

Sports

Still lossless in Seattle

■ Seahawks improve to 5-0 for first time in franchise history with a comeback against Minnesota that included fourth-down stop and Russell Wilson's heroics

By **Tim Booth**
AP Sports Writer

SEATTLE — By this point, Russell Wilson piecing together more late dramatics that end with the Seattle Seahawks erupting in celebration seems almost expected.

Another late drive. Another touchdown throw by Wilson. Another Seahawks victory.

"I don't know how anybody could ever be better than what he continues to show us in those situations," Seattle coach Pete Carroll said. "He's as good as you can get."

Wilson capped a 94-yard drive with a 6-yard touchdown pass to DK Metcalf on fourth-and-goal with 15 seconds left, and the Seahawks beat the Minnesota Vikings 27-26 on Sunday night.

Seattle improved to 5-0 for the first time in franchise history with Wilson providing more prime-time magic and yet another late comeback on a soggy October night in an empty stadium.

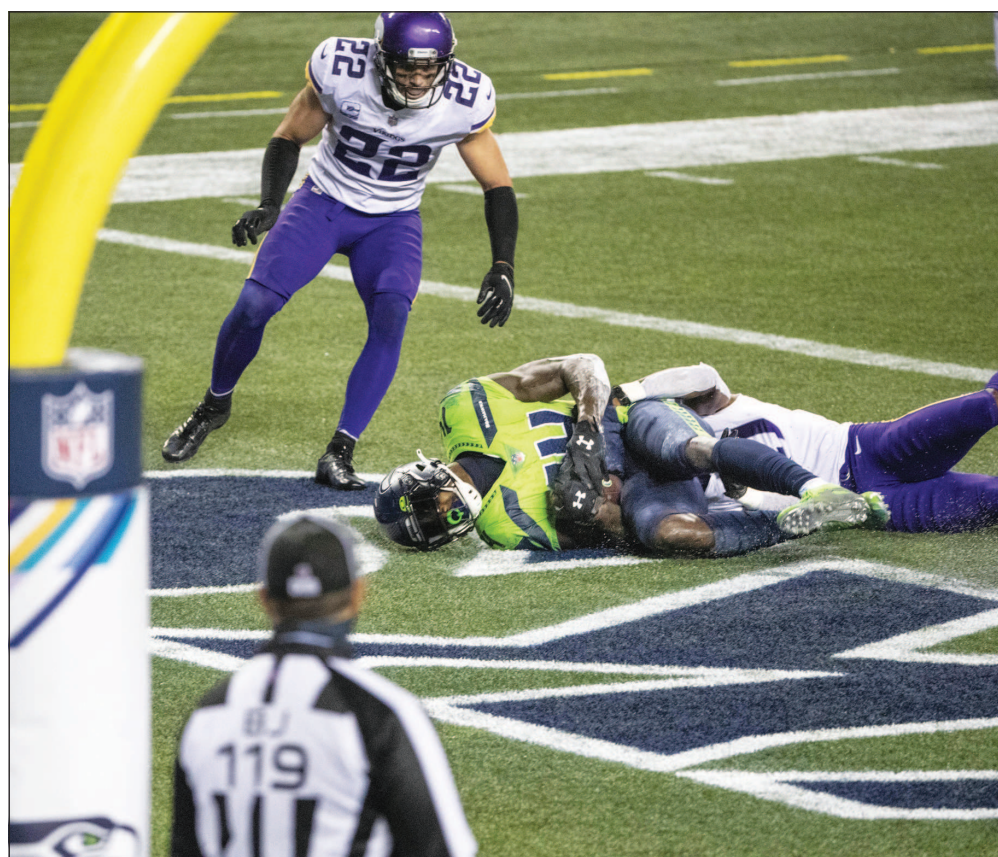
In his career, Wilson has 34 career game-winning drives when tied or trailing in the fourth quarter and overtime — regular season and playoffs combined.

And this will rank among his best.

"I believe this is like one of the top three or four most impressive things I've seen this team do," Seattle linebacker K.J. Wright said.

Wilson was 20 of 32 for 217 yards and three touchdowns. It wasn't his best performance — he had a pass intercepted by Eric Wilson on a careless attempt midway through the fourth quarter — but he made the key throws late.

Seattle's last drive included a fourth-and-10 conversion on a 39-yard pass to Metcalf early in the possession. Seattle appeared to get a winning TD to Metcalf on second-and-goal, but he lost the ball as he was hit from behind. Given another chance on fourth-and-goal, Metcalf flashed open cutting across



DK Metcalf makes the game-winning catch against Minnesota Sunday night at CenturyLink Field in Seattle.

the end zone and Wilson delivered a fastball into a tiny opening.

"It came down to a clutch moment ... and I just saw DK run across the field and just tried to zoom in there to him in a tight window," Wilson said. "He just made an unbelievable catch, unbelievable play."

Minnesota's Kirk Cousins was 27 of 39 for 249 yards and two second-half TD passes to Adam Thielen. Alexander Mattison rushed for a career-high 112 yards in place of Dalvin Cook after he suffered a groin injury on the opening possession of the second half. But Mattison was stopped on fourth-and-1 at the Seattle 6 with 1:57 left, setting the stage for yet another Wilson comeback.

It's a decision by Minnesota coach Mike Zimmer that certainly will be questioned. A field goal would have given Minnesota a 29-21 lead and forced Seattle to score a touchdown and a 2-point conversion just to force overtime.

Instead, the Vikings (1-4) were tagged with another crushing loss in a challenging start to the season.

"It was about a half a yard. If we got the half a yard, we win the game. So I was trying to go win it," Zimmer said.

Meanwhile, the Seahawks head into their bye week riding the best start in franchise history. Not even the 2013 team that went on to win the only Super Bowl title for the franchise started 5-0.

It didn't seem another Wilson comeback was possible with Minnesota leading 13-0 at halftime. But Seattle suddenly ignited in the third quarter, with a 21-point barrage that took less than 2 minutes. Wilson hit Will Dissly and Metcalf on TD passes sandwiched around a fumble by Cousins. After Cousins' pass was intercepted by Wright, Chris Carson rumbled 29 yards and Seattle had a 21-13 lead.

It took just eight combined plays and suddenly a 13-point deficit was an eight-point lead.

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE ROUNDUP

Prescott hurt in Cowboys' win

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Dak Prescott sustained a gruesome ankle injury not long after his first career touchdown catch before backup Andy Dalton led a drive to a field goal on the final play, and the Dallas Cowboys beat the winless New York Giants 37-34 on Sunday.

Michael Gallup made two spectacular sideline catches on throws from Dalton, the second a 38-yarder to the New York 16. The Cowboys ran the clock down to 3 seconds, and Greg Zuerlein had his second game-ending kick of the season, from 34 yards.

Prescott was going down in the arms of defensive back Logan Ryan at the end of a 9-yard run in the third quarter when the Dallas quarterback's lower right leg got caught under Ryan and appeared to snap.

Prescott reached for the leg as he writhed in pain, and TV images showed his right foot bent at an awkward angle away from his leg. He was fighting back tears as he was carted off with a cast on the leg. Most of Prescott's teammates rushed to greet him.

The team said Prescott had a fracture dislocation of the right ankle and was taken to a hospital, where surgery was planned later in the day.

RAIDERS 40, CHIEFS 32

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Derek Carr threw for 347 yards and three touchdowns, outplaying Super Bowl MVP Patrick Mahomes along the way, and the Las Vegas Raiders nearly shut out the potent Kansas City offense in the second half to rally for a 40-32 victory Sunday that ended the Chiefs' franchise-record 13-game winning streak.

RAMS 30, WASHINGTON 10

LANDOVER, Md. (AP) — Jared Goff threw for 309 yards and two touchdowns and ran for another, and Los Angeles improved to 4-1 by beating Washington in Alex Smith's return almost two years since a gruesome injury put his career in jeopardy.

Smith played his first NFL game 693 days since breaking his right tibia and fibula, entering when new Washington starting quarterback Kyle Allen injured his left arm. He was 9 of 17 for 37 yards on the same field he was carted off of on Nov. 18, 2018, before undergoing 17 surgeries to repair the injury.

DOLPHINS 43, 49ERS 17

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP) — Ryan Fitzpatrick threw for 350 yards and three touchdowns and Miami sent defending NFC champion San Francisco to its third straight home loss to open the season.

Fitzpatrick connected on a 3-yard TD pass to Adam Shaheen on the opening drive of the game for the Dolphins (2-3) and didn't let up, quieting talk for at least another week that rookie Tua Tagovailoa should take over as starter.

FRENCH OPEN TENNIS: MEN'S FINAL

Nadal wins 20th Grand Slam

By **Howard Fendrich and John Leicester**
AP Sports Writers

PARIS — All the years of work, all the many wins, led to this moment, with Rafael Nadal preparing to serve against Novak Djokovic, one point from a 13th French Open championship, one point from a 20th Grand Slam trophy to tie Roger Federer's record for men.

Nadal swept his right foot along the baseline, clearing away the red dust as he has so many times before. He rapped his shoes' soles

with his racket — right, then left, then right again. He discarded one tennis ball behind him, another in the pocket of his blue shorts.

And then, finally ready to proceed, Nadal delivered an ace at 106 mph to cap a flawless performance and a surprisingly lopsided 6-0, 6-2, 7-5 victory over the No. 1-ranked Djokovic. Nadal dropped to his knees, smiling broadly, and pumped his arms.

Neither Djokovic, on this day, nor Federer, over the course of time, ever truly stood a chance of resisting the relentless Nadal.

Early Learning Center opens

The Baker Early Learning Center attracted school leaders from throughout the community, the region and the state as its grand opening was celebrated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony Friday.

Angela Lattin, the center's director, noted that the renovated former North Baker School building at 2725 Seventh St. is the result of 3 years of collaboration among multiple Baker County stakeholders.

"There is no other place like it where public education, preschool, local agencies, and the community all come together to work together in a shared space," she stated in a press release.

"The investment in early education will have a profound impact on the families and children in Baker City."

Other speakers included Cassie Hibbert, project manager for the Wenaha Group; Baker School District Superintendent Mark Witty, Robert Kleng, director of Eastern Oregon University Head Start; Katie Lamb, Baker School Board member; and Miriam Calderon, Early Learning System director who oversees Oregon's Early Learning Division.

Calderon joined the event via the Zoom computer app. "Geography is the predictor of whether a child has access to an early learning opportunity," Calderon stated

in the press release. "Today is a remarkable day for the children and families in your community."

Kindergarten teachers began distance learning with students from their new classrooms on Oct. 5. Later this month, Head Start will transition classrooms to the Baker Early Learning Center and preschoolers will be welcomed at the new site in early November, the press release stated.

The BELC will share space with community partners including Building Healthy Families, the Intermountain Education Service District's early intervention and early childhood special education programs and others.

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