

DAL AT MIN | 10.31.21 | U.S. BANK STADIUM

PLAYBOOK



EVERY CHALLENGE. EVERY VICTORY.

Orthopedic Care Trusted by the Pros

Whether you're a pro athlete or a weekend go-getter, we're here to help after an injury strikes. We have 39 convenient locations, including urgent care hours. In most cases, you don't even need a referral to see one of our top-rated specialists and get back to what you love.

TCOmn.com





GUIDE TO GAME DAY

- 3 Tonight's Game
- 4 Promotions
- 49 U.S. Bank Stadium Maps



TONIGHT'S MATCHUP

- 7 Vikings Snapshot
- 8 Vikings Roster
- 10 Depth Charts
- 13 Cowboys Snapshot
- 14 Cowboys Roster
- 16 Series History



FEATURE STORIES

- 19 Water Break: Dede Westbrook
- 22 Xavier Woods: Smart Start
- 26 Dalvin Cook: No Masquerade, All Ball
- 32 Steve Hutchinson: A Difference Maker
- 37 Purple Pups: Larry Osborn



PLAYBOOK EXTRAS

- 41 Play Like A Pro
- 43 TeamSmile Dental Clinic
- 45 Cheerleader Spotlight
- 46 Viktor the Viking

EDITOR: Craig Peters

COPY EDITOR: Lindsey Young

ART DIRECTION & DESIGN:

Alicia Dreyer, Taylar Sievert, Elizabeth Bazany, Fatima Knight, Jacqueline Ramacher & Rachel Anderson

PHOTOGRAPHY: Andy Kenutis, Harrison Barden & Alli Rusco

© 2021 by Minnesota Vikings Football, LLC.
All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written consent of the publisher is prohibited.



QUESTIONS AT THE GAME?

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

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

A man and a young boy are playing football in a park. The boy, wearing a blue hoodie, is in the foreground with his back to the camera, ready to catch the ball. The man, wearing a dark blue sweater and grey pants, is on the right, having just thrown the football. The ground is covered in brown autumn leaves, and there are trees and a house in the background.

3M Science.
Applied to Life.™

Getting you back to the moments you love.

From manufacturing to safety to healthcare, scientists at 3M work every day to apply science in meaningful ways. This includes purification technologies that help advance vaccine and therapy development, like the COVID-19 vaccine. Helping fans like you get back to the moments you love.

That is 3M Science. Applied to Life.™

3M and 3M Science. Applied to Life. are trademarks of 3M.
© 2021, 3M. All rights reserved. 2107-21069-E



NORTH STAR VS. LONE STAR

SUNDAY, OCT. 31, 2021 | U.S. BANK STADIUM

The stage of NBC's *Sunday Night Football* seems just right for the stars to shine. Representing the North Star State, Minnesota (3-3) will host Dallas (5-1) from the Lone Star State as the teams meet in football's grandest regular-season setting for the second time in three seasons.

The Vikings and Cowboys feature quarterbacks playing at a high level with Kirk Cousins and Dak Prescott, as well as dynamic dual-threat running backs Dalvin Cook and Ezekiel Elliott. The squads also have impressive top receiver tandems formed by an established vet (Adam Thielen for Minnesota and Amari Cooper for Dallas) and second-year pros (Justin Jefferson and CeeDee Lamb) who have built on incredible debut seasons.

It's a cast that would make one think tonight's contest will be a fantasy football free-for-all. That is until one considers that Minnesota, particularly at home, and Dallas have been able to make quarterbacks quite uncomfortable.

Don't forget to keep an eye on the goings-on up front from time to time to see how the offensive lines are faring. If the unit and players go unnoticed, it's probably a really good thing, as was the case during the career of Steve Hutchinson, who will be presented his Pro Football Hall of Fame Ring of Excellence during halftime.

TEAM STATS

YARDS PER GAME / ALLOWED

	RUSH	PASS
MIN OFF	127.8	286.3
	414.2 5TH IN THE NFL	
DAL DEF	86.2	295.0
	381.2 23RD IN THE NFL	
DAL OFF	164.3	296.5
	460.8 1ST IN THE NFL	
MIN DEF	128.0	230.3
	358.3 16TH IN THE NFL	

TEAM TRENDS

POINTS COMPARISON

The effects of having fans back at U.S. Bank Stadium might be showing up on the scoreboard. The Vikings have limited opponents to 16.0 points per game and not allowed more than 17 so far this season. That's after allowing 31.1 per home game in 2020 without fans in attendance. That will be challenged tonight by a Cowboys attack that has averaged 28.0 in three road games so far.

PRODUCTS OF PRESSURE

The Vikings are tied for first in the NFL with 21 sacks, just 2.0 shy of their entire season total for 2020. The Cowboys, however, have only surrendered 9.0 sacks this season, the same as Minnesota.

Dallas has logged 11 sacks (tied for 28th) on the year but has the same number of interceptions, which leads the NFL and is in large part thanks to the seven recorded by Trevon Diggs, the younger brother of former Vikings receiver Stefon Diggs.

TONIGHT'S GAME ELEMENTS

GJALLARHORN & HALFTIME

Steve Hutchinson will sound the Gjallarhorn before the game and receive his Pro Football Hall of Fame Ring of Excellence at halftime.

COLOR GUARD

Minnesota Air
National Guard

Scan the code with
your smart phone
for more info.



TONIGHT'S PROMOTIONS



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. During each home game, U.S. Bank and the Minnesota Vikings will recognize individuals who have helped make our community a better place. Tonight's Hometown Heroes are U.S. Paralympic athletes. As of press time, Mallory Weggemann (swimming), Chuck Aoki and Joe Delagrave (wheelchair rugby) and Mike Schultz (snowboarding) were confirmed to attend.



OPENING DRIVE SWEEPSTAKES

PRESENTED BY KWIK TRIP

Tonight's Kwik Trip opening drive contestant is Tammy Smith from North Mankato. Tammy 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. Tammy also has the chance to win a Ford Bronco Sport from Northland Ford Dealers at the end of the season. Enter tonight at any Minnesota Kwik Trip store.



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, visit [Vikings.com/VikingsGameFace](https://vikings.com/VikingsGameFace).



SACKS FOR APPS

PRESENTED BY
BUFFALO WILD WINGS

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](https://vikings.com/bww) for your digital coupon and details.



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!

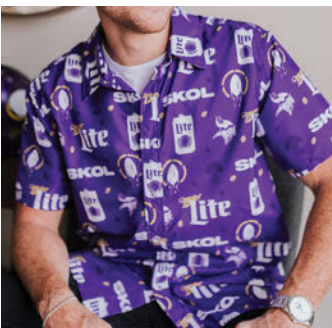


#VIKINGSHAIR

PRESENTED BY
SPALON MONTAGE

Spalon Montage will be giving away a \$100 gift card at tonight'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.



UNRL HOMETOWN COLLECTION

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 tonight!

UNRL



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](https://vikings.com/beaniesthatbenefit) to get yours!

POLARIS
Think Outside

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](https://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.

usbank

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.

HyVee

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.

South Dakota

IT'S TIME TO UP YOUR GAME



IMPROVED VEHICLE PERFORMANCE IS A SNAP

For a cleaner, better performing engine, Stay Tuned™ Multi-System Additive is our MVP. Independently lab tested, Stay Tuned has more active ingredients than the leading competition for improved fuel economy, reduced sludge and grime, and fuel stabilization. Performs in gas, ethanol, diesel, or oil in on-or off-road, marine, and lawn and garden.

Visit FVPparts.com for more!

FVP is distributed by Factory Motor Parts



Proud Partner of the Minnesota Vikings.

KIRK

COUSINS

QUARTERBACK
6'3" | 205 LBS
10TH SEASON
COLLEGE:
MICHIGAN STATE

2021 SCHEDULE

@ CIN
WK1 | L, 27-24 OT

@ LAC
WK10 | NOV. 14

@ ARI
WK2 | L, 34-33

GB
WK11 | NOV. 21

SEA
WK3 | W, 30-17

@ SF
WK12 | NOV. 28

CLE
WK4 | L, 14-7

@ DET
WK13 | DEC. 5

DET
WK5 | W, 19-17

PIT
WK14 | DEC. 9

@ CAR
WK6 | W, 34-28 OT

@ CHI
WK15 | DEC. 12

BYE WEEK

LAR
WK16 | DEC. 26

DAL
WK8 | OCT. 31

@ GB
WK17 | JAN. 2

@ BAL
WK9 | NOV. 7

CHI
WK18 | JAN. 9

MILESTONE MOMENT

Cousins threw his 200th career touchdown against Detroit on Oct. 10, becoming the 47th player in NFL history with that many through the air.

PLAYER HIGHLIGHT

Cousins is preparing to lead the Vikings out of their bye by replicating the play he delivered between Minnesota's 2020 Week 7 bye and this year's. In his past 16 starts, Cousins has

completed 402 of 580 passes (69.3 percent) for 4,559 yards with 37 touchdowns against only five interceptions for a passer rating of 110.3.

An interesting Next Gen Stat for Cousins during his hot start to 2021 has been his average time to throw this season, 2.64 seconds, which is tied for the fifth-fastest among 33 qualifying passers.

That's much faster than 2019 (3.01 seconds) and 2020 (2.88).

Tonight's game will be Cousins' 10th start against Dallas and third with Minnesota. Since joining the Vikings, he has completed 45 of 62 passes (72.6 percent) for 534 yards and five touchdowns, good for a passer rating of 125.3 against the Cowboys.



VIKINGS ROSTER

#	NAME	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	HOMETOWN
1	Greg Joseph	K	6-0	206	4	Florida Atlantic	Boca Raton, FL
3	Jordan Berry	P	6-5	195	7	Eastern Kentucky	Melbourne, AUS
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	Sean Mannion	QB	6-6	230	7	Oregon State	Pleasanton, CA
15	Ihmir Smith-Marsette	WR	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	CB	5-11	185	2	Temple	Cherry Hill, NJ
21	Bashaud Breeland	CB	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
26	Kene Nwangwu	RB	6-1	210	R	Iowa State	Frisco, TX
27	Cameron Dantzler	CB	6-2	190	2	Mississippi State	Hammond, LA
29	Kris Boyd	CB	5-11	195	3	Texas	Gilmer, TX
30	C.J. Ham	FB	5-11	250	6	Augustana	Duluth, MN
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	Pembroke 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	C	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	C	6-3	300	3	North Carolina State	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
64	Blake Brandel	T	6-7	315	1	Oregon State	Milwaukie, OR
69	Rashod Hill	T	6-6	310	6	Southern Miss	Jacksonville, FL
71	Christian Darrisaw	T	6-5	315	R	Virginia Tech	Upper 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 State	Hawley, MN
83	Tyler Conklin	TE	6-3	248	4	Central Michigan	Chesterfield, MI
85	Dan Chisena	WR	6-3	203	2	Penn State	Downington, PA
89	Chris Herndon	TE	6-4	253	4	Miami	Norcross, GA

#	NAME	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	HOMETOWN
90	Sheldon Richardson	DT	6-3	290	9	Missouri	St. Louis, MO
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	USC	Avondale, AZ
98	D.J. Wonnum	DE	6-5	258	2	South Carolina	Stone Mountain, GA
99	Danielle Hunter	DE	6-5	263	7	LSU	Katy, TX

PRACTICE SQUAD

5	Tye Smith	CB	6-0	190	6	Towson	Raleigh, NC
9	Trishton Jackson	WR	6-1	191	1	Syracuse	West Bloomfield, MI
34	Jake Bargas	FB	6-2	245	2	North Carolina	Boca Raton, FL
35	Luke Stocker	TE	6-5	253	11	Tennessee	Berea, KY
36	A.J. Rose Jr.	RB	6-1	212	R	Kentucky	Cleveland, OH
39	Parry Nickerson	CB	5-10	179	4	Tulane	Algiers, LA
40	Zach Davidson	TE	6-7	251	R	Central Missouri	Webb City, MO
46	Myles Dorn	S	6-2	210	2	North Carolina	Charlotte, NC
47	Tuf Borland	LB	6-1	233	R	Ohio State	Bolingbrook, IL
50	T.J. Smith	DT	6-3	300	1	Arkansas	Moultrie, GA
61	Timon Parris	T	6-6	330	3	Stony Brook	Floral Park, NY
68	Kyle Hinton	G	6-2	315	2	Washburn	Peoria, AZ
78	Dakota Dozier	G	6-4	305	8	Furman	West Columbia, SC
79	Kenny Willekes	DE	6-3	264	2	Michigan State	Rockford, MI
86	Brandon Dillon	TE	6-5	250	2	Marian	Flora, IN
87	Myron Mitchell	WR	6-1	185	R	UAB	Jasper, AL

RESERVE/NON-FOOTBALL INJURY

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

RESERVE/INJURED

7	Patrick Peterson	CB	6-1	198	11	LSU	Fort Lauderdale, FL
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	233	1	Iowa	Menomonie, WI
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
95	Janarius Robinson	DE	6-5	258	R	Florida State	Panama City, FL



THIS IS
OUR TEAM



33
RUNNING BACK
Dalvin Cook



8
QUARTERBACK
Kirk Cousins



30
FULLBACK
C.J. Ham



19
WIDE RECEIVER
Adam Thielen



83
TIGHT END
Tyler Conklin



75
RIGHT TACKLE
Brian O'Neill



74
RIGHT GUARD
Oluisaemeka Udoh



56
CENTER
Garrett Bradbury



72
LEFT GUARD
Ezra Cleveland



71
LEFT TACKLE
Christian Darrisaw



18
WIDE RECEIVER
Justin Jefferson

VIKINGS OFFENSE



30
CORNERBACK
Anthony Brown



93
DEFENSIVE END
Tarell Basham



97
DEFENSIVE TACKLE
Osa Odighizuwa



91
DEFENSIVE TACKLE
Carlos Watkins



94
DEFENSIVE END
Randy Gregory



7
CORNERBACK
Trevon Diggs



11
LINEBACKER
Micah Parsons



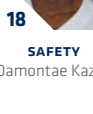
6
SAFETY
Donovan Wilson



42
MIDDLE LINEBACKER
Keanu Neal



55
LINEBACKER
Leighton Vander Esch



18
SAFETY
Damontae Kazee

COWBOYS DEFENSE

VIKINGS SPECIAL TEAMS



1
KICKER
Greg Joseph



3
PUNTER
Jordan Berry



42
LONG SNAPPER
Andrew DePaola



12
PUNT RETURNER
Dede Westbrook



15
KICK RETURNER
Ihmir Smith-Marsette



VIKINGS DEPTH CHART

VIKINGS OFFENSE

VIKINGS DEFENSE

WR	Justin Jefferson	K.J. Osborn	Dede Westbrook
LT	Christian Darrisaw	Rashod Hill	
LG	Ezra Cleveland		
C	Garrett Bradbury	Mason Cole	
RG	Oluisaemeka Udoh	Wyatt Davis	
RT	Brian O'Neill	Blake Brandel	
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	Kene Nwangwu
FB	C.J. Ham		

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



59
LINEBACKER
Nick Vigil



23
SAFETY
Xavier Woods



54
LINEBACKER
Eric Kendricks



22
SAFETY
Harrison Smith



55
LINEBACKER
Anthony Barr



21
CORNERBACK
Bashaud Breeland



97
DEFENSIVE END
Everson Griffen



58
NOSE TACKLE
Michael Pierce



94
DEFENSIVE TACKLE
Dalvin Tomlinson



99
DEFENSIVE END
Danielle Hunter



24
CORNERBACK
Mackensie Alexander

VIKINGS DEFENSE



19
WIDE RECEIVER
Amari Cooper



77
LEFT TACKLE
Tyron Smith



52
LEFT GUARD
Connor Williams



63
CENTER
Tyler Biadasz



70
RIGHT GUARD
Zack Martin



71
RIGHT TACKLE
La'el Collins



86
TIGHT END
Dalton Schultz



88
WIDE RECEIVER
CeeDee Lamb



4
QUARTERBACK
Dak Prescott



21
RUNNING BACK
Ezekiel Elliott



1
WIDE RECEIVER
Cedrick Wilson

COWBOYS OFFENSE



2
KICKER
Greg Zuerlein



5
PUNTER
Bryan Anger



44
LONG SNAPPER
Jake McQuaide



88
PUNT RETURNER
CeeDee Lamb



20
KICK RETURNER
Tony Pollard

COWBOYS SPECIAL TEAMS



COWBOYS DEPTH CHART

COWBOYS OFFENSE

WR	Amari Cooper	Noah Brown
LT	Tyron Smith	Ty Nsekhe
LG	Connor Williams	Connor McGovern
C	Tyler Biadasz	Connor Williams Matt Farniok
RG	Zack Martin	Connor McGovern Brandon Knight
RT	La'el Collins	Terence Steele Ty Nsekhe
TE	Dalton Schultz	Blake Jarwin Jeremy Sprinkle
WR	CeeDee Lamb	Simi Fehoko
WB	Cedrick Wilson	Malik Turner
QB	Dak Prescott	Cooper Rush Will Grier
RB	Ezekiel Elliott	Tony Pollard Corey Clement

COWBOYS DEFENSE

DE	Tarell Basham	Brandlee Anae	Azur Kamara
DT	Osa Odighizuwa	Quinton Bohannon	
DT	Carlos Watkins	Brent Urban	
DE	Randy Gregory	Dorance Armstrong	Chauncey Golston
OLB	Micah Parsons	Jabril Cox	
MLB	Keanu Neal		
OLB	L. Vander Esch	Luke Gifford	
LCB	Anthony Brown	C.J. Goodwin	
RCB	Trevon Diggs	Nahshon Wright	
SS	Donovan Wilson	Jayron Kearse	Israel Mukuamu
FS	Damontae Kazee	Malik Hooker	

THE BEST USE THE BEST



OFFICIAL SPORTS DRINK OF THE MINNESOTA VIKINGS

GATORADE and G DESIGN are registered trademarks of Stokely-Van Camp, Inc. ©2019 S-VC, Inc.

DAK

PRESCOTT

QUARTERBACK
6'2" | 238 LBS
6TH SEASON
COLLEGE: MISSISSIPPI STATE

PLAYER HIGHLIGHT

Selected in the fourth round of the 2016 NFL Draft with the 135th overall pick, Prescott became a starter as a rookie. His role has grown

from being viewed by some as a game manager to a two-time Pro Bowler and a candidate for Comeback Player of the Year.

Prescott has returned from an injury in Week 5 of 2020 and completed a career-best 73.1 percent of his passes with 16 touchdowns and a passer

rating of 115.0, which ranks fourth in the NFL entering Week 8.

His 39 games with a passer rating of 100-plus in 75 career starts ranks third all-time. Only Aaron Rodgers (43) and Tony Romo (41) had more in that span.

2021 SCHEDULE

@TB
WK1 | L, 31-29

ATL
WK10 | NOV. 14

@LAR
WK2 | W, 20-17

@KC
WK11 | NOV. 21

PHI
WK3 | W, 41-21

LV
WK12 | NOV. 25

CAR
WK4 | W, 36-28

@NO
WK13 | DEC. 2

NYG
WK5 | W, 44-20

@WAS
WK14 | DEC. 12

@NE
WK6 | W, 35-29 OT

@NYG
WK15 | DEC. 19

BYE WEEK

WAS
WK16 | DEC. 26

@MIN
WK8 | OCT. 31

ARI
WK17 | JAN. 2

DEN
WK9 | NOV. 7

@PHI
WK18 | JAN. 9

PAST TWO MATCHUPS

Dec. 1, 2016 in Minnesota: 12-of-18 passing, 139 yards, TD, passer rating of 108.3

Nov. 10, 2019 at Dallas: 28-of-46 passing, 397 yards, 3 TDs, passer rating of 101.4



COWBOYS ROSTER

ROSTER COWBOYS

#	NAME	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	HOMETOWN
1	Cedrick Wilson	WR	6-2	195	4	Boise State	Memphis, TN
2	Greg Zuerlein	K	6-0	197	10	Missouri Western	Lincoln, NE
4	Dak Prescott	QB	6-2	228	6	Mississippi State	Haughton, LA
5	Bryan Anger	P	6-3	210	10	California	Camarillo, CA
6	Donovan Wilson	S	6-0	210	3	Texas A&M	Shreveport, LA
7	Trevon Diggs	CB	6-1	204	2	Alabama	Gaithersburg, MD
10	Cooper Rush	QB	6-3	224	3	Central Michigan	Charlotte, MI
11	Micah Parsons	LB	6-3	248	R	Penn State	Harrisburg, PA
14	Jabril Cox	LB	6-3	235	R	LSU	Kansas City, MO
15	Will Grier	QB	6-1	220	3	West Virginia	Charlotte, NC
17	Malik Turner	WR	6-2	212	4	Illinois	Springfield, IL
18	Damontae Kazee	S	5-11	185	6	San Diego State	San Bernardino, CA
19	Amari Cooper	WR	6-1	215	7	Alabama	Miami, FL
20	Tony Pollard	RB	6-0	212	3	Memphis	Memphis, TN
21	Ezekiel Elliott	RB	6-0	226	6	Ohio State	St. Louis, MO
25	Nahshon Wright	CB	6-4	190	R	Oregon State	Hayward, CA
26	Jourdan Lewis	CB	5-10	190	5	Michigan	Detroit, MI
27	Jayron Kearse	S	6-4	222	6	Clemson	Fort Myers, FL
28	Malik Hooker	S	6-1	214	5	Ohio State	New Castle, PA
29	C.J. Goodwin	CB	6-1	195	6	California (PA)	Wheeling, WV
30	Anthony Brown	CB	5-11	193	6	Purdue	Tampa, FL
31	Maurice Canady	CB	6-1	200	5	Virginia	Richmond, VA
32	Corey Clement	RB	5-10	220	5	Wisconsin	Glassboro, NJ
38	Israel Mukuamu	S	6-4	215	R	South Carolina	Bossier City, LA
42	Keanu Neal	LB	6-1	225	6	Florida	Bushnell, FL
44	Jake McQuaide	LS	6-2	238	11	Ohio State	Cincinnati, OH
52	Connor Williams	G	6-5	315	4	Texas	Coppell, TX
54	Azur Kamara	DE	6-3	250	2	Kansas	Glendale, AZ
55	Leighton Vander Esch	LB	6-4	255	4	Boise State	Riggins, ID
56	Bradlee Anae	DE	6-3	260	2	Utah	Laie, HI
57	Luke Gifford	LB	6-3	242	3	Nebraska	Lincoln, NE
59	Chauncey Golston	DE	6-5	277	R	Iowa	Detroit, MI
63	Tyler Biadasz	C	6-4	315	2	Wisconsin	Amherst, WI
66	Connor McGovern	G	6-5	318	3	Penn State	Larksville, PA
68	Matt Farniok	C	6-5	315	R	Nebraska	Sioux Falls, SD
70	Zack Martin	G	6-4	315	8	Notre Dame	Indianapolis, IN
71	La'el Collins	T	6-4	318	7	LSU	Baton Rouge, LA
77	Tyron Smith	T	6-5	308	11	USC	Moreno Valley, CA
78	Terence Steele	T	6-6	318	2	Texas Tech	Cibola, TX
79	Ty Nsekhe	T	6-8	325	8	Texas State	Arlington, TX
81	Simi Fehoko	WR	6-4	218	R	Stanford	Sandy, UT
85	Noah Brown	WR	6-2	215	5	Ohio State	Flanders, NJ
86	Dalton Schultz	TE	6-5	255	4	Stanford	South Jordan, UT
87	Jeremy Sprinkle	TE	6-5	257	5	Arkansas	White Hall, AR
88	CeeDee Lamb	WR	6-2	197	2	Oklahoma	Richmond, TX

#	NAME	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	HOMETOWN
89	Blake Jarwin	TE	6-5	250	5	Oklahoma State	Tuttle, OK
91	Carlos Watkins	DT	6-3	305	5	Clemson	Mooresboro, NC
92	Dorance Armstrong	DE	6-3	260	4	Kansas	Houston, TX
93	Tarell Basham	DE	6-4	260	5	Ohio	Rocky Mount, VA
94	Randy Gregory	DE	6-5	258	4	Nebraska	Jacksonville, FL
95	Brent Urban	DE	6-7	308	8	Virginia	Mississauga, ONT
97	Osa Odighizuwa	DT	6-2	294	R	UCLA	Dayton, OH
98	Quinton Bohanna	DT	6-4	330	R	Kentucky	Cordova, TN

PRACTICE SQUAD

3	Ben DiNucci	QB	6-2	222	2	James Madison	Wexford, PA
6	Damion Ratley	WR	6-2	200	4	Texas A&M	Yoakum, TX
36	Kyron Brown	CB	6-1	195	2	Akron	Boynton Beach, FL
37	JaQuan Hardy	RB	5-8	215	R	Tiffin	Westlake, OH
39	Tyler Coyle	S	6-1	210	R	Purdue	Windsor, CT
46	Nick Ralston	FB	6-0	245	R	Louisiana	Argyle, TX
49	Ian Bunting	TE	6-7	255	1	California	Hinsdale, IL
51	Breeland Speaks	DE	6-3	285	2	Mississippi	Jackson, MS
58	Austin Faoliu	DE	6-3	295	R	Oregon	Santa Ana, CA
60	Isaac Alarcón	G	6-6	318	1	Monterrey Tech	Monterrey, MEX
62	Braylon Jones	C	6-3	310	R	Houston	Tyler, TX
76	Aviante Collins	T	6-4	292	3	TCU	Houston, TX
80	Brandon Smith	WR	6-1	215	R	Iowa	Lake Cormorant, MS
83	Robert Foster	WR	6-2	194	4	Alabama	Monaca, PA
99	Justin Hamilton	DT	6-2	315	4	Louisiana	Natchez, MS

RESERVE/DESIGNATED FOR RETURN

24	Kelvin Joseph	CB	5-11	200	R	Kentucky	Baton Rouge, LA
84	Sean McKeon	TE	6-5	255	2	Michigan	Dudley, MA

RESERVE/PUP/NFI

72	Trysten Hill	DT	6-3	300	3	UCF	Lee, FL15
15	T.J. Vasher	WR	6-6	210	R	Texas Tech	Wichita Falls, TX

RESERVE/INJURED

13	Michael Gallup	WR	6-1	205	4	Colorado State	Monroe, GA
34	Rico Dowdle	RB	5-11	215	2	South Carolina	Asheville, NC
41	Reggie Robinson	CB	6-1	200	2	Tulsa	Cleburne, TX
45	Sewo Olonilua	FB	6-3	240	2	TCU	Kingwood, TX
53	Francis Bernard	LB	6-0	240	2	Utah	Herriman, UT
65	Mitch Hyatt	T	6-5	315	2	Clemson	Suwanee, GA
75	Josh Ball	T	6-8	318	R	Marshall	Fredericksburg, VA
90	DeMarcus Lawrence	DE	6-3	254	8	Boise State	Aiken, SC
96	Neville Gallimore	DT	6-2	310	2	Oklahoma	Ottawa, ONT



DRAKE

JOINS THE DAVE RYAN
SHOW TOMORROW!!!



WEEKDAY MORNINGS ON 101.3 KDWB
5:30 AM - 10 AM



MIN vs. DAL

SERIES HISTORY

REGULAR SEASON AND POSTSEASON

ALL-TIME RESULTS

VIKINGS ARE
15-17
IN 32 GAMES

LONGEST WIN STREAK:
5 GAMES
BY MINNESOTA VIKINGS
(Nov. 26, 1998–Sept. 12, 2004)

FIRST MEETING
SEPT. 24, 1961 | @DAL
COWBOYS 21, VIKINGS 7

Fran Tarkenton made his first career start but was unable to repeat his heroics from the previous week when he came off the bench. Instead, Don Meredith delivered a 20-yard rushing touchdown and a 20-yard passing touchdown to Amos Marsh.

LAST MEETING
NOV. 22, 2020 | IN MIN
COWBOYS 31, VIKINGS 28

Kirk Cousins passed for 314 yards and three touchdowns (two to Adam Thielen; one to Justin Jefferson) as Minnesota rallied for leads of 21-16 and 28-24. Andy Dalton's 2-yard pass to Dalton Schultz put the Cowboys ahead for good with 1:37 left.

an 11-yard score to Visanthe Shiancoe that became the final touchdown in a playoff game at the Metrodome.

Rice became the fourth of seven total players to catch three touchdowns in an NFL playoff game.

Ray Edwards also recorded a trifecta of his own with 3.0 sacks of Tony Romo to set a Vikings record for a postseason game since 1982. Romo was dropped for losses six times and intercepted by Ben Leber.

THROWBACK MOMENT THRICE NICE FOR RICE

The Vikings defeated the Cowboys 34-3 in the Divisional Round of the NFC Playoffs on Jan. 17, 2010, thanks to three touchdown catches by Sidney Rice and a strong defensive performance.

Rice caught scoring passes of 47, 16 and 45 yards from Brett Favre, who added

TOP 2 AGAINST COWBOYS

RUSHING YARDS

148 Robert Smith on 21 attempts at DAL (11.23.00)

140 Adrian Peterson on 25 attempts at DAL (11.03.13)

PASSING YARDS

359 Randall Cunningham on 17-of-35 passing at DAL (11.26.98)

314 Kirk Cousins on 22-of-30 passing in MIN (11.22.20)

RECEIVING YARDS

184 Anthony Carter on eight catches at DAL (11.26.87)

163 Randy Moss on three catches at DAL (11.26.98)

AGAINST VIKINGS

RUSHING YARDS

153 Tony Dorsett on 16 attempts in MIN (01.03.83)

150 Emmitt Smith on 20 attempts in MIN (09.17.95)

PASSING YARDS

455 Troy Aikman on 34-of-57 passing at DAL (11.26.98)

397 Dak Prescott on 28-of-46 passing at DAL (11.10.19)

RECEIVING YARDS

147 Amari Cooper on 11 catches at DAL (11.10.19)

137 Michael Irvin on 10 catches at DAL (11.26.98)

SELL, BUY OR TRANSFER SBLs ONLINE



OFFICIAL STADIUM BUILDERS LICENSE
MARKETPLACE OF U.S. BANK STADIUM

POWERED BY:

vikings.strmarketplace.com





LIVE GENEROUSLY AND LIFE
WILL TREAT YOU ROYALLY



WATER BREAK

PRESENTED BY *Crown Royal*

BY ERIC SMITH

DEDE WESTBROOK

Dede Westbrook lights up when talking about football. But his enthusiasm for cars just might rival his love for the gridiron.

"It's been around since high school," Westbrook said. "I've always loved vehicles. Old-school cars."

The Vikings wide receiver, who is currently restoring a 1976 Cadillac Sedan deVille, recently took that off-field passion and started his own mobile detailing company. Westbrook's Go Crazy Mobile Detailing business launched Monday in the Oklahoma City metro area.

"Man, I love cars. All types of cars. So, what better thing for me to do – than to get out there and wash cars?" Westbrook said. "I love washing my own cars, taking them to the car wash. I spend hours at a time, you know what I mean?"

"It's something that I love to do," Westbrook said. "So why not put a name on it and run with it?"

A pair of friends are helping out Westbrook while he goes through his first season in

Minnesota after signing as a free agent at the start of training camp.

But make no mistake about it, the 27-year-old will be heavily involved in the Oklahoma-based business when the offseason rolls around.

And Westbrook is bringing a hands-on approach to his new company.

"I want to be different. I want to go out and meet these different people I'm doing business for. Have a chance to get to know me and who I am as a person," Westbrook said. "I don't want them to just sit there and watch me wash their vehicle. I want it to be a family thing, family oriented."

"If you come and do business with us, I want us to get to know each other on a personal basis. It's not just me taking your money," Westbrook added. "This is my job, and I love the game. It's a little kid's game. We all love it and grew up loving it ... but I want people to know that I'm a person you can talk to about anything on the face of the moon. I want to reiterate that whenever I'm out detailing cars."

As for the name of his mobile detailing business? That's a phrase that Westbrook has relied on for a while.

"It's a slogan I've been using since my junior year in college," Westbrook said. "Whenever I go out on the field, that's one of the mentalities I like to live by as far as going crazy with everything that I do. I just put that in my everyday life."

"I've got a clothing brand that's 'Go Crazy.' I've got a food truck that's being ran in my hometown called 'Go Crazy.' Any kind of soul food you're looking for. And then we have seafood on Saturdays."

Westbrook hails from Cameron, Texas, which is about 75 miles northeast of Austin and less than 150 south of Dallas. But the former University of Oklahoma standout now resides in the Sooner State, as he bought his "forever home" in Moore, Oklahoma, a few months ago.

If you're ever in the area and need your car detailed, Westbrook is your guy.

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

Q: Your Instagram profile includes photos with music superstars Lil Wayne and Drake. Do you know them well?

A: "Yeah, I'm signed with Young Money, and Wayne is obviously the CEO of everything [with that label and sports agency]. Me and him have a real good relationship. Whenever he's in the area or around town, we meet up and talk business and different things. Drake is an add-on branch of Young Money."

Q: What's the best life advice you've gotten from Wayne?

A: "Oh man. Pretty much everything outside of

football. Just getting your stuff together outside of football. He wasn't an athlete, so he made a living somewhere else and has different businesses outside of his artistry. He's instilled the same thing in me."

Q: How do the Twin Cities compare to Jacksonville off the field?

A: "It's a little different. I haven't had the chance to get out much, but I just found out that you guys have a Sonic. I'm a big Cherry Limeade guy. I love Sonic, but it's about 20 minutes away from my house. That's big for me."


Q: You won the 2016 Biletnikoff

Award at Oklahoma as college football's best wide receiver. Where is that trophy?

A: "My mother won't let me take it from her house [laughs]. She's got a special spot for it. I tried to sneak it out one night and she caught me on camera. I don't think it's going anywhere."

Q: Finally, with tonight's game on Halloween night ... are you big into celebrating it?

A: "Man, I don't watch scary movies. I don't do anything Halloween stuff. I'm super scared. If I'm watching Halloween movies, it's got to be at 10 a.m. And if it's at night, I have to sleep with all the doors closed. No, I can't do that."



I WANT TO BE DIFFERENT. I WANT TO GO OUT AND MEET THESE DIFFERENT PEOPLE I'M DOING BUSINESS FOR. HAVE A CHANCE TO GET TO KNOW ME AND WHO I AM AS A PERSON."

- DEDE WESTBROOK



AS THE VIKINGS FIGHT FOR VICTORY,
YOU **HELP THEM WIN.**

AS PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY
FIGHT TO SURVIVE, YOU CAN
HELP THEM WIN, TOO.



THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON, START A NEW TRADITION



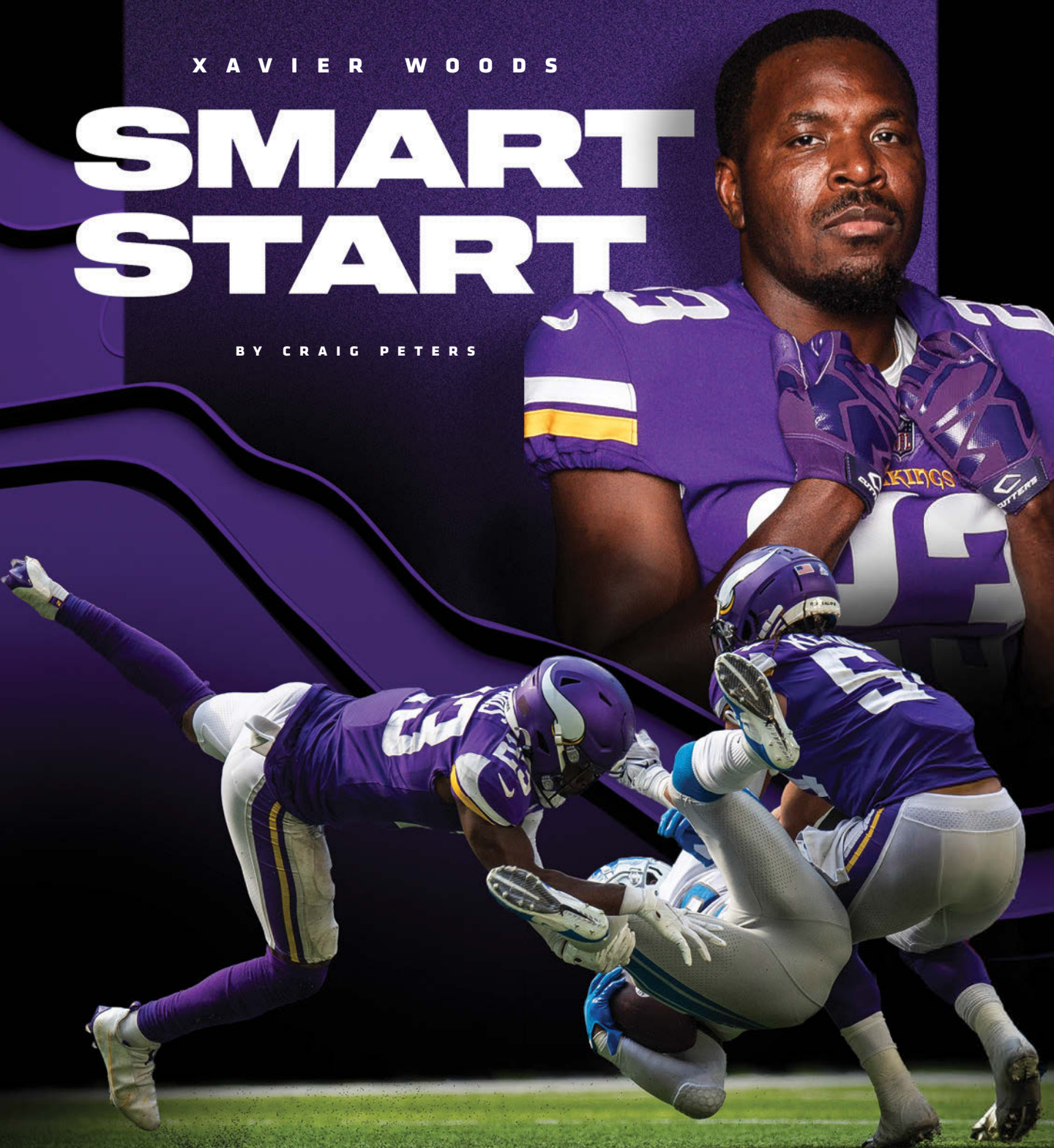
Support your community by volunteering and ringing bells at a kettle location near you. Just two hours at a kettle raises \$60. That's enough money to provide two days of food and shelter to someone experiencing homelessness.

Register to ring at SalvationArmyNorth.org

XAVIER WOODS

SMART START

BY CRAIG PETERS



ASK ANYONE IN THE VIKINGS ORGANIZATION ABOUT XAVIER WOODS, AND THE FIRST DESCRIPTOR OFFERED WILL BE, “SMART.”

Head Coach Mike Zimmer? Smart.

Co-Defensive Coordinator Adam Zimmer? Smart.

Fellow safety Harrison Smith? Smart.

Receiver Adam Thielen? Smart.

Linebacker Eric Kendricks? You guessed it.

General Manager Rick Spielman? “His intelligence.”

Well, you get the point. Maybe X – it’s pronounced in his name – marks the smarts.

Minnesota signed Woods this offseason to pair him with Smith as it injected multiple veterans into the secondary.

All of the above credited Woods’ smarts for his quick start that includes intercepting Kyler Murray in Week 2 and forcing a key fumble by DJ Moore at Carolina in Week 6.

Asked about the source, Woods explained, “I would say just my study of the game. I study this game so much. I’ve watched a lot of film over the course of the years, and repetition and confidence also plays a part and just seeing things over and over again.

“Offenses run the same plays,” Woods added. “They just run them different ways and set them up different ways, so I would say studying and the repetition.”

Originally a sixth-round pick by Dallas in 2017 out of Louisiana Tech, the 26-year-old credited Kris Richard, his Cowboys position coach from 2018-19, with boosting his ability to “put things together and really learn what an offense tries to do and how an offense tries to break a defense down or attack a defense or scheme a defense runs.”

During free agency, the Vikings combed through all of the Cowboys game film to assess Woods and look past what Spielman described as “a little bit of a down year” in 2020 to project how he’d fit here.

“We saw a lot of the physical traits and characteristics that we look for in that position,”

Spielman said. “He came in here, he’s a great communicator on the back end, and he has the athletic skill set, and you see him, especially over the last two weeks, getting more and more comfortable in the defense and making all the calls and the adjustments.

“The chemistry that’s created between him and Harrison, between him and the secondary, that continues to evolve, and you’re starting to see that as he progresses through the season,” Spielman added. “He’s played especially well these past two weeks.”

Smith said Woods hit the ground running in the film room, easily walking through approaches to potential scenarios.

“He’s always really alert with those things. On game day, safeties need to talk to each other quite a bit,” Smith said. “He’s always yelling to me and seeing if I have anything to say back, things like that. Pre-alerts in the huddle and things we have to remember. He’s a very smart guy.”

Asked what stands out about Smith, Woods said, “How smart Harry is.”

He elaborated that Smith’s intelligence borders on clairvoyance or a sixth sense.

“I mean, I see the field and I study it a lot, and I see things how offenses see things, but Harry sees it before it even happens,” Woods said. “Harry is just a smart football player, and I’ve been blessed enough to be in this position to learn from him and see how he works and studies and practices and sees things and to be able to add that to my game.”

Adam Zimmer said Smith can ease things for any safety that is paired with him but added, “I prefer it be with somebody like Xavier.”

“I think [Smith] had the same relationship with Anthony Harris last year, so I think Harrison will make it work with whoever he’s lined up with, but having a guy like Xavier is really valuable for us,” he noted.

The synching of the safeties happened almost instantly, back to their first time on the field together in the spring for Organized Team Activity Practices.

“It is rare. I remember the first OTAs, it’s a brand-new system to Xavier, and he’s making all the calls

and communicating with Harrison," Adam Zimmer said. "That shows how smart Xavier is, number one, but also how they can help each other over the training camp and OTAs and all the practices that we have – I think they've just jelled immensely."

Thielen also took notice of Woods' presence at those practices.

"From the first day he got here I remember [thinking], 'Yeah this guy's pretty dang good.' [I went up to] Harrison and [said], 'Man, this guy's really, really good.'" Thielen said. "And just how he plays the game. How he's able to see the field, how he's able to take away certain things that we're trying to do. And then now for him to go in there and show it on game day. What a great addition to this team. [We're] lucky to have him."

In addition to his normal film study, Woods will bring in-person knowledge of the multiple threats the Cowboys pose.

Quarterback Dak Prescott has a passer rating of 115.0 this season, which ranks fifth in the NFL. Receivers CeeDee Lamb (497 yards, four touchdowns) and Amari Cooper (373 yards, four touchdowns) and tight end Dalton Schultz (359 yards, three touchdowns) have moved the ball and put points on the board.

And running back Ezekiel Elliott has rushed for 521 yards and

five scores through six games, enjoying a Renaissance with the return of Prescott from an injury in Week 5 of 2020.

It also will be a reunion with former teammates in the Cowboys secondary like C.J. Goodwin, Jourdan Lewis and Anthony Brown. Woods teamed with Goodwin for his final three seasons and with Lewis and Brown every year he was in Dallas.

Woods said he didn't really talk to other Vikings teammates who have faced their former teams this season, but he noted they showed their desire with their demeanor throughout the week of preparation.

He might be tempted to talk a little trash, but the most important words will be for his current teammates to help earn bragging rights over his friendly first-time foes.

"He's a very smart guy, as far as knowing what he's got to do immediately and being vocal about it, too," Kendricks said, "He lets you know what he thinks, as far as what we should be playing. When you get that clear communication, it's easy to play with someone, whether you're right or wrong."

THE MINNESOTA MOVE

A FAMILY AFFAIR

The move to Minnesota for Xavier Woods has been one of several transitions for the native of West Monroe, Louisiana, and his family.

Attending college at Louisiana Tech (30 miles west) enabled Woods to play immediately as a freshman.

"My family was able to come to every game, and I was able to go home when I wanted to and not be too far away but be just far enough away where I could still get that college campus life and the independence of being away from parents," Woods explained.

Opening his career with Dallas with home games 301 miles west of his hometown also enabled his parents to catch games before the COVID-19 pandemic struck in 2020. Now, they've been able to venture north. Tonight will be the third of four home games they've attended.

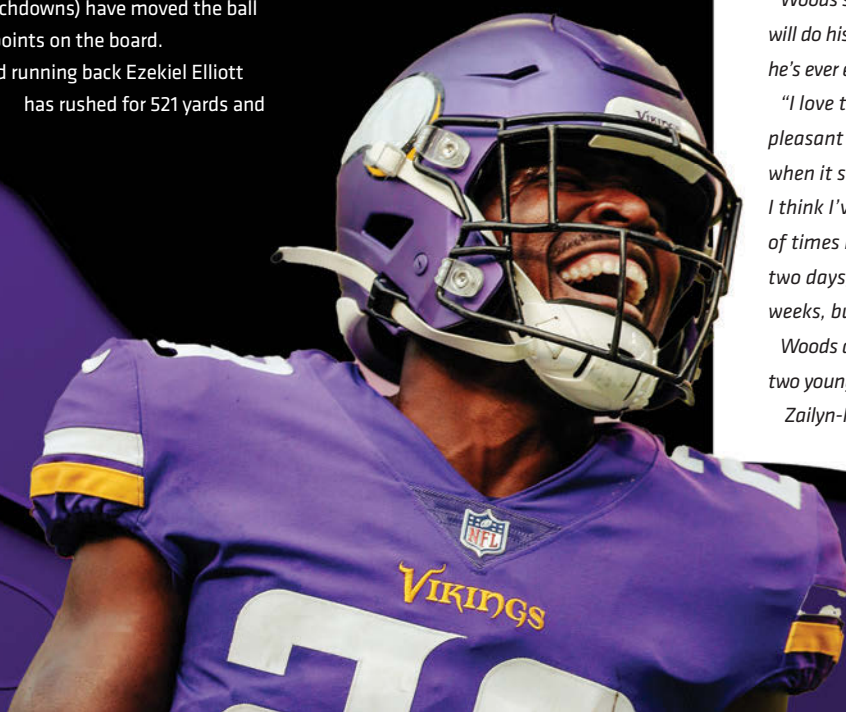
"They love it out here, but the weather is just different," Woods said. "I told them it will probably be a lot colder than it was (Oct. 10)."

Woods said he enjoyed summer and fall and will do his best to embrace a winter unlike any he's ever experienced.

"I love the weather so far," he said on a pleasant October day. "I don't know about when it starts to snow and stuff like that. I think I've seen snow probably a handful of times in my life. It probably sticks for two days, but out here, they say it sticks for weeks, but I'll adjust."

Woods and his wife Destiny are parents of two young daughters, Dallas-Karstyn, 2, and Zailyn-Karter, who will be 1 in November.

The couple has their hands full "every single day."





WILDFIRE[®]

STEAKS, CHOPS & SEAFOOD

DINE IN
STYLE AT WILDFIRE

THE CLASSIC 1940'S SUPPER CLUB

EDEN PRAIRIE CENTER

LUNCH · DINNER · CARRY OUT · CATERING · PRIVATE PARTIES

©2020 LETTUCE ENTERTAIN YOU[®] RESTAURANTS, INC.



RUNNING BACK

DALVIN
COOK

WRITTEN BY LINDSEY YOUNG
ILLUSTRATIONS BY TAYLAR SIEVERT

NO MASQUERADE ALL BALL

Dalvin Cook doesn't recall ever masquerading as an NFL player on Halloween.

Maybe it's because, deep down, he knew he'd be one himself someday. After all, Oct. 31 is all about make-believe.

Cook opted as a youngster to dress as different "characters," usually a superhero with some type of special power.

He remembers trick-or-treating one year as Spider-Man, donning the red-and-blue suit and imagining he could swing from building to building, or scale the tallest skyscrapers in The Magic City, his hometown of Miami.

When it came to the football field, though, Cook never had to pretend. He just made things happen.

His earliest football memory is playing on a team at 4 years old with his older brother. The pint-sized athletes nearly made it to the championship his first season, he recollected, but lost to a team they'd previously defeated.

Emotions ran high.

"Down in Miami, all of us knew each other growing up. The team we lost to was a good team, but we had beat them earlier in the season," Cook said. "I just remember all of us crying. We were just kids, you know? We were just crying, snotty noses..."

He tipped his head back and laughed at the memory clearly replaying itself in his mind.

"The next year we came back and won it," he said, "but it defined us, starting off early in our career."

Whether 4 years old or wearing No. 4 at Miami Central High School and Florida State, every chapter of Cook's football career has been special to him.

He fondly recalls Friday night games under the lights; as a senior at MCHS, he helped the Rockets finish 14-1 and rank No. 8 nationally among Division 6A schools.

After the games, Cook would meet the rest of his family back at the house to (usually) celebrate a win and discuss that evening's game.

Cook said it "brings back memories" whenever friends and family attend Vikings games now at U.S. Bank Stadium.

'THE TEAMMATE' ISN'T A COSTUME

He'll have a fan club here tonight for the *Sunday Night Football* matchup against the Cowboys. And while the contest certainly isn't Cook's first prime-time performance, he's anticipating something special about the Vikings first home night game in front of fans since the 2019 season.

I reminded Cook about his review of the last time Minnesota and Dallas met for *Sunday Night Football* – a hard-fought game at AT&T Stadium in which Cook helped the Vikings defeat the Cowboys 28-24.

"That was really my first time ever [playing in that] stadium and it was packed with fans, and seeing the [mega videoboard] lit up," Cook had said. "It's a fun stadium to play at."

He appreciated the everything-is-bigger-in-Texas pomp and circumstance, but Cook said nothing compares to U.S. Bank Stadium, where the Vikings are hosting the Cowboys this time around.

"It'll be even better," he said, grinning. "Because it's here."

"I think how our stadium looks at night, it's so crazy. It's overwhelming," Cook said. "I'm expecting a crazy



atmosphere. The first Sunday night game back with the fans. It should be pretty epic. Our first three home games were loud, and I'm expecting this one to be even louder."

After a 2020 season in which the COVID-19 pandemic forced stadiums around the league to be empty – or very nearly so – Cook has found himself even more grateful than he already was for home-field advantage. Vikings fans have shown Cook nothing but admiration since day one, and he loves them right back.

Welcoming back a full stadium this year has returned a significant aspect of games that was sorely missed.

"When they're so loud [for opposing offenses], it helps us so much," Cook said. "Them being gone, we felt it. I know I felt it.

"It's been fun having them back, and I haven't really gotten a chance to go out there and turn it loose in front of them yet," he added. "I've been kind of banged up these first three home games, so I'm gonna have a chance to go out there and be full-strength – turn it loose, and it should be fun."

That's the thing with Cook – football always has been fun for him. Those who get to know him understand that he really does seem to be built for the sport.

He's an athlete, yes. In 2020, he ranked second in the NFL with 1,557 rushing yards and tied for second with 16 rushing touchdowns, showing Spidey Senses for the end zone.

He's a competitor, absolutely.

But honestly, above everything else? He's a teammate.

A question was posed to Cook: "What does it feel like to get the ball in your hands and see a path to the end zone?"

His answer might not be what you expect. Because really, it has nothing to do with the spotlight and truly is quite the opposite.

"It feels great, just knowing ... all the hard work from the guys up front," Cook said. "I think about them a lot. Their work up front is a lot different than what we do. I put in my head, 'They do so much work up front, and I've got this much room to work, and they've done all that work. The next step is for me to do my part.'

"Once I see a hole open up, I try to do as much as I can," he continued. "All the guys around me are working so hard for this space right here to be open for me to have the ball, and that's just a great feeling. To be able to lean on other men and for them to be accountable for their jobs and assignments. I try to take full advantage of mine

**I'VE BEEN KIND OF BANGED UP
THESE FIRST THREE HOME GAMES,
SO I'M GONNA HAVE A CHANCE
TO GO OUT THERE AND BE FULL-
STRENGTH – TURN IT LOOSE, AND
IT SHOULD BE**

FUN."

- DALVIN COOK

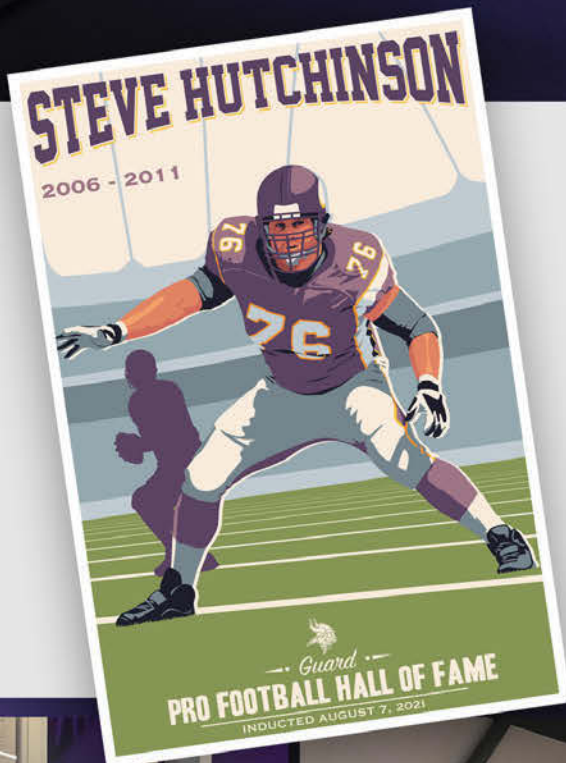
VIKINGS



MUSEUM

THE GREATEST VIKINGS MOMENTS

FROZEN IN TIME



CELEBRATE THE INDUCTION OF **STEVE HUTCHINSON**

INTO THE PRO FOOTBALL
HALL OF FAME

With an exclusive free poster (while supplies last) at the Vikings Museum and be the first to see his special exhibit on view until Nov. 30!



GET YOUR TICKETS AT [VIKINGS.COM/MUSEUM](https://vikings.com/museum)

Pierre
NOUJAIM

Ron
JOHNSON

Hobie
ARTIGUE

Jim
RICH

Dawn
MITCHELL



THURSDAY
6PM



SUNDAY
HOME - 9:30A
AWAY - 10AM



SUNDAY
10:35P



“

**I WORK HARD
EVERY DAY
ON JUST
BEING ME.
JUST BEING
AROUND THE
GUYS, JOKING
AROUND,
JUST HAVING
FUN – I TRY
TO BE THAT
110 PERCENT**

**EVERY
DAY.**

-DALVIN COOK

when I get the opportunity.”

It’s a sentiment that goes a long way with his colleagues.

“When somebody of his caliber, of his talent, is that willing to give credit to the people around him, it makes me want to play even harder for him,” fullback C.J. Ham said. “I think a lot of guys could probably second that.”

‘JUST BE ME’

Halloween is all about facades, face paints and disguising one’s appearance. But his whole life, Cook has never put on a mask – with the exception, maybe, of Spider-Man or The Incredible Hulk. From his rookie campaign until now, he’s consistently emphasized the importance of being authentically himself.

Whether on the field, in the locker room with teammates or FaceTiming with a loved one, Cook says he focuses on not stepping out of character.

“I just want to be a better ‘me’ every day. I wake up, and I try to better myself every day. And that’s just, ‘Be a better version of Dalvin.’ I’m not gonna be nobody else,” Cook said. “It helps you knowing who you are, because you can just go freely about a lot of things. I feel like I am natural-born leader, and I feel like that just comes out of me [organically]. I don’t force it.

“I work hard every day on just being me. Just being around the guys, joking around, just having fun – I try to be

that 110 percent every day,” Cook continued. “You can’t be ‘this’ person and then be ‘this’ person the next day. I try to be as consistent as I can.”

When Cook stays true to himself is when he’s at his best, even on the field. Watch the 26-year-old on game day, and it’s clear that he’s in his element when he’s got his cleats laced up and the ball in his hands.

Cook announced earlier this month that come next season, he’ll be swapping his No. 33 jersey for No. 4. The NFL’s adjusted number rules are allowing him to pay homage to his roots and return to the single digit where it all started.

But don’t worry – he’ll still be the Dalvin Cook we all know and love.

And for now? “The Chef” is just trying to keep things rolling for Minnesota. He’s raring to go tonight, already anticipating the electric atmosphere of a jam-packed U.S. Bank Stadium.

“It’s fun. Especially when I’ve got my family there,” Cook said. “And me, when I’m on the field, I’m letting my emotions out. I like to show my emotions when I come out of the tunnel and just be me.”

For the Vikings, there will be no costumes, pumpkin-carving or collecting candy tonight.

“But I’ve definitely got some tricks for Dallas,” Cook said. “Trick or treat, Dallas.”

BY CRAIG PETERS

STEVE HUTCH INSON

A D I F F E R E N C E M A K E R

By the time Steve Hutchinson arrived in Minnesota in 2006, he had earned multiple monikers, including All-Pro and Pro Bowler.

Those distinctions of national recognition continued for multiple seasons, but more importantly for Vikings teammates, coaches and staff, Hutchinson was a difference maker.

The ripple was felt from his first practice, through his final snap in Purple. His impact lasted beyond his career, visible in the play of those he influenced, as well as their community commitments that he inspired.

The guard combined technique, power and determination during his 12 NFL seasons, demonstrating the heart of a Hall of Famer whether or not others were watching.

The ultimate confirmation of this began at 3:35 p.m. (ET) on Feb. 1, 2020, the eve of Super Bowl LIV near his hometown of Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Hutchinson received "The Knock" from Pro Football Hall of Fame President David Baker, informing his election as the 335th member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Baker has since retired but is scheduled to be here tonight to present Hutchinson with this Ring of Excellence, the third

element bestowed to a Hall of Famer. The Gold Jacket and bronze bust are the other two.

While Hutchinson was one of the fastest guards ever elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame, the Class of 2020's enshrinement weekend in Canton, Ohio, was postponed until this August because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

It just made everything sweeter for Hutchinson and his family. Wife Landyn, daughter Lily and son Luke had been in the hotel room when Hutchinson received the news and guest starred in a video that went viral. Speaking of them from the enshrinement stage stopped Hutchinson in his tracks, which isn't the easiest thing to do.

"Lily and Luke, I thought the days you were born were going to be the best two of my life," Hutchinson said from the stage, choking up. "That was just the start.

"Lily, when I look at you, I see so much of myself. You are strong, brave and beautiful," he continued. "That little girl who stole my heart has grown into a young woman I am extremely proud of. Always maintain that passion, that fire and that great personality,



no matter what path you choose.

"Luke, watching you grow up is like rewinding my life. It's crazy to see the amount of similarities we shared at that age," Hutchinson said. "I always wish I could go back and tell myself something to help in the future. If I could go back now, I'd tell myself not to fear failure, but to fear not giving it your all. You are everything I could have asked for in a son, and watching you grow up warms my heart. Have as much confidence in you as I do. It's going to be fun watching you figure yourself out in these

next few years. I need both of you to figure out how incredibly proud I am to be your dad. This might look like my biggest accomplishment, but being your dad always has and will be my greatest honor."

He then thanked Landyn for being by his side since eighth grade

and forming a great team that enabled him to focus on his career to reach his on-field goals.

"You always found a way to lift my spirits after a bad game, bring me countless bags of ice after numerous surgeries, raise two great kids and somehow find a way to have dinner made, errands run and handle the bills all while having that unmistakable smile on your face," Hutchinson said. "I could talk for days about how much you mean to me, but you already know that. I'm incredibly proud to be your husband, and I love you."

Hutchinson started all 169 regular-season games he played for Seattle, Minnesota and Tennessee. He helped Shaun Alexander and Adrian Peterson lead the NFL in rushing in separate seasons, and he garnered seven Pro Bowls and five First-Team All-Pro selections. Hutchinson went entire seasons without committing a penalty twice. It made for a life of anonymity in the eyes of many fans while delivering a technical excellence backed by brute force.

"There's different types of players, but he would be considered a mauler," Robbie Tobeck said in a video that presented Hutchinson for enshrinement before helping unveil his former teammate's bust. "It's not always good enough to just block a guy. Steve wanted to finish a guy."

"Getting into the Pro Football Hall of Fame is a dream for some and a goal for others," Tobeck added. "Steve came in from day one, 'I want to be the best in the league. I want to be a Hall of Famer.' Those are stated goals. You really have to admire a guy like that who is willing to come out and have the courage to put himself out there and have the courage to do the work that it takes to be there."

Hutchinson was a significant factor in the Vikings improving from 6-10 in his first season to 8-8 in 2007 and 10-6 with a playoff appearance in 2008. The progression led to a 12-4 showing in 2009 when Minnesota advanced to the NFC Championship.

"I just believe it all starts up front. He was a tempo-setter, much like when we got Jon Runyan in Philadelphia," said Brad Childress, Minnesota's head coach during that climb. "It

changed our whole line. I can say the same thing about Steve being here. It enhances everybody. His toughness is legendary and is legitimate."

Childress said Hutchinson demonstrated an authentic professionalism that others emulated.

Vikings General Manager Rick Spielman was in his second year as Minnesota's Vice President of Player Personnel when Hutchinson signed.

"He was a true pro's pro, and we had a lot of young guys at the time coming into the league," Spielman said. "Him taking that leadership and then watching him and how he approached the game, how he prepared every week, how he took care of his body and how he played on Sundays. I don't think there was anyone out there who played as hard as Steve Hutchinson did. When you have a running back like Adrian Peterson at the time, a lot of Adrian's success, even though he's a phenomenal athlete and a great running back, you've got to give credit to Steve Hutchinson."

Peterson joined Minnesota in 2007 as a first-round pick and quickly backed it up with help from Hutchinson's blocks, including Nov. 4 of that year when Peterson rushed for a single-game record of 296 yards against the Chargers. The running back sent a congratulatory video.

"You were durable, you were accountable, you were physical, you were technique sound. You were one of those guys that did it the right way every time you stepped on that field. Your presence was felt," Peterson said. "When I lined up behind you, I knew when I ran to the left side, I had no worries. That's just

a testament to why you're in the position you're in now. I'm so pumped up for you. You deserve it."

Linebacker Chad Greenway was selected 17th overall in 2006 – the same spot that Seattle had used to draft Hutchinson five years earlier. Greenway said in Canton that it was a point of pride to earn his way into Hutchinson's inner circle as a "very impressionable" young player.

"I was a better 17th overall pick," Greenway joked. "I think he would tell you the same thing. He would be honest about it.

"I think when you're a linebacker going against an offensive lineman, you understand that you're going against something different," Greenway said, pivoting from humor to reflection. "There's a lot of players that I could beat and beat repeatedly and get my way, and there's guys that played across the league – Brian Waters with the Chiefs was different, and Steve was that guy. To get to play against him in practice and really sharpen your iron against the best in the world. Steve was certainly that.

"He was so strong and built unlike anybody else, and I think the way that Steve separated himself to me was his ability with his mind – a very smart guy, always had his body in the right position," Greenway added. "So he had the physical ability that he was born with and worked for but also the mental capability to be ahead of you. I think that was always the challenging part of going against him in practice."

Long snapper Cullen Loeffler was in his third season when Hutchinson signed. He said "every good team is built on the big men," and Hutchinson "was such a

consistent and unbelievable player."

"He just brought this level of tenacity and consistency that everyone looked up to and just tried to match," Loeffler added. "A lot of us failed in doing that, but he was just a tremendous leader, a guy that was a no-b.s. guy and was the embodiment of what the Minnesota Vikings are. He just provided tremendous leadership, and that's why he's here (at the Hall of Fame)."

John Sullivan teamed with Hutchinson for four seasons, including three as Minnesota's starting center. Sullivan said Hutchinson's legacy stuck with him.

"The impact that he had didn't require me to see him on a daily basis," Sullivan said. "Once he had moved on, the impression that he left was set. He was amazing in the building and outside the building, treated everyone well and with respect. People enjoyed being around him, and he had a big heart and gave back to the community in Minnesota."

Fellow Hall of Fame guard Randall McDaniel's 14th and final season in the NFL was Hutchinson's first. McDaniel said Hutchinson had the requisite " nastiness to go after guys."

"We're the hammer and everybody else is the nail. That's why I loved the way Steve finished blocks," McDaniel said. "No one knows what we're doing out there unless we're doing something wrong, but in the end, your teammates know, and he's right where he should be [in the Hall of Fame]. He's on that team now."



CELEBRATE THE ENSHRINEMENT OF
STEVE HUTCHINSON
INTO THE PRO FOOTBALL
HALL OF FAME

With an exclusive free poster (while supplies last) at the Vikings Museum and be the first to see his special exhibit on view until Nov. 30!



GET YOUR TICKETS AT
VIKINGS.COM/MUSEUM



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](https://vikings.com/splitthepot) FOR DETAILS

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

**Grab a brew.
Grab a burger.
Bring your crew.
The best part is you.**

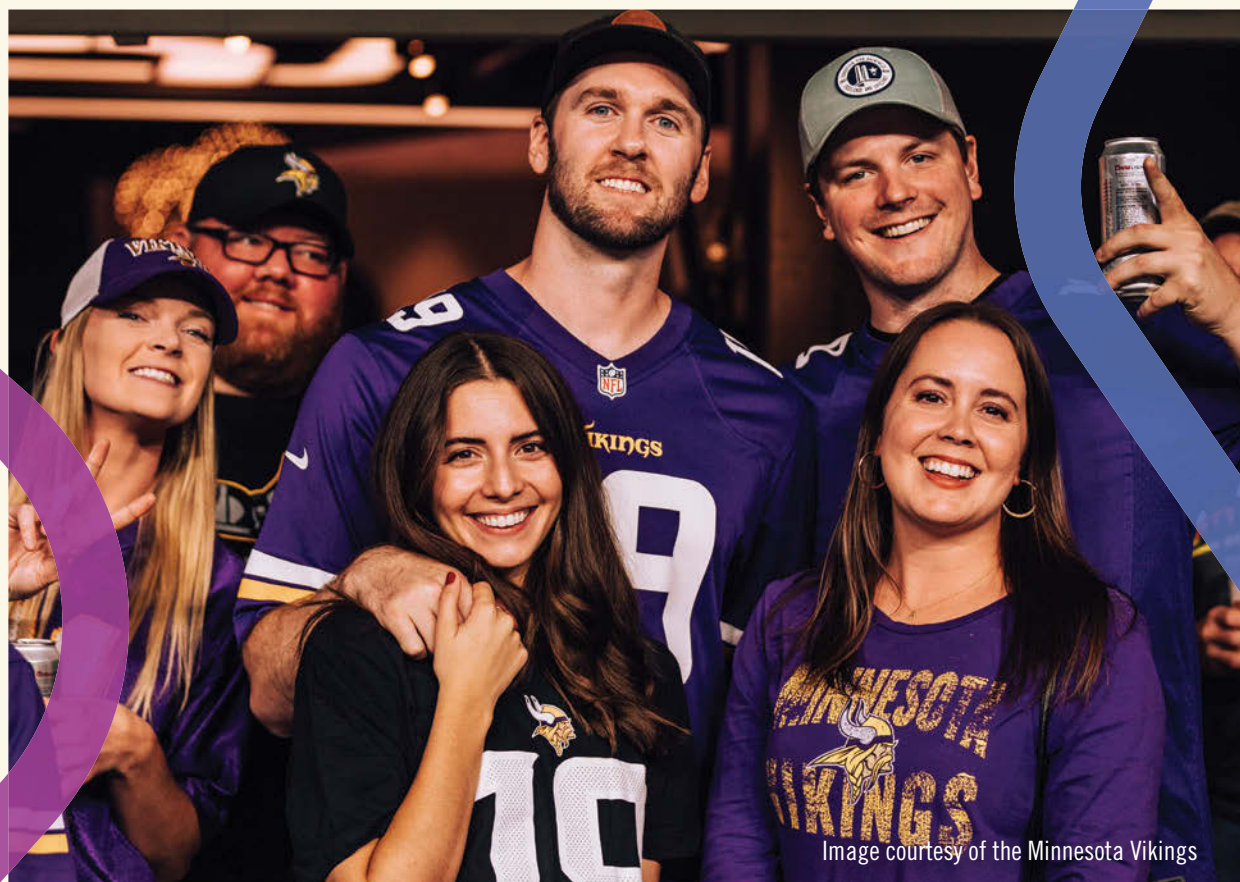


Image courtesy of the Minnesota Vikings

See how much there is to do at mplsdowntown.com
#mymplsdt



BY LINDSEY YOUNG

PURPLE Pups

SPONSORED BY



When K.J. Osborn moved to Minnesota last year, he felt pretty alone.

The Vikings had tabbed K.J. in the fifth round of the 2020 NFL Draft, but the COVID-19 pandemic forced an all-virtual offseason, which meant the receiver didn't relocate to the Twin Cities until August.

"We couldn't even go to our teammates' houses at that time," he recalled. "So I'm just a kid in Minnesota, from Michigan, and I didn't know what was going on, I didn't know anybody."

K.J. also found himself emotionally navigating increased societal tensions following the murder of George Floyd.

"There was so much going on, and I would just be at home [by myself]," he said.

K.J. tried to get into TV shows but "isn't really a big TV guy." He pivoted to purchasing a piano and downloading an app to learn the instrument. Still, he struggled with the boredom and isolation.

He decided he'd get a dog during the offseason ... or, almost during the offseason.

"I actually was supposed to get him after [the regular-season finale] when we played the Lions," K.J. explained. "I went to the breeder and said, 'OK, I'm gonna come back next week to get him' – and then I just took him home that day. Ever since then, he's been my guy."

His "guy" is Larry, an 11-month-old English bulldog who will turn 1 on Nov. 11.

The wrinkled, tan-and-white pup has no doubt changed K.J.'s life for the better.



OWNER: K.J. OSBORN

WIDE RECEIVER

BULLDOG BUDDIES:
ONE OF LARRY'S
FRIENDS IS
IRV SMITH'S
BULLDOG BLEU

**LOVER,
NOT A HATER:**
LARRY IS A BIG-
TIME CUDDLER

IN-DEMAND DOG:
K.J.'S INSTAGRAM
FOLLOWERS ASK
FOR MORE LARRY
CONTENT



“... it really fits him! It fits his personality, it fits how he looks. I am really glad I named him Larry.”

- K.J. OSBORN



“Whether I have a good or bad day, Larry’s always happy for me when I come home,” K.J. said. “He’s waiting for me at the door, jumping on me, happy, ready to go outside, ready to play. He just gives me that company.”

You wouldn’t know it if you saw the duo together, but Larry is K.J.’s first-ever pet.

“I never had a fish or a snake or a bird,” he laughed. “My family didn’t have pets growing up, so this is my first pet ever. I tried to do it the right way – I did a lot of research. My plan was to do a lot of research, get his bed, get everything, go get him and then bring him home.

“I was just so excited when I saw him,” K.J. added. “It was him and his sister, and I almost bought both. I just grabbed him, and we went straight from the breeder to the store and got his bed and pads and everything, and I just kind of learned on the fly. I think I’m being a good dad.”

Watch the way Larry acts around K.J., and there’s no question. The two are the perfect pair, whether playing tug-of-war with a rope toy, walking through a park near K.J.’s apartment building or “just chillin’,” Larry’s head resting comfortably on his dad’s knee.

A timid, 6-week-old puppy – “the size of my foot,” K.J. remembered – has now grown into nearly 60 pounds of muscle.

But don’t let his sometimes-grumpy expression and burly bod fool you. Larry is still just Larry.

“I get a bunch of comments on his name, all the time. Every time they ask me [his name] and I say,

‘Larry,’ they giggle,” K.J. said. “But it really fits him! It fits his personality, it fits how he looks. I’m really glad I named him Larry.

“I’ve thought about creating an Instagram account for him, but I never did. People just kind of live through my social media to get to him,” added K.J., who has dedicated an Instagram Highlight to Larry. “I get a lot of questions about him, though – ‘Can you post Larry?’ ‘We need more Larry content.’ So I’ll try to give the people what they want.”

Asked to compare the bulldog to one of his Vikings teammates, K.J. gave it some serious thought before answering.

He first admitted he sees a lot of himself in Larry before settling on a personality in the defensive backs room.

“Larry, he’s lazy, but then he likes to get going ... I feel like that’s me. When I get on the field, I’m going, going, going. But I was telling Adam [Thielen] and Justin [Jefferson] when I get home, I’m lazy. I just want to chill and relax,” K.J. said. “But thinking about my other teammates, I would say ... Off the top of my head, I would say maybe Cam Dantzer. On the field, he’s going; at practice, he’s going; he’s goofy, he can be silly and funny; but if you see his demeanor sometimes, he’s just lollygagging along. He’s just chillin’. So I would say Cam.”

K.J. loves the English bulldog breed but did offer a reminder for anyone considering a pup like Larry: bulldogs often face unique health challenges.

Over the past year, K.J. has had to put Larry on the Injury Report after undoing eye surgery, as well as having a hernia repaired.

“He’s been a warrior, but it’s a lot of ... responsibility. He gives me that. That’s something that I would say, just be aware of the health issues,” K.J. said. “But other than that, he’s fun. He’s my best friend. He jumps around, but when he’s tired he’s just gonna lay down and chill. I love him.”



WIN A 4 PACK OF VIKINGS HOME GAME TICKETS!



- Eagan dining gift card
- 4 Vikings Museum passes



ENTER TO WIN AT
eaganmn.com/vikingsvictory



SCAN CODE.
GET DEALS.

HyVee®
deals\$[®].COM

PLAY LIKE A PRO

HELPS YOUTH FOOTBALL PROGRAMS **BY CRAIG PETERS**

THE VIKINGS PLAY LIKE A PRO PROGRAM HAS ENABLED YOUTH FOOTBALL TEAMS TO TAKE THE FIELD AT TCO STADIUM ON SATURDAYS THIS FALL, ATTEND A HOME GAME AND ASK QUESTIONS TO C.J. HAM.

One recent Saturday the Vikings fullback welcomed two teams from the Jimmy Lee youth football program that has been a storied part of the St. Paul Parks & Recreation Department, which had received a \$25,000 youth football grant from the Minnesota Vikings.

"The money helped us have free football for all of the kids in St. Paul, so there was no charge for the football fees that are used for officials, administrative things and equipment costs," said Citywide Programs Supervisor Mike Whaley. "The money makes football really accessible for kids."

More than 300 youth participated in the St. Paul Parks & Recreation youth football programs this fall.

"We're super appreciative," Recreation Services Manager Andy Rodriguez said. "It's a great opportunity for us to showcase some of the St. Paul kids to come out to this beautiful facility."

Ham told the youth, "These years that y'all are in are some of the greatest years of my football experience."

"I've been playing football for a long time,

ever since I was 10 years old, and I still have so many memories of playing with the Green Machine back in Duluth in the West End," Ham said. "I still have so many friends, coaches that I talk to. These friends are going to be people that may be in your life for the rest of your life."

Ham explained how the team structure of football can enrich those relationships.

"I think football is one of the greatest sports ever created," Ham said. "But the thing about football is once we're done playing, if you make it to high school, if you're blessed to play in college, if you're blessed to play in the pros, once you are done playing, it's not something that you can just go to the YMCA and do like basketball, so don't take these moments for granted. Have fun doing it."

Sharing those fond thoughts was only one way the clock turned back to Ham's youth.

The Q-and-A session took it another notch, with enthusiastic hands reaching skyward.

The first questioner asked if Ham watched Elmo when he was little.

The father of three laughed before stating he was "more of a Power Rangers guy," specifically the Green Ranger.

Other questions included how long he's played and if he likes playing fullback.

The answers to those are since fifth grade and a resounding yes.

"It's not a position that is flashy," said the

former running back who converted after joining Minnesota as an undrafted free agent in 2016. "Not every NFL team has a fullback, so it's a small group of guys, but I love playing it."

Youth football also may have been a good indicator for the physicality that Ham would bring to the pros.

After all, he survived a collision with a former teammate named Bubba and got tasked with playing linebacker.

"The hardest-hitting guy on the team," Ham said. "I ran him over."

As Ham transitioned from the Green Machine to the Denfeld Hunters to the Augustana Vikings and finally here, he's always looked up to Jerome "The Bus" Bettis for the way the Pro Football Hall of Fame running back played the game. Now, this group of youth can recall the time they met "The Hammer."

"It means a lot to me because I know how important football is for myself and for these kids, to teach them about life," Ham said. "For the Vikings to care about that and take the time and make sure that these kids have the necessary things to get rolling means a lot."

As the event concluded, there was one more question with a proud answer shouted in unison.

"Who are we?"

"Jimmy Lee!"





OMNI  HOTELS
& RESORTS
viking lakes | minnesota

With world-class amenities and unique dining outlets, Omni Viking Lakes Hotel makes it easy to get back out and play. From craft cocktails at Ember & Ice to award-winning cuisine from chef Ann Kim and luxurious treatments at Idlewild Spa, your playlist is endless. Explore more at OmniHotels.com/VikingLakes

THE VIKINGS AND
PARK DENTAL HOST FREE

TEAM SMILE CLINIC

AT U.S. BANK STADIUM



This wasn't the average trip to the dentist. No, this was a special visit for 300-plus kids, who went through a one-stop shop that TeamSmile created earlier this month at U.S. Bank Stadium.

BY ERIC SMITH



The organization travels across the country and partners with professional sports teams to host all-day dental clinics.

"We throw dental tailgate parties," said John McCarthy, the Executive Director of TeamSmile. "We work with teams in the NFL, NBA, MLB, MLS and NHL ... we provide free dental care for children in need throughout the country through partnerships with these professional sports teams.

"In essence, we try to make dental care cool and fun and exciting for children," McCarthy added. "Just take the fear out of dentistry. And in a great stadium like U.S. Bank Stadium ... we're [able to do] that."

TeamSmile partnered with Park Dental and the Vikings to make sure the kids were taken care of in the Delta Sky 360° Club, just steps from the field and near where players walk out for pregame warm-ups.

The goal is to reach children who may not take regular trips to the dentist.

"We're teaming up with the Vikings and TeamSmile to provide care for these kids who may not see dental care throughout the year," said Park Dental President Chris Steele. "It's a unique opportunity for us to help them out.

"There's always a huge need," Steele later added. "And that's one of the things the dental community struggles with ... we're always looking for ways and access points."

Vikings Executive Vice President & Chief Revenue Officer John Penhollow said the organization was proud to partner with TeamSmile

and Park Dental for the inaugural event.

"It's another opportunity for the Vikings to get into the community," Penhollow said. "Unfortunately, this has been a hard stretch here with the pandemic, so dental care for both children and adults has been something that some have avoided."

The children in attendance received the full treatment, from check-in to X-rays, plus an exam and visits with a hygienist and dentist.

And professionals from Park Dental were on site in case any extensive work was needed.

"Once we diagnose what they need, we're able to treat them here," McCarthy said. "Whether they need a cavity or root canal or an extraction, we're able to do that on-site here at U.S. Bank Stadium.

"And it's completely free," McCarthy said. "We just want to take care of the children."

The health aspect was just one part of the visit, though. The young people also were treated to arts and crafts, plus the chance to run around and play catch on the U.S. Bank Stadium turf.

And their smiles were even wider when Justin Jefferson showed up to hang out along with Ihmir Smith-Marsette, Troy Dye and Camryn Bynum.

Was Jefferson a fan of the dentist as a kid? "Absolutely not," Jefferson said with a laugh. "I know how uncomfortable it is, but this environment alone lets them ease up a little bit and lets them have fun, but also get their dental care."

Smith-Marsette added: "It's very impactful. They don't know that yet, but looking back I know they'll say that this meant a lot."



MINNESOTA VIKINGS
LOCKER ROOM
OFFICIAL TEAM STORE

TODAY'S ITEM OF THE GAME

THESE TWO
SKOL SHIRTS

\$29.95
EACH

REG
\$45



REG
\$40



DON'T FORGET YOUR OFFICIAL GAMEDAY HATPIN!

VALID IN-STORE ONLY FOR A LIMITED TIME OR WHILE SUPPLIES LAST.

CATCHING UP WITH MVC

Kiara

Currently in her first year with the Minnesota Vikings Cheerleaders, Kiara has the unique opportunity to combine her passion for performance training with her love for dance and cheer.

Kiara recently graduated from North Dakota State University, where she studied exercise science and psychology and was a member of the Bison Dance Team.

"I was motivated by the desire to work with athletes and not only help coach them [in their respective sport] but also be a mentor that reminds them of why they're working so hard," she said.

Kiara now is approaching one year of working with Life Time GameFace.

What's one thing you took from NDSU that most impacts your work with Life Time GameFace now?

Being open and thrilled to learn about other athletes and sports I may be less familiar with. NDSU gave me more opportunities to learn and work with many sports I never participated in, and LifeTime GameFace continues to teach me more every day.

How does your background and current career help you support your MVC teammates?

My background as a captain for my college dance team helps me support my MVC teammates by always wanting to motivate and [uplift them].



I know how long and hard practices can get, so reminding everyone the reason for being present and why they want to be there in the moment is very important.

As a first-year MVC, what have you most appreciated about the Vikings organization?

After moving more than 400 miles from home, I feel so appreciative of the amazing people and opportunities within the Vikings organization. It feels good to experience so much in such a short period of time, and I am so excited to see what the future holds with this [program].

What does it mean to be a part of the Vikings first Sunday Night Football game with fans since before the COVID-19 pandemic started?

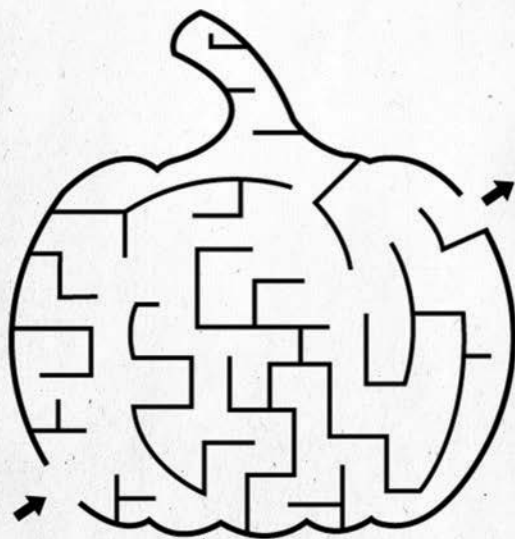
I am more than excited to experience my first Vikings *Sunday Night Football* game, and I know that, being the first one after the pandemic closure, the energy and excitement will be a whole new level. The fact that I get to experience it with my 24 new best friends and amazingly supportive fans, it will definitely be a night we all won't forget!

THANK YOU MVC PARTNERS



VIKTOR THE VIKING

FOLLOW THE MAZE
TO GET TO VIKTOR!



  @VIKTORTHEVIKING

 VIKTOR THE VIKING



FOLLOW ME
ON TIKTOK
FOR MORE!




VIKINGS
NEWBORN FAN CLUB

**YOU'RE NEVER TOO YOUNG
TO BE A VIKINGS FAN**

VISIT [VIKINGS.COM/NEWBORN](https://vikings.com/newborn)
TO SIGN YOUR INFANT UP FOR THE
NEWBORN FAN CLUB



VIKINGS KIDS CLUB

PRESENTED BY  Park Dental

JOIN THE CLUB TODAY!

BY VISITING OUR KIOSK NEAR SECTION 114
OR ONLINE AT [VIKINGS.COM/KIDSClub](https://vikings.com/kidsclub). MEMBERS
RECEIVE THE ITEMS SHOWN HERE, EVENT INVITES,
EXCLUSIVE BENEFITS AND MORE.

[VIKINGS.COM/KIDSClub](https://vikings.com/kidsclub)

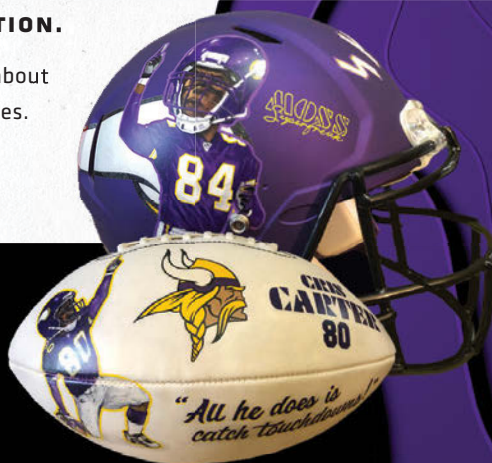
MINNESOTA VIKINGS FOUNDATION AUCTION

**LATEST AND GREATEST VIKINGS MEMORABILIA FOR AUCTION
BENEFITING THE MINNESOTA VIKINGS FOUNDATION.**

By registering for the auction, you will be the first to know about
new items, one-of-a-kind art pieces and exclusive experiences.
How else are you going to meet your favorite Legend?



Browse all items for auction:
vikings.com/auction.
Or scan QR Code to
browse all items.





LET METRO TRANSIT CARRY YOU

THE FINAL YARD



RIDE STRESS-FREE TO ALL VIKINGS GAMES!

Visit metrotransit.org/Vikings
to make your game day plan!

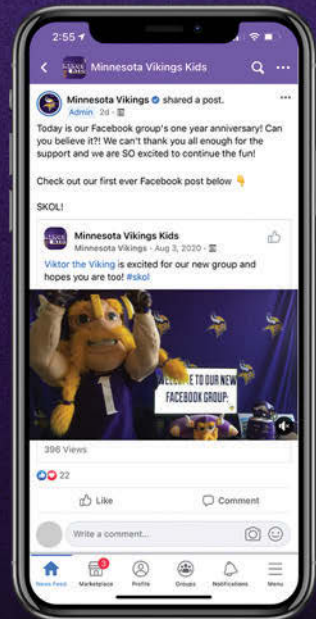


The Minnesota Vikings Kids Facebook group is
your one-stop shop for Vikings content geared
toward youth.

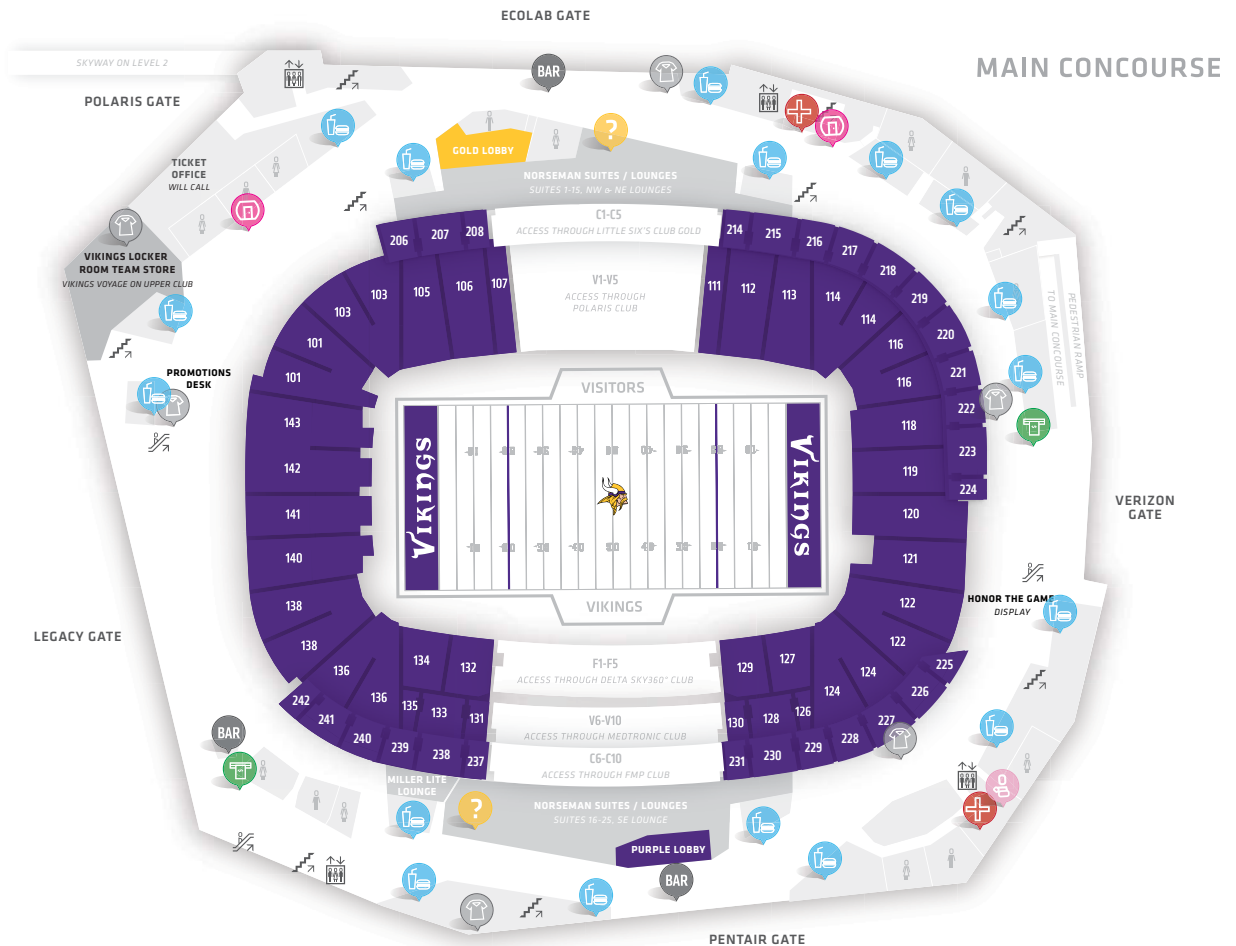
Share your favorite photos, participate in polls, or
learn about the latest Vikings events. Whether you
know a young fan or are simply young-at-heart, our
Facebook group is the perfect place to interact with
other Vikings families!



< SCAN HERE TO JOIN



U.S. BANK STADIUM



- CONCESSIONS
- U.S. BANK ATMS
- GUEST SERVICES
- 3M FIRST AID STATIONS
- NORTH MEMORIAL MAMAVA LACTATION SUITE
- MOTHERS NURSING ROOM
- MERCHANDISE STAND

PURPLE LOBBY

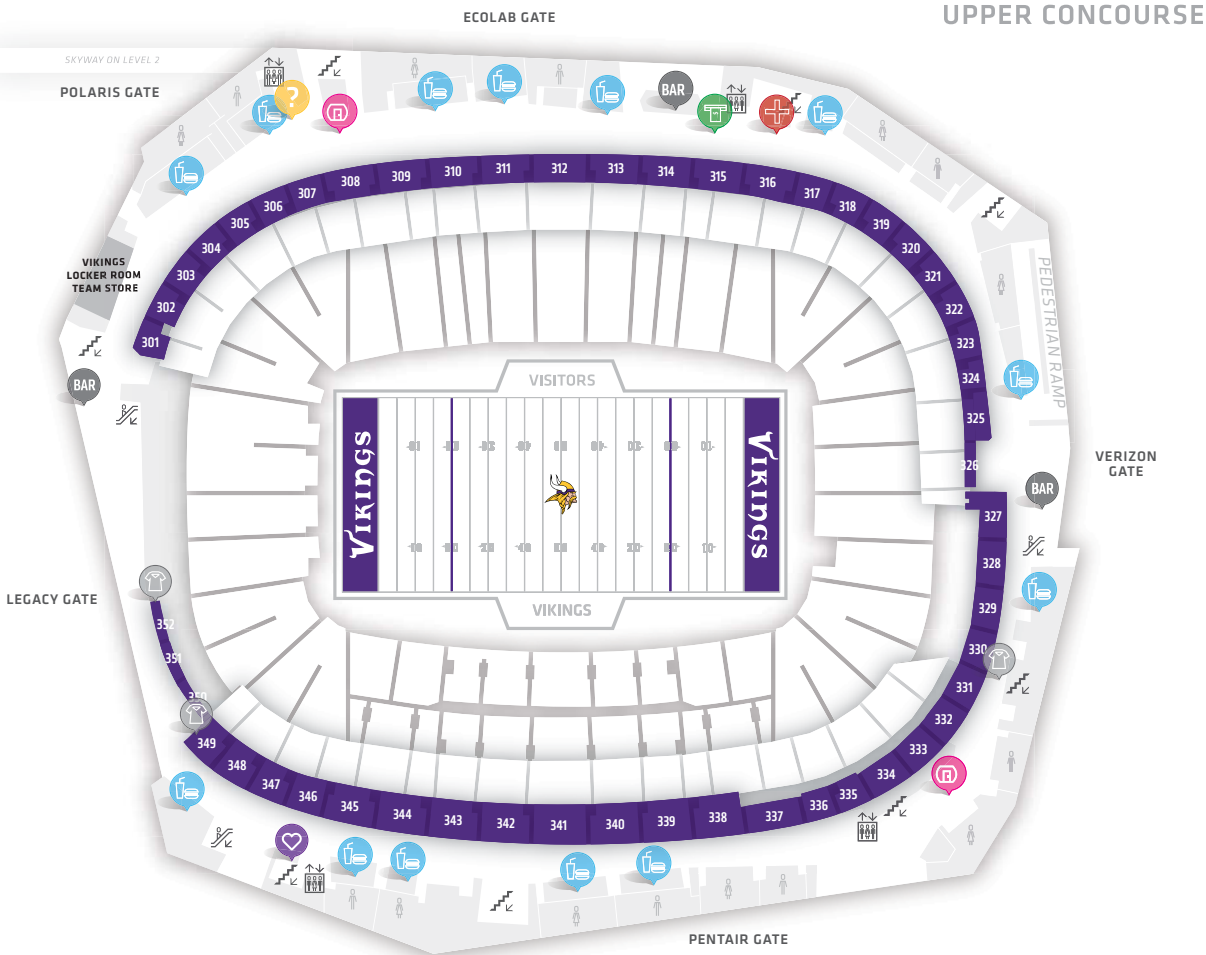
ACCESS TO THE FOLLOWING:

- DELTA SKY360° CLUB
- MEDTRONIC CLUB
- FMP CLUB
- TURF & TOUCHDOWN SUITES
- VALHALLA SUITES
- NORSEMAN SUITES 16-27
- SE NORSEMAN SUITES
- LOFT SUITES 28-46
- MILLER LITE LOUNGE

GOLD LOBBY

ACCESS TO THE FOLLOWING:









- POLARIS CLUB
- LITTLE SIX'S CLUB GOLD
- MYSTIC LAKE'S CLUB PURPLE
- NORSEMAN SUITES 1-15
- NW/NE NORSEMAN LOUNGES
- LOFT SUITES 1-27
- TRUSS BAR
- LUMEN LODGE
- LUMEN CABINS



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



**CAN'T FIND WHAT YOU
ARE LOOKING FOR?**
USE THE CAMERA APP ON YOUR SMART
PHONE TO SCAN & ASK A QUESTION.

-  CONCESSIONS
-  U.S. BANK ATMS
-  GUEST SERVICES
-  3M FIRST AID STATIONS
-  NORTH MEMORIAL
MAMAVA LACTATION SUITE
-  MOTHERS NURSING ROOM
-  3M SENSORY ROOM
-  MERCHANDISE STAND

**Buy Splash with Kwik
Rewards for a chance
to win Vikings Tickets!**



SEE SAFELY.®



NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. Valid through 11/7/2021. Registered Kwik Rewards members who are 18+ and residents of MN only. Details and rules at kwiktrip.com/sweepstakes

2021 MINNESOTA VIKINGS

OFFICIAL TEAM YEARBOOK

ON SALE NOW!

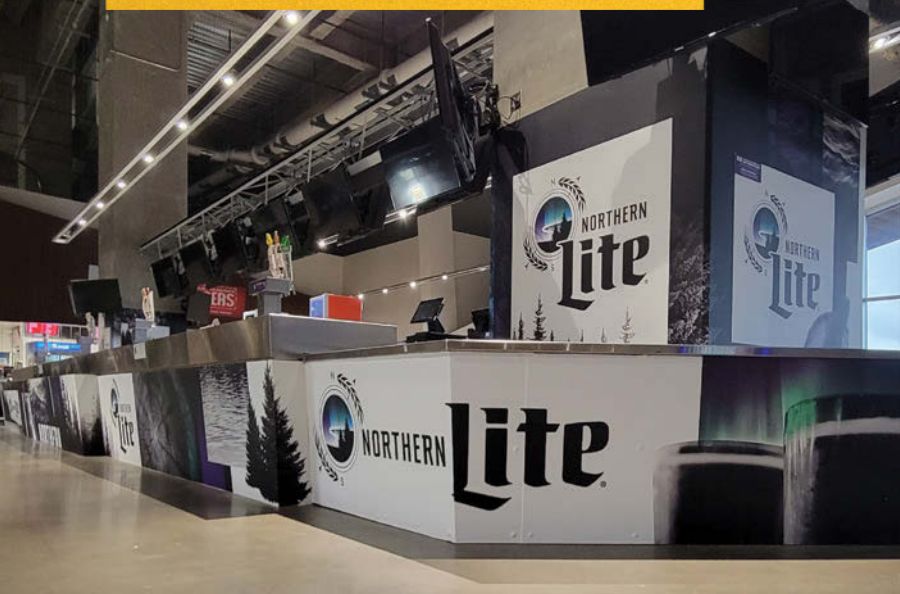
**YOUR ALL-ACCESS GUIDE
TO THE 2021 SEASON**

- 23 full-page player bios and posters
- Draft summary and rookie roundup
- Vikings in the Community
- Feature on "Man of the Year" Eric Kendricks
- U.S. Bank Stadium by the numbers and much more!



Available for purchase now at Vikings Locker Room Stores and online at shop.vikings.com

STADIUM HIGHLIGHT



NORTHERN LITE BAR

UPPER CONCOURSE | BEHIND SECTION 314

U.S. Bank Stadium features six bars on the Main and Upper Concourses, including the brand new Northern Lite bar.

Featuring imagery that includes an homage to the Northern Lights and an elevated view, the Northern Lite bar was created in partnership with Miller Lite and Aramark and sells beer and Bloody Mary drinks.

In celebration of Halloween, U.S. Bank Stadium bars will feature special spooky cocktails, including the "Wicked Witch of the North," a concoction consisting of Absolut Vodka, Blue Curacao, sweet & sour mix, grenadine and juice.



CONCESSIONS

New to U.S. Bank Stadium in 2021, Love You Cookie is offering up three varieties: chocolate chip cashew, double chocolate peanut butter and confetti cake at Section 347. Love You Cookie originated in 2020 when Sarah Brima, a speech pathologist by trade, started baking cookies in her personal kitchen.

SCAN THE QR 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.



KELLY SWEENEY

Kelly Sweeney loves making our fans' experiences more memorable by giving them the extra care and attention they deserve. On game days, Kelly joyfully welcomes all of our guests into the South Loft Suites as a Premium Host.

Working on the U.S. Bank Stadium Crew 52 in 2016 and later joining as a Premium Host in 2017 allowed Kelly to combine two of her favorite things: building relationships with fans and the Minnesota Vikings. Kelly understands that a million small touches can create an impact and unforgettable experience for all.

"When they're happy, I'm happy," explained Kelly, who grew up a Vikings fan with her father and three older brothers.

Beyond work, Kelly enjoys exploring local bands, watching movies and traveling. She also has a passion for interior design.

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

Miller
Lite®



**TASTE
VIKINGS
FANS
CAN
DEPEND ON**



**OFFICIAL BEER SPONSOR
OF THE MINNESOTA VIKINGS**

CELEBRATE RESPONSIBLY®
©2021 MILLER BREWING CO., MILWAUKEE, WI • BEER

A reliable teammate for all seasons.



Get a U.S. Bank Visa® Debit Card with the Minnesota Vikings design when you open any U.S. Bank consumer checking account.

Show your pride with the Vikings card design today.

The Official Bank of
the Minnesota Vikings



usbank.com



All regular account opening procedures apply. \$25 minimum deposit is required to open a U.S. Bank consumer checking account. Deposit products offered by U.S. Bank National Association. Member FDIC. ©2021 U.S. Bank. The issuer of the U.S. Bank Visa Debit Card is U.S. Bank National Association, pursuant to a license from Visa U.S.A. Inc. The Minnesota Vikings and the Vikings logo are registered trademarks of NFL Properties, Inc.