

SALUTE TO SERVICE | GB AT MIN | 11.21.21 | U.S. BANK STADIUM

# PLAYBOOK



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Think Outside



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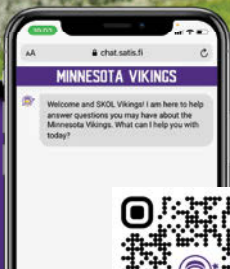
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## QUESTIONS AT THE GAME?

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**





**Polaris is proud to partner with the  
Minnesota Vikings for the Salute to Service game**



**We are forever indebted to our over 300 veteran employees, our  
countless military owners, and all those who choose to serve.**

**POLARIS**







# MIN vs GB

## SALUTE TO SERVICE

SUNDAY, NOV. 21, 2021 | U.S. BANK STADIUM

Since inception in 2011, the NFL's Salute to Service initiative has raised more than \$51 million for military and veteran support organizations, including the Bob Woodruff Foundation, Pat Tillman Foundation, Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS), United Service Organizations (USO) and Wounded Warrior Project®.

The Vikings organization works every year on multiple initiatives in the community and on in-game presentations to honor the service and sacrifices made by veterans, active members of the military, reserves and their family members.

### SIGNS OF SUPPORT FROM POLARIS

Today's Vikings-Packers game is presented by Polaris, which is enabling fans to share messages of support for veterans and service members.

"I Salute ..." posters will be available today at tables on concourses. Tables will be located near the Legacy Gates, the Verizon Gate, the escalator landing by the Skyway, and the Gold and Purple lobbies. Fans are encouraged to fill out a poster in honor of service members.

In continuing its history of recognizing those in the military, Polaris is proud to welcome the Boyle family to today's game. The Boyle family epitomizes the tradition of military service.

Timothy retired from the Army Reserves in 2008 after 26 years. His sons Michael (Army Reserves) and Matthew (Minnesota National Guard) are continuing the legacy.

### MILLER LITE SOLDIER SPOTLIGHT

Miller Lite is recognizing five brothers from Appleton, Minnesota, whose service in the Minnesota National Guard has spanned the past 43 years. Col. Bruce Jensen (September 1978 – December 2013), Sgt. Maj. Brad Jensen (August 1980 – May 2018), Maj. Brian Jensen (January 1981 – June 2011), CWO-5 Brent Jensen (April 1985 – current) and CWO-5 Kevin Jensen (October 1987 – current) each served at least 30 years.

## TODAY'S GAME PRESENTED BY

**POLARIS**  
Think Outside

## TEAM STATS

YARDS PER GAME / ALLOWED

	RUSH	PASS
<b>MIN OFF</b>	122.4	262.2
	384.7   7TH IN THE NFL	
<b>GB DEF</b>	107.2	202.7
	309.9   20TH IN THE NFL	
<b>GB OFF</b>	109.3	230.1
	339.4   20TH IN THE NFL	
<b>MIN DEF</b>	130.6	238.6
	369.1   23RD IN THE NFL	

## TODAY'S GAME ELEMENTS

### NATIONAL ANTHEM

A quartet from the Air Force Band Singing Sergeants, the official chorus of the U.S. Air Force, will perform. The Singing Sergeants became the first military chorus to include women in 1973.

### COLOR GUARD

The colors will be presented by a Joint Services honor guard, and members of the Air Force, Army, Marines and Navy will unfurl and display a full-field American flag during the National Anthem.

### HALFTIME

Multiple generations of military members from Minnesota, including National Guard units who have recently returned and veterans of World War II, the Korean War and Vietnam War, will be honored.

Scan the code with your  
smart phone for more info on  
today's game entertainment





# TODAY'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. Today's Hometown Hero is Lt. Gen. Jon A. Jensen. He currently serves as the 22nd Director of the Army National Guard. In this role, Lt. Gen. Jensen oversees the programs and policies involving the entire Army National Guard in all 50 states, three territories and the District of Columbia. Prior to this role, Jensen was the 31st Adjutant General for Minnesota, the state's highest-ranked position. Lt. Gen. Jensen has served for 37 years and has commanded multiple missions.



## OPENING DRIVE SWEEPSTAKES

PRESENTED BY KWIK TRIP

Today's Kwik Trip opening drive contestant is Cristy Peterson from Faribault. Cristy 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. Cristy 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.



## 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 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 today's game! Show us your game-day hairstyle by tweeting a photo @VikingsPromos using #VikingsHairstyle to enter.







## 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).



## 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).



## 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](https://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.



## 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 today!

## 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!





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 a football. The man, wearing a dark blue sweater and grey pants, is in the background, having just thrown the ball. The ground is covered in brown autumn leaves, and there are trees and a house in the background.

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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.

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TYLER

CONKLIN

**TIGHT END**

**6'3" | 248 LBS**

**4TH SEASON**

**COLLEGE: CENTRAL MICHIGAN**

## PLAYER HIGHLIGHT

Conklin reeled in two touchdown catches last week at Los Angeles, effectively doubling his career total to four. The fourth-year pro put Minnesota up 13-3 late in the second quarter

with a 5-yard reception. He also showed incredible concentration to bring in a 1-yard pass that fluttered after Kirk Cousins' arm was hit. Conklin secured the grab as he landed in the end zone for a 20-17 lead late in the third quarter.

A fifth-round pick in 2018, Conklin has developed his game every step of the way and

capitalized as opportunities have increased. Conklin has set career highs for receiving yards in a game twice this season, with 70 against Seattle and 71 at Carolina. He has at least four catches in five games this season.

Conklin's versatility has helped the Vikings after the loss of Irv Smith, Jr., to a torn meniscus.

## 2021 SCHEDULE

**@ CIN**  
WK1 | L, 27-24 OT

**@ LAC**  
WK10 | W, 27-20

**@ 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. 20

**BYE WEEK**

**LAR**  
WK16 | DEC. 26

**DAL**  
WK8 | L, 20-16

**@ GB**  
WK17 | JAN. 2

**@ BAL**  
WK9 | L, 34-31 OT

**CHI**  
WK18 | JAN. 9

## SALUTE TO SERVICE

Conklin's younger brother, Trevor, played linebacker at Central Michigan and is now serving in the United States Navy.





## 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
35	Luke Stocker	TE	6-5	253	11	Tennessee	Berea, KY
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
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
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
66	Eddie Yarbrough	DE	6-3	259	4	Wyoming	Aurora, CO
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
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
90	Sheldon Richardson	DT	6-3	290	9	Missouri	St. Louis, MO
92	James Lynch	DT	6-4	295	2	Baylor	Round Rock, TX

#	NAME	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	HOMETOWN
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

## 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
36	A.J. Rose Jr.	RB	6-1	212	R	Kentucky	Cleveland, OH
37	Garrett Groshek	FB	5-11	220	R	Wisconsin	Amherst Junction, WI
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
65	Spencer Pulley	C	6-4	311	6	Vanderbilt	Memphis, TN
68	Kyle Hinton	G	6-2	315	2	Washburn	Peoria, AZ
73	Nate Orchard	DE	6-3	243	7	Utah	Salt Lake City, UT
86	Brandon Dillon	TE	6-5	250	2	Marian	Flora, IN
87	Myron Mitchell	WR	6-1	185	R	UAB	Jasper, AL
91	T.Y. McGill	DT	6-0	294	7	North Carolina State	Jesup, GA

## INJURED RESERVE OR NON-FOOTBALL INJURY

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
58	Michael Pierce	DT	6-0	340	6	Samford	Daphne, AL
66	Jordon Scott	DT	6-1	326	R	Oregon	Largo, FL
76	Jaylen Twyman (NFI)	DT	6-2	285	R	Pittsburgh	Washington, D.C.
81	Bisi Johnson	WR	6-0	210	3	Colorado State	Lakewood, CO
82	Ben Ellefson	TE	6-3	250	2	North Dakota State	Hawley, MN
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
99	Danielle Hunter	DE	6-5	263	7	Louisiana State	Katy, TX

## RESERVE/COVID-19 &amp; PRACTICE SQUAD RESERVE/COVID-19

34	Jake Bargas	FB	6-2	245	2	North Carolina	Boca Raton, FL
44	Josh Metellus	S	5-11	207	2	Michigan	Pembroke Pines, FL
57	Ryan Connelly	LB	6-2	234	3	Wisconsin	Eden Prairie, MN
78	Dakota Dozier	G	6-4	305	8	Furman	West Columbia, SC
79	Kenny Willekes	DE	6-3	264	2	Michigan State	Rockford, MI

\* Designated for return/returned to practice 11.17.21



It's the season for shopping

# Scan the Code to Score Gifts for Every Fan on Your List



[vikings.com/giftguide](https://vikings.com/giftguide)





**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**  
Olisaemeka Udoh



**56**  
**CENTER**  
Garrett Bradbury



**72**  
**LEFT GUARD**  
Ezra Cleveland



**71**  
**LEFT TACKLE**  
Christian Darrisaw



**18**  
**WIDE RECEIVER**  
Justin Jefferson

#### VIKINGS OFFENSE



**20**  
**CORNERBACK**  
Kevin King



**91**  
**LINEBACKER**  
Preston Smith



**94**  
**DEFENSIVE END**  
Dean Lowry



**31**  
**SAFETY**  
Adrian Amos



**51**  
**LINEBACKER**  
Krys Barnes



**97**  
**NOSE TACKLE**  
Kenny Clark



**59**  
**LINEBACKER**  
De'Vondre Campbell



**96**  
**DEFENSIVE END**  
Kingsley Keke



**26**  
**SAFETY**  
Darnell Savage



**21**  
**CORNERBACK**  
Eric Stokes

#### PACKERS DEFENSE

#### VIKINGS SPECIAL TEAMS



**1**  
**KICKER**  
Greg Joseph



**3**  
**PUNTER**  
Jordan Berry



**42**  
**LONG SNAPPER**  
Andrew DePaola



**12**  
**PUNT RETURNER**  
Dede Westbrook



**26**  
**KICK RETURNER**  
Kene Nwangwu



## VIKINGS DEPTH CHART

#### VIKINGS OFFENSE

<b>WR</b>	Justin Jefferson	K.J. Osborn	Dede Westbrook
<b>LT</b>	Christian Darrisaw	Rashod Hill	
<b>LG</b>	Ezra Cleveland		
<b>C</b>	Garrett Bradbury	Mason Cole	
<b>RG</b>	Olisaemeka Udoh	Wyatt Davis	
<b>RT</b>	Brian O'Neill	Blake Brandel	
<b>TE</b>	Tyler Conklin	Chris Herndon	Luke Stocker
<b>WR</b>	Adam Thielen	Ihmir Smith-Marsette	Dan Chisena
<b>QB</b>	Kirk Cousins	Sean Mannion	Kellen Mond
<b>RB</b>	Dalvin Cook	Alexander Mattison	Kene Nwangwu
<b>FB</b>	C.J. Ham		

#### VIKINGS DEFENSE

<b>LDE</b>	D.J. Wonnum	Patrick Jones II
<b>NT</b>	Armon Watts	James Lynch
<b>DT</b>	Dalvin Tomlinson	Sheldon Richardson
<b>RDE</b>	Everson Griffen	Eddie Yarbrough
<b>SLB</b>	Anthony Barr	Blake Lynch
<b>MLB</b>	Eric Kendricks	Troy Dye
<b>WLB</b>	Nick Vigil	Chazz Surratt
<b>LCB</b>	Cameron Dantzler	Mackensie Alexander Harrison Hand
<b>RCB</b>	Bashaud Breeland	Kris Boyd
<b>SS</b>	Harrison Smith	Camryn Bynum
<b>FS</b>	Xavier Woods	





**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



**96**  
**NOSE TACKLE**  
Armon Watts



**94**  
**DEFENSIVE TACKLE**  
Dalvin Tomlinson



**98**  
**DEFENSIVE END**  
D.J. Wonnum



**27**  
**CORNERBACK**  
Cameron Dantzler

#### VIKINGS DEFENSE



**17**  
**WIDE RECEIVER**  
Davante Adams



**74**  
**LEFT TACKLE**  
Elgton Jenkins



**76**  
**LEFT GUARD**  
Jon Runyan



**62**  
**CENTER**  
Lucas Patrick



**70**  
**RIGHT GUARD**  
Royce Newman



**77**  
**RIGHT TACKLE**  
Billy Turner



**89**  
**TIGHT END**  
Mercedes Lewis



**83**  
**WIDE RECEIVER**  
M. Valdes-Scantling



**81**  
**TIGHT END**  
Josiah Deguara



**12**  
**QUARTERBACK**  
Aaron Rodgers



**33**  
**RUNNING BACK**  
Aaron Jones

#### PACKERS OFFENSE

#### PACKERS SPECIAL TEAMS



**2**  
**KICKER**  
Mason Crosby



**7**  
**PUNTER**  
Cody Bojorquez



**46**  
**LONG SNAPPER**  
Steven Wirtel



**8**  
**PUNT RETURNER**  
Amari Rodgers



**86**  
**KICK RETURNER**  
Malik Taylor



## PACKERS DEPTH CHART

#### PACKERS OFFENSE

<b>WR</b>	Davante Adams	Randall Cobb	E. St. Brown
<b>LT</b>	Elgton Jenkins	Yosh Nijman	
<b>LG</b>	Jon Runyan	Lucas Patrick	
<b>C</b>	Lucas Patrick	Jake Hanson	
<b>RG</b>	Royce Newman	Lucas Patrick	
<b>RT</b>	Billy Turner	Dennis Kelly	
<b>TE</b>	Mercedes Lewis	Dominique Dafney	
<b>TE</b>	Josiah Deguara	Tyler Davis	
<b>WB</b>	M. Valdes-Scantling	Allen Lazard	Amari Rodgers
<b>QB</b>	Aaron Rodgers	Jordan Love	
<b>RB</b>	Aaron Jones	AJ Dillon	Patrick Taylor

#### PACKERS DEFENSE

<b>DE</b>	Dean Lowry	Tyler Lancaster	
<b>NT</b>	Kenny Clark	T.J. Slaton	
<b>DE</b>	Kingsley Keke	Jack Heflin	
<b>OLB</b>	Preston Smith		
<b>ILB</b>	Krys Barnes	Oren Burks	Isaiah McDuffie
<b>ILB</b>	De'Vondre Campbell	Ty Summers	
<b>OLB</b>	Rashan Gary	Jonathan Garvin	
<b>CB</b>	Kevin King	Chandon Sullivan	Shemar Jean-Charles
<b>CB</b>	Eric Stokes	Rasul Douglas	Isaac Yiadom
<b>S</b>	Adrian Amos	Vernon Scott	
<b>S</b>	Darnell Savage	Henry Black	



# IT'S TIME TO UP YOUR GAME



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# 2021 SCHEDULE

**@NO**  
WK1 | L, 38-3

**SEA**  
WK10 | W, 17-0

**DET**  
WK2 | W, 35-17

**@MIN**  
WK11 | NOV. 21

**@SF**  
WK3 | W, 30-28

**LAR**  
WK12 | NOV. 28

**PIT**  
WK4 | W, 27-17

**BYE  
WEEK**

**@CIN**  
WK5 | W, 25-22, OT

**CHI**  
WK14 | DEC. 12

**@CHI**  
WK6 | W, 24-14

**@BAL**  
WK15 | DEC. 19

**WAS**  
WK7 | W, 24-10

**CLE**  
WK16 | DEC. 25

**@ARI**  
WK8 | W, 24-21

**MIN**  
WK17 | JAN. 2

**@KC**  
WK9 | L, 13-7

**@DET**  
WK18 | JAN. 9

## BIG IN BORDER BATTLES

In 13 Border Battles, Adams has 75 receptions for 799 yards and 10 touchdowns. In his past two at U.S. Bank Stadium, he's totaled 27 receptions for 272 yards and two touchdowns.

## PLAYER HIGHLIGHT

Adams has grown from a solid second-round pick in 2014 into a four-time Pro Bowler and 2020 All-Pro selection by *The Associated Press*.

While his touchdown pace (three in eight games played this season) is down from a year ago when he led the NFL with 18, Adams has a chance to set a new personal best for yardage (his previous record was 1,386 in 2018).

Adams is averaging 96.0 yards per game and

has 864 in nine games played with seven to go. This is his sixth consecutive season with more than 850 yards.

Since 2016, Adams leads the NFL with 61 touchdown catches. He ranks third in receptions (523), fifth in yards (6,503) in that span.





# PACKERS ROSTER

ROSTER **PACKERS**

#	NAME	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	HOMETOWN	#	NAME	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	HOMETOWN
2	Mason Crosby	K	6-1	207	15	Colorado	Georgetown, TX	89	Mercedes Lewis	TE	6-6	267	16	UCLA	Long Beach, CA
7	Corey Bojorquez	P	6-0	217	4	New Mexico	Lakewood, CA	90	Jack Heflin	DL	6-3	304	R	Iowa	Prophetstown, IL
8	Amari Rodgers	WR	5-9	212	R	Clemson	Knoxville, TN	91	Preston Smith	LB	6-5	265	7	Miss. State	Stone Mountain, GA
10	Jordan Love	QB	6-4	219	2	Utah State	Bakersfield, CA	93	T.J. Slaton	DL	6-4	330	R	Florida	Plantation, FL
12	Aaron Rodgers	QB	6-2	225	17	California	Chico, CA	94	Dean Lowry	DL	6-6	296	6	Northwestern	Rockford, IL
13	Allen Lazard	WR	6-5	227	3	Iowa State	Urbandale, IA	95	Tyler Lancaster	DL	6-3	313	4	Northwestern	Plainfield, IL
17	Davante Adams	WR	6-1	215	8	Fresno State	Palo Alto, CA	96	Kingsley Keke	DL	6-3	288	3	Texas A&M	Richmond, TX
18	Randall Cobb	WR	5-10	192	11	Kentucky	Alcoa, TN	97	Kenny Clark	DL	6-3	314	6	UCLA	Rialto, CA
19	E. St. Brown	WR	6-5	214	4	Notre Dame	Anaheim, CA	PRACTICE SQUAD							
20	Kevin King	CB	6-3	200	5	Washington	Oakland, CA	3	Ben DiNucci	QB	6-2	222	2	James Madison	Wexford, PA
21	Eric Stokes	CB	6-0	194	R	Georgia	Covington, GA	6	Kurt Benkert	QB	6-3	218	2	Virginia	Cape Coral, FL
22	Shemar Jean-Charles	CB	5-10	184	R	Appalachian State	Miramar, FL	11	JJ Molson	K	5-11	180	1	UCLA	Westmount, QUE
24	Isaac Yiadom	CB	6-1	188	4	Boston College	Worcester, MA	16	Chris Blair	WR	6-2	198	R	Alcorn State	Louisville, MS
26	Darnell Savage	S	5-11	198	3	Maryland	Bear, DE	30	Shawn Davis	S	5-11	202	R	Florida	Miami, FL
27	Patrick Taylor	RB	6-2	217	1	Memphis	Humble, TX	34	Kerith Whyte Jr.	RB	5-10	204	2	Florida Atlantic	Loxahatchee, FL
28	AJ Dillon	RB	6-0	247	2	Boston College	Groton, MA	35	Ryquell Armstead	RB	5-11	220	3	Temple	Millville, NJ
29	Rasul Douglas	CB	6-2	209	5	West Virginia	East Orange, NJ	38	Innis Gaines	S	6-1	202	R	TCU	Beaumont, TX
31	Adrian Amos	S	6-0	214	7	Penn State	Baltimore, MD	45	Bronson Kaufusi	TE	6-6	270	3	Brigham Young	Provo, UT
33	Aaron Jones	RB	5-9	208	5	Texas-El Paso	El Paso, TX	48	Kabion Ento	CB	6-1	187	2	Colorado	Pine Bluff, AR
36	Vernon Scott	S	6-2	202	2	TCU	Arlington, TX	54	La'Darius Hamilton	LB	6-2	261	1	North Texas	Corrigan, TX
39	Chandon Sullivan	CB	5-11	189	4	Georgia State	Winder, GA	57	Ray Wilborn	LB	6-3	230	1	Ball State	Lansing, MI
40	Tipa Galeai	LB	6-5	229	1	Utah State	Euless, TX	64	Ben Braden	G	6-6	329	2	Michigan	Rockford, MI
41	Henry Black	S	6-0	204	2	Baylor	Shreveport, LA	78	Cole Van Lanen	T/G	6-4	305	R	Wisconsin	Green Bay, WI
42	Oren Burks	LB	6-3	233	4	Vanderbilt	Lorton, VA	88	Juwann Winfree	WR	6-1	210	2	Colorado	Englewood, NJ
44	Ty Summers	LB	6-1	241	3	TCU	San Antonio, TX	98	Abdullah Anderson	DL	6-4	303	2	Bucknell	Galloway, NJ
46	Steven Wirtel	LS	6-4	228	1	Iowa State	Orland Park, IL	99	RJ McIntosh	DL	6-5	286	4	Miami (Fla.)	Fort Lauderdale, FL
49	Dominique Dafney	TE	6-2	243	1	Indiana State	West Des Moines, IA	INJURED RESERVE							
51	Krys Barnes	LB	6-2	229	2	UCLA	Bakersfield, CA	23	Jaire Alexander	CB	5-10	196	4	Louisville	Charlotte, NC
52	Rashan Gary	LB	6-5	277	3	Michigan	Paramus, NJ	25	Will Redmond	S	5-11	186	6	Miss State	Memphis, TN
53	Jonathan Garvin	LB	6-4	257	2	Miami	Lake Worth, FL	32	Kylin Hill	RB	5-10	214	R	Miss State	Columbus, MS
58	Isaiah McDuffie	LB	6-1	227	R	Boston College	Buffalo, NY	47	Chauncey Rivers	LB	6-2	259	1	Miss State	Stone Mountain, GA
59	De'Vondre Campbell	LB	6-3	232	6	Minnesota	Fort Myers, FL	50	Whitney Mercilus	LB	6-4	261	10	Illinois	Akron, OH
62	Lucas Patrick	G	6-3	313	5	Duke	Brentwood, TN	55	Za'Darius Smith	LB	6-4	272	7	Kentucky	Greenville, AL
67	Jake Hanson	C	6-4	296	1	Oregon	Eureka, CA	56	Randy Ramsey	LB	6-3	238	2	Arkansas	Fort Lauderdale, FL
69	David Bakhtiari	T	6-4	310	9	Colorado	San Mateo, CA	71	Josh Myers	C/G	6-5	310	R	Ohio State	Miamisburg, OH
70	Royce Newman	T/G	6-5	310	R	Mississippi	Nashville, IL	85	Robert Tonyan	TE	6-5	240	4	Indiana State	McHenry, IL
73	Yosh Nijman	T	6-7	314	2	Virginia Tech	Maplewood, NJ								
74	Elgton Jenkins	G	6-5	311	3	Mississippi State	Clarksdale, MS								
76	Jon Runyan	G	6-4	307	2	Michigan	Philadelphia, PA								
77	Billy Turner	G/T	6-5	310	8	North Dakota State	Arden Hills, MN								
79	Dennis Kelly	T	6-8	321	10	Purdue	Chicago Heights, IL								
81	Josiah Deguara	TE	6-2	238	2	Cincinnati	Folsom, CA								
83	M. Valdes-Scantling	WR	6-4	206	4	South Florida	St. Petersburg, FL								
84	Tyler Davis	TE	6-4	252	2	Georgia Tech	North Bellmore, NY								
86	Malik Taylor	WR	6-1	220	2	Ferris State	Montrose, MI								





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9



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OUR TEAM





# MIN VS. GB SERIES HISTORY

## TOP 2 AGAINST PACKERS

### RUSHING YARDS

- 210** Adrian Peterson on 21 attempts at GB (12.02.12)
- 199** Adrian Peterson on 34 attempts in MIN (12.30.12)

### PASSING YARDS

- 442** Randall Cunningham on 20-of-32 passing at GB (10.05.98)
- 425** Kirk Cousins on 35-of-48 passing at GB (09.16.18)

### RECEIVING YARDS

- 202** Adam Thielen on 12 catches at GB (12.24.16)
- 190** Randy Moss on five catches at GB (10.05.98)

## AGAINST VIKINGS

### RUSHING YARDS

- 161** Ahman Green on 25 attempts in MIN (12.17.00)
- 150** Aaron Jones on 23 attempts in MIN (12.23.19)

### PASSING YARDS

- 384** Aaron Rodgers on 26-of-37 passing in MIN (10.05.09)
- 383** Lynn Dickey on 23-of-41 passing at GB (10.23.83)

### RECEIVING YARDS

- 191** Donald Driver on six catches in MIN (11.12.06)
- 162** Donald Driver on 11 catches in MIN (12.24.04)

## REGULAR SEASON AND POSTSEASON ALL-TIME RESULTS

**VIKINGS ARE  
55-63-3  
IN 121 GAMES**

**LONGEST WIN STREAK  
7 GAMES  
BY MINNESOTA VIKINGS  
(Nov. 2, 1975 – Oct. 22, 1978)**

### FIRST MEETING

**OCT. 22, 1961 | IN MIN  
PACKERS 33, VIKINGS 7**

The Packers closed with a 23-0 run that included 17 points in the fourth quarter against the upstart Vikings. Bart Starr completed just nine passes but threw for 206 yards. Fran Tarkenton provided the Vikings lone touchdown on his second career rushing score.

### LAST MEETING

**NOV. 1, 2020 | @GB  
VIKINGS 28, PACKERS 22**

Dalvin Cook rushed 30 times for 163 yards and three touchdowns and turned a screen pass into a 50-yard receiving score. Kirk Cousins was 11-of-14 passing for 160 yards and a passer rating of 138.1 on a windy day at Lambeau Field. D.J. Wonnum's sack fumble iced the game.

game in the fourth quarter. Dave Osborn added 79 yards on 19 carries and gained 11 yards on one of two completions by Joe Kapp. Fred Cox's 12-yard field goal in the fourth quarter completed the comeback.

Earsell Mackbee intercepted Zeke Bratkowski twice, and Ed Sharockman corralled another.

Minnesota upset the Packers after opening Grant's tenure with four losses. Grant went 157-92-5 in regular-season games the rest of his career.

## THROWBACK MOMENT BUD GRANT'S FIRST WIN

Pro Football Hall of Famer Bud Grant recorded his first victory as head coach of the Vikings when Minnesota prevailed 10-7 against the Packers at Milwaukee County Stadium on Oct. 15, 1967.

Bill Brown rushed 24 times for 72 yards, including a 1-yard touchdown that tied the



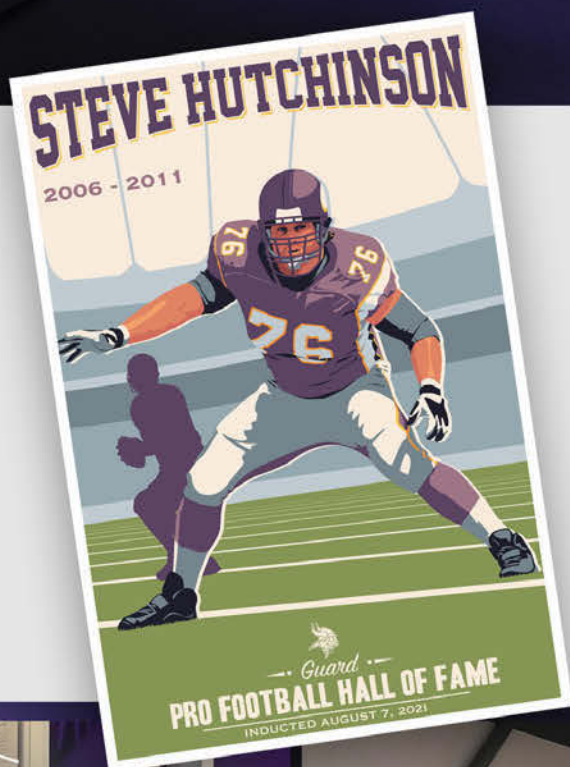
VIKINGS



MUSEUM

THE GREATEST VIKINGS MOMENTS

# FROZEN IN TIME

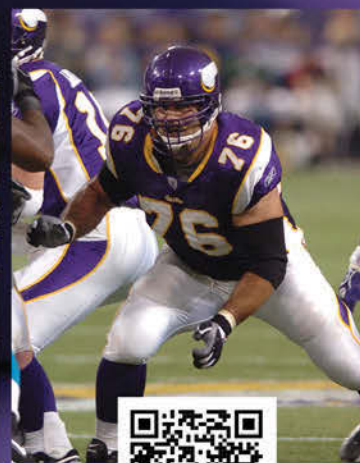


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BY ERIC SMITH



# JERRY BURNS

LEGACY WITH THE VIKINGS HIGHLIGHTED BY LOYALTY & INNOVATION

**JERRY BURNS WAS WORTH THE WAIT.**

Just ask Bud Grant.

When Grant was hired as Minnesota's head coach in 1967, he wanted to add "Burnsie" to his staff, but the Michigan native was already under contract with Green Bay.

"The first year I was at the Vikings, I coached one guy short. I was holding the job for Burnsie until he could come the next year," Grant explained. "He was a very astute football mind. He could see things on the field immediately. He was as important to my career as anyone I've been involved with. His coaching help, friendship, loyalty, family – he brought everything to the Vikings he had."

Born in Detroit, Burns trained as a Navy turret gunner during World War II and later attended the University of Michigan. But his big coaching break came at another Big Ten school – the University of Iowa.

Burns was with the Hawkeyes from 1954 to 1965, spending the final five seasons as Iowa's head coach. He then coached defensive backs for two seasons under Vince Lombardi in Green Bay, helping the Packers win Super Bowls I and II before Grant brought him to Minnesota.

"I met Burnsie at Iowa when he picked me up from the airport when I was visiting down there, and from that point on, we started talking football and never stopped,"

Grant said. "We were on the same page a lot. When I

went to Winnipeg, I'd have him come up as a guest coach. Our friendship grew over the years, and we became very close friends and so did our families."

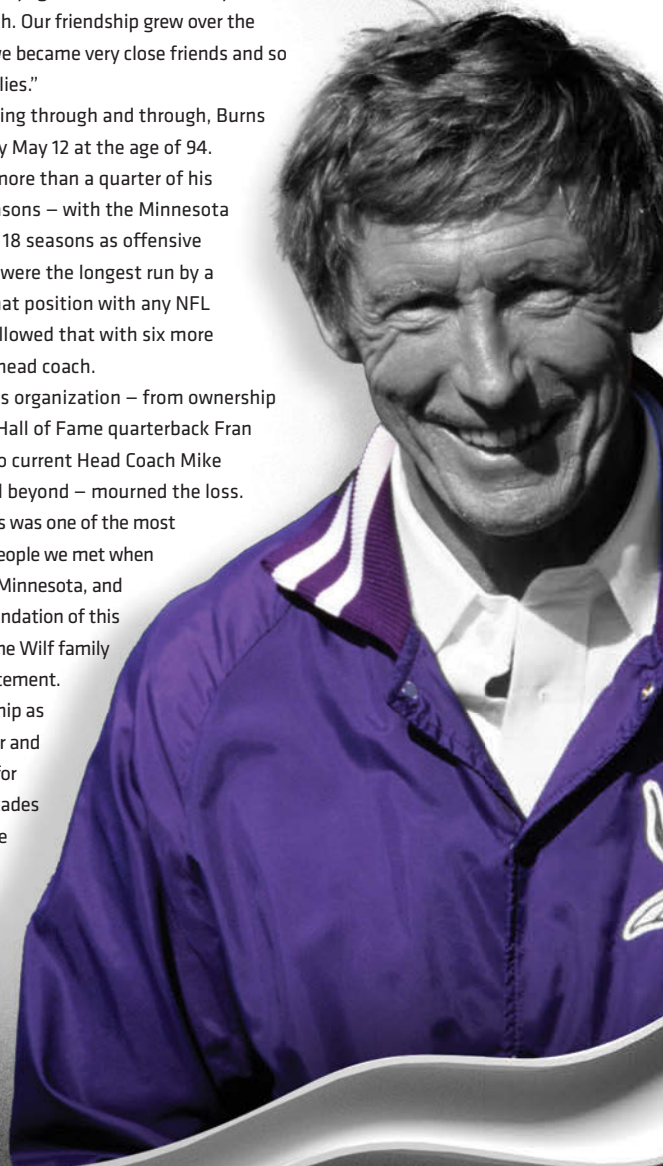
A loyal Viking through and through, Burns passed away May 12 at the age of 94.

He spent more than a quarter of his life – 24 seasons – with the Minnesota Vikings. His 18 seasons as offensive coordinator were the longest run by a person at that position with any NFL team. He followed that with six more seasons as head coach.

The Vikings organization – from ownership to Grant to Hall of Fame quarterback Fran Tarkenton to current Head Coach Mike Zimmer and beyond – mourned the loss.

"Jerry Burns was one of the most important people we met when we came to Minnesota, and he was a foundation of this franchise," the Wilf family said in a statement.

"His leadership as a coordinator and head coach for over two decades shaped some of the most successful teams in Vikings history.





His love of life, quick smile and sense of humor were what we will remember most. We join Vikings fans worldwide in sending our prayers to his family."

Even though the Vikings played home games outdoors at Metropolitan Stadium for 14 of Burns' seasons with Minnesota, he famously was not a fan of cold weather. Burnsie frequently bundled at the first chill of autumn and preferred to spend winters in Jamaica.

The innovative coach with a passionate heart is remembered as one of the most groundbreaking offensive minds of his generation.

Burns helped usher in the single-back set and opened up Minnesota's offense to more of a pass-heavy attack, including the use of running backs as options through the air. Chuck Foreman and Rickey Young combined for 149 receptions in 1978, the first time in franchise history in which team pass attempts exceeded rushes.

Vikings four-time Pro Bowl wide receiver Ahmad Rashad described Burns as "an offensive genius" and said his offense was "revolutionary."

Tarkenton absolutely loved working with Burns on the game plan each week of his final seven pro seasons. In a previous interview with the Vikings Entertainment Network, the quarterback described his enjoyment of working with Burns.

"I learned so much with Jerry Burns," Tarkenton said. "And I got him at the right time, because we could really bring our knowledge together and give us a chance in every game, knowing that we would have an offensive game plan to put a lot of points on the board. And we put a lot of points on the board."

"He's just a special guy," Tarkenton added of Burns. "And he's a part of the great history of our team. He's one of the great characters of all time."

Burns helped the Vikings make four Super Bowl appearances and win an NFL

Championship, three NFC titles and 10

division crowns in his first 11 seasons. Minnesota was a top-10 offense in points per game in seven of those seasons.

And in January of 1986, weeks before turning 60, Burns was named the fourth head coach in Vikings history after Grant's second retirement.

"Jerry's been a head coach; he's worked in all facets of football," Grant said upon the transition. "He's as qualified as anybody that ever got a job in this business."

The stylistic differences between Burns and Grant were stark, with the former's unconventional nature standing in contrast to the stoic disciplinarian. Their partnership, however, led to some of the greatest seasons in Vikings history.

Burns also succeeded as a head coach. He compiled a record of 52-43 in six seasons and led Minnesota to the 1989 NFC Central crown with a 10-6 mark. The 52 victories are the fourth-most in team history.

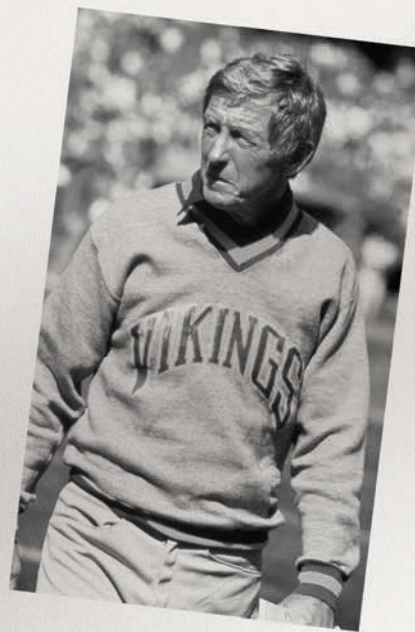
He additionally led the Vikings to three playoff berths, going 3-3 in postseason contests.

The highlight of Burns' coaching career was when he led the Vikings on a magical run to the 1987 NFC Championship Game. Minnesota went 8-7 during a strike-shortened season, but the team pulled off upset road wins over New Orleans and San Francisco before falling one game short of the Super Bowl.

Burns retired after the 1991 season but remained a beloved figure in franchise lore to fans, former colleagues and players on offense and defense.

He proudly presented Paul Krause – a player he had recruited to Iowa – for enshrinement in the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1998. Burns joined the Vikings Ring of Honor in 2005.

The Vikings and Packers have met in 121 Border Battles (including two playoff games). Burns coached in 51 of them. He was 2-2 in two seasons as an assistant in Green Bay and a combined 26-20-1 after joining the Vikings.



**“HE WAS A VERY  
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- BUD GRANT





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# WATER BREAK

PRESENTED BY *Crown Royal*

BY LINDSEY YOUNG

## ALEXANDER MATTISON

Growing up, Alexander Mattison and his older twin brothers understood some household rules were non-negotiable.

Such is life, oftentimes, for children of someone serving in the military.

Report cards were expected to reveal straight-As. The Mattison boys knew from an early age that homework needed to be completed before football practice or other extracurricular activities. Video games were only allowed on Friday evenings and Saturdays, and even then, it wasn't a free-for-all.

"We'd get one hour each – or we could combine for a little extra time – so that created teamwork between me and my brothers. We had to decide, if I want to play the game myself or together, for some extra time," Mattison said. "We couldn't go outside until homework was done, and then making

sure we were inside before the streetlights come on."

His father's military experience, Mattison noted, heavily influenced his parenting style and – in many ways – had a positive impact. Darrell Mattison spent four years serving in the U.S. Air Force.

Mattison's maternal grandfather, Wilson Kirby, Jr., also served in the Air Force. His paternal grandfather, James Mattison, was drafted to Vietnam as a member of the U.S. Army, and his uncle Lawrence recently completed his Army service.

Mattison's connections to the United States Military run deep throughout his family, and he's grateful to the NFL for providing an extra space of recognition through the annual Salute to Service initiative.

We recently caught up with Alexander for a Water Break, presented by Crown Royal.



JAMES EARL MATTISON



WILSON KIRBY, JR.



DARRELL MATTISON, SR.





**Q: In what other ways did your dad's experience impact your childhood? Did you learn many details about his service?**

**A:** "He would tell us about some of his experiences and tell a little bit about his time in the Air Force but not too much. He kind of just taught us the discipline of it. [But in some ways], he wanted to get us away from what he had kind of conditioned himself to be – eating fast, being on a super tight schedule. Sometimes he would rush us to eat dinner and stuff like that, and then he'd remember, 'You guys are just kids. I've got to kind of rewind and get out of the military mindset.' "

**Q: What do you appreciate about the NFL's Salute to Service initiative?**

**A:** "I think it's awesome. It's something that, I think, should be done even more – as far as even going for longer periods of time, allowing us to use our platform [even more] to bring this awareness. It's something that I love to do because I have a direct relationship with these different causes. And along with that, just trying to make an impact and influence any way I can. Leaving my legacy. I want to make sure I can influence and

impact as many people as I can. If I can use my platform to bring awareness, then that's something I love to do."

**Q: You are quite active in social justice efforts throughout the community and vocal about equality in this country. Some may see these statements or actions as disrespect toward the U.S. Armed Forces and service members; what would you say to that?**

**A:** "For me, it has nothing to do with the military. I'm coming from a family where I have people who served in the military, so I have respect for that and respect for anyone who serves for this country, for our freedom. But that being said, they are fighting for our freedom. And for us to [not always] feel free, that's where it becomes a contradiction. It [comes to a point] where you don't feel free in your own country that's all about being the land of the free. ... The [American flag] is supposed to represent that freedom, and I just feel like, right now, it doesn't. And it hasn't been for a long time. That's kind of where that contradiction comes in. It's taking a knee for what the flag represents – not the

people fighting for that representation. But just that we as Americans need to change what it represents for the better of all citizens. Not just a majority group of citizens, but for all citizens."

**Q: So you want to remind others of what America stands for and work toward true equality for all.**

**A:** "Yeah, exactly. It's just like, everyone's not on the same page. They're going out and fighting to protect us – they're giving their time, their effort and their love so that we can have our freedom, so that we can have the great country that we have. But then there's some [people] who aren't on the same page with the fact that we're all in this together and that we all need to be united on, 'This is a country where we're able to have our freedom. Some countries don't.' So the fact that some people are trying to take that from certain groups of minorities, it's really just one of those things that you can't stomach. Not everyone has that will, that power or that passion to kind of step in the forefront and say something about it, so that's where I feel like I can use my voice and use my platform to bring that awareness. Why would I be in front of millions of people and not use my voice to bring people together? That's how I feel about it. It's more about bringing people together, not dividing people."



Mattison's cleats painted by Lisa Tite

## THE PURPLE BAG PROJECT

*is an ongoing commitment by Crown Royal to provide care packages for our active American military heroes around the world. Fans can visit the Medtronic Club from pre-game through halftime to join them in their mission by sending branded purple bags and personalized notes.*



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“**IT'S  
JUST  
HOME.**

IT'S WHERE I BELONG.  
I'M JUST HAPPY TO BE  
BACK ON THE TEAM.”





BY ERIC SMITH

# RIGHT HOME

There's just something about Everson Griffen's No. 97 that looks right in Purple.

The defensive end wore his trademark number through seven games with Dallas last season. But it just felt ... off.

And the sight of Griffen wearing No. 98 with Detroit – a team he tormented over the years – likely made more than a few Vikings fans do a double take.

But now that he's back with the team that drafted him, Griffen has fit right back in with Minnesota, whether that's on the field, in the locker room or away from Twin Cities Orthopedics Performance Center.

"Being back in Minnesota, this is my 11th season, and it's just a blessing. My family is here, my kids go to school here ... we're comfortable here," Griffen said. "It's just home. It's where I belong. I'm just happy to be back on the team.

"Last year, it showed me that the grass isn't greener on the other

side. Being home is very important," Griffen said. "Detroit and Dallas, they were two good places to go. But my home is Minnesota."

Griffen spent the first 10 seasons of his career with the Vikings, blossoming from an athletic 2010 fourth-round pick to one of the league's top edge rushers.

But, as it happens with nearly every player in the NFL, Griffen and his original team parted ways in the spring of 2020.

He landed with Dallas, recording 2.5 sacks through seven games before he was traded back to the NFC North. Griffen then spent the second half of the 2020 season with the Lions, picking up 3.5 more sacks.

Griffen said the transition – from Minnesota to Texas to Michigan and back to Minnesota after the season ended – was unlike anything he and his family had ever experienced.

"That was tough. A rough time for us but we came together and made it through. It was different," Griffen said. "I'd never

been a journeyman like that, being on two different teams. But being home is just the best."

The 33-year-old found himself in a familiar place in late August when the Vikings brought him in for a workout, signing him the next day.

Back with his original team, Griffen adapted as a situational pass-rusher after being a full-time starter since Vikings Head Coach Mike Zimmer arrived in 2014.

"It was a warm-up period. I feel like I had to get warmed up," Griffen said. "I don't feel like it was open arms with everybody, I feel like we're still getting there. But it's warming up.

"I just feel like signing here was amazing," added Griffen, who has recorded 5.0 sacks through eight contests. "It was just us trying to figure out how I would fit in and the situations I'd be in."

Griffen's original role was for him to play 25-35 snaps a game, with the focus on him to bring down quarterbacks.

**"DETROIT AND DALLAS, THEY WERE TWO GOOD PLACES TO GO. BUT MY HOME IS MINNESOTA."**



# “ HE’S KIND OF THE ENERGIZER BUNNY WE HAVE ON THE DEFENSE...”

- HEAD COACH MIKE ZIMMER

Yet as the Vikings enter a Week 11 tilt against the Packers, Griffen is not only a starter but also being relied on as the primary pass rusher due to a litany of events.

Danielle Hunter is out for the season with a torn pec. Stephen Weatherly was traded. Griffen overtook teammate D.J. Wonnum for a starting spot opposite Hunter in Week 4, but the two now find themselves as the starting duo up front.

Wonnum explained the benefit of having veterans such as Griffen in the defensive line room.

“[Showing us] technique ... and different things that we watch on film that those guys see that we don’t,” Wonnum said. “It’s all a learning role for us.”

Through his first four games of the season (Griffen did not play in Week 2 because of a concussion suffered when he swerved to avoid a deer), the defensive end played 154 defensive snaps.

But in his past four games, thanks to exhausting and narrow contests, Griffen has tallied 260 snaps, including a whopping 87 at Baltimore.

Zimmer and Vikings Assistant Head Coach/Co-Defensive Coordinator Andre Patterson have talked about limiting Griffen’s snap count this season. But that’s become tougher and tougher to do as the weeks pass by.

“Yeah, it’s hard. He doesn’t want to come out. And when the game’s on the line,

we don’t want him out,” Zimmer said.

“Unfortunately, every game is on the line.

“That’s part of it, but we try to take care of him during the week the best we can,” Zimmer added. “It’s important, he’s kind of the Energizer Bunny we have on the defense, anyway.”

Patterson said: “Once you get into the overtime period, every series, you know, is on the line, so it’s not like in the middle of the first quarter or second quarter of the game. ‘We’ve got to stop them here or the game is over,’ so you’re putting your best guys out there in that situation.”

Yet while Griffen has taken on a lighter workload during practices in recent weeks, he’s probably working harder than ever behind the scenes to make sure he’s at his peak on Sundays.

“Just taking care of my body is, honestly, the No. 1 thing I can do,” Griffen said. “To me, football is always going to be 80 percent mental and 20 percent physical.

“You’ve got to watch a little bit more tape and really study a lot more.





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Jim  
RICH

Dawn  
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6PM



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SUNDAY  
10:35P





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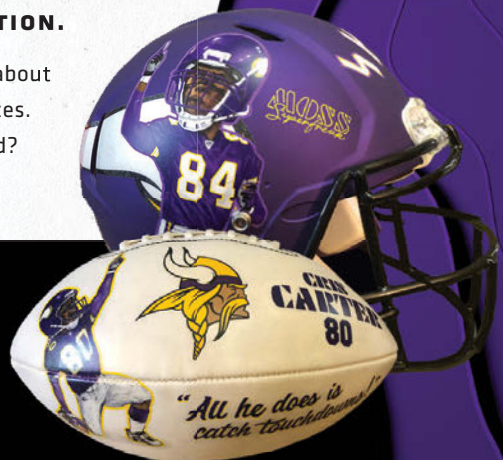
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Just go out there and play," Griffen added. "I've seen the blocks, seen the situations ... it's just playing the tendencies, playing your guy ... get off the blocks and go."

Griffen recently went into detail about his weekly recovery routine, one that he has relied on for nearly a decade.

Mondays include acupuncture and work with his movement coach, while his Tuesday schedule features a massage and Pilates.

You can often find Griffen in an ice bath Wednesday at Twin Cities Orthopedics Performance Center. And he's sometimes spotted with compression boots that help rejuvenate his lower half.

Griffen's weekly chiropractor appointment falls on Thursdays, and Fridays feature another massage and more time in the compression boots.

"Am I a little more sore than in previous weeks? Yeah," Griffen said. "But I maybe add a little extra [recovery] each week.

"When you play 87 plays [as I did against Baltimore], you can't go as hard as you want to [the next week in practice]," Griffen continued. "You have to tone it back a little bit and get ready to play ball.

"Honestly, I think recovery is what you make it," Griffen added. "It's about my

routine, and I think that's why I'm still able to play and able to recover. Recover, and get ready to play."

No other player on the Vikings current roster can match Griffen's 12 years of NFL experience, while his 11 total seasons in Purple is also a high on the current roster.

And no other player on the team has been involved in more Border Battles than Griffen, who will gear up for his 21st edition of the Vikings-Packers rivalry today.

Even now, after so many clashes with the Green and Gold, Griffen still circles the NFC North collisions with Green Bay on his calendar. (Griffen has only faced the Packers as a member of the Vikings, as he did not play in Detroit's Week 14 game in 2020 against Green Bay).

"They are fun. I love going against Aaron Rodgers," said Griffen, who has 10.5 career sacks against the Packers starting quarterback. "I love playing them at U.S. Bank Stadium. That's the best stadium, period, but after that it's Lambeau [Field].

"I love it when we play," Griffen said. "These games mean something, and it's always a big rivalry. It's going to be fun as always."

Griffen's success against Green Bay has helped him total 79.5 career sacks with the Vikings,

a tally that ranks seventh in team history.

As the Vikings try to right the ship and make a second-half push for the postseason, the Vikings will surely rely on the veteran to help get them there.

Maybe it's not the traditional fiery role that we've seen in previous seasons.

"We've got leaders on this team. Earlier in my career, I was a big yeller," Griffen said. "Now, at my age, I'm just going to go out there and do my job."

There's no doubt Griffen took more of a winding path to get to this game against Green Bay.

But you can expect the guy who has worn Purple for 155 career games (93 starts) to be back in his usual spot against his biggest rival.

"There's been a lot of lessons, a lot of things I have learned from," Griffen said of his career in Minnesota. "First and foremost, you always need to learn from your mistakes and not repeat the same ones.

"I just feel like it's been very fun as I try to get better each and every year," Griffen said. "I do feel like I could play this game for a few more years, who knows? I'm just going to take it play-by-play and day-by-day. But I'm always going to going out there and try to win."





BY CRAIG PETERS

VIKINGS LEGENDS JOIN FORCES WITH MILITARY

AT UNITED HEROES LEAGUE'S COURSE

# CONFIDENCE TO CONQUER



## **Nestled beneath a canopy of hardwoods shedding their leaves and preparing for winter, the United Heroes League “Strapped” Confidence Course sits ready to show others just what they can accomplish.**

Vikings Legends Esera Tualo (1992-96), Ed McDaniel (1992-2001), Ronyell Whitaker (2006-07) and Robert Blanton (2012-15) recently joined forces with active military members from the Air Force, Army National Guard, Marines and Navy to go through the course that features 18 obstacles created by UHL President and Founder Shane Hudella, a retired Army 1st Sgt.

“These courses are designed to teach you confidence, teamwork and agility, and even though we have some premier athletes out here from the Minnesota Vikings, I still think they’ll walk away with some new lessons in what those three things mean,” Hudella said. “For the military, it’s an opportunity to show their children who are out here today what they go through when they go to basic training and during their career.”

The course has welcomed different groups for the past two years.

Civilians, often high school sports teams, usually arrive with an appreciation of military members’ service and sacrifice.

They depart with an understanding of the training required, the satisfaction of completing challenging obstacles and an exhaustion that had been masked by exhilaration on the course.

UHL Vice President of Special Projects Guy Sing is a retired Army Master Sgt. who now leads groups through the course. Sing led a team of Whitaker, Minnesota Army National Guard 1st Sgt. Charlie Johnson and his teenage son Will, and a team of McDaniel, Marines Gunnery Sgt. Torrey Sexton and his teenage son Jordan.

The “Island Hopper” is a series of about 30 tree stumps in rows of three or four that require strategy and balance to negotiate.

“This one, you pick your logs and choose your path,” Sing said as he zipped through, adding, “It’s just that easy.”

By now, Whitaker had heard Sing’s use of the word “easy” a few times and encountered obstacles that he would not classify with the same terminology.

Everything was likely still burning from “Weaver,” the seventh obstacle, which requires going above and below a series of 19 4X4s that have been spaced to form a gable, when Whitaker clapped back jokingly, “That’s your favorite word, ‘Easy.’ It’s like, ‘It’s your first day?’ Here’s Randy Moss and Megatron (Calvin Johnson). Good luck.”

Whitaker, 42, and others made “Island Hopper” look about as easy as Sing did, but Weaver was a different story.

McDaniel was listed at 260 pounds when he played. The 52-year-old could have tapped out on Weaver without shame, but he showed amazing grit and determination on what Hudella said is the toughest obstacle.

“My workout is basically walking around the track,” McDaniel said. “Now, we’re jumping across things, over things, crawling underneath things. It’s so much fun to catch every aspect of your body’s muscles and put them into each individual station. This would be a great event for a father-son, a mother-daughter, a whole family to come out and experience it.”

Sing explained that Weaver is tough because it challenges every muscle.

“It works your legs, your arms, your core, puts your shoulders in difficult positions,” Sing said. “To see some of these former Vikings, as big as they are, able to complete that, because those boards are spaced out, was really neat. Ed is not the youngest guy out here, and he was able to complete it because he would just not give up, and that was really special to see that.”

Sing also had a bird’s eye view while spotting the participants as they completed the Confidence Climb, which rises 40 feet into the air.



Whitaker has never really lacked confidence. Once a corner, always a corner.

But football fields stretch horizontally, not vertically, and Whitaker confessed to an overwhelming fear of heights.

Equipped with the purple and white gloves he wore while playing for the Vikings, as well as some patriotic stars and stripes socks, Whitaker began his way up the gigantic ladder. He confronted his fear as people below provided encouragement and Sing gave tips for the important transition over the top rung.

When he firmly put his feet back on the ground, he trembled as he screamed, "In the famous words of my man Kevin Garnett, anything is possible!"

"It's awesome because they're not cheering us as if we're in a stadium with 80,000 people. They're cheering us on, and it's good to be side-by-side with these guys, knowing what they went through as well," Whitaker said. "We're all fighting our little battles, but coming together collectively, we were able to get this thing done.

"Today has been next level. I told the guys when I first got out here that the one thing I don't lack is confidence, but being out here, I was able to develop a whole different type of confidence," Whitaker added. "I'm terrified of heights, and I was able to do some things today that I never would have done on my own, but having the team out here and the military members out here helped me get over the top of that. I appreciate that."

Charlie Johnson, who has served for 35 years, described the experience as "phenomenal."

"It was awesome that not only did the Vikings participate but I got to bring my son along. It was awesome to challenge ourselves and see what

we can do, what we can't do. As the old guy – I'm probably the oldest guy here," Johnson said.

Whitaker jumped in: "But you did it big, baby."

Will Johnson reflected: "Man, I don't like losing, and [my dad] beat me in a bunch of them, but the ones I did [complete] felt nice."

Whitaker added: "You dominated big fella," before crediting the teen for the strategy the team used to work together on "Belly Robber," which required the three to move logs across an elevated platform while on their stomachs. The group had two members face forward while the person in the middle faced backward.

Sing said seeing others realize they can do something they maybe didn't know they could do is rewarding.

"I've been running the course for a little over a year-and-a-half now, and you see that, where kids look at the obstacle and say, 'I don't think I can do that.' And then, you encourage them and their teammates encourage them, and they're able to do that," Sing said. "The same thing applies with adults and former athletes. These obstacles are very challenging. Some work the mind just as much as the muscle. Again, applying encouragement with the staff and cadre being able to complete the obstacles was a lot of fun, especially Ron. Watching his reaction after he completed the Confidence Climb, he was really emotional and pumped up. That's what I love about this job.

"You see all kinds of emotions up there (atop the Confidence Climb). Some are very confident in their abilities, and it doesn't matter their stature or height, as long as they're confident in their ability, they go right over that top board on that Confidence Climb," Sing added. "Then, you've got some

who have that height and have the build, but they just don't have the mindset and they struggle with it. That's why we're up there to make sure we give them the proper guidance and encouragement and they overcome it. They're just so jazzed and pumped when they actually complete it."

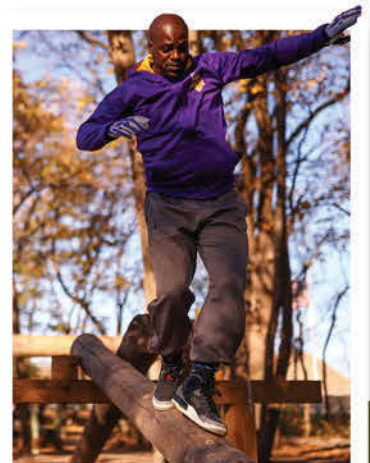
Blanton, 32, was on the Air Force team, and Tuaolo, 53, was on the Navy team, which won the event with 192 total points.

"I just wanted to thank you guys for having us. We have much respect and a different respect for all of the people in our military," Tuaolo said. "Thank you so much for your service and everything that you guys do. I've always been a huge supporter and have family members that fought in wars, as well. Much respect to all of you guys. Going through all of that, there were times when I wanted to quit but then these two guys and the support that you have is absolutely amazing. On behalf of the Minnesota Vikings, we just want to thank you for coming. United Heroes League, thank you so much for having us."

Beyond the course, United Heroes League enables children of military families to play sports by providing equipment, grants for league and camp fees and tickets to games.

Johnson has known Hudella for years and credited the veteran for building the nonprofit that employs multiple veterans.

"It's amazing what he's created here," Johnson said. "When he first started, he had a little office on the west side of Hastings on 55, a little office and storage area with a couple of (hockey) sticks. Now, he's got hockey rinks and Zambonis and this course."

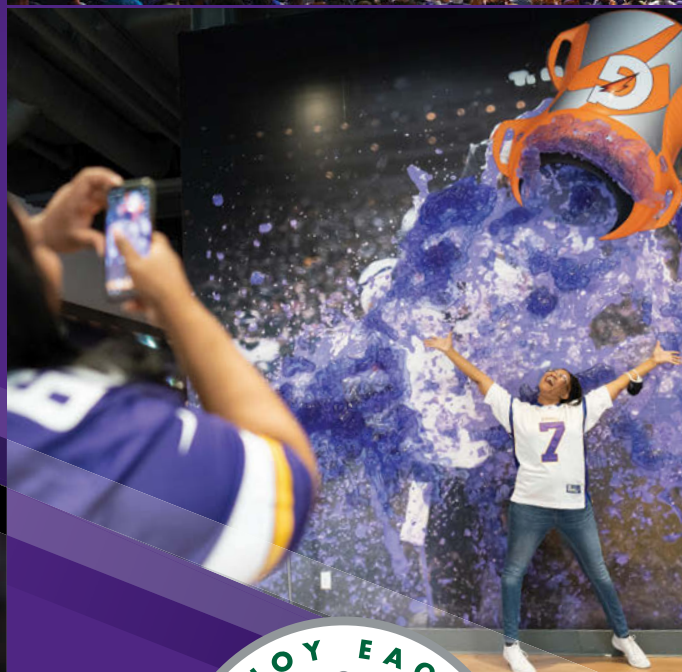




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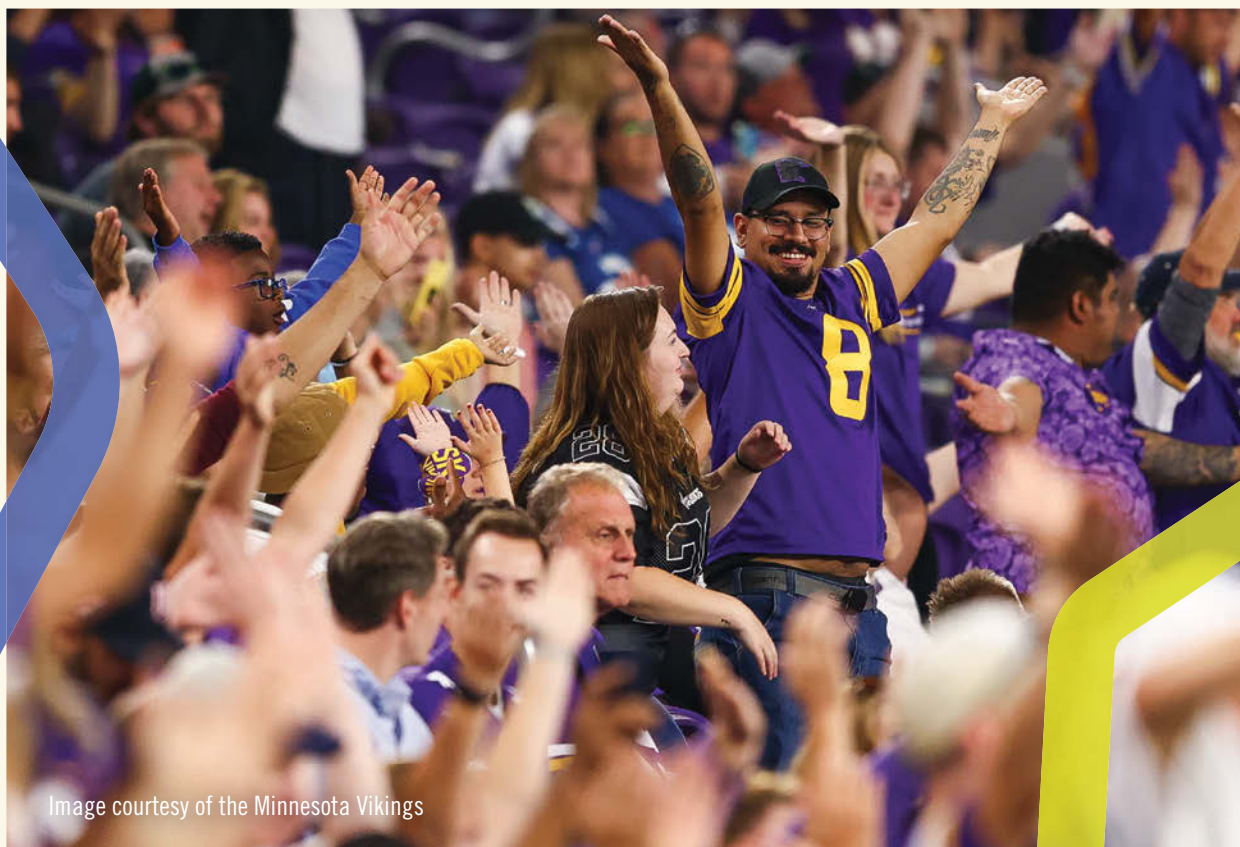


Image courtesy of the Minnesota Vikings

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BY CRAIG PETERS

## VETERANS VOYAGE HONORS TWO GOLD STAR FAMILIES



# SINCERE GRATITUDE

**The ultimate sacrifice can never be repaid, but it can be honored with gratitude. Two Gold Star families who know the pain of losing soldiers and American heroes – husbands and fathers – were chosen for this year's Hy-Vee Veterans Voyage.**

They were invited to tour the Minnesota Vikings Museum with former linebacker and coach turned analyst Pete Bercich on Nov. 12 and to attend today's Salute to Service game.

Bercich guided Wendy Green and her sons – Jonathan Weikel (16), Gus Green (11) and Mark Green (8) – through Vikings history before Vikings Head Coach Mike Zimmer arrived with the surprise news that the family will receive free groceries for a year from Hy-Vee.

"I know it's tough, but you guys are pillars of strength, so we really appreciate you," Zimmer said. "On behalf of the Minnesota Vikings and Hy-Vee, we want to give you groceries for a year."

Zimmer, whose wife Vikki passed away in 2009 at age 50, learned that Jonathan is a wrestler, Gus is a rocker and Mark plays football and basketball. He also learned Wendy served in the Army, along with her late husband Ian Weikel and her second husband Carson Green.

"Today was such a great day for us. I just feel like we're invigorated and excited to be a part of the program," Wendy said. "We feel so blessed, especially by the people we've met and

the tour with Pete.

Meeting the coach?

Are you kidding? That was so amazing."

Unable to make the event but scheduled to attend today's game is Hannah Anderson and her twin sons Jaxon and Jameson. Zimmer passed along the surprise news to Anderson via FaceTime from the Vikings Museum.

"At Hy-Vee, we appreciate all of the veterans and everything they've done," said Hy-Vee District Vice President, Northern Region Carl Haidar, "but in this case, we wanted to go a little above and beyond to show our deep appreciation to Wendy's family and Hannah's family."

### CAPT. IAN WEIKEL

Wendy and Ian Weikel met as cadets at the United States Military Academy. She was from northern Indiana and had transferred after a year of playing basketball and softball at Illinois Institute of Technology. He was from Colorado and had been a star football and basketball player in high school.

The relationship grew, but the couple decided



to wait to have a child until they could fulfill their service obligation. They deployed at the same time to different places in Bosnia. The family was then stationed at Fort Hood in Texas before both deployed to different places in Iraq. The couple celebrated Jonathan's birth three months before Ian Weikel deployed for a second tour in Iraq.

Both knew the challenges of a being dual-military couple and its potential harsh reality. Part of Wendy's duties had included providing in-person notification to next of kin when a soldier died. Jonathan was just 8 months old when an Army captain and chaplain visited Wendy to tell her the tragic news.

"To be honest, I was shocked, even though we had discussed it briefly, what would happen, what if. I was just shocked because we had been there and done that," Wendy said. "In a way, you kind of feel invincible.

"As soon as I looked up and saw the Army guys standing in the driveway, I knew exactly," Wendy continued. "It's a club nobody ever wants to be in, but I'm grateful for my other Gold Star spouses that I keep in contact with."

Wendy credited three things for getting her through the tragedy.

Military wives "really stepped up," embracing Wendy and Jonathan in Texas while family members remained states away.

Her church family and faith in God, coupled with how faithful Ian had lived his life and "knowing he was in a better place."

"The last thing was my son Jonathan because he was so little, and when you have a little baby, you can't just stop, so just knowing I had to be

a mom and continue nursing and caring for him got me through that time."

Wendy met Carson Green after he took over the lead of Ian's troop. They've been married almost 13 years and continue to honor the legacy of "Ian Daddy."

"We've been able to bond and walk through everything together," Wendy said. "Our kids know our family story and how much we appreciate the military, and they know how much it means to sacrifice, so I think they're going to grow up and go into this world as honorable servants to our country and to God."

#### **SPC. JOSH ANDERSON**

Army Spc. Josh Anderson grew up a tremendous fan of the Vikings. He graduated from Jordan High School in 2002 and enlisted in the Army in 2006.

Josh was assigned to the 3rd Infantry Division's Bushmaster Troop 6-8 CAV at Fort Stewart, Georgia. He served as a combat medic for the 2nd platoon, which was deployed to Iraq in October 2007. Bushmaster Troop stepped in at Zambrahnia near Forward Operating Base Falcon.

Josh perished when his armored truck was hit by a roadside bomb.

He was only 24 when he left behind Hannah and their 3-year-old daughter Savannah.

Tragedy struck Hannah again when Savannah was diagnosed with brain cancer. She courageously battled for years but passed away at age 11 in February 2016.

*The Vikings will honor the sacrifices of Ian Weikel and Josh Anderson during today's game.*

## **Vikings Nominate**

# **PETE BERCICH**

## **for Salute to Service Award**

*From the hot sands of Kuwait to the sub-freezing temps of Minnesota, Pete Bercich has made numerous, authentic salutes to service members.*

*Bercich has traveled to Kuwait to spend a week with Serving Our Troops, a Minnesota-based nonprofit that provides special meals and encouragement to service members.*

*"I was at Camp Arifjan. We're there to meet the troops and to talk about the Vikings, and they're so excited about it," Bercich said. "I'm sitting there and so excited to be here and see what we see and talk to you guys and see what you do. It's just a fascination that I've had with the military for my entire life, a love and appreciation for what they do every day, what they're asked to do, what they're willing to do.*

*"We have a lot of freedom," he added. "I have the greatest job in the world ... and without them and the sacrifices they've made throughout centuries, I wouldn't be able to do that."*

*The Vikings nominated Bercich for the NFL's 2021 Salute to Service Award, the team announced earlier this month, for his continued support of military causes and members of the Armed Services.*

*One month – November – and one game – when the Vikings annually host their Salute to Service – stand above all others for Bercich.*

*He's able to survey the scene inside U.S. Bank Stadium from the radio broadcast booth as multiple tributes touch his heart.*

*"We're here because of the sacrifices they've made," Bercich said.*

*The full-field American flag takes him back to his youth when he envisioned attending the United States Air Force Academy and becoming a pilot.*

*Bercich's father Bob played two seasons for the Dallas Cowboys and was in the Air Force reserves.*

*"My dream as a kid was to go to the Air Force Academy," said Bercich, who was able to join the Navy's Blue Angels for a flight over Mankato in 2012.*





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BY CRAIG PETERS

# BEST FOR REST

sleep  number. **BOOSTS QUALITY OF SLEEP FOR MILITARY FAMILY**

Quantity of sleep has been fleeting for Brittany Otto, but quality got a big boost this week from Sleep Number and the Minnesota Vikings.

Brittany has been raising her 5-month-old daughter, Arya, while her husband, Jordan, has been on a year-long deployment with the National Guard.

While she has had help from her sister, Brittany has been navigating solo parenting and eagerly awaiting Jordan's return, which is scheduled for April 2022 and will enable him to hold Arya for the first time.

What keeps Brittany going?

"Knowing that he'll come home," she

said. "And Arya. Honestly, having her here has really helped to get through it because she looks just like him."

Brittany said she advised Jordan to get as much rest as he can while he's gone because of the demands he will likely experience upon returning.

Her path to better rest was cleared this week when Sleep Number presented her with a king-sized Sleep Number 360° smart bed and FlexFit™ 3 adjustable base, as well as temperature-balancing pillows and new bedding. The Otto bedroom received a complete makeover from interior design specialists, as well.

"The bedroom makeover means the

world," Brittany said. "This room wasn't the greatest. There were things we were going to upgrade, especially the bed, and now we don't have to worry about that. [Jordan will get] to come home to a nice area. It's very exciting.

"Rest is very important right now, especially as a new mom," she added.

"I get little naps here and there, so I sleep wherever I can. It will be nice to be comfortable."

When Brittany arrived back at her home Tuesday morning for the reveal, she was surprised by Eric Kendricks.

The linebacker who knows the value of quality sleep and has a Sleep Number

sleep  number®





360® smart bed emerged from a delivery truck to greet Brittany and joined her for a video chat with Jordan, who was celebrating his birthday from afar.

The linebacker said he was honored to thank the Otto family as part of the Vikings Salute to Service efforts.

"We wear the Salute to Service gear when we play and have the pre-game sweatshirts and stuff like that, but when you talk to someone on the phone like [Jordan] and meet the Otto family who is living that life, it's a little different," Kendricks said. "Arya was full of energy. I'm glad I got

to say hi to [Jordan] and wish him a happy birthday."

Vikings Executive Vice President and Chief Marketing Officer Martin Nance said the team values its partnership with Sleep Number and the opportunity to join forces in supporting military families.

"We play a great game. We recognize that the service men and women make that possible, so we want to honor them ... to make sure military families feel recognized and appreciated," Nance said.

The father of two said it's hard to imagine a sacrifice like Jordan's of going

so long without being able to meet Arya in person.

**“ I THINK THAT’S WHY AS VIKINGS WE’RE SO HONORED TO RECOGNIZE FAMILIES LIKE THE OTTO FAMILY,”**

Nance said. "We realize they give so much when people aren't looking or the cameras aren't around. We want to go above and beyond to honor them."



PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANDY KENUTIS



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## MVC HONORS CONNECTIONS TO

# U.S. Armed Forces

BY LINDSEY YOUNG

For first-year MVC Kiara, the NFL's Salute to Service game holds an extra level of significance. Ties to the United States Military run deep throughout Kiara's family, beginning with her grandfather, Rick Robinson, a veteran of the U.S. Navy.

"My Grandpa Rick is a very inspiring man, especially when it comes to drive – he is always learning to do something new," Kiara said. "From his passion when it comes to sailing, watching him learn a new instrument or hearing all his stories from his past, he shows us all that we are capable of anything we put our mind to. I am so proud to call this inspiring veteran my grandpa."

Pictured below: Kiara's grandfather



Pictured above: Kiara's mom and dad

Kiara's mom, Holly Overson, and father, Cedric Harper, both served in the U.S. Air Force and have equally inspired their daughter over the years.

"My parents mean the world to me – I have truly been blessed," Kiara said. "Not only are they the most loving parents and supportive of everything their kids do, but they both are the bravest, most respectful and strong-willed parents, and I love them with my whole heart."

She shares that love for her brother, Nakiel, who currently serves in the U.S. Navy. Kiara recognized bravery as a strong quality of Nakiel's from a young age and even more so when he enlisted.

"I am ever so proud of his accomplishments and the man he has become," Kiara said.

In today's Salute to Service game, Kiara and eight of her MVC teammates are honoring loved ones who are veterans or currently serving in the United States Armed Forces.



Pictured above: Kiara's brother

### THANK YOU MVC PARTNERS





# Andrea

LUKE BRAUN | BROTHER-IN-LAW | ARMY NATIONAL GUARD



"I admire what Luke goes through on a day-to-day basis. The commitment he's made means so much to me and my family. Luke being in the military is a selfless act. I look up to what he does for his country and the sacrifices he makes for our family. It's hard to fully comprehend the gravity of some of the stories he tells us, but it never goes under-appreciated."

# Emily

ALLISON PINK MAANUM | FRIEND | U.S. NAVY



"Allison is a former NFL cheerleader (Chiefs), a mother of three, dance director and coach, and she's now an Intelligence Specialist in the U.S. Navy. She has always supported me through my journey of becoming an MVC, and now I am happy to support her while she accomplishes her goals in the Navy. I am very proud of you, Allison!"

# Grace

MAJOR JON OXENFORD | UNCLE | U.S. ARMY RESERVES  
JIM OXENFORD | UNCLE | U.S. NAVY



"My Uncle Jon (pictured left) was such an amazing family man. He was such a kind person and always knew how to make me laugh. Most of my greatest childhood memories were up north at Jon's cabin, two doors down from my grandpa's cabin. My Uncle Jon entered eternal life after a courageous battle with brain cancer on Sept. 14, 2020. Both my Uncle Jon and Uncle Jim have been great inspirations in my life, and I am so appreciative of their time in the service."

# Skylar

ROBERT CUMMINGS | GRANDFATHER | U.S. ARMY



"During the Korean War, my grandpa served in the Army based in Germany. He was not drafted but enlisted even though he'd already completed two years of college to become a lawyer. His dedication and selflessness define my Grandpa Bob. He is, without a doubt, the patriarch of our family who emulates a respectable born leader, follower of Christ and has a heart of gold. Robert is always the first to offer words of encouragement, direction and faith-based grandpa is better from knowing him. Thank you to all of our veterans and active-duty military for their service to our country. Thank you to their family and friends, as well, for the sacrifices they make."

# Morgan

EUGENE MCGOWAN | GRANDFATHER | U.S. ARMY  
DOUGLAS HELM | GRANDFATHER | U.S. AIR FORCE



"My Grandpa Eugene is someone whom I spent the majority of my childhood with. He put his life on the line, and to have him still in my life today is super special."

It is a different type of bravery being a part of the military. The Air Force has always amazed me, and I am forever grateful my Grandpa Douglas able to return home safely to still make memories with me today!"

# Nicole

FRANK EVERSON | GRANDFATHER | U.S. ARMY



"I unfortunately lost my grandfather when I was quite young, but when I think of him, I think of compassion, loyalty and humor. He didn't speak about his experience in the Army much, but when he did, he talked about the positive aspects: friendships, experiences and good memories. I admire my grandfather for serving for our country and wish that I had longer to learn more, as I'm sure that he had so much to share. Thank you to everyone in our Armed Forces!"

# Parey

JAMES JESSE PATTERSON | GRANDFATHER | U.S. ARMY



"My Grandpa Patterson passed away when I was younger, so I wasn't able to grow up with him and hear all of his stories. However, I feel a closeness to him every time my mom tells us a story and I find something in common with him - like his love of animals, his god's luck to be in the right place at the right time to help any stranger, and his love of big trucks and Harley-Davidson motorcycles! I proudly tell others he served this country and will continue to pass down his stories so he will never be forgotten."

# Whitney

JAMES NELSON | GRANDFATHER | U.S. NAVY  
LARRY QUANRUD | GRANDFATHER | U.S. AIR FORCE



"Growing up hearing about both of my grandpas serving for our country always made me feel extremely proud. They are both selfless individuals who put others first, always. I have learned many lessons from them over the years and love hearing about their experiences. We are so thankful for their service!"







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# VIKTOR THE VIKING

Viktor's Heroes - In honor of Salute to Service, Viktor would like to say THANK YOU to all of the service men and women, but especially the individuals below who were nominated by fellow Vikings fans for their service and sacrifice.



ANDREW LARSON  
CARL OTTERNESS  
JOSEPH PIERSON



IAN COOK  
TIMOTHY DEWING  
KENDRA HARTIGAN  
SETH KELLEY  
DANE LARSON  
MATTHEW MATHIAS  
JEFFREY SCHMIDT  
KYLE TURNER  
MARCUS WEYH, SR.  
DAVID WRUCK



IAN KETTERLINT  
MATTHEW KOEP  
NOAH LACROIX  
JEFFREY LYNCH  
EDDIE OCAMPO



CARTER BROOKS  
AARON BROWN  
CARL HONORABLE  
RYAN WIESE



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The Vikings Kids Club offers its members exclusive events like this throughout the entire year! In addition, upon registration, members receive a special Vikings welcome kit that includes:



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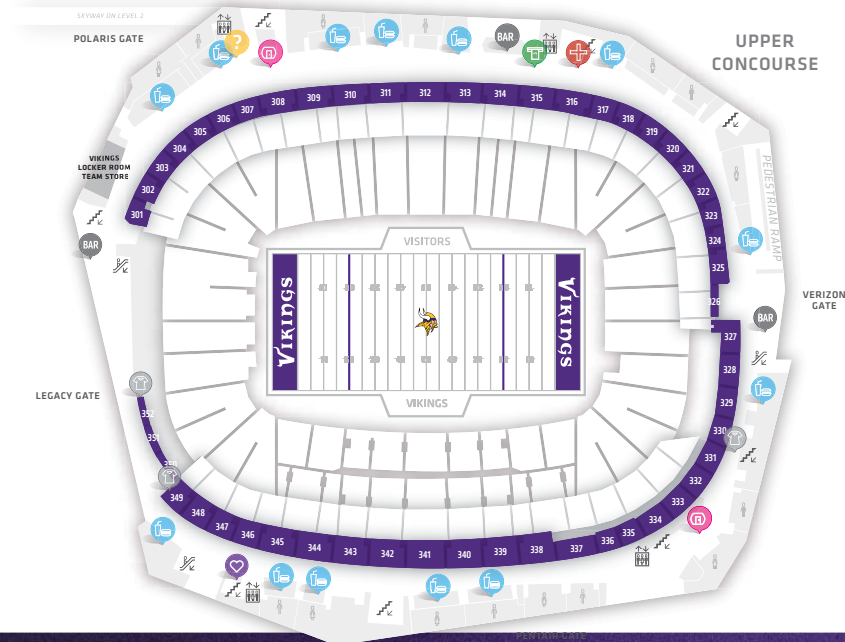
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# STADIUM HIGHLIGHT



## IN HONOR OF POW/MIA

Amidst a sea of purple, there is one black seat at U.S. Bank Stadium that remains permanently unoccupied. Located in Section V8, the POW/MIA seat is dedicated in tribute to military personnel who are missing and unaccounted-for from United States conflicts.

A plaque accompanying the seat states the following: *With reverence we hold this seat of valor for those brave men and women, living and dead, who sacrificed in the limelight of honor and glory that we may have freedom. They will not be forgotten.*

United States Navy Cmdr. Brian Danielson formally dedicated the seat in 2016. His father, Air Force Maj. Ben Danielson, was shot down over Laos during the Vietnam War. Maj. Danielson, a Captain at the time, was declared missing in action in 1969 after an extensive search-and-rescue mission.

In April 2006, Cmdr. Danielson, who has retired, took part in a military expedition to recover the remains of his fallen father. When Cmdr. Danielson returned from his seventh tour of duty that September, he received word that a bone fragment and dog tags had been found. A DNA test confirmed it was his father.



## CONCESSIONS

Part of U.S. Bank Stadium's menu from the beginning, Curds & Cakes has expanded to Sections 114, 129, 143 and 310 with 58 game-day employees. Darin and Tonja Kjaer pick up the cheese from Ellsworth, Wisconsin, and use an ice cream scoop to form the curds before dipping in their signature batter.

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.



### KENNY PLUNKETT

Kenny Plunkett is one of our energetic fan ambassadors in the FMP Club and a guide for U.S. Bank Stadium Tours. Having been a devoted fan of the Minnesota Vikings since 1961 and a Season Ticket Member for decades, Kenny became a fan ambassador in 2016 and finds that Vikings games are exciting days filled with enthusiasm. Kenny has worked in the FMP Club since the stadium opened in 2016, building relationships with Season Ticket Members and welcoming new attendees.

Kenny observed the determined effort put forth toward U.S. Bank Stadium's approval and construction and wanted to be part of the venue's team. One of his favorite things about being a tour guide is sharing his love for the stadium with Vikings fans from all over the world.

When Kenny is not at U.S. Bank Stadium, he enjoys walking an impressive 6 to 10 miles a day, as well as skiing in winter months.

***If you had a great experience with one of our team members, please share this with us by emailing [guestservices@vikings.nfl.net](mailto:guestservices@vikings.nfl.net)! SKOL!***



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