



Erling Haaland

Norse Valley Lodge 5-491

Nytt Notes June 2026

A Rainy and Cool Syttende Mai Picnic!

A hearty contingent of Scandinavians braved the raindrops to help honor Norway's Constitution Day at Dercks Park in Appleton on Sunday May 17th. Around 20 folks enjoyed Lefse wrapped hot dogs, side dishes, and desserts. Not much of the traditional vanilla ice cream was consumed as temperatures hovered in the 50's. Much camaraderie and laughter kept our souls warm though.



R U Ready for Some Fotball !! Norway's Quest for 2026 World Cup Glory - By Carl Rasmussen, Editor of the Stevens Point SON Lodge Newsletter

This will be Norway's first appearance in World Cup Soccer competition since 1998.

Norway's opponent in the World Cup's first round, held on Tuesday, June 16th, will be Iraq which emerged from their March qualifying tournament in Mexico.

The June 16 match takes place in Boston's Foxborough Stadium and will be broadcast on Fox TV beginning at 5PM. Norway then competes in two follow-up matches: one, Monday, June 22 against Senegal, Africa and the second, Friday, June 26 against the number one-rated team in the world, France.

The outcome of these three matches determines if Norway moves forward to bracket competition with single game elimination play over the three weeks that follow. France is the favorite among the four teams that make up the pool that Norway is in. Norway and Senegal are viewed as the second and third best teams respectively by the experts in this pool. The top two teams in the pool after round robin play automatically advance to the round of 32 and single elimination knock out games along with the 8 best third-place teams.

With 48 teams competing across 16 host cities, the 2026 competition will be the largest World Cup ever. This World Cup will also be the first tournament hosted by three countries – United States, Mexico, and Canada. Eleven U.S.cities will host playoff matches including: Atlanta, Boston, Dallas, Houston, Kansas City, Los Angeles, Miami, New York/New Jersey, Philadelphia, Seattle, and the San Francisco Bay Area.



FOX Sports will be the exclusive U.S. television broadcast home up to and including the World Cup Championship on Sunday July 19. Over a span of 39 days, the Fox network will carry all 104 soccer tournament matches live on either FOX (with 70 matches) or FS1 (with 34 matches).

Soccer 101: A Primer for "American Football" Fans

If you are only used to NFL football, then soccer or "football" as it is called in Norway and most of the world, might feel completely "foreign." The following is designed to help you better understand and enjoy the competition particularly as you follow Norway and other teams including team USA:

As with the Olympics, the World Cup is played only every four years. The anticipation builds!

The Clock Never Stops: The match is divided into two halves of 45 minutes each. Unlike American football, the clock counts up to 45 minutes each half. At the end of each half a referee adds "stoppage time" to account for injuries and other "stoppages." Otherwise, the game is continuous with no commercial breaks.

The break for halftime is 15 minutes. Expect lots of commercials then!

The 2026 World Cup competition is adding a new significant change to the clock though...in the middle of each half, a mandatory 3-minute "hydration break" for "player welfare." This effectively splits

the match into four quarters. The break will occur roughly 22 minutes into both halves starting on a referee's whistle. Count on commercials during this time too!

11 vs. 11: Each team has 11 players and only goalkeepers can touch the ball with their hands.

A "Nil" is Not Meaningless: A 0-0 (nil-nil) tie score might seem like a bore, but in round-robin play when it comes to advancing, a tie is not as bad as a loss. Things change when it comes to elimination games.

For elimination games tied at the end of play, the game enters "extra time." The match is extended by 30 minutes, divided into two 15-minute periods with a short break in between. There is no "sudden death" where the first team to score wins the game. It is the team with the most goals at the end of "extra time" that is the winner.

If teams are still tied after "extra time", the game is settled with a penalty shootout where each team selects five players to take turns shooting the ball one on one with the goalie. A coin toss decides which team kicks first. The team that scores the most goals out of five attempts wins.

If still tied after that, only then is sudden death put into effect with the first team to score a "penalty kick" is the winner. It helps to win the coin flip as that team will be first to kick!

FIFA is the abbreviation of the French name for the Football Federation: Fédération Internationale de Football Association. FIFA is the international self-regulatory governing body of "association football."

Until 1978, only 16 teams competed for the World Cup. Beginning in 1982 this increased to 24 teams, in 1998 to 32 teams and in 2026 now there will be the 48 teams in bracket play competition out of a possible 211 countries.

Global Scale: While the Super Bowl is huge in the United States with roughly 137 million viewers, the World Cup Final is gigantic! It will be watched by over 1.5 billion people. It is truly the only event that stops the entire planet waiting to see the outcome!



Four key players for Norway in the 2026 World Cup

Look for the following stars for Norway come June 16th in their first match against Iraq.

They include #9 Erling Haaland; #10 Martin Ødegaard; #22 Oscar Bobb; and #20 Kristoffer Ajer.

Forward Erling Haaland and Winger Oscar Bobb play for the same professional team: Manchester City Club in Manchester, England. Manchester City is one of the most dominant soccer clubs in the world and finished second in the 2026 English Premier League.

Midfielder Martin Ødegaard plays for Arsenal of the Premier League in North London, England; (winner of this year's Premier League).

Defender Kristoffer Ajer plays for Brentford Football Club in West London, also a Premier League Club.

In total, 18 of 24 Norway's roster play for pro-teams in other countries.

A good way to understand this would be how hockey is played at the Olympics. Just like the Olympics, the World Cup is played only once every four years and like Olympic hockey, in World Soccer there is a clear distinction between Clubs (professional teams with paid players) and

Associations (home country teams playing for national honor and pride). FIFA, the world-governing body, requires Clubs to “release” pro-players to their home countries for the World Cup competition. The players fly home, put on a home jersey, and play usually for little or no salary.

While most players on the Norwegian team were born and raised in Norway, FIFA rules allow players to represent a country based on three main connections: 1) Birth, 2) Ancestry (If one’s parents or grandparents were born there) and, 3) Residency (If a player has lived and worked in the country for at least five years as an adult.)

Interestingly, Norway’s biggest star, Erling Haaland, was born in Leeds, England. He is eligible to play for England. However, because both his parents are Norwegian and he grew up in Bryne, Norway, he chose to represent his "heart" country.

This is the same for other World Cup teams as well and makes many teams incredibly nationally diverse. Many players on the US National Team were born in Germany or England to American military parents. France’s 2018 and 2022 squads were famous for having many players born in, or with parents from former French territories and African nations like Senegal, Mali, and Algeria.

In the 2022 World Cup, more than half of Morocco’s players were born in Europe (The Netherlands, Belgium, and France) but chose to play for their parents' homeland instead.

Dress For Success – The Full Kit and Caboodle!

Soccer jerseys are called kits.

Norway officially unveiled its World Cup kit on March 19 and they have been flying off the racks since then! Reflecting Norway’s flag, the kit features a classic chili-red base with a deep navy-blue cross across the chest outlined in white. Their alternate jersey is a fearsome looking charcoal black.



Inside the blue stripes is an intricate Nordic knot weave pattern inspired by carvings at the entrance to the Urnes Stave Church, Norway’s oldest.

The Viking-era design links Norway's modern sport team to its ancient Viking heritage and craftsmanship. An embroidered national soccer team crest completes the kit and features a national flag shield topped by two lions from the Norwegian coat of arms. The lions hold a miniature blue Norwegian Football Federation (NFF) logo with "NORGE" (Norway) inscribed above. The bold contrasts create a dynamic effect, making the entire kit both eye-catching and symbolic.

Factoid: Originating from British sports culture, a "kit" technically refers to the complete uniform a team wears or as the Brits say, the entire "kit and caboodle" of equipment from the jersey down to the shorts, socks, shin guards, and boots. Still, “kit” is commonly used interchangeably as the equivalent word for "jersey" just as in American sports.

Starting on June 16th, let’s be cheering “**OLa oss dra til Norge!**” Or (Let’s Go Norway!)

Upcoming Lodge Meetings are as follows:

We’ll take the summer off for any formal Lodge meetings (June, July, and August) but there will still be opportunities to still get together (see below).

Our first Lodge meeting after the summer break will be September 19th at 6:00 p.m. which will be held at Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church located at 3009 North Meade Street in Appleton. It will be another good one!

Olaf Minge from Saint Paul, Minnesota will travel to Appleton on September 19th and speak to us about the United States Army's 99th Battalion, a group initially formed to help liberate Norway from Nazi occupation in World War II, were almost exclusively of Norwegian descent. These soldiers began their training at Camp Ripley, MN, but were eventually transferred to Fort Snelling, MN. They were moved to Camp Hale in Colorado around Christmas of 1942, and the mountains of Colorado, much, much larger than Norway's, gave the men a great advantage in their alpine training.

His presentation dives into the 99th's experiences in their training, and also explores the group of soldiers from the 99th that were put into the Special Ops branch and Operation RYPE. These soldiers would be among the few to go to Norway in 1945. The Battalion undertook many challenges during their time in the war, and also lost many. They did, however, come out with a sense of pride and unity as a small group, and eventually served as Honor Guard for the return of King Haakon to Norway.

October 17th Lodge Meeting: 6:00 p.m. Program Speakers are being canvassed.

November 1st: Sunday at 4:30 p.m. **Lutefisk and Meatball Dinner** at La Sure's Banquet Hall in Oshkosh. **Mark your calendars!** The Packers play on the previous Thursday night so there is no conflict with your favorite team.

December 5th: Saturday at 5:00 p.m. Julefest at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church.

Volunteer Opportunities coming up in the next three months!

Norwegian American Genealogical Center Volunteer Day Monday July 13th.

We'll make a car-pool trip to NAGC to help them with some projects to spruce up their grounds and/or inside library projects. We'll arrive at their location at 9:30 a.m. in Madison at 415 West Main Street and work until 2:30-ish. The staff at NAGC is always appreciative of our annual Volunteer efforts and usually serves us a healthy catered lunch. Please contact Corey Olson no later than July 1st at clobadger87@gmail.com and let him know if you can drive or ride to Madison with us.

The next Feeding America volunteer event is coming up on July 22nd!

Please mark your calendars for **Wednesday July 22nd from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.** to help the



less fortunate in Northeast Wisconsin at Feeding America. Norse Valley members can volunteer at Feeding America on the north side of Appleton, at that time. This will be a Tribal Pack to supply Elders of our Wisconsin Native American population with good nutritious foods grown here in our state. We will pack boxes with these food items.

Please contact Norse Valley member Linda Hash, (lhash@new.rr.com), our volunteer coordinator, if you would like to help out on Wednesday, July 22nd. I'm looking forward to it and I hope to see you there!

Here are the volunteers from the May 6th Feeding America event!

Lodge Fund-Raising Brat Fry Saturdays July 25th and August 22nd.

These are our top two fund-raisers each year and we need your help to man the sales counter and / or publicize to your friends and neighbor.

On July 25th, we will be at the Festival Foods Brat Stand on Northland Avenue. Corey Olson will be our grill master throughout the day. We'll be open to selling from the brat stand from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. We need one person to volunteer with Corey and Patrick to work a shift from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. to handle selling during the post lunch crowd and clean-up.

On August 22nd, we will be at the Festival Foods Brat Stand on Green Bay Road in Neenah. Again, Corey has again volunteered his whole day for the Lodge to be grill master. He'll need one person to help with set-up from 8:00 a.m. to 10:30. We need two people to help sell brats and burgers from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to handle the lunch rush. One person is still needed from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. to help with sales and brat stand clean-up.

If you can help the Lodge to fill one of these shifts on either or both dates, please contact Corey Olson at clobadger87@gmail.com

Bergen Fest – Live Music Concert June 9th through the 12th

If you are heading over to Norway next week, you might want to purchase tickets for some popular acts playing at a festival in Bergen.

A variety of genres are represented, from straight forward pop and rock via blues, country, americana and electronic-based music to the more obscure and adventurous ones. Previous acts at the festival include Robert Plant, John Mayer, ZZ Top, Biffy Clyro, Imagine Dragons and Lana Del Rey to name a few.

I reviewed the line-ups and spotted a few of my favorites though being of a certain age, I admit most I had not heard as of yet. Nothing but Thieves, Of Monsters and Men, and Natasha Bedingfield are three performers I'm familiar with that are appearing.

It's not surprising based on weather and climate, most of Norway's music festivals occur in June and July.

Attention Facebook Users

Be sure to Follow our lodge's Facebook page (@norsevalley) and check in regularly to Like and Share our posts if you happen to miss them in your feed.

The more our posts are Shared and Liked, the more exposure our lodge gets which is great advertising for us. Don't forget that our website norsevalley.org is a great place to find out about upcoming events and check out photos from past events.

Got a question? Send an email to norsevalley@gmail.com.

If you have any questions or concerns about lodge activities, please contact Lois Gruetzmacher at gmacher@charter.net or 920-527-1337.