

# Minneapolis Tribune

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## Stadium dome falls after storm Poss doubts snow was problem, blames defective panel

By Warren Wade and Julie Kravner  
Star Writers  
The roof of the Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome collapsed Thursday night, possibly because of a defective dome panel, a stadium official said.

The triangular panel on the north (outside) side of the dome sagged — it rippled over the middle — said Don Pons, executive director of the Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission.

The roof consists of two layers of Teflon-coated nylon fabric manufactured by Chemtech, a company based in North Westport, N.Y. Buzsaki Engineers, based in Bethel, N.Y., built the roof. Officials of those companies could not be reached last night.

The dome apparently collapsed in about an hour, at 8 p.m. last night, reports looking through doors to the stadium court on the roof sagging first at a point and then from the roof of the stadium, covering the upper two decks of bleachers in the stadium. Lots of water and some

more could be seen on what will be the playing surface — 14 stories below the top of the dome when it fully collapsed.

No reporters were allowed inside the stadium, however, and an official connected with the stadium would not say what had happened for several hours afterward.

He said he did not believe that last

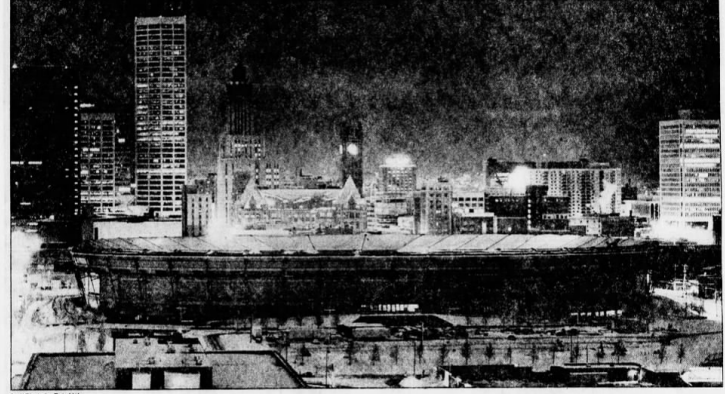
(See Soubrey's column, page 1D.)

He said the dome had been inflated at a pressure 1½ times normal, and that had been enough to catch a storm

that arrived at the stadium at about 11:45 p.m. yesterday, about four hours after the dome collapsed. It had been a high school sports banquet where the use was among athletes being honored, and learned of the problem when he returned home after 11 p.m.

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This view of the Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome photographed at about 10:30 p.m. Thursday night is notable for what it doesn't show — the dome.

## Thousands still without power

By Jacqui Rasmussen and Julie Kravner  
Star Writers  
Some 100,000 homes and businesses in the Twin Cities area were still without electricity late Thursday in the wake of the season's first major snowstorm.

More than 10 inches of wet, heavy snow blanketed the metropolitan area Wednesday and yesterday, bringing the temperature, melting and causing the downpour. The snowstorm in southern Minnesota and during power lines.

Flurries continued well into last night, and additional accumulation was expected. At the same time, the temperature dropped below freezing, adding ice to the already slippery roads. The police reported a

hundred of minor accidents and the city of Minneapolis declared a snow emergency, putting into effect a two-way system of one-way streets to give snowplows access to the streets. St. Paul also declared a snow emergency.

(Related stories, pictures on pages 1A and 4A.)

Although the storm is nowhere near the record-setting 18.5-inch storm since Day 10 of 1965, a National Weather Service spokesman said it "was nowhere in the top 10."

It also rattled high in advance and danger. More power failures occurred in the Twin Cities area during the past few days than during any period since a snow and ice storm in 1976.

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## Diablo nuclear plant license lifted by NRC

Washington, D.C. — The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) voted Thursday to suspend the license for the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant in California.

The license suspending the plant's use will require immediate action to be taken by the plant's operator, the Pacific Gas and Electric Co. (PG&E), before the license can be renewed.

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## Stones lottery spawns 'ticket underground'

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