

2021 U.S. BANK VIKINGS TRAINING CAMP

# PLAYBOOK



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# WELCOME BACK

Welcome back. Two simple words can mean so much, especially after so much time apart and so many challenges faced. The 2021 U.S. Bank Vikings Training Camp marks quite the milestone. For the Minnesota Vikings, it is a time of renewed optimism and rejuvenated efforts toward team goals. It is also the opportunity to show fans how much they were missed in 2020.

While not everything has returned to normal yet, the Vikings are looking forward to seeing fans in the stands for these practices and a first-of-its-kind session at U.S. Bank Stadium on Aug. 7. This year's camp will include two joint practices with the Broncos before the teams open their preseason slate on Aug. 14.

# GEAR UP FOR TRAINING CAMP!

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CAMP HATS + MORE*



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WHILE SUPPLIES LAST





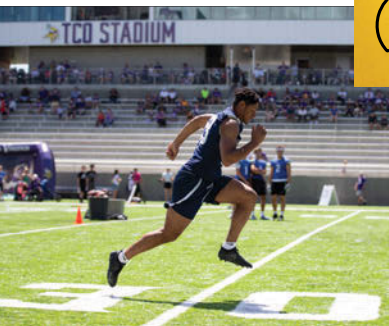
# EVENTS



## FOOTBALL & FIREWORKS

**BACK TOGETHER SATURDAY | JULY 31 | TCO STADIUM**

Football is back and, finally, so are fans! Join the Vikings as we celebrate the return of fans on Saturday, July 31, for the annual training camp night practice. Enjoy food, games, a DJ and appearances by Vikings Legends, Viktor, the MVC and SKOL Line. After practice, hear from players and coaches, get introduced to the entire team and wrap up the night with fireworks! Tickets available on [vikings.com/camp](https://vikings.com/camp).



## YOUTH AND HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL DAY

**FRIDAY, AUG. 6 | PRESENTED BY MICROSOFT SURFACE**

The Minnesota Vikings are proud to support and highlight football at all levels by hosting Youth and High School Football Day at U.S. Bank Vikings Training Camp! Festivities will include a special giveaway item, a youth football team of the day, a VIP experience for select high school athletes, and a free football clinic led by Vikings youth and high school development coaches. Youth players that wear their team jersey will also be eligible to enter a drawing to win special prizes! Students can register to win a Surface Pro 7 to get ready for the new school year.



## UNITED WAY ACTION DAY PACKING EVENT

**SATURDAY, JULY 31**

The Minnesota Vikings are partnering with Greater Twin Cities United Way for its annual Action Day initiative, which will provide backpacks full of school supplies to 50,000 local students this fall. Fans will have a chance to join the action, too, with an opportunity to help assemble 500 backpacks onsite at training camp on July 31. Backpacks will be distributed to more than 90 nonprofits and school districts at Action Day 2021 on Aug. 12.





## PRIDE DAY

**THURSDAY, AUG. 5**

The Minnesota Vikings invite you to show your SKOL Pride spirit at our Pride Day at Vikings Training Camp. Fans in attendance wearing Pride-themed clothing will be eligible to enter a drawing to win fun Vikings items. In addition, a special giveaway item will be offered, and a VIP experience will be provided for a local LGBTQ-focused organization.



## MOOOVIE NIGHT

**SUNDAY, AUG. 8 |  
PRESENTED BY YOUR  
LOCAL FARM FAMILIES**

Join us for 'Summer Mooovie Night' presented by Your Local Farm Families. A night of free family fun, guests can enjoy activities on the field at TCO Stadium followed by a movie on the videoboard. Gates will open at 7:30 p.m. with the showing of *Spies in Disguise* beginning at 8:30 p.m. Visit [vikings.com/movienight](https://vikings.com/movienight) for more info or to RSVP.



## STADIUM SCRIMMAGE & FRONTLINE HEROES DAY

**SATURDAY, AUG. 7 | NOON | U.S. BANK STADIUM**

Join the Vikings for their first-ever team scrimmage at U.S. Bank Stadium. Fans are encouraged to come early and visit the plaza to enjoy all the activities and excitement of a typical Vikings game day. Throughout the practice, the Vikings will highlight amazing stories of frontline workers from our community and thank them for dedicating their time and talents to securing a safe and healthy future for our families. Get your tickets at [vikings.com/camp](https://vikings.com/camp).



## VIKINGS-BRONCOS JOINT PRACTICES

**AUG. 11 & 12 | TCO PERFORMANCE CENTER**

Get a taste of the action when the Vikings host the Denver Broncos for joint practices in advance of our first preseason game on Saturday, Aug. 14, at U.S. Bank Stadium. Secure your tickets at [vikings.com/camp](https://vikings.com/camp).



# EAGAN — WHERE FANTASTIC FUN IS FOUND!





KFAN

LUMEN VIP LOUNGE

HOSPITALITY TENT

BAR

LAND O' LAKES, INC. FIELDS

GENERAL ADMISSION BLEACHERS

GOLD GATE

ADA PARKING RAMP



Vikings

VIKINGS MUSEUM

TRAINING HAUS

TCO ST

#### MAP KEY

- |   |  |
|---|--|
|  CONCESSIONS            |  TEAM STORE     |
|  MILLER LITE BAR        |  GUEST SERVICES |
|  RESTROOMS              |  FIRST AID      |
|  MAMAVA LACTATION SUITE |  ATM            |

#### POINTS OF INTEREST

- |                          |                     |                     |
|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1 PEPSI COOL ZONE        | 4 VIZZY BAR         | 6 VIKINGS KIDS CLUB |
| 2 PEPSI DJ STAGE         | 5 CHUCK FOR CHARITY | 7 KID ZONE          |
| 3 XBOX GAMING EXPERIENCE |                     |                     |





NORTHLAND FORD  
DEALERS  
PARKING LOT



# TRAINING CAMP MAP



# READY, SET GLOW

## SATURDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL RUN

TCO Stadium

Sat, Sept. 18 | 6 PM

Secure your spot at [Vikings.com/5K](https://vikings.com/5k)

The 2021 TCO Vikings 5K features a sunset run with glowing grab bag elements including 3M reflective shirt, glowing lanyard + medal, and other goodies!





# AREAS OF INTEREST



## VIKINGS MUSEUM

SEE THE GREATEST VIKINGS MOMENTS FROZEN IN TIME

The Minnesota Vikings Museum is a place for Vikings fans and Legends alike to experience the comprehensive history of the Minnesota Vikings and football in Minnesota. With a 360-degree video theater, multiple interactive exhibits and hundreds of historical artifacts, fans can learn the fascinating stories and insider details of the franchise's first 50-plus years in fun and unique ways.

Fans who have tickets to U.S. Bank Vikings Training Camp can purchase tickets to the Vikings Museum for the same day, based on availability. Visit [vikings.com/museum](https://vikings.com/museum) or scan the code with the camera app on your smart phone.



## MILLER LITE LOUNGE

Stop by the Miller Lite Lounge located on the southwest corner of the practice fields for a cold beverage, to play a game of cornhole and enjoy the shade while viewing practice.



## VIZZY VILLA

Vizzy Hard Seltzer is the new "Official Hard Seltzer of the Minnesota Vikings." Stop by the Vizzy Villa located on the upper plaza for a refreshing beverage, photo opportunity and more!



## STOCK UP FOR THE SEASON!



Refresh your wardrobe with brand new Vikings apparel as well as many other souvenirs at the Vikings Locker Room Store. Commemorate your trip to camp by taking home the official 2021 training camp shirt and bucket hat. Or prep for the season by shopping the latest jerseys, T-shirts, hats and gifts to show your Purple Pride. Stop by today!





## VIKINGS TABLE FOOD TRUCK

### HAVE A SEAT AT OUR FAMILY TABLE!

Vikings Table presented by Xcel Energy is a custom-built food truck delivering free, healthy meals and nutrition education to youth in our community. Vikings Table also sells meals with all proceeds going directly back to serving community members in need. During camp, the Vikings Table will be serving its signature "Ski-U-Mah Nachos, Uptown Chicken Skewers, Gridiron Ranch Kettle Chips and more. Not hungry? No problem! Stop by the truck to learn more about Vikings Table's mission and snap photos in the photobooth. Vikings Table is located in the lower plaza, near the Purple Gate.

## VIKINGS FAN OF THE DAY

### PRESENTED BY U.S. BANK

In celebration of our fans, we will be honoring a Vikings Fan of the Day during each day\* of U.S. Bank Vikings Training Camp! The Fan of the Day will receive an autographed item, access to the Fan Hospitality Tent, gift card to the Vikings Locker Room Store, tickets to the Vikings Museum and more.



## EAGAN CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

Stop by the Enjoy Eagan booth to learn about the community surrounding TCO Performance Center. Spin the wheel to win great prizes from bars, restaurants and attractions around the Eagan area.



## PARK DENTAL SCAVENGER HUNT

Help Parker the Pup find his lost toothbrush. There will be photo ops and daily chances to win prizes when you find all the clues!



## VIKINGS KIDS CLUB

### PRESENTED BY PARK DENTAL

Visit the Vikings Kids Club kiosk outside the entrance to the practice fields to sign up today! Membership includes a welcome kit full of Vikings goodies, access to exclusive contests and events throughout the year, and more! A daily autograph drawing will also be taking place for new members.



## VIKINGS NEWBORN FAN CLUB

You're never too young to be a Vikings fan! Stop by the Newborn Fan Club booth to sign your child up for this free fan club and receive monthly milestone stickers, a personalized digital birth certificate, quarterly e-newsletters and more.



\*Fan of the day will not be executed on July 31 or Aug. 7.





## WIN A VIKINGS PRIZE PACK FROM PEPSI

Simply scan your Pepsi cup (available at training camp concession stands) with the Vikings app or select "Augmented Reality" within the Vikings app to unlock Vikings Face Filters. Share yours with #VikingsGameFace for a chance to win!



## XBOX GAMING EXPERIENCE

Visit Version1 HQ and challenge your friends at the Xbox Gaming Experience. Lucky fans may also have the chance to virtually take on Vikings players after practice.



## DAILY FOOTBALL TOSS

SCHEELS will give fans a daily opportunity to receive mini footballs signed by Vikings players. Limited quantities will be tossed into the stands each day of camp.



## CHUCK FOR CHARITY

Show off your inner QB at the Chuck for Charity. For a donation of \$5, you receive three attempts to throw a football into the target. A completed pass means you get an autographed Vikings item. All donations support the Minnesota Vikings Foundation's mission of advancing the well-being of youth in our community through engaging health and education initiatives.

## TITLE IX CHAMPIONSHIP TOUR

On July 31, fans can engage with a variety of interactive sport challenges including basketball, hockey and a putting green while learning about the history of Title IX and its impact on sports.

**LAND O'LAKES, INC.**

## KID ZONE

TCO Stadium's field will offer activities for the whole family. Stop by to participate in football tosses, field goal kicks, a 40-yard dash, flag football, an obstacle course, bean bag tosses and more!

## KFAN

Visit the KFAN booth for a chance to be the KFAN Rube of the Day, and use #KFANVikes on social media for your chance to win prizes.



## TCO "SHOW YOUR STANCE"

Move your body like a pro and match the stance of your favorite Vikings personalities. Think you can achieve a 100-percent accuracy score? Prizes and giveaways will be available for everyone who plays.



## TRAINING HAUS

### VERTICAL JUMP CHALLENGE

Step up your game and test your vertical jump against the best of the best. Think you can jump higher than the average NFL player? Prizes and giveaways will be available for everyone who takes the leap.



## FAN OF THE YEAR

### PRESENTED BY CAPTAIN MORGAN

Does your Vikings fandom go beyond the game? The Vikings and the NFL are celebrating extraordinary fans who are a positive influence and inspire others through their love of football. Nominate yourself or others for a chance to win a trip to Super Bowl LVI in Los Angeles! Enter at [nfl.com/fanoftheyear](https://nfl.com/fanoftheyear) or **scan the code** with the camera app on your smartphone.





## SCHEDULE & HOURS

### JULY 28-30

Village: Noon - 5:30 p.m.  
Practice: 2:15 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.

### JULY 31

#### NIGHT PRACTICE

Village: 5 p.m. - 10 p.m.  
Practice: 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

### AUGUST 2-6

Village: Noon - 5:30 p.m.  
Practice: 2:15 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.

### AUGUST 7

#### U.S. BANK STADIUM SCRIMMAGE

Gates: 10:30 a.m.  
Practice: Noon - 2 p.m.

### AUGUST 9-10

Village: Noon - 5:30 p.m.  
Practice: 2:15 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.

### AUGUST 11-12

#### JOINT PRACTICES WITH DENVER BRONCOS

Village: Noon - 5:30 p.m.  
Practice: 2:15 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.

*\*Practice times are subject to change without notice.*



## TRAINING CAMP INFORMATION

Have questions about U.S. Bank Vikings Training Camp? Stop by the Guest Services booth, located in the TCO Stadium ticket office, or find any Guest Services representative. Fans can text questions by following the instructions at the bottom of this page.



## CONCESSIONS

Concessions at U.S. Bank Vikings Training Camp will be open during all operating hours of camp. Concession stands in TCO Stadium will be open, as well as locations on the upper and lower plazas and near the Land O'Lakes, Inc., practice fields.



## FIRST AID

If you require any medical assistance, please go to the first-aid station in TCO Stadium under the press box or to the first-aid tent near the concession stand by the practice fields. An ambulance will also be located near the practice fields, and medical personnel will be walking through the plaza areas to assist fans.

## QUESTIONS ABOUT CAMP?

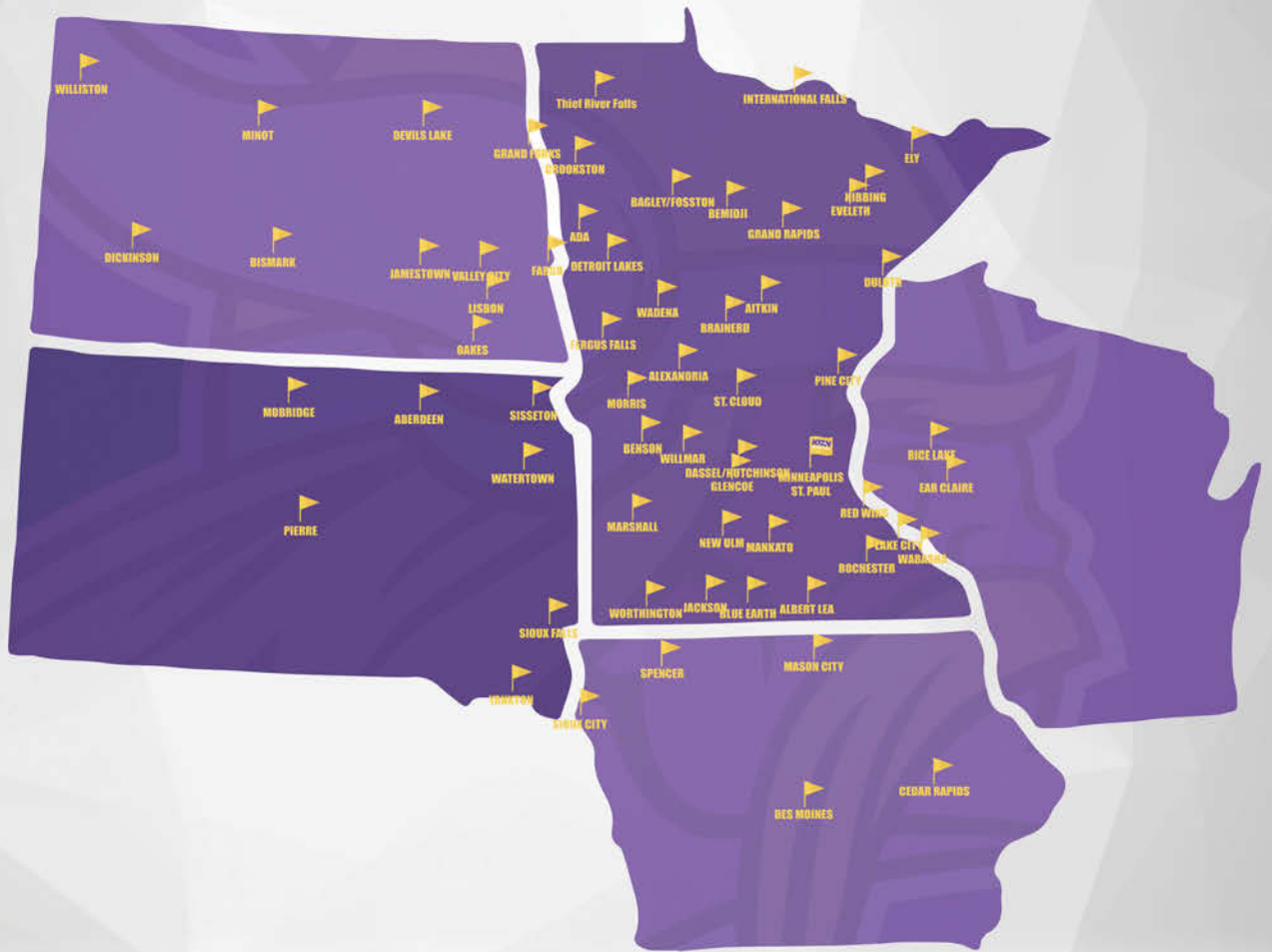
USE YOUR SMARTPHONE TO SCAN AND START YOUR CHAT WITH ASK VIK, THE VIKINGS VIRTUAL ASSISTANT.







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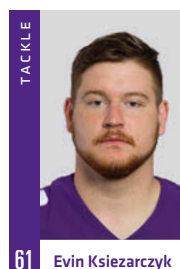
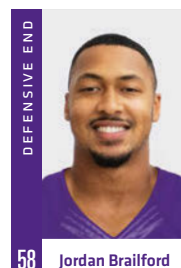
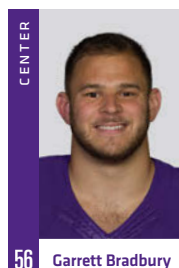
**ANOTHER  
HARD SELTZER?  
YEAH, **BUT** WE'VE  
GOT ANTIOXIDANT  
VITAMIN C.**



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THE MINNESOTA VIKINGS**

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# FRIDAY FOOTBALL FEAST

9AM - NOON AT



AT  
**CIN**  
9.10  
PLYMOUTH

AT  
**ARI**  
9.17  
EAGAN

VS.  
**SEA**  
9.24  
SAVAGE

VS.  
**CLE**  
10.01  
ROSEVILLE

VS.  
**DET**  
10.08  
MONTICELLO

AT  
**CAR**  
10.15  
CHAMPLIN

**BYE  
WEEK**

VS.  
**DAL**  
10.29  
OAKDALE

AT  
**BAL**  
11.05  
ELK RIVER

AT  
**LAC**  
11.12  
COON RAPIDS

VS.  
**GB**  
11.19  
APPLE VALLEY

AT  
**SF**  
11.26  
BLAINE

AT  
**DET**  
12.03  
EDINA

VS.  
**PIT**  
12.09\*  
LAKEVILLE

AT  
**CHI**  
12.17  
ROSEVILLE

VS.  
**LAR**  
12.23\*  
SAVAGE

AT  
**GB**  
12.31  
PLYMOUTH

VS.  
**CHI**  
1.07  
EAGAN

AWAY - WHITE    HOME - YELLOW

SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

\* IS FOR THURSDAY SHOW



OFFENSIVE LINE 65 Zack Bailey	DEFENSIVE TACKLE 66 Jordon Scott	GUARD 68 Kyle Hinton	TACKLE 69 Rashod Hill	TACKLE 71 Christian Darrisaw	GUARD 72 Ezra Cleveland
GUARD 73 Dru Samia	TACKLE 74 Oluiseemeka Udoh	TACKLE 75 Brian O'Neill	DEFENSIVE TACKLE 76 Jaylen Twyman	GUARD 78 Dakota Dozier	DEFENSIVE END 79 Kenny Willekes
WIDE RECEIVER 81 Bisi Johnson	TIGHT END 82 Shane Zylstra	TIGHT END 83 Tyler Conklin	TIGHT END 84 Irv Smith, Jr.	WIDE RECEIVER 85 Dan Chisena	TIGHT END 86 Brandon Dillon
WIDE RECEIVER 87 Myron Mitchell	DEFENSIVE END 90 Jalyn Holmes	DEFENSIVE END 91 Stephen Weatherly	DEFENSIVE TACKLE 92 James Lynch	DEFENSIVE END 93 Patrick Jones II	DEFENSIVE TACKLE 94 Dalvin Tomlinson
DEFENSIVE END 95 Janarius Robinson	DEFENSIVE TACKLE 96 Armon Watts	DEFENSIVE TACKLE 97 Michael Pierce	DEFENSIVE END 98 D.J. Wonnum	DEFENSIVE END 99 Danielle Hunter	DEFENSIVE TACKLE Sheldon Richardson



VIKINGS



MUSEUM

THE GREATEST VIKINGS MOMENTS

# FROZEN IN TIME

**VISIT THE VIKINGS MUSEUM  
TO RELIVE THE GREATEST  
MOMENTS IN VIKINGS HISTORY.**

Celebrate Legends in purple and see how it all began through interactive exhibits and one of a kind artifacts.

Get your tickets at the Vikings Museum or online at [Vikings.com/Museum](https://Vikings.com/Museum).

## TICKET PRICING:

Adults: \$15

Senior (65+): \$12

Military (with valid ID): \$12

Children (6-12): \$10

5 & Under: Free

Vikings Museum is open during Vikings Village hours to ticketed Training Camp visitors only.







# VIKINGS ROSTER

ROSTER VIKINGS

#	NAME	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	HOMETOWN
1	Greg Joseph	K	6-0	210	4	Florida Atlantic	Boca Raton, FL
2	Britton Colquitt	P	6-3	210	12	Tennessee	Knoxville, TN
3	Jake Browning	QB	6-2	210	2	Washington	Folsom, CA
5	Tye Smith	CB	6-0	195	6	Towson	Raleigh, NC
6	Riley Patterson	K	6-0	190	R	Memphis	Edwardsville, IL
7	Patrick Peterson	CB	6-1	203	11	LSU	Fort Lauderdale, FL
8	Kirk Cousins	QB	6-3	202	10	Michigan State	Holland, MI
11	Kellen Mond	QB	6-3	211	R	Texas A&M	San Antonio, TX
12	Chad Beebe	WR	5-10	183	4	Northern Illinois	Aurora, IL
13	Blake Proehl	WR	6-1	190	R	East Carolina	Charlotte, NC
14	Nate Stanley	QB	6-4	235	1	Iowa	Menomonie, WI
15	I. Smith-Marsette	WR	6-1	180	R	Iowa	Newark, NJ
16	Whop Philyor	WR	5-11	181	R	Indiana	Tampa, FL
17	K.J. Osborn	WR	5-11	203	2	Miami	Ypsilanti, MI
18	Justin Jefferson	WR	6-1	202	2	Louisiana State	St. Rose, LA
19	Adam Thielen	WR	6-2	200	8	Minnesota State	Detroit Lakes, MN
20	Jeff Gladney	CB	5-10	191	2	TCU	New Boston, TX
21	Bashaud Breeland	CB	5-11	195	8	Clemson	Allendale, SC
22	Harrison Smith	S	6-2	214	10	Notre Dame	Knoxville, TN
23	Xavier Woods	S	5-11	212	5	Louisiana Tech	West Monroe, LA
24	Mackensie Alexander	CB	5-10	192	6	Clemson	Immokalee, FL
25	Alexander Mattison	RB	5-11	220	3	Boise State	San Bernadino, CA
26	Kene Nwangwu	RB	6-1	213	R	Iowa State	Frisco, TX
27	Cameron Dantzler	CB	6-2	188	2	Miss. State	Hammond, LA
29	Kris Boyd	CB	5-11	200	3	Texas	Gilmer, TX
30	C.J. Ham	FB	5-11	235	6	Augustana	Duluth, MN
31	Ameer Abdullah	RB	5-9	203	7	Nebraska	Homewood, AL
32	Cameron Smith	LB	6-2	235	3	S. California	Granite Bay, CA
33	Dalvin Cook	RB	5-10	210	5	Florida State	Miami, FL
34	Jake Bargas	FB	6-2	250	2	North Carolina	Boca Raton, FL
35	Luther Kirk	S	6-2	195	2	Illinois State	Garland, TX
36	Amari Henderson	CB	6-1	180	1	Wake Forest	Charlotte, NC
36	A.J. Rose, Jr.	RB	6-1	212	R	Kentucky	Cleveland, OH
37	Dylan Mabin	CB	6-1	195	2	Fordham	Macedonia, OH
38	Harrison Hand	CB	5-11	197	2	Temple	Cherry Hill, NJ
39	Parry Nickerson	CB	5-10	182	4	Tulane	Algiers, LA
40	Zach Davidson	TE	6-7	243	R	Central Missouri	Webb City, MO
41	Chazz Surratt	LB	6-2	230	R	North Carolina	Denver, NC
42	Andrew DePaola	LS	6-1	220	7	Rutgers	Parkton, MD
43	Camryn Bynum	S	6-0	200	R	California	Corona, CA
44	Josh Metellus	S	5-11	209	2	Michigan	Pembroke Pines, FL
45	Troy Dye	LB	6-3	231	2	Oregon	Norco, CA
46	Myles Dorn	S	6-2	205	2	North Carolina	Charlotte, NC
47	Tuf Borland	LB	6-1	230	R	Ohio State	Bolingbrook, IL
48	Blake Lynch	LB	6-3	235	2	Baylor	Gilmer, TX

#	NAME	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	HOMETOWN
49	Christian Elliss	LB	6-3	231	R	Idaho	Highlands Ranch, CO
50	Hercules Mata'afa	DE	6-2	254	4	Washington State	Lahaina, HI
51	Wyatt Davis	G	6-4	326	R	Ohio State	Bellflower, CA
52	Mason Cole	OL	6-5	292	4	Michigan	Tarpon Springs, FL
54	Eric Kendricks	LB	6-0	232	7	UCLA	Fresno, CA
55	Anthony Barr	LB	6-5	255	8	UCLA	San Pedro, CA
56	Garrett Bradbury	C	6-3	305	3	N.C. State	Charlotte, NC
57	Ryan Connelly	LB	6-2	236	3	Wisconsin	Eden Prairie, MN
58	Jordan Brailford	DE	6-3	252	3	Oklahoma State	Tulsa, OK
59	Nick Vigil	LB	6-2	235	6	Utah State	Plain City, UT
60	Turner Bernard	LS	6-1	230	R	San Diego State	Glendale, AZ
61	Evin Ksiezarczyk	T	6-6	311	1	Buffalo	West Seneca, NY
62	Zeandae Johnson	DT	6-4	278	R	California	Fresno, CA
63	Cohl Cabral	C	6-5	300	1	ASU	Rancho Cucamonga, CA
64	Blake Brandel	T	6-7	307	1	Oregon State	Milwaukie, OR
65	Zack Bailey	OL	6-5	299	3	S. Carolina	Summerville, SC
66	Jordon Scott	DT	6-1	318	R	Oregon	Largo, FL
68	Kyle Hinton	G	6-2	295	2	Washburn	Peoria, AZ
69	Rashod Hill	T	6-6	313	6S	Southern Miss	Jacksonville, FL
71	Christian Darrisaw	T	6-5	323	R	VA Tech	Upper Marlboro, MD
72	Ezra Cleveland	G	6-6	311	2	Boise State	Spanaway, WA
73	Dru Samia	G	6-5	308	3	Oklahoma	W. Sacramento, CA
74	Olisaemeka Udoh	T	6-6	325	3	Elon	Fayetteville, NC
75	Brian O'Neill	T	6-7	297	4	Pittsburgh	Wilmington, DE
76	Jaylen Twyman	DT	6-2	293	R	Pitt	Washington, D.C.
78	Dakota Dozier	G	6-4	312	8	Furman	West Columbia, SC
79	Kenny Willekes	DE	6-3	264	2	Michigan State	Rockford, MI
81	Bisi Johnson	WR	6-0	204	3	Colorado State	Lakewood, CO
82	Shane Zylstra	TE	6-4	230	R	Minnesota State	Spicer, MN
83	Tyler Conklin	TE	6-3	254	4	Central Michigan	Chesterfield, MI
84	Irv Smith Jr.	TE	6-2	242	3	Alabama	New Orleans, LA
85	Dan Chisena	WR	6-3	202	2	Penn State	Downington, PA
86	Brandon Dillon	TE	6-5	250	2	Marian	Flora, IN
87	Myron Mitchell	WR	6-1	180	R	UAB	Jasper, AL
90	Jalyn Holmes	DE	6-5	283	4	Ohio State	Norfolk, VA
91	Stephen Weatherly	DE	6-5	265	6	Vanderbilt	Snellville, GA
92	James Lynch	DT	6-4	289	2	Baylor	Round Rock, TX
93	Patrick Jones II	DE	6-4	262	R	Pittsburgh	Chesapeake, VA
94	Dalvin Tomlinson	DT	6-3	319	5	Alabama	McDonough, GA
95	Janarius Robinson	DE	6-5	260	R	Florida State	Panama City, FL
96	Armon Watts	DT	6-5	295	3	Arkansas	St. Louis, MO
97	Michael Pierce	DT	6-0	340	6	Samford	Daphne, AL
98	D.J. Wonnum	DE	6-5	258	2	South Car.	Stone Mountain, GA
99	Danielle Hunter	DE	6-5	252	7	Louisiana State	Katy, TX
	Sheldon Richardson	DT	6-3	294	9	Missouri	St. Louis, MO

\*ROSTER AS OF PRINT DEADLINE (07.22.21)

2021 VIKINGS PLAYBOOK



## MIKE ZIMMER

HEAD COACH

Mike Zimmer has recorded 66 wins, including a pair of victories in playoff games, in his first seven seasons with Minnesota. The win total ranks third in franchise history behind Bud Grant and Dennis Green and has helped the Vikings secure two NFC North titles during his tenure that began on Jan. 15, 2014. The Vikings have benefited from Zimmer's

defensive prowess that was developed as a defensive coordinator with Dallas (2000-06), Atlanta (2007) and Cincinnati (2018-13). Minnesota has ranked in the top five in points against in four of Zimmer's seven seasons, including 2017 when the Vikings led the league in the category (15.8 points per game).



NFL EXPERIENCE | 28TH SEASON



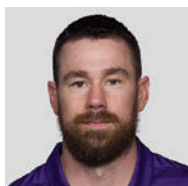
VIKINGS EXPERIENCE | 8TH SEASON

## ANDRE PATTERSON

ASSISTANT HEAD  
COACH/CO-DC/DLNFL EXPERIENCE  
18TH SEASONVIKINGS EXPERIENCE  
10TH SEASON

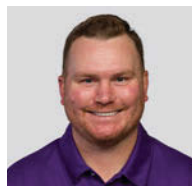
Patterson is in his eighth consecutive season with the Vikings and was promoted to the assistant head coach position this offseason. He will continue to hold co-defensive coordinator responsibilities that were added in 2020. Patterson has worked with the defensive line since rejoining the Vikings in 2014 and also did so from 1998-99. He has coached at the high school (five seasons), collegiate (16 seasons) and NFL levels. Patterson also worked with Mike Zimmer at Weber State in 1988 and with the Dallas Cowboys from 2000-02.

## KLINT KUBIAK

OFFENSIVE  
COORDINATORNFL EXPERIENCE  
8TH SEASONVIKINGS EXPERIENCE  
5TH SEASON

Kubiak was promoted to offensive coordinator this offseason after spending 2019-20 as the Vikings quarterbacks coach. He has helped Kirk Cousins to the best two season-long passer ratings of his career, which included a 107.4 in 2019 and a 105.0 in 2020. Kubiak spent the 2016-18 seasons as an offensive assistant/quarterbacks coach for the Denver Broncos. He coached receivers at Kansas in 2015 after two seasons with the Vikings as a quality control/assistant wide receivers coach. Kubiak began his coaching career at Texas A&M in 2010.

## ADAM ZIMMER

CO-DEFENSIVE  
COORDINATOR/LBSNFL EXPERIENCE  
16TH SEASONVIKINGS EXPERIENCE  
8TH SEASON

Adam Zimmer has coached Vikings linebackers since 2014 and added co-defensive coordinator duties in 2020. After playing defensive back at Trinity University in Texas from 2002-05, Zimmer began his coaching career with the Saints as a defensive assistant. After three seasons, he became the assistant linebackers coach in New Orleans and earned a Super Bowl ring. Zimmer then became assistant linebackers coach with the Chiefs from 2010-12 before joining the Bengals in 2013 as assistant defensive backs coach.

## RYAN FICKEN

SPECIAL TEAMS  
COORDINATORNFL EXPERIENCE  
15TH SEASONVIKINGS EXPERIENCE  
15TH SEASON

Ficken was promoted this offseason after working as the team's assistant special teams coach from 2013-20. Prior to that role, Ficken assisted with Vikings running backs from 2007-08 and with receivers from 2009-12. He was a defensive assistant with UCLA from 2004-05 before switching to the offensive side of the ball for the Bruins in 2006. Ficken played receiver for two seasons at Arizona State (1998-99) and earned the Scholar-Athlete Award.





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# STATE OF THE VIKINGS

BY CRAIG PETERS



## **EVERYONE GOT THE MESSAGE.**

Last season's results from bizarre and often fan-less venues aren't to become the norm.

Nor will they if Vikings Head Coach Mike Zimmer, a replenished defense, threatening offense and remade special teams units have anything to say about it.

"I feel like we've added a lot of good players," Zimmer said during the Vikings offseason program. "You know, offensively was more with the draft and then on defense and special teams was more on free agency. But our guys in the front office have done an outstanding job. It's probably going to look completely different on the defensive side of the ball than it did last year with the guys coming back and the additions that we made. I am excited about that."

Minnesota is envisioning better health for a defense that missed a combined 35 possible games from Pro Bowlers Danielle Hunter (16), Anthony Barr (14) and Eric Kendricks (five). Barr, the first player the Vikings drafted after Zimmer's hire, said the head coach who became a grandpa to twins this summer still has his fire.

"He's always been the kind of coach that has a chip on his shoulder, that goes about things in just a very hard-working type of

fashion. I don't think that's any different," Barr said. "He comes to work every day, fired up, ready to get better. He just lays out the expectations and explained last year was not good enough and not only disappointing but frustrating.

"Any time we've had a bad season, we've bounced back and been pretty successful the next year, so I'm looking forward to this year," Barr added.

The Vikings defense intends to bank on adding burliness up front (with defensive tackles Michael Pierce, Dalvin Tomlinson and Sheldon Richardson) and a bulk of experience on the back end of the defense, highlighted by the signing of eight-time Pro Bowler Patrick Peterson and other veteran cornerbacks.

Although Kirk Cousins will have his fourth different offensive coordinator in as many seasons with Minnesota, there is a general continuity for the quarterback. Klint Kubiak's promotion to the role after two seasons as Minnesota's quarterbacks coach will help, and so will the return of Dalvin Cook after one of the best seasons by a Vikings running back in team history.

Once-unheralded Adam Thielen and 2020 first-round pick Justin Jefferson comprise one of the best receiver duos in the NFL, and

Minnesota is excited about the potential for emerging players like tight end Irv Smith, Jr.

That's not to say everything is figured out. Minnesota has questions to answer on its offensive line and multiple jobs up for grabs on special teams, but the Vikings will solve those problems together and welcome fans back to games.

"I don't want to say it wasn't as fun, but there's so much more happiness and excitement this year," right tackle Brian O'Neill said. "We know we're going to have fans; we know football season is going to be as normal as it can be."

**“ OFFENSIVELY WAS MORE WITH THE DRAFT AND THEN ON DEFENSE AND SPECIAL TEAMS WAS MORE ON FREE AGENCY. BUT OUR GUYS IN THE FRONT OFFICE HAVE DONE AN OUTSTANDING JOB.**

**- HEAD COACH MIKE ZIMMER**



# OFFENSE



**“IT’S A VERY INTELLIGENT ROOM, SO IT’S A VERY COMPETITIVE ROOM PHYSICALLY. BUT THOSE GUYS COMPETE MENTALLY ...**

**- OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR KLINT KUBIAK**

## QUARTERBACKS

Kirk Cousins is back for his fourth season in Purple and is aiming to pick up where he left off with a strong finish to 2020, when he threw 24 touchdowns against just three interceptions in the final 10 weeks.

Cousins has put up substantial numbers in his first three years with the Vikings, throwing for at least 25 touchdowns and compiling a passer rating of at least 99.7 in those three seasons.

He knows the onus is on him to help the Vikings get to the postseason for the second time in his tenure. A stronger start to the season might help, as Minnesota is a combined 3-7-1 in Septembers with Cousins under center.

And while he is the unquestioned starter, there is plenty of intrigue behind him with the trio of Jake Browning, Nate Stanley and Kellen Mond.

Browning, a 2019 undrafted free agent, and Stanley, a 2020 seventh-round pick, showed signs of improvement during

offseason practices, but strong play in the preseason will be key in evaluations.

The same can be said of Mond, a rookie who was a third-round pick in the 2021 NFL Draft. A four-year starter at Texas A&M, Mond earned praise for his football IQ and the mental aspect of his game this spring.

But like all rookies, he'll certainly face a learning curve as he adjusts to the speed and challenges of the NFL.

“Really competitive group ... [Browning, Stanley and Mond] have really competed hard against each other,” said Vikings Offensive Coordinator Klint Kubiak. “It’s a very intelligent room, so it’s a very competitive room physically. But those guys compete mentally ... Who can have the quickest answer? Who knows the answer the fastest? Who can think of the worst thing that can happen on this play and how we’re going to fix it before it ever starts? I love that room.”

# RUNNING BACKS

The Vikings boast of one of the league's top running back duos in Dalvin Cook and Alexander Mattison, and the former can certainly state his case as the best back in the league.

Minnesota will lean on the ground game again, as the Vikings are running a similar scheme to a season ago when they ranked fifth overall with 142.7 rushing yards per game.

Cook was phenomenal in 2020, setting a career-high with 1,557 rushing yards and 16 scores as he earned a second straight Pro Bowl honor.

Cook said he has little interest in personal goals in 2021, even as he enters the first season of a multi-year contract he signed in September.

"I want to make the playoffs. That's my goal. I've never really set a goal ever since I got to Minnesota," Cook said. "My main goal was just go out there and be Dalvin Cook, and I think everything will take care of itself. I never really set a goal for X number of yards and, 'This is what I want.' I always say work hard, and when the season comes around, [I'll] just be who I am and let it go. That's what I do."

Mattison chipped in with 434 yards and a pair of scores in 13 games. He closed his second pro season by rushing for 95 yards and catching three passes for 50 yards, including a 28-yard touchdown in Week 17.

There are also a handful of intriguing names at running back behind those two.

Ameer Abdullah is a veteran who plays key roles on special teams. Kene Nwangwu, a 2021 fourth-round pick, could also excel on special teams as a rookie, as he was a dynamic kick returner at Iowa State. Rookie undrafted free agent A.J. Rose, is also on the roster.

The Vikings will also rely on Pro Bowl fullback C.J. Ham to once again clear the way up front, as the Minnesota native is one of the game's best at his position. Jake Bargas is also back after spending nearly all of the 2020 season on the practice squad.



# WIDE RECEIVERS

Much like running back, the Vikings appear loaded at the top of this position group with Adam Thielen and Justin Jefferson.

Thielen was a touchdown machine in 2020, hauling in a career-high 14, a total that is the fifth-most in a single season in team history. He also added 925 yards in 15 games, narrowly missing out on the third 1,000-yard season of his career.

Jefferson took the league by storm as a rookie in 2020. He set a Super Bowl-era rookie record with a whopping 1,400 receiving yards and added seven touchdowns for good measure. He also caught 88 passes, a total that broke the team's single-season rookie record set in 1998 by Hall of Famer Randy Moss.

Many will be watching to see how Jefferson fares in his second season, as he is sure to draw lots of attention, but the fun-loving wide receiver looked even faster and more confident this spring.

"Now it's my second year, and I just feel so comfortable with these guys," Jefferson said. "They're very easy to talk to, very easy to be around, so now I feel just way more comfortable with this team and just trying to take on that role to be a leader."

As usual, there are a number of players battling for the third spot behind Thielen and Jefferson.

Chad Beebe had a solid 2020 season with 20 catches for 201 yards and two scores. He saw first-team reps this spring and could solidify that spot again with a strong summer showing. Bisi Johnson is entering his third season and knows the Vikings offense well.

But they'll be pushed by a handful of youngsters him, including rookie Ihmir Smith-Marsette from Iowa. He could initially make an impact on special teams but also has potential to help out the offense down the road.

K.J. Osborn and Dan Chisena exclusively played special teams as rookies in 2020. But Osborn showed flashes on offense this spring and could carve out a role for himself with even more improvement.

Myron Mitchell, Whop Philyor and Blake Proehl are undrafted free agents who will look to impress coaches in training camp and the preseason. While they could fight their way onto the 53-man roster by the time the season starts, perhaps they end up on the practice squad in their respective rookie seasons.



# TIGHT ENDS

This position group was the talk of the town this offseason, as many are excited about the potential production that Irv Smith, Jr., and Tyler Conklin could bring to the field in 2021.

Those two are looked at as the leaders of the group after veteran Kyle Rudolph was released due to salary cap restraints this offseason. Smith and Conklin certainly looked the part this spring, as both routinely shined in all aspects of practices.

Smith had 365 yards and five scores in 2020, with many expecting him to top those numbers in his third pro season. Conklin, meanwhile, flashed down the stretch with 15 catches for 168 yards and a touchdown in Minnesota's final four games of the 2020 season.

"I feel like the tight end, you want to be able to move and not only be a threat in the pass game, but in the run game as well [as a blocker]," Smith said. "I feel like me and Conk' are one of the best [duos] at doing that. With that being said, I'm very excited about me and him playing together and having this opportunity."

The battle for the spot behind Smith and Conklin should be a good one. And it's for a key role in the Vikings offense, given how often the team uses multiple tight end sets.

Brandon Dillon has fared well over the past two training camps and could be in line for a larger role in his third professional season.

Zach Davidson has an interesting backstory. The 2021 fifth-round pick played at Central Missouri (Division II) and excelled at both punter and tight end before getting drafted. He may need some time to develop but certainly offers intrigue.

Another Division II player in the room is Shane Zylstra, who is transitioning to the position after a stellar college career as a receiver at Minnesota State, Mankato. Zylstra is the school's all-time leader in career receptions (227), receiving yards (4,297) and touchdown catches (54).



## OFFENSIVE LINE

This position group is always in the spotlight, but no team has devoted as much draft capital to the offensive line than the Vikings in recent years.

Over the past four drafts, Minnesota has taken five offensive linemen on Day 1 or Day 2, the most among NFL teams in that span.

The Vikings are now led up front by Brian O'Neill, a 2018 second-rounder who has developed into one of the game's better right tackles.

"You might have a few more pointers for the young guys," O'Neill said of his role after the departure of Riley Reiff. "But at the end of the day, it's all about trying to progress myself and have the best season I possibly can and try to help lead this group the best way I can."

Garrett Bradbury will be back at center as the 2019 first-round pick enters his third season. He has progressed in each of his first two seasons but could be in line for a bigger jump in Year 3.

Ezra Cleveland is now at left guard after he started nine games at right guard as a rookie in 2020. A former second-rounder, Cleveland said he bulked up a bit this offseason to get prepared for the grind of being an interior offensive lineman.

Veterans Rashod Hill (left tackle) and Dakota Dozier (right guard) spent offseason practices with the first-team offense. And both would provide a veteran presence if asked to start this season.

But the Vikings also spent two draft picks on offensive linemen in the 2021 NFL Draft, including the No. 23 selection on left tackle Christian Darrisaw.

The former Virginia Tech standout offers size (6-foot-5 and 323 pounds) and athleticism, and he is viewed as Minnesota's left tackle of the future.

Former Ohio State right guard Wyatt Davis, a two-time All-American, could also vie for a starting spot as a rookie. He is listed at 6-4 and 326 pounds, and he brings needed size up front.

There is solid depth behind that group, including fourth-year veteran Mason Cole, whom the Vikings traded for this spring. He had 32 career starts at center and guard with Arizona over the past three seasons.

Others such as Olisaemeka Udoh, Dru Samia, Blake Brandel and Kyle Hinton are younger linemen who could provide depth this season.



A young girl in a red dress and a young boy in a blue shirt are running through a lush green field. The girl is in the foreground, running away from the camera, holding a string. The boy is slightly behind her, also running away from the camera, holding a toy airplane. In the background, several large wind turbines are visible against a clear blue sky. The image is framed by a large white triangle on the right side.

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SPECIAL TEAMS AND

# DEFENSE

BY CRAIG PETERS

## SAFETIES

Harrison Smith equaled his career best with five interceptions in 2020. He is entering his 10th season with 28 career picks.

Veteran free agent Xavier Woods, who played the past four seasons with Dallas, is expected to join Smith and fill the vacancy created by the departure of Anthony Harris.

"He's a really smart guy, so that makes it – I don't want to say easier – but it can make things smoother when you've got two guys back there that can stay ahead of plays and you've got guys outside that are easy to communicate with," Smith said. "It just kind of lets that whole pre-snap operation run a little smoother."

Josh Metellus is back for his second season, and Myles Dorn, who missed all of 2020 with an injury, wants to make his mark. Fourth-round pick Camryn Bynum is transitioning from playing cornerback at Cal to safety, and Luther Kirk is aiming to build on his experience with Minnesota's practice squad last season.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Britton Colquitt is back to punt for his third season in Minnesota and 12th in the NFL. In addition to punting, Colquitt has solidified the holder spot since signing in 2019.

He'll be the pivot as battles at long snapper (between veteran Andrew DePaola and undrafted rookie Turner Bernard) and kicker (between veteran Greg Joseph and rookie Riley Patterson) unfold.

Longtime assistant Ryan Ficken has been promoted to special teams coordinator. He described the approach to evaluating competitions.

"You want to make it as fair as possible so they're getting the same reps, because each day's different," Ficken said. "We have windy days on certain days and not on others, so you want to keep it as fair as possible, but at the end of the day it all works out. ... Competition's a beautiful thing, and we've just got to make sure we're working to get better each day."

## CORNERBACKS

The Vikings injected multiple doses of experience at cornerback this offseason after generally rolling with rookies Cam Dantzler and Jeff Gladney in 2020.

Patrick Peterson leads a group of veteran arrivals that also includes Bashaud Breeland, Parry Nickerson and Tye Smith, and Mackensie Alexander has returned to the team that drafted him in 2016 after spending 2020 with Cincinnati.

"They're not going through it for the first time like we did a year ago," Co-Defensive Coordinator Andre Patterson said of the veteran corners. "But I think the other thing that's very important is you have a lot of competition, OK? And competition makes everyone better. Competition makes everybody compete and makes everybody strive to improve because they're all fighting for a job, and to me, what we have going on right now in the secondary and what we have going on right now in the defensive line, is great competition."

Harrison Hand turned in a strong showing this offseason in preparation for his second pro season, and Kris Boyd is entering his third with Minnesota. Dylan Maybin and Amari Henderson are also vying for spots.



# LINEBACKERS

One could almost see “WELP” in air bubbles above the Vikings sideline each time an injury struck the Vikings linebackers in 2020.

Anthony Barr, a four-time Pro Bowler, was one of the biggest losses – and quickest, less than six full quarters into the campaign.

“Obviously having Anthony back is huge for us,” Vikings Co-Defensive Coordinator Adam Zimmer said. “There’s so many things he does for us that go unnoticed by maybe the common fan. He’s our signal-caller and makes all the checks for us. And he’s extremely smart. ... I think he’s going to have a great year. He’s moving around great, has gotten stronger, and we’ve got some different looks for him that can enhance the way we use him.”

Eric Kendricks was helping the group mitigate losses by turning in arguably his finest season

when he suffered an injury in a practice that cost him the final five games of his sixth pro season.

“Unfortunately, I felt like I was having one of the best seasons of my career, and I wanted to help my team win games,” Kendricks said. “Being on the sideline was disappointing, but we’ve been rehabbing, been recovering and feeling good, so I’m looking forward to this upcoming season.”

Troy Dye, Ryan Connelly and Blake Lynch are back after suiting up for Minnesota in 2020, and so is Cameron Smith, who underwent surgery to repair a congenital heart defect last summer. Minnesota brought in veteran Nick Vigil and drafted Chazz Surratt in the third round this spring. Tuf Borland and Christian Elliss were added as undrafted free agents.



# DEFENSIVE TACKLES

The 2020 plan was to fill the mammoth void previously occupied by Linval Joseph with Michael Pierce, who understandably opted out last season because of COVID-19 concerns. Pierce at long last made his way to Minnesota and is expected to partner with 2021 signee Dalvin Tomlinson.

“They’ve done a nice job. They’re pro’s pros,” Vikings Assistant Head Coach and Co-Defensive Coordinator Andre Patterson said. “They work hard, they’ve got very good football I.Q., they’re both big and strong. I think the one thing that’s been surprising is how sudden and how quick their feet are for big men.”

Their unique nimbleness is definitely something to keep an eye on during training camp practices, and so is the quickness of Sheldon Richardson, who played for the Vikings in 2018 before inking a big deal with the Browns. Richardson returned to Minnesota in June after two seasons with Cleveland. The Vikings might try to maximize his impact in pass-rush packages.

Armon Watts is entering his third season, and James Lynch is back for his second campaign. Minnesota drafted Jaylen Twyman in the sixth round and added undrafted free agents Zeandae Johnson and Jordon Scott.

# DEFENSIVE ENDS

Danielle Hunter’s sixth pro season ended without a sack or even a snap in full pads. The NFL’s youngest player to record 50 career sacks suffered a neck injury during a camp practice that required surgery.

The absence of a player who had posted 14.5 sacks in 2018 and 2019 was glaring. Minnesota finished with a paltry 23 sacks last season and struggled to make opposing quarterbacks uncomfortable.

“I just want to be out there and help my teammates; knowing I wasn’t able to help them and just seeing what happened on the field, it got to me,” Hunter said after returning to Twin Cities Orthopedics Performance Center in June for a mandatory minicamp. “I’m just happy I’m able to come back and help the team out, whatever they need me to do.”

Hunter did not practice in those sessions, and it’s likely the Vikings will slowly accelerate things for the muscle-car enthusiast.

Minnesota brought back Stephen Weatherly after he played 2020 for Carolina and is looking to build on a solid rookie season by D.J. Wonnum. Jalyn Holmes, Hercules Mata’afa and Jordan Brailford are back in the fold, and Kenny Willekes is eager for his first NFL action after missing all of last season with a camp injury. The Vikings also drafted Patrick Jones II in the third round and Janarius Robinson in the fourth.



BY LINDSEY YOUNG

TD 25  
"LAMBEAU LEAP"  
21 YDS AT GB 11.01.20

# 33 FOR

## DALVIN COOK BREAKS DOWN HIS REGULAR-SEASON RUSHING TDS

### Thirty-three for 33.

*Entering his fifth NFL campaign, Vikings running back Dalvin Cook has 33 rushing touchdowns in regular-season games to his name – and to match his jersey number.*

*Cook is a student of the game and no stranger to film study; but the goal is usually to better prepare for an opponent. Vikings.com, however, got Cook to run it back and self-critique all 33 scores.*

*Cook reminisced, reflected, and he laughed ... a lot.*

### 1 1 YD VS. TB | 09.24.17

"Look at me. Look at me. Hold up. First of all, this is my first touchdown of my career. And I wasn't supposed to be doing this – diving over the pile. KP (running backs coach Kennedy Polamalu) had told me, 'Don't do it.' And I dove over the pile, and I thought I lost the ball. You can see me indecisive on the ground right here. I don't know if I scored or not. I'm nervous – just look. I'm nervous. I don't know.

"I'm like, 'This is my first touchdown. I can't ...' Look at me. 'Did I score?' Touchdown. Touchdown."



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**2 5 YDS VS. DET | 10.01.17**  
"Case [Keenum] motioned me in – this is the one where I jumped in the end zone. I remember this game. I got hurt. This is the game I tore my ACL. Time to jump! This is when we were cooking early, right there."  
"That little celebration right there? ... 'Get the pot ready; stir us up.' Let's go! I like that one."

**3 13 YDS VS. MIA | 12.16.18**  
"Playing the Dolphins always meant something to me. My home team – it always meant something to me. These touchdowns. ... My brother and my mom were at this game. It was just one of those moments. My mom has only been to a few games because my brother plays [college football], so it was fun."  
"It was my first touchdown back from my ACL. ... [And it] was probably the most meaningful one."

**4 21 YDS VS. MIA | 12.16.18**  
"This is probably one of my most creative touchdowns right here. ... *(Laughs, watching himself run into the end zone while holding up two fingers)* ... 'Deuces.' I miss those fans, man."

**5 19 YDS VS. ATL | 09.08.19**  
"Oh, yeah. Good block by Adam [Thielen]. Let's go! I got in trouble for this celebration. ... The ref, he said, 'Don't do it again, 33.'"  
"It's always fun when you get [Chad] Beebe making blocks, when you get Adam making blocks."

**6 7 YDS VS. ATL | 09.08.19**  
"Oh yeah. This is the one where Irv [Smith, Jr.] walked me in the end zone. Irv said, 'Follow me. Follow me. Follow me.' ... Irv is my private escort right here. ... When blocking means a lot to a tight end, that's how you know you've got a good one."

**7 75 YDS AT GB | 09.15.19**  
"Sometimes when I break long runs and there's a safety – I don't know if people ever do this – I look the safety right in the eyes. And if his eyes are a little bit bigger than mine, he's in trouble. Or you get some guys who are just back there flat-footed and just looking at you. I got him, too, because I'm gonna run past him. It just depends. Before, three years ago, I probably would have gone up on the safety and just tried to give him a move. Now, it's just like, 'If he catches me, he catches me.' The odds of him doing it are slim. I'm just gonna try to run past him."

**8 1 YD VS. OAK | 09.22.19**  
"This is one of those plays ... we'd been calling all year. 'Toss Dalvin to the right, toss Dalvin to the left. Let him get to the edge. Let him make a play.' That was basically what we were doing that year. I had like eight touchdowns off of pitch plays that year. It was fun. Touchdown! Watch me. Touchdown – let's go."

**9 2 YDS AT CHI | 09.29.19**  
"We needed this one. We couldn't go out of there with a shutout. This was just one of those touchdowns where it's like, 'End of the game, we need it. We can't leave here without it.' Chicago was playing some good defense that game."

**10 1 YD VS. PHI | 10.13.19**  
"Oh, this is the one where I throw the ball in the stands. ... They sent me a letter, told me, 'Don't do it no more.' So I just started throwing it in front of the stands instead."

**11 8 YDS AT DET | 10.20.19**  
"Watch Irv ... Good block by Irv. He knew it, too. ... Look at Irv out there. I knew I had scored that one. The next touchdown is the one that put it away."

**12 4 YDS AT DET | 10.20.19**  
"So look – Before the play, Rudy (Kyle Rudolph) was like, 'Man, if one of you scores right here, we're going to end the game, we're going to take a group picture.' And that's how it worked out. I scored, we took our little group photo, and life went on."

**13 4 YDS VS. WAS | 10.24.19**  
"I like that little kiddie moment – B.O. (Brian O'Neill) jumping on the next offensive lineman, like 'You're how many pounds? You're 6-5, like, c'mon!' That's funny right there."

**14**

**2 YDS AT DAL 11.10.19**  
"This one right here was a big play. Clock running down, 2 seconds, fourth-and-goal."



**15 3 YDS VS. DEN | 11.17.19**  
"Oh yeah, this is the game we came back in. This was one of those touchdowns we needed, to be honest, to put us back in the game."

**16 2 YDS AT SEA | 12.02.19**  
"Playing against the Seahawks, scoring anytime against the Seahawks is fun because you've got a linebacker like Bobby Wagner. He's so smart – calling the plays out before the game, before the snap, and doing all that – and just to go score, it's fun."



**17 3 YDS VS. DET | 12.08.19**  
(Laughs) "This should be a toss to the right. Toss to the right! Told you. That year, we – there you go, gotta spike! Look at [Lions Head Coach Matt Patricia]! Look at the coach!"

**18 1 YD VS. GB | 09.13.20**  
"We always knew Green Bay had a problem with stopping ... that play. That was wide-open."

**19 3 YDS VS. GB | 09.13.20**  
"Oh yeah, I definitely remember this. ... The Packers. I hate losing to the Packers."

**20 3 YDS AT IND | 09.20.20**  
"This was one of those touchdowns, like, 'Yeah, we're going to fight to the end.' That's the type of team we are. We're going to keep fighting, no matter what."

**21 39 YDS VS. TEN | 09.27.20**  
"Watch Irv Smith. Good block – that's all we need."  
(Laughs) "Look at Conk' (Tyler Conklin) – Conk's like, 'I don't know how to dance.'"

**22 5 YDS AT HOU | 10.04.20**  
"This is one of those games we needed to run the football. Just had to get going early in this one, and we definitely did that."

**23 7 YDS AT HOU | 10.04.20**  
"It was hard to defend this play. That was a good play."

**24 8 YDS AT SEA | 10.11.20**  
"Ahh, man. Scoring in Seattle is always fun. Always. Because of him – 54 (Wagner). He's the smartest man on the field."

**25 21 YDS AT GB | 11.01.20**  
"There I go! Look, let me pause this. I've always wanted to do this (the Lambeau Leap), my whole life. Once I realized that I was coming to Minnesota after being drafted, I started digging deep into the history of rivalries. ... Oh, man. The Lambeau Leap – this was all I needed, right here. It was on."

**26 1 YD AT GB | 11.01.20**  
"This was good. That's a Hammer (C.J. Ham) Spike right there. A Hammer Spike. He [basically] scored the touchdown. Yes sir."

**27 1 YD AT GB | 11.01.20**  
"I remember on this one, Garrett was like, 'Come right behind me. Come right behind me.' ... That was Ezra [Cleveland's] first spike, right there. Look at Garrett – oooo, Garrett got that thing wide open."

**28 5 YDS VS. DET | 11.08.20**  
"This is our former guy right here, 42 (Jayron Kearsse). He's gonna try to make a tackle right here. Touchdown. ... I knew where the goal line was at when I reached the ball out. I'm trying to see if the ref's on the same page as me. Like, we just did all this work, and you're talking about no touchdown?"

**29 70 YDS VS. DET | 11.08.20**  
"Check out my boy (Ham). There goes my boy, coming to get his spike in. BOOM! I think that was probably one of the best ones of the year right there. ... Ah, man, we gotta get us a couple more of these long runs again this year."

**30 1 YD VS. DAL | 11.22.20**  
"I got hit pretty hard right here. I broke my [face shield]. Look at it – it's broke. He (Cowboys DL Antwaun Woods) hit me pretty hard on this one. That's why I spiked it myself. I was mad. He hit me hard, this dude. He's gonna throw an elbow – watch him. Damn."

**31 1 YD AT TB | 12.13.20**  
"This one was meaningful. They haven't really let anybody rush the football in there. So this one [was big]."

**32 1 YD VS. CHI | 12.20.20**  
"Oh yeah, on this one, Garrett told me to follow him again."  
**Did you get banged up there?**  
"I mean, you've got a lot of stuff going on. You've got [Akiem] Hicks on me, a lot of stuff. A lot of people."

**15 YDS AT NO | 12.25.20**

"This is ... a statement. That sums all my touchdowns up. I try to make it a piece of art. ... Just getting it to the end zone – there isn't no better feeling than that."

"That's why I like scoring touchdowns. And it just shows hard work. It shows the hard work of my receivers, my o-linemen. I like to celebrate with my guys, Lindsey. (Puts the remote down). And we're going to do a lot of celebrating this year!"

**33**





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# ROOKIE ROUNDUP

BY CRAIG PETERS

THE VIKINGS ADDED TO EVERY OFFENSIVE POSITION GROUP AND ADDRESSED ALL THREE LEVELS OF THEIR DEFENSE BY SELECTING 11 PLAYERS IN THE 2021 NFL DRAFT.

It marked the fourth time in five years in which Minnesota has selected 11 or more players in a draft. The Vikings reached double digits despite not having a second-round selection in part because General Manager Rick Spielman was able to trade down from 14 to 23 on opening night, collect a pair of third-round picks from the Jets and land tackle Christian Darrisaw out of Virginia Tech.

Spielman said the Vikings were thrilled that Darrisaw was still on

the board at No. 23 because the team had considered taking him with the 14th pick. The Vikings then tried to move back up to make sure they secured the tackle.

It turned out that Minnesota didn't have to make another move, and the picks acquired from the Jets were used to select quarterback Kellen Mond and guard Wyatt Davis.

"When we got into the third round, we just kind of followed our board, picked the best available players," Spielman said. "We had a lot of activity of teams trying to trade up into our slots but felt ... if we did trade out and tried to accumulate more picks for Saturday, that the value wasn't going to be there."

**Here's an overview of the 2021 Vikings draft class.**

## CHRISTIAN DARRISAW, T

1ST ROUND (23RD OVERALL)

HEIGHT: 6-5 | WEIGHT: 323

COLLEGE: VIRGINIA TECH

Virginia Tech was the only FBS school to offer Darrisaw a scholarship out of Riverdale Baptist High School in Maryland, but he entered the starting lineup at left tackle immediately. Darrisaw totaled 35 starts in three seasons, capping his career with selections to the All-ACC First Team and All-America Second Team.

## KELLEN MOND, QB

3RD ROUND (66TH OVERALL)

HEIGHT: 6-3 | WEIGHT: 211

COLLEGE: TEXAS A&M

Mond was the No. 1 dual-threat quarterback recruit in the country in 2017 and became a four-year starter at Texas A&M, finishing as the Aggies all-time leader in most career passing categories. He was named MVP of the 2019 Academy Sports + Outdoors Texas Bowl and of the 2021 Reese's Senior Bowl.

## WYATT DAVIS, G

3RD ROUND (86TH OVERALL)

HEIGHT: 6-4 | WEIGHT: 326

COLLEGE: OHIO STATE

After garnering Southern California Player of the Year honors from the *Los Angeles Times* as a tackle at St. John Bosco, Davis transitioned to guard at Ohio State. He became the first Buckeyes guard to win the Big Ten's Rimington-Pace Offensive Lineman of the Year award and was unanimously selected to the All-America Team in 2020.

## CHAZZ SURRATT, LB

3RD ROUND (78TH OVERALL)

HEIGHT: 6-2 | WEIGHT: 230

COLLEGE: NORTH CAROLINA

Surratt made seven starts at quarterback for UNC in 2017 but appeared in just one game there in 2018. He pivoted to linebacker in 2019 and was the runner-up for ACC Defensive Player of the Year honors, ranking second in the conference with 115 tackles and leading the Tar Heels with 15 tackles for loss and 6.5 sacks.

## PATRICK JONES II, DE

3RD ROUND (90TH OVERALL)

HEIGHT: 6-4 | WEIGHT: 262

COLLEGE: PITTSBURGH

Jones redshirted in 2016 after enrolling a semester early and played as a reserve pass rusher from 2017-18. He became a starter in 2019 and led the Panthers with four forced fumbles, which tied for fourth-most in FBS. He garnered First-Team All-ACC honors in 2020, as well as a Second-Team All-America designation.







## **KENE NWANGWU, RB**

**4TH ROUND (119TH OVERALL)**

**HEIGHT: 6-1 | WEIGHT: 213**

**COLLEGE: IOWA STATE**

Nwangwu first made his mark as a kickoff returner for the Cyclones in 2016 when he averaged 26.4 yards per return to rank second in the Big 12 and 15th nationally. After a medical redshirt in 2017, he ranked first (2018), second (2019) and third (2020) in the Big 12 in kickoff return average.

## **CAMRYN BYNUM, S**

**4TH ROUND (125TH OVERALL)**

**HEIGHT: 6-0 | WEIGHT: 200**

**COLLEGE: CALIFORNIA**

A two-time captain, Bynum was the only Bears player to start all 42 games from 2017-20. He made each start at cornerback and led the Bears in passes defended in each of the past three seasons but has switched to safety for Minnesota. Pac-12 coaches named him Honorable Mention (2018), Second Team (2019) and First Team (2020).

## **JANARIUS ROBINSON, DE**

**4TH ROUND (134TH OVERALL)**

**HEIGHT: 6-5 | WEIGHT: 260**

**COLLEGE: FLORIDA STATE**

After redshirting in 2016 and playing as a reserve in 2017, Robinson thrived with a larger role. He led Florida State with 9.0 tackles for loss in 2019 and added 7.0 more in a shortened 2020. Robinson was named to the All-ACC Academic Team in 2020 and to the ACC Honor Roll in 2018 and 2019.



## **IHMIR SMITH-MARSETTE, WR**

**5TH ROUND (157TH OVERALL)**

**HEIGHT: 6-1 | WEIGHT: 180**

**COLLEGE: IOWA**

Smith-Marsette capped his college career by earning Honorable Mention All-Big Ten honors as a receiver and kick returner. He ended the previous year by garnering Offensive MVP honors in the Holiday Bowl when he scored a rushing, receiving and return touchdown against Southern Cal. Smith-Marsette's career kickoff return average (28.7 yards) ranks second in Big Ten history.

## **ZACH DAVIDSON, TE**



**5TH ROUND (168TH OVERALL)**

**HEIGHT: 6-7 | WEIGHT: 243**

**COLLEGE: CENTRAL MISSOURI**

Davidson's ability to punt is what landed the Webb City, Missouri, native with the Mules, but he wound up excelling in a rare double-duty role. Davidson garnered First-Team All-America honors from *The Associated Press* in 2019. Central Missouri did not participate in fall 2020 because of COVID-19.

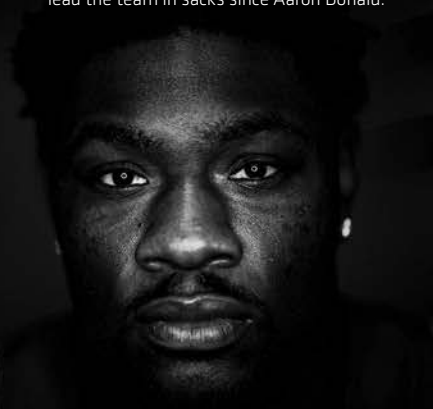
## **JAYLEN TWYMAN, DT**

**6TH ROUND (199TH OVERALL)**

**HEIGHT: 6-2 | WEIGHT: 293**

**COLLEGE: PITTSBURGH**

Twyman earned *Washington Post* All-Metro honors as a senior at H.D. Woodson High School in Washington, D.C., but he redshirted in 2017. After making just one start in 2018, Twyman burst onto the scene with 10.5 sacks as a sophomore, becoming the first Panthers interior lineman to lead the team in sacks since Aaron Donald.





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# STEVE HUTCHINSON

HEADING TO THE HALL

**AS PART OF THE NFL'S 100TH SEASON (2019), THE PRO FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME ESTABLISHED A CENTENNIAL CLASS OF 2020.**

*The expanded class included modern-era players Steve Hutchinson, Steve Atwater, Isaac Bruce, Edgerrin James and Troy Polamalu, as well as coaches Bill Cowher and Jimmy Johnson. Contributors Steve Sabol, Paul Tagliabue and George Young also were elected. Additionally, the following 10 senior players were elected: Harold Carmichael, Jimbo Covert, Bobby Dillon, Cliff Harris, Winston Hill, Alex Karras, Donnie Shell, Duke Slater, Mac Speedie and Ed Sprinkle.*

**IT WILL BE OVERDUE**, uncommon and A-OK for Steve Hutchinson's name to be called on Aug. 7 when the Pro Football Hall of Fame's Class of 2020 is finally enshrined.

Hutchinson embodied the approach of an offensive lineman, valuing team goals and working hard to dominate while generally avoiding the limelight – and ire of officials – for much of his 12 NFL seasons.

The laurels – seven Pro Bowls and five selections to *The Associated Press'* All-Pro First Team – occurred, and the penalties did not. After joining the Vikings in 2006, the 17th overall pick of the 2001 NFL Draft by Seattle was flagged just eight times (five false starts and three holds) over the course of six seasons.

Hutchinson was not assessed a single penalty in 2006 or 2008 and helped Minnesota rank second in the NFL in rushing yards per game (135.0) and third in rushing touchdowns (102) from 2006-11. He blocked for a 1,000-yard rusher in 11 of his 12 seasons. Hutchinson finished his career in Tennessee (2012) and now works as a consultant for Seattle's personnel department.

The Hall of Fame recently hosted a media session during which Hutchinson explained his thoughts on the guard position. He noted it is often undervalued in draft rooms and is being challenged in new ways when defensive coaching staffs isolate elite pass rushers against a guard.

"It is a position that's hard to watch on TV because it gets lost from the camera angles," Hutchinson said. "Most of the time you're only getting your name called when there's a flag on the field. That won't change, but most offensive linemen don't do it for the glory.

"I think everybody would love to be behind the scenes and stay there and not have to deal with the spotlight," Hutchinson continued, "but it definitely is a position that's crucial, just like any of them, and I think now more so than ever."

According to Hall of Fame records, only a handful of guards made it to football immortality faster than Hutchinson, who was selected in his third year of eligibility after an obligatory five-year waiting period. John Hannah and Gene Upshaw were elected in their first year of eligibility. The same goes for Larry Allen and Bruce Matthews, who spent most of their careers at guard.

Forrest Gregg was a tackle, except in a couple of years when pinches kicked him inside. Jim Parker also made his first marks at tackle. Jonathan Ogden moved to left tackle after his rookie campaign.

On the eve of Super Bowl LIV, Hutchinson and his family were in a hotel room a short trip down the beach from his hometown of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, when Hall of Fame President David Baker knocked on the door at 3:35 p.m. to inform Hutchinson he would be the

335th person enshrined. Hutchinson's daughter snapped a photo to chronicle the moment.

Weeks later, the COVID-19 pandemic shut down much of the sports world, prompting a postponement of the enshrinement ceremony but not the rewarding feeling Hutchinson enjoyed when he received the good news.

"It was kind of a calming, overall satisfactory exhale feeling where I could be like, 'I did it. I can close the book on my professional career and my football life,'" Hutchinson said. "That's what I started out to do. I wanted to be the best, and when you get that knock, it confirms it. It was kind of hard to put into words, but it's definitely a feeling I'll never forget."





# KEVIN WILLIAMS

LEGACY ON THE D-LINE

BY LINDSEY YOUNG



**Kevin Williams stopped, handed his phone to a Vikings staff member and stood near the Purple People Eaters exhibit, positioning himself between sculptures of Alan Page and Gary Larsen.**

**"I'VE GOTTA GET A PHOTO WITH THESE GUYS,"** Williams said from the Minnesota Vikings Museum.

He's a man of few words but ample talent and a humble heart.

A 2003 first-round draft pick by Minnesota, Williams totaled 60 sacks (tied for ninth-most in team history), five interceptions (two returned for touchdowns), eight forced fumbles and 13 fumble recoveries (two returned for touchdowns) over 11 seasons in Purple.

His 685 career tackles are the fifth-most among Minnesota defensive linemen, and his 75.5 tackles for loss rank eighth among all Vikings players, according to team records.

Williams never sought the spotlight, but he's being recognized nonetheless. His museum tour occurred a few hours after receiving the surprise news that he will be inducted into the Vikings Ring of Honor this year.

"It is surreal. ... I didn't play for the accolades or the glory. I just wanted to win and do my job and represent this organization as best as I could," Williams said. "I mean, don't get me

wrong. I'm super excited about this honor. It just shows you that you did things the right way and people recognize it, and I appreciate it."

In addition to quickly spotting the Purple People Eaters installment, Williams peered pensively into the glass "Frozen in Time" column dedicated to Jim Marshall's Vikings career and retired 70 jersey.

From Marshall and the other Purple People Eaters to John Randle, Williams has always strived to honor the legacy of the Vikings defensive linemen who went before him.

He recalled being presented with available jersey numbers after being drafted and opting for 93: the number worn by Randle, an undrafted free agent in 1990 who exploded onto the scene for Minnesota and later ended up in the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

But for a kid from Arkadelphia, Arkansas, the number didn't immediately stand out as significant to Williams.

"I picked 93 not knowing any of the tradition," Williams said. "And then you get here and find out, 'Oh my goodness, Johnny wore 93.' And I

never said it to anybody, but I'm like, 'I can't be a bust here. I have to get out there and get after it and perform.' That kind of battle I fought with myself to be successful, and here we are today."

Williams doesn't get too high or too low – he never has – but he also doesn't take such an honor for granted, and he's thankful for the many people who helped him along the way, including "each and every one" of the 2003 Vikings defensive linemen who shaped his first pro season.

He also developed a special bond with Pat Williams who joined Minnesota in 2005 and formed the other half of the "Williams Wall."

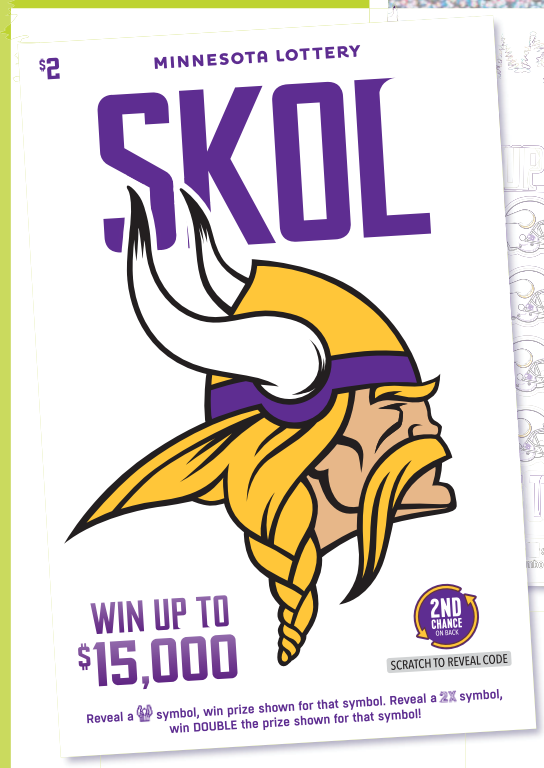
"I always joke and tell him, 'You didn't make the Pro Bowl until you played with me, so you've got to appreciate that.' But he of course is gonna argue that," Williams laughed. "It was a brotherhood. The internal battles that we had with each other about who's going to outplay the other one kind of fueled both of us. And then to add Jared [Allen] to the mix, he just came along and did the same thing. So it was kind of all three of us competing every Sunday."

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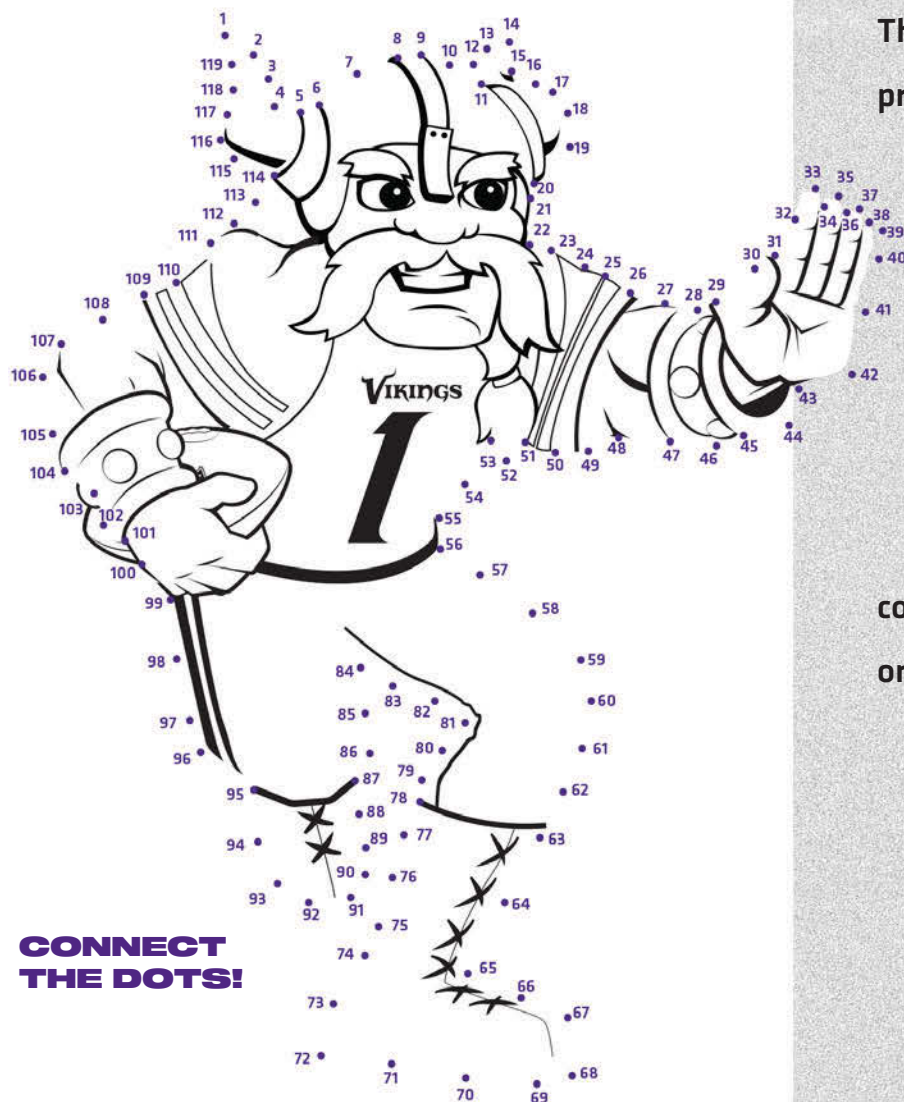
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# Viktor

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WK 1 | NOON CT

BYE  
WEEK

DECEMBER 5  
@DET  
WK 13 | NOON CT

SEPTEMBER 19  
@ARI  
WK 2 | 3:05 PM CT

OCTOBER 31  
DAL  
WK 8 | 7:20 PM CT

DECEMBER 9  
PIT  
WK 14 | 7:20 PM CT

SEPTEMBER 26  
SEA  
WK 3 | 3:25 PM CT

NOVEMBER 7  
@BAL  
WK 9 | NOON CT

DECEMBER 20  
@CHI  
WK 15 | 7:15 PM CT

OCTOBER 3  
CLE  
WK 4 | NOON CT

NOVEMBER 14  
@LAC  
WK 10 | 3:05 PM CT

DECEMBER 26  
LAR  
WK 16 | NOON CT

OCTOBER 10  
DET  
WK 5 | NOON CT

NOVEMBER 21  
GB  
WK 11 | NOON CT

JANUARY 2  
@GB  
WK 17 | 7:20 PM CT

OCTOBER 17  
@CAR  
WK 6 | NOON CT

NOVEMBER 28  
@SF  
WK 12 | 3:25 PM CT

JANUARY 9  
CHI  
WK 18 | NOON CT

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