worst 11 rushing yards, and they watched

the Vikings tumble to their third loss in four games.

Minnesota was penalized 12 times for 75 yards, had two kicks blocked, gave up five sacks and committed two turnovers, both of which proved costly.

The first, Mark Carrier's diving interception of a Moon pass with 23 seconds left in the first half, led to the second of Jeff Jaeger's two field goals.

The last, Cox's fumble recovery, ended Minnesota's last chance.

It was a costly loss for the Vikings because of the injuries and their second-half schedule, which includes Kansas City and Denver at home and Oakland, Detroit and Green Bay on the road.

"It comes down to poise," said Qadry Ismail, who caught a 54-yard touchdown pass from Moon in the third quarter. "Unfortunately, we didn't have any."

The Vikings lost Smith, the NFC's second-leading rusher, late in the first quarter with an injured left knee. With torn ligaments, he might be done for the season.

After Moon rallied the Vikings with 10 third-quarter points, he reinjured his right ankle when he was hit by Jim Flanigan while throwing an incompletion.

Brad Johnson, who led the Vikings to a comeback win in the season-opener after Moon was hurt, came in to loud cheers with 11:58 left in the game and twice led Minnesota into scoring range.

But Harris charged through virtually untouched to block Scott Sisson's 48-yard field goal attempt.

"I feel every time I have a chance," Harris said. "I got a real good jump off the ball. I think [Sisson] took his time to make sure he made it."

The Vikings' defense, which played well in the second half, immediately got the ball back. John Randle stormed in to deflect a Krieg pass and backup defensive tackle Jason Fisk dove to intercept it at the Chicago 49.

Johnson's 18-yard pass to Jake Reed gave Minnesota a first down at the Chicago 31. But on third-and-14 at the 35, Cox stripped a scrambling Johnson and pounced on the fumble.

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NBA: The addition of Jim McIlvaine should help the Sonics' inside game

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were second-team all-NBA players last season with Payton sixth in the MVP voting and Kemp eighth.

Payton and Kemp were at their best in a year when the Sonics put first-round playoff exits against Denver in 1994 and the Lakers in 1995 behind them with their first trip to the NBA Finals since 1979 when the franchise won it all and the basketball names in Seattle were Lenny Wilkens, Gus Williams, Dennis Johnson and Jack Sikma.

Walker, a member of the '79 team, took over as the club's president three years ago after current Blazer gun Bob Whitsitt left the Sonics.

Walker, 42, left his own money management business in San Francisco to take the Sonics' job. He said he wouldn't have accepted the job if he didn't think Ackerley had serious aspirations to win a championship.

During the summer, which could have been a disaster for the Sonics, Ackerley lavished millions to keep Payton (\$87.5 million) from leaving as a free agent and millions more to land McIlvaine (\$33 million) to replace Ervin Johnson and Frank Brickowski in the Sonics' middle.

Ackerley also signed Hawkins, 30 — a calming influence in the locker room who also turned out to be a perfect fit to Payton in the backcourt after being acquired in a trade with Charlotte — to a new five-year, \$15 million deal.

In Los Angeles, the Lakers

spent a lot of money, too, in luring O'Neal away from Orlando, Florida. The Sonics know O'Neal and the Lakers will challenge them in the Pacific Division as well as the West. They still think they're better than the Lakers, though.

"We're always worried about the competition," Walker said. "That's why we didn't feel the status quo was good enough for us."

Karl, whose Sonics' teams have won an amazing 72 percent of their games since he left Real Madrid in Spain to come here four and a half years ago, watched his team beat the O'Neal-led Lakers during the exhibition season. Now he wants to do it four more times during the regular season.

"A lot of people are talking about L.A.," he said. "My only concern is about ourselves. Do we keep the attitude and the chemistry that we had last year? Or do we get too cocky or too complacent or too selfish or too individualistic?"

It'll be Karl's job to keep Payton, now that he has a gigantic contract, and Kemp, who was a no-show for the first 22 days of the Sonics' training camp because he was unhappy about his own contract, motivated.

The old ABA player also got a new contract from Ackerley during the summer. Karl said he's confident he'll be successful.

"This team has a big-time heart and a big-time talent," he said. "I think it will continue to improve."

Kemp was fifth in the NBA in

rebounding last season with a career-best 11.4 rebounds a game and also averaged a career-high 19.6 points during the regular season.

The presence of the 260-pound McIlvaine, 24, is expected to help Kemp the most. McIlvaine was 10th in the league in blocked shots with 2.08 a game last season.

Explained Karl: "Mac gives us size and a dimension we didn't have before in shot blocking. I think his size will help Shawn rebound the ball better because there's going to be more space for him to move around rather than the opponents moving us around."

"I'm looking forward to playing with Shawn," McIlvaine said.

Kemp played in the Sonics' final three exhibition games and said he doesn't plan to sulk this season although he'll be only the sixth highest paid member of the Sonics.

His salary status is a fact of life he's had to accept. That's why he was so late joining the team. He wanted to get his anger out of the way.

"These guys didn't deserve to have Shawn Kemp walking around with an attitude," Kemp said.

The Sonics, who had a 6-2 exhibition record, launch their regular season at Utah Friday night and play Portland at the Key Arena Saturday night in their home opener.

Hansen: Fans flee boring game early

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students made a mass exodus out of Autzen Stadium. The game hadn't even been close the entire game and Oregon showed no sign of getting it together for a great fourth-quarter comeback. Plus, it was pretty damn cold.

Why should people have to sit through another 45 minutes of a crummy game? Anybody who thinks that the Ducks would have put on a better performance by virtue of a packed student section for a full four quarters is walking around in a dangerously thick cloud of optimism.

This is not to say that it wouldn't have been nice to see everyone sticking around for the whole game. Needless to say, it was probably a little embarrass-

ing for University officials to have a home game on regional television and not get a good showing from its students — both on the field and in the stands.

It also would have been nice for the students to show a little more support for a team that has brought this school and community a lot of excitement and good times the past two seasons. There are still players on this team that were responsible for the success the Ducks have had and are working hard to turn it around.

But how quickly some people forget.

Chris Hansen is a sports reporter for the Emerald. His views do not necessarily represent those of the newspaper.

Outdoors: The coast offers beautiful scenery

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weather we are now experiencing actually favors the hiker.

"It is much more appealing this time a year as opposed to during the summer when it is hot," he said.

A trail at Mt. Pisgah, featuring an arboretum and nearby Buford Park, offers hikers a chance to view some of the last remaining species of Willamette wildlife. Geiger says that this is generally a great hike in the fall.

Another alternative for those who like mild hiking with beautiful scenery is to simply go to the coast, which has a number of different trails that often offer a breath-taking view of the Pacific Ocean.