

# VIKINGS

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DEPAOLA

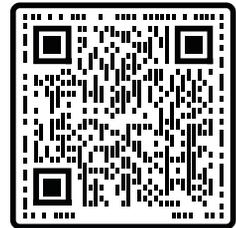


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## QUESTIONS AT TODAY'S GAME?



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



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**TODAY'S GAME  
PRESENTED BY**



**2024 TEAM STATS**

YARDS PER GAME / ALLOWED

	RUSH	PASS
<b>MIN OFF</b>	<b>109.1</b>	<b>237.8</b>
	346.9   12TH IN THE NFL	
<b>NE DEF</b>	<b>101.0</b>	<b>237.0</b>
	338.0   19TH IN THE NFL	
<b>NE OFF</b>	<b>153.0</b>	<b>174.0</b>
	327.0   15TH IN THE NFL	
<b>MIN DEF</b>	<b>93.4</b>	<b>242.0</b>
	335.4   16TH IN THE NFL	

**RECONNECTING**

Scroll through the Patriots roster, and you'll notice several familiar names who previously played for the Vikings.

The list includes WR Stefon Diggs, who started his career here in 2015 and caught the Minneapolis Miracle in January 2018, as well as C Garrett Bradbury, a first-round pick in 2019.

QB Joshua Dobbs ("The Passtronaut") made four starts for Minnesota in 2023. S Marcus Epps, K Parker Romo, LB Christian Ellis, G Tyrese Robinson, T Vederian Lowe and DL Khyiris Tonga also spent time with the Purple.

Vikings Head Coach Kevin O'Connell was drafted by the Patriots in the third round in 2008, and Defensive Coordinator Brian Flores started his NFL career in New England's personnel department before switching to the sidelines.

**AUG. 16, 2025 | U.S. BANK STADIUM**

TODAY'S GAME MARKS THE SECOND PRESEASON GAME FOR BOTH TEAMS AND FOLLOWS TWO DAYS OF JOINT PRACTICES BETWEEN THE SQUADS.

Minnesota prevailed 20-10 over Houston, and New England trampled Washington 48-18 last week.

In-game entertainment elements include the following:

**JUNIOR CHEERLEADERS**

Before today's game, more than 400 Junior Cheerleaders and Flag Runners will perform alongside the Minnesota Vikings Cheerleaders. The MVC Junior Cheer program is designed to promote

confidence, hard work, leadership and FUN among kids 3-14 years of age.

**HALFTIME**

To celebrate the NFL Play Football theme, we will be hosting a girls high school flag game with the teams of Waterville-Elysian-Morristown vs. Apple Valley.

**NATIONAL ANTHEM**

Cassandra DiFruscio, a recording artist from Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, has performed the National Anthem at more than 80 major sporting events. Her debut album is planned for release later this year.



A · R · O  
PISTACHIOS

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**TODAY'S**

# GAME

PROMOTIONS & CONTESTS

## SACKS FOR WINGS

Buffalo Wild Wings brings you "Sacks for Wings" during all Vikings home and away games this season! When the Vikings record 2.0 or more sacks in a game, all fans score six free wings with a minimum purchase of \$10. Offer is valid for three days after each eligible game. Visit [Vikings.com/bww](http://Vikings.com/bww) for your digital coupon and details.



## KWIK TRIP TO END ZONE

Vikings fans, do you want to score big this season? Purchase any Pothole Pizza or 20 oz. Pepsi or Mountain Dew product with Kwik Rewards, and you're entered! One weekly winner will automatically win a \$500 gift card. And if the Vikings score a touchdown over 50 yards that week ... one lucky fan wins \$5,000! See [kwiktrip.com/](http://kwiktrip.com/) sweepstakes for details.



## HY-VEE PERKS CARD

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.



## #VIKINGSHAIR

Spalon Montage is giving one lucky fan a \$100 gift card. Tweet a photo of you at the game to @VikingsPromos using #VikingsHAIR for a chance to win!



## SPLIT THE POT

*Benefiting the Minnesota Vikings Foundation*

Purchase your raffle tickets from roaming sellers pregame on the Plaza or on the concourse at Split the Pot kiosks. The winning ticket will be selected by a random drawing and posted online after the game. Winner has 30 days to claim the prize. Split The Pot supports the Minnesota Vikings Foundation's mission to advance youth health and education initiatives. Visit [vikings.com/splitthepot](http://vikings.com/splitthepot) for details.

## FIELD GOALS FOR CHARITY

A Vikings field goal means another donation to Field Goals for Charity, courtesy of Innovative and Post-It brand. Funds raised will help add potential blood stem cell donors to the registry, help patients with uninsured costs and fund life-saving research. For patients with blood cancers like leukemia and other life-threatening diseases like sickle cell anemia, a cure exists – a stem cell transplant. Visit [nmdp.org/vikings](http://nmdp.org/vikings) to make a difference!



TODAY'S GAME  
PROMOTIONS & CONTESTS



## GAME-DAY GLOW GIVEAWAY



Scan the QR code to be entered to win a \$1,000 Pure Lux Medspa gift card. One grand prize winner will be chosen at the end of the season.

**PURE LUX**  
WHOLE BODY MEDSPA

## GAME-DAY AUCTION

The Minnesota Vikings Foundation is partnering with Universal Sports Auctions to provide an elevated auction experience on Vikings game days. Visit the auction kiosks located on the Medtronic Plaza and Main Concourse for signed memorabilia. For exclusive Vikings experiences, please visit [vikings.com/auction](http://vikings.com/auction).



MINNESOTA **VIKINGS**  
FOUNDATION

## WIN VIKTOR'S RIDE!

Purchase a Vikings souvenir Pepsi cup at U.S. Bank Stadium this season or at participating Hy-Vee and Buffalo Wild Wings locations and enter to win Viktor's Ride.

## VIKINGS TABLE

Vikings Table, powered by Xcel Energy, is a custom-built food truck that sells delicious food on game days. Find us on the Plaza before kickoff; your purchase directly supports our ability to provide free, healthy meals to kids in need. Join us as we tackle food insecurity in the Twin Cities. Follow @vikingsfdn on Instagram and X for all Vikings Table updates.



## MEDTRONIC GAME CHANGER

Today's Medtronic Game Changers are Her Next Play's Executive Director Maggie Niska and Founder/President Sara Wegmann. Her Next Play was founded in 2018 with a mission to develop the next generation of women leaders through sports. Their "Play Bold" Leadership Programs inspire girls to stay in sports by combining meaningful workshops and leadership development sessions with sport activities for middle and high school girls.

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PROFOND  
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Health  
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**CHI** WK1  
SEPT. 8

WK2  
SEPT. 14 **ATL**

WK3  
SEPT. 21 **CIN**

**PIT** WK4  
SEPT. 28

**CLE** WK5  
OCT. 5

**BYE** WK6  
OCT. 12

WK7  
OCT. 19 **PHI**

**LAC** WK8  
OCT. 23

**DET** WK9  
NOV. 2

WK10  
NOV. 9 **BAL**

WK11  
NOV. 16 **CHI**

**GB** WK12  
NOV. 23

**SEA** WK13  
NOV. 30

WK14  
DEC. 7 **WAS**

**DAL** WK15  
DEC. 14

**NYG** WK16  
DEC. 21

WK17  
DEC. 25 **DET**

WK18  
TBD **GB**

# TAI FELTON

**WR TAI FELTON BECAME MINNESOTA'S SECOND SELECTION OF 2025 WHEN THE VIKINGS CLOSED OUT THE THIRD ROUND BY TABBING HIM WITH THE 102ND OVERALL PICK.**

Felton's selection followed him leading the Big Ten in receptions (96) and receiving yards (1,124) in 2024 when he earned First-Team All-Big Ten and Third-Team All-American honors. The 96 receptions set a new Terrapins single-season record and led all Power Conference players. A hot start fueled Felton's success. He opened his fourth and final season at College Park with four consecutive games with at least 100 receiving yards.

In the Vikings matchup against the Texans last week, Felton caught two passes for 14

yards and became the first Viking to touch the ball this preseason when he handled the opening kickoff.

Felton totaled 36 yards on two kickoff returns with a long of 24..

### IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

The Vikings have selected from the 102nd overall spot six times including this spring. Previous Minnesota players chosen at that spot were Vince Clements (1971), Brian Robison (2007), Jalyn Holmes (2018), Alexander Mattison (2019) and current teammate Mekhi Blackmon (2023).

### BUILT-IN CONNECTION

Felton attended the same high school (Stone Bridge in Virginia) as defensive lineman Jonathan Allen, who signed with the Vikings this offseason.



Preferred Sports Bar of the Minnesota Vikings

# SACKS FOR WINGS

Score 6 Free Wings when the  
VIKINGS get 2 Sacks\*



\*Rules and Restrictions apply. Visit [vikings.com/bww](https://vikings.com/bww) for more information.

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# VIKINGS ROSTER

DEPTH CHART



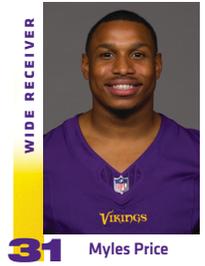
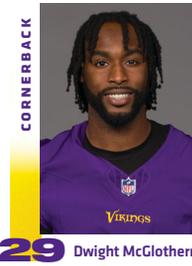
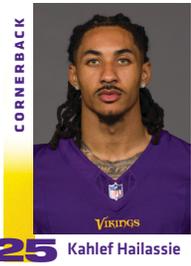
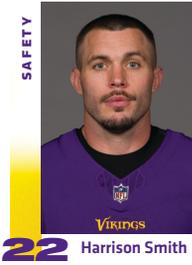
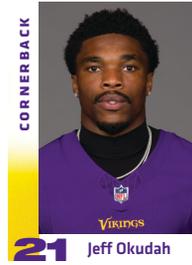
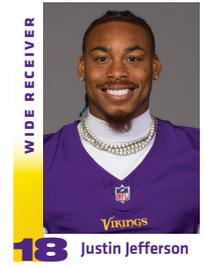
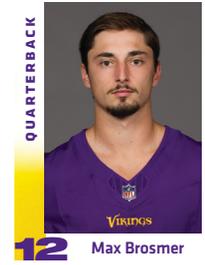
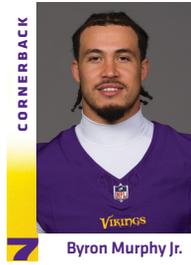
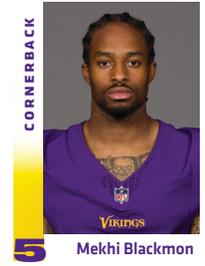
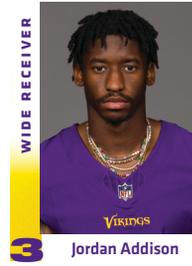
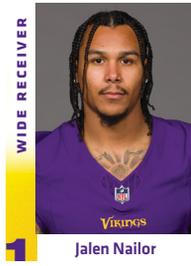
#	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	EXP	COLLEGE	#	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	EXP	COLLEGE
0	Ivan Pace Jr.	LB	5-10	231	24	3	Cincinnati	51	Blake Cashman	LB	6-1	235	29	7	Minnesota
1	Jalen Nailor	WR	5-11	190	26	4	Michigan State	52	Dorian Mauis	LB	6-1	234	23	R	Auburn
2	Isaiah Rodgers	CB	5-10	176	27	5	Massachusetts	54	Bo Richter	OLB	6-1	248	25	2	Air Force
3	Jordan Addison	WR	5-11	175	23	3	USC	55	Eric Wilson	LB	6-1	230	30	9	Cincinnati
4	Rondale Moore	WR	5-7	181	25	5	Purdue	56	Austin Keys	LB	6-2	247	23	R	Auburn
5	Mekhi Blackmon	CB	5-11	178	26	3	USC	57	Chaz Chambless	OLB	6-1	242	22	R	Georgia
6	Brian Asamoah II	LB	6-0	226	25	4	Oklahoma	58	Jonathan Greenard	OLB	6-3	259	28	6	Florida
7	Byron Murphy Jr.	CB	5-11	190	27	7	Washington	59	Gabriel Murphy	OLB	6-2	247	24	1	UCLA
8	Sam Howell	QB	6-1	225	24	4	North Carolina	60	Joe Huber	G	6-5	310	23	R	Wisconsin
9	J.J. McCarthy	QB	6-3	219	22	2	Michigan	61	Jalen Redmond	DL	6-3	291	26	2	Oklahoma
11	Brett Rypien	QB	6-2	210	29	7	Boise State	62	Logan Brown	T	6-6	311	24	R	Kansas
12	Max Brosmer	QB	6-2	217	24	R	Minnesota	63	Zeke Correll	C	6-3	307	24	R	N.C. State
13	Tai Felton	WR	6-1	183	22	R	Maryland	64	Blake Brandel	G	6-6	315	28	5	Oregon State
14	Tim Jones	WR	6-1	200	27	4	Southern Miss	65	Michael Jurgens	C	6-5	311	25	2	Wake Forest
15	Dallas Turner	OLB	6-3	247	22	2	Alabama	66	Vershon Lee	G	6-4	310	23	R	South Carolina
16	Will Reichard	K	6-1	187	24	2	Alabama	67	Justin Skule	T	6-6	315	28	7	Vanderbilt
17	Ryan Wright	P	6-3	245	25	4	Tulane	68	Henry Byrd	G	6-5	310	26	2	Princeton
18	Justin Jefferson	WR	6-1	195	26	6	LSU	71	Christian Darrisaw	T	6-5	315	26	5	Virginia Tech
19	Dontae Fleming	WR	6-2	180	23	R	Tulane	72	Leroy Watson IV	T	6-4	311	27	3	Texas-San Antonio
20	Reddy Steward	CB	5-11	178	24	1	Troy	73	Walter Rouse	T	6-6	313	24	2	Oklahoma
21	Jeff Okudah	CB	6-1	205	26	6	Ohio State	74	Donovan Jackson	G	6-4	315	22	R	Ohio State
22	Harrison Smith	S	6-2	211	36	14	Notre Dame	75	Brian O'Neill	T	6-7	310	29	8	Pittsburgh
23	Ambry Thomas	CB	6-0	190	25	5	Michigan	76	Will Fries	G	6-6	305	27	5	Penn State
24	Jay Ward	S	6-1	188	25	3	LSU	78	Ryan Kelly	C	6-4	307	32	10	Alabama
25	Kahlef Hailassie	S	6-1	194	24	2	Western Kentucky	81	Lucky Jackson	WR	6-0	186	28	3	Western Kentucky
26	Theo Jackson	S	6-1	198	26	4	Tennessee	82	Jashaun Jones	WR	6-1	188	25	1	Maryland
27	Jordan Mason	RB	5-11	223	26	4	Georgia Tech	83	Silas Bolden	WR	5-8	160	23	R	Texas
29	Dwight McGlothern Jr.	CB	6-2	185	23	2	Arkansas	84	Josh Oliver	TE	6-5	259	28	7	San Jose State
30	C.J. Ham	FB	5-11	250	32	9	Augustana	85	Robert Lewis	WR	5-10	188	23	R	Auburn
31	Myles Price	WR	5-9	183	23	R	Indiana	87	T.J. Hockenson	TE	6-5	248	28	7	Iowa
32	Ty Chandler	RB	5-11	204	27	4	North Carolina	89	Thayer Thomas	WR	6-0	195	27	2	N.C. State
33	Aaron Jones Sr.	RB	5-10	208	30	9	UTEP	90	Tyrion Ingram-Dawkins	DL	6-5	276	22	R	Georgia
34	Zemaiah Vaughn	CB	6-3	187	23	R	Utah	92	Jonathan Harris	DL	6-5	295	29	6	Lindenwood
35	Keenan Garber	CB	6-0	188	25	R	Kansas State	93	Jonathan Allen	DL	6-3	300	30	9	Alabama
36	Zavier Scott	RB	6-1	219	26	2	Maine	94	Taki Taimani	DL	6-1	309	25	2	Oregon
37	Tavierre Thomas	S	5-10	205	29	8	Ferris State	95	Travis Bell	DL	6-0	310	26	2	Kennesaw State
38	Tre Stewart	RB	5-8	186	22	R	Jacksonville State	96	Tyler Batty	OLB	6-6	271	26	R	BYU
39	Gervarius Owens	S	6-0	200	25	3	Houston	97	Harrison Phillips	DL	6-3	307	29	8	Stanford
40	Mishael Powell	S	6-1	210	24	R	Miami	98	Javon Hargrave	DL	6-2	305	32	10	South Carolina State
41	Kobe King	LB	6-1	236	22	R	Penn State	99	Elijah Williams	DL	6-3	270	22	R	Morgan State
42	Andrew DePaola	LS	6-1	229	38	11	Rutgers	^	Michael Gonzalez	G	6-4	305	22	R	Louisville
43	Andrew Van Ginkel	OLB	6-4	242	30	7	Wisconsin	<b>ACTIVE/PHYSICALLY UNABLE TO PERFORM</b>							
44	Joshua Metellus	S	5-11	207	27	6	Michigan	86	Gavin Bartholomew	TE	6-5	246	22	R	Pittsburgh
45	Nick Vannett	TE	6-5	257	32	10	Ohio State	<b>INTERNATIONAL PLAYER PATHWAY EXEMPTION</b>							
46	Bryson Nesbit	TE	6-5	238	22	R	North Carolina	91	Oscar Chapman	P	6-3	211	26	R	Auburn
48	Ben Yurosek	TE	6-4	245	23	R	Georgia	<b>INJURED RESERVE</b>							
49	Giovanni Ricci	TE	6-3	240	28	4	Western Michigan	69	Matt Nelson	T	6-7	315	29	4	Iowa
50	Levi Drake Rodriguez	DL	6-2	290	25	2	Texas A&M Commerce		Alexander Williams	DL	6-7	291	25	R	Middle Tenn. State

### MINNESOTA VIKINGS COACHING STAFF

Head Coach: Kevin O'Connell	Game Management Coord./Passing Game Specialist: Ryan Cordell	Wide Receivers: Keenan McCardell
Asst. Head Coach: Mike Pettine	Defensive Line: Marcus Dixon	Quarterbacks: Josh McCown
Special Teams Coordinator: Matt Daniels	Offensive Asst.: Ben Ellefson	Running Game Coord./Running Backs: Curtis Modkins
Defensive Coordinator: Brian Flores	Defensive Asst.: Charlie Frye	Quality Control - Offense: Derron Montgomery
Offensive Coordinator: Wes Phillips	Quality Control - Defense: Chenzo Funari	Senior Offensive Asst.: Chris O'Hara
Asst. Defensive Line: Imarjaye Albury Sr.	Asst. Special Teams: Dalmin Gibson	Asst. to the Head Coach: Henry Schneider IV
Passing Game Coord./Tight Ends: Brian Angelichio	Asst. Outside Linebackers: Patrick Hill	Inside Linebackers: Mike Siravo
Outside Linebackers: Thad Bogardus	Safeties: Michael Hutchings	Asst. Wide Receivers: Tony Sorrentino
Asst. Offensive Line: Keith Carter	Passing Game Coord./Defensive Backs: Daronte Jones	Asst. Offensive Coord./Asst. Quarterbacks: Jordan Traylor
	Offensive Line: Chris Kuper	

\*ROSTER AS OF PRINT DEADLINE (8.12.25)

^ NUMBER NOT ASSIGNED BY DEADLINE



**32** RUNNING BACK  
Ty Chandler



**33** RUNNING BACK  
Aaron Jones Sr.



**34** CORNERBACK  
Zemaiah Vaughn



**35** CORNERBACK  
Keenan Garber



**36** RUNNING BACK  
Zavier Scott



**37** DEFENSIVE BACK  
Tavierre Thomas



**38** RUNNING BACK  
Tre Stewart



**39** SAFETY  
Gervarius Owens



**40** SAFETY  
Mishael Powell



**41** LINEBACKER  
Kobe King



**42** LONG SNAPPER  
Andrew DePaola



**43** OUTSIDE LINEBACKER  
Andrew Van Ginkel



**44** SAFETY  
Joshua Metellus



**45** TIGHT END  
Nick Vannett



**46** TIGHT END  
Bryson Nesbit



**48** TIGHT END  
Ben Yurosek



**49** TIGHT END  
Giovanni Ricci



**50** DEFENSIVE LINE  
Levi Drake Rodriguez



**51** LINEBACKER  
Blake Cashman



**52** LINEBACKER  
Dorian Mausi



**54** OUTSIDE LINEBACKER  
Bo Richter



**55** LINEBACKER  
Eric Wilson



**56** LINEBACKER  
Austin Keys



**57** OUTSIDE LINEBACKER  
Chaz Chambliss



**58** OUTSIDE LINEBACKER  
Jonathan Greenard



**59** OUTSIDE LINEBACKER  
Gabriel Murphy



**60** GUARD  
Joe Huber



**61** DEFENSIVE LINE  
Jalen Redmond



**62** TACKLE  
Logan Brown



**63** CENTER  
Zeke Correll



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8/7



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## Minnesota Vikings

2ND CHANCE ON BACK  
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WINNING NUMBERS

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WINNING NUMBERS, win prize shown below that number. Reveal a symbol, win DOUBLE the prize shown below that symbol. Reveal a symbol, WIN ALL 20 PRIZES INSTANTLY!

1st QUARTER BONUS	PRIZE	2nd QUARTER BONUS	PRIZE	3rd QUARTER BONUS	PRIZE	4th QUARTER BONUS	PRIZE
-------------------	-------	-------------------	-------	-------------------	-------	-------------------	-------



MUST BE 18+  
TO PLAY.

GUARD  
  
**64** Blake Brandel

CENTER  
  
**65** Michael Jurgens

GUARD  
  
**66** Vershon Lee

TACKLE  
  
**67** Justin Skule

GUARD  
  
**68** Henry Byrd

TACKLE  
  
**71** Christian Darrisaw

TACKLE  
  
**72** Leroy Watson IV

TACKLE  
  
**73** Walter Rouse

GUARD  
  
**74** Donovan Jackson

TACKLE  
  
**75** Brian O'Neill

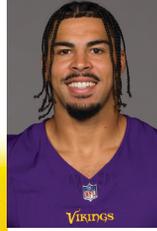
GUARD  
  
**76** Will Fries

CENTER  
  
**78** Ryan Kelly

WIDE RECEIVER  
  
**81** Lucky Jackson

WIDE RECEIVER  
  
**82** Jashaun Jones

WIDE RECEIVER  
  
**83** Silas Bolden

TIGHT END  
  
**84** Josh Oliver

WIDE RECEIVER  
  
**85** Robert Lewis

TIGHT END  
  
**86** Gavin Bartholomew

TIGHT END  
  
**87** T.J. Hockenson

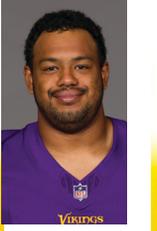
WIDE RECEIVER  
  
**89** Thayer Thomas

DEFENSIVE LINE  
  
**90** Tyron Ingram-Dawkins

PUNTER  
  
**91** Oscar Chapman

DEFENSIVE LINE  
  
**92** Jonathan Harris

DEFENSIVE LINE  
  
**93** Jonathan Allen

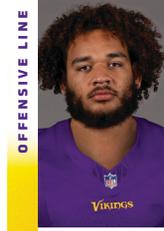
DEFENSIVE LINE  
  
**94** Taki Taimani

DEFENSIVE LINE  
  
**95** Travis Bell

OUTSIDE LINEBACKER  
  
**96** Tyler Batty

DEFENSIVE LINE  
  
**97** Harrison Phillips

DEFENSIVE LINE  
  
**98** Javon Hargrave

DEFENSIVE LINE  
  
**99** Elijah Williams

OFFENSIVE LINE  
  
 Michael Gonzalez

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# PATRIOTS ROSTER

DEPTH  
CHART



#	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	EXP	COLLEGE	#	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	EXP	COLLEGE
0	Christian Gonzalez	CB	6-1	205	23	3	Oregon	49	Cole Fotheringham	TE	6-4	245	27	1	Utah
1	Ja'Lynn Polk	WR	6-1	203	24	2	Washington	51	Jack Gibbens	LB	6-3	242	26	4	Minnesota
2	Harold Landry III	LB	6-2	252	29	8	Boston College	52	Marcus Bryant	T	6-7	320	23	R	Missouri
3	DeMario Douglas	WR	5-8	192	24	3	Liberty	53	Christian Elliss	LB	6-2	231	26	4	Idaho
4	Antonio Gibson	RB	6-0	228	27	6	Memphis	54	Truman Jones	DE	6-3	255	25	1	Harvard
5	Jabrill Peppers	S	5-11	217	29	9	Michigan	55d	Jereme Robinson	DE	6-3	263	25	R	Kansas
6	Javon Baker	WR	6-1	202	23	2	UCF	55o	Tyrese Robinson	G	6-3	319	25	2	Oklahoma
7	Carlton Davis III	CB	6-1	206	28	8	Auburn	58	Jared Wilson	C	6-3	310	22	R	Georgia
8	Stefon Diggs	WR	6-0	191	31	11	Maryland	59	Vederian Lowe	T	6-5	315	26	4	Illinois
9	Kayshon Boutte	WR	5-11	197	23	3	LSU	61	Alec Lindstrom	C	6-3	300	27	1	Boston College
10	Drake Maye	QB	6-4	225	22	2	North Carolina	62	Sidy Sow	G	6-5	318	27	3	Eastern Michigan
11	Joshua Dobbs	QB	6-3	220	30	9	Tennessee	63	Mehki Butler	G	6-3	310	24	R	Arkansas State
13	Mack Hollins	WR	6-4	221	31	9	North Carolina	64	Layden Robinson	G	6-3	311	24	2	Texas A&M
14	Robert Spillane	LB	6-1	229	29	7	Western Michigan	65	Garrett Bradbury	C	6-3	300	30	7	N.C. State
15	Marte Mapu	LB	6-3	230	25	3	Sacramento State	66	Will Campbell	T	6-6	319	21	R	LSU
17s	Bryce Baringer	P	6-2	215	26	3	Michigan State	68	Isaiah Iton	DT	6-2	277	23	1	Rutgers
17o	Ben Woodridge	QB	6-2	214	25	R	Louisiana	69	Cole Strange	G	6-5	310	27	4	Chattanooga
18	Kyle Williams	WR	5-11	190	22	R	Washington State	70	Caedan Wallace	T	6-5	314	25	2	Penn State
19	Kobee Minor	DB	5-11	188	23	R	Memphis	71	Mike Onwenu	OL	6-3	350	27	6	Michigan
21	Jaylinn Hawkins	S	6-1	208	27	6	California	72	Kyle Peko	DT	6-1	305	32	7	Oregon State
22	Marcus Epps	S	6-0	195	29	7	Wyoming	74	Jack Conley	G	6-7	333	24	R	Boston College
23	Kyle Dugger	S	6-1	216	29	6	Lenoir-Rhyne	75	Demontrey Jacobs	T	6-6	315	26	2	South Florida
24	Dell Pettus	S	5-11	200	24	2	Troy	76	Morgan Moses	T	6-6	320	34	12	Virginia
25	Marcus Jones	CB	5-8	188	26	4	Houston	77	Ben Brown	C	6-5	313	27	4	Mississippi
26d	Tre Avery	CB	5-11	185	28	4	Rutgers	80	Gee Scott Jr.	TE	6-3	240	24	R	Ohio State
26o	Terrell Jennings	RB	6-0	217	24	1	Florida A&M	81	Austin Hooper	TE	6-4	254	30	10	Stanford
28	Alex Austin	CB	6-1	191	24	3	Oregon State	82	C.J. Dippre	TE	6-5	256	23	R	Alabama
29d	Isaiah Bolden	CB	6-2	205	25	3	Jackson State	83	John Jiles	WR	6-3	220	25	1	West Florida
29o	Jeremiah Webb	WR	5-11	198	24	R	South Alabama	84	Kendrick Bourne	WR	6-1	205	30	9	Eastern Washington
30d	D.J. James	CB	6-0	184	24	1	Auburn	85	Hunter Henry	TE	6-5	249	30	10	Arkansas
30o	Deneric Prince	RB	6-0	211	25	1	Tulsa	86	Efton Chism III	WR	5-10	198	23	R	Eastern Washington
31	Craig Woodson	S	6-0	200	24	R	California	87	Jack Westover	TE	6-2	245	26	1	Washington
32	TreVeyon Henderson	RB	5-10	202	22	R	Ohio State	88	Jaheim Bell	TE	6-2	241	24	2	Florida State
33	Anfernee Jennings	LB	6-2	255	28	6	Alabama	90	Christian Barmore	DL	6-5	315	26	5	Alabama
35	Miles Battle	CB	6-3	197	25	1	Utah	91	Elijah Ponder	LB	6-3	261	22	R	Cal Poly
36	Andy Borregales	K	5-11	202	22	R	Miami	92	Joshua Farmer	DT	6-3	312	22	R	Florida State
37d	Brandon Crossley	CB	5-11	186	24	R	SMU	93	Jahvaree Ritzie	DT	6-4	294	22	R	North Carolina
37s	Parker Romo	K	5-11	190	27	1	Virginia Tech	95	Khyiris Tonga	DL	6-2	335	29	5	BYU
38	Rhamondre Stevenson	RB	6-0	227	27	5	Oklahoma	96	David Olajiga	DT	6-3	310	27	1	Central Missouri
39o	Ja'Mycal Hasty	RB	5-8	205	28	6	Baylor	97	Milton Williams	DT	6-3	290	26	5	Louisiana Tech
39d	Jordan Polk	CB	5-11	189	24	R	Texas State	98	Jeremiah Pharms Jr.	DT	6-2	300	28	3	Friends
41	Brenden Schooler	S	6-2	210	28	4	Texas	99	Keion White	DE	6-5	285	26	3	Georgia Tech
42	Cam Riley	LB	6-4	228	23	R	Florida State	<b>INJURED RESERVE</b>							
43	Bradyn Swinson	LB	6-4	255	23	R	LSU	27	Marcellas Dial Jr.	CB	6-0	190	20	2	South Carolina
44	K'Lavon Chaisson	LB	6-3	255	26	6	LSU	34	Lan Larison	RB	5-11	209	23	R	UC Davis
45	Monty Rice	LB	6-0	233	26	4	Georgia	46	Brock Lampe	FB	6-1	249	22	R	Northern Illinois
46	R.J. Moten	LB	6-0	224	23	1	Florida	72	Yasir Durant	T	6-6	330	27	4	Missouri
47	Julian Ashby	LS	6-1	231	23	R	Vanderbilt	94	Jaquelin Roy	DT	6-3	305	24	3	LSU
48	Jahlani Tavai	LB	6-2	255	28	7	Hawai'i								

### NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS COACHING STAFF

Head Coach: Mike Vrabel	Wide Receivers: Todd Downing	Offensive Line: Doug Marrone
Offensive Coordinator: Josh McDaniels	Quarterbacks: Ashton Grant	Senior Defensive Asst.: Ben McAdoo
Special Teams Coordinator: Jeremy Springer	Cornerbacks: Justin Hamilton	Defensive Line: Clinton McMillan
Defensive Coordinator: Terrell Williams	Asst. Offensive Line: Jason Houghtaling	Defensive Asst.: Milton Patterson
Safeties: Scott Booker	Offensive Asst.: Chuckie Keeton	Asst. Special Teams: Tom Quinn
Tight Ends/Passing Game Coord.: Thomas Brown	Asst. Offensive Line: Robert Kugler	Defensive Asst.: Kevin Richardson
Defensive Asst.: Vinny DePalma	Inside Linebackers: Zak Kuhr	Outside Linebackers: Mike Smith
Running Backs: Tony Dews	Offensive Asst.: Riley Larkin	

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SEPT. 7 **LV**

@ **MIA** **WK2**  
SEPT. 14

**WK3**  
SEPT. 21 **PIT**

**WK4**  
SEPT. 28 **CAR**

@ **BUF** **WK5**  
OCT. 5

@ **NO** **WK6**  
OCT. 12

@ **TEN** **WK7**  
OCT. 19

**WK8**  
OCT. 26 **CLE**

**WK9**  
NOV. 2 **ATL**

@ **TB** **WK10**  
NOV. 9

**WK11**  
NOV. 13 **NYJ**

@ **CIN** **WK12**  
NOV. 23

**WK13**  
DEC. 1 **NYG**

**BYE** **WK14**  
DEC. 7

**WK15**  
DEC. 14 **BUF**

@ **BAL** **WK16**  
DEC. 21

@ **NYJ** **WK17**  
DEC. 28

**WK18**  
TBD **MIA**



# Tre Veyon Henderson

TREVEYON HENDERSON BECAME NEW ENGLAND'S SECOND SELECTION OF 2025 WHEN THE PATRIOTS TABBED HIM WITH THE 38TH OVERALL PICK EARLY IN THE SECOND ROUND.

Henderson capped his college career at Ohio State by rushing for 1,016 yards and 10 touchdowns, helping the Buckeyes win the College Football Playoff National Championship. He was selected as a team captain and named Third-Team All-Big Ten in 2024. It was the fourth consecutive season Henderson had been named All-Big Ten (Second Team in 2021, Honorable Mention in 2022, First Team in 2023).

He finished ranked fifth in Buckeyes history with 3,761 rushing yards, trailing

only Archie Griffin, J.K. Dobbins, Ezekiel Elliott and Eddie George.

Henderson shined during the Patriots 48-18 rout of Washington in the teams' first preseason game, taking the opening kickoff 100 yards to the house for a TD. On offense, the rookie added an 18-yard carry and three catches for 12 yards.

## TOUCHDOWN FACTORY

The Buckeyes went 15-1 in the 16 games in which Henderson scored at least two touchdowns. He finished with 48 total scores (42 rushing and 6 receiving).

## CROSS-FIELD CONNECTION

Henderson and Vikings rookie guard Donovan Jackson were in the same Buckeyes recruiting class.

# OLDFATHER HISTORY



## TOP 2 AGAINST PATRIOTS

### ALL-TIME RESULTS

**REGULAR SEASON**  
VIKINGS ARE 5-9 IN 14  
GAMES

### LONGEST WIN STREAKS

5 GAMES BY NEW ENGLAND  
Nov. 24, 2002 – Dec. 2, 2018

### FIRST MEETING

DEC. 13, 1970 | AT NE | VIKINGS 35, PATRIOTS 14

Ed Sharockman picked off three passes as former Vikings teammate Joe Kapp played against Minnesota for the only time. John Henderson caught eight passes for 137 yards, including a 50-yarder from Bob Lee. Gene Washington added 101 receiving yards and a score.

### PREVIOUS MEETING

NOV. 24, 2022 | IN MIN | VIKINGS 33, PATRIOTS 26

Justin Jefferson led all receivers with 139 yards, including a touchdown, on nine catches, and T.J. Hockenson and Adam Thielen also scored through the air as Minnesota hosted a game on Thanksgiving for the first time.

Kene Nwangwu returned a kickoff 97 yards for a touchdown to tie the game at 23 in the third quarter. After a short Patriots field goal with 6:43 remaining, the Vikings tied the game early in the fourth and added the game's final points with 9:34 remaining.

Jordan Hicks, Danielle Hunter and Ross Blacklock each recorded sacks.

## THROWBACK MOMENT

WAY TO GO, MOE | NOV. 2, 1997

Moe Williams totaled 194 all-purpose yards (137 on four kickoff returns, 43 rushing and 14 receiving) and gave the Vikings a 10-point lead in the first quarter of an eventual 23-18 Vikings win.

Cris Carter's 28-yard touchdown reception from Brad Johnson put the Vikings up 23-12 with less than three minutes remaining.

Carter's final catch of the night gave him 116 yards on eight catches.

Orlando Thomas recorded the game's only interception, picking off Drew Bledsoe, and Duane Clemons recorded 2.0 sacks. John Randle also sacked Bledsoe once.

### RUSHING YARDS

**92** Adrian Peterson on 25 attempts at New England (Oct. 31, 2010)

**91** Robert Smith on 29 attempts at New England (Sept. 17, 2000)

### PASSING YARDS

**349** Warren Moon on 26-of-42 passing at New England (Nov. 13, 1994)

**317** Rich Gannon on 35-of-63 passing at New England (Oct. 20, 1991)

### RECEIVING YARDS

**139** Justin Jefferson on nine catches in Minnesota (Nov. 24, 2022)

**137** John Henderson on eight catches at New England (Dec. 13, 1970)

## AGAINST VIKINGS

### RUSHING YARDS

**129** Sam Cunningham on 22 attempts in Minnesota (Oct. 27, 1974)

**112** BenJarvus Green-Ellis on 17 attempts at New England (Oct. 31, 2010)

### PASSING YARDS

**426** Drew Bledsoe on 45-of-70 passing at New England (Nov. 13, 1994)

**382** Mac Jones on 28-of-39 passing in Minnesota (Nov. 24, 2022)

### RECEIVING YARDS

**161** Irving Fryar on nine catches at New England (Oct. 20, 1991)

**147** Harold Jackson on five catches at New England (Dec. 16, 1979)

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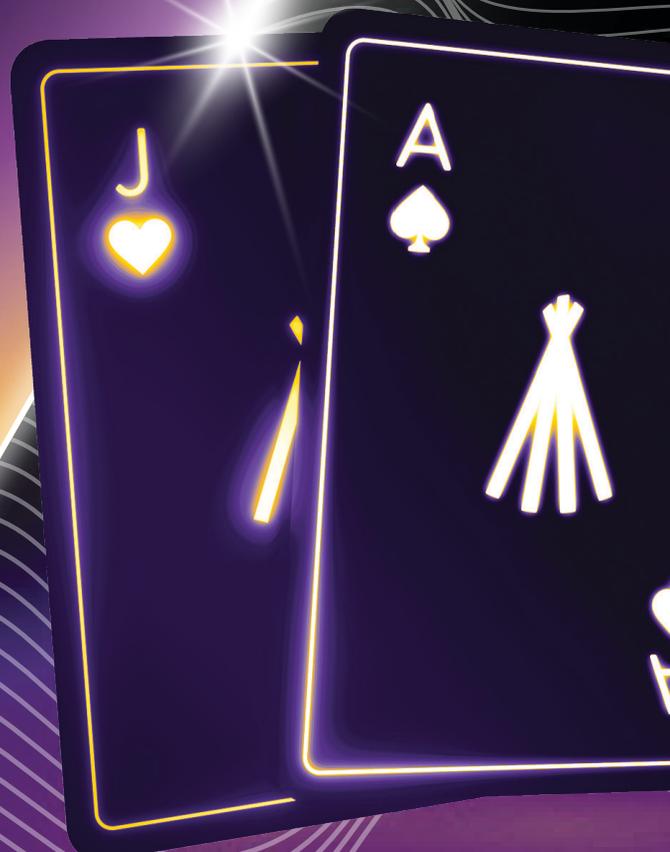


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VIKINGS OFFSEASON DIARIES:

# WALTER ROUSE

RECAPS EXCURSION TO CHURCHILL, MANITOBA

BY LINDSEY YOUNG

**Walter Rouse first learned of the Northern Lights through an animated film.**

The Vikings tackle watched Disney's *Brother Bear* as a youngster and found himself enamored with the bold, beautiful colors of the aurora borealis.

Since then, Rouse has always hoped for an opportunity to see the natural phenomenon in person. So when the Vikings offered him the opportunity this spring to take a trip to Churchill, Manitoba, he jumped at the chance.

Rouse and five Vikings staff members prepped for the Canadian excursion, which took them from Minneapolis, to Winnipeg, to Thompson (due to engine trouble and a premature landing) and finally to Churchill.

The first stop upon landing? Bundling up (*really* bundling up) and heading out with their guides to see Rouse's bucket-list item.

"It was so surreal," he said. "We had one of the best nights to do it on; the guide described it as, 'the lights were dancing for us.'"

"Even without the camera we could pick them up," Rouse continued. "You think about how crazy and how amazing Mother Nature is, how beautiful this world is. It's a very natural occurrence, and being able to see it in real time is amazing."

We sat down with Rouse and chatted about the rest of his adventure:

**Q: WAS IT RIDICULOUSLY COLD THERE? WORSE THAN YOU WERE EXPECTING?**

A: "When we got there and when we

were leaving, I didn't have my gloves on, and it felt like the air was slicing through my hand. When I learned about the people who first came to Churchill, without the technology we have today, there's so much more [admiration] on what they had to go through and endure. We went snowshoeing, and sometimes when people first came to Churchill, they didn't have the snowshoes and all the necessary equipment, and they would just be walking through the snow for miles and miles. I mean, I'm tired after an hour. But they were doing it for days. It makes you think about how much we take for granted. We have all this technology and whatnot to help us, keep us safe, keep us warm, make sure we can weather the storm in these conditions. But these people were just doing it out of pure will and survival instinct."

**Q: WHAT WAS THE EXPERIENCE OF DOG SLEDDING LIKE?**

A: "I was surprised, honestly, how fast they were able to pull us. We were learning about the person who runs the dog-sledding company, and he's done marathons with the dogs all over from Winnipeg to Manitoba, which is absolutely insane. The dogs are beautiful. Very smart. They have a very intentional system. You have the front dog, obviously the leader, and the back dogs are the strongest. And then you have the middle pack for endurance, who can run for miles on end. It almost reminds me of an offensive line, how they have eight, 12 dogs all

working together as one. We're five people acting as one. If someone gets off rhythm or does the wrong thing, it affects the whole unit. That was a really cool experience."

**Q: TELL ME ABOUT THE TRADING POST VISIT; DID YOU HAVE A FAVORITE ITEM YOU PICKED UP THERE?**

A: "We got these mitts, and they're insulated with coyote fur. I feel really comfortable in those. ... I also got a drum and a couple of hides and skins. Then some things that I got for my mom. The coolest thing I probably got was – I know about this artistic style called tufting, which is where they take the hair of a moose or caribou, they cut it really thin and they dye it, and then you're able to use tufting to make it into any shape, flower or image that you want, and they frame them. I got one for my mom, my grandma, my aunt, and it was just super cool how they did it. One was even gifted to me by one of the locals there."

**Q: WHAT WAS IT LIKE JUST GETTING TO CONNECT WITH CHURCHILL LOCALS AND TO SHARE SOME VIKINGS FOOTBALL WITH THEM?**

A: "It was crazy. Even though they're in Churchill, so far from the NFL, they are still very excited about the Vikings being there. We had a youth football camp for these kids at an

elementary school with Viktor, and one of the girls came to it in a Vikings cheerleader outfit. I'm like, 'Oh my goodness, even here.' One of the dads was wearing a Vikings jersey. So, that was really cool to see that even up there we've got fans. They

really embraced us, and we really embraced them."

**Q: DID YOU ENJOY TRAVELING WITH VIKINGS STAFF MEMBERS – VIKINGS ENTERTAINMENT NETWORK, EVEN VIKTOR – AND SEEING A LITTLE BIT BEHIND THE SCENES?**

A: "It was very cool. I love getting to learn the process a little bit, how they set everything up, how they captured the Northern Lights and had all these cameras around for timelapses and stuff. Then to see all the editing come together. Very cool to be on the inside looking out."

**Q: I HEARD THAT THE SEARCH FOR A POLAR BEAR WASN'T FRUITFUL; WERE YOU BUMMED? RELIEVED?**

A: "I was bummed. I wanted to see a polar bear. ... We're out there, and I'm lookin' at nothing but white. I'm trying to find a polar bear, and I'm like, 'This isn't gonna work.' But yeah, we didn't end up finding one. But apparently since the polar bear had been spotted [earlier], they said it probably was around our area when we were out snowshoeing that previous night. And it was a mama bear with a cub, so it would have been, 'Oh my god, no thank you.' You know, I guess all you've gotta do is be faster than the slowest person. ... But I would love to go back to Churchill sometime and hopefully see polar bears and blue whales. That would be amazing."



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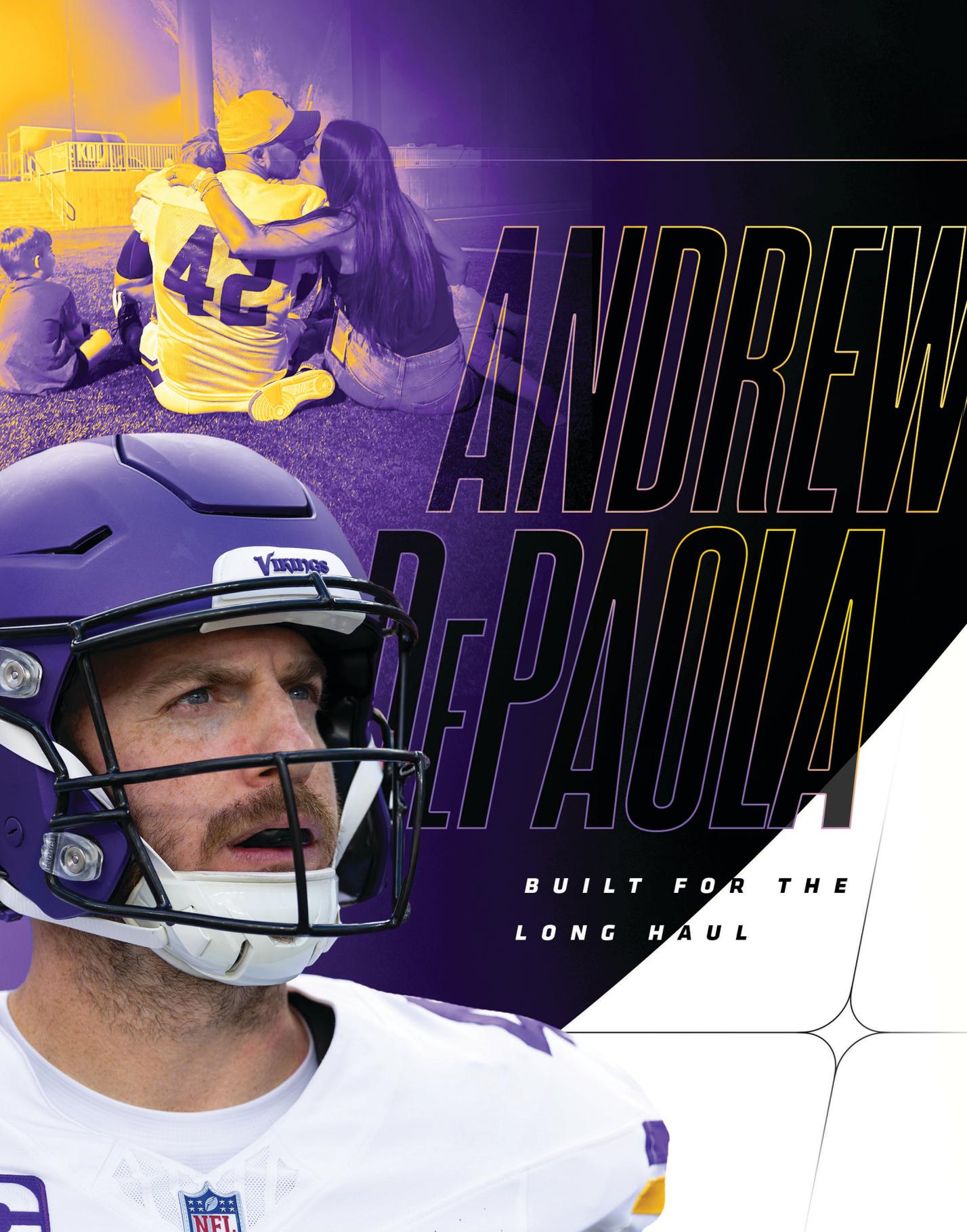


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# ANDREW DEPAOLA

BUILT FOR THE  
LONG HAUL

**Andrew DePaola sat on the turf of TCO Stadium, leaning back on his palms beneath an inky-dark sky lit by sparkling fireworks.**

Two-year-old Olivia, uncertain about the colorful explosions, nuzzled her head against DePaola's shoulder while wife Amy cozied next to him. Luke, 11 months, happily used DePaola's purple helmet as a jungle gym; 4-year-old Drew and almost-6-year-old Grace giggled and played nearby.

DePaola smiled, soaking in the moment. This is the life he's dreamed of.

The Vikings annual training camp night practice had just wrapped, marking his fifth as the team's long snapper. DePaola's path hasn't been easy. It has, however, been rewarding.

He's entering his 11th NFL season and sixth with Minnesota, but his journey actually began in 2012 as a 27-year-old undrafted rookie with the Buccaneers. He twice fell victim to final roster cuts but in 2014 became Tampa Bay's starting long snapper, a position he held three seasons before tearing his ACL in the 2016 regular-season finale. DePaola worked his way through rehab, played for Chicago the following season and joined the Raiders for the 2018 campaign ... only to tear his other ACL in Week 1.

DePaola found himself out of football for an entire year, working to find his way back to the sport he loves.

In November 2020, the Vikings gave him a shot, first on the practice squad and then the active roster in December – and it all paid off.

Fast-forward to this past February, and you'll note DePaola becoming the first long snapper in NFL history to make three Pro Bowl appearances.

To say DePaola doesn't take much for granted is an understatement.

"It just says a lot about who the guy is," Vikings Special Teams Coordinator Matt Daniels said. "You know what he's truly gone through, the adversity he's able to handle and the grit that he has. You just appreciate that so much."

Added Daniels: "Everybody's got a story, and that's what makes it so cool, right?"

Talk with DePaola's coaches or teammates, and it's likely they'll point out the work ethic that's gotten him where he is today.

He recalled being a young snapper trying to make it in the pros, focusing all his energy on his hands, arm strength and aim. He now understands that emphasis was misplaced.

What is the most important part of snapping, mechanics-wise? DePaola paused, chuckled, paused again.

"I don't know how to explain this," he quipped, "but it's the butt."

OK, then.

"You want your butt pointed at your target, and you want to keep your butt on the same plane," DePaola detailed, noting a raised or lowered derriere will disrupt the ball's trajectory. "It's something you've definitely got to work on. ... Your legs, your hips, those all need to work in sync, and that's where you get your power from. Your lower body does more than your hands, and you have to learn that to be successful."

## **LAYING THE GROUNDWORK**

DePaola's attention to detail also includes film study, a significant part of his game preparation. Sometimes, it's pulling up opponents' game tape with Daniels and Assistant Special Teams Coordinator Dalmin Gibson; but DePaola has plenty of solo study sessions, as well.

He uses an analogy: "If you give me six hours to chop down a tree, I'm going to spend the first four-and-a-half hours sharpening the blade. Film study, seeing those reps over and over again, it's huge."

DePaola's groundwork has shown up in very real ways, as Daniels pointed to a prime example during the 2022 Vikings Week 2 contest at Philadelphia.

"I know the exact play he's talking about," DePaola laughed. "We had seen something on film that they'd done the previous year, and they only did it once or twice, and then when they lined up in it, I recognized it right away.

"We had a call on; I turned around to [punt protector] Ty Chandler, who, by the way, was new that game because [Joshua] Metellus got hurt, so we threw Ty in," he recounted. "I relayed to Ty, 'Hey, this is what's going on, send me this direction because this is what they're running.' He asked, 'Are you sure?' And I said, 'Yes.' We did, and it all worked out."

Over the past five seasons in Purple, DePaola's contributed to multiple memorable games.

The one that takes the cake? Minnesota's history-making, comeback win over the Colts in December 2022.



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adversity he's able to handle and the grit that he  
has. You just appreciate that so much."*

- MATT DANIELS, VIKINGS SPECIAL TEAMS COORDINATOR

DePaola recalled a disastrous (across the board) first half, when Indianapolis blocked a Vikings first-quarter punt attempt, and a punt fake failed in the following period. Minnesota went into halftime down 33-0.

"I remember going into the locker room and being like, 'All right, everyone settle down. It's us. Like, we're the Minnesota Vikings. Relax. We're gonna come back; we're gonna be fine,'" DePaola said. "And I remember [Patrick Peterson] telling everyone, 'Hey guys, all we need is five touchdowns.'

"At the time it sounded silly ... but it was also like, 'OK, yeah, we can do that.' We calmed down, we went back out there and did our job, and we wound up winning," he continued. "We hit the game-winning field goal, and I run down and get the ball for the kicker, so I'm running down, and the ball went through. And then I see people coming out on the field, and I'm like, 'What are y'all doing? Like, get off the field. We're still playing.'

"I was so locked in, and I didn't know we just won," DePaola chuckled. "I was like, 'We have a job to do, get out of here.' And then everyone was like, 'You guys just won.' "

### **CONNECTION & COMPASSION**

DePaola has an innate ability to connect with others – coaches, teammates, staff members and fans.

Daniels noted DePaola is consistently reliable not only on the field but off.

"He's authentic, he's personable, he's caring," Daniels said. "What really separates a lot of leaders is he's a very empathetic person. He shows true empathy for individuals, and you really appreciate that, because he truly can tap into what you're going through, understand it, communicate with you – whether you're looking for an answer from him or you're just looking for an ear."

Asked where that sense of compassion comes from, DePaola paused for a moment before answering.

"There really isn't a situation that I haven't been in. I've been the camp body. I've been the guy competing for a job and getting cut; I've been the guy competing for a job and getting the job. I've been the guy struggling, you know, feeling like you're at your lowest low and then realizing it's not your lowest. I've been the guy who's been at the highest high. I've been the guy who's gotten hurt, missed a year. I've been the guy who's been cut, re-signed," DePaola rattled off. "I think I can see myself in a lot of different players, just because I've been in so many situations ... I've also been around for a couple years, so you see guys struggling and you understand there could be some off-the-field stuff going on. Take that person under your wing, make them feel loved. 'Hey man, you matter. What's going on?'

"That can be uplifting for a lot of guys," he added. "I try to do that as often as I can, because I've been in that situation and I think an arm around me would have helped at that time. I also just try to be human and care about people, who they are. I think relationships we build here are going to last far beyond the game of football, and I try to keep that in mind, too."

One such friend is Harrison Smith, who's had a front-row (well, really, adjacent) seat to DePaola's genuine nature, as The Hitman's locker has been beside Sir Po's (a nickname bestowed by Daniels) since he signed with Minnesota five years ago.

Smith, entering his 14th Vikings season, is grateful to have a locker mate just a year-and-a-half older than him and joked the two can commiserate about aging bodies and aching joints.

"We're grumpy vets sometimes, and we can lean on each

other to get by," Smith quipped. "But it's really great. I could ask DePo any question off the top of my head, and we'll have good conversation about it. We're also in similar stages of our lives and careers, and it helps to have a guy like that around, feeling what you're feeling and in the same shoes.

"We had Jets (Justin Jefferson) right there by us, and we had Kirk [Cousins]. Now we've got J.J. [McCarthy] and Aaron Jones and Sam Howell over there, so it's a good little location, and we're kind of the OGs on the block now," Smith continued. "We've had a lot of good times just hanging out at the lockers."

The Vikings have had a history of interesting long snappers during Smith's tenure, including Cullen Loeffler, Kevin McDermott and DePaola.

"They have so much time, they should be able to develop a personality; the rest of us, we're just football jocks. We don't have much depth to us," Smith deadpanned. "But no – DePo, there's a lot of layers to him, but just a solid, solid dude and a great teammate. There's a reason he's been around for so long. He thinks about others quite a bit, guys that he doesn't even know, and you can tell you he takes pride in it."

DePaola has built a rapport also with Minnesota community members and Vikings fans.

Whether it's posting Pro Bowl jersey giveaways and interacting with fans on social media or his weekly Friday appearance on 93X, DePaola gathers supporters wherever he goes.

He's done the radio segment now for three seasons and is excited to pick it up again this year. DePaola regularly razzes the show co-hosts, reminding them he wasn't their first choice.

"Yeah, if I'm being honest, we had tossed quite a few names out there to the Vikings three years ago before we landed on DePo," laughed radio personality Dana Wessel. "So was he the first choice? Nope. But did it end up being the perfect choice for everyone involved? Absolutely.

"Every athlete is different on the radio, regardless of their position. Some have a big personality and have fun while others are more shy and reserved. It took about five minutes for Andrew's self-deprecating sense of humor to fit right in with the rest of us on the show," Wessel added. "It's been awesome seeing how much our listeners have taken to DePo, as well. I think they were skeptical at first – I mean, there is a reason Netflix has a show called *Quarterback* and not *Long Snapper* – but they immediately took to him like we did."

Wessel noted the station's efforts in promoting Pro Bowl fan voting for DePaola each year.

"Our listeners rally around him like a bunch of Swifties," he said. "Everyone around here takes it as a badge of honor each year when we see his name get selected, and we're looking

forward to making it four years running."

## **MAKING AN IMPRESSION**

As DePaola enters the 2025 campaign, expect him to continue prepping, working and executing as he's always done.

Daniels already knows he'll hear "unbelievable" compliments of DePaola from opposing coaches and players on a week-to-week basis.

Bears long snapper Scott Daly has spent the past four seasons in the NFC North (Detroit 2021-23, Chicago 2024) and has looked up to DePaola as someone who's navigated a similar "unorthodox" journey and humbly seen it pay off.

"More than anything, his resiliency is very, very inspirational," Daly said. "And not only that, but he's a great ambassador for the game, a great ambassador for the position. Somebody who's incredibly successful at what he does, incredibly consistent, very level-headed – and at the same time, a great person for his community, the organization, the team. He's been great to play against twice a year.

"I can't say enough great things about him and the player he is but, more importantly, the person he is off the field."

DePaola takes each of his roles seriously: husband, father, teammate, friend. Minnesota Viking.

"This locker room has been pretty special," DePaola said. "Guys on the team, we care about each other's successes, and we celebrate that. ... We celebrate each other, not really ourselves, which is just really cool to see.

"This coaching staff allows you to be who you are while still playing football. They don't try to make you someone else," he added. "It's been a breath of fresh air. It's been great. It's been unlike anywhere else I played, which has been awesome.

"And wearing the 'C' on my jersey? That's probably the highest honor I've ever achieved at this level. It's not something I take lightly; I try to be that guy every day," DePaola emphasized. "To be voted by your teammates as captain is huge to me. And I think that's the biggest thing I'll take away from the NFL, just knowing that the guys looked at me in that way."



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# STATE OF THE VIKINGS

BY CRAIG PETERS

The Vikings are entering their fourth season under General Manager Kwesi Adofo-Mensah and Head Coach Kevin O'Connell. Minnesota signed each to a contract extension this offseason. The two continued their collaboration in a free agency period that was highly active for the second consecutive year and added more newcomers during the 2025 NFL Draft. This is the State of the 2025 Vikings.

## QUARTERBACKS

### RETURNEES:

J.J. McCarthy (rookie season on IR) and Brett Rypien (backup in 2024)

### NEWCOMERS:

Veteran Sam Howell (acquired from Seahawks) and undrafted free agent (UDFA) Max Brosmer

### POSITION OVERVIEW:

The Vikings are prepping to have a new Week 1 starter for the third consecutive season. McCarthy, the No. 10 overall pick of 2024, watched and learned as a rookie while rehabbing a knee injury he suffered last August. He showed during spring practices that he maximized his opportunity to grow in the system. Rypien, who was acquired just before the season, received credit for leading Minnesota's scout team in 2024. Howell was added via a draft-day trade with Seattle. Brosmer, the former Golden Gopher, stayed in town by signing as an undrafted free agent.

### WHAT TO WATCH:

There's no class like time on the grass, especially at the sport's most difficult position – and when facing a tough defense. Be sure to appreciate accuracy and arm strength on passes but also observe some of the intangibles of playing the position like the ability to connect with teammates and move past a good or bad play.



# RECEIVERS

## RETURNING STARTERS:

Jordan Addison, Justin Jefferson and Jalen Nailor

## OTHER RETURNEES:

Lucky Jackson, Jashaun Jones and Thayer Thomas (all on 2024 practice squad)

## NEWCOMERS:

Veterans Tim Jones and Rondale Moore; draft pick Tai Felton; UDFA's Silas Bolden, Dontae Fleming, Robert Lewis and Myles Price

## NEXT MILESTONES:

Jefferson, the first person with at least 7,000 receiving yards in his first five NFL seasons, needs five receptions to reach the 500-catch mark. He needs four to pass Steve Jordan for fourth in team history and 40 to overtake former teammate Adam Thielen, who recorded 534 for Minnesota. After that, Jefferson will be chasing only Randy Moss (587) and Cris Carter (1,004).

## BE SURE TO CATCH:

The way receivers track the football and make something that can be difficult look so smooth.

# TIGHT ENDS

## RETURNEES:

T.J. Hockenson and Josh Oliver

## NEWCOMERS:

Draft pick Gavin Bartholomew; UDFA's Bryson Nesbit and Ben Yurosek; free agents Giovanni Ricci and Nick Vannett

## READY TO ROCK 'N' ROLL:

Hockenson racked up 41 catches and 455 yards after returning to action in Week 9. Oliver showed he can impact the passing game while Hockenson was out, as well as his blocking prowess.

## SUCCESSION PLAN:

The Vikings heavily leaned on Johnny Mundt for the past three seasons, but he signed with Jacksonville. Bartholomew has since stepped into the Purple 86 jersey formerly donned by Mundt. The Vikings like multifaceted tight ends.

# RUNNING BACKS/FULLBACK

## RETURNING STARTERS:

RB Aaron Jones, Sr., and FB C.J. Ham

## OTHER RETURNEES:

RBs Ty Chandler (reserve in 2024) and Zavier Scott (PS in 2024)

## NEWCOMERS:

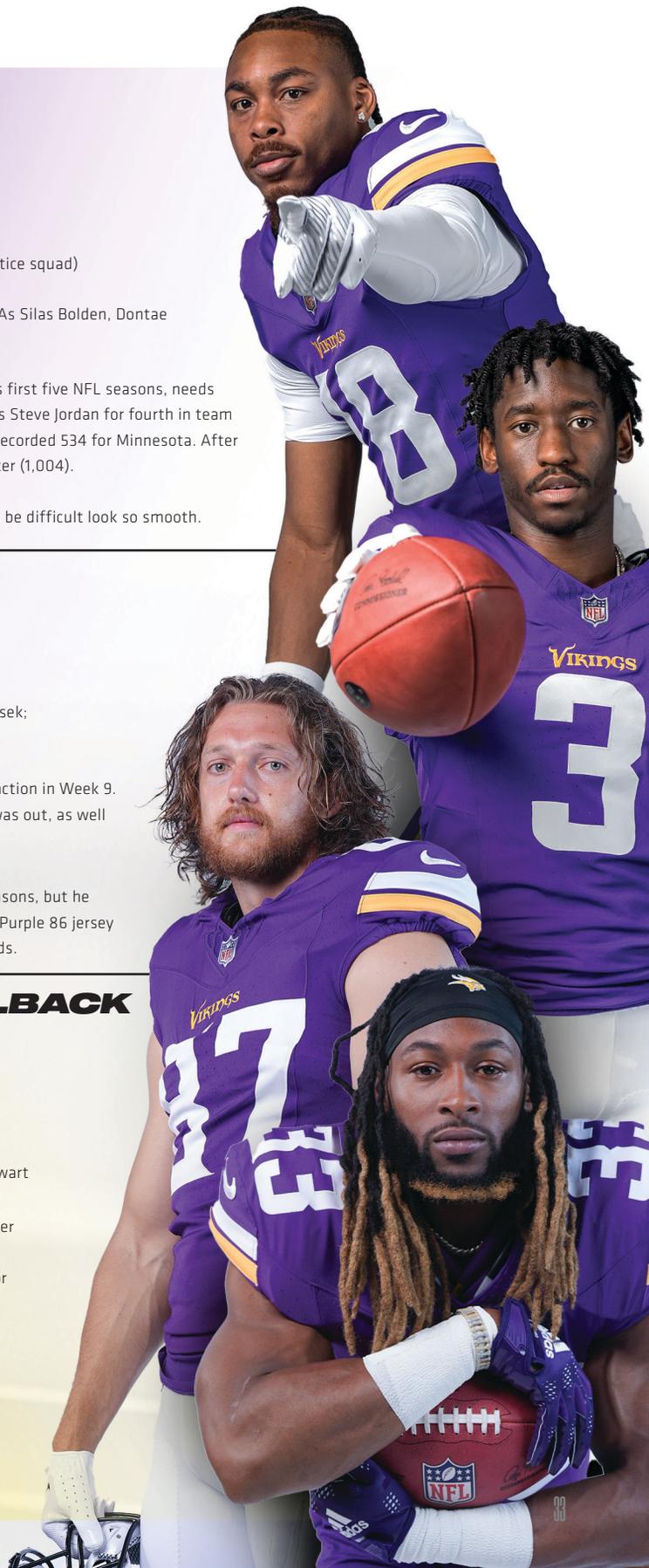
Veteran RB Jordan Mason (acquired from 49ers) and UDFA Tre Stewart

## PLAN 1A-1B:

Jones excelled in his first season with the Vikings, rushing for career highs in carries (255) and yards (1,138). The Vikings added Mason through a trade with the goal of reducing some of the workload for Jones, who turned 30 in December.

## POINT OF EMPHASIS:

The Vikings committed multiple resources in the offseason to boost their results in short-yardage situations. Since the Vikings are unlikely to tackle to the ground at camp practices, the preseason games could provide a better indicator on how the plan is working.



## OFFENSIVE LINE

### RETURNEES:

Blake Brandel, Henry Byrd (PS in 2024), Christian Darrisaw, Michael Jurgens, Brian O'Neill, Walter Rouse and Leroy Watson IV (PS in 2024)

### NEWCOMERS:

Veterans Will Fries, Ryan Kelly and Justin Skule; draft pick Donovan Jackson; UDFAs Logan Brown, Zeke Correll, Joe Huber and Vershon Lee

### MOVING COMPANY MAKEOVER:

The Vikings overhauled their moving company with the quick signing of former Colts teammates Kelly and Fries. Minnesota followed by using its first draft pick of 2025 to select Jackson.

### BE SURE TO CATCH:

An encouraging development during spring practices was the sight of Darrisaw participating in individual position drills as he works his way back from a Week 8 injury. The Vikings will be smart and patient with his return and added experienced depth at tackle with the signing of Skule.

## DEFENSIVE LINE

### RETURNEES:

Travis Bell (PS in 2024), Jonathan Harris (PS in 2024), Harrison Phillips, Jalen Redmond, Levi Drake Rodriguez and Taki Taimani

### NEWCOMERS:

Veterans Jonathan Allen and Javon Hargrave; draft pick Tyrion Ingram-Dawkins; UDFA Elijah Williams

### DISRUPTORS UNITE:

Allen and Hargrave were signed in Minnesota's initial free agency splash, and the Vikings expect the players with 42 and 45.5 career sacks, respectively, to continue being disruptive forces.

### TRACK YOUNG BUCKS:

Redmond, Rodriguez and Taimani all flashed bright spots during last year's camp and preseason to secure spots on the Initial 53. Keep an eye on how the young bucks are progressing.

## OUTSIDE LINEBACKERS

### RETURNEES:

Andrew Van Ginkel, Jonathan Greenard, Gabriel Murphy, Bo Richter and Dallas Turner

### NEWCOMERS:

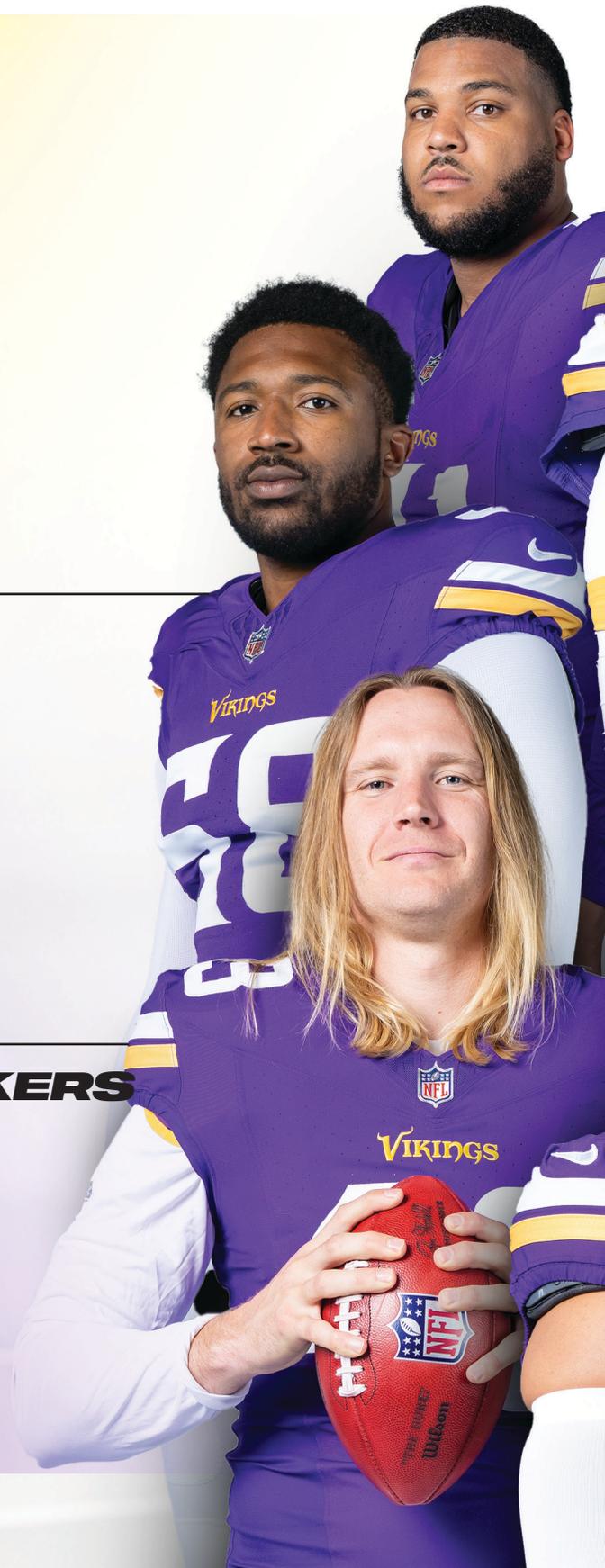
UDFAs Tyler Batty and Chaz Chambliss

### FORWARD PROGRESS:

Van Ginkel and Greenard made the Pro Bowl in their first season together and were the NFL's only set of teammates to each record 11.5-plus sacks in 2024. They'll look to slingshot off their strong season.

### TAKING A TURN:

Turner, a super-athletic second-year pro, is projected to be more involved in 2025. Murphy and Richter performed well as undrafted free agents in last year's camp and wound up playing a bit in 2024.





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## LINEBACKERS

### RETURNEES:

Brian Asamoah II, Blake Cashman and Ivan Pace, Jr.

### NEWCOMERS:

Veteran Eric Wilson (was with Vikings from 2017-20); draft pick Kobe King; UDFA's Austin Keys and Dorian Mausii

### COMMUNICATIVE COMBO:

Cashman stepped straight into "green dot" duties during his first season with the Vikings, and Pace filled in when the Eden Prairie native missed time. They worked well together, with Cashman showing speed and prowess in coverage and Pace demonstrating fearless heat-seeking attributes.

### WELCOME BACK EWIL:

Wilson is one of the early success stories the Vikings have been able to build on with undrafted players in the past decade. He brings valuable experience on defense and spunk on special teams.

## CORNERBACKS

### RETURNEES:

Mekhi Blackmon, Byron Murphy, Jr., and Dwight McGlothern, Jr.

### NEWCOMERS:

Veterans Jeff Okudah, Isaiah Rodgers, Reddy Steward, Ambry Thomas; UDFA's Keenan Garber and Zemaiah Vaughn

### PRIORITY RE-SIGNING:

The Vikings placed a directed emphasis on re-signing Murphy, whose career-best six interceptions in 2024 brought his career total to 14 and earned his first Pro Bowl trip.

### RESTOCK EFFORT:

Rodgers has been on Defensive Coordinator Brian Flores' radar since the former played at Massachusetts and the latter was with the Patriots. Okudah has battled through injuries early in his career but could help Minnesota's restocking efforts at corner.

## SAFETIES

### RETURNEES:

Theo Jackson, Joshua Metellus, Harrison Smith and Jay Ward

### NEWCOMERS:

Veterans Kahlef Hailassie, Tavierre Thomas, Gervarius Owens and UDFA Mishael Powell

### HIT-MAN-ME AGAIN:

Smith is up to 192 career games (191 starts) over 13 seasons, and The Hitman is ready to impact games again.

### ACTION TIME FOR JACKSON:

Vikings fans have seen Metellus deployed in so many ways, and they've also seen Jackson deliver some big moments even though his opportunities have been limited. If spring practices are an indicator, he's on course for more opportunities.

# SPECIALISTS

## RETURNEES:

LS Andrew DePaola; K Will Reichard; P Ryan Wright

## NEWCOMERS:

P Oscar Chapman (International Player Pathway)

## ENCORE ACT:

DePaola is the first long snapper in league history to make three consecutive Pro Bowls. His consistency helped Reichard in a strong rookie season.

# COACHING

O'Connell was named 2024 NFL Coach of the Year by *The Associated Press*, becoming the first Vikings leader to receive the honor since Bud Grant in 1969. His staff has enjoyed a solid degree of continuity with Offensive Coordinator Wes Phillips and Special Teams Coordinator Matt Daniels back for their fourth seasons and Defensive Coordinator Brian Flores entering his third season in Minnesota.

# NFLPA REPORT CARD

The Vikings facilities, coaching and support staff and operations received the second-best marks on the 2025 NFLPA Report Cards that were announced by the NFL Players Association in February.

The Vikings ranked No. 1 in 2023 and have ranked No. 2 behind the Dolphins in the past two years.

The report cards compiled players' ratings on aspects of the organizations that included quality of team facilities and programming to treatment of families, coaching and ownership.

## NFLPA REPORT CARD FOR VIKINGS

CATEGORY	GRADE	RANK OUT OF 32	
		GRADE	RANK
Treatment of Families	A+	A+	1 <sup>ST</sup>
Food/Cafeteria	A-	A-	9 <sup>TH</sup>
Nutritionist/Dietitian	B+	B+	15 <sup>TH</sup>
Weight Room	A-	A-	10 <sup>TH</sup>
Strength Staff	A	A	2 <sup>ND</sup>
Training Room	A	A	4 <sup>TH</sup>
Training Staff	A-	A-	2 <sup>ND</sup>
Locker Room	A+	A+	1 <sup>ST</sup>
Travel	A	A	3 <sup>RD</sup>
Head Coach	A+	A+	3 <sup>RD</sup>
Ownership	A+	A+	2 <sup>ND</sup>





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young fan or are simply young-at-heart, our  
Facebook group is the perfect place to call home.

**SCAN TO JOIN**

The smartphone screenshot shows a Facebook post from the Minnesota Vikings Kids group. The post is dated Oct 14 and contains the text: "Happy #PurpleFriday Vikings Fans! It might be an away game this weekend, but we still want to see your purple game day gear! Share your pictures with us and keep up the energy as we cheer on the Vikings against the Miami Dolphins this Sunday #SKOL". Below the text are two photos of young fans in purple jerseys cheering at a game. The post has 3 likes and 1 comment. The bottom of the screen shows the Facebook navigation bar with icons for Home, Watch, Dating, Gaming, Notifications, and Menu.

# PLANTING & GROWING FLAG FOOTBALL

THE SEEDS OF SUPPORT FOR AND PARTICIPATION IN FLAG FOOTBALL ARE  
CREATING MORE OPPORTUNITIES THROUGHOUT MINNESOTA AND BEYOND.

## GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

A dozen girls high school flag football teams competed as the Vikings hosted the inaugural state title, which Mahtomedi claimed with a 36-20 victory over La Crescent-Hokah at TCO Stadium on June 9.

Young women on the sideline sprinted to meet their teammates on the field in a celebratory mob, lifting the black-and-silver trophy above their heads in triumph. “This means everything for them,” Mahtomedi Head Coach Nick Sullivan said. “Everything

that we do, and all the success, it’s for them.” Trailblazers. It’s true of the Zephyrs, who became the first team in state history to officially win the girls high school flag football championship, an initiative supported through a \$600,000 contribution by the Vikings.

It’s true also, though, of 50 – 50! – other teams that competed this season. After helping launch a pilot program in 2024 with four teams (La Crescent-Hokah, Rosemount, Houston and Pine Island), the Vikings in 2025 looked to expand to a full league – and expand they did.

“It’s just been so cool to see the growth,” La Crescent-Hokah senior Savanah Klinski said prior to the final game. “The number of people who have been out here today, it’s just been amazing. Last year we were just a small little group, and now the bleachers are filled. It’s incredible.”

Klinski caught two touchdown passes and a 2-point conversion in the championship game; she earlier helped lead the Lancers to wins over Two Rivers (33-12) and Centennial (24-6). The Zephyrs, quarterbacked by Rylee Bogren, defeated Bloomington and Park (in Cottage Grove) with identical scores of 32-0 en route to facing La Crescent-Hokah.

Mahtomedi senior Presley Albers scored the Zephyrs final touchdown of the evening.

“We all grew up watching football with our family, and just to see women [playing football and] little girls can look up to them and know they can do whatever they want, it’s special,” Albers said.

The Vikings announced in late May a partnership with the Minnesota Star Tribune to continue growing girls flag football. The Star Tribune created a dedicated page on its MN Football Hub and streamed the tournament live.



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# WOMEN'S COLLEGE LEAGUE

Second-half comeback, red-zone fourth down, overtime and double elimination under the lights.

Minnesota's inaugural collegiate women's flag football season couldn't have had a better concluding tournament.



The Vikings helped seven NCAA institutions make history this spring when they launched the first-of-its kind league. The inaugural season featured Saturday jamborees at the University of Northwestern – St. Paul and the University of Wisconsin-Stout, and culminated April 26 with a championship tournament at TCO Stadium.

"It's such an amazing experience for girls to not only experience what typically people stereotype as a 'men's sport,' but I also think it's been a great opportunity to grow and push ourselves to do things maybe we weren't able to do in high school," Augustana senior Mia Frank said.

Frank was part of a resilient Augustana University team that lost its first game to UW-Stout but then defeated Bethel University and Concordia Moorhead to work through the consolation bracket and rematch against Stout in the championship.

Frank helped lead the Augustana Vikings on a second-half comeback to force the game into overtime and secure a nail-biting win; because the tournament was double-elimination, however, Augustana and Stout had to immediately play each other a third time against a setting sun.



Ultimately, the Blue Devils pulled away with the title.

Vikings Vice President of Social Impact Brett Taber, who took in the jamboree along with his 7-year-old son, called the inaugural season a "resounding success" with tremendous potential for growth.

"The Minnesota Vikings are proud to help create opportunities for these athletes, and collectively, they put on an incredible display of passion and athleticism," Taber said. "The championship tournament at TCO Stadium was exhilarating on every play, and it is clear that flag football in our region has only just begun."



# NFL PLAYERS ELIGIBLE FOR FLAG FOOTBALL AT 2028 OLYMPICS



Justin Jefferson and Brian Asamoah II have lived out their dreams of making it to the NFL.

The Vikings receiver and linebacker in May took a step toward another dream – becoming an Olympian.

NFL owners at the Spring League Meeting at Omni Viking Lakes approved a resolution to allow NFL players to participate in flag football during the 2028 Olympics, which will introduce the sport to its lineup in Los Angeles. Negotiations with the NFL Players Association will follow.

Jefferson, Asamoah, NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, NFL EVP of Football Operations Troy Vincent and EVP of Club Business and League Events Peter O'Reilly shared their excitement for the news during a press conference.

"The membership today made a bold move," Vincent said. "America's game is now on the world stage."

Jefferson was announced as a Global Flag Ambassador in June 2023 and has been sharing his electrifying enthusiasm for growing the game.

"Reverting back to being a kid and watching the track and field meets, watching basketball win the gold medal, that's something that as a kid I always wanted to be a part of, but football wasn't global, so now we're expanding the game, it's pretty cool," Jefferson said.

Asamoah has been sponsoring youth flag teams in Ghana through his BA (Be Authentic) Foundation, further connecting with his heritage. This spring, he traveled there with Vikings running back Aaron Jones, Sr., and receiver Jordan Addison to support the "Road to LA28" program in Accra. Nearly 100 athletes tried out at the University of Ghana's Rugby Field to be selected for the 50-player pool that will begin training to represent Ghana at the Olympics.

Asamoah's parents moved to the United States in 2000, shortly before he was born in Newark, New Jersey. Asamoah then grew up in Columbus, Ohio. He visited Ghana when he was 10 years old and tried to explain American football to his peers.

"I just can't wait to see the excitement and joy that everybody's going to be able to see out of the players, the fans and each country being able to say I have an opportunity to compete in the highest games, LA28, and an opportunity to bring the gold back to the Gold Coast," Asamoah said.

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7:15 PM >>>>	09.08 @ <b>CHI</b> 
7:20 PM >>>>	09.14 vs <b>ATL</b> 
NOON >>>>	09.21 vs <b>CIN</b> 
8:30 AM >>>>	09.28 @ <b>PIT</b> 
8:30 AM >>>>	10.05 @ <b>CLE</b> 
<b>BYE WEEK</b>	
NOON >>>>	10.19 vs <b>PHI</b> 
7:15 PM >>>>	10.23 @ <b>LAC</b> 
NOON >>>>	11.02 @ <b>DET</b> 
NOON >>>>	11.09 vs <b>BAL</b> 
NOON >>>>	11.16 vs <b>CHI</b> 
NOON >>>>	11.23 @ <b>GB</b> 
3:05 PM >>>>	11.30 @ <b>SEA</b> 
NOON >>>>	12.07 vs <b>WAS</b> 
7:20 PM >>>>	12.14 @ <b>DAL</b> 
NOON >>>>	12.21 @ <b>NYG</b> 
3:30 PM >>>>	12.25 vs <b>DET</b> 
TBD >>>>	TBD vs <b>GB</b> 

## MINNESOTA VIKINGS 2025 SCHEDULE >>>>

Minnesota's 2025 slate is full of historical significance, including rarities of opening with back-to-back prime-time games (at Chicago and against Atlanta) and playing on Christmas Day for just the fifth time in franchise history (hosting Detroit).

The Vikings also will become the first NFL team to play in back-to-back international games in two different countries.

Here are six takeaways from the Vikings 2025 schedule:

### 1 HISTORIC DOUBLE DIPS BEFORE BYE

The Vikings will open on the road at the Chicago Bears for a *Monday Night Football* contest and follow by hosting the Atlanta Falcons in Week 2 on *Sunday Night Football*.

Minnesota has only opened one season (1981) with back-to-back games in prime time with a Saturday night game at Tampa Bay and a Monday night game against the Raiders.

Minnesota has gone 4-0 in regular-season games played in London and will try to chalk a victory over Pittsburgh in Ireland in Week 4 before returning to the UK to face the Cleveland Browns. Interestingly, Minnesota is the only team Pittsburgh and Cleveland have played in a regular-season game on international soil.

### 2 MCCARTHY & YOUNG QBS TAKE CENTER STAGE EARLY

The Vikings era with J.J. McCarthy at quarterback will launch in the second-year pro's hometown.

The No. 10 overall pick of 2024 is poised to face that year's top selection, Caleb Williams.

The young QB comparisons will flow into Week 2, including the anticipated matchup with 2024 No. 8 overall pick Michael Penix, Jr., who started three games last season after Atlanta pivoted from former Vikings QB Kirk Cousins. Washington's visit (Week 14) will provide an opportunity to face 2024 No. 2 pick Jayden Daniels.

### 3 ROLLING 7: EXCLUSIVE-WINDOW GAMES

Consider it a sign of respect.

The Vikings are scheduled to participate in seven "exclusive-window games."

In addition to Weeks 1-2 and 4-5, the Vikings also are scheduled for a Thursday night game at the Los Angeles Chargers on Prime Video, a Sunday night game at Dallas on NBC and the Christmas Day game, which will be streamed by Netflix at 3:30 p.m. (CT).

### 4 DÉJÀ VU ALL OVER AGAIN

Stop us if you've heard this before.

The Vikings play in London in Week 5, have a Week 6 bye, a really tough home game in Week 7 and a trip to Los Angeles for a Thursday game in Week 8.

The late, great Yogi Berra would sum that up as "déjà vu all over again" and wouldn't have to dip too far into the past for a reference. The 2024 slate was Week 5 vs. Jets in London, Week 6 Bye, Week 7 vs. Lions, Week 8 at L.A. Rams on a Thursday.

### 5 A FEARSOME FOURSOME

No, the Rams aren't on the schedule. No need to worry about the legacy of Deacon Jones, Merlin Olsen, Rosey Grier or Lamar Lundy reincarnate.

But the stretch against the Eagles, Chargers, Lions and Ravens is a four-game run against teams that were a combined 52-16 during the 2024 regular season.

### 6 DOUBLE DROUGHTS OF HOME GAMES

It has been common in each of the past six seasons for the Vikings to be away from U.S. Bank Stadium for the middle part of the season. This year, there will be two such instances.

- **2019:** One home game between Oct. 14 and Nov. 17
- **2020:** One home game between Oct. 19 and Nov. 22
- **2021:** One home game between Oct. 11 and Nov. 21
- **2022:** One home game between Oct. 10 and Nov. 20
- **2023:** One home game between Oct. 24 and Nov. 27
- **2024:** One home game between Oct. 21 and Dec. 1
- **2025:** One home game between Sept. 22 and Nov. 9 AND one home game between Nov. 17 and Dec. 25



# J.J. MCCARTHY HELPS VIKINGS TABLE DELIVER 100,000<sup>TH</sup> MEAL

J.J. McCarthy successfully made his first handoffs – and provided his first highlight – of 2025.

The Vikings second-year quarterback and his fiancée Katya joined the Vikings Table food truck, powered by Xcel Energy, at YouthLink’s Drop-In Center to distribute meals to teens and young adults in March.

The meals distributed included some that were packaged for later use, including one in a gold bag to commemorate the 100,000th meal delivered since Vikings Table’s mission launched in summer 2019. Those meals were delivered to YouthLink in a new refrigerated van that increased flexibility for continuing to reach people who can benefit from a good meal.

McCarthy then lined up alongside Xcel Energy Senior Vice President/Chief Communications Officer Rob Clark to serve Southwest-themed bowls featuring a choice of chicken, spicy chicken, beef or vegetarian options from Vikings Table.

“The handoffs were great,” McCarthy said. “I believe the recipients of the handoffs were even better.”

Clark said the event was a wonderful way to continue the partnership between Xcel Energy and the Minnesota Vikings Foundation.

“[The 100,000th meal] is a great milestone. It’s a very visible sign of the great partnership we have,” Clark said. “Unfortunately, what it means is we’ve got food insecurity issues in our community. We’re going to continue to be focused on that. We’ve re-upped our partnership to do this.

“We want to make sure we continue to serve those in the community that need it,” Clark added. “We would love to see food insecurity go away entirely, but until then, we’re going to continue to do what we can to make sure

people have access to food they need.”

Less than a year after Minnesota selected McCarthy with the 10th overall pick of the 2024 NFL Draft, he’s expanded his efforts to make a difference in this community.

“It’s really special, being a Midwest kid,” McCarthy said. “It’s really awesome to be able to build those relationships and that connection to the city, a real heartbeat of the city. It’s awesome every opportunity I get, and I relish every moment.”

YouthLink serves young people aged 16 to 24 who are experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness in the Twin Cities.

Darian Rosenthal, a YouthLink client, enjoyed meeting McCarthy. He exuded enthusiasm at the opportunity to talk football with the QB.

“It’s been an honor, a blessing,” Rosenthal said. “He’s going to do good this year. I have faith in him. I was just giving him congratulations on his season.”

Rosenthal said YouthLink “helps me achieve things I couldn’t do on my own” by providing “a stable environment to live through and build from.”

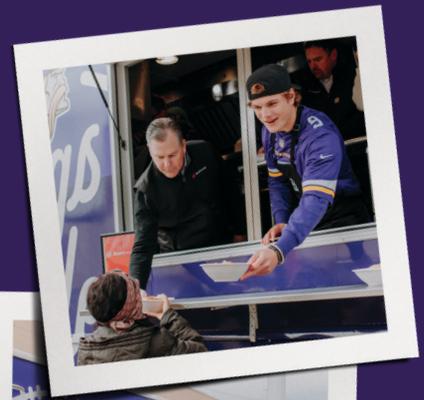
And it provided him with a memory and a memento. McCarthy removed his No. 9 jersey, autographed it and presented it to Rosenthal, adding to the ways he connected with YouthLink clients and staff.

YouthLink Drop-In Center Youth Services Director Ko Quaye said the optional space serves more than 120 teens and young adults daily at its 41 North 12th Street location in Minneapolis.

“Last year about 20,000 came through our doors,” Quaye said. “It’s amazing we can do that work at that capacity, but it’s

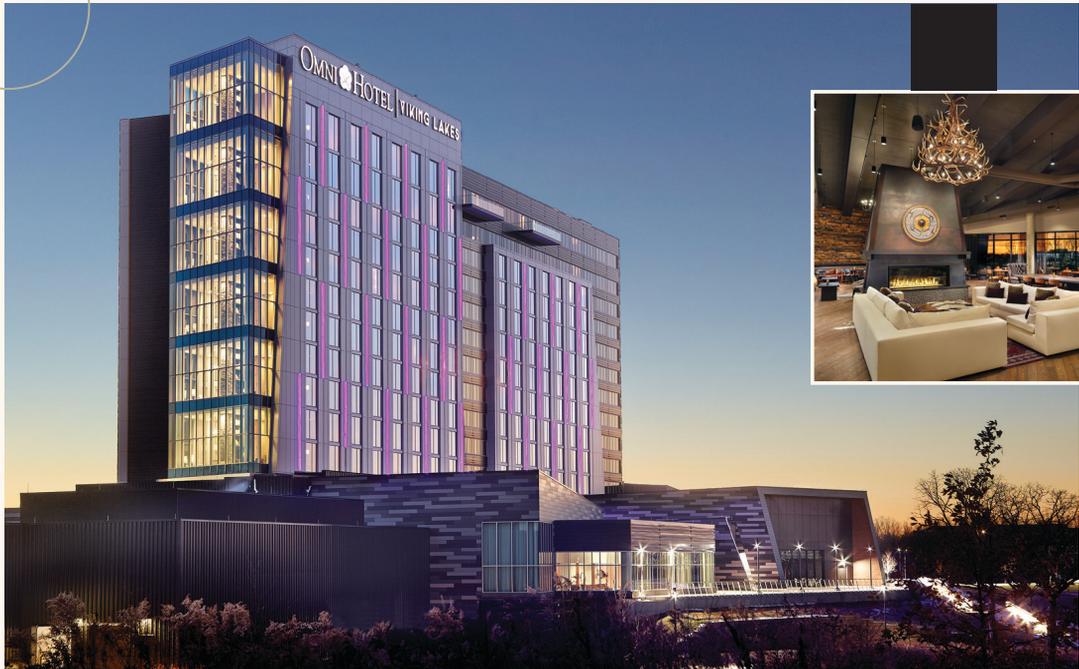
also alarming that we see that many young people in a calendar year. Partnerships like the Minnesota Vikings Foundation make it doable for us.”

Quaye took great joy in seeing the interaction between McCarthy and Rosenthal, saying, “To see a highlight like that happen here is phenomenal.”



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# Meet the 2025 MVC ROOKIES

**The Minnesota Vikings Cheerleaders are welcoming eight talented rookies for the 2025 season.**

These standouts started their journey among 125 MVC hopefuls at open auditions in March. Audition participants were evaluated on their athleticism, style and performance through four competitive rounds, after which judges narrowed the field to 54 finalists.

That group then went through interviews with Vikings

staff and took part in a three-day MVC training camp, where they worked closely with coaches and staff in a rehearsal setting to prepare for the 2025 MVC Final Auditions, held at Mall of America on April 29.

Congratulations to Blaize, Brianna, Jenna, Louie, Payton, Sabrina, Taylor F. and Zoe for being selected to join this season's MVC team! Learn a fun fact about each of them below.



*Blaize*  
FARGO, ND

*First male dancer at both Fargo South High School and NDSU*



*Brianna*  
NEW BERLIN, WI

*Volunteers at an elementary after school program to teach dance every week*



*Jenna*  
ST. CLOUD, MN

*Attended a Spanish immersion elementary school*



*Louie*  
BETTENDORF, IA

*Won a gold medal for tumbling at the Junior Olympics at age 10*



*Payton*  
MAPLE GROVE, MN

*Was a national soloist title winner in 2021*



*Sabrina*  
EAGAN, MN

*Has been skydiving three times*



*Taylor F.*  
PRIOR LAKE, MN

*Was an MVC Junior Cheerleader in 2010 and 2011*



*Zoe*  
WAYZATA, MN

*Studied animal behavior in Costa Rica for one month; got to see favorite animal (sloth)*



# VIKINGS KIDS CLUB

The Vikings Kids Club offers young fans exclusive engagement with players throughout the entire year via events and member-only contests, as well as monthly e-newsletters. For more information, visit our website: [vikings.com/kidsclub](http://vikings.com/kidsclub).

We offer TWO levels of membership kits:

## PURPLE LEVEL: \$30

- Viktor Building Block Set
- Winter Beanie
- Beach Towel
- Collapsible Water Bottle
- Travel Kit
- Pop Magnets
- Mini Foam Finger
- Friendship Bracelet

## GOLD LEVEL: \$50

- Purple Level Kit
- 1 Player Autographed Photo
- 1 Event Fast Pass

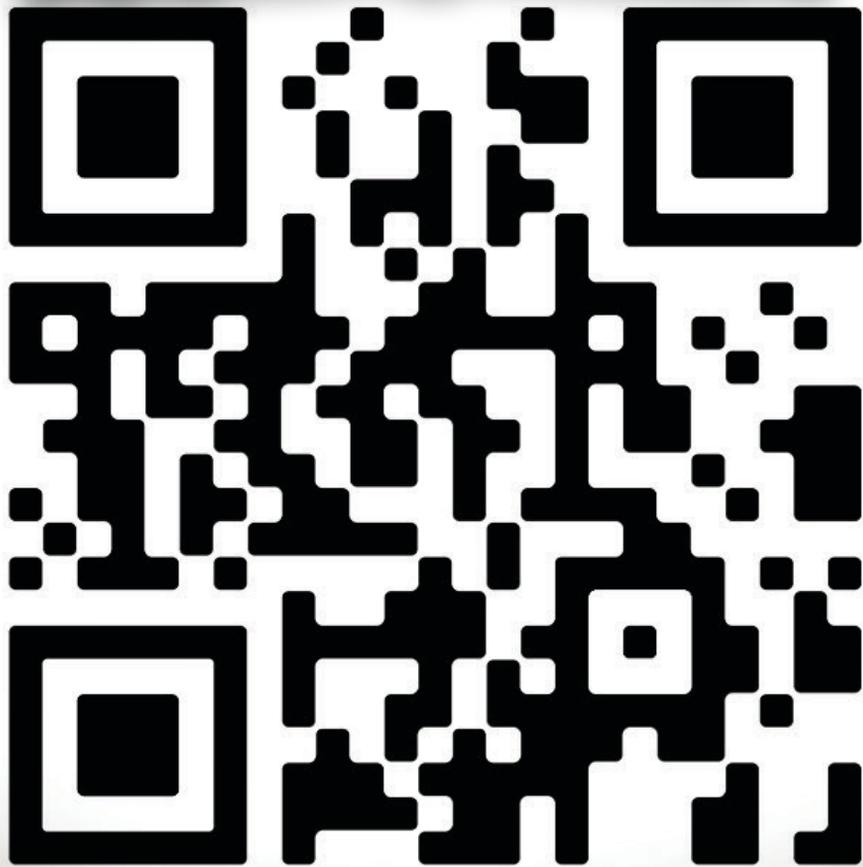
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**PLAYBOOK EXTRA:  
VIKINGS  
ANNUAL  
EMPLOYEE  
AWARDS**

The Minnesota Vikings annually recognize employees through a series of peer-voted awards. Here is a look at the 2025 honorees.

**MVP AWARD:  
CARLY BONK**

*Recognizes the most significant impact on the organization's performance.*



**DENNIS RYAN  
VIKINGS VALUES  
AWARD:**

**ROB BRZEZINSKI**  
*Demonstrates living Vikings Values throughout the year.*



**SHARON LOHMAR  
LEGACY SKOL  
SERVICE AWARD:**

**ALYSSA ERDMAN**  
*In honor of Lohmar's selfless impact on the Vikings and our fans.*



**ROOKIE OF THE  
YEAR: NAOMI EVANS**

*Credits first-year employee who makes a significant impact and exemplifies Vikings Values.*

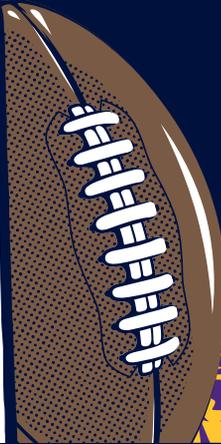


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