

NO TDs YET

Viking Defense Unbeaten

By MERRILL SWANSON
Minneapolis Tribune Staff Writer

In two pre-season football games, the Minnesota Vikings' defense has not yielded a touchdown — in fact, has not really had its goal line threatened.

Miami scored a field goal on the Vikings' defense (the Dolphins' touchdown was on a post interception) and Denver managed two field goals last Saturday night. In the 20-8 victory over Denver, the defense played an especially important role because the offense was 1-1-1 in putting the game away. The defense "We called the right line

charge," said coach Bud Grant, "and Larsen was right in the hole." Denver lost its impulse, and had no gain.

Second Denver series (Vikings 4 Denver 0). The ball was on the 10-yard line. Gary Larsen, stopped the play for a two-yard loss. ("That was on a long pass," Grant explained, "and when a team holds the ball for that long a time it is bound to make an error. It looked like a broken play and Elser was there to make the tackle.") A drive and fourth-down play failed and the Vikings kicked a field goal.

Third Denver series (Denver 3, Vikings 0). First quarter Denver started on its own 31, lost a yard on a sweep, threw an incomplete pass and then Alan Page dropped Little for a 14-yard loss on a screen pass. ("We showed pass," Grant said. "We did what we intended to do — keep their game down and keep them from getting outside on us.") Denver had to punt.

Fourth Denver series (Vikings 3, Denver 3, second quarter). Paul Dickson stopped Potts for a two-yard loss at the Denver 27. Steve Tress caught by Carl Eller and Alan Page for an eight-yard loss in the 18. ("He started to fall over physically about then," Grant said.) Denver had to punt.

Fifth Denver series (Vikings 3, Denver 3, second quarter). Tress continued to see squashed and



STEVE SPURRIER
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PRO FOOTBALL ROUNDUP

Browns, Patriots Win

The Cleveland Browns capped a 31-13 victory over New York Jets last on the halting on errors in the third quarter. Tom Haller led off a drive in the closing minutes Sunday at Cleveland. The Browns drove in the first quarter but Boston Patriots held them with Tully Ralston. The Jets scored on Jim Bakker's field goal in San Francisco. Carl Eller caught a 20-yard scoring pass from Charley Johnson in Jacksonville.

The Colts defensive back Ron York and Larry Lytle halted down field straight passes in the final minutes. Lytle intercepted 12 of 16 passes for 150 yards while picking off only in the second quarter.

VIKING STATISTICS table with columns for TEAM, INDIVIDUAL RECEIVING, PUNTING, PUNT RETURNS, RICKOFF RETURNS, INTERCEPTIONS, PASS RECEIVING, and RANKING.



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