

Prairie Home Companion host Keillor discovers pro football not sorely missed

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Garrison Keillor, author and host of "Prairie Home Companion," the Saturday evening show on National Public Radio, may be onto something about the relative impact of the pro football strike.

Chatting on last Saturday's show, Keillor said he had been surprised to discover that he had not missed football. He also said his friends had admitted to missing the sport less than they had expected.

Keillor noted that for the last 20 years, "pastors had hurried their sermons when they heard the two-minute warning," so people could be in front of their television sets in time for the kickoff. He suggested

that the alleged national hunger for football might be somewhat of a myth perpetrated by the "people who claim to have a finger on the national pulse."

Reached at his St. Paul headquarters, Keillor said he has been a Minnesota Vikings fan for 20 years but has adjusted to life without football.

"Monday night I sit around and read," he said, "and Sunday we eat dinner earlier, at what we used to call dinner time, 1 or 1:30. Maybe now that fall is almost over out here in Minnesota, people will miss it more, but I don't know.

"I will say this. I missed baseball a lot during its strike last year.



Garrison Keillor

Baseball is a sport you can go see, whereas all the Viking games are sellouts. By the way, what is television doing to replace football on Sunday afternoons?"