

BEARS COVERAGE  
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It's usually not a good thing for a team when a backup quarterback moves into the starting lineup. It means the regular starter, the one paid the big bucks, is sick, hurt, missing or terribly ineffective.

A backup QB, meanwhile, is like a plumber's helper. You know you need one, but you try to hide it from the guests.

So why do I feel so good about backup Chase Daniel starting in place of the injured Mitch Trubisky on Sunday? Part of it is that I wonder if the Bears would be better this season with Daniel prudently running the show.

And part of it is the sheer spectacle of it. The Bears have put all their apples in Trubisky's basket, and here's Daniel with a chance to upset the Bears' apple cart, in a good way.

The higher-ups would scoff at the very idea of a quarterback controversy: Mitch, the guy they took with the second overall pick in the 2017 draft vs. Chase, the guy with four NFL starts to his name in 10 seasons? Really? A controversy? Pfft.

Trust me, if Daniel plays well against the Raiders on Sunday in London, there will be even more public discussion about which quarterback is best for a team with a Super Bowl-ready defense. And there's already a lot of it.

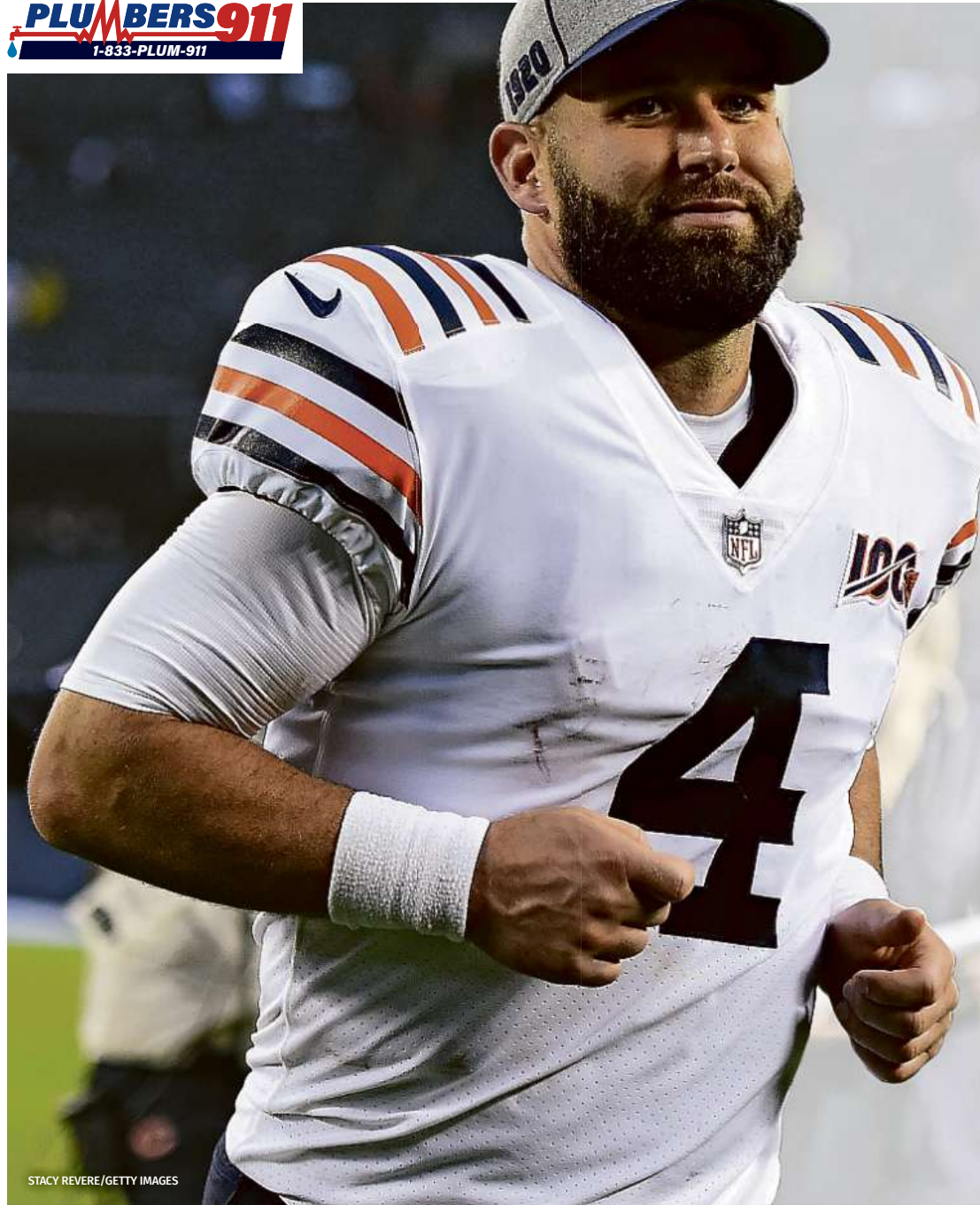
Daniel's stats in a victory over the Vikings last week were excellent in terms of completion percentage (73.3) and meh in terms of yardage (195). But the numbers miss the point, as they often do. He was a clear improvement over Trubisky in terms of field vision and confidence. And he showed off all that



# AN INTRIGUING CHASE STUDY

A stellar performance by Daniel will further incite quarterback controversy

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**COVER STORY**

# A 5-START PERFORMER

GAME AGAINST RAIDERS WILL ONLY BE HIS FIFTH AS A STARTER, BUT DANIEL IS CALM, CONFIDENT



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**L**ONDON — Chase Daniel had finished his second glass of tart cherry juice — the Bears gave it to their players because the melatonin makes them sleepy — when he reclined inside a sleeping pod on the Bears' plane Thursday night.

He wondered: Were he the backup quarterback against the Raiders on Sunday, would he still have been given one of the few pods on the plane?

“Because I’m the oldest person on the team ... probably?” he said Friday after the Bears’ practice at Allianz Park. “But that was definitely talked about by myself. I don’t know if, because I’m the backup, I get one or not.”

STACY REVERE/GETTY IMAGES



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# CALL ON THE FIELD: DEFENSIVE FOLDING

Bears' all-world 'D' did not impress in London vs. Raiders



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