

**DETROIT LIONS VS. MINNESOTA VIKINGS**  
**MALL OF AMERICA FIELD**  
**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2011; NOON CT**

**POST-GAME NOTES**

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**LIONS COMPLETE 20-POINT COMEBACK**

- The Lions completed a 20-point come-from-behind against the Vikings when K Jason Hanson kicked a 32-yard field goal in overtime to claim a 26-23 road win. It was the third largest comeback in team history (regular season) and the largest comeback ever on the road. It also was the largest deficit (20 points) that the Lions have ever overcome to win a game in team history.
- Today's 20-point comeback was the second 20+-point comeback engineered by QB Matthew Stafford. In 2009, he helped bring the Lions back from 21 points down vs. Cleveland (11/22/09) at Ford Field.
- Stafford joins Hall of Fame QB Bobby Layne as the only quarterbacks in team history to engineer 20+-point comebacks in team history. Layne engineered the largest comeback ever by bringing the Lions back from 24 points down vs. Baltimore (10/20/57). In the postseason, the Lions also came back from a 20-point deficit at San Francisco December 22, 1957, quarterbacked by Tobin Rote, to claim a 31-27 win after trailing 27-7 in the third quarter. The playoff game is known in Lions history as the "Comeback at Kezar."

**JOHNSON'S HISTORIC MARKS**

- WR Calvin Johnson caught 2 touchdowns in the Lions historic 26-23 overtime win at Minnesota, giving him 6 on the season. It was the third-straight game he has caught 2 touchdowns this year. Johnson became the first player in NFL history to start the season off by catching at least 2 touchdowns in each of the team's first three games.
- Johnson's 2 touchdowns (32 yards and 5 yards) fueled the comeback, but it was his 40-yard over-the-shoulder catch in overtime to set up the Lions' overtime field goal that gave them the overtime victory. He finished the game with 7 receptions for 108 yards.
- Johnson now has 6 receiving touchdowns for the month of September. He also has the most receiving touchdowns by a Lions receiver in the first month of the season. The previous best was 5 touchdown grabs by WR Leonard Thompson in September 1984.
- Johnson recorded his second touchdown of the game to begin the fourth quarter when he caught a 5-yard TD pass off a Stafford scramble. He has now caught two touchdowns in the season's first three games. He joins RB Mel Farr (1970) and E Cloyce Box (1952) as the only players in Lions history to record at least two touchdowns in three-straight games.
- Johnson becomes the first receiver since Box to score 2 receiving touchdowns in three-straight games. Box had three touchdowns in three-straight games in 1952.
- This marked Johnson's seventh career game of at least 2 touchdowns, and he became the fourth player in Lions history with seven games of 2+ receiving touchdowns. He is tied with E Cloyce Box (7, 1949-50, 52-54) and WR Terry Barr (7, 1957-65) for the second-most career games recording of at least 2 receiving touchdowns. WR Herman Moore (1991-2001) holds the franchise record with 9.
- Johnson also becomes the third player (fourth time) in team history to register six touchdowns in September. He now has the most Lions receiving touchdowns in September during a season. He joins RB Billy Sims (6, 1980, 6, 1981) and RB Barry Sanders (6, 1991) with six touchdowns in September.
- He also had 2 catches today of 25+ yards, including a 32-yarder to put the Lions on the board in the second half and the 40-yard grab in overtime to move the ball down to the 14-yard line. He now has 41 receptions of 25+yards, and 35 since the beginning of the 2008 season.

**STAFFORD PASSES LIONS TO VICTORY**

- QB Matthew Stafford helped turn the Lions 20-0 deficit at half time into a 26-23 win in overtime by completing 32-of-46 passes (69.6 pct) for 378 yards and 2 touchdowns. He finished with a quarterback rating of 108.8.
- After trailing at halftime 20-0, Stafford completed 22-of-30 passes for 314 yards and 2 TDs with a passer rating of 129.0 in the second half and overtime. His 314 yards in the second half and overtime are the most in the League this season after halftime in a single game.
- Stafford's 378 yards was his third career game throwing for 300+ yards. He has three career 300-yard games in his first 16 career starts.
- With two passing touchdowns, both to WR Calvin Johnson, Stafford became only the second Lions quarterback (Milt Plum, 1962) to throw for 9 touchdowns in the season's first three games.
- With 378 yards in the Lions win at Minnesota (9/25), Stafford has now accumulated 977 yards in the season's first three games. He is the 8th Lions quarterback (9 times overall) to register 900 yards in a three-game stretch, and his 977 yards are the third-most all-time in team history in a three-game span. With regards to the first three games of the season, Stafford's 977 are the second-most all-time to begin a season in franchise history.
- Through three games, Stafford has registered a 110.7 passer rating. He became the fifth quarterback in team history to accumulate a 100.0 passer rating through the season's first three games.

**LIONS 3-0 START**

- With the 26-23 win today at Minnesota, the Lions are now 3-0 for the first time since 1980. It marks the 11th 3-0 start in team history and the fourth time has been done with 2 wins on the road.

**ROAD STREAK**

- The win today by the Lions ended the Lions 13-game losing streak at Minnesota and it was their first win at Minnesota since December 14, 1997

- Dating back to last season, the Lions have now won four-straight road games for the first time since the 1969-70 seasons. In 1969-70, the Lions won their last road game of the '69 season and the first three road games in 1970.

### **K JASON HANSON**

- Detroit Lions K **Jason Hanson** has now appeared in 298 career games. Last week, he set the all-time NFL record for games played with one team.
- Hanson sealed the game with a 32-yard field goal in overtime. It was the 18th time in his career that he has made a game-winning kick in the fourth quarter or overtime, and it was his eighth game-winning kick in overtime.
- Hanson was 4-for-4 on field goal attempts at Minnesota, making field goals of 28, 50, 40 and 32 yards. It was the 23rd time in his career he has made four field goals in a game.
- With a 50-yard field goal, he extended his NFL record of career 50-yard field goals to 47.
- Hanson made 3 late field goals in the game, with the first, a 50-yarder, with 5:20 left to play. He made two field goals in the fourth quarter and overtime to take the lead (40 yard, 2:30 in 4th) and the game-winner (32 yards with 13:01 to play in OT). His 50-yarder tied the game at 20-20 with 5:20 left to play in regulation.
- Hanson scored 14 points in the Lions win (4 FG, 2 PAT). It was the 17th time in his career that he has recorded 14-or-more points in a game.
- It was the 23rd time in his career that he has made four field goals in a game. He moved passed K Gary Anderson for third place on the League's record list for most career games with four field goals.

### **PETTIGREW SETS NEW TIGHT END STANDARD**

- TE **Brandon Pettigrew** came up with a crucial performance in the Lions 26-23 overtime win at Minnesota by contributing 11 catches for 112 yards, both career highs. After halftime, Pettigrew had 9 receptions for 88 yards.
- Pettigrew's 11 catches set a new team record for receptions by a Lions tight end in a single game. It was only the second time in Lions history that a tight end registered 10 catches in a game. Previously, Hall of Fame TE Charlie Sanders had 10 catches at Washington December 15, 1968.
- His 112 receiving yards is his second career 100-yard receiving game. Pettigrew joins Sanders (2, 1968-77) and TE Jim Gibbons (2, 1958-68) as the only tight ends in Lions history with 2 100-yard receiving games.
- Among Pettigrew's big plays against the Vikings, his 27-yard long in the game helped set up the Lions second score of the game (28-yard FG) as he moved the ball down to the 2-yard line. On the drive, Pettigrew caught 3 passes for 42 yards.

### **BEST BREAKS FREE**

- Lions RB **Jahvid Best** caught 5 passes for 74 yards in the Lions 26-23 overtime win at Minnesota (9/25). Included in his receiving tallies was a 60-yard screen pass that ended the third quarter. On the next play, and the first play of the fourth quarter, Stafford hit Johnson in the endzone to bring the Lions within 3 points, 20-17.
- His 60-yard reception now gives him 3 career receptions over 50 yards. As a rookie, he had recorded receiving touchdowns of 75 and 53 yards.

### **T JEFF BACKUS**

- Today's game marked T **Jeff Backus'** 163rd consecutive start. He currently has the most consecutive starts by any lineman (offense or defense) in the NFL and the most among offensive players.
- With 163 consecutive starts, he is now ninth among offensive linemen in consecutive starts since 1970.

### **DE KYLE VANDEN BOSCH**

- On the Vikings opening series, DE Kyle Vanden Bosch recorded his third sack of the season, and he has now has a sack in each of the season's first three games. It is the third time in his career that he has recorded sacks in three-consecutive games and first since joining the Lions. He also with the Tennessee Titans in 2008 (four-straight games) and 2007.
- The sack occurred on first-and-9 at the Lions after the Vikings drove down the field on the opening drive. That sack helped limited the Vikings to a 33-yard field goal to open the game.
- He garnered 2 tackles against the Vikings.

### **DT NDAMUKONG SUH**

- On the Vikings second drive of the game and facing 3rd-and-4 at the Lions 14 yard line, DT **Ndamukong Suh** registered his second sack of the season and the second in consecutive games. He dropped the Vikings for a 9-yard loss forcing a Vikings 41-yard field goal
- Suh has now tallied 2.0 sacks in the season's first three games for the second consecutive year. Suh has done that in each of his first two seasons in the NFL.
- He ended the game against the Vikings with 5 tackles (3 solo).

### **LIONS RUN DEFENSE AMPS UP IN SECOND HALF**

- After allowing the Vikings to chew up 124 yards on 16 carries (7.8 avg) in the first half, the Lions defense helped the team's come-from-behind win by stuffing the run in the second half. After halftime, the Lions defense yielded just 8 rushing yards on 7 carried (1.1 avg).
- Vikings All-Pro RB Adrian Peterson recorded 73 yards on 12 rushes (6.1 avg) in the first half, but was held to 5 yards on 5 carries (1.0 avg) by the Lions in the second half.
- With 11:40 left to play in the 4th quarter and trailing 20-17, the Lions stuffed the Vikings on 4th-and-1 at the Lions 17-yard line. The Lions followed up with a scoring drive that culminated in a 40-yard game-tying field goal.