

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

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COMMUNICATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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<http://twitter.com/nfl345>**THURSDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL PREVIEW**

The second quarter of the NFL season begins on Thursday night (CBS/NFLN, 8:25 PM ET) when the **GREEN BAY PACKERS** (2-2) host the **MINNESOTA VIKINGS** (2-2) at historic Lambeau Field.

The Vikings enter Week 5 following a 41-28 victory over the Atlanta Falcons, spurred by impressive performances from the team's 2014 rookie class.

Quarterback **TEDDY BRIDGEWATER** (Round 1, No. 32 overall) made his first career start and completed 19 passes for 317 yards for a 98.9 passer rating, becoming just the fifth quarterback in the Super Bowl era (**ERIC HIPPLE**, 1981; **BROWNING NAGLE**, 1992; **JAY FIEDLER**, 2000; **ROBERT GRIFFIN III**, 2012) with at least 300 passing yards and no interceptions in his first career start. Bridgewater also added a 13-yard rushing touchdown.

Running back **JERICK MC KINNON** (Round 3, No. 96 overall) rushed for a game-high 135 yards, including a 55-yard run, which is tied for the fourth-longest run by a rookie in team history.

On defense, linebacker **ANTHONY BARR** (Round 1, No. 9 overall) collected six tackles and a sack in the win. Barr is now tied for the team lead with two sacks this season.

"We have a nice Thursday night game coming up against Green Bay," says Vikings kicker **BLAIR WALSH**, who kicked his franchise-leading 14th field goal of 50+ yards in yesterday's win. "This is a really important game for us, in the division, against our rival, and we haven't beaten Green Bay there in a while so we're going to come out firing."

Green Bay heads into Thursday night after a 38-17 win at Chicago, the 700th regular-season win in franchise history. The Packers joined the Bears (732) as the only teams to accomplish the feat.

In the victory, quarterback **AARON RODGERS** completed 22 of 28 passes (78.6 percent) for 302 yards with four touchdowns and no interceptions for a 151.2 passer rating. Rodgers, who now has 25,196 career passing yards, reached 25,000 passing yards in 3,065 attempts, the fewest attempts in NFL history to reach the mark. **KURT WARNER**, who previously held the mark, reached 25,000 yards in 3,076 attempts.

Heading into this week's matchup, Rodgers has led the Packers to a 4-1 record when he starts on Thursdays, including a 3-0 record against NFC North opponents. Since 2009, Rodgers is among the leaders in many passing categories on Thursdays, ranking first in the NFC in completion percentage (70.9) and tied for first in the NFC with 10 touchdowns. He is also second in the NFC with 1,375 passing yards and third in the conference with a 109.0 passer rating on Thursdays during that span.

The Thursday passing leaders in the NFC since 2009 (minimum 50 attempts):

PLAYER	TEAM	COMPLETION PCT.
Aaron Rodgers	Green Bay	70.9
Matt Ryan	Atlanta	69.8
Robert Griffin III	Washington	67.2

PLAYER	TEAM	PASSING YARDS
Drew Brees	New Orleans	1,627
Aaron Rodgers	Green Bay	1,375
Matt Ryan	Atlanta	1,283

PLAYER	TEAM	TD PASSES
Aaron Rodgers	Green Bay	10
Matt Ryan	Atlanta	10
Tony Romo	Dallas	8

PLAYER	TEAM	PASSER RATING
Robert Griffin III	Washington	126.1
Matt Ryan	Atlanta	110.7
Aaron Rodgers	Green Bay	109.0

WEEK 5 - THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2014

MINNESOTA VIKINGS (2-2) AT GREEN BAY PACKERS (2-2)

SERIES

	<u>VIKINGS</u>	<u>PACKERS</u>
THURS. RECORD	11-8	17-25-2
SERIES LEADER		55-48-2
STREAKS		6 of past 8
COACHES VS. OPP.	Zimmer: 0-0	McCarthy: 12-4-1
LAST WEEK	W 41-28 vs. Falcons	W 38-17 at Bears
LAST GAME	11/24/13: Vikings 26 at Packers 26. Green Bay rookie RB Eddie Lacy rushes for 110 yards & TD. Minnesota RB Adrian Peterson counters with 146 rushing yards & TD in tie game.	
LAST GAME AT SITE	11/24/13	
BROADCAST	CBS (7:25 PM CT): Jim Nantz, Phil Simms, Tracy Wolfson (Field reporter). Westwood One: Ian Eagle, Boomer Esiason, Hub Arkush (Field reporter). SIRIUS: 88 (WW1), 93 (Min.), 92 (GB.). XM: 88 (WW1), 225 (Min.), 115 (GB.).	

STATS

PASSING	Bridgewater: 31-50-467-0-0-92.7	Rodgers: 86-130-999-9-1-109.1
RUSHING	Asiata: 47-159-3.4-3	Lacy: 53-161-3.0-1
RECEIVING	Jennings: 15-204-13.6-1	Nelson: 33-459-13.9-3
OFFENSE	344.3	306.5
TAKE/GIVE	0	+4
DEFENSE	354.3	390.0
SACKS	3 tied: 2	3 tied: 1
INTs	H. Smith, Robinson: 2	5 tied: 1
PUNTING	Locke: 45.8	Masthay: 43.5
KICKING	Walsh: 35 (8/8 PAT; 9/11 FG)	Crosby: 24 (9/9 PAT; 5/6 FG)

NOTES

VIKINGS: Rookie **QB TEDDY BRIDGEWATER** passed for 317 yards & had rush TD in 1st career start last week...**RB MATT ASIATA** rushed for 3 TDs, tying career high. Rookie **RB JERICK MC KINNON** had career-best 18 rushes & 135 yards last week...Last year in 2 games vs. GB, **WR-KR CORDARRELLE PATTERSON** had 109-yard KR-TD & averaged 39.3 yards per KR (9 KR for 354 yards). Has TD in 6 of past 9 (4 rush, 3 rec.). **WR GREG JENNINGS** has 5 rec. TDs in past 6 on Thurs. **WR JARIUS WRIGHT** had career-high 8 catches & 132 yards last week...In 15 games vs. GB (incl. playoffs), **LB CHAD GREENWAY** has 124 tackles. **S HARRISON SMITH** had INT in his last game at GB. **DE EVERSON GRIFFEN** had career-high 3 sacks vs. GB (12/30/12). Has 4.5 sacks in past 6. **CB CAPTAIN MUNNERLYN** ties for NFL lead with 4 INT-TDs since 2012. Rookie **LB ANTHONY BARR** aims for 3rd in row with sack...**PACKERS:** **QB AARON RODGERS** has won 7 of past 8 vs. Min. (incl. playoffs). In 12 starts vs. Min., has 27 TDs, 4 INTs & 116.8 rating. In 5 starts on Thurs., is 4-1 with 10 TDs, 2 INTs & 109 rating. In past 31 starts at home (min. 10 att.), is 29-2 (.935) with 112.3 rating (78 TDs, 17 INTs). Had 151.2 rating last week...**RB EDDIE LACY** has 270 scrimmage yards (135 per game), 204 rush yards (102 per game) & 2 TDs in 2 meetings...**WRs RANDALL COBB** (7-113-2) & **JORDY NELSON** (10-108-2) each had 100+ rec. yards & 2+ rec. TDs last week, 1st Packers since 12/21/69. Since 2011, Nelson is 1 of 2 in NFL with 3,000+ yards (3,781), 30+ rec. TDs (33) & 15+ avg. (16.1)...**LB CLAY MATTHEWS** has 6 sacks, 2 FFs & FR in past 6 meetings (incl. playoffs). Since entering NFL in 2002, **LB JULIUS PEPPERS** ties for 2nd in NFL with 119.5 sacks. Since 2010 (incl. playoffs), **CB TRAMON WILLIAMS** ties for 1st in NFL with 20 INTs & **CB SAM SHIELDS** is 4th with 18 INTs.