

SEPT. 9, 2018 | VIKINGS VS. 49ERS | U.S. BANK STADIUM



PLAYBOOK

'98 THROWBACK EDITION



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QB HIGH COUSINS



Minnesota
VIKINGS
'98 20TH ANNIVERSARY





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KIRK COUSINS

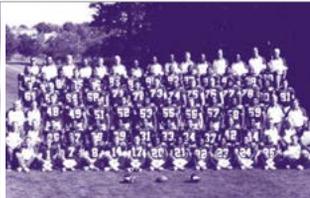
Whether it's building sincere connections to better lead teammates, or the comfort level in sharing his faith, or proving that underdogs have their day, Cousins has developed a confident approach and a few quirks.



17

Timeout with Griffith

Catch up with the Pro Bowl safety, Robert Griffith who played a big role in the Vikings historic '98 season.



20

1998 Team

Vikings Legends revisit the historic 15-1 squad's accomplishments and strongest memories from a 556-point season.



26

1998 Pro Bowlers

A whopping 10 Vikings were selected to the Pro Bowl to set a franchise record tied only once (2009).

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PUBLISHED BY: GameDay Sports;
info@gamedaysportsmarketing.com

ADVERTISING INQUIRIES: advertising@vikings.nfl.net
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Augmented Reality

Scan this week's cover in the Vikings app using the 'augmented reality' feature under the 'more' tab for additional exclusive info and throwback photos of Kirk Cousins.



WE ARE VIKINGS, NOT BARBARIANS

We are confident that our fans lead the NFL in enthusiasm, support, hospitality and sportsmanship. Our image is shaped not only by our players, coaches and employees, but by our fans as well. Our goal is to create a high-energy environment to lend support to our team, while maintaining a family-oriented atmosphere.

To ensure that all fans have a pleasant game-day experience, each patron should act responsibly and be considerate of others. Unruly behavior will not be tolerated and, in some cases, might be deemed grounds for dismissal from U.S. Bank Stadium. These cases include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Being under the influence of drugs or alcohol
- Underage drinking
- Actions that are harmful to or endanger others
- Throwing items of any kind
- Using foul or abusive language and/or gestures
- Displaying inconsiderate behavior toward others
- Disorderly conduct
- Wearing obscene or indecent clothing

- Smoking in non-designated areas
- Sitting or standing in the aisles
- Entering or attempting to enter the field of play
- Failure to follow instructions of stadium security personnel
- Entering the stadium with any prohibited items
- Harassment of visiting-team fans

Season Ticket Owners are responsible for the actions of any individual using their tickets. Any of the above behavior by anyone using an account owner's ticket(s) may be cause for non-renewal of ticket privileges. Vikings management and security reserve the right to deem an act or exhibited behavior as inappropriate and take action, based on available information and circumstances. Thank you for making U.S. Bank Stadium an enjoyable and friendly atmosphere to watch Vikings football!

REPORT GAME DAY ISSUES

Text VIKES (space), the issue and location to:

69050

You may also contact an usher or security officer, or stop by the nearest Guest Services location, to report the problem.

Standard text message rates and other charges may apply.

NFL Bag Policy In Effect

NFL BAG POLICY

The Vikings strongly encourage fans to not bring any type of bags but should the need arise, fans will be able to carry the following style and size bag, package or container at stadium plaza areas, stadium gates, or when approaching queue lines of fans awaiting entry into the stadium:



CLEAR PLASTIC BAG
No larger than 12" x 6" x 12"



SMALL CLUTCH BAGS
No larger than 4.5" x 6.5"



ONE GALLON BAG
Clear plastic freezer bag



It stands out in a huddle.

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VIKINGS VS. 49ERS

Today's Matchup

Today's game features the San Francisco 49ers and the defending NFC North Champion Vikings in the 2018 regular-season opener for both teams. This will be the 46th time that San Francisco and Minnesota have met (including five playoff games).

The Vikings are 14-9 at home and are hosting the 49ers at U.S. Bank Stadium for the first time in a regular-season game. Minnesota trails San Francisco in the overall series by one game (22 wins, 23 losses and one tie).

The Vikings defense, which led the NFL in points allowed and yards allowed in 2017, is returning 10 starters and will face a test from a 49ers offense that closed last season on a hot streak, averaging 32.3 points per game in the final four weeks of the season.

Minnesota's offense, meanwhile, will make its debut with John DeFilippo as the offensive coordinator and Kirk Cousins at quarterback. It also should get a boost by the return of Dalvin Cook from injury and the continuation of strong seasons by Adam Thielen, Stefon Diggs, Kyle Rudolph and Latavius Murray.

Today's Game Presented By
usbank

Today's Entertainment



HALFTIME

Halftime will feature a special ceremony in honor of the historic 1998 Vikings team.

'98 MEMBERS SCHEDULED TO ATTEND

Obafemi Ayanbadejo, Jerry Ball, Antonio Banks, Anthony Bass, Pete Bercich, Mitch Berger, Brian Billick, Matt Birk, Tony Bland, Todd Bouman, Greg Briggs, Duane Butler, Duane Clemons, Jeff Diamond, Dave Dixon, Jason Fisk, Greg DeLong, Andrew Glover, Robert Griffith, Matthew Hatchette, Chris Liwienski, Ed McDaniel, Randall McDaniel, David Palmer, John Randle, Dwayne Rudd, Todd Steussie, Robert Tate, Chris Walsh and Ben Williams

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

Orlando Bobo, Orlando Thomas, Charles Evans, DC Foge Fazio, Korey Stringer, Fred Zamberletti and Dennis Green

Today's Entertainment

NATIONAL ANTHEM

In honor of original Minnesota Vikings athletic trainer and historian Fred Zamberletti's love of opera music, Aaron Sheehan will sing the National Anthem.

The Janesville, Minnesota, native performed on the Boston Early Music



FRED ZAMBERLETTI

Festival's recording of La Descente d'Orphée Aux Enfers, which received a Grammy Award for Best Opera Recording in 2015.

COLOR GUARD

A Joint Services Honor Guard representing all branches of service will present the colors.

Did you know the '98 VIKINGS

...finished the regular season with a 15-1 record, becoming the third NFL team to have at least 15 wins in a season. The 1984 49ers and 1985 Bears were the first two teams.

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U.S. and more awards than any
other carrier—20x in a row.

—J.D. Power 2018



verizon^v

Verizon Wireless received the highest numerical score among wireless service providers in the J.D. Power 2017 (V1 & V2) & 2018 (V1) U.S. Wireless Network Quality Performance Studies. The 2018 V1 study is based on 38,595 total responses, measuring the network quality experienced by customers with wireless phones, surveyed July–December 2017. Your experiences may vary. Visit jdpower.com

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Today's PROMOTIONS



Kwik Trip Family of the Game

Congratulations to today's Kwik Trip Family of the Game, the Katcher Family from Greene, Iowa. To have your chance at being the next Kwik Trip Family of the Game and win free Vikings tickets or sideline passes, pull out your phone, open the Vikings App, click on "more," then on "games," and enter your selection to today's Kwik Trip trivia question.



U.S. BANK HOMETOWN HERO

During each home game, U.S. Bank and the Minnesota Vikings will recognize individuals who have helped make our community a better place. Today's Hometown Hero is Marines Cpl. Johnathan Benson, who passed away Sept. 9, 2006, from wounds sustained during combat in Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Minnesota native is a recipient of two Purple Hearts and is buried at Fort Snelling National Cemetery.

Hy-Vee #SKOL

Share a photo at today's game using #SKOL to see yourself on the video board and for the chance to win a \$25 Hy-Vee gift card and a \$25 Market Grill gift card!



SPALON MONTAGE GIVEAWAY

Spalon Montage will be giving away a \$100 gift card at today's game! Show us your game-day hairstyle by tweeting a photo @VikingsPromos using #VikingsHairstyle to enter.



MILLER LITE "SNAP & SHARE"

Vikings fans, we want to see your game-day pride! It's easy – snap a photo and share it using #HoldTrue #Vikings, then look for your photo on the video board.



VERIZON UP

Stop by the Verizon Up Fan Zone (east main concourse) and check out the rewards wall for a chance to win autographed gear, NFL gift cards and more. Snap a selfie with Stefon Diggs at our gameday photo op and share it with #VZup.



CENTURYLINK BOOST BOX

Enter for a chance to win a CenturyLink Boostbox filled with prizes and exclusive fan experiences handpicked by CenturyLink and Stefon Diggs. For official rules and to enter, visit: centurylink.com/Vikings



BUFFALO WILD WINGS SACKS FOR APPS

Buffalo Wild Wings brings you "Sacks for Apps" during all Vikings home and away games this season! When the Vikings record 3 or more sacks in a game, all fans score a free sharable with a minimum purchase of \$5. Offer is valid for 3 days after each eligible game. Visit vikings.com/bww for your digital coupon and offer details.



You can win!



Tweet your seat location to @vikingspromos for your chance to win prizes from the Vikings Street Team at today's game.

Upcoming VIKINGS EVENTS



TCO VIKINGS 5K

receive a commemorative pin honoring Coach Green. Order tickets at vikings.com/PurpleJacket.

TCO VIKINGS 5K

Experience what it is like to be a Minnesota Viking as you conquer the TCO Vikings 5K. Join us Saturday, Oct. 20 at 3 p.m. as you and your friends finish on the 50-yard line at TCO Stadium, the new home of the Vikings. Post-race runners can enjoy a tailgate atmosphere with live music, games and autographs from Vikings Legends. Space is limited; register at vikings.com/5K.

DELTA VIKINGS VILLAGE

Opening two-and-a-half hours prior to kickoff, this pregame home base for Vikings fans is all about finding your favorite tailgate fare, ice-cold Miller Lite, Vikings Legends autographs and live music from the Pepsi "Sound The North" stage. Delta Vikings Village is free for Vikings fans with or without tickets and will be open before, during and after Vikings home games. Minnesota Vikings Foundation pregame auctions will occur in the Vikings Longhouse presented by PRIMESPORT. During games, auctions will be held on the west concourse of U.S. Bank Stadium, near sections 101 and 143.

VIKINGS COUNTRY

The popular *Vikings Country* radio show will be broadcast from Floyd's Bar in Victoria on Sept. 13. Host Mike Mussman will be joined by Everson Griffen. Tune in on KFAN and the Vikings Radio Network or attend the live broadcast.

VIKINGS UNPLUGGED

Vikings fans join Chris Hawkey on Tuesday, Sept. 18 from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. at the Buffalo Wild Wings at the University of Minnesota as he hosts *Vikings Unplugged*. Chris will interview Viking Anthony Harris, plus fans have a chance to win Vikings autographs and Buffalo Wild Wings gift cards throughout the night.

FRIDAY FOOTBALL FEAST

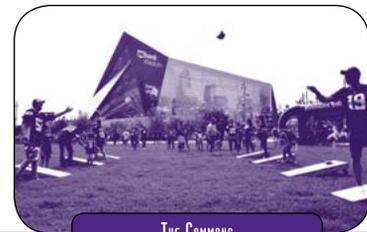
Join KFAN each Friday morning from 9 a.m. to noon for a Friday Football Feast. Paul Allen and Paul Charchian will get you set for the weekend's action, including an in-depth preview of the upcoming Vikings game. Use #MVPTablePromo in your tweets and photos for your chance to win an MVP experience! This week's Friday Football Feast will be at the Buffalo Wild Wings in Roseville.

DENNIS GREEN: PURPLE JACKET CEREMONY

Join Vikings Legends, coaches and friends as they share stories of Coach Green's accomplishments on and off the field on Sept. 22 at U.S. Bank Stadium. Each fan will

THE COMMONS

The Vikings will take over the easterly block of The Commons prior to each game this season with great family friendly activities and entertainment. Complete with Vikings inflatable games, face painting, a DJ or live music and visits from Viktor, the SKOL Line and Vikings Cheerleaders, The Minnesota Vikings Foundation will be hosting the "Chuck for Charity" on The Commons before home games. All proceeds will benefit engaging youth education and health programs.



THE COMMONS



To learn more, visit vikings.com/promotions or download the Vikings app for full event listings.



NOMINATE YOUR SCHOOL TO BE SELECTED AS THE MINNESOTA FOOTBALL COMMUNITY OF THE YEAR

Minnesota Vikings & Innovative Office Solutions, along with the National Football Foundation and supported by KFAN, will honor one Minnesota community as the “**MINNESOTA FOOTBALL COMMUNITY OF THE YEAR.**” Nominations are being accepted from now through Oct. 5th on Vikings.com/CommunityOfTheYear.

In the spring, the Minnesota Vikings, Innovative Office Solutions and KFAN will present the winning community with a **TOWN TAKEOVER**, a once-in-a-lifetime event including **VIKINGS PLAYERS, VIKINGS MASCOT VIKTOR AND THE VIKINGS CHEERLEADERS.** The winning community will be given a **\$10,000** check for it's school's football program.

ALL THE FLAVOR WITH A
SMOOTH FINISH



GATORADE FLOW™



Player to Watch: DT LINVAL JOSEPH

This weekend is all about celebrating '98, so why not bring attention to the Vikings player who has sported the jersey since 2014. Joseph totaled 93 tackles (coaches' stats), 3.5 sacks and a fumble recovery in 2017 and made his second trip to the Pro Bowl. Vikings Head Coach Mike Zimmer has emphasized that defense starts with stopping the run, and Joseph is the right man for the job. The powerful nose tackle is a wall, able to confront two offensive players double-teaming him and still stuff running backs at the line of scrimmage. Joseph's anchoring of the defensive line creates opportunities for fellow defensive linemen to let loose. He also has been known to wreak havoc when given a path to the quarterback, totaling 11 sacks in Minnesota. It will be interesting to see how Joseph works together with new defensive tackle Sheldon Richardson on the interior of the defensive line. His goal will remain the same: stop the run, force teams into third-and-longs and tag out with teammates who are part of Minnesota's special nickel rush unit. Joseph is one of six captains for 2018.

WRAPPING UP

According to NFL statistics, Joseph ranked second among defensive tackles with 68 total tackles and 38 solo in 2017.

100+ AND 4+ IN 2016

Joseph joined elite Vikings company in 2016 when he was credited with 100 tackles (coaches' stats) and 4.0 sacks, becoming the fifth defensive tackle to record that combination of stats in a season. Alan Page accomplished this six times (1972-77), James White (1980-81) and Henry Thomas (1990-91) did so twice, and Charlie Johnson once (1984).

2018 SCHEDULE

PRESEASON (3-1)

P1	8/11	at Denver Broncos	W	42-28
P2	8/18	Jacksonville Jaguars	L	14-10
P3	8/24	Seattle Seahawks	W	21-20
P4	8/30	at Tennessee Titans	W	13-3

REGULAR SEASON (0-0)

1	9/9	San Francisco 49ers		
2	9/16	at Green Bay Packers		
3	9/23	Buffalo Bills		
4	9/27	at Los Angeles Rams		
5	10/7	at Philadelphia Eagles		
6	10/14	Arizona Cardinals		
7	10/21	at New York Jets		
8	10/28	New Orleans Saints		
9	11/4	Detroit Lions		
10	11/11	BYE WEEK		
11	11/18	at Chicago Bears		
12	11/25	Green Bay Packers		
13	12/2	at New England Patriots		
14	12/10	at Seattle Seahawks		
15	12/16	Miami Dolphins		
16	12/23	at Detroit Lions		
17	12/30	Chicago Bears		

Did you know the '98 VIKINGS

...led the NFL in points (34.8 per game),
passing yards (270.5 per game) and tied with
the 49ers for first with 41 passing touchdowns.

TOP 2s AGAINST 49ERS

RUSHING YARDS

105		Leroy Hoard on 17 attempts in MIN (10.24.99)
101		Chester Taylor on eight attempts at SF (12.9.07)

PASSING YARDS

407		Fran Tarkenton on 21-of-34 passing at SF (10.24.65)
322		Tommy Kramer on 26-of-41 passing at SF (10.12.86)

RECEIVING YARDS

202		Paul Flatley on seven catches at SF (10.24.65)
172		Randy Moss on eight catches in MIN (9.28.03)

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Player to Watch: QB JIMMY GAROPPOLO

Garoppolo enters today's game with a perfect 7-0 mark as a starter in the NFL. That streak has tied Vikings Legend Daunte Culpepper and Dieter Brock for third-longest by a quarterback since 1970. Ben Roethlisberger (15) has the record, and Mike Tomczak (10) is second. Originally a second-round pick by New England in 2014, the 49ers acquired the quarterback via a trade with the Patriots in October 2017. Garoppolo started the final five games of the season for San Francisco, completing 120 of 178 passes (67.4 percent) for 1,560 yards and seven touchdowns against five interceptions for a passer rating of 96.2. Garoppolo was voted by players into the NFL Top 100 listing for 2018 at the 90th overall spot. The 49ers signed Garoppolo to a multiyear deal in February.

RECORD BREAKER

Garoppolo broke Tony Romo's records at Eastern Illinois for career passing touchdowns (118) and yards (13,156), as well as for passing touchdowns in a season (53 in 2013). Garoppolo led FCS in passing yards (360.7 per game) and ranked second in passing touchdowns in 2013.

1,542 -IN- 5

Garoppolo's 1,542 passing yards in his first five starts are the most by a 49ers quarterback, ahead of Jeff Kemp (1,385), Elvis Grbac (1,376), Steve Bono (1,251) and Brian Hoyer (1,211). They also are the fourth-most among quarterbacks since 1970, behind Drew Bledsoe (1,762), Trent Green (1,668) and Cam Newton (1,610). Vikings QB Kirk Cousins ranks fifth on the list with 1,503 in Washington from 2012-14.

2018 SCHEDULE

PRESEASON (1-3)

P1	8/9	Dallas Cowboys	W	24-21
P2	8/18	at Houston Texans	L	16-13
P3	8/25	at Indianapolis Colts	L	23-17
P4	8/30	Los Angeles Chargers	L	23-21

REGULAR SEASON (0-0)

1	9/9	at Minnesota Vikings		
2	9/16	Detroit Lions		
3	9/23	at Kansas City Chiefs		
4	9/30	at Los Angeles Chargers		
5	10/7	Arizona Cardinals		
6	10/15	at Green Bay Packers		
7	10/21	Los Angeles Rams		
8	10/28	at Arizona Cardinals		
9	11/1	Oakland Raiders		
10	11/12	New York Giants		
11	11/	BYE WEEK		
12	11/25	at Tampa Bay Buccaneers		
13	12/2	at Seattle Seahawks		
14	12/9	Denver Broncos		
15	12/16	Seattle Seahawks		
16	12/23	Chicago Bears		
17	12/30	at Los Angeles Rams		

Did you know

HALL OF FAMER

...and Vikings Ring of Honor member Chris Doleman led the 49ers with 15 sacks in 1998. Doleman totaled 27 in two seasons with San Francisco. He returned to Minnesota in 1999.

TOP 2s AGAINST 49ERS

RUSHING YARDS

168 J.D. Smith on 28 attempts at SF (11.26.61)
168 Carlos Hyde on 26 attempts at SF (9.14.15)

PASSING YARDS

425 Steve Young on 30-of-49 passing at SF (12.18.95)
359 Jeff Kemp on 23-of-42 passing at SF (10.12.86)

RECEIVING YARDS

289 Jerry Rice on 14 catches at SF (12.18.95)
146 Dave Parks on five catches at SF (10.25.64)

Vikings Roster

1	Kyle Sloter	QB
3	Trevor Siemian	QB
6	Matt Wile	P
7	Daniel Carlson	K
8	Kirk Cousins	QB
11	Laquon Treadwell	WR
13	Stacy Coley	WR
14	Stefon Diggs	WR
15	Brandon Zylstra	WR
19	Adam Thielen	WR
20	Mackensie Alexander	CB
21	Mike Hughes	CB
22	Harrison Smith	S
23	George Iloka	S
24	Holton Hill	CB
25	Latavius Murray	RB
26	Trae Waynes	CB
27	Jayron Kearse	S
29	Xavier Rhodes	CB
30	C.J. Ham	FB
32	Roc Thomas	RB
33	Dalvin Cook	RB
34	Andrew Sendejo	S
35	Marcus Sherels	CB
41	Anthony Harris	S
42	Ben Gedeon	LB
44	Mike Boone	RB
47	Kevin McDermott	LS
50	Eric Wilson	LB
54	Eric Kendricks	LB
55	Anthony Barr	LB
57	Devante Downs	LB
61	Brett Jones	C
63	Danny Isidora	G
65	Pat Elflein	C
69	Rashod Hill	T
71	Riley Reiff	T
74	Mike Remmers	T
75	Brian O'Neill	T
76	Aviante Collins	T
79	Tom Compton	G
82	Kyle Rudolph	TE
83	Tyler Conklin	TE
89	David Morgan	TE
90	Tashawn Bower	DE
91	Stephen Weatherly	DE
92	Jalyn Holmes	DT
93	Sheldon Richardson	DT
94	Jaleel Johnson	DT
95	David Parry	DT
97	Everson Griffen	DE
98	Linval Joseph	DT
99	Danielle Hunter	DE



33 DALVIN COOK
Running Back



8 KIRK COUSINS
Quarterback



30 C.J. HAM
Fullback



14 STEFON DIGGS
Wide Receiver



82 KYLE RUDOLPH
Tight End



69 RASHOD HILL
Right Tackle



74 MIKE REMMERS
Right Guard



65 PAT ELFEIN
Center



79 TOM COMPTON
Left Guard



71 RILEY REIFF
Left Tackle



19 ADAM THIELEN
Wide Receiver

Vikings Offense

49ers Defense



25 RICHARD SHERMAN
Cornerback



94 SOLOMON THOMAS
Defensive End



90 EARL MITCHELL
Defensive Tackle



99 DeFOREST BUCKNER
Defensive Tackle



91 ARIK ARMSTEAD
Defensive End



23 AHKELLO WITHERSPOON
Cornerback



24 K'WAUN WILLIAMS
Nickelback



53 MARK NZEOCHA
Linebacker



27 ADRIAN COLBERT
Safety



48 FRED WARNER
Linebacker



29 JAQUISKI TARTT
Safety



51 MALCOLM SMITH
Linebacker

Vikings Special Teams



7 DANIEL CARLSON
Kicker



6 MATT WILE
Punter



47 KEVIN McDERMOTT
Long Snapper



35 MARCUS SHERELS
Punt/Kick Returner



STARTING ROSTER
MINNESOTA VIKINGS

Offense

Defense

19	Adam Thielen
71	Riley Reiff
79	Tom Compton
65	Pat Elflein
74	Mike Remmers
69	Rashod Hill
82	Kyle Rudolph
14	Stefon Diggs
8	Kirk Cousins
30	C.J. Ham
33	Dalvin Cook

WR
LT
LG
C
RG
RT
TE
WR
QB
FB
HB

99	Danielle Hunter
93	Sheldon Richardson
98	Linval Joseph
97	Everson Griffen
42	Ben Gedeon
54	Eric Kendricks
55	Anthony Barr
26	Trae Waynes
29	Xavier Rhodes
34	Andrew Sendejo
22	Harrison Smith

LE
DT
NT
RE
WLB
MLB
SLB
LCB
RCB
SS
FS



Vikings Defense

49ers Offense



49ers Special Teams



STARTING ROSTER SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS



Offense

- 15 Pierre Garçon
- 74 Joe Staley
- 75 Laken Tomlinson
- 58 Weston Richburg
- 68 Mike Person
- 69 Mike McGlinchey
- 88 Garrett Celek
- 11 Marquise Goodwin
- 22 Matt Breida
- 44 Kyle Juszczyk
- 10 Jimmy Garoppolo

- WR
- LT
- LG
- C
- RG
- RT
- TE
- WR
- RB
- FB
- QB

Defense

- 94 Solomon Thomas
- 90 Earl Mitchell
- 99 DeForest Buckner
- 91 Arik Armstead
- 53 Mark Nzeocha
- 48 Fred Warner
- 51 Malcolm Smith
- 25 Richard Sherman
- 23 Ahkello Witherspoon
- 24 K'Waun Williams
- 27 Adrian Colbert
- 29 Jaquiski Tartt

- LDE
- LDT
- RDT
- RDE
- SAM
- MIKE
- WILL
- LCB
- RCB
- NB
- FS
- SS

49ers Roster

3	C.J. Beathard	QB
5	Bradley Pinion	P
9	Robbie Gould	K
10	Jimmy Garoppolo	QB
11	Marquise Goodwin	WR
13	Richie James Jr.	WR
15	Pierre Garçon	WR
18	Dante Pettis	WR
20	Jimmie Ward	DB
22	Matt Breida	RB
23	Ahkello Witherspoon	CB
24	K'Waun Williams	CB
25	Richard Sherman	CB
26	Greg Mabin	DB
27	Adrian Colbert	DB
29	Jaquiski Tartt	S
31	Raheem Mostert	RB
32	D.J. Reed Jr.	DB
33	Tarvarius Moore	DB
38	Antone Exum Jr.	DB
44	Kyle Juszczyk	FB
46	Alfred Morris	RB
47	Elijah Lee	LB
48	Fred Warner	LB
50	Brock Coyle	LB
51	Malcolm Smith	LB
53	Mark Nzeocha	LB
54	Cassius Marsh	DL
58	Weston Richburg	C/G
62	Erik Magnuson	DL
64	Matt Tobin	DL
65	Joshua Garnett	G
68	Mike Person	OL
69	Mike McGlinchey	T
74	Joe Staley	T
75	Laken Tomlinson	OL
76	Garry Gilliam	OL
77	Jullian Taylor	DT
78	Shon Coleman	T
81	Trent Taylor	WR
84	Kendrick Bourne	WR
85	George Kittle	TE
86	Kyle Nelson	LS
88	Garrett Celek	TE
89	Cole Wick	TE
90	Earl Mitchell	NT
91	Arik Armstead	DL
93	D.J. Jones	DL
94	Solomon Thomas	DL
96	Sheldon Day	DL
97	Dekoda Watson	LB
98	Ronald Blair III	DL
99	DeForest Buckner	DL

*Depth charts are unofficial. Rosters as of press time on Sept. 5.

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KICKERS HAVE
FEELINGS TOO.”

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Timeout with
**robert
 griffith**



Give Robert Griffith one word to describe the Vikings 1998 season, and he'll say it was electrifying.

By Lindsey Young

Griffith, who signed with the Vikings in 1994 after a brief stint in the CFL, explained that everything came together at the right time that season — a good mix of savvy veterans in their prime along with a slew of young players such as Randy Moss and Matthew Hatchette who added a spark and, in Moss' case, "some swagger."

"We were built to run. We had a [scheduled] hour-and-15-minute practice on the field, and we would get done in 51 minutes, because it was all about our tempo," Griffith said. "When the whistle went off for drills, nobody walked anywhere. And that's why we were electrifying."

"We got in the Dome, and people knew if they sneezed, we'd be up 21-0," Griffith added. "Because it was a track meet to us. And we practiced like that."

Griffith and a number of teammates from that iconic team are at today's game to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the 1998 season, and we caught up with the Pro-Bowl safety for a Timeout.

Q: In 1998, you had a career-high five interceptions, including two against Brett Favre in a Border Battle at Lambeau Field. What do you remember about that game?

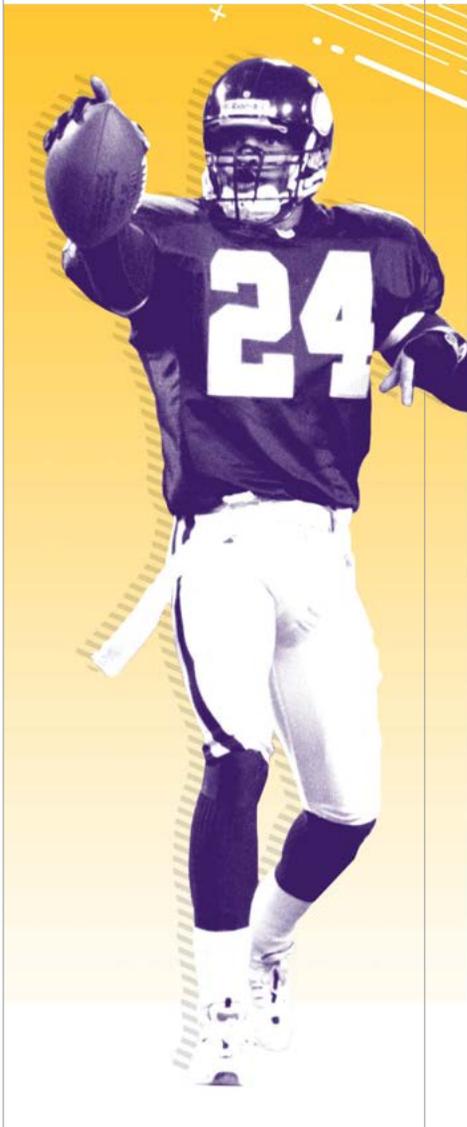
A: If I had to pinpoint games in my career, there's maybe 20 or 30 out of 195 I played in my career, I'd say that's one of them. First of all, it's Lambeau on Monday Night — it's always a big game. But we knew just by getting there a day early and looking at the grass, they wanted to slow us down. The grass was long, we had to put on extra-long spikes, so we knew it was going to be a grind-it-out kind of game. And then, I remember [Head Coach] Denny Green coming in that night and saying, 'We see everything they're trying to do to slow us down. So we've gotta give them more of what they know is coming.' And he said [to equipment manager Dennis Ryan], 'I want to make sure everybody has on the right cleats; we don't want no slipping. I want everybody digging into this ground, and we're going to run right by these guys.' Sure enough, we went on the field, and I've never seen a team more focused. ... Everybody was clued in. We went out there and we showed them. It was Oct. 5, 1998. I'll never forget that day. It was a good day.

Q: As someone who had been with the Vikings for four seasons already and played in the secondary, what were your first impressions of Randy Moss when he was drafted?

A: (Laughing) When he first came in, first practice, I was like, 'Who is this long, lanky, skinny dude?' You know, obviously I saw highlights from the draft, but the first practice, he's running by everybody. I knew right away that he was going to change the way we played as a team, from opening night. ... And sure enough, he opened up everything. He changed the Vikings forever. He really did.

Q: How would you describe Vikings fans and the support you received from them during your time in Minnesota (1994-2001)?

A: From the first days in Mankato all the way until my last game here in Minnesota, it's always been consistent. 'Minnesota nice' is not just a phrase; it's a way of life. The dedication and all the Purple [was incredible]. The best way to encapsulate it would be to say the fans are loyal; they deserved the new stadium, they deserve a championship, and I'm hoping within the next couple years that will happen. The fans have been outstanding. You know, I had an opportunity to play in Cleveland, and they have a great fan base, too, and then I had a



chance to play in Arizona for two years. But my home is Minnesota. There's no fans like in the state of Minnesota.

Q: Your Twitter bio (@GRIFF24SEVEN) says 'future author' — what types of books can we expect to see from you?

A: I actually have it written already – I have it out to a proofreader and just making sure it's all right. ... It's a guide to betting on yourself. It's my story, but it's [also] a lot of people I met along the way, how they impacted me. It has a lot of my life's stories on how ... just being able to look at myself in the morning and saying that I'm doing what feels good to me and what I really want to work hard for. A lot of people don't do that in the morning. There's no purpose, there's no grit to really want to go through some of the hard times to get what you really want. All that and just a lot of funny tales, a lot of my football experiences, some triumphs and some low points. A lot of experiences that I've had that I think people will relate to.

Q: I know you return to Minnesota most years for the Vikings Legends reunion; what motivates you to make that trip back regularly?

A: The Vikings gave me so much. I became a full-time starter here. I got a chance to sign my first contract here. I got a lot from the state of Minnesota. And the staff, people like Fred Zamberletti. Guys like him, Dennis Green, Leo Lewis, Scott Studwell, some of the other earlier people who took care of me even when they really didn't have to, but they believed in me. Like [former Vikings General Manager] Jeff Diamond – I signed three or four contracts with the Vikings, and every time they treated me as one of their own, as somebody who was not only a good football player but as somebody they respected in the community. So that's why I come back. And then the other thing is, I get to see all my boys who I played with over the years – get to hang out and reminisce and have a reunion every year. It's always great.

Q: Can you tell us a little bit about your foundation and your passion for giving back to the community?

A: One of the things I work on passionately is the Robert Griffith Foundation. I've given out 36 full scholarships to high school seniors. I've had people from Hamline University, Augsburg, the University of Minnesota, to name a few in the state. I also started a backpack company, called XOOX, almost three years ago with a partner of mine ... and my portion of the proceeds goes directly to my scholarship program. Every bag that I sell provides [funds] for my scholarship program. My goal is put a thousand seniors through school.

“We were built to run. We had a [scheduled] hour-and-15-minute practice on the field, and we would get done in 51 minutes, because it was all about our tempo. When the whistle went off for drills, nobody walked anywhere. And **that's why we were electrifying.**”

Robert Griffith on what made the 1998 Vikings special



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CUNNINGHAM

7

CELEBRATE 1988

HAS IT REALLY BEEN **20** YEARS SINCE...

THE VIKINGS put

together a historic 15-1 season, becoming the third team to navigate through a 16-game season with just one blemish on its record?

... a rookie wide receiver took the league by storm and helped ignite one of the most dynamic offenses in NFL history?

... an opportunistic defense enabled a remarkable turnaround?

"Twenty years ... it flies," said former Vikings running back Robert Smith, who was one of 10 Pro Bowlers for Minnesota in 1998.

Added Pro Bowl defensive tackle John Randle: "It doesn't feel like 20 years. It goes by quick, man."

A contingent from one of the most memorable teams in Vikings franchise history is reuniting this weekend as the organization celebrates the season that was in 1998.

They won't be returning to the Metrodome,

a stadium where the Vikings put up a staggering 282 total points (35.3 points per game) at home in eight regular-season games.

Instead, the reunion will take place at U.S. Bank Stadium, the Vikings glitzy and glamorous home that now sits on the site of the utilitarian Metrodome.

The memories, however, remain.

"I have a mosaic of all the memories and relationships of the guys I played with," said tackle Todd Steussie, a Pro Bowler in 1998.

"I'm looking forward to seeing some guys this

weekend."

Perhaps the strongest memories are of an offense that was unlike anything the NFL had ever seen before.

The Vikings scored 556 points in 1998, averaging almost 35 per contest, which set an NFL record that has since been eclipsed.

WRITTEN BY ERIC SMITH

Lost voice at Vikings game



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Minnesota scored at least 24 points in every game and broke the 30-point barrier in 11 of 16 regular-season games.

There were plenty of standout individual performances along the way.

Future Hall of Famer Randy Moss, the 21st overall pick in the 1998 NFL Draft, earned Offensive Rookie of the Year honors after having 69 catches for 1,313 yards and a rookie-record 17 touchdown catches.

Cris Carter, another future Hall of Famer, recorded 78 receptions for 1,011 yards and 12 scores. Jake Reed had 474 receiving yards and four touchdowns as the wide receiver group earned the moniker of “Three Deep.”

Robert Smith ran for 1,187 yards and six scores, and fellow running back Leroy Hoard found the end zone nine times on the ground.

And Randall Cunningham, who began the season as the backup, went 13-1 as the starter as he threw for 3,704 yards with 34 touchdowns and just 10 interceptions. He had nine games with a passer rating of 100 or higher and threw four touchdowns in a game on four separate occasions.

“We were just really good,” Smith said. “It wasn’t about trying to make a statement, it was just an illustration of who we were and what kind of talent we had.”

Added Steussie: “It seemed like game day was kind of our playground.”

Minnesota opened the season with a resounding 31-7 win over NFC Central rival Tampa Bay. Quarterback Brad Johnson threw for four touchdowns, including two to Moss in the

receiver’s debut game.

“I guess my first strong inclination that this might be unique was the opening game against Tampa,” Steussie said. “It seemed like things were coming together in a way that our team speed was pretty evident, especially against a team like the Bucs who had a strong defense. I don’t know if that was our coming-out party, but it was certainly a good indicator.”

That jump-started a 7-0 start, with five of those wins coming by double digits.

“I remember we went undefeated in the preseason, and it just kind of had a different feel to it,” Smith said. “Everybody just kind of seemed to be on the same page. But [all teams] generally feel good during training camp before you get into games.

“We didn’t really know what we had until the real games started,” Smith added. “You keep winning and you start building momentum and you realize you have something completely different [than ever before].”

Minnesota’s lone loss came in Week 9 at Tampa Bay, a 27-24 defeat at the hands of Buccaneers head coach Tony Dungy, who had spent the 1992-1995 seasons as the Vikings defensive coordinator.

“He was the guy who basically invented our

defense,”

Randle said.

“If anybody knew how to play us, it was Tony Dungy. He was the original godfather of this defense.”

But the Vikings ripped off eight straight wins to end the season, following the same formula for success over and over and over again.

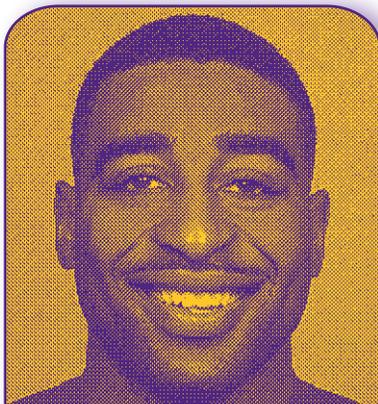
Moss, Carter and Smith would usually help get the Vikings out to a halftime lead and then would continue to pour it on in the second half.

The Vikings defense, meanwhile, faced opponents who would abandon the run game and try to play catch-up in the second half. It worked right into Minnesota’s favor.

Minnesota had a double-digit halftime lead in eight of 16 games and had 12 victories by 10 or more points in 1998.

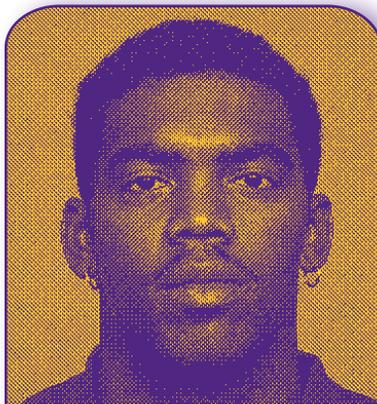
“With Randy and everybody, we just scored so many points,” said Randle, who had 10.5 sacks that season. “As a defensive player you would come to the sideline, and every time the offense was on the field, they were scoring.

CRIS CARTER



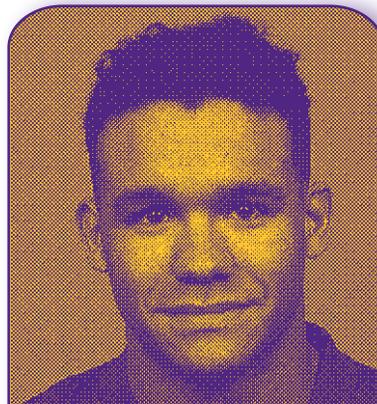
78 CATCHES + 1,011 YDS

RANDY MOSS



69 CATCHES + 1,313 YDS

ROBERT SMITH



6 SCORES + 1,187 RUSH YDS

"For the defensive guys, we had a lead so early and were so many points ahead," Randle added. "With me being a pass rusher, we were always rushing the passer and that's what we wanted. Nobody could really try to run the ball because they were behind."

Added cornerback Corey Fuller: "A lot of it had to do with how potent our offense was. We got a lot of teams behind, and they had to do things they didn't want to do. I don't know why we finished so low in '97 on defense because it was the same group of guys the next year."

The Vikings were among the league's most porous defenses in 1997, ranking 29th out of 30 teams in yards allowed per game (355.4) while tying for 19th in points allowed per game (22.4).

Minnesota was much improved in 1998. The Vikings ranked sixth in points allowed per game (18.5) and were 13th in yards allowed per game (316.6).

What led to the drastic turnaround?

"It was because of the offense," Randle said with a laugh. "If it wasn't a touchdown, we were at least kicking a field goal."

The defense wasn't afraid to score on its own, either.

Jimmy Hitchcock picked off a career-high seven passes. And the cornerback led the league with three interception returns for touchdowns and 242 return yards. Linebacker Dwayne Rudd also returned two of his three fumble recoveries for touchdowns.

And the special teams units did their part. Gary Anderson made all 35 of his field goal tries, and return man David

Palmer had a kickoff return for a score.



**"WE WERE JUST REALLY
GOOD... IT WAS AN
ILLUSTRATION OF WHO
WE WERE AND WHAT KIND
OF TALENT WE HAD."**

**- ROBERT SMITH
1998 RB**

The Vikings secured a first-round bye before opening the postseason with a 41-21 win over Arizona in the Divisional Round at home.

But Minnesota's magical season wasn't meant to include a trip to Super Bowl XXXIII. The Vikings fell to Atlanta in the NFC title game despite holding a touchdown lead in the game's final minutes.

The dream of escaping the Minnesota winter to play the Super Bowl in Miami was dashed.

"The saddest part was driving home from downtown on [Highway] 394," Randle said. "On a personal note, I felt as if we let our fans down because there was so much hype and belief for us to get to our destiny and to get to the Super Bowl. For a lot of Vikings fans, 1998 was supposed to be our year."

As players, coaches and those associated with the 1998 Vikings reconnect this weekend, there are a mix of emotions.

There is a feeling of grief that Dennis Green, the former head coach who passed away in 2016, won't be part of the reunion.

"The saddest part about this is that Denny is not here to see the celebration," Fuller said. "It was one of his greatest accomplishments as a leader."

And there is still a bittersweet nostalgia that players feel as they recall the memories of perhaps the best season in Vikings history, while also wondering, even 20 years later, what could have been.

"Most people, when they think of '98, you always think of the last game," Smith said. "It's unfortunate that that's the case, but it's just reality ... that you think of the way the season ended."

"But then when you think about the season itself, it kind of takes a lot of that pain away just because it was so much fun," Smith added. "There are a lot more great memories than bad memories ... it just so

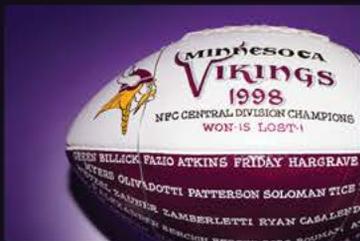
happens that the bad memory was the last memory."



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The newly opened museum includes a display on the famed 1998 team, celebrating their 15 wins and record 556 points that season. See first-hand cleats worn by Hall of Famer Randall McDaniel, gloves from receiver Jake Reid, and other unique memorabilia.

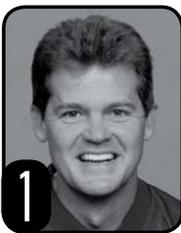
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'98

PRO-BOWLERS

It was almost hard to keep track of the number of Pro Bowlers the Vikings produced in 1998. There were 10 in all, which set a record that was tied by the 2009 Vikings for the most in team history. There were seven players (including three offensive linemen) from a historically great offense, along with a pair of defensive players and a special teams ace. How good was this group? **FOUR OF THE 10 PLAYERS LANDED IN THE PRO FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME.**

Written by: Eric Smith

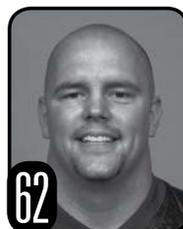


GARY ANDERSON

Kicker

No kicker in NFL history has had a more impressive regular season than Anderson did in 1998. Anderson made all 35 of his field goal tries, which is an NFL record for the highest attempts without a miss in league history. He made six field goals in Week 15 against Baltimore and added five more in Week 3 against Detroit. A four-time Pro Bowl selection who played for the Vikings from 1998 to 2003, Anderson racked up 164 points in his first season with Minnesota, which ranks as the fifth-highest single-season point total in NFL history.

Four-time Pro Bowl Selection

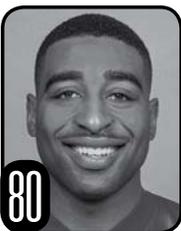


JEFF CHRISTY

Center

Christy made his first career Pro Bowl appearance in 1998 and started a string of three consecutive appearances in the annual showcase game. The center was the man in the middle of a productive offensive line that helped lead the way for a powerful offense that set a then-NFL record with 556 total points. Christy was a key cog on an offense that scored 58 touchdowns and averaged a whopping 34.8 points per game.

Three-time Pro Bowl Selection



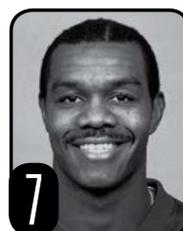
CRIS CARTER

Wide Receiver

Ho hum, it was another 1,000-yard season for Carter in 1998. The wide receiver had 78 catches for 1,011 yards and 12 touchdowns to help ignite a lethal Vikings offense. Carter's performance in 1998 was the sixth of eight straight 1,000-yard seasons and one of six times he hauled in double-digit scores. Carter, who is atop the Minnesota record book with 1,004 career catches for 12,383 yards and 110 touchdowns, was named as one of the 50 Greatest Vikings. He was inducted into the Vikings Ring of Honor in 2003 and was enshrined into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2013.

Eight-time Pro Bowl Selection

2013 Hall of Fame Inductee

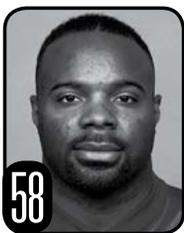


RANDALL CUNNINGHAM

Quarterback

Perhaps no player was more of a surprise Pro Bowler than Cunningham, who began the 1998 season as the backup quarterback. But Cunningham took the reins when Brad Johnson was injured in Week 2 and never looked back. Cunningham went 13-1 as a starter in 1998, throwing for 3,704 yards with 34 touchdowns and just 10 interceptions. He had nine games with a passer rating of 100 or higher and threw four touchdowns in a game on four separate occasions. Cunningham won the 1998 Bert Bell Award for his impressive campaign.

Four-time Pro Bowl Selection



58

**1998 Pro Bowl
Selection**

ED MCDANIEL

Linebacker

McDaniel was one of the leaders of the 1998 defense and produced the only Pro Bowl appearance of his 10-year career. The linebacker led the Vikings with 155 tackles and added three forced fumbles with a pair of fumble recoveries. He also did plenty of damage in pass-rush situations, tallying a career-high 7.0 sacks. McDaniel, a fifth-round pick out of Clemson in the 1992 NFL Draft, had 19.5 total sacks in his career. He also had a fumble recovery in the NFC title game.



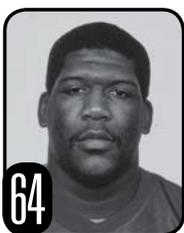
93

**Seven-Time Pro
Bowl Selection
2010 Hall of
Fame Inductee**

JOHN RANDLE

Defensive Tackle

An emotional and vocal leader of the Vikings defense, Randle was in the midst of multiple impressive streaks in 1998. His Pro Bowl nod marked the sixth straight season that the defensive tackle was honored with that accolade, and his total 10.5 sacks was the seventh of eight straight seasons with double-digit sacks. Randle added three forced fumbles and a fumble recovery for good measure as Minnesota's defense ranked sixth in the NFL by allowing just 18.5 points per game. Named as one of the 50 Greatest Vikings, Randle was inducted into the Vikings Ring of Honor in 2008 and was enshrined into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2010.



64

**Twelve-time Pro
Bowl Selection
2009 Hall of
Fame Inductee**

RANDALL MCDANIEL

Guard

By the time the 1998 season came and went, McDaniel was a fixture in the Pro Bowl. The guard made 12 straight Pro Bowls in his career, with his 10th consecutive appearance coming in 1998. McDaniel was an anchor on the Vikings offensive line, helping the unit allow just 25 sacks, which tied for fourth that season. McDaniel was honored with a slew of accolades during and after his career. Named as one of the 50 Greatest Vikings, McDaniel was inducted into the Vikings Ring of Honor in 2006 and was enshrined into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2009.



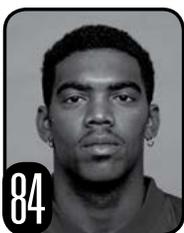
26

**Two-Time Pro
Bowl Selection**

ROBERT SMITH

Running Back

It wasn't all about the aerial attack in 1998. Smith kept plenty of defenses on their toes in the ground game, too, as the former first-round pick rushed for 1,187 yards and six touchdowns on 249 carries (4.8 yards per carry). Smith's rushing total was the third-highest of his career, and his touchdown total was tied for the second-highest of his career as he made the first of two Pro Bowl appearances in his career. Smith, who had five games with 100-plus rushing yards, also added 28 catches for 291 yards and two touchdowns.



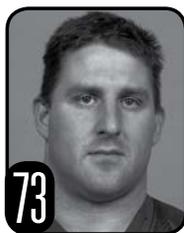
84

**Six-time Pro
Bowl Selection
2017 Hall of
Fame Inductee**

RANDY MOSS

Wide Receiver

Nobody has burst onto the NFL scene like Moss did in 1998. The 21st overall pick in the 1998 NFL Draft, the wide receiver struck fear into opposing defenses on a weekly basis during his rookie season. Moss recorded 69 catches for 1,313 yards and 17 touchdowns, a mark that still stands as a single-season record for rookies. One of Moss' most memorable moments occurred on Thanksgiving Day in 1998 when he had three catches for 163 yards, with each reception being a 50-plus yard score. One of the newest members of the Pro Football Hall of Fame, Moss was enshrined in Canton, Ohio, on Aug. 4. Named as one of the 50 Greatest Vikings, he was also inducted into the Vikings Ring of Honor in 2017.



73

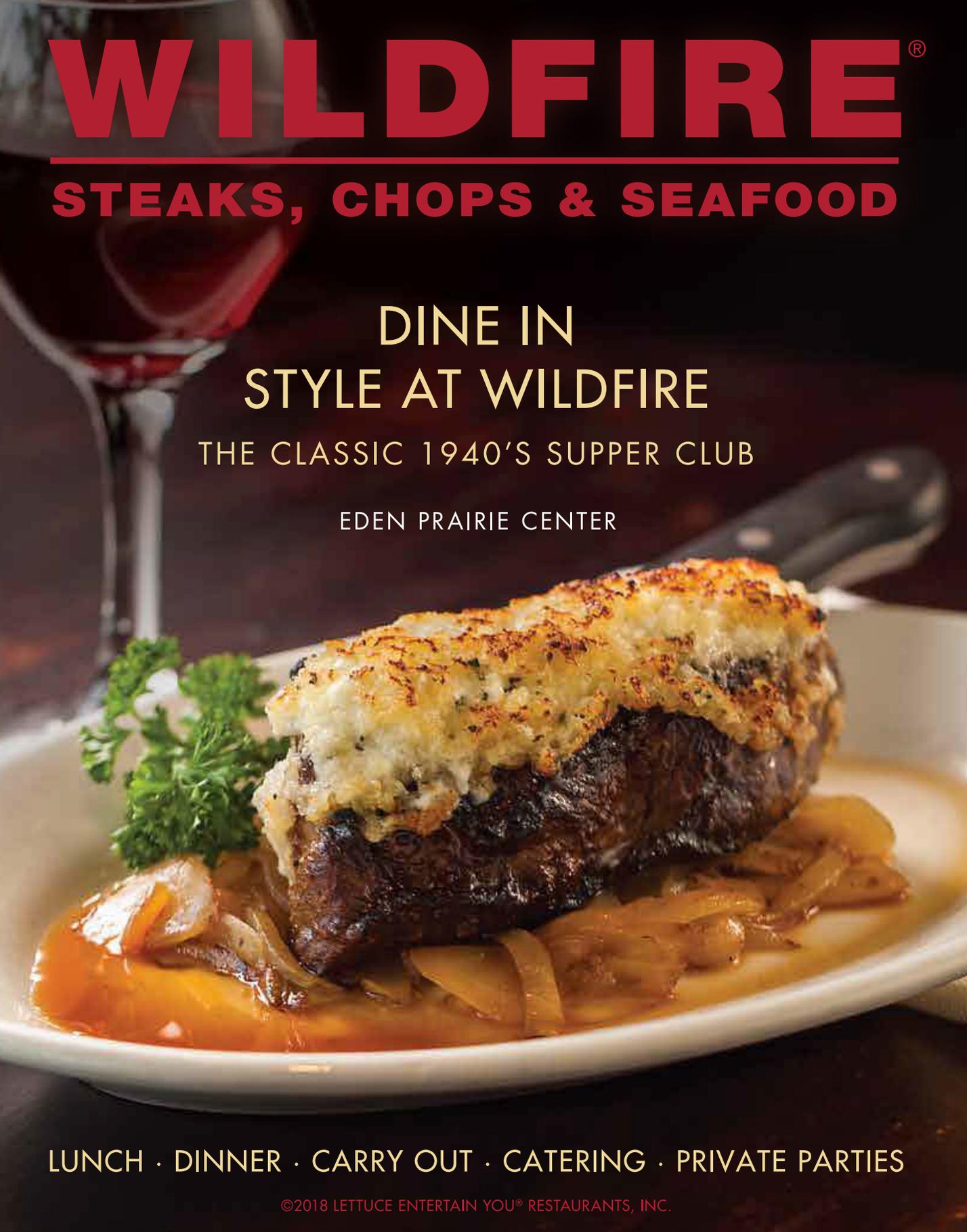
**Two-Time Pro
Bowl Selection**

TODD STEUSSIE

Tackle

The left tackle was a first-round selection in the 1994 NFL Draft before blossoming into one of the league's top blindside protectors. Steussie made the first of two career Pro Bowls in 1998 when he helped the Vikings offense put up 391.5 yards per game, including 121 yards per game on the ground. Steussie played in 15 regular-season games for Minnesota in 1998 and saw action in 111 career games in Purple. Steussie was also named as an All-Pro selection by *Sports Illustrated* for his consistent and steady play in 1998.

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8 GAMES THAT DEFINED THE 1998 SEASON

Written by: Craig Peters | Quotes sourced by the *Star Tribune's* coverage of games in 1998



Week 1, Sept. 6

Metrodome | Minneapolis
Vikings 31, Buccaneers 7

A day after Head Coach Dennis Green signed a contract extension, Minnesota stormed to a 21-point halftime lead and cruised. Brad Johnson threw four touchdown passes, including the first two caught by Randy Moss (48 and 31 yards) and two others caught by Cris Carter (1 and 18).

"That 84 is going to make a big difference in that Vikings offense. . . . When they put those three wide outs (Moss, Carter and Jake Reed) on the field, they can really stretch it out."

— BUCS DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR MONTE KIFFIN



Week 4, Sept. 27

Soldier Field | Chicago
Vikings 31, Bears 28

Even in 1998, playing in Chicago was a struggle. The Bears built a 21-10 halftime lead, but a 53-yard punt return by David Palmer set up a quick touchdown drive that ended with a 19-yard pass from Cunningham to Andrew Glover. Corey Fuller ended Chicago's next possession by intercepting Erik Kramer at the Minnesota 6, and the Vikings followed with a 35-yard touchdown from Cunningham to Carter four plays later. Cunningham added a 44-yard touchdown to Moss in the fourth quarter.

"When we scored that first touchdown in the second half, you could see a little doubt creeping into their eyes."

— VIKINGS T TODD STEUSSIE



Week 5, Oct. 5

Lambeau Field | Green Bay
Vikings 37, Packers 24

Cunningham passed for 442 yards (second-most of his career), four touchdowns and a passer rating of 145.8. Moss (190 on five catches), Carter (119 on eight catches) and Reed (89 on four catches) accounted for 398 receiving yards. Griffith had two interceptions, and Orlando Thomas also intercepted future Hall of Famer Brett Favre.



Week 9, Nov. 1

Raymond James Stadium | Tampa
Buccaneers 27, Vikings 24

Tampa Bay rushed 41 times for a whopping 246 yards and two touchdowns, helping the Buccaneers keep the ball for 33:35 and out of the hands of Minnesota's explosive offense. Reed led the Vikings with six catches, 117 yards and two touchdowns. A game that was tied at 7, 14 and 17 turned in the fourth quarter.

"Everybody in this room has lost before, everybody. I think we're poised enough to come back and get back on the right track. But it doesn't matter, whenever a loss comes. It's tough. Because once you rise to this level, everybody hates to lose."

— LB DWAYNE RUDD



Week 12, Nov. 22

Metrodome | Minneapolis
Vikings 28, Packers 14

The Vikings used big plays on defense early and offense late to win a game they never trailed. Jimmy Hitchcock returned an interception of Brett Favre 58 yards for a touchdown in the first quarter. Moss caught a 49-yard touchdown in the fourth quarter.



Week 13, Nov. 26

Texas Stadium | Irving
Vikings 46, Cowboys 36

It was a distinctly Moss stat line. Three catches, three touchdowns of more than 50 yards. The rookie totaled 163 yards, scoring on receptions of 51, 56 and 56 yards. The Vikings also got a 54-yard touchdown catch by Carter and a 50-yard scoring run by Leroy Hoard, who had a 12-yard touchdown run, as well.

"Normally, you get 10 to 15 yards out of that . . . at best. To see him take it 56 yards, well . . . that's pretty good. How'd he get past those guys?"

— OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR BRIAN BILLICK



Week 16, Dec. 20

Metrodome | Minneapolis
Vikings 50, Jaguars 10

The Vikings outscored the Jaguars 26-3 through three quarters and 24-7 in the fourth. Glover caught his second touchdown of the day in between scoring receptions of 43 yards by Moss and 1 by Carter in the third quarter to break open the game. Hitchcock returned an interception of Jonathan Quinn 30 yards for a touchdown in the fourth quarter. Randle had 2.0 sacks, and Minnesota finished 8-0 at home in the regular season and secured home-field advantage.

"This line is the best one I've seen in a long time, other than those [at Washington in the 1980s]. These guys are much more athletic. This is the most incredible bunch of athletes that we've put together here."

— OFFENSIVE LINE COACH CHIP MYERS



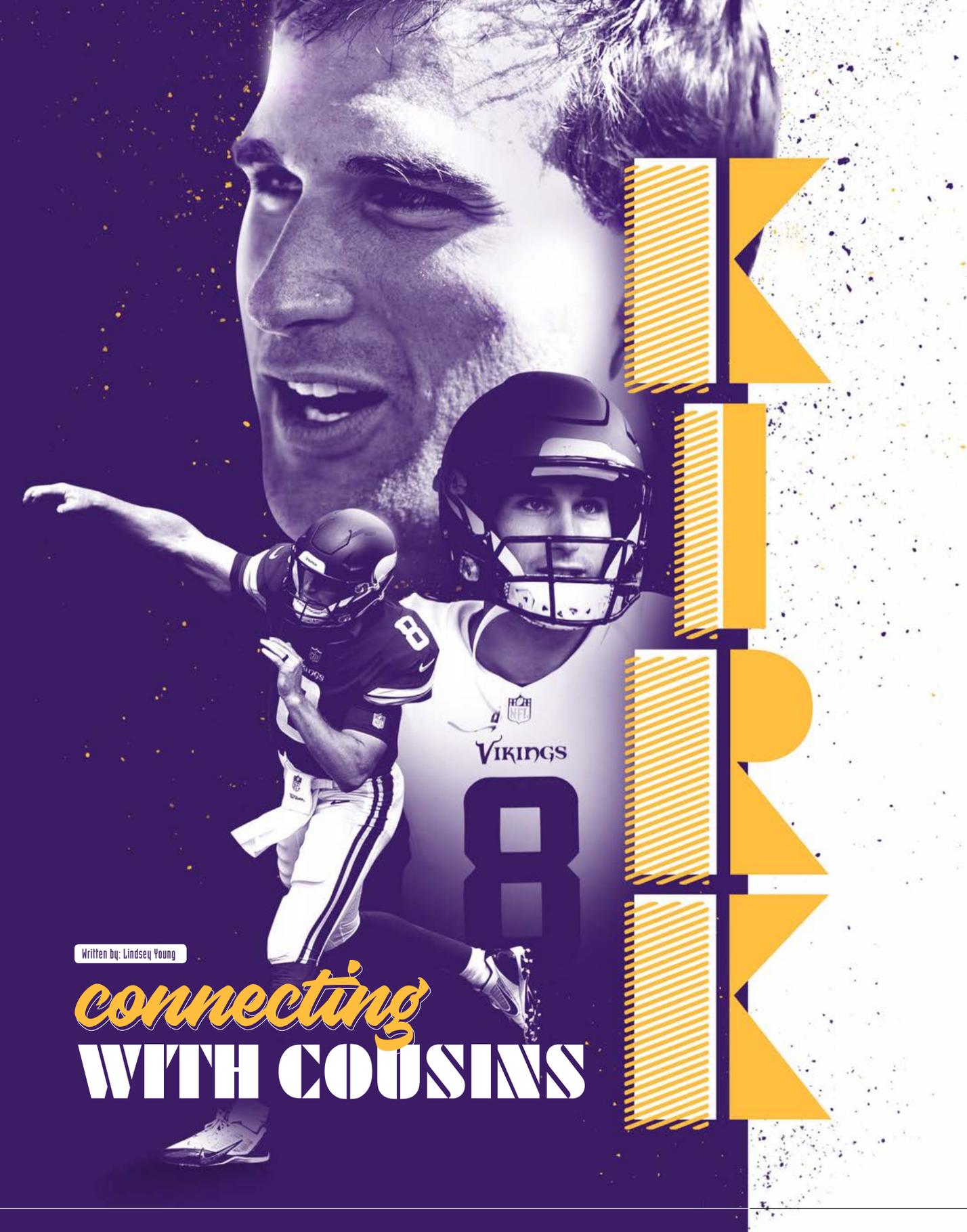
Week 17, Dec. 26

Vanderbilt Stadium | Nashville
Vikings 26, Oilers 16

The Vikings capped their record-setting season in Music City. Minnesota finished with 556 points for a new NFL record that would later be topped. Gary Anderson accounted for 164 of those points, making all 35 field goals and 59 extra points to become the first kicker to go an entire season without a miss. Anderson's 39-yarder with 1:03 to play pushed him into the record book for most points by a kicker in a season (later broken by David Akers, 166). Moss caught his 17th touchdown to set the NFL rookie record.

"It's amazing. We struggled to put 26 points on the board. We just have high expectations for ourselves. That would be great for some teams. I think we pressured ourselves a little too much early. We were too fired up."

— QB RANDALL CUNNINGHAM ON THE TEAM SETTING THE SCORING RECORD



MARK

Written by: Lindsey Young

connecting
WITH COUSINS

Subtly beneath the sounds of laughter and leather footballs landing in young hands, Kirk Cousins hummed along with the instrumental bridge of Europe's "THE FINAL COUNTDOWN."

Hum Do Do Dooo-Do-Do Do Do Do Doo.

The iconic melody blared through the football stadium's speakers, and Kirk kept in time – and in tune – as he played catch with sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders at his youth football camp in Holland, Michigan.

The song is reminiscent of an earlier time in his athletic career, when Kirk led his ninth-grade basketball team to a perfect 20-0 season. Following every game that year, Kirk and his teammates clapped, hummed and sang "The Final Countdown" in the locker room to celebrate the win.

Silly, sure. But also significant, pointed out Eric Huizenga, a lifelong friend of Kirk's and part of the undefeated squad.

"That's something that Kirk started, and we still bring it up today," Huizenga said. "It's a fun tradition, and it brings good memories. But it also just shows his leadership qualities – it expands to everyone. And it's something that seems to still hold true to this day.

"Kirk is such a natural leader," Huizenga explained. "You can tell the minute you meet him that he just takes hold of a room ... whether it's a sporting event, whether it's in the classroom, he's someone everyone wants to be around."

LEARNING TO LEAD

Kirk's ability to bring people together is nothing new. It surfaced at an incredibly young age, after a bit of warming up.

When Kirk's mother, MaryAnn, first took her youngest son to preschool, he didn't want to enter the classroom. Though prodded by the teachers to leave Kirk and trust that he'd acclimate to the new

surroundings, MaryAnn opted to not force the youngster to attend.

More than 20 years later, she chuckles at the decision to return every Tuesday through Thursday, week after week, hand-in-hand with young Kirk, only to turn around and drive back home.

"He'd just stare, look at the kids playing, 'No, Mommy, let's go home.' And I'd say, 'OK, bud. We'll go when you're ready,'" MaryAnn recalled. She laughed before adding, "So I embarrassingly took him there from August through, it was a day in October, I remember."

On that day, something changed. Kirk told his mother, "I think I'll go in," and proudly marched into preschool.

No more than a few weeks later, MaryAnn began fielding numerous phone calls from other mothers wanting to set up playdates with Kirk, although it wasn't tangibly clear why others were so drawn to him.

"Kyle played with friends in our neighborhood, and he went to preschool," MaryAnn said of the elder brother by less than two years. "But for some reason with Kirk, it was [different]."

MaryAnn added, "He was like the Pied Piper or something."

ALL-INCLUSIVE

In grade school, Kirk organized a football team at recess. He made sure everyone who wanted to be on a team was involved, no matter the skill level.

Kirk showed an early passion for sports and for leading but placed an equally fervent emphasis on inclusion. And whether you talk to childhood friends, family members or his high school athletic director, those whose paths have crossed Kirk's use similar words to describe him.

Magnetic. Selfless. Humble.

When the Cousins family moved from Chicago to Michigan while Kirk was in the seventh grade, he attended Holland Christian School, where a glass trophy case marked "Athletic Achievements" stands in a hallway near the gymnasium.

Above a space recognizing the girls volleyball program, a square case maybe 3-feet-by-3-feet is dedicated to football and marked "Est. 2003," which coincidentally also marked Kirk's freshman year.

Holland Athletic Director Dave Engbers pointed out a wall graphic in the back of the case. In the photo, the school's first varsity football players are running from the locker room onto the field.

Interestingly, Kirk is not leading the charge. In fact, he's not visible at all.

"In true Kirk form, he's not the one right out in front," Engbers said.

Engbers called attention to another aspect of the photograph, a young man with Down syndrome who served as a team manager.

"You know what stood out to me? Kirk had two really close friends (among many), and they happened to have special needs," Engbers said. "So you talk about stitching together different people from different groups – Kirk was instrumental in that.

"You take the quarterback of the football team, who takes a student with special needs and says, 'You're my partner, in choir, all year and throughout the rest of high school,' that can make a big impact on the culture of the school," Engbers added. "Kirk made a big impact in the life of the school here, and I think he continues to. He did the same at Michigan State, I think he did it with the Redskins, and I can't wait to see what he's going to do with the Vikings."

It's always been Kirk's practice to hold a wide group of friends.



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"I tend to gather people together," Kirk acknowledged with a chuckle and shrug of his shoulders. "I take joy in having relationships with different people and bringing them all in, and it's usually an eclectic group."

FOUNDED IN FAITH

It's a theme that he passes on to the young men who attend his annual football camp.

Group messages to the youth don't preach pocket awareness and how to release the perfect spiral. In fact, very few Xs and Os are taught by the quarterback at all. The sport is played, yes. But more often than not, Kirk is teaching young people under his brief care about being young men of high character.

Kirk encouraged his 2018 campers to memorize Ephesians 4:29 and to apply the Bible verse to their daily lives:

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

"I want to challenge you guys today as you leave to be someone who uses your mouth, uses your words to bring life to people – to bring excitement and to bring joy to people's lives, to encourage rather than to tear down," Kirk told the youth in Holland. "It will make a difference in your life if you put God's Word in your heart."

Kirk later explained that he had only wanted to put his name on a football camp if it truly communicated "what I'm all about."

beliefs," Kyle said in reference to Kirk's commitment to Christianity. "And yet at the same time, you just can't tell Kirk's story [without that piece]."

LOVING AN UNDERDOG

The story of Kirk Cousins is one of an underdog.

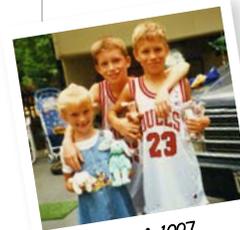
His father, Don, says that Kirk has always to some degree been overlooked and underestimated, that he's "never been expected out of the gate" to immediately succeed.

He did stand out at his small, Christian high school but made it to Michigan State by the skin of his teeth as one of the last recruits to be brought on by the Spartans. He battled his way to a starting position in the Big Ten before fulfilling his dream of being drafted – but found himself selected lower than anticipated and behind Robert Griffin III, who started ahead of Kirk in Washington for two-and-a-half seasons.

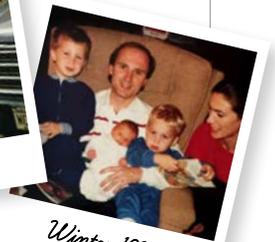
Time and time again, Kirk has defeated the odds. It's perhaps fitting, then, that among his favorite films is *Rudy*, which encapsulates a true underdog narrative.

Kirk's father, Don, introduced his three children to the movie at a young age – accompanying the PG-rated flick with a disclaimer about foul language – and Kirk and Kyle immediately fell in love with the story.

MaryAnn recalled one Christmas when the only thing Kirk requested was *Rudy*, no doubt on VHS.



March 1997



Winter 1990

The Cousins have always been a close-knit family.

When Kirk first established his football camp, involving his parents and siblings only seemed natural. Whether it's his brother or dad running drills or his mom or sister, Karalyne, supporting from the sidelines, Kirk appreciates the way his camp creates an informal reunion in Holland, Michigan.

"That's really a highlight [of the camp] for me — it's become this, over the years, my family comes from different parts of the country and comes here those two or three days to be together," Kirk said. "So that adds to the whole experience, as well."

"I take joy in having relationships with different people and bringing them all in, and it's usually an eclectic group."

– Kirk Cousins

"The foundation of my life is the Bible and is the Gospel," Kirk said. "So it'd be hard for me to put a camp on, whether it's football or anything else, and not talk about the foundation of my life."

It's not uncommon to hear Kirk quote Scripture, whether talking with middle-school boys or addressing media members in front of a Vikings Purple backdrop.

"We always want to be careful and sensitive not to beat people over the head with our

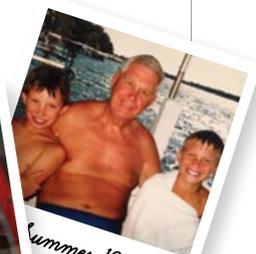
Kyle also remembered the movie playing on repeat in the Cousins home, saying Kirk watched it once a week before his high school football games.

"[Rudy was] a guy who reaped the fruits of sowing hard work when he wasn't the biggest, strongest or fastest," Kyle said. "I think Kirk especially identified with that story and that character."

Kyle pointed out that a number of Kirk's obstacles can easily be interpreted as "there's



December 1993



Summer 1997

no chance," but that his younger brother's story has been a reflection of his faith.

"Just stay disciplined to the process, stay faithful and see what happens, see what God does," Kyle said. "And now you look back and say, 'Oh, wow. He's done a lot.' It's kind of crazy what's happened."

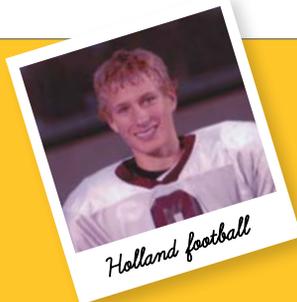
QUIRKY YET CONFIDENT

Two humid June days spent in Holland, Michigan, offered snapshots of who Kirk Cousins is.

His awareness and willingness to put an arm around an anxious camper and offer encouragement.

An emphasis on the Gospel and the central role that Kirk's faith plays in his life.

His competitive nature and "fun side" that surfaced during an aggressive evening of campers-versus-coaches in dodgeball, during which the quarterback dodged, ducked,



FOOTBALL JOURNEY



HOLLAND CHRISTIAN H.S.
2003-06



MICHIGAN STATE
2007-11



WASHINGTON REDSKINS
2012-17



MINNESOTA VIKINGS
2018

"Kirk's greatest quality as a leader is humility."

- Kyle Cousins, brother



dipped, dived and dodged. He didn't take it easy on his younger opponents, instead winding up and sending the small, colorful balls whistling through the gymnasium.

Kirk tangibly illustrated his desire to fly under the radar when he donned a blue camp T-shirt, sunglasses and a black sun-protect hat, literally blending in with the crew of other coaches.

The music played throughout the camp covered everything from more *Jock Jams* favorites and Christian contemporary, to country hits and epic instrumentals resembling the *Lord of the Rings* soundtrack.

The 30-year-old will continue to share his faith, like he did when he signed with the Vikings, and let out a "Boo-yah" or two during practices with his new teammates because he's confident in who he is.

Kirk is just Kirk.

When he was included in the NFL's Top 100 list following the 2017 season, a number of Kirk's peers were interviewed, including receiver Doug Baldwin, whose Seahawks were defeated by Kirk and the Redskins one week before Minnesota defeated Washington.

"What I appreciate about Kirk Cousins ... is that he knows who he is," Baldwin said. "I hear him talk, I watch his body language. You can tell he's very confident in who he is as a person, as a human being on this earth."

Kyle said the assessment of his brother is "spot on," and it's Kirk's "wiring" that has enabled him to lead the Vikings locker room before even playing a regular-season game.

"Kirk's greatest quality as a leader is humility," Kyle said proudly. "Our dad used to define leadership to us when we were kids, and he would say, 'Leadership is taking others where they want or need to go but can't get to on their own.' That definition assumes two things. First, that the leader is needed; but second - that it's not about him."

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WRITTEN BY CRAIG PETERS



The tributes rolled in via Twitter and Instagram posts, blogs and Fred Zamberletti's favorite, anecdotes relayed through conversations.

The Vikings Ring of Honor member who served as the team's original athletic trainer from 1961-98, as coordinator of medical services from 1999-2001 and as senior consultant and historian since 2002 passed away on Sept. 2 at the age of 86.

Generations of players posted their remembrances of the beloved Zamberletti with a love-based toughness and sincere respect. He earned the trust of players and coaches as a friend, confidant and someone who would enable them to get back to their bests.

The list included fellow Ring of Honor members like Randy Moss via Instagram and Scott Studwell in a CaringBridge.org message.

Moss posted: "On behalf of all the Purple People Eaters & true Viking fans worldwide...thank u mr. fred Zamberletti! #skol#rip#oldtimer."

Studwell wrote: "It's been 42 yrs since we first laid eyes on each other, and thankfully for me, you were always a poor evaluator of talent. We have both been through and seen a lot of changes in this business over the years, but you were always a constant sounding board and good friend over the course of my time with the Vikings. I certainly don't miss running gassers with a cast on my leg

or carrying you up flights of stairs in the stadium in Mankato, but I do miss your wisdom, passion, and honesty. Take care my friend and thoughts of you bring a smile to my face. Love-#55"

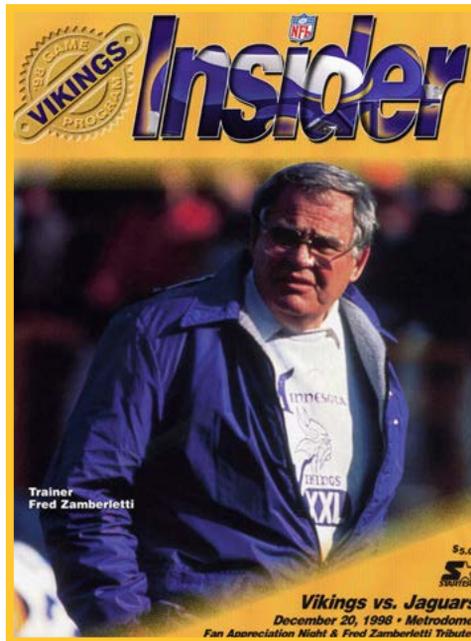
Jake Reed tweeted his gratitude, writing, "I cannot put into words what Fred Zamberletti meant to me. He helped me more than anyone ever knows through all my injuries and down time. I am forever grateful to him. Rest In Peace, my friend! Much love and respect...God bless you, my man! #skol #vikings #greatman #love"

In addition to his work in the training room, Zamberletti connected through card games and bocce ball in the locker room and through conversations.

Zamberletti's former colleague Chuck Barta, referred to as "Chasmo," was able to visit Zamberletti in the hospital. As did Hall of Fame Head Coach Bud Grant and Vikings Director of Food Service Operations Geji McKinney-Banks, who sang opera music to her friend during the visit.

Vikings Owners Zygi and Mark Wilf fully understood Zamberletti's importance to the franchise. When the Vikings moved to their sparkling new headquarters at Twin Cities Orthopedics Performance Center, they made sure to build Zamberletti an office.

"Fred was a staple of the franchise since its founding, helping build the Vikings from an expansion club in 1961 to a team ingrained in the fabric



of life for Minnesota and the Upper Midwest," Vikings Owners Zygi and Mark Wilf said. "He cared deeply about the health of his players as well as their lives off the field. With his incredible stories and his passion for the team, he was respected by us as owners. Each of us inside the Vikings has our own personal memories we shared with Fred, and those will never be forgotten."

The sheer impact that Zamberletti had on the Vikings family cascaded throughout the organization. A smile and a story complemented each other during conversations. Where he walked, kindness followed and flowed to others, regardless of how long someone had been part of the Vikings family. He lived out his Christian faith.

Vikings Chief Operating Officer Kevin Warren said Zamberletti "was loyal, intelligent, hard-working, tough and dedicated."

"Fred was a true Renaissance man. He was incredibly knowledgeable about wide-ranging subjects and could capture your attention with his storytelling ability," Warren added. "We rarely discussed football and primarily focused on family, faith, music and life. Fred had a powerful and unique ability to relate to everyone and was a man with a huge heart who deeply loved God and spent every day striving to make the world a better place. My prayers are with the Zamberletti family."

There were only a handful of people who joined the Vikings before Zamberletti. The five founding owners – Max Winter, Bill Boyer, H.P. Skoglund, Bernard Ridder, Jr., and Ole Haugsrud – first scout Joe Thomas, initial general manager Bert Rose, and original Head Coach Norm Van Brocklin started with the team before Zamberletti, who served in the U.S. Infantry.

Zamberletti's distinguished and remarkable tenure with the team included a span of 1,049 consecutive games from Minnesota's first preseason game in 1961 until December 2011 when an illness prevented him from traveling with the team for a road game at Washington. Zamberletti bounced back the

GOD BLESS BIG FRED,
always remembered you smiling.
Wonderful person.

- VISANTHE SHIANCOE

FRED, I have a very special place
in my heart and memory for you.
You were always honest and a great
advisor to young guys in the NFL,
I miss your storytelling and lessons
on toughness. Thinking about you,
and praying for you!

- HUNTER GOODWIN

FRED, for 25 years now I have
been practicing my cribbage skills
for the chance to play you one more
time in hopes of winning back some
of my salary! Those memories of
playing countless hours in the locker
room were some of my fondest.
You are in my thoughts always.

- MARK DUSBABEK

HEY SALSICCIA, some of my
best memories with the Vikings are
our games of locker room bocce
ball! I always appreciated our
conversations and your wisdom.

- ADAM GOLDBERG

following week for the season finale.

It all began with a series of letters seasoned with passion and persistence. Zamberletti's start with the Vikings is relayed in the Vikings Museum. Prior to the construction of the 14,000-square-foot museum, Zamberletti was the de facto museum – or at least a vividly interesting and charming encyclopedia. His story follows:

When Minnesota's expansion franchise was announced, Zamberletti was at the University of Toledo. He wrote a letter to Joe Thomas, the Vikings first scout.

Thomas explained that the Vikings hadn't hired a GM.

When Bert Rose was announced as GM, Zamberletti penned Rose, who explained that the team hadn't hired its head coach.

After Norm Van Brocklin's hire, Zamberletti sent two letters before getting a call.

Van Brocklin said, "Bambino, can you tape an ankle?"

"Yes."

"Can you make spaghetti?"

"Yes."

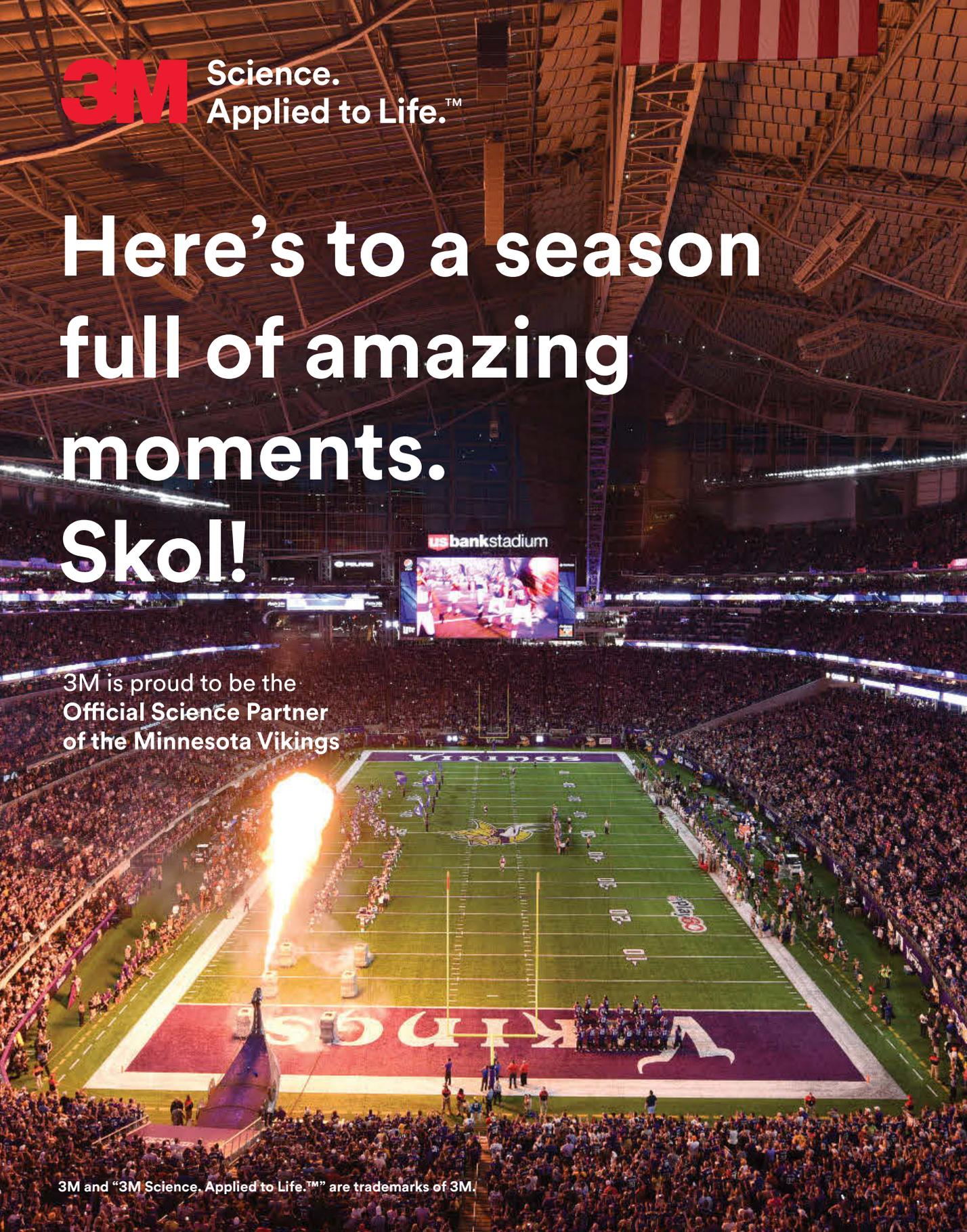
"Do you have money for a plane ticket?"

"Yes."

With that, Zamberletti was on his way to Bemidji for the first Vikings training camp and was the first person that rookie quarterback Fran Tarkenton developed a relationship with in 1961. Tarkenton and Grant, who was hired in 1967, both explained during media interviews how much Zamberletti meant to them. His influence on the team spanned 57 years.

Vikings General Manager Rick Spielman said Zamberletti was the "epitome of a Minnesota Vikings icon."

"He was more to players than just an athletic trainer; he was a friend, a mentor and a father figure who earned respect and admiration from everyone he encountered," Spielman said. "If there was a category in the Hall of Fame for athletic trainers, Fred would be at the top of the list for inductees. We will miss him dearly."



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VIKINGS BEYOND THE GRIDIRON

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Vikings: Beyond the Gridiron is an Emmy Award-winning show that offers rare, behind-the-scenes looks at the Vikings on and off the field. *Vikings: Beyond the Gridiron* will be produced by VEN this fall for digital and connected television platforms. This week, go behind-the-scenes at Kirk Cousins' football camp.

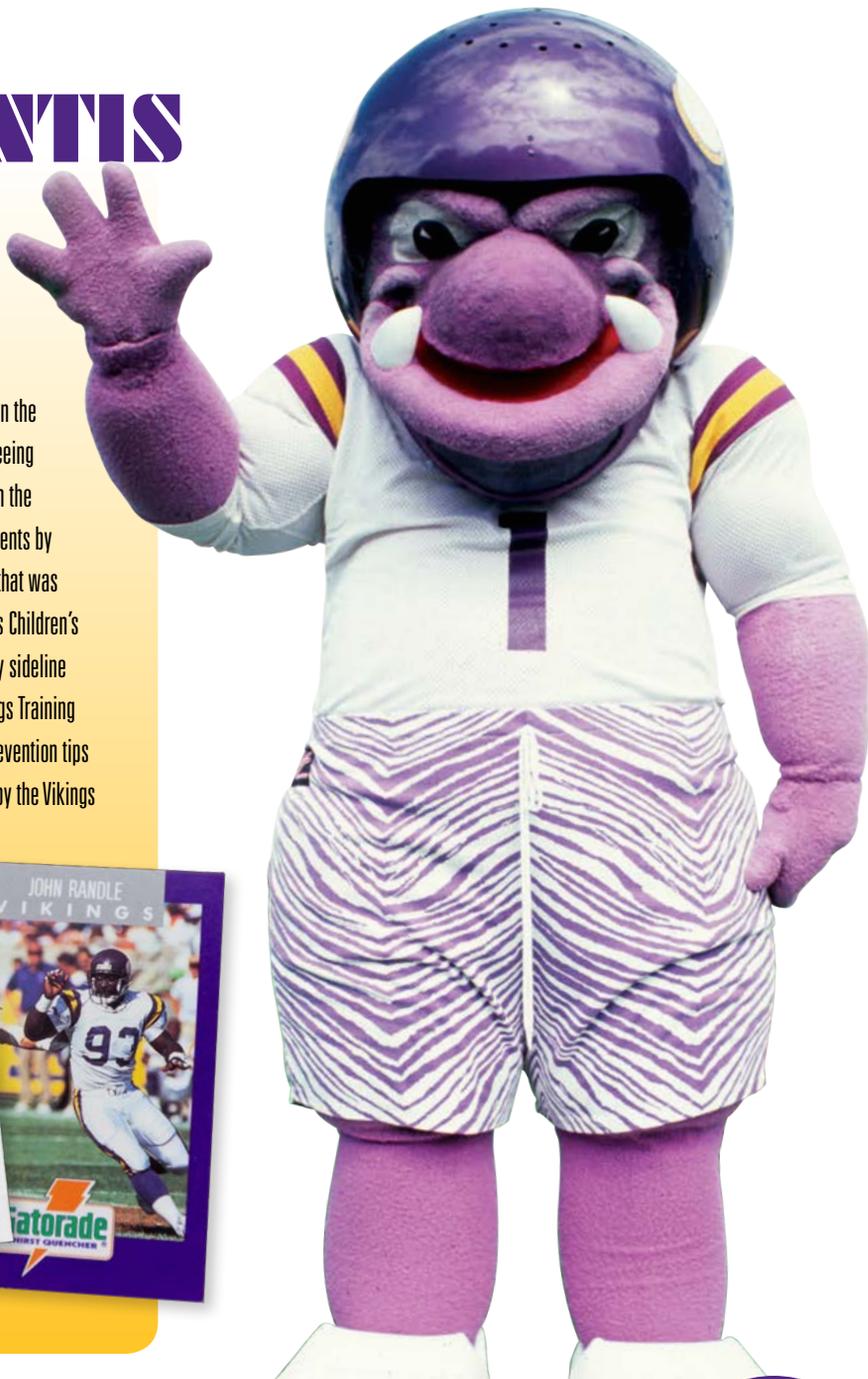
What is the Vikings Entertainment Network?



Vikings Entertainment Network (VEN) is the umbrella for all Vikings content and entertainment initiatives including Preseason TV, team TV shows, vikings.com and in-stadium programming. Newly open TCO Studios will set the stage for signature Vikings content this fall.

Meet VIKADONTIS REX

Fans today are used to seeing Viktor the Viking cheering on the Vikings from the sidelines, but that hasn't always been the case. Back in 1998, fans were used to seeing a much purpler figure on the sidelines. In the mid to late '90s, fans were greeted at events by Vikadontis Rex, a foam purple dinosaur that was created as the official Minnesota Vikings Children's Fund mascot. In addition to his game-day sideline duties, the mascot was a fixture at Vikings Training Camp in Mankato and provided crime prevention tips on a series of football cards sponsored by the Vikings Children's Fund. He retired following the 2000 season.



Vikings Trading cards from the '90s

Tell Viktor your Vikadontis Rex memory

DO YOU REMEMBER VIKADONTIS REX?

Viktor never met Vikadontis Rex, but he would love to learn more about him. Tell Viktor your favorite Vikadontis Rex story or send in a picture of you and the purple dinosaur. Tweet @viktortheviking using the #VikadontisRex. If Viktor likes your story, he just might retweet you!





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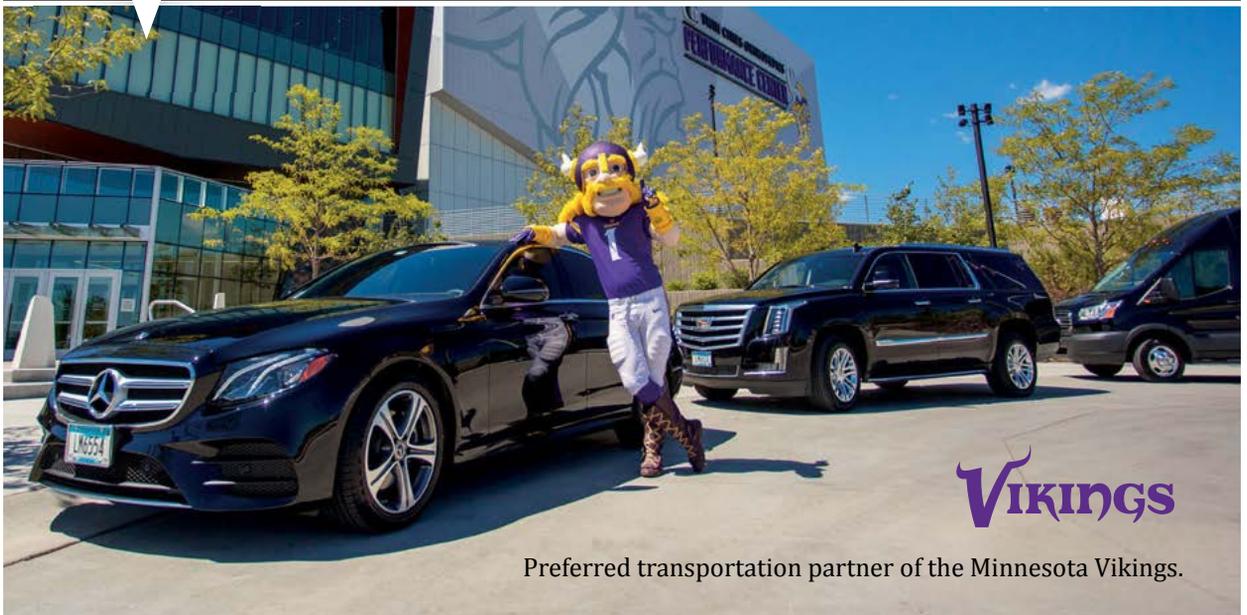
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GET TO KNOW

TAYLOR F.

HOMETOWN: BLAINE, MN

OCCUPATION: ASPIRING SPORTS REPORTER

+ WHAT ARE YOUR HOBBIES?

My hobbies include competing in pageants, attending sporting events, shopping, spending time with my family and friends, and modeling.

+ WHAT IS YOUR BEST LIFE EXPERIENCE?

My best experience was getting to be a part of and dance in Justin Timberlake's Super Bowl LII halftime show; this is something I dreamed of doing from a young age.

+ WHAT IS THE BEST PART OF BEING AN MVC?

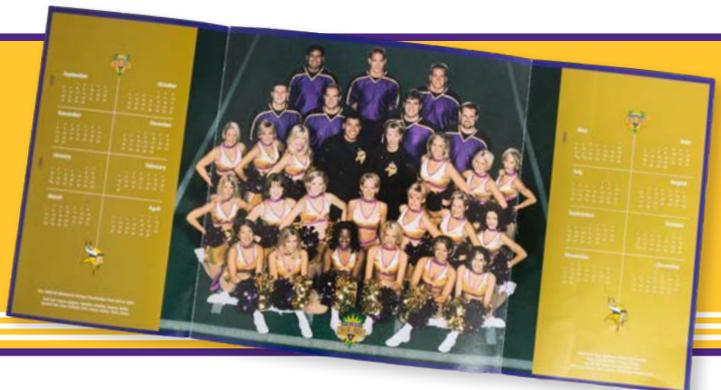
The best part of being an MVC is being surrounded by such unique, talented, amazing women and people that inspire and support each other every day.

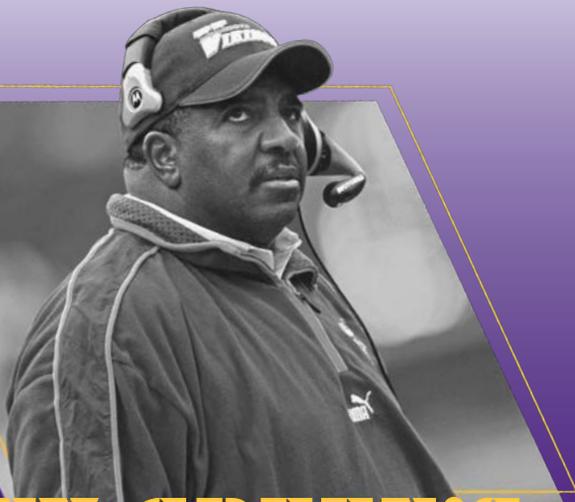


TAYLOR F.
YEAR 2

THROWBACK TO 1998

Above, current cheerleader Taylor is modeling the Minnesota Vikings Cheerleader (MVC) uniform from 1998. Here is a look at the MVC team photo card from the 1998 season.





DENNY GREEN'S 'COMMUNITY TUESDAY' INITIATIVE LIVES ON

WRITTEN BY LINDSEY YOUNG

Kyle Rudolph held his first media session of the regular season Tuesday and fielded some tough-hitting questions from young fans.

Rudolph, Adam Thielen and Xavier Rhodes took part in a "kids press conference" at the University of Minnesota Masonic Children's Hospital, where patients got to play "reporter" for a day.

The event was the first of many this season that will focus on giving back to the Twin Cities community on players' off days. While the current Vikings are accustomed to the pay-it-forward type of events, the initiative hasn't always been a part of the organization's culture – at least not in an official capacity.

Former Vikings Head Coach Dennis Green established the Vikings "Community Tuesdays" movement in the 90s. He encouraged

players to spend a day with ill children, visit elementary schools or dedicate time to building a playground.

"It's amazing what we can accomplish on our day off and the impact that we can have on our communities on Tuesdays," said Rudolph, who consistently spends time giving back. "I just feel like we can do so much good on those days that we'd be missing an opportunity if we didn't. It's really cool to honor Denny and what he started."

Added Rudolph: "It goes beyond how great the 1998 team was [on the field]."

Green passed away in July 2016, but the legacy he built beyond the locker room

walls lives on in this community.

"He built our morals, our character, our integrity," former Vikings quarterback Randall Cunningham told NFL.com of his former coach.

"Denny Green is the NFL's Community Tuesday. He started it. He did – I was there," former Vikings safety Robert Griffith told *Sports Illustrated*.

Over the past two-plus decades, Vikings players have committed themselves to making a difference not only on the football field but in the neighboring community.

In January 2000, Hall of Fame wide receiver Cris Carter received the 1999 Walter Payton Man of the Year for his philanthropy work, which included efforts with inner-city schools, the Special Olympics, the Boy Scouts and the Make-a-Wish Foundation.

Vikings safety Madiou Williams was named the 2010 Walter Payton Man of the Year and was unable to physically accept the award because he was overseas visiting U.S. military members. Williams garnered attention when he made a generous donation to create the Madiou Williams Center for Global Health, built to focus on the public health issues in Prince George's County and his birthplace of Sierra Leone.

The Vikings also internally nominate a Man of the Year each season.

Rudolph received the honor in 2017 in recognition of his ongoing commitment to the University of Minnesota Masonic Children's Hospital. Former Vikings linebacker Chad Greenway received the award four times during his career.

"It was just such a great idea to [designate] our off day where guys can go out and give back to the community," said Thielen, a Minnesota native who grew up watching Green's Vikings. "It's just such an important thing to do, and a lot of guys have a lot of fun with it. It just recharges you a little bit – it gets your mind away from the kind of narrow-minded focus of football and gives you a different perspective on life."



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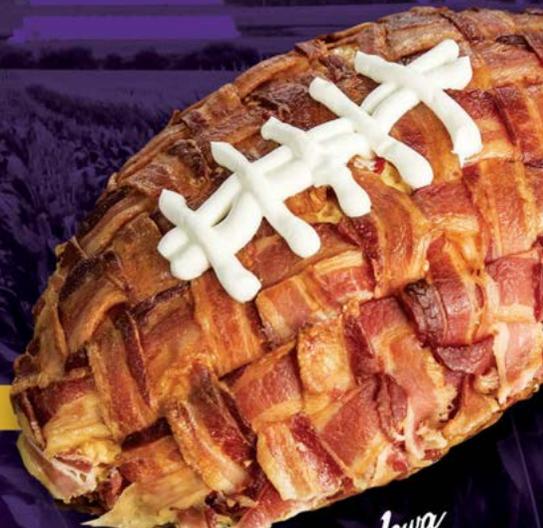
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SKOL VIKINGS



The Vikings Kids Club is the Official Fan Club for young Vikings fans 14 and under. This program offers young fans the opportunity to engage with the team through exclusive events where members can meet Vikings players, go behind the scenes to see exclusive Vikings content, become eligible to win Vikings autographed memorabilia and game tickets, receive an exclusive membership pack including a backpack, Minneapolis Miracle Poster, Adam Thielen Height Chart, Vikings Squishie, Vikings Football and more, and take advantage of many unique opportunities only available to Kids Club members!

JOIN THE VIKINGS KIDS CLUB TODAY AT
VIKINGS.COM/KIDSClub





Join the
VIKINGS
NEWBORN FAN CLUB

The Vikings

NEWBORN FAN CLUB

allows new parents to
connect with the team
during one of the
most exciting moments
in their lives.

You're never too young to be a Vikings fan.

That's why the Vikings are excited to roll out a new program celebrating the tiniest members of their fan base.

The Vikings Newborn Fan Club, presented by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota, is available for new parents in hospitals throughout the state of Minnesota. During the season, participating hospitals will be delivering Vikings Newborn Fan Club kits to babies born on Vikings game days. The kit includes a Vikings-branded Halo swaddle, milestone stickers and a letter welcoming the infant into the Vikings family.

In addition, all new parents can visit Vikings.com/newborn and sign their infant up for the fan club to receive a digital birth certificate and access to quarterly emails with content about relevant products, insight from Vikings players parenting babies and young children, and much more.

"This is a program that we have been ideating for some time, and we are extremely excited to bring this unique program to life this season," said Vikings Senior Manager of Youth Marketing Brandon Clemens. "We have many

outlets to engage with fans of all ages, and the Vikings Newborn Fan Club allows new parents to connect with the team during one of the most exciting moments in their lives.

"We are very fortunate to have a wonderful partner in Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota involved with this program," Clemens added. "This is a one-of-a-kind initiative, and we hope to enhance this outreach and engagement with our young Vikings fans as they continue to grow with the team in the future."

Cindy Osborn, RN, helped the Vikings with a pilot launch of the program earlier this year at the University of Minnesota Masonic Children's Hospital and personally delivered Vikings-branded onesies and SKOL towels to each newborn's room.

"This has really been an amazing experience to work with Brandon and the Vikings around this Newborn Club," Osborn said, pointing out that patients and their families can see U.S. Bank Stadium from the hospital.

"There's just a lot of excitement," Osborn said. "And it goes beyond the child experience. It's the mothers who feel very special, as well, and their babies get something special. So I think it'll be really great."

**TO SIGN YOUR INFANT UP FOR THE NEWBORN FAN CLUB
VISIT VIKINGS.COM/NEWBORN**



SKOL SERVICE

Spotlight On STEVE ORTH

Have you
witnessed a
Skol Service
Team Member
going above and
beyond? E-mail
your story to

GUESTSERVICES
@VIKINGS.NFL.NET

Eagan native Steve Orth brightly beamed and waved goodbye after helping a family on a cross-country road trip enjoy its first Minnesota Vikings Training Camp.

“That’s as good as it gets,”

said Steve, who loves to travel with his wife and two daughters and has a goal of visiting all 48 continental United States before his youngest child reaches high school.

Steve, who is a part of the Whelan Event Staffing Services (WESS) Guest Services team, met the family about an hour earlier when they curiously approached one of the entrance gates.

The family was traveling cross-country from Ohio to Seattle and spotted Twin Cities Orthopedics Performance Center from the freeway. The family decided to take a detour to see if they could have a better look without knowing that the inaugural training camp at the new Vikings

facility in Eagan was taking place.

Steve, who noticed the curious and excited family approaching, helped them navigate through the Vikings app to acquire tickets and spend the hour they had off of the road to watch the team practice.

“The look of delight on the son’s face when I scanned-in their tickets made my whole day,” said Steve, who constantly went above and beyond to make sure fans felt welcome.

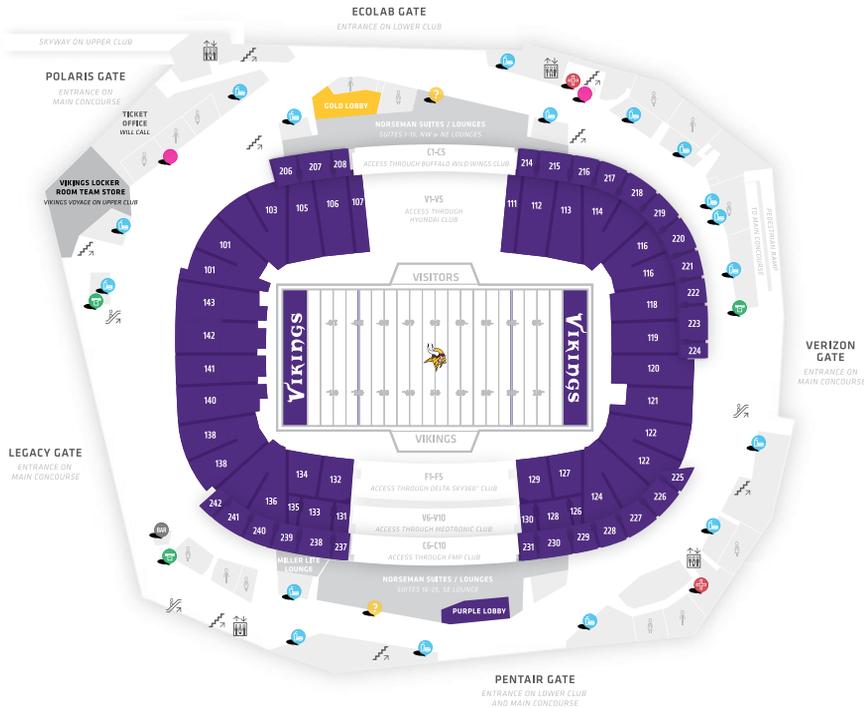
Steve, who is an eighth grade English-Language Arts & Drama teacher during the school year at John Metcalf Middle School in Burnsville, decided to get involved with this year’s camp out of curiosity. He said he loved the positivity from all of the people and helping fans.

Steve is continuing to work with WESS and is beginning his first season at U.S. Bank Stadium working Vikings games. If you happen to see his familiar face, feel free to wave and thank him for his hard work.

Thank you, Steve, for your dedication to the Minnesota Vikings and your desire to give fans the ultimate experience. We are so grateful to have you as Team Member!



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UPPER CONCOURSE



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- NORTH MEMORIAL LACTATION POD**
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- ESCALATORS**

GOLD LOBBY

ACCESS TO THE FOLLOWING:

- HYUNDAI CLUB
- BUFFALO WILD WINGS CLUB
- MYSTIC LAKE'S CLUB PURPLE
- NORSEMAN SUITES 1-15
- NW/NE NORSEMAN LOUNGES
- LOFT SUITES 1-27
- TRUSS BAR
- LODGE BAR
- LODGE CABINS

PURPLE LOBBY

ACCESS TO THE FOLLOWING:

- DELTA SKY360° CLUB
- MEDTRONIC CLUB
- FMP CLUB
- TURF & TOUCHDOWN SUITES
- VALHALLA SUITES
- NORSEMAN SUITES 16-25
- SE NORSEMAN SUITES
- LOFT SUITES 28-46



CONCESSIONS

FOOD

BBQ GRILLED CHICKEN SANDWICHES

Plaza stand

BRISKET SANDWICHES

111, 324

CHEESE CURDS

114, 118, 129

CHEESEBURGERS

103, 124, 132, 143, 304, 313, 328, 339, 345

CHICKEN TENDERS

103, 121, 124, 132, 304, 313, 328, 345

CUBAN SANDWICHES

348

ELOTE CORN

114, 348

FRENCH FRIES

103, 121, 122, 124, 132, 304, 313, 328, 345

FRIED CHICKEN

111

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NACHOS

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PEANUTS

All concession stands and portables

PIZZA

134, 307

POPCORN

103, 105, 113, 124, 129, 132, 304, 311, 313, 317, 318, 328, 341, 345, 349

PRETZELS

105, 113, 129, 134, 311, 313, 317, 341, 346, 349

PULLED PORK SANDWICHES

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RIB TIPS

334

WILD ROASTED TURKEY SANDWICHES

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STEAK SANDWICHES

107

TACOS

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WALKING TACOS

132, 352

DESSERTS & TREATS

BOMBOLINI

121, 344

BUBBLE WAFFLE

111, 318

DIPPIN DOTS

129, 307

FROZEN HOT CHOCOLATE

121, 344

ICE CREAM

111, 114, 318

MINI DONUTS

318

ROASTED ALMONDS

111

BEVERAGES

ALL CONCESSIONS STANDS AND FOOD PORTABLES

Bottled Water, Bottled Soda

ALL CONCESSIONS STANDS

Fountain Soda, Gatorade, Draft Beer

ALL BEER PORTABLES

16oz Canned Beer

N/A BEER

124, 328

COFFEE

All Red-Zone and Mill City stands, 129, 310

CRISPIN HARD CIDER

124, 328

HENRY'S HARD SPARKLING WATER

124, 328

CRAFT BEER WALL & COCKTAILS ON TAP

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LOLA 334

STEAK & CHEESE 108

WALKING TACO 132, 352

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1ST & FRY 129

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AZ CANTEEN HOAGIES 344

AZ CANTEEN ROTISSERIE 121

MARKET BBQ 324

CARIBOU COFFEE 138

CURDS & CAKES 114

ENDZONE GRILL West EndZone (Event Level)

MILL CITY CLASSICS 105, 111, 118, 130, 311, 317, 341, 349

NORTH STAR GRILL 103, 116, 124, 132, 304, 313, 328, 345

PRAIRIE DOGS 122

REDZONE GRILL 106, 112, 130, 132

REVIVAL 111

R-TACO 310

STATE FAIR FAVORITES 114, 118, 129

STONE ARCH PIZZA CO. 134, 307

TWIN CITIES FOODIE 101

Gluten-Friendly

GLUTEN-FRIENDLY
OPTIONS

MILL CITY CLASSICS - SECTIONS 113, 317

Gluten-Friendly Hot Dog Buns

BE GRACEFUL - SECTIONS 124, 328

Gluten Free-Beer

EVERYWHERE -

Gluten-Free Hot Dogs



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