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QUESTIONS AT THE GAME?

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WE ARE VIKINGS, NOT BARBARIANS.

We have the best fans in the NFL. To ensure that all fans have a pleasant game-day experience, each patron should act responsibly and be considerate of others.

TO REPORT ISSUES: TEXT VIKES (SPACE), THE ISSUE AND LOCATION TO 612-777-8977



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EDITOR: Craig Peters

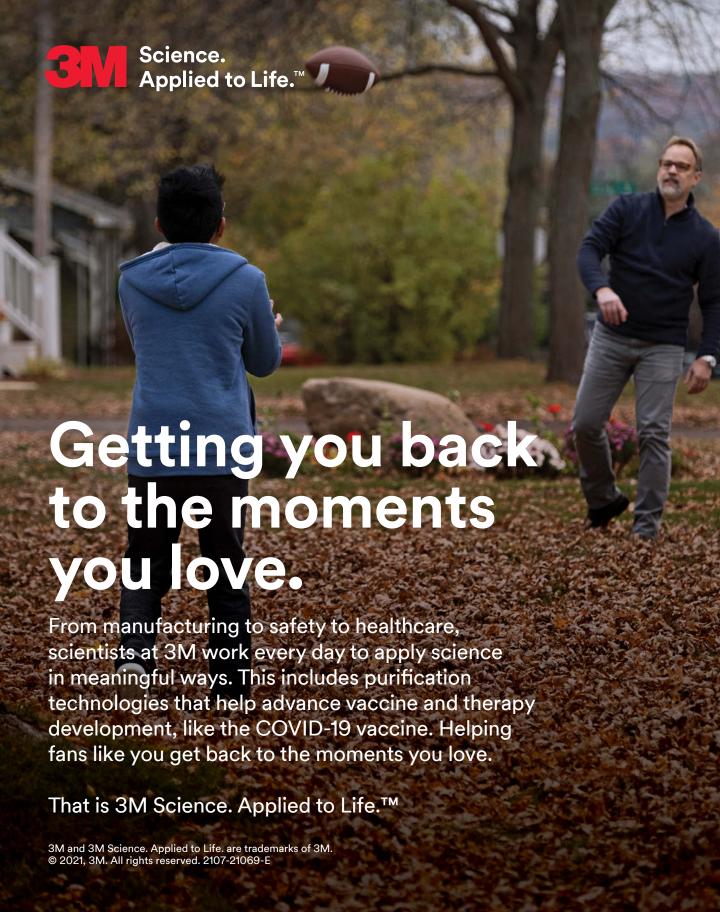
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LEGENDS WEEKEND

SUNDAY, OCT. 3, 2021 | U.S. BANK STADIUM

Last week, the Vikings and U.S. Bank Stadium were proud to celebrate the grand reopening of the venue that first opened in 2016. The capacity crowd filled U.S. Bank Stadium to the rafters with its raucous energy, helping Minnesota defeat Seattle 30-17 in the first game with fans in more than 630 days.

Now, the organization is happy to welcome back more than 100 Vikings alumni who have returned to celebrate Legends Weekend and the Ring of Honor induction ceremony of Kevin Williams.

The six-time Pro Bowler and five-time First-Team All-Pro selection by *The Associated Press* will sound the Gjallarhorn before today's game.

This will be Cleveland's first game at U.S. Bank Stadium. It marks the return of several in the Browns organization with ties to Minnesota. The connections include Browns Head Coach Kevin Stefanski, who assisted Minnesota in multiple roles for 14 seasons before his hire by Cleveland last year, and backup QB Case Keenum, who tossed the Minneapolis Miracle in this building on Jan. 14, 2018.

TEAM STATS

YARDS PER GAME / ALLOWED



TEAM TRENDS

AIR VS. GROUND

Eight of Cleveland's 10 touchdowns this season have been scored via runs, but eight of Minnesota's 10 touchdowns have occurred on passes.

PIVOTAL 2ND QUARTERS

The Browns have scored 31 of their 86 points (36.0 percent) in second quarters this season. The Vikings have allowed 38 of the 78 points scored against them (48.7 percent) in second quarters.

GOING FOR IT

Cleveland has gone 4-for-7 on fourth downs but denied the lone attempt by an opponent so far. Minnesota has converted both of its fourth-down attempts and has allowed opponents to go 3-for-5.

TODAY'S GAME ELEMENTS

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Esera Tuaolo, a Vikings defensive tackle from 1992-96 and former contestant on *The Voice*, will perform the National Anthem.

COLOR GUARD
United States Navy

Scan the code with your smart phone for more info.





MINNESOTA VIKINGS FOUNDATION

YOU COULD BE THE LUCKY GAMEDAY WINNER

TO SHARE THE JACKPOT!

Purchase your raffle tickets with a debit card from sellers at kiosks or roaming throughout the concourse. Winning ticket will be selected by a random drawing and posted online after the game. Winner has 30 days to claim the prize.

VISIT VIKINGS.COM/SPLITTHEPOT FOR DETAILS

SPLIT THE POT SUPPORTS MINNESOTA VIKINGS FOUNDATION
YOUTH HEALTH AND EDUCATION INITIATIVES.



HOMETOWN COLLECTION | DESIGNED IN ST. PAUL, MN

The Minnesota Vikings and UNRL have partnered together to create the Hometown Collection. Six unique, limited-edition hoodies have been created for fans this season. Available exclusively on game days. Pick up your limited-edition hoodie in the Vikings Locker Room Store today!

SACKS FOR APPS



BUFFALO

Buffalo Wild Wings brings you "Sacks for Apps" during all Vikings home and away games this season! When the Vikings record 2.0 or more sacks in a game, all fans score a free appetizer with a minimum purchase of \$20. Offer is valid for three days after each eligible game. Visit Vikings.com/bww for your digital coupon and details.



YOU COULD WIN A **PEPSI PRIZE PACK!**

Simply scan your Pepsi cup with the Vikings app or select "Augmented Reality" within the Vikings app to unlock Vikings photo filters. Share yours using #VikingsGameFace for your chance to win! For full contest rules,) pepsi. visit Vikings.com/VikingsGameFace.

OPENING DRIVE SWEEPSTAKES

PRESENTED BY KWIK TRIP

Today's Kwik Trip opening drive contestant is Sarah Aderhold from Neillsville, WI. Sarah will win \$25 for every yard earned on the Vikings opening drive plus a \$500 bonus for a field goal or \$1,000 for an opening drive touchdown. Sarah also has the chance to win a Ford Bronco Sport from Northland Ford Dealers at the end of the season. Enter today at any Minnesota Kwik Trip store.



VIKINGS WIN, YOU WIN!

PRESENTED BY KWIK TRIP

Vikings Win, You Win! Buy one Pothole Pizza from Kwik Trip and get the second one free the day after a Vikings win!



#VIKINGSHAIR

PRESENTED BY **SPALON MONTAGE**

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.





VIKINGS BUTTON-UP

PRESENTED BY MILLER LITE

The Vikings and Miller Lite are partnering to create a limited-edition, co-branded, button-up shirt to benefit the Minnesota Vikings Foundation. With a minimum donation of \$40 to the Minnesota Vikings Foundation, you will receive a free Vikings Miller Lite button-up shirt with all proceeds (minus a small processing fee) going directly to the Minnesota Vikings Foundation courtesy of Miller Lite.

ABSOLUT[®] VIKINGS HOMEGATER

Are you the Absolut® Vikings
Homegater? Whatever you do on
game day, celebrate your Absolut®
best this football season by
submitting your photo as the
Absolut® Homegater of the week.
Fans will have a chance to win a
Vikings and Absolut® weekly prize
pack, and one super fan will be
dubbed the Absolut® Homegater of
the Season, winning a co-branded
mini-fridge. To enter, go to
Vikings.com/homegater.

ABSOLUT.

FANCAM

PRESENTED BY U.S. BANK

Vikings Fancam, presented by U.S. Bank, captures your excitement throughout the game. Tag yourself and enter to win prizes by visiting vikings.fancam.com.



HY-VEE FUEL SAVERS

PRESENTED BY HY-VEE

THEY score, YOU save! Shop your local Hy-Vee store following game day to receive great fuel savings. Simply spend the same amount that the Vikings scored, and earn a 1¢ credit on your Hy-Vee Fuel Saver + Perks® card. If the Vikings score 14 points, spend \$14 or more the next day and earn 14¢ credit on your Hy-Vee Fuel Saver + Perks® card. SKOL! Promotion valid at all Minnesota Hy-Vee locations; some limitations apply. See store for details.



SKOL SCRIBBLES

PRESENTED BY SOUTH DAKOTA TOURISM

Enter Skol Scribbles for a chance to win one of 17 weekly prize packs from South Dakota Tourism! Check Vikings Instagram and Snapchat stories to learn more.



HOMETOWN HEROES

PRESENTED BY U.S. BANK

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 Heroes are Settled Co-Founders Gabrielle Clowdus and Anne Franz. Settled originated to battle homelessness, which was intensified by the COVID-19 pandemic.





BEANIES THAT BENEFIT PRESENTED BY POLARIS

The Vikings and Polaris are partnering with Minnesota-based children's food charity, Every Meal, to create a limited-edition beanie. With a minimum donation of \$20, you will receive a free, exclusive beanie with all proceeds going directly to Every Meal's "Weekend Food Program." To show additional support, Polaris will also match your minimum donation on every hat sold.



Visit Vikings.com/beaniesthatbenefit

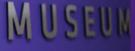
to get yours!

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2021 SCHEDULE

@ L, 27-24



@ L, 34-33

GB WK11 NOV. 21

SEA WK3 | W, 30-17

@______ **WK12** | NOV. 28

CLE WK4 OCT. 3 @ D = 1

WKS OCT. 10

PIT

BYE

LAR
WK16 DEC. 26

WKB OCT. 31

@ G B

@ **B** / Nov. 7

CHI WK18 | JAN. 9

10TH OF 2017

Griffen opened the 2017 season with at least one sack in Minnesota's first eight games, totaling 10 in that span. The 10th occurred against Cleveland in London before he suffered a foot injury.

PLAYER TO WATCH

EVERSON GRIFFEN

Griffen embraced the opportunity to return to Minnesota this summer after a year away, even if it meant taking on a new role.

Coaches envision reducing the 33-year-old's workload while maximizing Griffen's impact from multiple spots along the defensive line.

After missing Minnesota's Week 2 game in his home state of Arizona because he suffered a

concussion in a car accident, Griffen was back in action last week — and so was his "Sack Daddy" celebration dance after he took down Seahawks QB Russell Wilson to stymie Seattle's first possession of the second half.

Griffen's effort helped Minnesota keep Seattle off the scoreboard in the final 41 minutes of a 30-17 Vikings win.



VIKINGS ROSTER

#	NAME F	POS	нт	wt i	EXP	COLLEGE	HOMETOWN
1	Greg Joseph	K	6-0	206	4	Florida Atlantic	Boca Raton, FL
3	Jordan Berry	Р	6-5	195	7		/ Melbourne, AUS
7	Patrick Peterson	CB	6-1	198	11		ort Lauderdale, FL
8	Kirk Cousins	QB	6-3	205	10	Michigan State	Holland, MI
11	Kellen Mond	QB	6-3	212	R	Texas A&M	San Antonio, TX
12	Dede Westbrook	WR	6-0	178	5	Oklahoma	Cameron, TX
14		QB	6-6	230	7	Oregon State	Pleasanton, CA
15	Ihmir Smith-Marsette	eWR	6-1	185	R	Iowa	Newark, NJ
17	K.J. Osborn	WR	5-11	203	2	Miami	Ypsilanti, MI
18	Justin Jefferson	WR	6-1	195	2	LSU	St. Rose, LA
19	Adam Thielen	WR	6-2	200	8	Minnesota State	Detroit Lakes, MN
20	Harrison Hand	СВ	5-11	185	2	Temple	Cherry Hill, NJ
21	Bashaud Breeland	СВ	5-11	195	8	Clemson	Allendale, SC
22	Harrison Smith	S	6-2	211	10	Notre Dame	Knoxville, TN
23	Xavier Woods	S	5-11	204	5	Louisiana Tech	West Monroe, LA
24	Mackensie Alexander	CB	5-10	192	6	Clemson	Immokalee, FL
25	Alexander Mattison	RB	5-11	215	3	Boise State	San Bernadino, CA
27	Cameron Dantzler	CB	6-2	190	2	Mississippi State	Hammond, LA
29	Kris Boyd	СВ	5-11	195	3	Texas	Gilmer, TX
30	C.J. Ham	FB	5-11	250	6	Augustana	Duluth, MN
31	Ameer Abdulah	RB	5-9	196	7	Nebraska	Homewood, AL
33	Dalvin Cook	RB	5-10	210	5	Florida State	Miami, FL
41	Chazz Surratt	LB	6-2	233	R	North Carolina	Denver, NC
42	Andrew DePaola	LS	6-1	229	7	Rutgers	Parkton, MD
43	Camryn Bynum	S	6-0	200	R	California	Corona, CA
44	Josh Metellus	S	5-11	207	2	Michigan Po	embroke Pines, FL
45	Troy Dye	LB	6-3	225	2	Oregon	Norco, CA
48	Blake Lynch	LB	6-3	233	2	Baylor	Gilmer, TX
51	Wyatt Davis	G	6-4	315	R	Ohio State	Bellflower, CA
52	Mason Cole	С	6-5	298	4	Michigan	Tarpon Springs, FL
54	Eric Kendricks	LB	6-0	232	7	UCLA	Fresno, CA
55	Anthony Barr	LB	6-5	257	8	UCLA	San Pedro, CA
56	Garrett Bradbury	С	6-3	300	3	North Carolina St	ate Charlotte, NC
57	Ryan Connelly	LB	6-2	234	3	Wisconsin	Eden Prairie, MN
58	Michael Pierce	DT	6-0	340	6	Samford	Daphne, AL
59	Nick Vigil	LB	6-2	230	6	Utah State	Plain City, UT
69	Rashod Hill	T	6-6	310	6	Southern Miss	Jacksonville, FL
71	Christian Darrisaw	T	6-5	315	R	Virginia Tech Up	pper Marlboro, MD
72	Ezra Cleveland	G	6-6	312	2	Boise State	Spanaway, WA
74	Olisaemeka Udoh	G	6-6	320	3	Elon	Fayetteville, NC
75	Brian O'Neill	T	6-7	310	4	Pittsburgh	Wilmington, DE
82	Ben Ellefson	TE	6-3	250	2	North Dakota Sta	ate Hawley, MN
83	Tyler Conklin	TE	6-3	248	4	Central Michigan	Chesterfield, MI
89	Chris Herndon	TE	6-4	253	4	Miami	Norcross, GA
90	Sheldon Richardson	DT	6-3	290	9	Missouri	St. Louis, MO

		2000					
#	NAME	POS	нт	WT	WT EXP COLLEGE		HOMETOWN
91	Stephen Weatherly	DE	6-5	262	6	Vanderbilt	Snellville, GA
92	James Lynch	DT	6-4	295	2	Baylor	Round Rock, TX
93	Patrick Jones II	DE	6-4	264	R	Pittsburgh	Chesapeake, VA
94	Dalvin Tomlinson	DT	6-3	325	5	Alabama	McDonough, GA
96	Armon Watts	DT	6-5	307	3	Arkansas	St. Louis, MO
97	Everson Griffen	DE	6-3	273	12	Southern Cal	Avondale, AZ
98	D.J. Wonnum	DE	6-5	258	2	South CarolinaSt	one Mountain, GA
99	Danielle Hunter	DE	6-5	263	7	LSU	Katy, TX

PRACTICE SQUAD											
5 Ty	e Smith	СВ	6-0	190	6	Towson	Raleigh, NC				
9 Tri	shton Jackson	WR	6-1	191	1	Syracuse	West Bloomfield, MI				
16 W	hop Philyor	WR	5-11	182	R	Indiana	Tampa, FL				
34 Jak	ce Bargas	FB	6-2	245	2	North Carolina	Boca Raton, FL				
36 A.J	. Rose Jr.	RB	6-1	212	R	Kentucky	Cleveland, OH				
39 Pa	rry Nickerson	CB	5-10	179	4	Tulane	Algiers, LA				
40 Za	ch Davidson	TE	6-7	251	R	Central Missou	ıri Webb City, MO				
46 My	les Dorn	S	6-2	210	2	North Carolina	Charlotte, NC				
47 Tu	f Borland	LB	6-1	233	R	Ohio State	Bolingbrook, IL				
64 Bla	ake Brandel	T	6-7	315	1	Oregon State	Milwaukie, OR				
65 Za	ck Bailey	Т	6-5	315	3	South Carolina	Summerville, SC				
68 Ky	le Hinton	G	6-2	315	2	Washburn	Peoria, AZ				
78 Da	kota Dozier	G	6-4	305	8	Furman	West Columbia, SC				
79 Ke	nny Willekes	DE	6-3	264	2	Michigan State	Rockford, MI				
86 Bra	andon Dillon	TE	6-5	250	2	Marian	Flora, IN				
87 My	ron Mitchell	WR	6-1	185	R	UAB	Jasper, AL				

DT 6-2 285 R Pittsburgh Washington, D.C.

		RESERVE/INJURED								
12 Chad Beebe	WR	5-10	187	4	Northern Illinois	Aurora, IL				
13 Blake Proehl	WR	6-1	190	R	East Carolina	Charlotte, NC				
14 Nate Stanley	QB	6-4	1 233	1	Iowa	Menomonie, WI				
26 Kene Nwangwu	RB	6-1	210 R Iowa State		Iowa State	Frisco, TX				
66 Jordon Scott	DT	6-1	326	R	Oregon	Largo, FL				
81 Bisi Johnson	WR	6-0	210	3	Colorado State	Lakewood, CO				
84 Irv Smith Jr.	TE	6-2	240	3	Alabama	New Orleans, LA				
85 Dan Chisena	WR	6-3	203	2	Penn State	Downington, PA				
95 Janarius Robinson	DE	6-5	258	R	Florida State	Panama City, FL				

RESERVE/NON-FOOTBALL INJURY

76 Jaylen Twyman





ON AIR EVERYWHERE THE NFL'S LARGEST RADIO NETWORK

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RUNNING BACK Dalvin Cook



QUARTERBACK Kirk Cousins



C.J. Ham



WIDE RECEIVER Adam Thielen



TIGHT END Tyler Conklin

SAM LINEBACKER

Sione Takitaki



RIGHT TACKLE Brian O'Neill



RIGHT GUARD Olisaemeka Udoh



CENTER Garrett Bradbury



LEFT GUARD Ezra Cleveland



LEFT TACKLE Rashod Hill



WIDE RECEIVER Justin Jefferson

VIKINGS OFFENSE



CORNERBACK Denzel Ward



DEFENSIVE END Myles Garrett



DEFENSIVE TACKLE DEFENSIVE TACKLE Malik Jackson



Malik McDowell



DEFENSIVE END Jadeveon Clowney



WILL LINEBACKER

Mack Wilson Sr.

CORNERBACK Greg Newsome II

BROWNS DEFENSE





SAFETY Ronnie Harrison Jr.



MIKE LINEBACKER Malcolm Smith



SAFETY John Johnson III

VIKINGS SPECIAL TEAMS



KICKER Greg Joseph



PUNTER Jordan Berry



LONG SNAPPER Andrew DePaola



PUNT RETURNER Dede Westbrook



KICK RETURNER Ihmir Smith-Marsette



VIKINGS DEPTH CHART

VIKINGS OF ENSE											
WR	Justin Jefferson	K.J. Osborn	Dede Westbrook								
LT	Rashod Hill	Christian Darrisaw									
LG	Ezra Cleveland										
C	Garrett Bradbury	Mason Cole									
RG	Olisaemeka Udoh	Wyatt Davis									
RT	Brian O'Neill										
TE	Tyler Conklin	Chris Herndon	Ben Ellefson								
WR	Adam Thielen	Ihmir Smith-Marsette									
QB	Kirk Cousins	Sean Mannion	Kellen Mond								
RB	Dalvin Cook	Alexander Mattison	Ameer Abdullah								

VIKINGS BEI ENSE											
LDE	Danielle Hunter	Stephen Weatherly									
NT	Michael Pierce	Armon Watts	James Lynch								
DT	Dalvin Tomlinson	Sheldon Richardson									
RDE	D.J. Wonnum	Everson Griffen	Patrick Jones II								
SLB	Anthony Barr	Blake Lynch	Ryan Connelly								
MLB	Eric Kendricks	Troy Dye									
WLB	Nick Vigil	Chazz Surratt									
LCB	Patrick Peterson	Mackensie Alexander	Harrison Hand								
RCB	Bashaud Breeland	Kris Boyd	Cameron Dantzler								
SS	Harrison Smith	Josh Metellus									
FS	Xavier Woods	Camryn Bynum									

VIKINGS DEFENSE

FB

C.J. Ham



LINEBACKER Nick Vigil



Xavier Woods



Eric Kendricks

LINEBACKER



SAFETY Harrison Smith



LINEBACKER Anthony Barr



CORNERBACK Bashaud Breeland



DEFENSIVE END D.J. Wonnum



NOSE TACKLE Michael Pierce



DEFENSIVE TACKLE Dalvin Tomlinson



DEFENSIVE END Danielle Hunter



CORNERBACK Patrick Peterson

BROWNS OFFENSE

VIKINGS DEFENSE



WIDE RECEIVER Donovan Peoples-Jones



LEFT TACKLE Jedrick Wills Jr.



LEFT GUARD Joel Bitonio



CENTER IC Tretter



RIGHT GUARD Wyatt Teller



RIGHT TACKLE Jack Conklin



TIGHT END Austin Hooper



Odell Beckham Jr.



FULLBACK Andy Janovich



Baker Mayfield



RUNNING BACK Nick Chubb

BROWNS SPECIAL TEAMS



KICKER Chase McLaughlin

BROWNS OFFENSE



PUNTER Jamie Gillan



LONG SNAPPER PUNT/KICK RETURNER Charley Hughlett



Demetric Felton

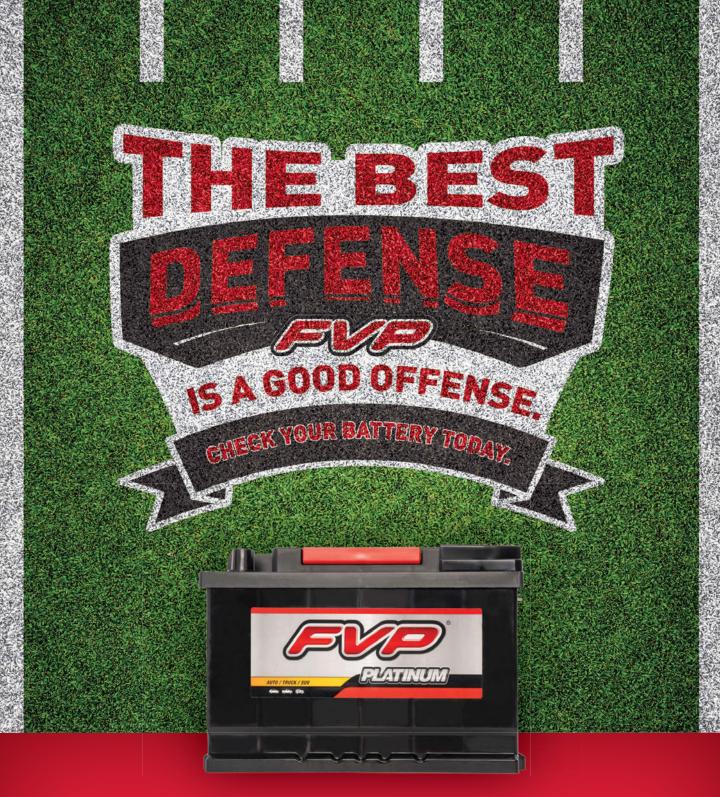


BROWNS DEPTH CHART

WR	D. Peoples- Jones	Anthony Schwartz	
LT	Jedrick Wills Jr.	James Hudson III	
LG	Joel Bitonio	Michael Dunn	
C	JC Tretter	Nick Harris	
RG	Wyatt Teller	Blake Hance	
RT	Jack Conklin	Chris Hubbard	
TE	Austin Hooper	David Njoku	Harrison Bryant
WR	Odell Beckham Jr.	Rashard Higgins	
QB	Baker Mayfield	Case Keenum	
FB	Andy Janovich		
RB	Nick Chubb	Kareem Hunt	D'Ernest Johnson

DE	Myles Garrett	Takkarist McKinley	
DT	Malik Jackson	Jordan Elliott	
DT	Malik McDowell	Andrew Billings	Tommy Togiai
DE	Jadeveon Clowney	Joe Jackson	Ifeadi Odenigbo
WLB	Mack Wilson Sr.	Jeremiah Owusu-Ko	ramoah
MLB	Malcolm Smith	Elijah Lee	
SLB	Sione Takitaki	Tony Fields II	
LCB	Denzel Ward	Troy Hill	A.J. Green
RCB	Greg Newsome II	Greedy Williams	
SS	Ronnie Harrison Jr.	Grant Delpit	M.J. Stewart Jr.
FS	John Johnson III	Richard LeCount III	

BROWNS DEFENSE



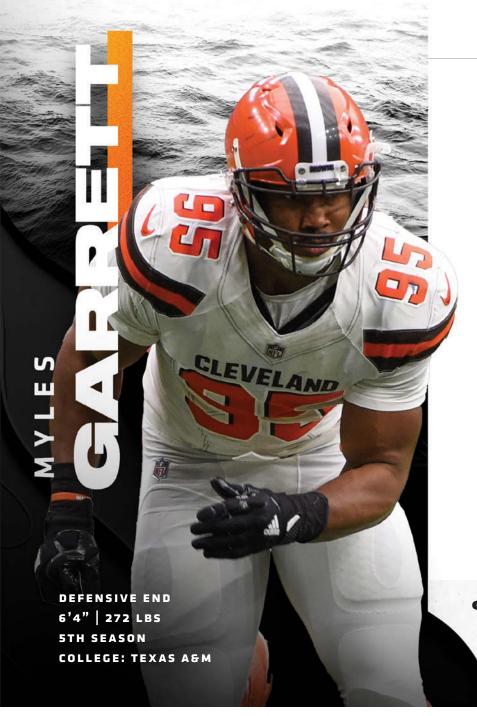
When's the last time you had your battery checked? Summer heat and winter cold are tough on your car's battery. And getting yours tested the next time you're in for service is the best way to avoid being stranded. When it's time to replace, get a battery from FVP—a brand of Factory Motor Parts. Power you can trust.

Need a battery? Leave it to the professionals. Scan the QR code to find a shop near you.









2021 SCHEDULE









































CAREER-BEST 4.5

GARRETT RECORDED A CAREER-HIGH

4.5 SACKS, ACCOUNTING FOR HALF OF
CLEVELAND'S NINE TOTAL AGAINST CHICAGO
LAST WEEK. THE BROWNS LIMITED THE
BEARS TO ONE NET PASSING YARD AFTER
TOTALING 67 YARDS ON THE SACKS.

PLAYER TO WATCH

MYLES GARRETT

The No.1 overall pick of the 2017 NFL Draft was inactive that season when Minnesota and Cleveland met at London's Twickenham Stadium, so this will be his first opportunity to play against the Vikings.

Garrett is well on his way to recording double digits in sacks for a fourth consecutive season. He enters today's game with an NFL-leading 5.5 on the season.

That gives him 48 in his 54 career games (52 starts). Sacks production has come in bunches for Garrett, who has 11 games with 2.0 or more sacks. According to an unofficial tally by pro-football-reference.com, which counted sacks from 1960 to present, the two-time Pro Bowler already ranks seventh in Browns history (sacks became an official stat in 1982).



BROWNS ROSTER

4	# NAME	POS	нт	WT	EX	P COLLEGE	HOMETOWN		‡ NAME	POS	нт	wt	EX	P COLLEGE	HOMETOWN
3	Chase McLaughlin	K	6-0	180	1	Illinois	Cypress, TX	88	Harrison Bryant	TE	6-5	230	2	Florida Atlantic	Gray, GA
5	Case Keenum	QB	6-1	215	9	Houston	Abilene, TX	9 0	Jadeveon Clowney	DE	6-5	255	8	South Carolina	Rock Hill, SC
6	Baker Mayfield	QB	6-1	215	4	Oklahoma	Austin, TX	91	Joe Jackson	DE	6-4	278	3	Miami (Fla.)	Homestead, FL
7	Jamie Gillan	Р	6-1	207	3	ARK Pine-Bluff	Leonardtown, MD	93	Tommy Togiai	DT	6-2	296	R	Ohio State	Pocatello, ID
10	Anthony Schwartz	WR	6-0	186	R	Auburn P	embroke Pines, FA	95	Myles Garrett	DE	6-4	272	5	Texas A&M	Arlington, TX
11	D. Peoples-Jones	WR	6-2	204	2	Michigan	Detroit, MI	96	Jordan Elliott	DT	6-4	303	2	Missouri	Missouri City, TX
13	Odell Beckham Jr.	WR	5-11	198	8	LSU	New Orleans, LA	97	Malik Jackson	DT	6-5	285	10	Tennessee	Los Angeles, CA
20	Greg Newsome II	СВ	6-0	192	R	Northwestern	Chicago, IL	99	Andrew Billings	DT	6-1	328	5	Baylor	Waco, TX
21	Denzel Ward	СВ	5-11	190	4	Ohio State	Macedonia, OH								
22	Grant Delpit	S	6-3	208	2	LSU	Houston, TX								
23	Troy Hill	СВ	5-11	180	6	Oregon	Ventura, CA				PRA	CTICE	SQI	JAD	
24	Nick Chubb	RB	5-11	227	4	Georgia	Cedartown, GA	8	Chris Naggar	K	6-1	195	R	Southern Method	ist Arlington, TX
25	Demetric Felton	RB	5-9	190	R	UCLA	Memphis, TN	9	Nick Mullens	QB	6-1	210	4	Southern Miss.	Birmingham, AL
26	Greedy Williams	СВ	6-2	185	3	LSU	Shreveport, LA	18	Davion Davis	WR	5-11	190	1	Sam Houston Sta	te Hutto, TX
27	Kareem Hunt	RB	5-11	216	5	Toledo	Willoughby, OH	19	JoJo Natson	WR	5-7	153	5	Akron Fo	ort Lauderdale, FL
28	J. Owusu-Koramoah	LB	6-2	221	R	Notre Dame	Hampton, VA	34	Tim Harris	СВ	6-2	197	2	Virginia	Richmond, VA
30	D'Ernest Johnson	RB	5-10	208	3	South Florida	Immokalee, FL	35	Jovante Moffatt	S	5-11	213	2	Middle Tennessee	St Union City, TN
31	Andy Janovich	FB	6-1	238	6	Nebraska	Gretna, NE	40	Johnny Stanton IV	FB	6-2	240	2	UNLV Rancho	Santa Margarita, CA
33	Ronnie Harrison Jr.	S	6-3	214	4	Alabama	Tallahassee, FL	49	John Kelly	RB	5-10	208	3	Tennessee	Detroit, MI
36	M.J. Stewart Jr.	S	5-11	200	4	North Carolina	Arlington, VA	59	Curtis Weaver	DE	6-2	265	2	Boise State	Long Beach, CA
38	A.J. Green	СВ	6-2	198	R	Oklahoma State	DeSoto, TX	60	David Moore	G	6-2	320	R	Grambling State	Little Rock, AR
39	Richard LeCounte III	S	5-11	196	R	Georgia	Riceboro, GA	69	Tristen Hoge	G	6-5	306	R	Brigham Young	Pocatello, ID
42	Tony Fields II	LB	6-0	222	R	West Virginia	Las Vegas, NV	84	Ja'Marcus Bradley	WR	6-1	198	R	Louisiana-Lafaye	tte Ackerman, MS
43	John Johnson III	S	6-1	208	5	Boston College	Hyattsville, MD	86	Miller Forristall	TE	6-5	245	R	Alabama	Cartersville, GA
44	Sione Takitaki	LB	6-1	238	3	Brigham Young	Fontana, CA	87	Jordan Franks	TE	6-4	246	2	Central Florida	Wakulla, FL
47	Charley Hughlett	LS	6-4	248	7	Central Florida	Tampa, FL	92	Sheldon Day	DT	6-1	293	6	Notre Dame	Indianapolis, IN
51	Mack Wilson Sr.	LB	6-1	233	3	Alabama	Montgomery, AL	94	Porter Gustin	DE	6-5	257	3	Southern Cal	Elk Ridge, UT
52	Elijah Lee	LB	6-3	230	5	Kansas State	Blue Springs, MO								
53	Nick Harris	С	6-1	293	2	Washington	Inglewood, CA								
55	Takkarist McKinley	DE	6-2	260	5	UCLA	Oakland, CA				RESE	RVE/	INJU	IRED	
56	Malcolm Smith	LB	6-0	225	10	Southern Cal	Los Angeles, CA	4	Anthony Walker Jr.	LB	6-1	235	5	Northwestern	Miami, FL
	Ifeadi Odenigbo	DE	6-3	258	4	Northwestern	Centervillie, OH	15	•	WR	5-9	183	4	North Carolina	Miami, FL
	Malik McDowell	DT	6-6	295	1	Michigan State	Detroit, MI	37		RB	5-11	218	R	Charlotte	Shelby, NC
	Blake Hance	G	6-6	310	1	Northwestern	Jacksonville, IL	41		LB	6-2	215	1	Grambling State	Amarillo, TX
	JC Tretter	С	6-4	307	9	Cornell	Akron, NY		Jacob Phillips	LB	6-3	228	2	LSU	Nashville, TN
	James Hudson III	T	6-5	313	R	Cincinnati	Toledo, OH		Drew Forbes	G	6-5		2	SE Missouri State	
	Michael Dunn	G -	6-5	315	2	Maryland	Bethesda, MD		Jarvis Landry	WR	5-11	196	8	LSU	Metairie, LA
	Jedrick Wills Jr.	T -	6-4	307	2	Alabama	Lexington, KY		Connor Davis	TE	6-8	271	1	Stony Brook	Bel Air, MD
	Chris Hubbard	T	6-4	295	8	UAB	Columbus, GA	89	Stephen Carlson	TE	6-4	240	3	Princeton	Jamestown, NY
	Joel Bitonio	G	6-4	320	8	Nevada	Long Beach, CA								
	Wyatt Teller	G	6-4	315	4	Virginia Tech	Bealeton, VA								
	Jack Conklin	T	6-6	308	6	Michigan State	Plainwell, MI								
	Austin Hooper	TE	6-4	255	6	Stanford Colorado Stato	San Ramon, CA								
	Rashard Higgins	WR	6-1	198	6	Colorado State	Dallas, TX								
85	David Njoku	TE	6-4	246	5	Miami (Fla.)	Cedar Grove, NJ								

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6 games by Minnesota (Nov. 9, 1969 - Sept. 4, 1983)

FIRST MEETING

OCT. 31, 1965 | @ CLE VIKINGS 27, BROWNS 17

Bill Brown rushed for 138 yards and a 1-yard touchdown and caught five passes for 46 yards, including a 2-yard score from Fran Tarkenton.
Tommy Mason added 66 yards on 12 rushes and a 72-yard touchdown catch.

LAST MEETING

OCT. 29, 2017 | @ LONDON VIKINGS 33, BROWNS 16

Case Keenum passed for 288 yards and two scores, including an 18-yarder to Adam Thielen. Thielen was named "Man of the Match" at Twickenham Stadium after totaling 98 yards on five catches. Minnesota improved to 6-2 on the season.



THROWBACK MOMENT

IRONMAN'S IMMEDIATE IMPACT

A major part of the Vikings identity was set forth in September 1961 when Minnesota traded a second-round and 11th-round pick in the 1962 NFL Draft to the Cleveland Browns in exchange for six players.

Jim Marshall (1961-79), who went on to start 270 consecutive games for the Vikings, was among the six players acquired. "The Captain" ranks second in franchise history in sacks and still holds the NFL record for recovery of opponents fumbles (29 of 30 were with the Vikings). He is featured in the new "Showtime" sequence that will appear

on the video boards before today's game.

The other players acquired in the deal included Paul Dickson (1961-70) and Jim Prestel (1961-65), as well as Dick Grecni, Jamie Caleb and Billy Gault, who were part of Minnesota's inaugural season.

According to the *Minneapolis Star*, Marshall drove overnight from Cleveland to arrive in the Twin Cities and practice as a Viking for the first time on Sept. 13, 1961. He was credited with causing pressure that forced two interceptions four days later, when he began his record-setting starts streak.

TOP 2 AGAINST BROWNS

RUSHING YARDS

Adrian Peterson on 25 attempts at CLE (09.13.09)

Darrin Nelson on 22 attempts in MIN (10.26.86)

PASSING YARDS

Tommy Kramer on 38-of-49 passing in MIN (12.14.80)

200 Case Keenum on 27-of-43 passing in London (10.29.17)

RECEIVING YARDS

Ahmad Rashad on nine catches in MIN (12.14.80)

124 Cris Carter on eight catches in MIN (12.09.95)

AGAINST VIKINGS

RUSHING YARDS

Curtis Dickey on 19 attempts in MIN (10.26.86)

94 Mike Pruitt on 17 attempts at CLE (09.04.83)

PASSING YARDS

Brian Hoyer on 30-of-54 passing in MIN (09.22.13)

Bernie Kosar on 17-of-38 passing at CLE (12.17.89)

RECEIVING YARDS

Josh Gordon on 10 catches in MIN (09.22.13)

Reggie Langhorne on six catches at CLE (12.17.89)

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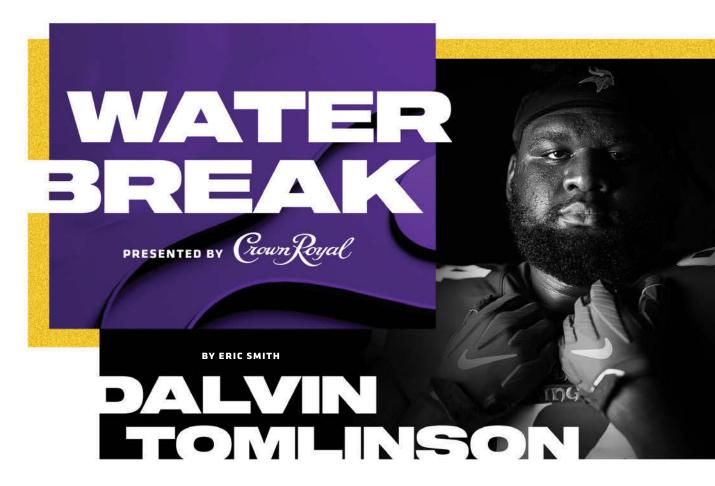
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Dalvin Tomlinson made quite the lifechanging decision this offseason.

And no, we're not talking about his decision to sign with the Vikings as a free agent.

Instead, the defensive tackled popped the question to his longtime girlfriend, Giselle, and got engaged in July.

NFL free agency or a proposal ... which one is more stressful?

"Proposing," Tomlinson said with a laugh.
"With free agency, you did what you could on
the field and you see how everything plays
out.

"The proposing part ... I had butterflies all day," Tomlinson added. "And I hate having butterflies. It was the one time I really didn't want to mess up anything."

Tomlinson and Giselle are high school sweethearts, finally getting together their senior year at Henry County High School in Georgia after years of friendship.

The pair stayed together while Tomlinson starred on the gridiron at Alabama, and Giselle

took a winding path from Georgia to Georgia Southern and Texas State.

"We were best friends before [we started dating] so we worked through it," Tomlinson said. "She came to a lot of games ... I think she came to more Alabama games than Georgia Southern and Texas State games combined."

The two navigated long distance and life in the NFL, but Tomlinson then had to endure even more twists and turns when trying to propose.

He was scheduled to pick out the diamond in March 2020 when the COVID-19 pandemic halted life in New York.

"Oh, Lord," Tomlinson said. "There was a lot of planning since I've been with her a while. Just trying to get the right ring for her and everything, it was a long process.

"Just trying to find the right place and the right time," Tomlinson continued. "And she's super smart, so she almost caught on."

The 28-year-old joked that he "had to do it almost remote."

But the stage was finally set in July when a childhood friend and his wife visited from Florida. Tomlinson said he was in on the friend's proposal a few years back, so it only made sense for the friend to be in on his this past summer.

After some smooth operating — the ring went from Tomlinson's friend's wife to the friend and finally to Tomlinson — Tomlinson lowered his hulking frame to one knee in front of Giselle at a rooftop restaurant on a perfect summer night.

"I was super nervous," Tomlinson said. "So we ate dinner and then I did it on the rooftop with Manhattan behind us.

"She was super surprised because I acted like we were just taking pictures and had her turn around," Tomlinson added.

In the end, Giselle was shocked by the proposal, and the months and months of planning finally paid off for Tomlinson.

We caught up with Dalvin this week for a Water Break, presented by Crown Royal.

Q: We've heard you are into drones. How did you get into that hobby?

stuff like that. Just being the nerd I am, I had one in New York but couldn't really fly it due to restricted areas. But this offseason in Georgia, I got an FPV drone with the goggles and where you see everything first-person. I had to try it out, and I fell in love with it."

Q: For those who don't know, what do the goggles do?

"You pretty much see through a camera that's on the drone. Whenever you move

the camera down or up, or when the drone freefalls, it makes your stomach drop a little bit. You see everything."

Q: Have you explored Minnesota at all with that new drone?

"Not yet, I've been busy with football."

Q: Gaming is also a pretty big hobby of yours. What do you like about that?

"Yeah, I built my own PC and actually just finished my third build. I built one in quarantine, one in Georgia this offseason and then one after training camp."

Q: What kind of games do you prefer to play?

"Pretty much everything, but I do play a lot of [first-person] shooting games ... 'Call of Duty, Battlefield, God of War.'

Q: What's the benefit of building your own system? "An Xbox taps out at 60 frames per second, and that's the highest it can perform. But if you build a PC, you can play the game at 100 or 200 frames per second, or even more. Everything is way better and smoother, and you can play it to your full potential."

Q: Any big clothing purchases after signing your free-agent deal? Do you have a go-to outfit?

"I'm a big shoe guy, so it all depends on what shoes I want to wear. My all-time favorite shoes are the Jordan 1s, and I love the Nike Dunks. So give me a nice pair of jeans. But I'm a big nerd, so my shirt collection is anime-related or some funny shirt. I have one that says, 'I Paused My Video Game to be Here.' Something like that."

Q: Finally, let's talk food. What's your favorite food you've had so far in the Twin Cities?

"Oooooo, I really don't go out. But the best place I've been to so far is Sushi Fix near Lake Minnetonka. And I love sushi, so everything they had in there was good that day."

I LOVE VIDEOGRAPHY
AND PHOTOGRAPHY
AND STUFF LIKE
THAT ... I HAD TO TRY
IT OUT, AND I FELL IN
LOVE WITH IT."

- DALVIN TOMLINSON



THE GREATEST VIKINGS MOMENTS

FROZEN IN TIME



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Commemorate Kevin Williams' induction into the Vikings Ring of Honor by learning more about how he cemented his status as one of the top defensive tackles in franchise history. Fans who stop by the Museum starting on 9/30 will receive a free, limited run artist print. Limit one per visitor (while supplies last).





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father found it the best music — "all the oldschool stuff" — when the family was taking care of household chores on Saturday mornings.

"He played it throughout the week, too, but it just kind of got engrained in me and was something I fell in love with," Pierce said.

The enjoyment of listening to music prompted Pierce to purchase a baby grand piano and start with a few simple songs back home in Alabama.

"You can't really move that, so I'm kind of, with me being new here and taking on more of a leadership role, I want to spend more time with my teammates" Pierce said. "I've got a puppy, so I'm going to put the piano down until the offseason."

Shameless plug: Pierce's standard poodle, Princeton, will be featured in an upcoming installment of Purple Pups.

Pierce said one of his favorite athletes all-time was Kobe Bryant, who tragically died on Jan. 26, 2020, just 15 days after Pierce's final game with the Ravens. It was less about the Mamba mentality and more about the off-field interests and influences Bryant developed.

"Just to hear growing up how he'd talk passionately about art, it just let me know that no matter what job you have, you can have other interests, and it doesn't have to be the most macho thing," Pierce said.

"I love lifting weights and all of this stuff, but I also like going to art galleries and hearing live music. Live music down South is everything," Pierce added. "Having that influence and expanding my mind and traveling the world, all of that stuff plays a role in who I am now. I love it. Kobe Bryant, rest in peace, of course, but just to hear how he kind of relayed different things to his sport was cool. It let me know I can do the same."

Pierce has been a little reserved in his exploration of Twin Cities landmarks because of the pandemic. The Guthrie Theater's architecture caught his eye, and he's heard about concerts that have returned to The Armory. He'll likely visit some museums in the spring and is open to suggestions.

In the meantime, he's making bonds and breaking bread with teammates, including defensive tackle Dalvin Tomlinson, who joined Minnesota this offseason. They managed to hit up brunch with their significant others during an off-day of training camp.

The two quickly connected through mutual friendships of Pierce's high school teammates who had played at Alabama with Tomlinson, who grew up just south of Atlanta. Pierce had teamed with Ryan Anderson and T.J. Yeldon.

"Oh yeah, that's my guy. Wo're pretty much like brothers now," Tomlinson said. "I knew I was going to be good friends with him because I love Ryan to death."

Tomlinson is a big video gamer. Pierce isn't, but they've enjoyed humor and off-field conversations between helping Minnesota's defense take shape for 2021 and beyond.

"He's funny, man. And we have a lot of things in common, but some we don't," Tomlinson said. "We're always talking about architecture or houses or cars, stuff like that. We always send each other nice houses we find on Instagram and say like, 'Have you seen this architecture or the glass they have on the roof of this house right here?' He's just super cool."

All of it adds to the completeness of the 6-foot, 340-pound Pierce, who received his nickname, "The Juggernaut," from former Ravens edge rusher and Minneapolis native Terrell Suggs.

"I was an undrafted rookie at the back of every line, doing the undrafted rookie thing. I made a couple of plays, and Terrell Suggs noticed me, actually before my coach," Pierce explained. "He's a real big Marvel fan, real big movie guy, so he just nicknamed me The Juggernaut. I was just running through people, and it kind of stuck."

Suppose
when someone
who has a good
nickname (Suggs' is
T-Sizzle) is in charge
of giving a nickname,
the recipient is in
good hands.

Pierce has the Marvel character tattooed on his right calf, a sign of approval and a reputation to uphold with fierceness on the field.

Chatting folks up – new teammates, members of the media, fans and the general public – has always come naturally to Pierce, who mentioned he "used to get in trouble in elementary school for talking all of the time."

"I had to get that out of my system in the school zone, but I just try to enjoy life. I like to meet new people. You can always find something in common with whoever," Pierce said. "We're all human. We've all got the same daily walk to some extent. ... The more approachable you are, the better you can lead when it's time to get stuff done."



"I DIDN'T REALIZE IT HAD BEEN

SINCE I HAD PLAYED MY LAST GAME ... I WAS EXCITED."

- MICHAEL PIERCE



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IT ISN'T TOUGH TO IDENTIFY HARRISON SMITH'S AUTOGRAPH.

The strong, parallel lines of an H and trademark pair of Ss are woven together by smaller twists, then a 22 is added just to the right of his name. Harrison has signed thousands of footballs, Vikings jerseys, trading cards – and even a car – over his 10-season NFL career.

This year, though, two signatures have stood far and above the rest.

On April 17, Harrison signed a marriage certificate shortly after saying "I do" to his longtime sweetheart Madison. It was four months later that he inked his second contract extension that ideally will allow him to finish his career as a Viking.

Years ago, Harrison couldn't have envisioned being with one team for a decade.

His talent on the football field was well-documented out of Notre Dame. But even when Minnesota drafted him 29th overall in 2012, he didn't allow himself to look too far ahead.

"I was just hoping I was good enough to play in the NFL, to be honest," Harrison recently told Vikings.com. "I think that helped me – because I really just focused on being a good football player. That's all I can control."

And he's proven exactly that over the past decade. The 32-year-old is the Vikings franchise leader with four interception returns for touchdowns, and his 28 interceptions rank seventh all-time and third among Minnesota safeties in team history. Of 133 games played, he's started all but one.

MOST IMPROVED

Although Harrison was a full-time starter from day one, he never became complacent with his performance. And as he continued to grow in his knowledge and execution of Minnesota's defensive scheme, Harrison also grew in his relationship with Madison away from the field.

The two didn't start dating until 2012, but their history with one another goes way back.

Harrison and Madison first crossed paths as elementary schoolers on a youth swim team in Knoxville. Tennessee.

It wasn't exactly love at first sight, the two admitted.

"I kind of thought she was mean," quipped Harrison of his impressions as an 8-year-old.

"Well, maybe it was because he was annoying," Madison playfully bantered back.

Madison's earliest memory of Harrison is of him perfectly playing the "little brother" role to his sister Natalie. Madison and their friends.

"The girls would be hanging out in the shallow end, and he would come and do cannon balls and splash us." Madison recalled.

Harrison has always been a gifted athlete. But swimming? Well, it *did* technically earn him one of his first trophies.

"When swim team season started, we would watch Harrison and think, 'Oh my goodness, will he make it across the pool?' He looked like he was drowning," Madison recalled endearingly. "But he always showed up and tried really hard. Just about every year, he would get the Most Improved trophy."

"I couldn't swim very well, but she was like the star," he explained. "We were never great friends or anything at that time, but we always had a ton of mutual friends and knew each other through that."

Harrison tells a gentler story:

FOR THE LOVE OF THE GAME & THE GIRL

What started as acquaintances gradually developed into a strong friendship that held up long-distance through college at Notre Dame and Tennessee for Harrison and Madison, respectively.

Harrison garnered plenty of attention during his time with the Fighting Irish, and it surprised no one when he was nabbed in the first round of the 2012 NFL Draft. Minnesota had found a starting safety, and it didn't



take long for Harrison to recognize the Vikings, and the Wilf family ownership group, were the perfect fit for him.

He noted the Vikings "approach to the game."

"There's a lot of tough people here, people who care. You want to be a good player for other people, not only yourself," Harrison said. "There's a level of selfishness you have to have to be a good professional athlete. But beyond that, what you can do for others to make the team better, that's something I noticed right when I got here – the teammates I had, the coaches, the front office ... And I really bought into that."

In his first 10 NFL games, Harrison recorded 32 tackles, seven tackles for loss, a fumble recovery and even his first interception, which he returned for a touchdown against the Cardinals.

The Vikings bye that season fell on Week 11, just before Thanksgiving, and Harrison returned home to Knoxville to visit family, friends and Madison, whom he'd begun to see as more than the "mean girl" in swim class.

The guy took the girl out for sushi, and that first date set their story in motion.

Just like he came to realize he wanted to spend his whole career in Minnesota – "I think it happens over time; there's no one specific instant" – Harrison grew to know that Madison would be his forever teammate.

MR. & MRS. SMITH

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit the United States in March 2020, everything slowed, shut down or stopped.

The NFL Draft was conducted remotely, OTAs and minicamp were held virtually and the league canceled the 2020 preseason. Players spent more time in their hometowns and with family, and it presented the perfect time to pop the question.

Harrison worked in secret with Madison's mom, who arranged to have the couple over for dinner on a July evening. The plan seemed perfect, until Madison fell behind in her schedule that day and threw together a quick shorts-and-T combo, paired with

freshly washed, still-damp hair.

After all, she thought, it was dinner at Mom's house.

"When I was getting ready, Harry was like, 'Is that what you're going wear?' And I'm like, 'Well, I don't want to be late. I'd rather be on time than look nice. I really let everybody down," Madison laughed.

It wasn't until she noticed her mom "all glammed up and looking gorgeous" and was ushered out into the backyard of her childhood home that Madison realized something special was about to happen.

"Harry looks at me and gets that look in his eye, and he goes, 'Let's go out to the field.' We brought Deuce with us – it was sweet," Madison said of the couple's chocolate Lab. "He said, 'Deuce, sit. I'm gonna get down on a knee, too.' "

The quiet, intimate moment was apropos for a man of such few words, and he and Madison enjoyed the opportunity to celebrate with her mom and stepdad, and with Harry's parents, who live on the same street.

Then, it was time to plan a wedding.



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Harrison will study film for hours, but he doesn't share quite the same passion for cake-tasting and centerpiece-choosing. His only request? To choose the tuxedos for himself and his two brothers.

Which means he didn't retain when Madison reminded him (multiple times, she notes) that she had eight bridesmaids, and the wedding party would certainly look lopsided if he didn't select groomsmen. On the eve of the Smith wedding, Harrison realized he'd dropped the ball, metaphorically speaking.

"For some reason I thought I didn't [need groomsmen]," Harrison recalled.
"So the night before, Madi started talking about, 'All right, so, he's gonna walk her down the aisle ...' and I'm like, 'What do you mean?' She goes, 'You have eight groomsmen.' I was like, 'I have none. I have zero.'

And so Harrison asked his groomsmen – including Sendejo and Vikings linebacker Anthony Barr – to stand by his side with approximately 24 hours' notice.

"It was a super small wedding, and luckily it was black tie ... so it worked out," Harrison laughed.

He and Madison were married on a beautiful spring Saturday at the Biltmore Estate in Asheville, North Carolina. The regal grounds and mansion held special meaning to Madison, who had visited the estate countless times growing up with her father, who passed away in 2013.

"That was me and my dad's special place," Madison said. "It was so beautiful [and] honestly felt like home. ... I'd been envisioning it for months on end, and then finally seeing it come together was seriously magical."

Mr. and Mrs. Smith cherished a night of celebration with loved ones and friends from near and far. In addition to Barr and Andrew Sendejo, Everson Griffen, Eric Kendricks and Xavier Rhodes also were guests.

When the time came for the first dance.

Harrison and Madison called an audible at the line.

They'd attended ballroom dance lessons, she said, for the occasion – but in the heat of the moment forgot the game plan entirely.

The couple exchanged uncertain glances with one another before bursting out laughing, realizing their plight, and making the only logical choice: ditching the choreographed dance.

"We were like, 'Let's just dance.' We freestyled it instead," Madison said with a smile.

HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS

In less than two weeks, Harrison and Madison will celebrate their six-month anniversary.

The date lands on a Sunday, so rather than tie a tie or clasp cufflinks for a dinner out, Harrison will suit up for his 136th regularseason game with the Vikings. Ironically, they're slated to play the Panthers in North Carolina, about 130 miles from The Biltmore.

Playing 10 seasons in the NFL is significant. The fact that he's done it all with one team? That makes it even more special.

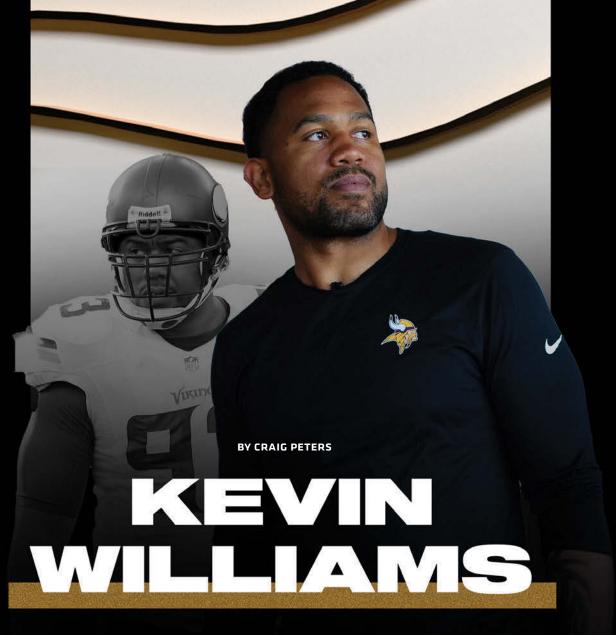
"[The contract extension] is obviously something I wanted – to be here in Minnesota," Harrison said. "And it speaks too, from the team side, that they want me here. So mutually, it just makes everything smooth. ... It's that kind of commitment from both sides. You just want to work that much harder."

He's certainly demonstrated that. Last week against Seattle, Harrison notched eight tackles to help the Vikings rally against the Seahawks and improve to 1-2 on the season. Today they'll look to build on the victory and reach .500.

"To play as long as I have and to continue playing, it's not just an individual thing," Harrison said. "It's a team thing, so I'm very grateful to those that have helped me along the way."

TO PLAY AS LONG AS I HAVE AND **TO CONTINUE PLAYING, IT'S** NOT JUST AN INDIVIDUAL THING, IT'S A TEAM THING, SO I'M VERY **GRATEFUL** TO THOSE THAT HAVE HELPED ME **ALONG THE** WAY."





TICKET TO VIKINGS RING OF HONOR

'WILLIAMS 93' WILL BE UNVEILED TODAY ON THE UPPER CONCOURSE FAÇADE THAT OVERSEES U.S. BANK STADIUM'S PLAYING SURFACE.

It will be done to celebrate the Vikings Ring of Honor induction of Kevin Williams, affirming his place in franchise lore.

In some ways, Williams' influence on the Vikings locker room has never stopped.

Everson Griffen (four seasons) and Harrison Smith (two) teamed with the six-time Pro

Bowler and five-time First-Team All-Pro as they began their careers in Purple.

Griffen, now in his 12th season and 11th with Minnesota, was a backup and a special teamer on his way to becoming an outstanding and oftoutspoken Pro Bowler.

"Kevin wasn't a really big talker, but on the field he talked a lot," Griffen said. "He helped me with my calls, he helped me get lined up, and I feel like that's why I'm still playing right now. His numbers were out of this world, and he came to play each and every week. 'Ticket' was a monster. He taught me so much, and I was

blessed to play with him and blessed to be his teammate."

All Smith has to see to think of Williams is a football he caught in the Metrodome in his rookie 2012 season. Smith returned his first NFL interception 31 yards, recording a pick-six against Arizona.

"It was a shorter one, but I remember it because when I got in the end zone, I didn't know what was going on, I was so excited," Smith said. "Kevin Williams picked up the ball and brought it back to me. So I still have the ball – he made sure to go get it for me."

Twenty-seven more interceptions, including three more returned for touchdowns, have followed for Smith.

By the time Smith arrived as another first-round pick, Williams had already recorded four interceptions — as a defensive tackle! — and returned two for touchdowns. The 6-foot-5 Williams, who played at 315 pounds, had also scooped and scored twice on fumbles.

His 60 sacks with Minnesota are tied with Brian Robison for the ninth-most in team history (Danielle Hunter enters today's game with 58.5).

Splash plays can happen, but Williams' key to success is that he brought it every snap of all 171 regular-season games he played for Minnesota in 11 seasons (from 2003-13). He took a similar approach for Seattle in 2014 and New Orleans in 2015.

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.

"To me, Kevin was such a silent assassin," former Vikings Head Coach Brad Childress told Vikings.com this summer. "Pat Williams made him laugh like nobody's business. It was always fun to see Pat get a laugh out of Kevin, because he was so stoic."

Childress said Kevin's role at the 3-technique was "the engine that ran that defense we were running then" and compared what the Arkansas native did here with the success that Warren Sapp delivered for Tampa Bay.

"Nobody played (3-technique) better than Kevin at that time. He was hard to block inside, got a lot of sacks inside, and obviously was a great run stopper," Childress added.

Ah yes, "Ticket" as he's most casually referred to – former Vikings defensive lineman Billy Lyon originated the nickname "Little Ticket" in 2003 since Kevin Garnett was already known in town as "Big Ticket" – formed half of "The Williams Wall" from 2005-10. The "Little" was dropped after Garnett's departure from the Timberwolves.

Kevin and Pat were critical to the Vikings leading the NFL in rushing yards allowed for three consecutive seasons (2006-08) and making back-to-back trips to the playoffs in 2008-09.

Center John Sullivan (2008-15) matched up more frequently against Pat, the nose tackle, but was impressed by both players.

"Even with going into the Ring of Honor, I still feel like Kevin's an underappreciated guy, for the things he did on the field and the stats that he put up," Sullivan said. "I was really happy when I saw that he was being honored that way by the Vikings organization. He was a guy that you felt like might slip through the cracks because he was not really loud or boisterous. He was never a guy that bragged about all that he was doing. He was more mellow and mild-mannered, but a heck of a player and is well-deserving of that honor."

The thread sewn by the Purple People Eaters stitched its way through Vikings lore, making stalwart defensive line play the fabric of the best Minnesota teams from the team's first decade. It extended from the 1960s and '70s through the '80s, '90s and Williams' arrival as a first-round pick in 2003.

Pro Football Hall of Fame guard Steve
Hutchinson knows that thread. The member of
the Class of 2020 has spoken numerous times
about how practicing against John Randle (200103 as a member of the Seahawks) and Williams
(from 2006-11) helped lead to his enshrinement.

Williams said he realized the excellence of

Vikings who played before him, particularly once he processed opting for 93 out of a list that Equipment Manager Dennis Ryan provided of available Vikings jersey numbers.

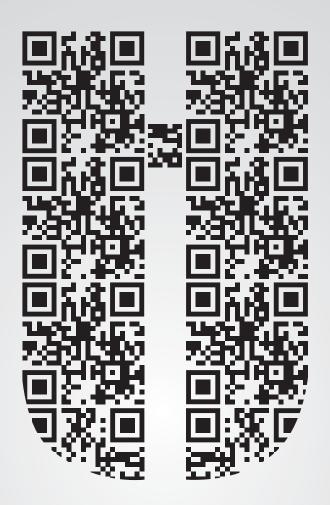
He hadn't been able to see many Vikings games during his youth in Arkansas.

"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," Williams said in June.

Vikings Owner/Chairman Zygi Wilf and Owner/President Mark Wilf, whose family purchased the Vikings in 2005 before Williams' third season, told him earlier that day that he would be joining Randle among the Vikings Ring of Honor inductees.

"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."





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PURPLE

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LASKA & LUNA CONKLIN





OWNER: TYLER CONKLIN

PLAYFUL PUPS: LASKA & LUNA PLAY HIDE-AND-SEEK WITH THEIR "PARENTS"

SNOW BUNNIES: BOTH HUSKIES LOVE MINNESOTA WINTERS

YIN & YANG: LASKA IS THE LOVER, AND LUNA FINDS TROUBLE Tyler Conklin and his girlfriend Scottie stood several yards apart from one another in their backyard, their Siberian huskies sitting equidistant from the couple.

On the count of three, Tyler and Scottie called simultaneously to Laska and Luna, each hoping to be chosen by the pair of pups.

"C'mon, boy!" Tyler yelled to Laska, the black-and-white husky who trotted his direction.

Luna, in her beautiful gray-and-white coat, had a harder time with the decision but ultimately – after wavering back and forth for a couple of moments – joined Laska at Tyler's side.

You'd have thought Tyler had scored a touchdown. The Vikings tight end celebrated the "victory," loving up the pups and giving Scottie a hard time.

As he walked away, though, he reached into the pocket of his lounge pants, pulled out a handful of dog treats and shrugged with a smile.

"That may have had something to do with it," Tyler laughed.

"As you saw, they like me a lot better than they like Scottie," he later quipped. "But in all reality, Scottie probably gets to spend a little more time with them, brings them to the dog park like three times a week, and they probably like Scottie a little bit more. So the test might not be true, but I'll take it."



The 26-year-old also has an affinity for wolves and especially appreciates the likeness huskies bear to the wild canines.

Scottie, though she grew up with cats, can't imagine life without Laska and Luna.

"But huskies are kind of like cats to me," she said.
"The way they sleep on top of the couch, the way
they play ... I don't know. I've loved having dogs so
far – they're my children."

And she definitely spoils them as such, she admits. Scottie has been known to be overly generous with treats, and she also plays games of hide-and-seek with the pups at home.

"If Luna can't find me, she'll start crying, and then I'll come out because I feel bad," Scottie said.

Tyler got Laska as a puppy shortly after being drafted by the Vikings 157th overall in 2018. A year later when Tyler and Scottie moved in together, the couple added Luna to the family.

"Laska is the calm, loving one ... and Luna is the husky who acts like a husky," Tyler said.

The pups have completely different personalities, he noted, with Luna being the more dominant of the two and also being more likely to find trouble.

Scottie recalled a couple of Christmases ago, when she and Tyler returned home to find previously wrapped gifts strewn about the living room in a flurry of shredded, red-and-green pager.

"Luna is super naughty. She likes to get into everything," Scottie acknowledged. "It kind of gave me a sneak preview of what I got for Christmas. But I mean, she's adorable, so you can't really be that mad at her."

Asked to compare the dogs' demeanors to current Vikings teammates, Tyler thought for a moment before landing on a pair of offensive linemen.

"I think Laska acts like Ezra [Cleveland]. Just even-keel, you know what you're going to get from him," Tyler explained. "And then Luna, I'd say, acts like Brian O'Neill a little bit. Because she's [almost always] in a good mood, a little playful, but can sometimes be moody."

Luna has gotten into more mischief, but Laska has created his own bits of isolated chaos, as well.

One morning while taking the dogs for a walk, Scottie stopped to poop-scoop just as a whitetailed deer stepped into the group's sightline. And just like that, Laska took off after it.

"All of a sudden Laska's just gone," Scottie said.
"I'm literally going through people's backyards
in my neighborhood, and about 10 little kids are
like, 'Oh my gosh, is the white-and-black dog your
dog? He's chasing a deer!' And I'm like, 'I know!'

"So I have all the neighborhood kids following me, running after Laska and this deer, and finally he just comes back," Scottie laughed. "It was a nice way to meet all of my neighbors."

Tyler has been happy playing for a Midwest team not too far from his hometown of Chesterfield, Michigan, and the transition to Minnesota also was pretty seamless for Laska and Luna.

Tyler said he "knew they'd love it" in the Twin Cities, from the expansive parks and outdoor

areas to the Minnesota winters that cover the backyard in blankets of snow.

"Minnesota is perfect for them," Tyler said. "They love it. The winter, they love. I'd like to maybe get a toboggan or a sled or something and see if they'll maybe pull me around, but I haven't gotten that far yet."









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SKOL STORIES



2 TEAMS 1 LEGEND



Paul Wiggin pursues Giants QB Y.A. Tittle for the Browns long before joining the Vikings coaching staff (1985) and personnel department (1992).

THE NFL IS IN ITS 11TH DECADE
OF EXISTENCE. PAUL WIGGIN HAS
BEEN A PART OF A TEAM IN SOME
CAPACITY IN EIGHT OF THOSE.

BY CRAIG PETERS

The 86-year-old is a respected personnel consultant for the Vikings, continuing to provide evaluations of linemen for Minnesota's current coaches. Wiggin transitioned to the personnel department in 1992 after coaching Vikings defensive linemen for seven seasons (1985 in Bud Grant's final season as head coach and from 1986-91 for Jerry Burns).

When one passes him in the hallway at Twin Cities Orthopedics Performance Center, a friendly welcome is extended in a gentle tone – not what one might expect from one of the best defensive linemen in Cleveland Browns history.

Although the NFL did not make sacks official until 1982, pro-football-reference.com has researched and awarded sacks since 1960. They counted 60.5 for Wiggin, which would rank fifth in Browns history. That total does not include any from his first three pro seasons.

The two-time Pro Bowler could have rested on his laurels long ago, but he followed an 11-season playing career with the Browns by becoming a coach. Stops included the 49ers (defensive line, 1968-74), Chiefs (head coach, 1975-77), Saints (defensive coordinator, 1978-79) and Vikings.

Between New Orleans and Minnesota, Wiggin was the head coach at Stanford, his alma mater, from 1980-83. Cardinal players included QB John Elway and Vikings Legend Darrin Nelson. Wiggin was at Stanford when California executed "The Play," a five-lateral contraption that ended with a touchdown and a toppled band member on Nov. 20, 1982. Vikings Legend Joe Kapp was in his first season as Cal's head coach.

Former Vikings linebacker and coach turned analyst Pete Bercich recently caught up with Wiggin for an episode of "Skol Stories."

"I would hate to line up in front of some of the people that they're playing today," Wiggin said. "I weighed 234 and I was big enough. Today, 234 would be like catching a minnow. You'd throw it back in the water. That part of it has certainly changed, but it was a great era. I played 11 years with the Browns, and we never had a losing season."

While the sizes of players have increased dramatically since Wiggin suited up for Pro Football Hall of Fame Head Coach Paul Brown, he said, "football has always been football."

"My job was as defensive line coach, and our job was to do the same things that the defensive line does now," Wiggin said. "We tried to get the quarterback on the grass as often as we could."

Brown, who co-founded and nicknamed Cleveland 75 years ago, was ahead of his time.

"We were way ahead of everybody. If you go back and look at history, Paul Brown, in his first 10 years as a coach with the Cleveland Browns, played in the championship game all 10 years. I coat-tailed my life with a pretty good football coach. The game then, he was more modern at that time. They had the playbook. They had all of the things, the modern things, that you see today."

The list included the use of game film to scout opponents and testing players on their knowledge of the playbook, ushering the NFL past playing on a whim.

"You talk to players from way back then, they almost drew plays in the dirt," Wiggin said.

Conrad Cardano, who retired from scouting this spring after first joining Minnesota in 1987, described Wiggin as "very influential" on his own career.

"I learned a lot of stuff from him about defensive line play," Cardano said.

Vikings General Manager Rick Spielman said Wiggin is welcome to stay in his consultant role as long as he likes, similarly to Jerry Reichow, who retired in 2019, and Cardano.

"Those guys have given their life to this organization, and I told them, no matter what role it's in, they will always have a job here," Spielman said. "When they decide they don't want to go anymore, that will be their decision, but I will always have a job for them, and that's from our ownership down, we will always be there to support them."

A FEW DAYS BEFORE THEIR HOME OPENER,

THE VIKINGS HELPED MAKE SURE ONE FAN WILL BE ABLE TO

GET INTO A HOME OF HER OWN.





The organization recently partnered with Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity and Sleep Number on Build Week, which centered on helping construct a brand-new home just a few miles north of U.S. Bank Stadium.

The four-bedroom, two-bathroom house (more than 1,500 square feet) will offer Gretchen Leininger a place to call her own.

"We have a platform for impact, and we're always looking for ways to engage the community," said Steve Poppen, the Vikings Executive Vice President & Chief Business Administration Office. "We have more than 50 staff and [current and former] players volunteering on this home build. It's a great opportunity for us to do something very tangible for the community.

"[Gretchen's] story is special with the challenges she's gone through in life," added Poppen, who is also on the board for Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity. "She has not been able to get into a home of her own because of the curveballs life has thrown at her. To see this day... it's just really, really special."

Chris Coleman, the President and CEO of Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity, added: "This is pretty special to have this Vikings



partnership and have some [players] come out and swing a hammer ... to change a life"

Mackensie Alexander, C.J. Ham, K.J. Osborn and D.J. Wonnum helped and were joined by Vikings Ring of Honor linebacker Scott Studwell. Vikings staff could also pick a day to volunteer, with the retired Studwell opting to help out all five days.

It was all to help Leininger, a single mother of a 23-year-old daughter, Isabel, who was diagnosed with leukemia at the age of 5. But while Isabel managed to withstand that, she was diagnosed with renal cell carcinoma as a sophomore in high school.

She is now on treatment for that, which includes a surgery every 12-15 months.

Leininger said she was unable to get into a home due to constant medical costs.

"It's hard to get ahead, or even pay your current bills, when the hospital needs \$2,500 from you this week and \$1,500 the next," Leininger said. "The last few years have been a challenge ... but I'm going to need to thank a lot of people for a really long time.

"It was always Isabel and I," Leininger added. "Everyone has different challenges, but that one was the biggest one. You just put on your big-girl pants and try and do better."

Ham began the afternoon by offering up two tickets to Leininger and her mom, Candy, to a home game later this season.

Alexander then presented the pair with custom jerseys before the group took a tour of the home. Vikings players helped hang drywall for almost an hour.

"I built a bookshelf last week, so I guess I graduated," Osborn quipped. "But it was really great and I had fun.

"Just seeing the look on her face, I got a little teary-eyed hearing her story," Osborn added: "It's a blessing to be able to come over here. This is my first time doing something like this. But it definitely won't be my last."

The experience was especially meaningful for Alexander, who grew up in a Habitat home. The cornerback said his entire neighborhood was Habitat homes, with everyone helping build one after the next.

"Habitat gave my parents an opportunity to move in and gain ownership of a home, the same as it did with Gretchen's family now," Alexander said. "My community came together to help out, just as we're doing now."

Leininger said she is beyond thrilled to be able to have her own home when it gets completed early in 2022.

"I can't wait to meet my neighbors. Hopefully they like me," Leininger said with a smile. "I'll invite everybody over for football."

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1/2 High Strength LITE- V

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ARTIGUE

OFFICIAL HOME OF THE WINNESDTA VIKINGS

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FOX
9



VIKINGS SAMEDAY



THURSDAY 6PM

SUNDAY HOME - 9:30A AWAY - 10AM

SUNDAY 10:35P



YEARS ON TEAM: 3

OCCUPATION: CLINICAL MENTAL

HEALTH PRACTITIONER

SIGNATURE DANCE STYLE: BALLET

Along with her enthusiasm for dance and the Minnesota Vikings, MVC Nicole is passionate about accessibility to mental health support. From manning a self-harm call line to conducting in-home rehabilitation and now working in management, Nicole is proud to be part of a local social services agency that provides mental health services to low-income individuals.

How did you become so passionate about the area of mental health? I have been passionate about mental health since I was in high school. Because of a loved one, I saw the way that mental health symptoms can affect our lives, and knew that I wanted to advocate for it through my career. The results of psychiatric care include joy and empowerment – I want to help people feel that way!

What is the importance of breaking down the stigma around mental illness? Our mental health is just as important as our physical health, but unfortunately it is often not addressed because it is viewed as a weakness. Just as we would see a doctor for our body, we should see a therapist for our mind. Seeking help is a sign of strength that we should be proud of! Removing the stigma around mental health will help individuals feel more empowered to access mental health services and participate in programs that could change their life.

How can people support loved ones who may be going through mental health challenges?

When loved ones come to us with their struggles, we often want to jump into action and fix their problems for them. However, I would encourage you to listen and provide empathy for the person so that he/she knows they are loved and cared for. Encourage them to seek professional help, and even offer to go with if you feel comfortable.

What would you say to someone who may be considering a therapist? Do it! Mental health care is for everyone. ... Look for someone who you relate to and feel comfortable with and then stick with it. If you take care of yourself first; everything else will fall into place."

THANK YOU MVC PARTNERS









VIKTOR THE VIKING

FIND ALL THE WORDS

H M E J Q M H E N I M H O U F
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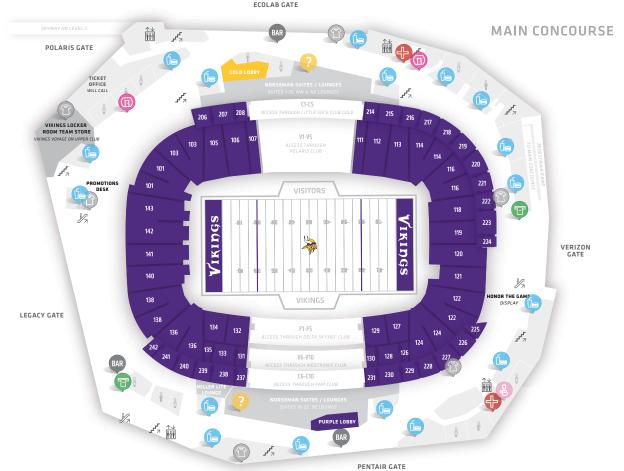




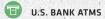


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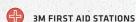
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MOTHERS NURSING ROOM

MERCHANDISE STAND

PURPLE LOBBY

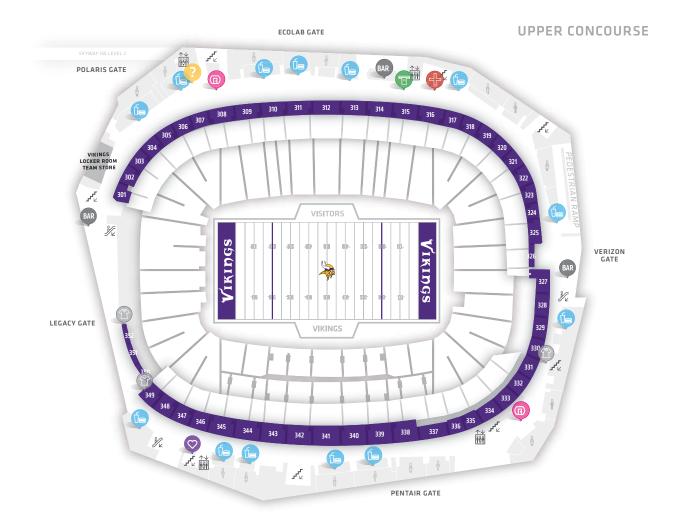
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THE NORTH IS READY

VIKINGS UNVEIL NEW SHOWTIME SEQUENCE FOR 2021

Warm light with just a hint of purple illuminates the resilient, weathered, determined face of Jim Marshall, his voice strong and deep decades after his illustrious playing career.

The reverberating beats of the Vikings War Drum.

Shots of U.S. Bank Stadium and current player highlights spliced together with grainy images of the Vikings past, snowy games and muddy tackles at the Old Met.

And now, snow floating down onto cheering fans. The temp inside the enclosed stadium is warm, but the atmosphere creates goosebumps as the larger-than-life video culminates with a screaming Eric Kendricks, head thrown back and arms raised.

It's nearly impossible to put the atmosphere and energy into words, to be honest. The Vikings spectacular "Showtime" sequence and pregame player intros have been in the works since, really, 2019. It ultimately harkens, though, to the period when the Vikings were the only thing harsher than the late-season weather at Metropolitan Stadium.





CONCESSIONS

Original Hockey Mom Brownies, which are baked in St. Paul, are new to U.S. Bank Stadium this year. Available near Sections 111 and 360, they offer seven flavors, as well as two gluten-free options.

SCAN THE OR CODE FOR A FULL LIST OF CONCESSIONS.

SKOL SERVICE SPOTLIGHT

The SKOL Service Program was developed to create a guest-focused culture for our game-day team members. Our SKOL Service mission is our commitment to create memorable experiences for our fans. SKOL Service is our purpose as team members at U.S. Bank Stadium to provide a safe and world-class sports environment for all.

SKOL Service is built upon four main quality standards: safety, courtesy, appearance and efficiency.



SANDRA ROMERO

At U.S. Bank Stadium, ensuring the safety and security of all of our incredible fans is our highest priority, and BEST Security's Sandra Romero helps ensure this.

Sandra grew up watching Minnesota Vikings games with her father and was excited to join our team. Through her six great seasons, she has loved getting to meet so many exciting fans every game day.

Outside of work, Sandra loves to be active outdoors and frequently enjoys biking and hiking.

If you had a great experience with one of our team members, please share this with us by emailing guestservices@vikings.nfl.net! SKOL!



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