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COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Ban on text messaging forces coaches to other methods C2

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I-35W Bridge Collapse

TWINS HELP BY PLAYING

The team didn't want to put 20,000 to 25,000 people back on the streets shortly after the downtown tragedy. Management postpones today's game and the groundbreaking ceremony for the new stadium.

By JOE CHRISTENSEN
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Twins President Dave St. Peter said he learned of the Interstate 35W bridge collapse Wednesday at 6:30 p.m., only 40 minutes before the scheduled first pitch against the Kansas City Royals.

Suddenly, the Twins faced a tough decision: to play or not to play. As emergency crews responded

to the disaster scene, one mile from the Metrodome, St. Peter spoke with officials from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety.

The Twins decided to play the game as scheduled, but postponed today's series finale with the Royals. St. Peter said no decisions have been made about the four-game series with Cleveland, which is scheduled to begin Friday, but today's scheduled groundbreaking ceremony

for the new Twins ballpark also was postponed indefinitely.

The Twins were in touch with Commissioner Bud Selig, who was scheduled to host the groundbreaking ceremony, St. Peter said.

"We felt the responsible thing to do was play [Wednesday's] game for the simple reason that not playing would have put 20,000 to 25,000 people back on the streets," St. Peter said. "And in order to let those first

responders do their job in hopes of rescuing survivors, we felt that — as difficult as it might be — the right thing was to play."

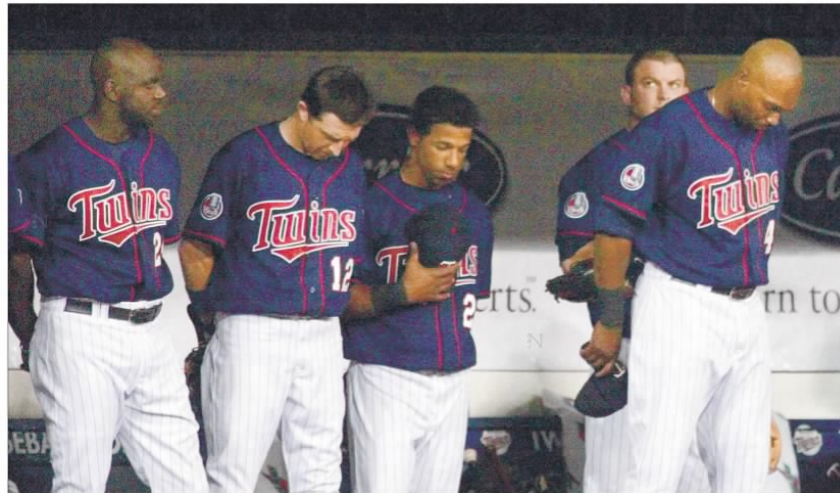
St. Peter said today's postponement was another measure of traffic control.

Also, he said, "Out of respect to these people whose lives have been lost, and whose lives have been impacted. We didn't think that playing baseball was the right thing."

As St. Peter wrestled with the decision, many fans wandered into the Metrodome unaware of the bridge's collapse.

Jo LeVigne, who was seated near third base, said she and her husband heard about it from fans sitting behind them. A friend had invited them to the game at the last minute.

Bridge continues: PA announcer informs crowd of bridge's collapse. C6



A MOMENT OF SILENCE AT THE METRODOME Twins players observed a moment of silence for those who might have been injured or killed in the collapse of the Interstate 35W bridge in Minneapolis before Wednesday's game against the Kansas City Royals. The entire span of the I-35W bridge over the Mississippi River collapsed during evening rush hour. PAUL BATTAGLIA • Associated Press

THE SCENE

Busy sports news days get put in perspective



patrick rousse columnist

Various teams from a Hispanic baseball league for adults had been spotted playing Sunday afternoon games at Bassett Creek Park.

This was mentioned to the boss in the Star Tribune's sports department. It was deemed worthy of a story to be accompanied by photos.

"We don't have anything major to compete with it for space on Tuesday," the boss said. "Why don't we run it then?"

Liz Flones from the newspaper's photo staff spent a couple of hours at the dusty ball field in Crystal and came up with some great shots of the action between the Charros and the Cerveteros.

We were ready to have the big play on the sports cover on Tuesday. And then came Monday — first with the reports that the Timberwolves were close to trading Kevin Garnett to Boston, then that NFL coaching legend Bill Walsh had died, and finally that the Twins had traded veteran second baseman Luis Castillo to the Mets for a pair of minor leaguers of questionable prospect status.

Rousse continues: Twins fans' journey to the Metrodome gets interrupted by a tragedy in front of them. C6 >

THE GAME

POSTPONED TODAY: GAME, DEDICATION

• Today's scheduled game against the Royals was postponed.
• The Twins also postponed tonight's groundbreaking for the new stadium.

Game goes on to keep fans away from roads

By LA VELLE E. NEAL III
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The show had to go on Wednesday, as much as some Twins didn't want it to.

After watching scenes from the Interstate 35W bridge collapse just moments before the scheduled first pitch, the Twins took the field and lost 5-3 to Kansas City in 10 innings. But there was little thought given to missing out on a chance to pick up a game

on Cleveland in the wild-card race and Detroit in the AL Central.

What mattered was that the crowd of 24,880 stayed in the Metrodome and did not head out onto the street and highways, which would have snafled traffic for emergency crews rushing to the site of the tragedy to help with recovery.

So the Twins did their part.
Twins continues: The game goes on despite tragedy. C5 >

ELSEWHERE

Wolves owner says his granddaughter was on bridge when it collapsed

The Timberwolves postponed a Wednesday evening news conference at Target Center scheduled to start less than an hour after the Interstate 35W bridge collapsed.

Wolves owner Glen Taylor, his voice cracking, sent home reporters gathered for the introduction of four new players obtained in Tuesday's blockbuster trade that sent Kevin Garnett to the Boston Celtics. He said he wanted to be "as respectful as possible" to people injured or killed in the collapse.

He said his granddaughter was traveling the freeway when the bridge collapsed into the Mississippi River.

"She was going over the bridge, but she called," Taylor said, his voice breaking off.

Newly acquired Al Jefferson, Ryan Gomes and Sebastian Telfair were at Target Center, but are expected to leave town today. Taylor said the players' introductions will be rescheduled, possibly next week.

JERRY ZGODA

3M CHAMPIONSHIP THROUGH SUNDAY • TPC TWIN CITIES

With a little help from their hybrids

Golfers on the Champions Tour no longer shy away from hybrid clubs, those combinations of fairway woods and long irons. The hybrids are easier to hit and are virtually indestructible. C2 >



VIKINGS TRAINING CAMP

New receivers are catching on

Vikings receivers coach George Stewart is overseeing a mostly untested group, but he's not as worried as some of the Purple's fans. He sees the group making daily progress. C8 >

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