



LB
JORDAN
HICKS

WK 17
PLAYBOOK



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TO JOIN LIGHT SHOW!



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QUESTIONS AT TONIGHT'S GAME?

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



WE ARE VIKINGS, NOT BARBARIANS. FANS ARE ASKED TO REFRAIN FROM THROWING OBJECTS OF ANY KIND IN THE STANDS OR ON THE FIELD. FAILURE TO COMPLY CAN RESULT IN REMOVAL FROM THE STADIUM. IF YOU ARE EXPERIENCING UNRULY BEHAVIOR, PLEASE TEXT "VIKES" + YOUR LOCATION AND ISSUE TO 612-777-8977.

ITEM OF THE GAME

BORDER BATTLE HOODIE
AVAILABLE AT TEAM STORE LOCATIONS

\$69.99



MINNESOTA VIKINGS
LOCKER ROOM
A Fanatics Experience



MIN GB

DEC. 31

Welcome to tonight's game between the Vikings (7-8) and Packers (7-8) on *Sunday Night Football*.

It is the 127th Border Battle and second meeting of 2023. Minnesota prevailed 24-10 at Lambeau Field on Oct. 29. In-game entertainment elements include the following:

NATIONAL ANTHEM:

Entertainer/recording artist Tymara Walker, a singer's singer and songwriter, pianist, producer and director, will perform the National Anthem.

SHOWTIME GUITARIST:

Matt Wheeler, an American guitarist and music educator who plays rock, metal, blues, jazz, classical, country and funk, will perform a solo.

FAN FLAGS: Vikings Season Ticket Members are selected for each home game to display the fan flags on the field during player introductions.

HOMETOWN HEROES: During each home game, U.S. Bank and the Vikings will recognize individuals who have helped make our community a better place. Tonight's Hometown Hero is Carneice Poe, an avid Vikings fan and two-time cancer survivor who volunteers with the Angel Foundation, which provided support after her diagnosis.

HALFTIME: Hairball featuring vocalists Kris Vox, Dave Moody and Drew Hart, base player HBK, drummer Billy and lead guitarist Happy will perform a rock & roll tribute montage. Hairball is completing its 23rd year of rocking out for thousands.

2023 TEAM STATS

YARDS PER GAME / ALLOWED

	RUSH	PASS
MIN OFF	93.1	257.1
	350.2 10TH IN THE NFL	
GB DEF	135.9	216.9
	352.9 23RD IN THE NFL	
GB OFF	106.9	224.5
	331.4 17TH IN THE NFL	
MIN DEF	95.4	225.5
	320.9 13TH IN THE NFL	

SEASON TICKET MEMBER APPRECIATION

The Vikings and Wilf Family Ownership Group appreciate the continued support of Vikings Season Ticket Members. As you proceed through this Playbook, you'll notice a ticker of names (individuals and companies) who have been Season Ticket Members since the very beginning.

JOIN THE LIGHT SHOW

You can shine during a signature Light Show. **Download the free Vikings Mobile App to participate and scan the code with your smartphone to enable your phone's flashlight.**

The Vikings Mobile App is available in the Apple and Google Play stores.

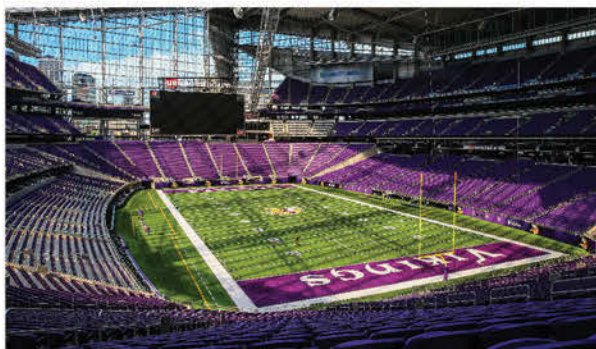


OPEN A MINNESOTA VIKINGS EXTRA POINTS VISA® CREDIT CARD TODAY!



REDEEM POINTS¹ FOR

- + Game Tickets
- + Sideline passes
- + And more!



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TONIGHT'S GAME

PROMOTIONS & CONTESTS



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.



#VIKINGSHAIR

PRESENTED BY SPALON

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.



FOOTBALL FANATIC

PRESENTED BY JAMESON

Showcase your football fandom by submitting your photo as the Jameson Football Fanatic of the Week! Fans will have a chance to win a Vikings and Jameson weekly prize pack, and one fanatic will be named the Jameson Football Fanatic of the 2023 season, winning a co-branded mini fridge. Visit vikings.com/fanatic to enter.



HY-VEE PERKS CARD

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 Perks® Card. If the Vikings score 14 points, spend \$14 or more the next day and earn 14¢ credit on your Hy-Vee Perks® Card. SKOL! Promotion valid at all Minnesota Hy-Vee locations, some limitations apply. See store for details.

OPENING DRIVE SWEEPSTAKES

PRESENTED BY KWIK TRIP

Tonight's Kwik Trip opening drive contestant is Brian from Mazeppa. He will win a \$10 Kwik Trip gift card for every yard earned on the Vikings opening drive plus an additional \$500 for field goal or \$1,000 for a touchdown. Brian will also be entered to win a pair of season tickets and free fuel for a year from Kwik Trip at the end of the season. No purchase necessary. See stores for details.



GAME-DAY GLOW GIVEAWAY

PRESENTED BY PURE LUX MEDSPA

Post your game-day picture with the Minnesota Vikings Cheerleaders on your Instagram Story to enter to win a \$100 Pure Lux Medspa gift card!

To enter, take a picture with the Vikings Cheerleaders, post the picture on your Instagram Story and tag @mvcheerleaders and @pureluxmedspa! One winner will be chosen each game day and notified via DM.

PURE LUX
WHOLE BODY MEDSPA

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. The program honors individuals who have gone to extraordinary measures to make positive differences in the community.



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SQUAD SNAPS

PRESENTED BY U.S. BANK

Visit the AR Mirror on the Upper Concourse near Section 330 to take a photo or video with your favorite Vikings players. Share your creation on social using #SquadSnapsSweepstakes for a chance to win Vikings autographed merchandise.



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! Visit Vikings Instagram and Snapchat stories to learn more.



WIN VIKTOR'S RIDE

PRESENTED BY PEPSI

Purchase your Pepsi souvenir cup at any U.S. Bank Stadium concession stand for your chance to win Viktor's ride!



FIELD GOALS FOR CHARITY

PRESENTED BY INNOVATIVE

In partnership with the Vikings and Post-it Brand, Innovative is proud to present the Field Goals for Charity Program. During the regular season, each time a Vikings kicker successfully kicks a field goal, Innovative and Post-it Brand will donate \$250 (up to \$5,000 total) to Be The Match!



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JAN 8th

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WK1
L, 20-17 **TB**

@ PHI **WK2**
L, 34-28

WK3
L, 28-24 **LAC**

@ CAR **WK4**
W, 21-13

WK5
L, 27-20 **KC**

@ CHI **WK6**
W, 19-13

WK7
W, 22-17 **SF**

@ GB **WK8**
W, 24-10

@ ATL **WK9**
W, 31-28

WK10
W, 27-19 **NO**

@ DEN **WK11**
L, 21-20

WK12
L, 12-10 **CHI**

BYE **WK13**
DEC. 3

@ LV **WK14**
W, 3-0

@ CIN **WK15**
L, 27-24, OT

WK16
L, 30-24 **DET**

WK17
DEC. 31 **GB**

@ DET **WK18**
TBD



LB | 5'10" | 231 LBS | 1ST SEASON | COLLEGE: CINCINNATI



IVAN PACE, JR.

PACE HAS GONE FROM AN UNDRAFTED FREE AGENT TO A CANDIDATE FOR DEFENSIVE ROOKIE OF THE YEAR. The linebacker has appeared in all 15 games and made 10 starts, totaling 615 snaps on defense and another 206 on special teams. Pace enters tonight's game with 81 tackles, two tackles for loss, seven quarterback hits, 2.5 sacks, two passes defensed, a forced fumble, a fumble recovery and an interception.

RARE FEATS

In Week 14, Pace became the second NFL rookie since 1994 (joining DeMeco Ryans in 2006) to record 13 tackles, a sack and an interception in one game. He also is the second undrafted rookie in Vikings history (Don Hultz) to start at least 10 games, record 2-plus sacks and an interception.



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Official Science Partner
of the Minnesota Vikings

We're here

U.S. Bank Stadium's roof

and here

3M Sensory Room

and here

Twelve different 3M Fire Protection solutions around the stadium

and here

3M Graphical Films in and around the concourse

and here

3M Hearing Protection available at stadium concierge and 3M Sensory Room

and here

3M Medical solutions inside the Vikings Trainers Room

and here

3M Adhesives and Tapes used throughout U.S. Bank Stadium

and here, too.

Vikings.com/SkolScience



VIKINGS ROSTER

#	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	EXP	COLLEGE	HOMETOWN
1	Greg Joseph	K	6-0	206	29	6	Florida Atlantic	Boca Raton, FL
2	Alexander Mattison	RB	5-11	215	25	5	Boise State	San Bernardino, CA
3	Jordan Addison	WR	5-11	175	21	R	USC	Frederick, MD
4	Brandon Powell	WR	5-8	181	28	5	Florida	Deerfield Beach, FL
5	Mekhi Blackmon	CB	5-11	178	24	R	USC	San Palo Alto, CA
6	Lewis Cine	S	6-2	199	24	2	Georgia	Everett, MA
7	Byron Murphy Jr.	CB	5-11	190	25	5	Washington	Scottsdale, AZ
11	Najee Thompson	CB	5-11	205	23	R	Georgia Southern	Boiling Springs, SC
12	Nick Mullens	QB	6-0	210	28	6	Southern Mississippi	Hoover, AL
14	Ryan Wright	P	6-3	245	23	2	Tulane	San Ramon, CA
15	Joshua Dobbs	QB	6-3	220	28	7	Tennessee	Alpharetta, GA
16	Jaren Hall	QB	6-0	207	25	R	BYU	Spanish Fork, UT
17	K.J. Osborn	WR	5-11	203	26	4	Miami	Ypsilanti, MI
18	Justin Jefferson	WR	6-1	195	24	4	LSU	St. Rose, LA
20	Jay Ward	S	6-1	188	23	R	LSU	Moultrie, GA
21	Akayleb Evans	CB	6-2	198	24	2	Missouri	McKinney, TX
22	Harrison Smith	S	6-2	211	34	12	Notre Dame	Knoxville, TN
23	Andrew Booth Jr.	CB	6-0	194	23	2	Clemson	Dacula, GA
24	Camryn Bynum	S	6-0	200	25	3	California	Corona, CA
25	Theo Jackson	S	6-1	198	25	2	Tennessee	Nashville, TN
26	Kene Nwangwu	RB	6-1	210	25	3	Iowa State	Frisco, TX
30	C.J. Ham	FB	5-11	250	30	7	Augustana	Duluth, MN
32	Ty Chandler	RB	5-11	204	25	2	North Carolina	Nashville, TN
33	Brian Asamoah II	LB	6-0	226	23	2	Oklahoma	Columbus, OH
34	Nick Muse	TE	6-5	252	25	2	South Carolina	Belmont, NC
40	Ivan Pace Jr.	LB	5-10	231	23	R	Cincinnati	Cincinnati, OH
42	Andrew DePaola	LS	6-1	229	36	9	Rutgers	Parkton, MD
44	Josh Metellus	S	5-11	207	25	4	Michigan	Pembroke Pines, FL
45	Troy Dye	LB	6-3	225	27	4	Oregon	Norco, CA
52	Sheldon Day	DL	6-1	294	29	7	Notre Dame	Indianapolis, IN
55	Andre Carter II	OLB	6-6	256	23	R	Army	Missouri City, TX
56	Garrett Bradbury	C	6-3	300	28	5	N.C. State	Charlotte, NC
58	Jordan Hicks	LB	6-1	236	31	9	Texas	Cincinnati, OH
59	Nick Vigil	LB	6-2	230	30	8	Utah State	Plain City, UT
62	Chris Reed	G	6-3	314	31	8	Minnesota State	Omaha, NE
64	Blake Brandel	G	6-7	315	26	3	Oregon State	Milwaukie, OR
65	Austin Schlottmann	C	6-6	300	28	5	TCU	Brenham, TX
66	Dalton Risner	G	6-5	312	28	5	Kansas State	Wiggins, CO
67	Ed Ingram	G	6-3	307	24	2	LSU	DeSoto, TX
71	Christian Darrisaw	T	6-5	315	24	3	Virginia Tech	Upper Marlboro, MD
75	Brian O'Neill	T	6-7	310	28	6	Pittsburgh	Wilmington, DE
76	David Quessenberry	OL	6-5	310	33	5	San Jose State	Encinitas, CA
78	Hakeem Adeniji	OL	6-4	315	26	4	Kansas	Garland, TX
83	Jalen Nailor	WR	6-0	190	24	2	Michigan State	Palmdale, CA
84	Josh Oliver	TE	6-5	259	26	5	San Jose State	Paso Robles, CA
86	Johnny Mundt	TE	6-4	233	29	6	Oregon	Modesto, CA
90	Jonathan Bullard	DL	6-3	290	30	8	Florida	Shelby, NC
91	Pat Jones II	OLB	6-4	264	25	3	Pittsburgh	Chesapeake, VA

* ROSTER AS OF PRINT DEADLINE (12.27.23)

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE...

93	Jaquelin Roy	DL	6-3	305	23	R	LSU	Baton Rouge, LA
95	Khyiris Tonga	DL	6-4	338	27	3	BYU	West Valley, UT
97	Harrison Phillips	DL	6-3	307	27	6	Stanford	Omaha, NE
99	Danielle Hunter	OLB	6-5	263	29	9	LSU	Katy, TX

PRACTICE SQUAD

9	Trishton Jackson	WR	6-1	191	25	2	Syracuse	West Bloomfield, MI
13	N'Keal Harry	WR	6-4	225	26	5	Arizona State	Chandler, AZ
27	DeWayne McBride	RB	5-10	209	22	R	UAB	Starke, FL
29	Joejuan Williams	CB	6-3	212	26	5	Vanderbilt	Nashville, TN
37	Myles Gaskin	RB	5-10	199	26	5	Washington	Lynnwood, WA
38	Jaylin Williams	CB	5-10	195	23	R	Indiana	Memphis, TN
41	Austin Bryant	OLB	6-5	250	27	5	Clemson	Pavo, GA
48	Quincy Roche	OLB	6-3	245	25	2	Miami	Randallstown, MD
50	T.J. Smith	DL	6-3	300	26	2	Arkansas	Moultrie, GA
54	Anthony Barr	LB	6-5	257	31	10	UCLA	San Pedro, CA
63	Coy Cronk	T	6-4	318	25	2	Iowa	Lafayette, IN
68	Henry Byrd	G	6-5	310	24	R	Princeton	Nashville, TN
79	Tyrese Robinson	G	6-3	317	24	1	Oklahoma	Boyd, TX
81	Lucky Jackson	WR	6-0	186	26	1	Western Kentucky	Lexington, KY
82	Troy Fumagalli	TE	6-6	248	28	5	Wisconsin	Aurora, IL
89	Thayer Thomas	WR	6-0	195	25	R	N.C. State	Wake Forest, NC

INJURED RESERVE

	Malik Knowles	WR	6-2	196	23	R	Kansas State	Mansfield, TX
0	Marcus Davenport	OLB	6-6	265	27	6	Texas-San Antonio	San Antonio, TX
8	Kirk Cousins	QB	6-3	205	35	12	Michigan State	Holland, MI
31	Cam Akers	RB	5-10	217	24	4	Florida State	Clinton, MS
47	William Kwenkeu	LB	6-1	235	26	2	Temple	Waldorf, MD
74	Olisaemeka Udoh	T	6-6	320	26	5	Elon	Fayetteville, NC
87	T.J. Hockenson	TE	6-5	248	26	5	Iowa	Chariton, IA
92	James Lynch	DL	6-4	295	24	4	Baylor	Round Rock, TX
94	Dean Lowry	DL	6-6	296	29	8	Northwestern	Rockford, IL
98	D.J. Wonnum	OLB	6-5	258	26	4	South Carolina	Stone Mountain, GA

PRACTICE SQUAD EXEMPTION (INTERNATIONAL PLAYER PATHWAY)

73	Junior Aho	DL	6-4	272	24	R	SMU	Nice, France
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UNOFFICIAL DEPTH CHART

VIKINGS OFFENSE

WR	Jefferson	Addison	Powell
LT	Darrisaw	Quessenberry	
LG	Risner	Reed	
C	Bradbury	Schlottmann	
RG	Ingram	Brandel	
RT	O'Neill	Adeniji	
TE	Oliver	Mundt	Muse
WR	Osborn	Nailor	
QB	Mullens	Hall	Dobbs
RB	Mattison	Chandler	Nwangwu
FB	Ham		

VIKINGS DEFENSE

OLB	Hunter		
DE	Tonga	Day	
NT	Phillips		
DE	Bullard	Roy	
OLB	Jones II	Carter II	
WLB	Dye	Vigil	
MLB	Pace Jr.	Asamoah II	
CB	Evans	Booth Jr.	Thompson
CB	Murphy Jr.	Blackmon	
S	Smith	Metellus	Ward
S	Bynum	Cine	Th. Jackson

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FIRST TEAMS



2
RUNNING BACK
ALEXANDER
MATTISON



12
QUARTERBACK
NICK MULLENS



30
FULLBACK
C.J. HAM



17
WIDE RECEIVER
K.J. OSBORN



84
TIGHT END
JOSH OLIVER



75
RIGHT TACKLE
BRIAN O'NEILL



67
RIGHT GUARD
ED INGRAM



56
CENTER
GARRETT
BRADBURY



66
LEFT GUARD
DALTON RISNER



71
LEFT TACKLE
CHRISTIAN
DARRISAW



18
WIDE RECEIVER
JUSTIN JEFFERSON

VIKINGS OFFENSE



23
CORNERBACK
JAIRE ALEXANDER



52
OUTSIDE LINEBACKER
RASHAN GARY



97
DEFENSIVE END
KENNY CLARK



93
NOSE TACKLE
T.J. SLATON



95
DEFENSIVE END
DEVONTE WYATT



91
OUTSIDE LINEBACKER
PRESTON SMITH



21
CORNERBACK
ERIC STOKES



26
SAFETY
DARNELL SAVAGE



7
INSIDE LINEBACKER
QUAY WALKER



59
INSIDE LINEBACKER
DE'VONDRE CAMPBELL



34
SAFETY
JONATHAN OWENS

VIKINGS SPECIAL TEAMS



1
KICKER
GREG
JOSEPH



14
PUNTER
RYAN WRIGHT



42
LONG
SNAPPER
ANDREW
DEPAOLA



4
PUNT
RETURNER
BRANDON POWELL



26
KICK
RETURNER
KENE NWANGWU



24
SAFETY
CAMRYN BYNUM



58
LINEBACKER
JORDAN HICKS



40
LINEBACKER
IVAN PACE JR.



22
SAFETY
HARRISON SMITH



7
CORNERBACK
BYRON MURPHY JR.



99
OUTSIDE
LINEBACKER
DANIELLE HUNTER



95
DEFENSIVE LINE
KHYIRIS TONGA



97
DEFENSIVE LINE
HARRISON PHILLIPS



90
DEFENSIVE LINE
JONATHAN BULLARD



91
OUTSIDE
LINEBACKER
PAT JONES II



21
CORNERBACK
AKAYLEB EVANS

VIKINGS DEFENSE

PACKERS OFFENSE



9
WIDE RECEIVER
CHRISTIAN WATSON



87
WIDE RECEIVER
ROMEO DOUBS



63
LEFT TACKLE
RASHEED WALKER



74
LEFT GUARD
ELTON JENKINS



71
CENTER
JOSH MYERS



76
RIGHT GUARD
JON RUNYAN



50
RIGHT TACKLE
ZACH TOM



85
TIGHT END
TUCKER KRAFT



11
WIDE RECEIVER
JAYDEN REED



10
QUARTERBACK
JORDAN LOVE



33
RUNNING BACK
AARON JONES

PACKERS SPECIAL TEAMS



17
KICKER
ANDERS CARLSON



19
PUNTER
DANIEL WHELAN



42
LONG SNAPPER
MATT ORZECH



25
KICK/PUNT
RETURNER
KEISEAN NIXON





Wake Up

with  !

live & local all morning



PACKERS ROSTER

#	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	EXP	COLLEGE	HOMETOWN
7	Quay Walker	LB	6-4	241	23	2	Georgia	Cordele, GA
8	Sean Clifford	QB	6-2	218	25	R	Penn State	Cincinnati, OH
9	Christian Watson	WR	6-4	208	24	2	North Dakota State	Tampa, FL
10	Jordan Love	QB	6-4	219	25	4	Utah State	Bakersfield, CA
11	Jayden Reed	WR	5-11	187	23	R	Michigan State	Naperville, IL
13	Dontayvion Wicks	WR	6-1	206	22	R	Virginia	Plaquemine, LA
17	Anders Carlson	K	6-5	219	25	R	Auburn	Colorado Springs, CO
18	Malik Heath	WR	6-2	213	23	R	Mississippi	Jackson, MS
19	Daniel Whelan	P	6-5	216	24	1	UC Davis	Rancho Mirage, CA
20	Rudy Ford	S	6-0	210	29	7	Auburn	New Hope, AL
21	Eric Stokes	CB	6-1	194	24	3	Georgia	Covington, GA
22	Robert Rochell	CB	6-0	193	25	3	Central Arkansas	Shreveport, LA
23	Jaire Alexander	CB	5-10	196	26	6	Louisville	Mint Hill, NC
25	Keisean Nixon	CB	5-10	200	26	5	South Carolina	Los Angeles, CA
26	Darnell Savage	S	5-11	198	26	5	Maryland	Bear, DE
27	Patrick Taylor	RB	6-1	217	25	3	Memphis	Humble, TX
28	AJ Dillon	RB	6-0	247	25	4	Boston College	Groton, MA
30	David Long Jr.	CB	5-11	196	25	5	Michigan	Los Angeles, CA
33	Aaron Jones	RB	5-9	208	29	7	Texas-El Paso	El Paso, TX
34	Jonathan Owens	S	5-11	210	28	5	Missouri Western	St. Louis, MO
35	Corey Ballentine	CB	5-11	196	27	5	Washburn	Tecumseh, KS
36	Anthony Johnson Jr.	S	6-0	205	24	R	Iowa State	St. Petersburg, FL
37	Carrington Valentine	CB	6-0	189	22	R	Kentucky	Cincinnati, OH
39	Zayne Anderson	S	6-2	206	26	1	Brigham Young	Stansbury Park, UT
42	Matt Orzech	LS	6-3	245	28	4	Azusa Pacific	Menifee, CA
45	Eric Wilson	LB	6-1	230	29	7	Cincinnati	Redford, MI
50	Zach Tom	OL	6-4	304	24	2	Wake Forest	Baton Rouge, LA
52	Rashan Gary	LB	6-5	277	26	5	Michigan	Paramus, NJ
54	Kristian Welch	LB	6-3	240	25	4	Iowa	Iola, WI
55	Kingsley Enagbare	LB	6-4	258	23	2	South Carolina	Atlanta, GA
57	Brenton Cox Jr.	LB	6-4	250	23	R	Florida	Stockbridge, GA
58	Isaiah McDuffie	LB	6-1	227	24	3	Boston College	Buffalo, NY
59	De'Vondre Campbell	LB	6-4	232	30	8	Minnesota	Fort Myers, FL
63	Rasheed Walker	T	6-6	324	23	2	Penn State	Waldorf, MD
70	Royce Newman	G/T	6-5	310	26	3	Mississippi	Nashville, IL
71	Josh Myers	C/G	6-5	310	25	3	Ohio State	Miamisburg, OH
72	Caleb Jones	T	6-9	370	24	2	Indiana	Indianapolis, IN
73	Yosh Nijman	T	6-7	314	27	4	Virginia Tech	Maplewood, NJ
74	Elgton Jenkins	G/T	6-5	311	28	5	Mississippi State	Clarksdale, MS
75	Sean Rhyan	G	6-5	321	23	2	UCLA	San Juan Capistrano, CA
76	Jon Runyan	G	6-4	307	26	4	Michigan	Philadelphia, PA
81	Josiah Deguara	TE	6-2	238	26	4	Cincinnati	Folsom, CA
83	Samori Toure	WR	6-1	191	25	2	Nebraska	Portland, OR
85	Tucker Kraft	TE	6-5	259	23	R	South Dakota State	Timber Lake, SD
87	Romeo Doubs	WR	6-2	204	23	2	Nevada	Los Angeles, CA
89	Ben Sims	TE	6-5	250	23	R	Baylor	San Antonio, TX
90	Lukas Van Ness	LB	6-5	272	22	R	Iowa	Barrington, IL

* ROSTER AS OF PRINT DEADLINE (12.27.23)

Nygaard, Eric Rawdon, Eric Roach, Ernest Betloch, Eugene C. Chase, "EVCO Petroleum Products, Inc.", Farvet Supply Co, Federated Mutual Ins Co, Ferguson Enterprises, First National Bank of Milaca, Flint Communications, Forrest Sparke, Francie C. Owens, Frank A.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE...

#	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	EXP	COLLEGE	HOMETOWN
91	Preston Smith	LB	6-5	265	31	9	Mississippi State	Stone Mountain, GA
93	T.J. Slaton	DL	6-4	330	26	3	Florida	Plantation, FL
94	Karl Brooks	DL	6-3	296	23	R	Bowling Green	Lansing, MI
95	Devonte Wyatt	DL	6-3	304	25	2	Georgia	Decatur, GA
96	Colby Wooden	DL	6-4	273	23	R	Auburn	Lawrenceville, GA
97	Kenny Clark	DL	6-3	314	28	8	UCLA	Rialto, CA

PRACTICE SQUAD

2	Alex McGough	QB	6-3	214	28	1	Florida International	Tampa, FL
16	Thyrick Pitts	WR	6-2	201	22	R	Delaware	Manassas, VA
29	Zyon Gilbert	CB	6-0	193	24	1	Florida Atlantic	Montgomery, AL
32	Kenyan Drake	RB	6-1	210	29	8	Alabama	Powder Springs, GA
38	Ellis Merriweather	RB	6-2	220	24	R	Massachusetts	Alpharetta, GA
44	Henry Pearson	FB	6-2	249	24	R	Appalachian State	Paramus, NJ
48	Benny Sapp III	S	5-11	200	23	R	Northern Iowa	Eden Prairie, MN
51	Keshawn Banks	LB	6-3	251	24	R	San Diego State	Rio Rancho, NM
53	Arron Mosby	LB	6-3	250	24	2	Fresno State	Sanger, CA
77	Kadeem Telfort	T	6-7	322	25	R	UAB	Miami, FL
79	Michael Jordan	OL	6-6	315	25	5	Ohio State	Canton, MI
80	Bo Melton	WR	5-11	189	24	1	Rutgers	Egg Harbor City, NJ
82	Joel Wilson	TE	6-4	242	23	R	Central Michigan	Petoskey, MI
86	Grant DuBose	WR	6-2	201	22	R	Charlotte	Montgomery, AL
98	Chris Slayton	DL	6-4	307	27	1	Syracuse	Crete, IL
99	Jonathan Ford	DL	6-5	338	25	2	Miami (Fla.)	Fort Lauderdale, FL

INJURED RESERVE

31	Emanuel Wilson	RB	5-10	226	24	R	Fort Valley State	Huntersville, NC
69	David Bakhtiari	T	6-4	310	32	11	Colorado	San Mateo, CA
78	Luke Tenuta	T	6-8	314	24	2	Virginia Tech	Crozet, VA
84	Tyler Davis	TE	6-4	252	26	4	Georgia Tech	Bellmore, NY
88	Luke Musgrave	TE	6-6	253	23	R	Oregon State	Bend, OR

PRACTICE SQUAD EXEMPTION (INTERNATIONAL PLAYER PATHWAY)

56	Kenneth Odumegwu	LB	6-6	259	23	R	NFL International	Lagos, Nigeria
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* ROSTER AS OF PRINT DEADLINE (12.27.23)

UNOFFICIAL DEPTH CHART

PACKERS OFFENSE

WR	Watson	Heath	
WR	Doubs	Wicks	
LT	Walker	Nijman	
LG	Jenkins	Newman	
C	Myers	Runyan	
RG	Runyan	Rhyan	
RT	Tom	C. Jones	
TE	Kraft	Deguara	Sims
WR	Reed	Toure	
QB	Love	Clifford	
RB	A. Jones	Dillon	Taylor

PACKERS DEFENSE

OLB	P. Smith	Van Ness	
DE	Clark	Wooden	
NT	Slaton	Brooks	
DE	Wyatt	Brooks	
OLB	Gary	Enagbare	Cox Jr.
ILB	Campbell	McDuffie	Welch
ILB	Walker	Wilson	
CB	Alexander	Valentine	Rochell
CB	Stokes	Nixon	Ballentine
S	Savage	Ford	Anderson
S	Owens	Johnson Jr.	

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CHI WK1
W, 38-20

ATL WK2
L, 25-24

WK3
W, 18-17 **NO**

WK4
L, 34-20 **DET**

LV WK5
L, 17-13

BYE WK6
OCT. 15

DEN WK7
L, 19-17

WK8
L, 24-10 **MIN**

WK9
W, 20-3 **LAR**

PIT WK10
L, 23-19

WK11
W, 23-20 **LAC**

WK12
W, 29-22 **DET**

WK13
W, 27-19 **KC**

NYG WK14
L, 24-22

WK15
L, 34-20 **TB**

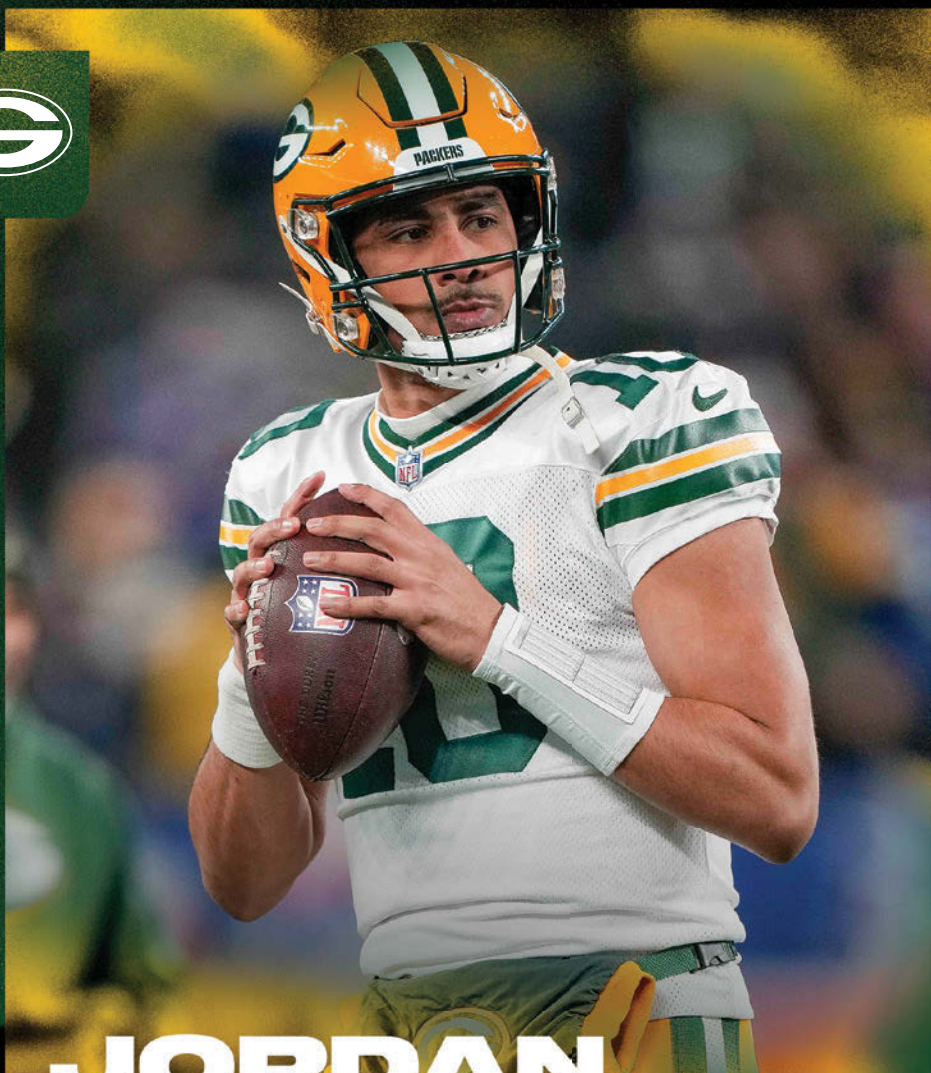
CAR WK16
W, 33-30

MIN WK17
7:20 PM

WK18
JAN. 7 **CHI**



QUARTERBACK | 6'4" | 219 LBS | 4TH SEASON | COLLEGE: UTAH STATE



JORDAN LOVE

A first-round pick in 2020, Love has thrown 27 touchdowns against 11 interceptions in his first full season as a starter, averaging 239.1 passing yards per game and totaling a passer rating of 91.8. Since facing the Vikings in Week 8, Love has had a passer rating of 108.5 or higher in six different games. Love's four games with three-plus touchdown passes and no interceptions through his first 15 career starts tied for the most in NFL history (stat kept since 1950).

FIRST TIME IN A LONG TIME

Love is poised to become the first Packers quarterback not named Brett Favre (1992-2007) or Aaron Rodgers (2008-22) to start a Border Battle in Minnesota since Mike Tomczak in 1991. Favre was 6-10 when opening games at the Metrodome. Rodgers went 7-8 when opening games at the Metrodome (3-3), University of Minnesota (2-0) and U.S. Bank Stadium (2-5).

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MIN vs GB

SERIES HISTORY



ALL-TIME RESULTS

VIKINGS ARE 58-65-3

(126 GAMES)

57-64-3 IN REGULAR SEASON;

1-1 IN POSTSEASON

LONGEST WIN STREAK

7 GAMES BY VIKINGS

(Nov. 2, 1975 – Oct. 22, 1978)

FIRST MEETING IN MINNESOTA

OCT. 22, 1961 | 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 Minnesota's lone touchdown on his second career rushing score.

PREVIOUS MEETING IN MINNESOTA

SEPT. 11, 2022 | VIKINGS 23, PACKERS 7

The Kevin O'Connell era in Minnesota began with Kirk Cousins connecting with Justin Jefferson nine times for 184 yards and two touchdowns, helping the Vikings build a 20-0 lead with 9:46 remaining in the third quarter. Harrison Smith nabbed an interception with less than a minute remaining in the first half. It was his sixth all-time against Green Bay.



THROWBACK MOMENT

PICKY, PICKY, PICKY

Fifty years ago, the Vikings visited the Packers on Dec. 8, 1973, and cornerback Bobby Bryant recorded three interceptions, including one he returned 46 yards for a touchdown and 14-point lead in the first quarter of a 31-7 win.

The Vikings struck with multiple big plays. Stu Voigt caught a 21-yard touchdown pass from Fran Tarkenton before Bryant's third career interception

return touchdown in a regular-season game.

Rookie Chuck Foreman's 50-yard touchdown run followed in the second quarter and was joined before halftime with a 20-yard touchdown pass from Tarkenton to John Gilliam.

Green Bay avoided a shutout with a 17-yard touchdown pass from Jim Del Gaizo to Barry Smith in the fourth quarter.

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)

154 Aaron Jones on 23 attempts in MIN (12.23.19)

PASSING YARDS

385 Aaron Rodgers on 23-of-33 passing in MIN (11.21.21)

384 Aaron Rodgers on 26-of-37 passing in MIN (10.05.09)

RECEIVING YARDS

191 Donald Driver on six catches in MIN (11.12.06)

164 Donald Driver on 11 catches in MIN (12.24.04)

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THAT DESERVES A CROWN RECIPIENTS



DANIELLE HUNTER HAS HIT MILESTONES AND QUARTERBACKS THIS SEASON.

He enters Week 17 with 15.5 sacks, which topped his previous high of 14.5 (set in 2018 and matched in 2019) and ranks third in the NFL this season.

In becoming the sixth different Viking all-time to post at least 15.5 sacks in a season, Hunter has pushed his career total to 86.5, passing Vikings Ring of Honor defensive end Jared Allen (85.5 from 2008-13) for sixth in franchise history.

Hunter currently leads the NFL with 21 tackles for loss, which ties his most in a season (21 in 2018), and he also has recorded 21 quarterback hits, which is one behind the 22 he recorded in 2019 and matched last season.

In addition to saluting Hunter's fine season that is likely to garner a fourth Pro Bowl trip, the Vikings and Crown Royal are proud to recognize this year's "That Deserves a Crown" award winners.

"That Deserves a Crown" recognizes people making a positive impact in the community by living generously in their daily lives.

THEA VAN GORDON | SEPT. 10

A second-grade teacher at Minnehaha Academy, Thea Van Gordon has been pouring her heart into her young students for more than 20 years.

HALEY MILLS | SEPT. 24

Haley Mills is a Minneapolis-based marketing and social media professional who recently launched a podcast, "Sports and the City." Diagnosed at the age of 17 with Crohn's Disease, Mills is a passionate advocate for others navigating digestive diseases. Through various fundraisers, she has raised thousands of dollars for the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation Minnesota/Dakotas Chapter and for Team Challenge.

KONNOR KIELMAN | OCT. 8

Konnor Kielman received his doctorate in occupational therapy at the University of South Dakota. He's a diehard Vikings fan, but his No. 1 passion is supporting and serving U.S. military veterans with Parkinson's Disease.

PATRICK NETTESHEIM | OCT. 23

Patrick Nettesheim and the team at Guitars 4 Vets are saving the lives of veterans by bringing joy and providing hope through the healing nature of music. Nearly 1 million United States military veterans are afflicted by PTSD; in fact, more soldiers have committed suicide since the Vietnam War than have died in actual battle. But many are finding hope in an unlikely place: behind the wood and strings of an acoustic guitar.

SULO KYRRA | NOV. 12

Lt. Sulo Kyrra (front row, second from right) is a member of the Cannon Falls Emergency Medical Services group. Kyrra was the first on the scene of an apartment fire, where he learned there were two children trapped inside. He bravely entered the burning building and rescued both children. He is pictured here with members of his family, members of the Cannon Falls Ambulance Service, MN 100 Club Board President Lanee Noble and Board Member Ray Noble.

LISA PIPPENTROP | NOV. 27

Public Safety Telecommunicator Lisa Rippentrop of the Freeborn County Sheriff's Office was recognized for her work in securing necessary information in a difficult situation to quickly dispatch first responders to a potential crime scene – and then to help apprehend a suspect. Rippentrop has been dispatching for more than 29 years.

DAVID AULIE | DEC. 24

Deerwood Firefighter David Aulie responded to a call for a fully engulfed house fire. He climbed into the second-story bedroom window and rescued a woman who was covered in debris. Aulie is pictured here (third from the right) with MN 100 Club Executive Director Julie Gotham, Deerwood Assistant Fire Chief Tom Nixon, Firefighter Andrew Kayfes, Deerwood Fire Chief Mike Bodle and Tom Brace, MN 100 Club Vice President and retired State of Minnesota Fire Marshal.

BRODY MERRILL | DEC. 31

Deputy Brody Merrill of the Pope County Sheriff's Department was elected as the Police Officer First Responder of the Year by the MN 100 Club for his heroic actions when a suspect opened fire on Deputy Merrill and two other officers. Though wounded himself, Deputy Merrill rendered comfort and first aid to his partner, Josh Owen, who tragically succumbed to his injuries.

Four of this season's That Deserves a Crown recipients were brought to us by the MN 100 Club, a nonprofit formed in 1972 to provide emergency financial assistance to first responders who are killed or critically injured in the line of duty. In 2023 alone, more than \$200,000 has been given to families of Minnesota first responders. Funds are raised through memberships, special events and the sale of specialty license plates. For more information on how you can support Minnesota First Responders, please visit mn100club.org.



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J O R D A N H I C K S

ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE

BY LINDSEY YOUNG

TWO DECADES. That's how long Hicks has been playing football. Now 31 years old, he's spent 20 of those years on or near a gridiron.

While it's no secret the NFL schedule can be a grind at times, Hicks always wears a smile beneath his helmet. Because whether it's the dog days of training camp, 6 a.m. arrival times after a West Coast *Sunday Night Football* game or an outdoor practice on a chilly Minnesota afternoon, Hicks' gratitude runs deep.

Football was fun when he scored his first touchdown at 11 years old, and it's still fun now.

Hicks is careful to never take a day in this league for granted.

"I've been through a lot of scenarios that have felt like it could potentially be closer to the end of my career than the beginning," Hicks said. "And now, more is behind me than ahead. I think it's allowed me to truly appreciate just being out there, messing around on the field and the small things of being with the guys."

He's overcome hurdles along the way, including a pectoral tear and ruptured Achilles in 2015 and 2017, respectively, that threatened to shorten his playing days. And most recently, a fluke injury almost cost him much more than that.

During the first series of Minnesota's Week 10 game against New Orleans, Hicks attempted a tackle of RB Alvin Kamara and was struck inadvertently by teammate Camryn Bynum, whose knee collided with Hicks' shin.

Believing it to be a contusion, Hicks pushed past the initial pain and re-entered the game after exiting for a brief time. But as the first Saints possession of the second half neared its

end, he knew something wasn't right.

Hicks certainly is no stranger to pain, but what he experienced entered a new realm.

He described the agony as "the deepest, darkest ache you can probably imagine," rendering him helpless to find any level of comfort or even function coherently.

Hicks ultimately was transferred via ambulance to undergo emergency surgery for compartment syndrome, a condition in which pressure rises in and around the muscles, most often in the lower leg.

Limiting the flow of blood, oxygen and nutrients to muscles and nerves, compartment syndrome can cause serious damage, including the need for amputation. In rare cases, it has resulted in death.

The moments leading into surgery remain a blur for Hicks, but he remembers clearly the doctor's words upon waking: "It's a good thing you got in, because you could have lost your leg."

"I'm thankful," Hicks said. "Thankful and blessed to be where I'm at."

MAKING HIS MARK

Incredibly, tonight marks Hicks' second game back in action.

He diligently rested, then just as diligently rehabbed, in order to play Week 16 against the Lions and record nine tackles, a pass defended and a QB hit of Jared Goff.

Hicks' game-day tights conceal a nearly 12-inch scar. The wound healed effortlessly but leaves behind a reminder of what could have been.

Missing four games may mean he's not finishing this season with career numbers, but Hicks' impact on a strong Vikings defense in 2023 is undeniable.

He's thrived in Defensive Coordinator Brian Flores' system, the first time Hicks has been part of such a pressure-heavy defense.

"I've been in defenses that blitz a lot, but there's a lot of responsibility that comes with it. This defense allows you to play fast and play free and really use your

instincts to be in the right spot and make plays," he said. "It's a lot less black and white than a lot of people are probably used to on the defensive side, but it allows us to play with a freedom that, I know for me, no other defense has allowed me to."

"It also has given me the opportunity to make checks and to take ownership and to kind of do what I feel is right on the field, without [Flores] really second-guessing me, which is awesome to have in a defensive coordinator," Hicks added. "I think it's given us a lot of freedom, a lot of ability to just use our instincts and natural-given ability to be in the right spot and make plays."

And as much as Hicks has enjoyed playing in Flores' defense, the coordinator conversely called it a "joy" to coach the linebacker.

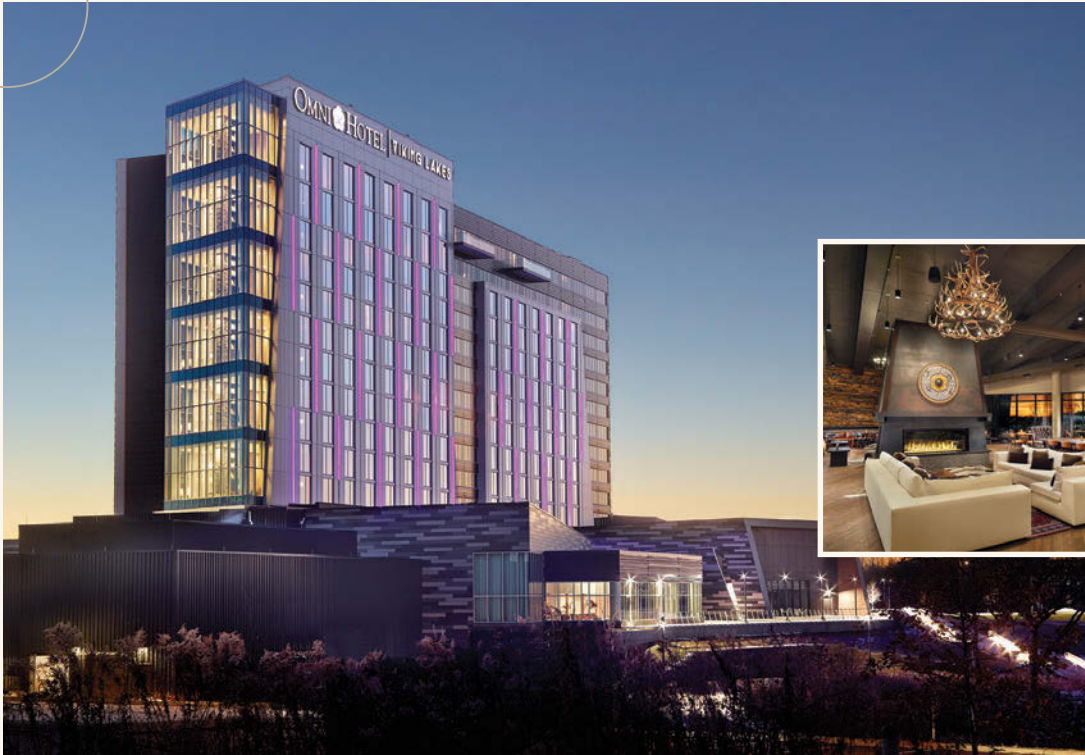
"I can't say enough good things about him. He brings leadership. He's got presence. He's really got command of the defense and understanding of what we're trying to do and why we're trying to do it," Flores noted. "He's serious about the game. He's serious about doing things correctly, doing things the right way, but he also has a great time playing football."

"When you can combine all those things – being serious about it and really locking in ... but applying it while having a good time, that's really what you're looking for. That's what I like to see. That's what we as coaches like to see," Flores continued. "I tell our players this: 'You've gotta have peace, and you've gotta have fun to play at your top level.' He certainly has that."

Hicks has totaled 96 tackles, five passes defended, a forced fumble and two fumble recoveries – including one returned for a touchdown at Chicago.

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Hicks also nabbed an interception that day, helping the Vikings spark a five-game win streak.

But when you really see him celebrate? Anytime his teammates are the ones making plays.

Whether it's Josh Metellus' fumble recovery against the Falcons, Camryn Bynum's two picks on *Monday Night Football*, Byron Murphy, Jr.'s late pick against New Orleans, Ivan Pace, Jr.'s at Las Vegas, or one of Danielle Hunter's sacks, Hicks is typically among the first running to congratulate ... or to limbo beneath a hoisted Akayleb Evans in the end zone, as he did against the Niners.

"We're out there having a great time, and that's what makes it special," Hicks said.

THE GLUE OF THE DEFENSE

When Hicks first arrived in Minnesota in spring 2022, he wasted no time getting to know his new teammates.

He and Eric Kendricks connected quickly, as leaders in the linebacker room and on the field, as well as fast friends outside the team facility.

"He's a football guy," said Kendricks, who joined the Chargers this past offseason. "He understands the game well and communicates well. I mean, I feel like there's not much that Jordan Hicks doesn't do well. He never gets enough credit for that, either.

"He's just one of the boys. He can hang out with everybody, gets along with everybody," Kendricks added. "He really molds well with any group."

Vikings linebacker Troy Dye was grateful last season for Hicks' immediate willingness to get to know younger players and share any experience he could.

"You can tell he's just a natural leader," Dye said. "He's been in the league awhile, had played for two different teams already, so he knew how to fit into different locker rooms. He's definitely the mold of guys we have here – a very outgoing person, very smart, selfless, wants to help everyone around him be better. He fit in perfectly."

Hicks' mother, Kelly Justice, has seen that magnetic personality in action since Hicks was young.

"He'd get the neighborhood boys together and, as a group, they'd plan some fun activity – from building bike ramps, creek walks, forts in the woods, basketball games in the driveway," Justice recalled. "He was always a leader, and the boys always wanted Jordan to come out and play."

For Hicks, it all comes down to being his authentic self and always staying focused on the bigger picture.

He wants to pay forward what he learned from former All-Pro linebacker and current Texans Head Coach DeMeco Ryans, who took Hicks under his wing in Philadelphia

and invested in him – rather than compete with him – as a young player and teammate.

"I can't connect with a rookie or a second-year guy if I don't know who they are. If I don't know personal things about them, what they like to do, how they see the game," Hicks noted. "So every time I have an opportunity to sit down and ask questions, or give some type of advice, tell a little bit of my story, I'm always looking for those opportunities."

It's why Hicks spent most Thursday evenings this season bonding with defensive teammates in ways completely removed from football.

In early November, he reserved a suite for the group at the Minnesota Wild-New York Rangers game and provided his fellow linebackers with custom Wild jerseys.

"I'm just always looking for more opportunities to connect," Hicks said. "If you know the person next to you on game day, you're not willing to give up easily. You're willing to go the extra step, you're willing to do more for him.

"There's no secret – the closest teams and the guys who connect the most on the field are the defenses and the teams that play the best," continued Hicks, who earned a Super Bowl LII ring with the Eagles. "You see us – we're having fun out there. We're playing fast, we're playing physical, and we're celebrating. It's because of the camaraderie and the culture that's in this building, that's on this defense."

Players like Dye and Pace understand not only the benefit of learning from a veteran like Hicks but also that it's not a given at this level.

Some veterans could perceive younger players as job threats – and yet that's never been Hicks' concern.

"He wants everybody around him to be great. He doesn't care who's playing, as long as the best player is playing. If he feels like he's being outperformed, that's only going to elevate his game," Dye said. "He wants the best for everybody. When you see that, it helps you improve your



own game, and it sets a good example for the future for you ... so when they get to that point in their career where they're five, six, seven years in, you're doing the same thing."

'WHERE MY FEET ARE'

Looking from the outside in, one might wonder how Hicks balances it all.

Studying the game he loves, teaching younger players, planning and executing teammate outings, rehabbing a potentially devastating injury and being a dedicated family man.

Hicks prioritizes being a loving husband to Ivana and father to three young children, Ayven, Lukah and Taliya.

Every day on the field or in his home might not be perfect. But every day, he's thankful.

"There are hard times," Hicks acknowledged. "When I've got to leave for work in the morning and my daughter's telling me, 'Don't go' or crying that I'm leaving - that's not easy. But you keep the perspective that they're seeing their dad working hard. These are times they'll remember. So there's a payoff. And it's not easy all the time. But you take it day by day, you take it moment by moment."

"I try to be as present as possible. Be where my feet are," he added. "That's kind of how I approach it. It's not always easy, that's for sure. But it's a lot of fun, and it's very rewarding. I'm doing what I love - in all aspects of life. I love parenting, I love playing football, I love being a good husband."

Whether Hicks knows it or not, it's yet another area he's setting an example.

"He views life more than just the game of football. I think a lot of guys get caught up in, 'I'm just a football player; this is all I do,'" Dye said. "But he's a very hands-on father ... he's very big on doing things in the community. He's big outside the game of football, so he's not 'just' a football player. He wears many different hats, and that helps him keep a balanced life."

Hicks has relied on that perspective during a season in which the Vikings have met a tremendous amount of adversity. At 7-8, they're facing a steep climb to a postseason opportunity that includes two must-win division matchups, starting tonight against the Packers (also 7-8).

The losses sting. But no matter the outcome, he's thankful to be out there between the white lines.

"I wanted to ... play free, have fun," Hicks said following last week's game.

"My body felt good. My mind felt good."

Because at the end of the day, Hicks is playing for something bigger. "I used to be the player that wouldn't look at my mom or Ivana if they're on the sideline ... but now I'm over

here playing catch on the sideline with [my kids pregame]," Hicks said. "It's less about me, and it's more about the experience and more about the learning and the teaching moments. And leaving a legacy."

"One day when they get older, hopefully they'll remember these times. And if they don't, that when they talk to somebody about who Jordan Hicks was, who their dad was, that whoever that person is has nothing but great things to say - and it pushes them to be a better person," he added. "It's why I play. It's my motivation right now. I love the game of football, but a lot of my motivation comes from my family."



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FILM SESSION

By Lindsey Young

F E A T . H A R R I S O N S M I T H

As a rookie, Harrison Smith would often stay late at the Vikings Winter Park practice facility to watch film. He'd pull up a chair to a small table in the defensive backs room, flip on the computer screen and use the mouse to click through frame by frame, keying in on anything he could to grow his game.

Eleven years later, the location and method have changed, but the attention to detail hasn't.

Smith now has film readily available on his iPad, meaning he's able to – and does – study in the locker room, on the bus to

or from games, at the kitchen table of his Twin Cities home or in bed before turning in for the night.

But every now and then, Smith finds himself still sneaking into the DBs room – now at Twin Cities Orthopedics

Performance Center – to click through a game the old-fashioned way.

"If I'm feeling nostalgic or something," he said, offering a slight grin. "And I think it can actually be a little more efficient when you do it that way, because you have a little bit more to work with.

"The use of the iPad or Microsoft Surface has been great for guys having constant access to film," Smith added. "Sometimes we get a little spoiled ... but it's a really nice tool for everybody to use." Whether it's after a big win, a tough

loss or
after installing
a new play during
OTAs, Smith jumps to
the tape.

"If I had a bad practice, I always want to go watch the film," he said. "I just want to see, 'Why did I do that?' ... You try to be harder on yourself than your coach is going to be. You're just gonna be better. That's just how it is.

"Some of the most fun I've had watching film, though, is on game days – after the game. Especially after a win," he added.

Smith recalled last season's defeat of the Saints in London, after which everyone pulled out their devices to review the game during the Transatlantic flight. Or the much shorter trip from Buffalo to Minneapolis following the Vikings roller-coaster win over the Bills.

For every snap, there are 22 viewpoints to unravel.

"Everybody has their own story throughout the game. That you didn't see. That no one else saw," Smith said. "I remember watching something with Eric Kendricks after we played Green Bay one time, and we were going through the whole game, and he's like, 'Oh – this is the play.'

"He'd just gotten folded up by, like, all these different angles," Smith continued. "He was just getting hit everywhere. I would have never seen that. I didn't see it, and I was right next to him during the game. But hearing him [explain], 'This is what I was seeing. I took this step, and then this guy was on me.'

"It's a little story every time," he added.

"The stuff like that, especially when you win? It's just fun to sit around and talk football."

He's earned six Pro Bowl nods and in 2017 was named First-Team All-Pro by *The Associated Press*. Smith is a four-time team captain for Minnesota and has played 174 career games, the most by any Vikings defensive back.

At 34 years old, Smith is among the NFL's elder tier of defenders – and yet he continues to impact the game. Against the Panthers in Week 4, he became the first player since at least 1994 to record 14 tackles, 3.0 sacks and a forced fumble in a single game.

One might think by this point in his career, Smith has learned all he can from film study.

But that simply isn't the case. It's the greats who are never content.

Vikings defensive backs coach Daronte Jones believes the players who truly utilize film study are the ones who see longevity in the league.

"Our bodies don't move like they used to the older we get. So then, what becomes your advantage? The things that were great for you before may not be great for you now, so how do you adjust your game?" Jones said. "And I think Harrison's done a phenomenal job at adjusting his game, becoming more cerebral."

Josh Metellus has been watching Smith since the Vikings drafted the elder safety out of Notre Dame in 2012. The 2020 draft pick has gleaned from Smith at every opportunity.

Metellus has noticed what Jones pointed out, that Smith has learned to create advantages.

"He's a flat-out dog, too, so that helps," Metellus said with a grin. "But a lot of

2-2's game is mental, and he puts himself in positions to make plays. He capitalizes on those. The more he plays, the more he just figures out what's going on and plays faster than anybody else."

Just like he's developed his understanding of different defensive schemes and techniques over the years, Smith also has sharpened his entire approach to watching film based on the calendar.

Once into the season, Smith is studying specific opponents and making mental adjustments accordingly.

There are specific game situations that can be analyzed – red zone, at midfield, 2-minute, third downs, first downs and so on.

Other factors to consider include how much time is on the clock? What's the score? What's the field position? Or the personnel?

"If you're watching another defense, what personnel are they in, and why is the offense running these plays versus that look, versus that coverage?" Smith said.

"The first thing I'm watching is myself, every time. That's just, I feel like if that's not what you're watching at first, then, I don't know – it's just an extension of you. If I'm out there playing, I want to watch myself," he added. "And then from there, I'll rewind it and watch, 'What was the front doing? Can I pick something up from the offense? What was happening on the other side?'"

Is there one piece of advice he's given to younger players?

Smith's number one rule while watching film of an upcoming opponent is to work through the mental reps. He might be lying on the couch; but in his mind, how does he respond to the play in front of him?

"You should always give yourself a

call. You should know your defense well enough that you have a couple reasonable choices that your defensive coordinator might call. When I'm talking to Flo' (Vikings Defensive Coordinator Brian Flores), I like to know what [calls he prefers]," Smith said. "I might be way off, but at least I'm thinking about a play that we have. And then, 'OK, the offense lines up in this formation, I'm supposed to be hearing this call, I need to communicate with so-and-so ... and then where am I aligned, where are my eyes?'"

"With all the views you have, you can mentally get a lot out of that rep. You don't have to be on the field," Smith reiterated.

It's not enough, Smith said, to identify the team's best pass catcher.

"You can't just say, 'This guy's fast. That receiver's really good. That running back breaks a lot of tackles.' Yeah, they're all like that," Smith laughed. "Every week, they're all like that. So you've gotta try to get more out of it."

Sometimes, an exact look from the tape shows up on game day.

But at its core, football is a game of chess. A battle of wits. Not every play by the opponent can be anticipated, and not every game goes exactly as expected.

"Sometimes you're tired, you got beat on a play earlier so you're thinking about that or thinking, 'They're doing this, so it's different than normal,' but it's not. You're trippin'. You're seeing ghosts," Smith said.

Even if the offense doesn't execute an exact look, though, Smith's countless hours in the "classroom" have provided him a deep understanding of the game that often allows him to make a safe prediction.

"Because I've watched so much and played so much

and put myself in a call and thought about my landmarks and my alignment and things like that, you're just in the right spots more. And it gives you the opportunity to make plays," Smith said. "They're not always exactly what you expect, but you have some ideas before the ball is snapped. You don't sell out on them but, 'A couple things could probably happen here,' and then you can just play them a little faster.

"I'd say that is the [majority] of plays I've made from watching film," he added. "Sometimes you just make plays, too. It just happens because you're running to the ball or whatever. You get lucky sometimes. But I'd say the cumulative effect of watching film in a productive manner kind of shows itself – but not all at once."

Smith generally reviews film solo, but the process still can be interactive.

He often will send a specific clip or game situation to Jones or one of his fellow DBs to get their thoughts.

Jones always welcomes a text from Smith, regardless of the hour.

"He's thinking about the game plan," Jones said. "He's watching the tape with a purpose. He's generating questions that will allow him to play faster. You always like when players send you clips."

Metellus, whom Smith has praised for his football I.Q., takes a similar approach and embraces any opportunity to pick the vet's brain or bounce ideas off one another.

Metellus described in-season early mornings at TCO Performance Center, when he and Smith, or other combinations of defensive players, will start off the day by comparing notes – mental or physical – on various cutups.

"I'm up at night watching film, putting myself through calls, get a situation where I don't know what you're going to do or how I should play this, so the next day we'll talk about it," Metellus said. "It's constant football chatter, especially with the older guys who have played a lot of football ... just trying to figure out how we're going to attack.

"There are multiple instances where we just talk through plays and Harry will say something, he'll remind you or give you a little tidbit [from the tape]," Metellus continued. "It's the little things like that, that happen all game, that help. If you ever see him talking to people on the field, he's probably telling somebody a way to show something or do something to keep the offense on their toes."





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MIND, BODY & SOUL

By Craig Peters

The “ST” on the hat wearer’s right temple is easy to connect to Special Teams, a unit that blends offensive and defensive players into collective missions.

The interlocking triangles on the front build on that idea, representing “mind, body and soul.”

“If you look at who we are as a team, the mind of the team, we have an offensive-minded head coach. The offense is constantly finding ways to manipulate defenses, control defenses and always be in front of the sticks,” Vikings Special Teams Coordinator Matt Daniels said. “You look at the body of the team, it’s essentially the defense, and the soul of the team, if you combine the offense and defense together, you get special teams.”

The design culminated from offseason research by Daniels, Assistant Special Teams Coordinator Dalmin Gibson and Football Video Coordinator Oliver Bowling.

“We started looking at images, Viking logos, and something that kept popping up was a lot of triangles and runes,” Daniels said. “The runes were

essentially their alphabet, and each rune meant something to them.

“In the Viking culture, the interconnected triangles represented the mind, body and soul, which leads to victory over darkness,” he added.

Daniels opted for having the triangles of a valknut point down because of a phrase the special teams unit uses: “We stay down until we come up.”

In the spring, Daniels, Gibson and Bowling researched runes’ meanings and identified the virtues they believe to be most important to the football team, leading to selection of the word “TRYGGÖ” as a representation of the group’s “true north.”

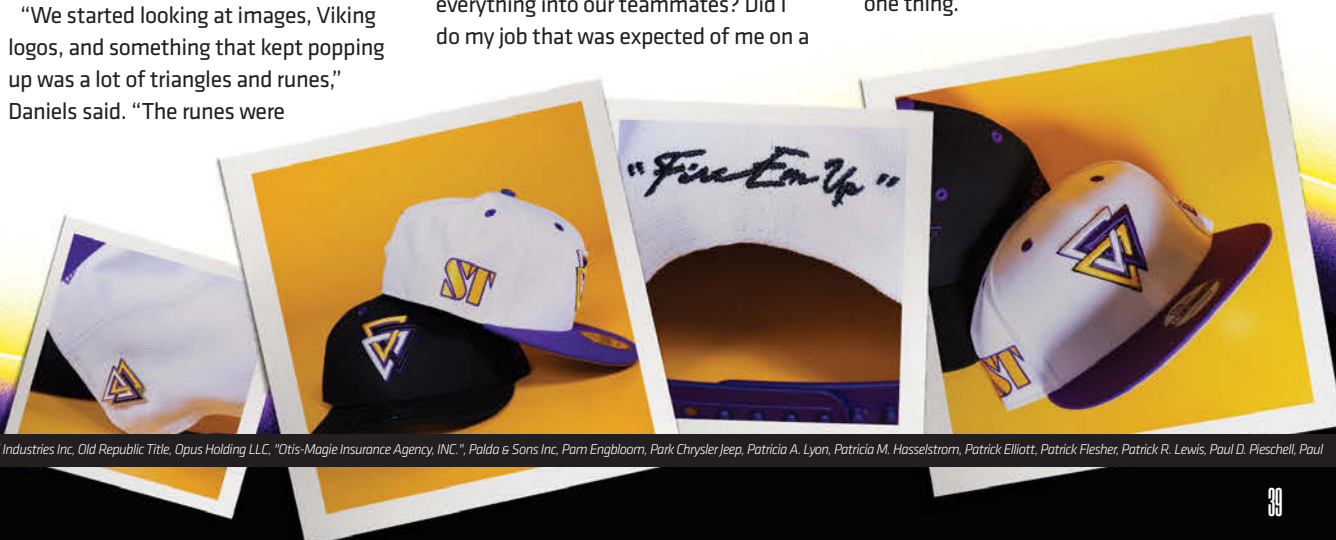
“For us, TRYGGÖ is ‘I seek the truth, even when it’s a hard truth.’ For us, we talk about that being an accountability aspect of the team,” Daniels said. “You always want to hold your teammates to a high standard and also be accountable to yourself, so we’re asking, ‘Did we pour everything into our teammates? Did I do my job that was expected of me on a

daily basis?’

“From there, ‘I am true to those I pledge my service to.’ That might be family, teammates,” Daniels added. “‘As I press on against all odds and hold nothing negative, the goal is met, the task is finished.’ That’s just commitment to yourself and teammates.”

Vikings linebacker and core special teams player Troy Dye appreciates the depth of the messaging and authentic connection it has to football.

“It’s super dope when they bring in an outside source and you can tie it into our sport because sometimes it can get lost in the small things – ‘We’ve got to do this. We’ve got to do this.’ But when you get an outside source like that, there’s more meaning behind, not just football, but it helps you in life,” Dye said. “There’s three different phases that have to work together, and I feel like this is life in general. There’s all these different things you have to work together to get to go to one thing.”





VIKINGS

Voyage

By Lindsey Young

ELEMENTARY FIELD TRIPS WITH MICROSOFT INTRODUCE STEM CAREERS

Vikings General Manager Kwesi Adofo-Mensah and his wife Chelsea last month joined three players at U.S. Bank Stadium.

But it wasn't for a game.

Kwesi, Chelsea, Joshua Dobbs, Greg Joseph and Sheldon Day spent time at the stadium's Vikings Voyage space, where they worked with third graders on fun activities that intertwined football and STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) concepts.

Thanks to a partnership between the Minnesota Vikings Foundation and the Science Museum of Minnesota, Vikings Voyage is a field trip program that regularly hosts elementary students and introduces them to a range of careers and backgrounds via videos filmed with Vikings staff. While on the field trips, students record data, stream career videos and capture content on Microsoft Surface tablets, courtesy of Microsoft.

The Vikings guests interacted with King Elementary students in the unique and interactive space, which also features a vertical jump activity, a shuttle speed drill and a football sled on which young people can test their tackling techniques.

They also engaged in a Q&A with the young people, who came prepared with insightful, STEM-related questions for the group.

"We all have curiosity and intelligence – we all just choose different canvases to

paint on," Adofo-Mensah said.

The Vikings GM appreciated an opportunity to visit with youngsters who didn't shy away from their curiosity and questions.

"I can remember those days where my mom asked me what I learned at school, and she'd tell me, 'You're gonna use that stuff one day,' and I get to use it every day," he said. "I always want to make sure I tell kids, 'I don't know what you want to do with your life at your age, 10, you don't know that yet, but just learn as much as you can because it will take you places.'"

"I truly want to show that passion [to] kids and inspire them to do what I was able to do and just apply what I learned every day, which is such a blessing," Adofo-Mensah added.

Chelsea Adofo-Mensah also enjoyed engaging with students, sharing her experience at Google and especially inspiring young women who have an interest in STEM fields.

"Being at a company like Google, working on a team like I do at YouTube TV, I work for a mother. And a lot of our executives at Google and YouTube are women," she said. "I'm surrounded by

incredible women who are both engineers, they're product designers, they're UX researchers, they're back-end engineers, they're front-end engineers.

"It's a huge opportunity to have that, and I think the most important thing is little girls be able to know they do have a spot at the leadership table in all those different environments and rooms," Chelsea added.



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As we close out our slate of regular-season home games, please know we sincerely appreciate your dedication to this organization. Your commitment does not go unnoticed by the entire Vikings ownership group or our staff.

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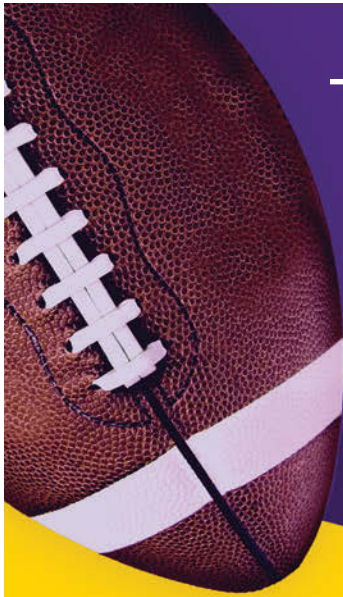


DID YOU KNOW?

Not all Vikings Season Ticket Members reside within the United States.

This offseason, we'll share the stories of three Season Ticket Members who show their commitment to the Purple & Gold from Canada, the United Kingdom and even 9,000 miles away in Australia!

Keep an eye on Vikings.com and Vikings social media platforms in the coming weeks to learn more about these loyal fans.



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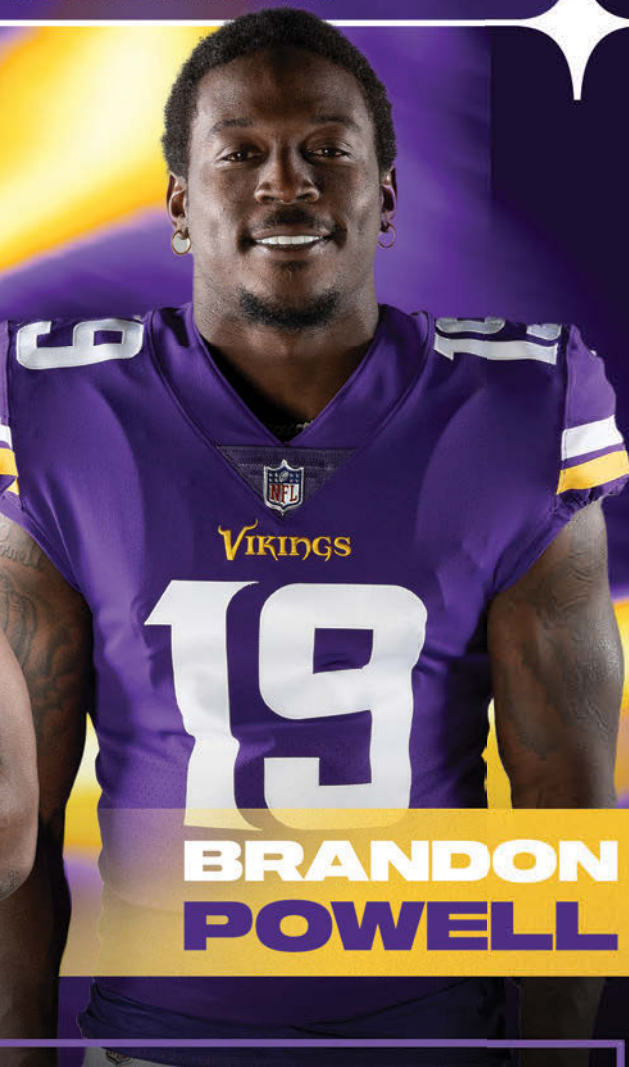
5 FAVES

Vikings kick returner Kene Nwangwu and punt returner Brandon Powell aren't your average athletes, so it's unsurprising neither picked a run-of-the-mill wild animal as his favorite. Nwangwu tabbed a Northern gannett, the largest seabird in the North Atlantic, which hunts fish by diving from a height of 100 feet into the ocean. Powell, meanwhile, is a fan of pygmy marmosets, informally known as "finger monkeys," which have a head-to-body length of just 4.5 to 6.0 inches.

Here's a look at five of their other faves.



**KENE
NWANGWU**



**BRANDON
POWELL**

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MVC SOPHIA

By Lindsey Young

The daughter of a dance instructor, Sophia really does have the dancing gene in her family. She started out at 3 years old at her mom's studio, The Dancing House, before later training at the Phipps Center for the Arts and performing with the Hudson High School Dance team. Sophia made the MVC squad directly out of high school and now is finishing her second season. Though she's a native of Wisconsin, Sophia assures she was raised "always in purple and gold" in a family who loves "The Griddy" and has plenty of SKOL spirit.

Q: What do you most enjoy about being part of MVC?

A: The way MVC is involved so heavily in the community is my favorite part. I love being able to be a light for kids. Another aspect I admire is how strong our team is. These are incredible women, and they inspire me every day.

Q: You also are a photographer, which is so fun! As a creative, do you see similarities between dance and photography?

A: Some similarities I see are recognizing ways we can constantly grow in our craft and how we make experiences that much more impactful for others. Through my business, I always want to make the clients' experiences fun and meaningful as I capture their weddings, engagements and family portraits. These are intimate and important moments, and I don't want to take that lightly. I treat MVC the same way. This may be a fan's first or last game, so I want every interaction to be something meaningful and

that they can remember forever.

Q: What do you most like to photograph?

A: When I started my photography business three years ago, I did everything under the sun. Now here I am making it full-time, which is something I never thought possible. I am able to capture weddings, family moments and senior portraits. My favorite part of shooting is capturing each of my clients in their own authentic way. I want to make each session, email and delivery of my galleries special for each client because these are memories that last a lifetime.

Q: As you reflect back on this past year, what are you most proud of?

A: Through MVC this past season, I have seen my confidence grow immensely from my rookie season to now. I have been able to advocate for myself in the workplace and school. I have worked harder and grown my work ethic. MVC truly has given me opportunities I never thought possible. Through the motivation of my teammates and faith of my coaches, I have seen immense personal growth, which has in turn helped build my confidence overall – not only as an MVC but in my personal life, as well.

Q: What is a goal of yours as you head into 2024?

A: My goal for 2024 is to be present and intentional – with work, family, friends and MVC moments I'm blessed to have. Since I was little, I always wanted to make dance part of my career, so to see it come to life is incredible – and I don't want to lose sight of what is right in front of me.



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10

NUMBER OF POSSESSIONS BY EACH TEAM WHEN THE VIKINGS VISITED THE PACKERS IN WEEK 8.

9

TOUCHDOWN CATCHES THIS SEASON BY ROOKIE JORDAN ADDISON.

8

THIS IS THE EIGHTH BORDER BATTLE AT U.S. BANK STADIUM AND 127TH OVERALL.

7

PLAYERS DRAFTED BY THE VIKINGS HAVE BEEN ENSHRINED IN THE PRO FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME.

6

CATCHES BY T.J. HOCKENSON AT GREEN BAY IN WEEK 8.

5

SEASONS IN WHICH DANIELLE HUNTER HAS RECORDED DOUBLE-DIGIT SACKS.

4

INTERCEPTIONS BY HARRISON SMITH HAVE BEEN RETURNED FOR TOUCHDOWNS.

3

VIKINGS ALL-TIME HAVE WON NFL OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR HONORS.

2

BORDER BATTLES HAVE FEATURED TWO TOUCHDOWN CATCHES BY JUSTIN JEFFERSON.

1

THE NUMBER OF YOUR FAVORITE MASCOT, VIKTOR THE VIKING!!

OH NO! VIKTOR HAS LOST HIS MJOLNIR SOMEWHERE IN THIS BOOK. CAN YOU SPOT WHERE HE LEFT IT BEHIND?





SEASON TICKET MEMBER FAN FLAG

ON FIELD, PREGAME DURING PLAYER INTRODUCTIONS

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CONCESSIONS

UNION HMONG KITCHEN | SECTION 111

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SKOL SERVICE SPOTLIGHT

BY EMILY TERRITO

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Lynn Meyer, ASM Guest Experience
Terry Hall, ASM Cleaning Services
Emily Kirsammer, ASM Operations
Steve Tebbs, ASM Security
Ron Johnson, ASM Tour Guide
Jill Caspers, Aramark NPO
Michaela Corniea, Aramark
 Front-of-House EE
Tasharra Carothers, Aramark
 Back-of-House EE
Steve Orth, BEST Security
Ahmed Mohamed, BEST Security
Joey Shikoski, Allied Security
Troy Dillard, Minneapolis Police Department
Lt. Bill Gottwaldt, Hennepin County Sheriff
Capt. Todd Sandin, Wright County Sheriff
Chris Flegel, HCMC
Tami Bombich, Minnesota Vikings
 Ticket Office
Meghan Pederson, Minnesota Vikings Cheer
Danielle Jaeger, Minnesota Vikings
 SKOL Line
Lindsey Tilton, Minnesota Vikings
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Kelsey Roessler, Minnesota Vikings
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