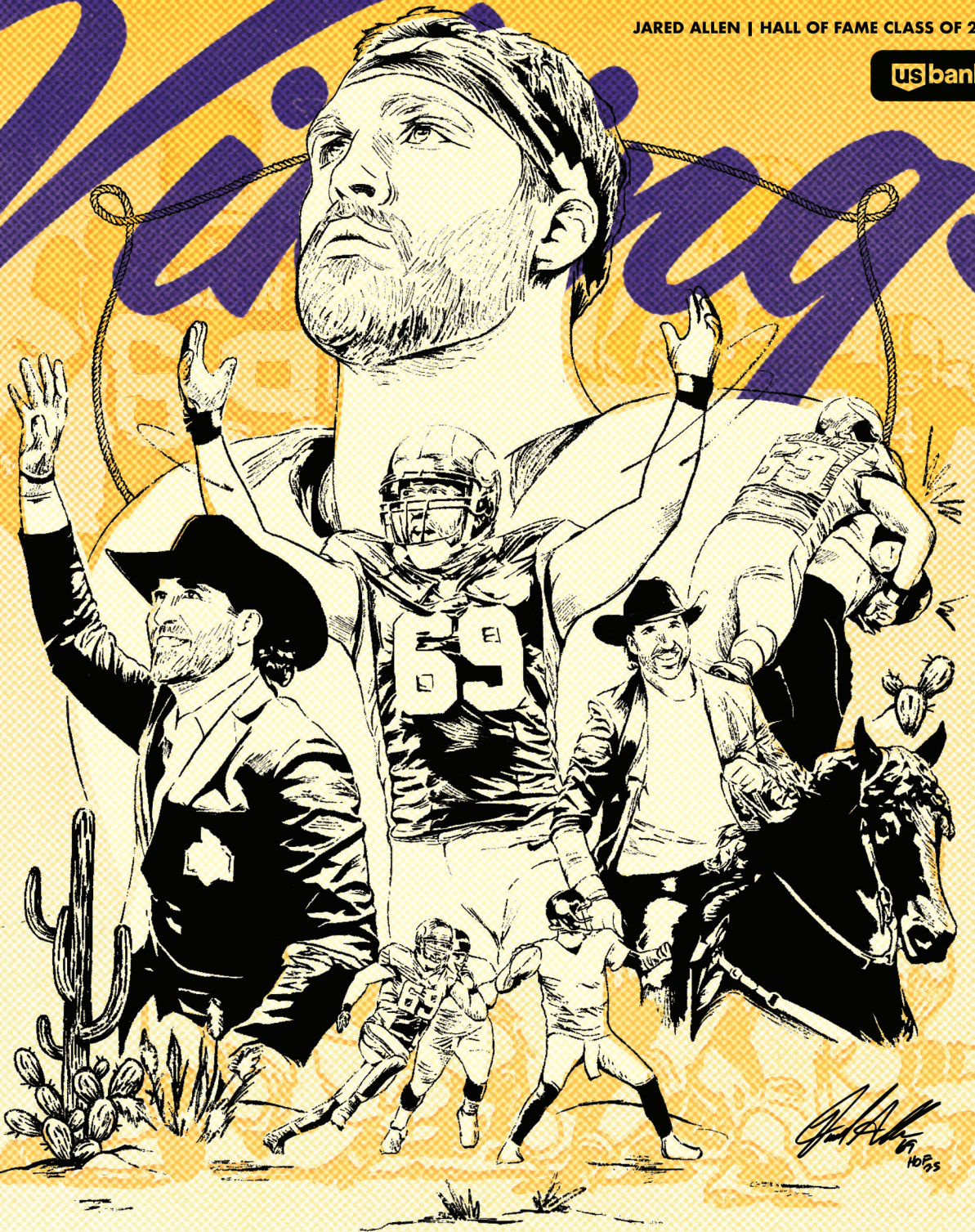


JARED ALLEN | HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2025

usbank



MINNESOTA VIKINGS PLAYBOOK

Classic is Back!

WEEK 2



VS.



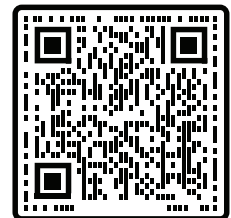
SEPT. 14, 2025

Urgent Care Go to TCO



Walk in 8 - 8

Ready with more doctors. Set with more orthopedic urgent care locations open 8 — 8 daily. Go for more of what you need to keep your body moving. No referral or appointment necessary. [TCOmn.com](https://www.tcomn.com)



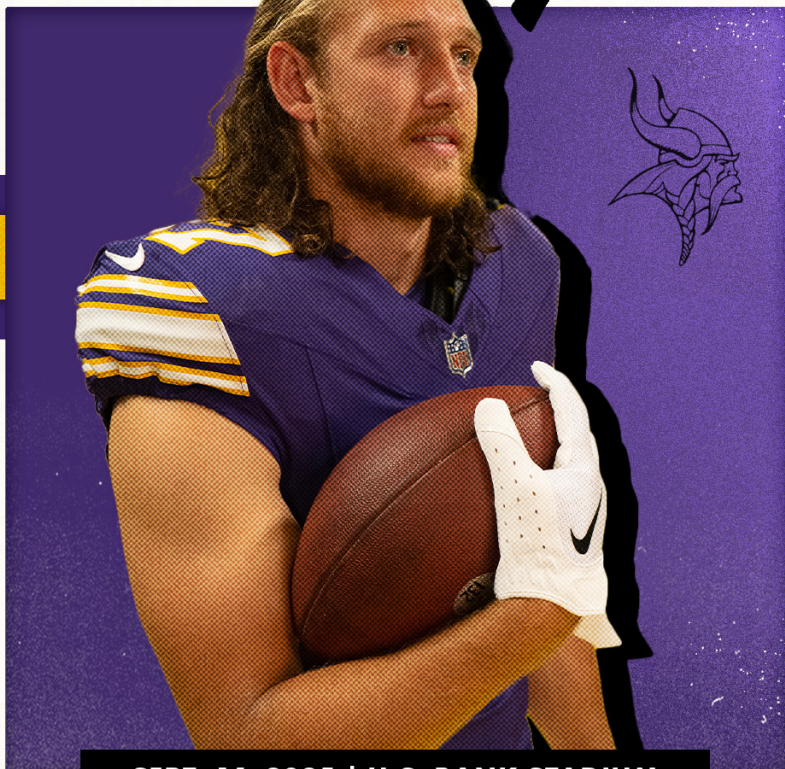
OFFICIAL SPORTS
MEDICINE PROVIDER



**View urgent care locations
and wait times**

Vikings

CLASSIC GAME



SEPT. 14, 2025 | U.S. BANK STADIUM

Questions?

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.**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

GUIDE TO GAME DAY

- 3 Tonight's Game
- 5 Tonight's Promotions

TONIGHT'S MATCHUP

- 9 Vikings Snapshot
- 11 Vikings Roster
- 12 Depth Charts
- 17 Falcons Roster
- 18 Falcons Snapshot
- 21 Series History

FEATURE STORIES

- 23 Q&A: Ryan Kelly
- 26 Jared Allen: Ropin' & Brandin'
- 33 Vikings Classic Uniforms
- 34 Meet at the QB Again
- 39 J.J. McCarthy: Calm & Connected
- 43 Anthony Barr Retires as a Viking
- 44 Aaron Jones, Sr., Joins Forces
with United Heroes League

PLAYBOOK EXTRAS

- 47 5 Faves
- 49 Cheerleader Spotlight
- 50 Viktor the Viking
- 52 U.S. Bank Stadium Highlights

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& COMPANY**

6-10am MORNINGS



MINNESOTA

Vikings

VS. ATLANTA
FALCONS

SEPT. 14, 2025 | 7:20 P.M. | U.S. BANK STADIUM

In-game entertainment elements for tonight's regular-season home opener featuring the Vikings Classic uniforms include the following:

JARED ALLEN PRO FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME CELEBRATION

Jared Allen, a member of the 2025 Pro Football Hall of Fame Class, will be presented his HOF Ring during a halftime ceremony. Allen also will be sounding the Gjallarhorn before tonight's game.

SHOWTIME SEQUENCE

Fans are encouraged to be in their seats by 7 p.m. to experience the new "Showtime" sequence leading up to the game. In addition to a signature new video, the pregame festivities will include three cellists.

PixMob LED WRISTBANDS

The Vikings and U.S. Bank have partnered with PixMob to provide wearable LED wristbands that will be synced with stadium-wide light shows throughout the night. To engage with these moments, fans should remove a paper tab to activate and then place on their wrists. The first effect will occur during "Showtime." All wristbands are recyclable, so please return to specially designated recycling bins at the end of the game. The wristbands will not operate outside U.S. Bank Stadium.

COLOR GUARD & FLYOVER

A Joint Services Color Guard will represent branches of the U.S. military, and the 934th Airlift Wing is scheduled to conduct a flyover in a C-130 Hercules.

ANNUNCIATION TRIBUTE

The Minnesota Vikings are honoring and supporting the victims of the Annunciation Catholic School shooting that occurred on Aug. 27. The tragedy claimed the lives of 10-year-old Harper Moyski and 8-year-old Fletcher Merkel, and 21 others suffered physical wounds.

T-shirts that pay homage to the five values outlined in the Annunciation School Essential Agreement — BE KIND, BE RESPECTFUL, BE INCLUSIVE, BE MY BEST SELF, BE BRAVE. — were created as an option for Vikings players, coaches and staff to wear at tonight's game, and the Vikings are making a donation to support victims and their families. Primary funding will be directed to the Annunciation Hope & Healing Fund along with the National Mass Shooting Victims' Fund.

Please observe a moment of silence before tonight's National Anthem.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

The Airlifter Brass of the United States Air Force Band of Mid-America will perform the National Anthem as a full-field flag is displayed.

TONIGHT'S GAME IS PRESENTED BY **us bank**

THIS COULD BE YOUR YEAR

WIN UP TO
\$100,000!



ON SALE
8/7



MUST BE 18+
TO PLAY.

TONIGHT'S *Promotions*

KWIK TRIP TO END ZONE

Presented by Kwik Trip

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/sweepstakes for details.

KWIK TRIP

SACKS FOR WINGS

Presented by Buffalo Wild 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 for your digital coupon and offer details.



BOGO BALL

Presented by Caribou Coffee

Caribou Coffee brings you BOGO Ball! They get the ball, you get a BOGO! Whenever the Minnesota Vikings intercept the ball, earn Buy One, Get One drinks of equal or lesser value free, in-store only at participating Caribou Coffee locations. Offer valid for one day after each eligible home or away game. Visit vikings.com/caribou for your digital coupon and more details.



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.

HyVee



SHOW OFF YOUR STYLISH

Vikings 'Do!

Presented by Spalon Montage

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!

SPALON
EST. 1991

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 mission to advance youth health and education initiatives. Visit vikings.com/splitthepot for details.

FIELD GOALS FOR CHARITY Presented by Innovative

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, a cure exists — a stem cell transplant. Visit nmdp.org/vikings to make a difference!



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 2025 season, winning a co-branded grand prize. To enter, go to [Vikings.com/fans](https://vikings.com/fans) and submit your fan photo today!

JAMESON®

WIN VIKTOR'S RIDE

Presented by Pepsi

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



CELEBRATE THE VIKINGS 65TH SEASON IN A BIG WAY. VIKINGS FANS SCORE A 65¢ BIG MAC®

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GAME-DAY GLOW GIVEAWAY

Presented by Pure Lux Medspa

Scan this QR code to enter to win a \$1,000 gift card to Pure Lux Medspa, the preferred medspa of the Minnesota Vikings Cheerleaders. One grand prize winner will be selected at the end of the season!



PURE LUX
WHOLE BODY MEDSPA

GAME-DAY AUCTION + ONLINE AUCTION

Benefiting the Minnesota Vikings Foundation

The Minnesota Vikings Foundation is partnering with Universal Sports Auctions to provide an elevated auction experience on game days. Visit the auction kiosks located on the Medtronic Plaza and Main Concourse for signed memorabilia. You can also bid on exclusive experiences at vikings.com/auction.

All proceeds support the Minnesota Vikings Foundation's mission of advancing the well-being of youth through engaging health and education initiatives.

VIKINGS TABLE FOOD TRUCK

Benefiting the Minnesota Vikings Foundation

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 game days; 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 us on Instagram and Twitter/X for all Vikings Table updates @vikingsfdn.

MYSTIC
HOP HOUSE
SPORTS & MUSIC

IS YOUR GAME DAY HQ



Hop House is taking the stage, turning up the volume and redefining what it means to eat, drink and watch the game. Catch wall-to-wall game day action with burgers and brews then stick around for live entertainment that hits loud and late, every weekend. Hop House is more than just a place to chill; it's an all-access pass to top-tier drafts, all-star flavors and nonstop energy that rolls straight into after-hours fun.

THIS IS WHERE BOLD NIGHTS, BIG PLAYS AND LOUD CROWDS COME TOGETHER!



**SCAN TO SCORE
HOP HOUSE
DETAILS**



Mystic LAKE

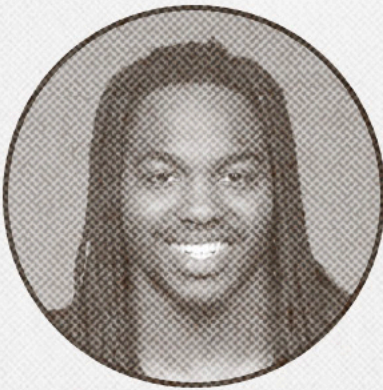
OFFICIAL CASINO OF THE MINNESOTA VIKINGS

ITEM OF THE GAME

JARED ALLEN COLLECTION



MINNESOTA VIKINGS
LOCKER ROOM
A Fanatics Experience



RUNNING BACK
5'11" | 230 LBS
4TH SEASON
GEORGIA TECH
JORDAN
MASON

PLAYER SNAPSHOT

JORDAN MASON joined the Vikings through a March 2025 trade executed with the 49ers. In three seasons with San Francisco, Mason appeared in 45 games, recording 1,253 yards and seven scores on 236 rushing attempts. In 2024, Mason recorded career highs of 789 yards and 37 first downs on 153 rush attempts, fueled by a three-game stretch to open the season with 324 yards and two touchdowns. Those first three starts of his career included rushing for 100 yards and a touchdown on 20 carries against the Vikings in Week 2.

Mason impressed in his debut in Purple, rushing 15 times for 68 hard-fought yards. He

broke loose on a 19-yard gain that was the longest rush of the game by the Vikings or Bears and added a 7-yard reception in the 27-24 comeback win.

TOUGH TO TACKLE

The Georgia Tech alum has succeeded in the NFL as a Ramblin' Wreck-ing ball. According to Next Gen Stats, Mason's missed tackles forced percentage of 37.3 ranked first among 2024 NFL players with at least 150 rush attempts.



2025 SEASON SCHEDULE

9/8 @CHI
W, 27-24

9/14 ATL
WK2 | 7:20 p.m.

9/21 CIN
WK3 | Noon

9/28 @PIT (DUBLIN)
WK4 | 8:30 a.m.

10/5 @CLE (LONDON)
WK5 | 8:30 a.m.

10/12 BYE
WK6

10/19 PHI
WK7 | Noon

10/23 @LAC
WK8 | 7:15 p.m.

11/2 @DET
WK9 | Noon

11/9 BAL
WK10 | Noon

11/16 CHI
WK11 | Noon

11/23 @GB
WK12 | Noon

11/30 @SEA
WK13 | 3:05 p.m.

12/7 WAS
WK14 | Noon

12/14 @DAL
WK15 | 7:20 p.m.

12/21 @NYG
WK16 | Noon

12/25 DET
WK17 | 3:30 p.m.

TBD GB
WK18 | TBD

FOX LOCAL is FOX 9

**STREAM LIVE
Newscasts**

&



**DOWNLOAD
THE PHONE APP**

MINNESOTA VIKINGS ROSTER



No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Yr.	College	Hometown
0	Ivan Pace Jr.	LB	5-10	231	23	2	Cincinnati	Cincinnati, OH
1	Jalen Nailor	WR	5-11	199	26	4	Michigan State	Palmdale, CA
2	Isaiah Rodgers	CB	5-10	180	27	5	Massachusetts	Tampa, FL
4	Myles Price	WR	5-9	183	23	R	Indiana	Dallas, TX
6	Dwight McGlothern Jr.	CB	6-2	185	23	2	Arkansas	Houston, TX
7	Byron Murphy Jr.	CB	5-11	190	27	7	Washington	Scottsdale, AZ
8	Jeff Okudah	CB	6-1	205	26	6	Ohio State	Grand Prairie, TX
9	J.J. McCarthy	QB	6-3	219	22	2	Michigan	La Grange Park, IL
11	Carson Wentz	QB	6-5	237	32	10	North Dakota State	Bismarck, ND
12	Max Brosmer	QB	6-2	218	24	R	Minnesota	Roswell, GA
13	Tai Felton	WR	6-1	186	22	R	Maryland	Ashburn, VA
15	Dallas Turner	OLB	6-3	247	22	2	Alabama	Fort Lauderdale, FL
16	Will Reichard	K	6-1	190	24	2	Alabama	Hoover, AL
17	Ryan Wright	P	6-3	245	25	4	Tulane	San Ramon, CA
18	Justin Jefferson	WR	6-1	195	26	6	LSU	St. Rose, LA
19	Adam Thielen	WR	6-2	200	35	12	Minnesota State	Detroit Lakes, MN
22	Harrison Smith	S	6-2	211	36	14	Notre Dame	Knoxville, TN
24	Jay Ward	S	6-1	190	25	3	LSU	Moultrie, GA
26	Theo Jackson	S	6-1	205	26	4	Tennessee	Nashville, TN
27	Jordan Mason	RB	5-11	230	26	4	Georgia Tech	Gallatin, TN
32	Ty Chandler	RB	5-11	205	27	4	North Carolina	Nashville, TN
33	Aaron Jones Sr.	RB	5-10	208	30	9	UTEP	El Paso, TX
36	Zavier Scott	RB	6-1	221	26	2	Maine	Fort Hood, TX
37	Tavierre Thomas	S	5-10	212	29	8	Ferris State	Detroit, MI
41	Kobe King	LB	6-1	250	22	R	Penn State	Detroit, MI
42	Andrew DePaola	LS	6-1	227	38	11	Rutgers	Parkton, MD
43	Andrew Van Ginkel	OLB	6-4	242	30	7	Wisconsin	Rock Valley, IA
44	Joshua Metellus	S	5-11	208	27	6	Michigan	Pembroke Pines, FL
50	Levi Drake Rodriguez	DL	6-2	307	25	2	East Texas A&M	Georgetown, TX
51	Blake Cashman	LB	6-1	235	29	7	Minnesota	Eden Prairie, MN
55	Eric Wilson	LB	6-1	231	30	9	Cincinnati	Redford, MI
56	Austin Keys	LB	6-2	244	23	R	Auburn	Taylorsville, MS
57	Chaz Chambliss	OLB	6-1	244	22	R	Georgia	Carrollton, GA
58	Jonathan Greenard	OLB	6-3	259	28	6	Florida	Hiram, GA
60	Joe Huber	G	6-5	310	23	R	Wisconsin	Dublin, OH
61	Jalen Redmond	DL	6-3	305	26	2	Oklahoma	Midwest City, OK
64	Blake Brandel	G	6-6	315	28	5	Oregon State	Milwaukie, OR
65	Michael Jurgens	C	6-5	311	25	2	Wake Forest	Damascus, MD
67	Justin Skule	T	6-6	315	28	7	Vanderbilt	Clifton, VA
71	Christian Darrisaw	T	6-5	315	26	5	Virginia Tech	Upper Marlboro, MD
73	Walter Rouse	T	6-6	330	24	2	Oklahoma	Silver Spring, MD
74	Donovan Jackson	G	6-4	324	22	R	Ohio State	Cypress, TX
75	Brian O'Neill	T	6-7	310	29	8	Pittsburgh	Wilmington, DE
76	Will Fries	G	6-6	321	27	5	Penn State	Cranford, NJ
78	Ryan Kelly	C	6-4	307	32	10	Alabama	West Chester, OH
84	Josh Oliver	TE	6-5	264	28	7	San Jose State	Paso Robles, CA
85	Ben Yurosek	TE	6-4	251	23	R	Georgia	Bakersfield, CA
87	T.J. Hockenson	TE	6-5	248	28	7	Iowa	Chariton, IA
90	Tyrion Ingram-Dawkins	DL	6-5	290	22	R	Georgia	Gaffney, SC
93	Jonathan Allen	DL	6-3	300	30	9	Alabama	Ashburn, VA
97	Javon Hargrave	DL	6-2	307	32	10	South Carolina State	Spencer, NC
98	Bo Richter	OLB	6-1	248	25	2	Air Force	Naperville, IL
99	Elijah Williams	DL	6-3	298	23	R	Morgan State	Jersey City, NJ

PRACTICE SQUAD

5	Lucky Jackson	WR
14	Tim Jones	WR
20	K'Von Wallace	S
23	Fabian Moreau	CB
25	Kahlef Hailassie	S
34	Zemaiah Vaughn	CB
35	Xazavian Valladay	RB
59	Gabriel Murphy	OLB
63	Max Pircher*	OL
66	Vershon Lee	G
68	Henry Byrd	G
81	Nick Vannett	TE
82	Jeshaun Jones	WR
83	Bryson Nesbit	TE
89	Dontae Fleming	WR
92	Jonathan Harris	DL
94	Taki Taimani	DL

*International Player Pathway participant

INJURED RESERVE

##	Alexander Williams	DL
##	Rondale Moore	WR
63	Zeke Correll	C
69	Matt Nelson	T

INJURED RESERVE-DESIGNATED FOR RETURN

30	C.J. Ham	FB
96	Tyler Batty	OLB

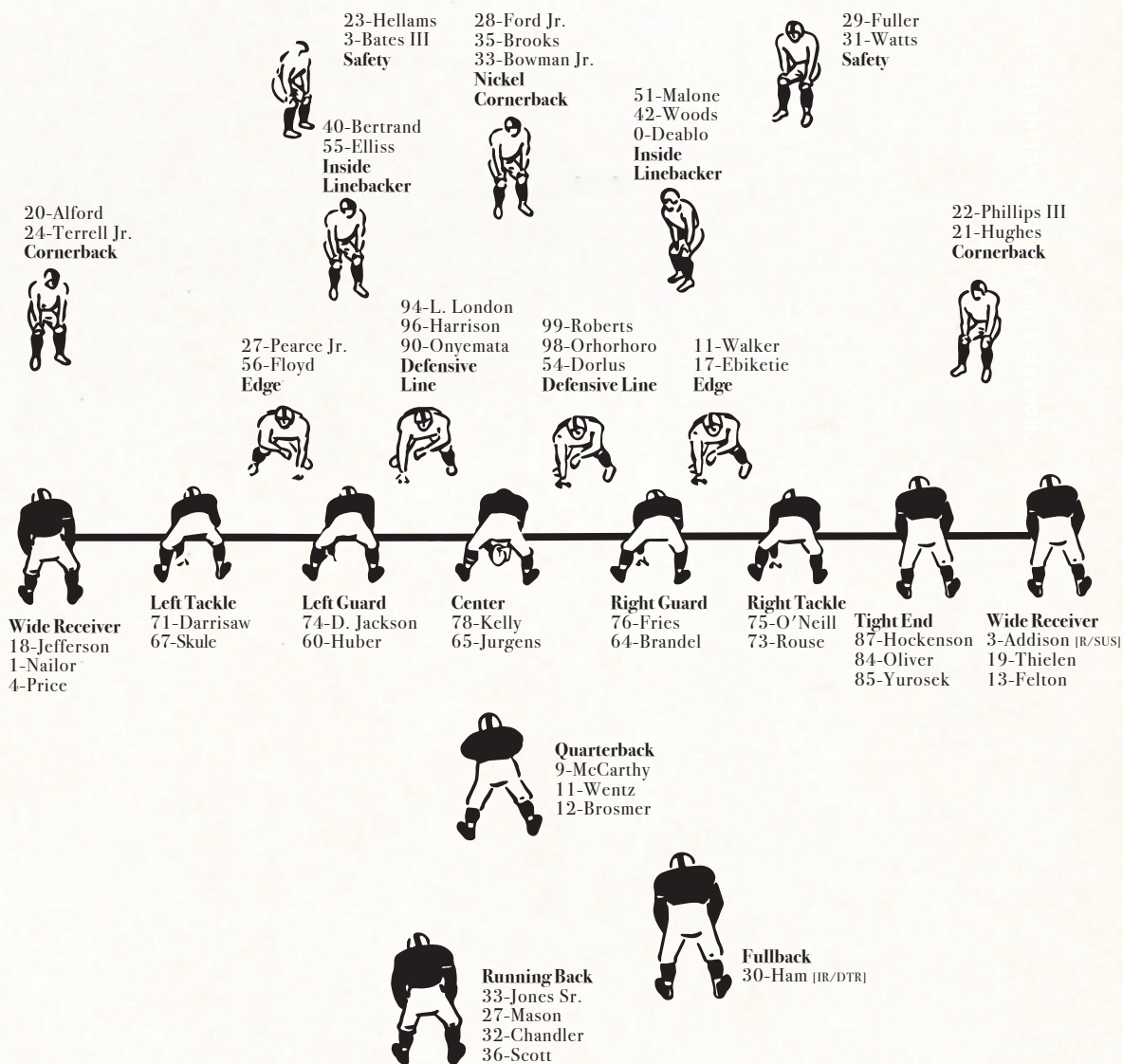
RESERVE/PHYSICALLY UNABLE TO PERFORM

86	Gavin Bartholomew	TE
----	-------------------	----

RESERVE/SUSPENDED

3	Jordan Addison	WR
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FALCONS ON THE DEFENSE



VIKINGS ON THE OFFENSE

SPECIAL TEAMS

Kicker
16-Reichard

Punter
17-Wright

Long Snapper
42-DePaola

Kick Returner
4-Price
32-Chandler
13-Felton

Punt Returner
4-Price
19-Thielen

Go long. Really long.

The Hyundai IONIQ 9



With an up-to-335-mile range from every charge, the Hyundai IONIQ 9 loves to go deep.
Test-drive one today at your local Hyundai dealer.



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America's Best Warranty
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Powertrain Limited Warranty

Model shown with optional equipment. EPA-estimated 335-mile driving range for 2026 IONIQ 9 S trim; EPA-estimated 320-mile driving range for SE and SEL trims; EPA-estimated 311-mile driving range for Limited, Calligraphy, and Calligraphy Design trims. Figures are EPA estimates and based on a fully charged battery. For comparison purposes only. Battery capacity decreases with time and use. Actual range will vary based on a number of factors, including vehicle options, driving conditions and habits, vehicle and battery's condition, battery temperature and outside temperature. Hyundai is a registered trademark of Hyundai Motor Company. All rights reserved. ©2025 Hyundai Motor America.



We offer TWO levels of membership kits:

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

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

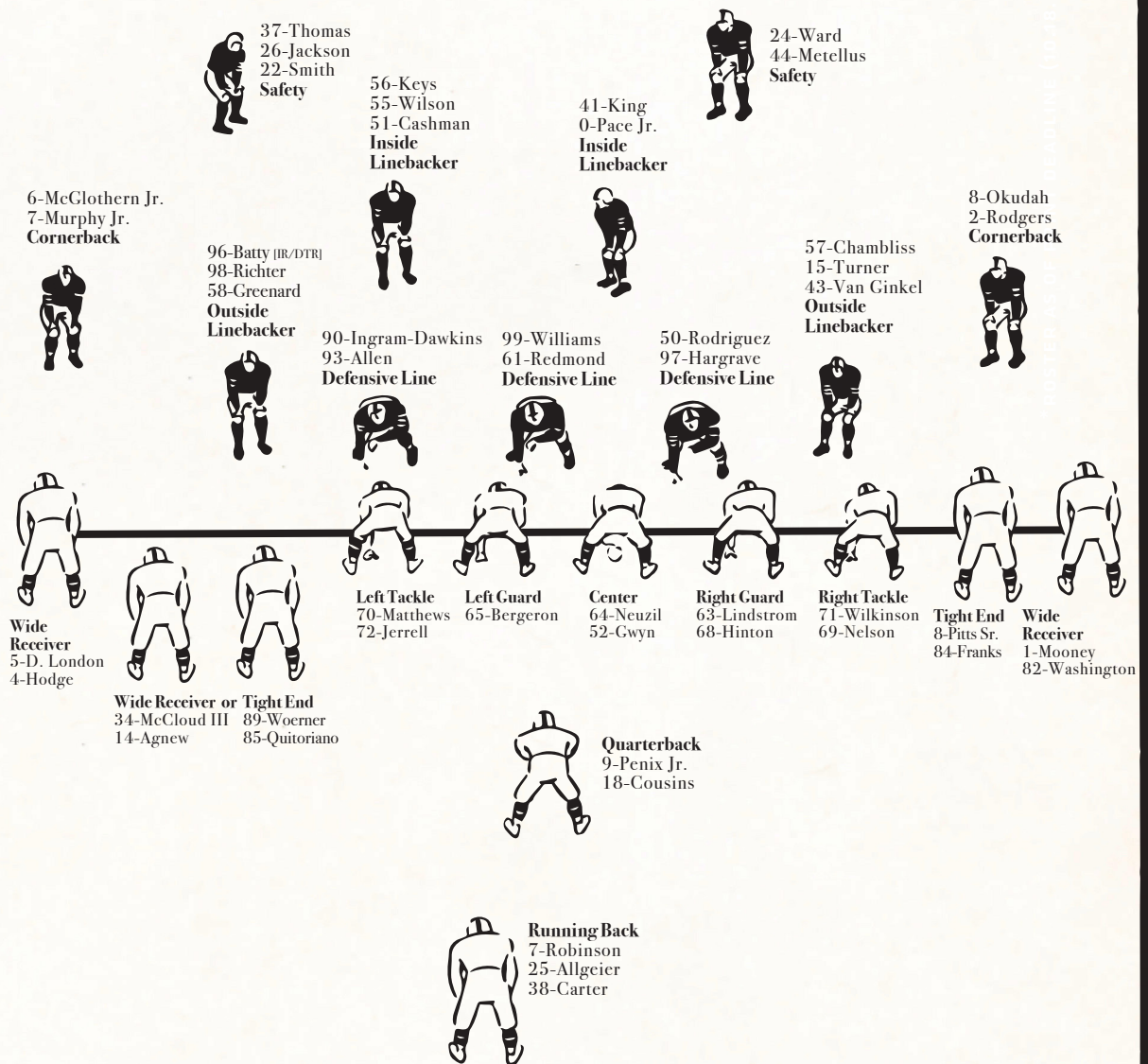
* Onsite Pricing



**JOIN THE VIKINGS
KIDS CLUB TODAY
BY VISITING OUR
BOOTH LOCATED
NEAR SECTION 124**



VIKINGS ON THE DEFENSE



FALCONS ON THE OFFENSE

SPECIAL TEAMS

Kicker	Punter	Long Snapper	Kick Returner	Punt Returner
6-Koo	13-Pinon	49-McCullough	14-Agnew 34-McCloud III 21-Hughes	14-Agnew 34-McCloud III 21-Hughes

Unofficial Depth Chart as of 9/10 Print Deadline



GROWER'S RESERVE
 A • R • O
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CALIFORNIA NATURAL PISTACHIOS
 KOSHER NON-GMO VEGAN GLUTEN-FREE
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PISTACHIOS

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VIKINGS TRAINING CAMP | TCO STADIUM | TWIN CITIES ORTHOPEDICS PERFORMANCE CENTER



PRACTICE SQUAD

12	Easton Stick	QB
19	Chris Blair	WR
26	Carlos Washington Jr.	RB
30	C.J. Henderson	CB
36	Ronnie Harrison	ILB
37	Cobee Bryant	CB
46	Lenny Krieg*	K
46	Parker Romo	K
47	Joshua Simon	TE
66	Carter Warren	T
67	Joshua Gray	OL
71	Ryan Hayes	T
80	Nick Nash	WR
81	Dylan Drummond	WR
87	David Sills V	WR
92	Khalid Kareem	EDGE
93	Kentavious Street	DL

*International Player Pathway participant

INJURED RESERVE

15	Emory Jones	QB
48	Bralen Trice	EDGE
74	Tyrone Wheatley Jr.	OL
76	Kaleb McGary	T

RESERVE-NON FOOTBALL INJURY

43	Malik Verdon	ILB
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RESERVE/PHYSICALLY UNABLE TO PERFORM

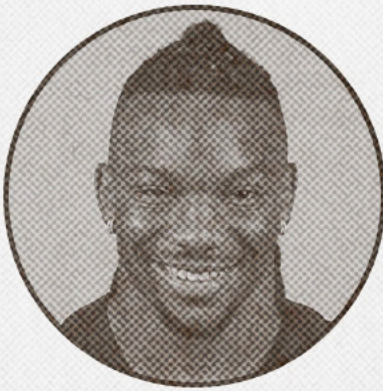
44	Troy Andersen	ILB
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RESERVE-DESIGNATED TO RETURN

77	Storm Norton	OL
95	Ta'Quon Graham	DL

ATLANTA FALCONS ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Yr.	College	Hometown
0	Divine Deablo	LB	6-3	223	27	5	Virginia Tech	Winston-Salem, NC
1	Darnell Mooney	WR	5-11	180	27	6	Tulane	Gadsden, AL
3	Jessie Bates III	S	6-1	210	28	8	Wake Forest	Fort Wayne, IN
4	KhaDarel Hodge	WR	6-2	210	31	8	Prairie View A&M	D'Lo, MS
5	Drake London	WR	6-4	215	24	4	USC	Moorpark, CA
6	Younghoe Koo	K	5-10	195	31	8	Georgia Southern	Seoul, South Korea
7	Bijan Robinson	RB	5-11	215	23	3	Texas	Tucson, AZ
8	Kyle Pitts Sr.	TE	6-6	250	24	5	Florida	Philadelphia, PA
9	Michael Penix Jr.	QB	6-3	220	25	2	Washington	Tampa, FL
11	Jalon Walker	EDGE	6-2	245	21	R	Georgia	Salisbury, NC
13	Bradley Pinion	P	6-5	265	31	11	Clemson	Concord, NC
14	Jamal Agnew	WR	5-10	190	30	8	San Diego	San Diego, CA
17	Arnold Ebiketie	EDGE	6-2	250	26	4	Penn State	Silver Spring, MD
18	Kirk Cousins	QB	6-3	205	37	14	Michigan State	Holland, MI
20	Dee Alford	CB	5-11	180	27	4	Tusculum	Griffin, GA
21	Mike Hughes	CB	5-10	190	28	8	UCF	New Bern, NC
22	Clark Phillips III	CB	5-9	185	23	3	Utah	Lakewood, CA
23	DeMarcco Hellams	S	6-1	203	25	2	Alabama	Washington, D.C.
24	A.J. Terrell Jr.	CB	6-1	200	26	6	Clemson	Atlanta, GA
25	Tyler Allgeier	RB	5-10	225	25	4	BYU	Fontana, CA
27	James Pearce Jr.	EDGE	6-5	243	21	R	Tennessee	Charlotte, NC
28	Mike Ford Jr.	CB	6-0	199	30	8	SE Missouri State	Alton, IL
29	Jordan Fuller	S	6-2	203	27	6	Ohio State	Old Tappan, NJ
31	Xavier Watts	S	6-0	203	23	R	Notre Dame	Omaha, NE
33	Billy Bowman Jr.	CB	5-10	194	22	R	Oklahoma	Denton, TX
34	Ray-Ray McCloud III	WR	5-9	185	28	8	Clemson	Tampa, FL
35	Natrone Brooks	CB	5-11	175	25	2	Southern Mississippi	Starkville, MS
38	Nathan Carter	RB	5-10	202	23	R	Michigan State	Rochester, NY
40	JD Bertrand	ILB	6-1	230	25	2	Notre Dame	Alpharetta, GA
42	Josh Woods	ILB	6-1	235	29	7	Maryland	Baltimore, MD
49	Liam McCullough	LS	6-2	245	28	4	Ohio State	Columbus, OH
51	DeAngelo Malone	EDGE	6-3	235	26	4	Western Kentucky	Atlanta, GA
52	Jovaughn Gwyn	OL	6-2	310	26	2	South Carolina	Charlotte, NC
54	Brandon Dorlus	DL	6-3	295	24	2	Oregon	Fort Lauderdale, FL
55	Kaden Elliss	ILB	6-2	240	30	7	Idaho	Salt Lake City, UT
56	Leonard Floyd	EDGE	6-3	240	33	10	Georgia	Eastman, GA
63	Chris Lindstrom	G	6-4	310	28	7	Boston College	Dudley, MA
64	Ryan Neuzil	OL	6-3	305	28	4	Appalachian State	Bradenton, FL
65	Matthew Bergeron	OL	6-5	315	25	3	Syracuse	Victoriaville, Quebec, Canada
68	Kyle Hinton	OL	6-2	315	27	3	Washburn	Peoria, AZ
69	Jack Nelson	OL	6-7	314	23	R	Wisconsin	Stoughton, WI
70	Jake Matthews	T	6-5	310	33	12	Texas A&M	Missouri City, TX
71	Elijah Wilkinson	OL	6-6	310	30	8	Massachusetts	Downingtown, PA
72	Michael Jerrell	OL	6-5	309	26	2	Findlay	Indianapolis, IN
82	Casey Washington	WR	6-0	205	24	2	Illinois	Round Rock, TX
84	Feleipe Franks	TE	6-6	241	27	4	Arkansas	Crawfordville, FL
85	Teagan Quitoriano	TE	6-6	259	25	4	Oregon State	Salem, OR
89	Charlie Woerner	TE	6-5	250	27	6	Georgia	Tiger, GA
90	David Onyemata	DL	6-4	310	32	10	Manitoba (Canada)	Lagos, Nigeria
94	LaCale London	DL	6-3	297	28	2	Western Illinois	Peoria, IL
96	Zach Harrison	DL	6-5	270	24	3	Ohio State	Lewis Center, OH
98	Ruke Orhorhoro	DL	6-4	295	23	2	Clemson	Lagos, Nigeria
99	Sam Roberts	DL	6-5	300	27	4	NW Missouri State	Waynesville, MO



RUNNING BACK
5'11" | 215 LBS
3RD SEASON
TEXAS

BIJAN
ROBINSON

PLAYER SNAPSHOT

BIJAN ROBINSON has rewarded the Falcons for selecting him with the 8th overall pick of 2023. He's entered 2025 already ranked in the top 10 in rushing yards in franchise history and became the second-fastest Falcon (32 games) to reach 3,000 career scrimmage yards (William Andrews, 31 games). Robinson also became the first Falcon to rush for two touchdowns in three consecutive weeks since Jamal Anderson in 1998 and was the only NFL player to hit that trifecta in 2024. During his debut season, Robinson set franchise rookie records for scrimmage yards (1,463) and receptions (58).

In Week 1 against the division-

rival Buccaneers, Robinson was limited to just 24 rushing yards on 12 carries. He showed up big-time in the passing game, however, snagging six catches for 100 yards — which included a 50-yard TD.

ELITE COMPANY

The Texas product and 2022 Doak Walker Award winner tied Pro Football Hall of Famers Edgerrin James and LaDainian Tomlinson (32 games) for the most contests with at least 50 scrimmage yards through an NFL player's first two seasons.



2025 SEASON SCHEDULE

9/7 TB
WK1 | L, 23-20

9/14 @MIN
WK2 | 7:20 p.m.

9/21 @CAR
WK3 | Noon

9/28 WAS
WK4 | Noon

10/5 BYE
WK5

10/13 BUF
WK6 | 6:15 p.m.

10/19 @SF
WK6 | 7:20 p.m.

10/26 MIA
WK8 | Noon

11/2 @NE
WK9 | Noon

11/9 @IND (BERLIN)
WK10 | 8:30 a.m.

11/16 CAR
WK11 | Noon

11/23 @NO
WK12 | 3:25 p.m.

11/30 @NYJ
WK13 | Noon

12/7 SEA
WK14 | Noon

12/11 @TB
WK15 | 7:15 p.m.

12/21 @ARI
WK16 | 3:05 p.m.

12/29 LAR
WK17 | Noon

TBD NO
WK18 | TBD

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MINNESOTA Vikings VS. ATLANTA FALCONS



NFL WEEK 2 | CLASSIC

THROWBACK MOMENT

Kapp Catches Fire

Joe Kapp threw three touchdowns in a 28-point second quarter to fuel a 47-7 win by Minnesota (its first in three tries against Atlanta) on Sept. 14, 1968, in the season opener for both teams.

Kapp finished 16-of-20 passing with 191 yards and three touchdowns for a passer rating of 146.0. Bill Brown, Bill Martin and Tom Hall each caught touchdowns from Kapp. Brown led the Vikings with six catches for 65 yards and added 38 rushing yards and two more scores on 15 carries.

Clinton Jones rushed 17 times for 101 yards, highlighted by a long of 43.

Karl Kassulke recorded the game's only interception, picking off Bruce Lemmerman late.

FIRST MEETING

**DEC. 4, 1966 | IN MIN
FALCONS 20, VIKINGS 13**

Bob Berry opened the scoring with a 52-yard pass to Preston Carpenter, but he was intercepted five times on the day. Bob Riddle returned one of his two picks 62 yards for a TD in the second quarter to put Atlanta up 20-7 at Metropolitan Stadium. It was the Falcons inaugural season and second win in team history.

PREVIOUS MEETING

**DEC. 8, 2024 | IN MIN
VIKINGS 42, FALCONS 21**

The Vikings broke a 21-all tie at the start of the fourth quarter thanks to two touchdown passes by Sam Darnold and a 15-yard run by Aaron Jones, Sr., to put the game away. Darnold totaled five touchdowns (two to Justin Jefferson and three to Jordan Addison) in racking up a career-best passer rating of 157.9. Addison (133 yards) and Jefferson (132) each had receptions of at least 49 yards. Joshua Metellus recorded an interception in the first quarter, and Byron Murphy, Jr., nabbed one in the fourth quarter.

TOP 2

AGAINST FALCONS

RUSHING YARDS

- 158** Adrian Peterson on 29 attempts at ATL (11.29.15)
155 Clinton Jones on 22 attempts in MIN (11.28.71)

PASSING YARDS

- 395** Tommy Kramer on 30-of-42 passing in MIN (09.07.80)
347 Sam Darnold on 22-of-28 passing in MIN (12.08.24)

RECEIVING YARDS

- 166** Justin Jefferson on nine catches in MIN (10.18.20)
160 Ahmad Rashad on 11 catches in MIN (09.07.80)

AGAINST VIKINGS

RUSHING YARDS

- 173** Michael Vick on 10 attempts in MIN (12.01.02)
126 Warrick Dunn on 18 attempts at ATL (10.02.05)

PASSING YARDS

- 371** Matt Ryan on 30-of-44 passing in MIN (10.18.20)
352 Doug Johnson on 28-of-43 passing in MIN (10.05.03)

RECEIVING YARDS

- 168** Peerless Price on 12 catches at ATL (10.05.03)
142 Darnell Mooney on six catches in MIN (12.08.24)

ALL-TIME RESULTS

Vikings are 22-12
(21-11 in regular season
1-1 in postseason)

LONGEST WIN STREAK

4 games by Vikings
(3 times: 1974-80; 1987-96; 2014-19)

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Q&A WITH RYAN KELLY

BY ROB KLEIFIELD



RYAN KELLY SAUNTERED OFF THE PRACTICE FIELD WITH HIS NECK ROLL JUTTING OUT FROM THE TOP OF HIS LARGE PADS.

Moments later, still dripping sweat in 75-degree weather, Kelly scoffed and said, "Oh, dude – easy!"

He rattled off the names like each was his current quarterback: Andrew Luck. Scott Tolzien, Jacoby Brisset, Brian Hoyer, Phillip Rivers, Carson Wentz, Matt Ryan, Sam Ehlinger, Nick Foles, Anthony Richardson, Gardner Minshew II and Joe Flacco. Twelve starters he snapped to over a nine-season span with the Colts.

Kelly amazingly recalled each. Unbelievably, he did so in precise order and included their correct years.

His 13th different starting quarterback, of course, is J.J. McCarthy.

We caught up with the four-time Pro Bowl center and father of three to gather his thoughts on heading into his 10th season, reconnecting with teammates and building bonds in Minnesota's locker room. Check out Vikings.com for the extended interview.

Q: SO YOU'RE ENTERING YEAR 10 – WHAT DO YOU LOVE SO MUCH ABOUT FOOTBALL?

A: I heard Jason Kelce say it one time, you start to get toward the end of your career – maybe not the end, but you're certainly closer to the end than the beginning –

and it's still the game where you can be the best at what you do in the world. I had missed some time last year with a knee injury and came back strong at the end of the season and really felt like I could still do this at a high level. Ultimately, I ended up in Minnesota and I feel like it's a rebirth for my career, just a change of pace, which I feel like I needed. It's great to be surrounded by great players and proving yourself. ... You come to a different team, a different division, and you've got to prove who you are again. I think that's an exciting thing as a veteran guy, and certainly a challenge.

Q: VIKINGS ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER RYAN GRIGSON BROUGHT YOU INTO THE LEAGUE WHEN HE WAS GM OF THE COLTS. ALMOST A DECADE LATER, WHAT'S DIFFERENT ABOUT THE VERSION OF YOU GRIGSON HELPED SIGN IN FREE AGENCY?

A: It's crazy. That feels like a century ago. It feels so long. So much has happened in my career and with the team in Indy for those nine years. Obviously, he took me in the first round. It ended up being great. I couldn't have been happier to be in that place for nine years.

Q: YOU GREW UP IN OHIO AND HAVE BEEN TIED TO THE MIDWEST FOR YOUR ENTIRE LIFE EXCEPT FOR ATTENDING ALABAMA. WHAT'S YOUR EXPERIENCE HERE BEEN LIKE SO FAR?

A: I got a little taste of the South for a couple of years and then I was lucky enough to get drafted by the Colts and be two hours from my home, which was such a blessing. To stay in one place for nine years is pretty amazing. Most guys have to pick up and move every couple of years to different cities. ... Minnesota has been amazing. The people are fantastic, the fans are awesome, the food in Minneapolis is amazing, the weather's great – but I guess ask me in four months when it's negative 30.

Q: HOW IS YOUR FAMILY (WIFE EMMA, 2-YEAR-OLD TWIN BOYS DUKE AND FORD AND INFANT DAUGHTER STELLA) ADJUSTING?

A: They're all up here now. We found a house and love our neighborhood. I think the kids are just thinking they're on vacation. I don't think they'd know any different. And whether we play here for one year or 10 years, it'll be a cool story for them, too, to say that they lived somewhere else and Dad played for a different team.

Q: I'M ASSUMING IT'S FUN STARTING THIS CHAPTER WITH YOUR FORMER COLTS TEAMMATE WILL FRIES. HOW GLAD WERE YOU TO REUNITE WITH THE PERSON WHO PLAYED RIGHT BESIDE YOU OVER THE PAST FOUR SEASONS?

A: First of all, I don't call him Will. I call him Spud. He got to Indy as a rookie, and I was like, 'Oh, I don't really like calling you Will or Fries.' Neither of them really roll off the tongue. I was like, 'All right, well, Fries, Potato – Spud.' And sure enough, Spud stuck. I haven't called him Will in five years now. So that nickname has taken

over here. Pretty proud of that one. When he got to Indy, I viewed him as a big guy who was very passionate about getting better. I think you could see the hard work.

Q: YOU'RE ALSO BACK WITH YOUR FORMER 'BAMA TEAMMATE JONATHAN ALLEN. IN WHAT WAYS HAS HIS GAME GROWN SINCE BLOCKING HIM IN PRACTICES ALL THOSE YEARS AGO?

A: He was a couple years younger than me in college, but he was a great player from the day he got there. There were a lot of battles up front. And then playing against him a couple of times in Washington, he developed a move that got the best of everybody. I think that's such an impressive thing to really find that one move. ... To see his career ascend and see the father and husband he has become ... it's been really impressive.

Q: YOU'VE PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED THAT J.J. MCCARTHY'S MATURITY AMAZES YOU. CAN YOU ELABORATE?

A: Fans just see the player and they can see how he talks during interviews. Obviously, he does the little things extremely well, and I think that carries over in the locker room, but what people don't see is his ability and understanding that it's not just the offense he has to connect with. It's the training staff, it's the equipment staff, it's the defense, it's the PR people – everybody who makes up the organization. When you have a true quarterback, a true leader, I think he understands at a young age what that does for the team; he's that franchise guy.

Q: NOT TO AGE YOU OR ANYTHING, BUT BEING 10 YEARS OLDER THAN J.J., WHAT IS SOME ADVICE YOU'VE SHARED?

A: It's just little nuggets along the way. Whether it's a 3x1 formation and I'm telling him, 'In my experience, this is how coordinators think in 3x1 versus 2x2' – things like that, that involve on-field stuff – or if it's the way you command the huddle. In a play call, the only person that needs to know everything for the most part is the quarterback. At some point, the offensive line doesn't need to know the route; wide receivers don't need to know the protection. Everybody's got a piece of this long huddle call. And the way that he pronounces it and looks everybody in the eye at different times gives everybody in the huddle the assurance that this is the best play.

Q: WHAT 'DAD NUGGETS' HAVE YOU PASSED ALONG TO HIM?

A: I told him, 'Man, everybody thinks that at some point they'll be ready.' That's the biggest myth in life: 'I'll be ready to get married. I'll be ready to have a kid or two kids or three kids.' No one's ready for that. There's not a handbook for how to be a dad. You just learn how to be adaptable in your life because there's things that you can't control that are gonna happen. Whether it's professionally, being a father, being a husband. And I think it makes you a better football player, how you're able to adjust, because you do it every day. I think the game means more when you become a father. You appreciate things differently. There's the diaper questions and all those, too, but he's got to figure that out on his own.

Ryan Kelly
#78



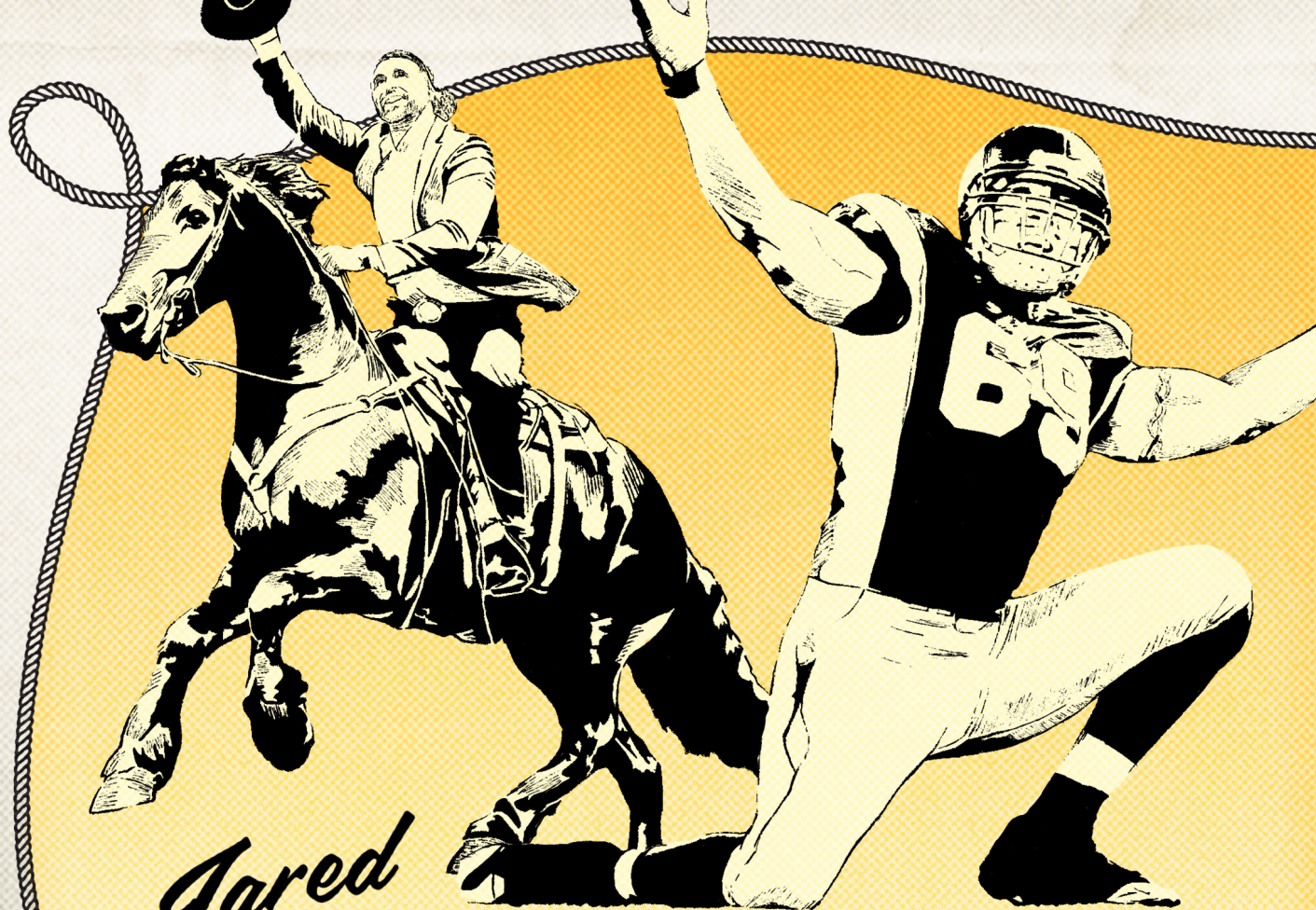
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*Gared
Allen*

ROPIN' *and* BRANDIN'

BY CRAIG PETERS



IT'S A *Wonderful Thing* TO BE BELIEVED IN.

Jared Allen found that out at age 8, when he told his father Ron that he wanted to play in the NFL, and again at age 26.

"Nobody probably believed in me more than my dad," Jared explained during a SKOL Stories feature interview. "I'll never forget the day I told him I wanted to play professional football, and he just leaned into it: 'Let's get it.' At such a young age, there's a thousand different excuses he could have told me. It was never that, ever. Any time I had a doubt, 'If you want to be in the NFL, this is what you've got to do.'"

Ron provided coaching and some prodding along the way.

"I realized Jared was a special athlete when he was 8 years old. Jared came to me and said, 'Pops, I want to play professional football.' A lot of dads or parents would go, 'OK, all right, you've got a little dream. It will go away when you get older. You'll probably play high school ball, and that's it.' But I told Jared, 'It starts now, Buddy. You're going eat, sleep and drink football. When draft time comes, if you get drafted, you've got to work harder.' Get your mind and heart connected, and you can do anything you want if you believe."

Jared wound up not just playing in the NFL. He dominated opposing offensive linemen and squashed quarterbacks, celebrating sacks with his signature calf ropin' celebration on his way to Canton.

Ron presented Jared for enshrinement to the Pro Football Hall of Fame on Aug. 2. The duo wore cowboy hats as they unveiled Jared's bronze bust accentuated with the mullet that became part of his brand.

'FEAR, RESPECT & THE PURSUIT OF GREATNESS'

The why became the how.

The why was motivating enough when few people envisioned Jared's talent as the truth it eventually proved to be on the gridiron.

The why burned from within, empowering him through tough practices, until it was released in a fury every game day.

The why enabled Jared to become one of the best to ever do it, earning a spot as the 380th enshrinee in the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Over the course of nearly 14 minutes, Jared explained his why in his unique way.

He blended trademark humor and a humble appreciation for everyone who helped his journey.

"People always ask, 'How did I get here? Why was I better than others?' And usually, fans have really bad timing and ask these questions when you're at dinner or you're watching kids at sporting events," Jared said. "So I usually make some crap up. I make it up like, 'You know what, you've got to eat three jalapeno peppers before every game, because you've got to have a burning in your gut.'"

"And I feel bad about that now, because there's probably some kid out there with some serious gut issues, because his dad was just jamming peppers in his mouth before every game," he added. "So, my apologies for that."

Jared explained how his college studies included marketing and branding and the concept "they call selling your why."

"The what is your product. There's a million whats in this world, but

the why is what makes you different," Jared said. "The why is your long game. It's what drives you to get up and take whatever steps necessary to achieve your goal. So my why can be summed up with three things: fear, respect and the pursuit of greatness.

"When I'm talking about fear, I'm not talking about that type of fear that cripples you and makes you avoid something," he added. "I'm talking about that healthy fear of failure, that fear that motivates you to do whatever you can to succeed, that type of fear that lets you get knocked down and then realize you don't want to get knocked down again, so you pick yourself up, you learn and improve.

"Respect — I've only played this game for two reasons: the respect of my peers and the respect of those who came before me," he continued. "I will never forget the day I got an email from Jack Youngblood telling me that he thought I played the game the right way. That, to me, is worth more than any All-Pro I've ever gotten.

The pursuit of greatness

"WHEN YOU RESPECT SOMETHING OR SOMEONE SO MUCH THAT YOU WANT TO HONOR THAT THING OR THAT PERSON BY BEING THE BEST YOU CAN POSSIBLY BE."

"That's why I had the NFL sack leaders taped up in my locker every season, so I could show up to work and physically see greatness and never allow myself to feel like I arrived. Now I apply this why to everything in my life: to my walk with Christ, to my marriage, to being a father; you name it, you've got to have a why."

Jared's 136 sacks in regular-season games from his rookie season through his

final campaign were the most in the NFL during that span, topping 2023 inductee DeMarcus Ware (134.5) and 2024 addition Julius Peppers (117). The total ranks 12th in the NFL since 1982 when sacks became an official statistic.

The defensive end's 19 fumble recoveries and 49.5 sacks on third downs were the most leaguewide from 2004-15.

Jared also previously earned placement in Hall of Fame company by tying for second with Gold Jackets Bruce Smith and Kevin Greene for the most seasons ranked in the Top 10 in the NFL in sacks (eight seasons). Only Hall of Famer Reggie White (11) has posted more Top 10 finishes.

The Idaho State product played 12 NFL seasons, spending the bulk of his career with the Vikings (2008-13). He started his pro journey with the Chiefs (2004-07) and later played for the Bears (2014-15) and Panthers (2015).

In the video in which Ron presented his son, he thought back to the pre-draft scouting bio that said Jared "wasn't big enough, strong enough, fast enough to play the NFL" and enjoyed a laugh.

"When you tell Jared he can't do something, he's going to prove you wrong by any way means, shape or form," Ron resolutely explained. "He's very self-motivated, so something like that fueled the fire pretty good."

TURNING POINT & TRADE

Jared explained during the SKOL Stories interview how much inspiration he's drawn from Ron's father Ray.

"My grandpa meant the world to me," Jared said. "My grandpa was my hero. I think that's where I'm really, truly blessed: I never had to look outside my family for

personal heroes. It's a question that gets asked a lot. It's easy for me because it was my grandfather and my dad.

"My dad from the standpoint, it's funny because you see the letters as a kid, he had a taste of the NFL, was a big, awesome football player," Jared said. "[I kid him now,] 'You were a camp body. You barely got a taste,' but that's more than most people get. As a kid, it was so motivating to have a dad coaching you that had some validity behind it.

"My grandfather was a hero in a totally different capacity. He was this tough, stoic, cowboy to the sense. Always in his hat and vest," Jared continued. "He had a way of drawing you to him. I just loved being around him. I don't know if I even heard him tell me he loved me. He was emotionless, 23 years in the Marine Corps, fought multiple conflicts. You hear stories of your grandpa, and as you get older and find out they're true and just partial stories, you understood his medals, it's like, 'Holy crap.' "

Some turn tail when they get to a turning point. The best and boldest turn it up.

Jared had delivered 27.5 sacks and 37 tackles for loss through his first three seasons with Kansas City, but a bad decision resulted



JARED ALLEN'S 2025 PRO FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME INDUCTION



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MAKE A FRESH PLAY

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in a DUI and a two-game suspension to start 2007.

Ray called Jared and said, "I didn't drag this last name through multiple conflicts for you to [mess] it up."

After pausing for multiple seconds, Jared explained, "It meant a lot to me because, 'Wow, he's not wrong.' Here's my hero, the reason I'm sitting here today, and I'm thinking because I'm a professional football player that I can go out and act any way because society is not going to tell me to chill out.

"For him to tell me that, it really spoke volumes and made me feel like I'm letting him down. How dare I tarnish something he worked so hard to keep alive," Jared continued. "He wasn't worried about tarnishing. He was worried about carrying it through, so that resonated with me and made me want to be better. It made me understand what my last name meant."

Despite only playing in 14 games that season, Jared led the NFL with 15.5 sacks. Talks for an extension with the Chiefs went nowhere fast. After Kansas City rejected a proposal from Jared and his agent, the duo began convincing the Chiefs to figure out a trade.

Jared was interested in Minnesota and Tampa Bay.

Vikings Executive Director of Player Development Les Pico had overlapped with Jared in Kansas City.

"The moment Jared Allen walked into the building at Kansas City, he was a bigger-than-life personality," Pico recalled. "He was confident but not arrogant. His primary concern was when he'd be on the field."

Pico vouched for Jared being at a stage "where he was making every effort to make significant changes in his life so he could have success not only on the field but off" in conversations with Vikings leadership including Executive Vice President of Football Operations Rob Brzezinski and former General Manager Rick Spielman.

"I knew in his heart he was ready and dialed in," said Pico.

Vikings leadership concluded the same, sending a 2008 first-round pick, two thirds and a sixth to the Chiefs in exchange for Jared and a selection that was used to pick John Sullivan in the sixth, and working out a contract that made him the NFL's highest-paid defensive player.

Pico saw Spielman at the combine this year, just weeks after Jared was announced as a member of the Hall of Fame's Class of 2025. Spielman reminded Pico of the pre-trade discussion.

"I got a call from Rick Spielman to come up to his office not much before [we signed Jared]. Ownership was in there, Rick was in there, and Rick asked me how I felt," Pico recalled. "I said, 'Jared is dialed in, and I know men can change, and Jared is ready and wants change. He desires success on and off the field.'

"Rick said, 'Here's the deal. If there are more problems off the field, not only will Jared's job be in jeopardy, but you'll lose your job. Are you still willing to sign off?' And I didn't hesitate because I knew his heart," Pico said. "I knew where he was as a man, and I said, 'Absolutely, I'll stand on the table for Jared,' and I didn't ever share that with Jared because I didn't want there to be any more pressure on him. I never said anything to him [until this spring] when I brought him in to speak with the rookies. Jared had a big smile on his face."

Brzezinski, known for salary cap solutions, is a big-time believer in people.

"I think that's a big thing. People want to be believed in," Brzezinski said. "We believed in him; he believed in us. It was

a mutual relationship that really fostered, and it was just a pleasure to see him grow as a person, as a human, as a player in the years that he was with us, and it was a fantastic ride."

Jared quickly connected with the Williams Wall (Pat and Kevin) and former defensive line coach Karl Dunbar.

"You could tell it was going to be honest, it was going to be competitive, it was going to be raw, and we were all going to get along friggin' great," he recalled.

Jared held up his end of the deal, never missing a game in his six seasons with Minnesota. He recorded 14.5 sacks in 2008 and 2009, helping the Vikings make the playoffs in his first two seasons with the club. In 2010, he added 11 more and doubled that total for a franchise record 22 the following season.

"The biggest thing between '11 and the rest of my career was I didn't miss. I can think of every year, maybe five, 10, eight that you miss. They started coming in bunches."

He also grew personally off the field, becoming a husband and father and honoring veterans through his Homes for Wounded Warriors foundation.

"I'm a firm believer God puts you where you need to be when you need to be there," Jared said.



Skol Vikings

Words and Music
By
James "Red" McLeod ASCAP

C

Skol Vi - kings, Let's win this game. Skol Vi - kings,

Hon - or your name. Go get that first down, Then get a

touch - down, Rock 'em! Sock 'em! Fight! Fight!

Fight! Fight! Go Vi - kings, Run up the score.

You'll hear us yell for more. V - I - K - I -

N - G - S Skol Vi - kings let's go. Skol!

CHARGE!

V - I - K - I - N - G -

S Skol Vi - kings let's go Skol!

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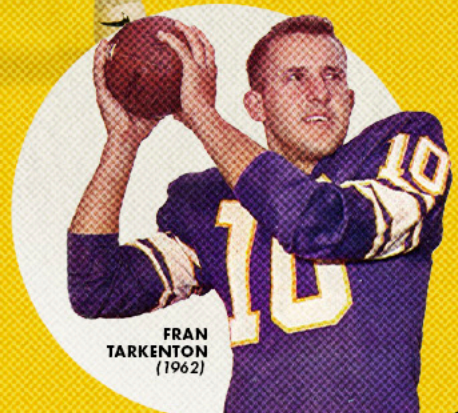
CLASSIC
SLEEVE STRIPES



SLAB SERIF FONT
WITH GOLD TRIM



CLASSIC DECAL WITH
GRAY FACE MASK



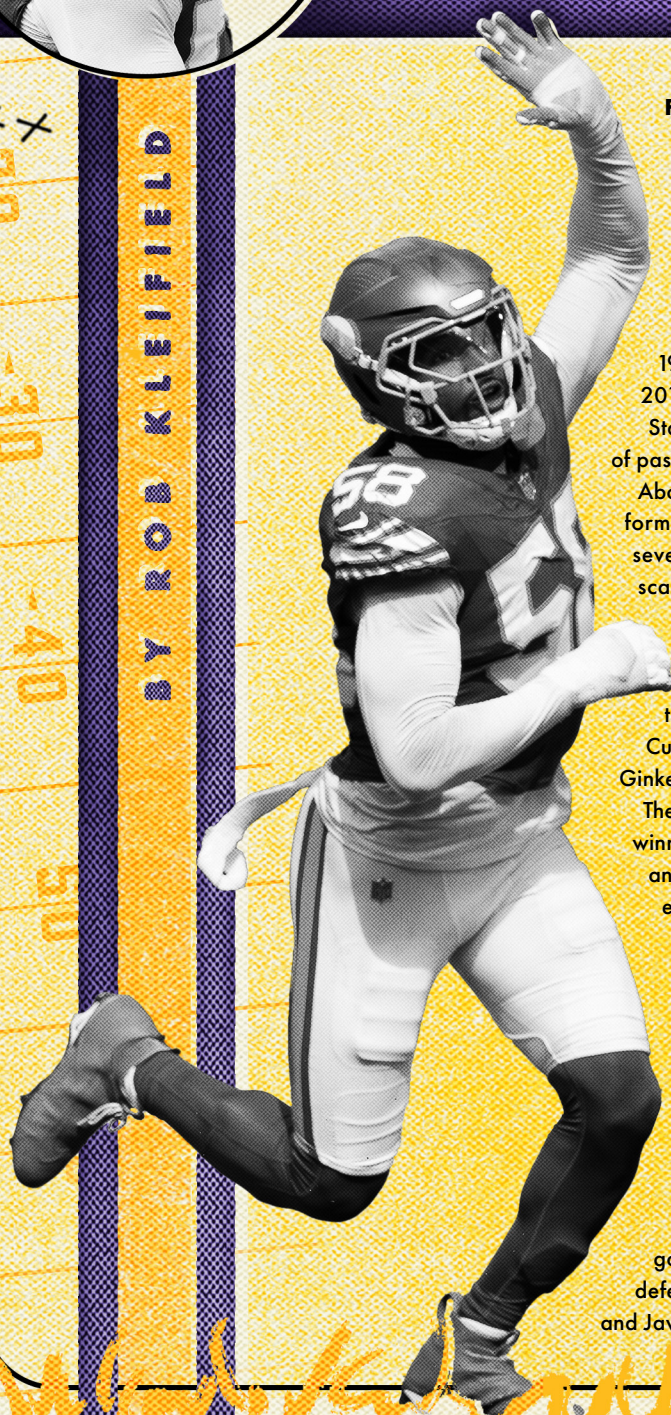
FRAN
TARKENTON
(1962)



Up Next?

MEET AT THE QUARTERBACK AGAIN

BY ROB KLEIFELD



Flattening quarterbacks is a tremendous facet of Vikings lore.

The 1989, 2009 and 2011 defenses were the Kings of Sacks, with 71, 48 and 50.

No other iteration of Minnesota's defense has led the NFL since complete coverage for Times Sacked began in 1963, according to Pro Football Reference. Fifteen other Purple-clad units have finished in the Top 5, though (1963, 1968-70, 1975, 1990, 1992, 1995, 2008, 2012, 2016, 2018-19, 2021 and 2024).

Stalking the most important player on opposing teams is a rite of passage, if you will, in Minnesota.

About 40 percent of the club's Ring of Honor (9 of 23 former players inducted) starred along the defensive front seven, preying on quarterbacks. Although their impacts are scattered across eras, there's a common thread between the dominant decades that resonates in the hallways of the Vikings facility.

Time doesn't confine the greatness that has flown off the edge and steamrolled into offensive cores.

Current pass-rush artists Jonathan Greenard, Andrew Van Ginkel and Dallas Turner take pride in what they do.

They're motivated to uphold and strengthen that legacy by winning 1-on-1s, setting up teammates on twists and stunts and striking fear into opponents – of the next pressure, an enveloping sense of doom, the vehemence of Nos. 58, 43, 15, and so on.

The frontline forces of yesteryear were iconic; the active ensemble has its own respectable flair.

"I'm just trying to keep that carrying on, for real – be like those guys that kind of paved the way already," Greenard said. "Just trying to continue that savage dominance that played here before."

Van Ginkel added, "It's cool to try to be part of that history and to make a lasting impact."

Greenard, Turner and Van Ginkel flank a front seven that got scarier on paper this past offseason, welcoming Pro Bowl defensive tackles – both 40-plus sacksters – Jonathan Allen and Javon Hargrave.

That fivesome (and exciting depth), which entered 2025 responsible for 154 sacks and 341 quarterback hits, had Head Coach Kevin O'Connell licking his lips and rubbing his hands at training camp. "That's exactly what I'm doing," he smiled when a reporter framed a question about the vanguard of defenders.

They are tasked now with improving on last year's 49 sacks, which tied for fourth in the NFL, and 180 QB pressures (T-2nd). Gigantic figures filed across the franchise's first 64 seasons are a source of inspiration.

"We gotta get more than that [this year]," said Greenard, chortling like he knows

something that's going to catch people by surprise. "We're trying to win (more) 1-on-1 [matchups]. I think that's the main thing. We continue to do our job, the numbers will come. I think it's a mindset we all have taken on."

Jared Allen holds the Vikings record for sacks in a campaign, nabbing 22 in 2011. Kevin Williams was adorned with All-Decade Team status for the 2000s, pumping up his six consecutive Pro Bowl berths and 60 sacks in a Vikings uniform. Undrafted and undersized meant zilch to John Randle, who tallied at least 8.0 sacks in 10 straight seasons, beginning in 1991. Chris Doleman lived in the laps of quarterbacks in 1989, procuring 21 sacks, and was elected, like Randle, to the NFL Team of the Decade for the 1990s.

The tradition of a staunch defensive front predates those Legends.

"Captain Jim" Marshall, the original Iron Man, started 270 games in a row for Minnesota and submitted 127 sacks. Linemate Carl Eller etched his name atop the franchise's leaderboard, with 130.5 takedowns. And Alan Page, who was later celebrated as a Minnesota Supreme Court Justice, made history in 1971 when he was chosen as the first defensive player to win NFL MVP honors from *The Associated Press*. Page tallied 108.5 in Purple.

Together, and with contributions from Gary Larsen, they formed the "Purple People Eaters" who would "meet at the quarterback."

Linebackers Matt Blair and Scott Studwell, who also are in the Vikings Ring of Honor, affected quarterbacks in their singular-team careers, ledgering 23 and 10 sacks apiece.

Neatly packaged, the Vikings track record of sacking quarterbacks and disrupting offenses is significant. Five front-seven players (Eller,

Page, Doleman, Randle and Allen) are immortalized in the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Six – Eller, Doleman, Keith Millard, Page, Randle and Williams – were named to respective All-Decade squads. Seven left their marks with 80-plus sacks; eight broke the 70-sack barrier; and 10 logged at least 60 in Purple.

Although this year's group still is raising a reputation to rival the older generations, it features extraordinary individual abilities and scheme ingenuity taught by Brian Flores and brought to life by players.

At outside linebacker, "we really feel like we've got three starters," said O'Connell, recognizing a Year 2 leap for Turner. In camp, the coach declared Greenard "turned it up a notch" and "Gink's the same way."

Tackle Brian O'Neill, after allowing the second-fewest pressures (19) among tackles with 600 pass-block snaps last year, per PFF, showered Greenard and Van Ginkel with respect:

"Every day I get to block an All-Pro edge rusher and then an edge rusher who was a Pro Bowler who probably should've been an All-Pro," he said of Gink' and Greenard. "I certainly feel like they're making me better, and I hope that me and the other tackles are hopefully helping them as much as they're helping us."

"[Greenard] plays angry. ... He wants it. He wants it really bad," O'Neill continued. "You can see it in his eyes. You can hear it in the way he talks. You can see it in the way he trained all offseason. This stuff is really important to him, and if it's as important to everyone as it is to J.G., I think we're in a good spot."

'Best get-off'

Turner's 4.4-speed at 250 pounds is bonkers. So is Greenard's sixth sense for the snap count.

Evaluating the veteran's game, Turner quipped, "J.G. – he's not gonna like



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it – but my get-off is better than his!” Laughing, the 22-year-old added, “I’m playing! He probably has the best get-off on the team.”

Several of Greenard’s 12 sacks last year happened in a blink, but none as sudden as the one that reverberated on the video board on *Monday Night Football* at U.S. Bank Stadium in mid-December.

On a third-and-9 halfway through the first quarter against division foe Chicago, Greenard “got home” in 2.41 seconds. It counted as the eighth-quickest sack in the NFL last season, according to Next Gen Stats.

The Vikings leader off the ball is a leader of men to boot and was selected as one of the team’s eight season-long captains.

“He’s definitely a leader, a very vocal leader,” Turner shared. “He leads by example, leads by just looking out for the younger dudes. And also he just makes plays. ... No matter how big his name is going around, he never gets too high (on himself). He just always works hard every day and just leads by example. He’s gonna let you know what you need to be better at, too, so me and him have a real good relationship.”

Gink’s versatility

Turner is adapting to an expanded role, trying to be a chameleon – like Van Ginkel.

“He’s literally learning both of our positions,” Greenard commented admiringly.

Turner said “Gink has a very high IQ,” and impresses him with his grasp of not only offensive and defensive concepts but of all 11 positions on their side. The protégé noted Gink’s awareness of everyone’s roles – reads and fits for defensive linemen and linebackers; coverages for defensive backs.

Van Ginkel’s movement tracks with that. Based on Pro Football Focus data, Van Ginkel handled 535 snaps at left outside linebacker and 266 at right in 2024, his reunion season with Flores, who was Miami’s head coach when the Dolphins drafted Gink’ in the fifth round in 2019. He played another 93 snaps stacked in the box and 42 at slot cornerback.

The production was breathtaking. In addition to practically doubling his old career highs for sacks (now 11.5, previously 6.0) and tackles for loss (now 18, previously 9), Van Ginkel was dynamite dropping into coverage, housing a pair of interceptions. His 81.0 coverage grade was ninth among outside linebackers. Zero of the eight ‘backers ahead of him, however, played more than 69

coverage snaps.

Gink’ played 212.

Turner ascending

How does Turner, 22, see himself compared to Van Ginkel and Greenard?

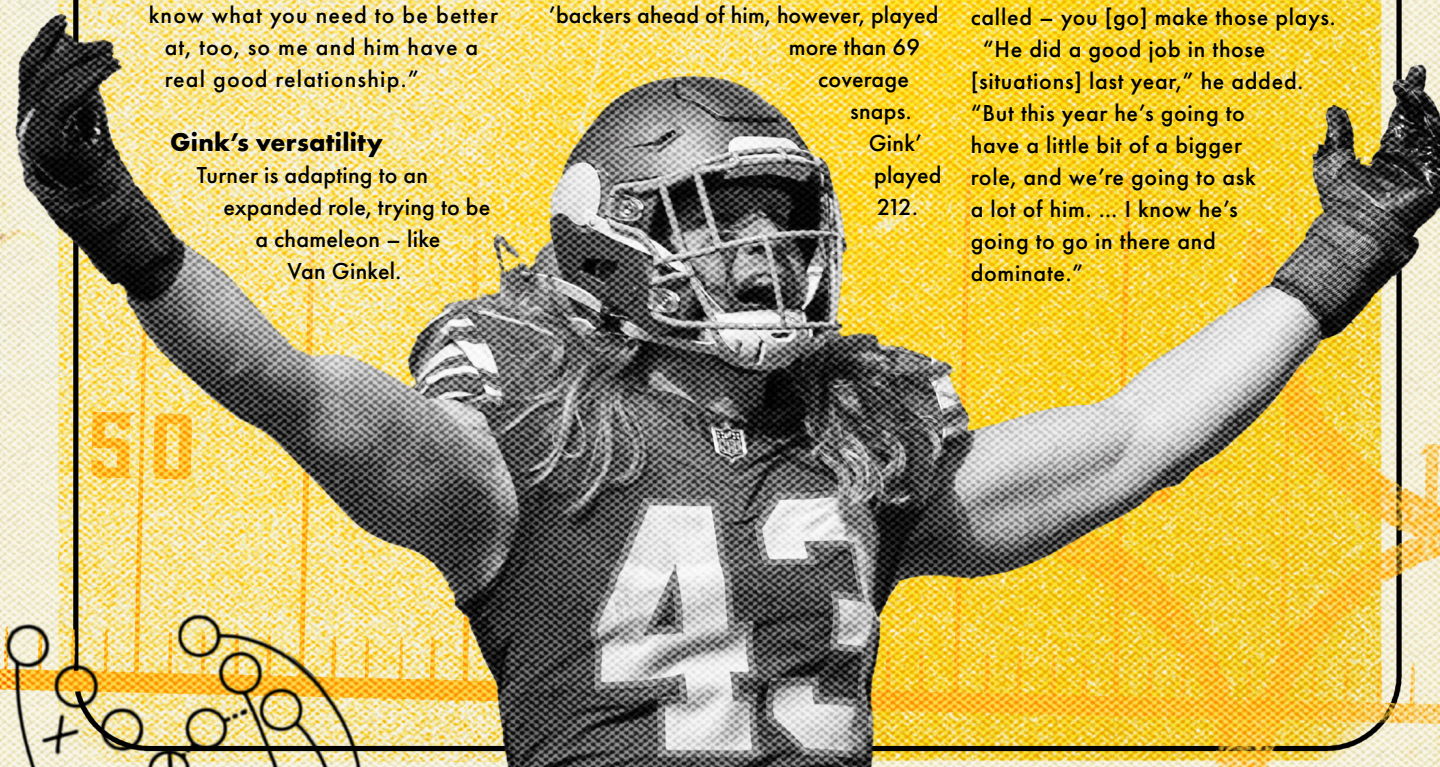
“Physically, a little gifted,” he offered with beyond-his-years humility. “And a high IQ for the game. I’m still learning going into Year 2, but I feel like being the youngest out of [the three], and including the younger guys in the (OLB) room, we could all just learn from J.G. and Gink’ – from both of their strengths and both of their weaknesses as well – and just see how they do their due diligence every single day.”

Candidly, Turner said he feels stronger and faster and has a “better mentality in my head.”

“He just looks locked in,” Greenard observed. “I think that he just understands that he has a real opportunity to come in and change the game. I think obviously when you’re younger you’re trying to get as many opportunities as possible. But at the same time, you can’t control those things. All you can control is your effort, and whenever your number is called – you [go] make those plays.

“He did a good job in those [situations] last year,” he added.

“But this year he’s going to have a little bit of a bigger role, and we’re going to ask a lot of him. ... I know he’s going to go in there and dominate.”





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Calm & Connected:

J.J. McCarthy SHOWS LEADERSHIP BEYOND HIS YEARS

BY LINDSEY YOUNG

Is age just a number?

When it comes to earning respect and asserting leadership in an NFL locker room, the old adage certainly seems to apply.

J.J. McCarthy on Monday started for the Vikings season opener; at 22 years, 7 months and 18 days, he was officially the youngest starting QB for Week 1 of the 2025 season. Drake Maye, the Patriots young passer, is the second youngest and celebrated his 23rd birthday Aug. 30.

Outward appearances only, McCarthy's age doesn't lie.

He's baby-faced, blue-eyed, with a shaggy blond cut that often peeks beneath the brim of a baseball cap spun backward.

He's so young. Does he have what it takes to be an NFL quarterback?

Ask McCarthy's teammates and coaches, and there isn't a doubt in their mind. This kid has what it takes.

"He's an interesting guy for a 22-year-old," Vikings Offensive Coordinator Wes Phillips said recently. "He's a little wise beyond his years, I think, in some areas."

McCarthy has made known a daily routine that includes meditation, intended to calm and focus his mind and combat any

distraction; he's an avid note-taker in the classroom; he's intentional to connect with teammates of all backgrounds, ages, positions and demographics; he's poised in the huddle and carries himself with a collectedness not always typical of such a young player.

Vikings General Manager Kwesi Adofo-Mensah noted early visits with McCarthy's alma mater, during which Wolverines coaches and administrators waxed eloquently of the quarterback's character and disposition.

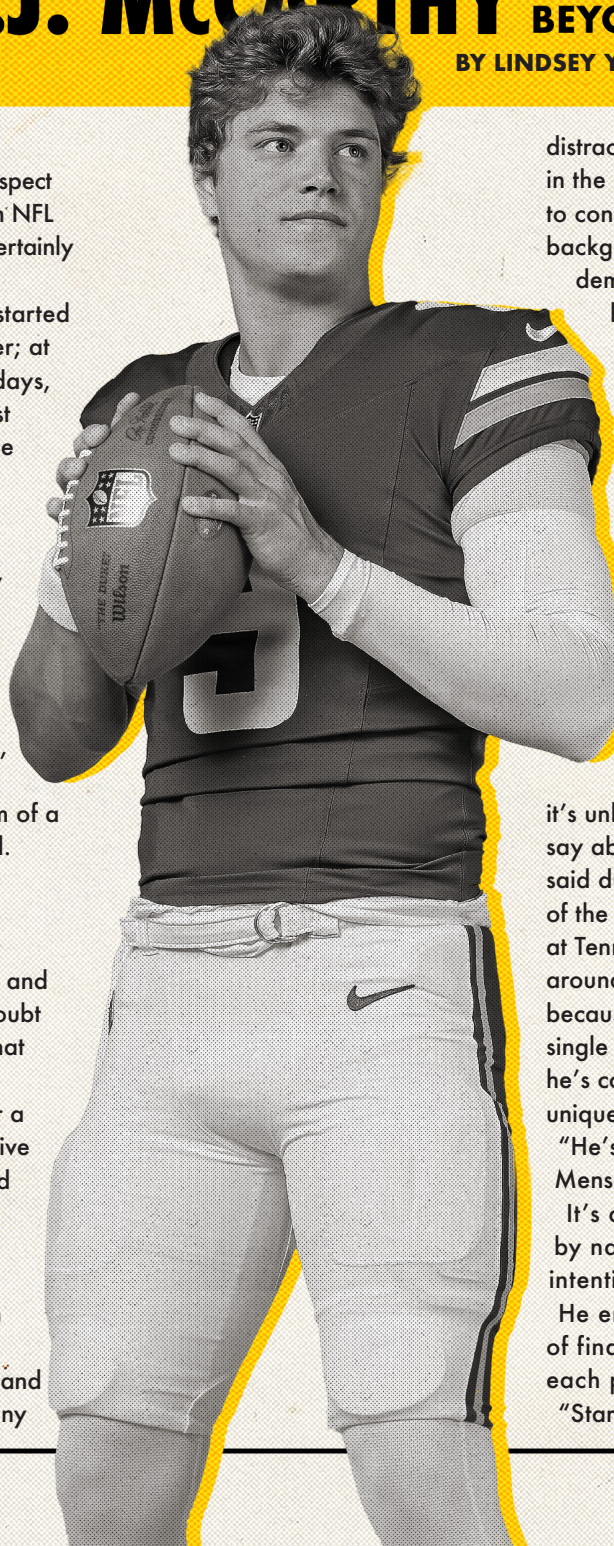
"You go through the Michigan building, and it's unbelievable the stuff they say about him," Adofo-Mensah said during KFAN's broadcast of the Vikings preseason game at Tennessee. "But then you get around him, and it is believable, because he is that way every single day. Genuine relationships, he's competitive, he's just a unique human."

"He's a connector," Adofo-Mensah emphasized.

It's a trait McCarthy comes by naturally; but he's also intentional in practice.

He emphasized the importance of finding a connection point with each player in the locker room.

"Starter, not starter, defensive



player, special teams guy," McCarthy said. "That's your role as a quarterback. And at the end of the day, I just love every single guy. We have such great human beings in there, and they're a joy to talk to and get to know.

"It's one team, one heartbeat," McCarthy said. "It's not just the quarterbacks, the receivers, the o-line. We are in this thing together. ... Every time we're in this locker room, it's one family."

Christian Darrisaw, who is working his way back from a knee injury to protect McCarthy's blindside, has a unique perspective on the QB, as the two overlapped in their rehab processes (McCarthy suffered a torn meniscus last preseason, and Darrisaw's knee injury occurred Week 8).

Darrisaw has appreciated McCarthy's camaraderie, as well as his composure in the huddle, something he witnessed as the two worked together throughout training camp. Even on a bungled play, no panic mode detected.

Following the Vikings joint practice with the Patriots, Darrisaw spoke to media members and described as such.

"This is our first time going against a new defense; we don't want to be out here making mistakes, but it's practice," he said. "Things are going to happen, so why not make them now and correct them, come back out here tomorrow and not make those mistakes, then take that into the season.

"[J.J. is] a great leader. His confidence is through the roof," Darrisaw continued. "We knew that from last year, and I feel like none

of the [injury time] has affected that at all. He's still the same. It's gonna be really fun blocking for him on game days, protecting and seeing the plays that he can make.

"I feel really, really great about it," he added.

Justin Jefferson and Aaron Jones,



Sr., are just two of the other teammates who have spoken highly this offseason of the way McCarthy has comfortably found a balance between leading and learning.

It isn't only offensive players expressing their belief in McCarthy, either.

He quickly earned the respect of veteran pass rusher Jonathan Greenard, who's been struck by the 22-year-old's approach on and off the field.

"Seeing J.J. continue to work his tail off, be that same guy as the first day I met him, still checking in on guys, 'Hey, how you doing?' " Greenard described. "You know, a lot of people don't do that. They ask, 'How you doing?' just to check a box. I mean, J.J. genuinely wants to know, 'How are you? How's the family doing?'

"That's what you want out of your quarterback," Greenard added. "Especially when he has this grand opportunity, man, we're all behind him. I mean, we're all standing 10 toes with J.J. He's a likeable guy, so you want to see a guy like him succeed. It makes it easier for us to root him on."

As McCarthy enters U.S. Bank Stadium tonight for his first regular-season home game, more than 66,000 fans also will be rooting him on.

The excitement for McCarthy has been building since the Vikings drafted him in April 2024 — and he showed why in Week 1's comeback win.

"I'll text him sometimes, and he's just excited," Adofo-Mensah said with a smile. "He was excited for his first preseason game. Like, 'Kwes', you fired up?' I'm like, 'I guess I should be.'

"I just can't wait for his opportunity," Adofo-Mensah added. "I think he's going to play well and represent the Vikings well."



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Through & Through

By Lindsey Young

Anthony Barr tends to leave things better than he found them.

Whether impacting the community or making play after play on the football field, Barr made his presence felt in all the right ways during his nine seasons as a Vikings linebacker.

So on Sept. 1, he returned to where it all started.

"It's important for me to retire as a Viking because I am a Viking," Barr said.

In his final press conference for the Purple and Gold, Barr humbly took in a room full of not only reporters but also employees, football staff and, most importantly, former teammates that included Andrew Sendejo, Audie Cole and Eric Kendricks.

"It's really good to be back," Barr said. "The community means so much, the franchise means so much. It's a franchise that changed my life."

Though he had no say, of course, in which team called his name in the NFL Draft, it didn't take long for the Vikings and Minnesota to feel like a second home.

"Pretty quickly, I felt comfortable in the locker room with the team. And first and foremost, I think that's very important to be at your best," he said.

Barr went on to thrive in Minnesota. Over 102 games (98 starts), he totaled 496 tackles, 39 tackles for loss, 17.5 sacks, five interceptions, 31 passes defensed, eight forced fumbles and eight fumble recoveries, including one he returned at Tampa for a game-winning touchdown.

He was a special athlete. But more than that, he was a special teammate, a special friend. A special person.

Barr's on-field performance, earning him four Pro Bowl nods, was undeniable. And yet arguably, his most significant legacy

wasn't left anywhere near the football field.

During Barr's second season, he and his mom Lori launched Raise the Barr, a nonprofit aimed at helping single-parent families break the cycle of poverty by providing access to post-secondary education, tuition and childcare scholarships. He also connected deeply with Jeremiah Program, a Minneapolis-based nonprofit with a mission that beautifully aligns with Raise the Barr.

Barr established trust and relationships with single mothers and their young ones during fundraiser events, holiday gatherings and humble visits to the center to play with and read books to youth.

For the 2021 Vikings Community Man of the Year, that's what it's all about.

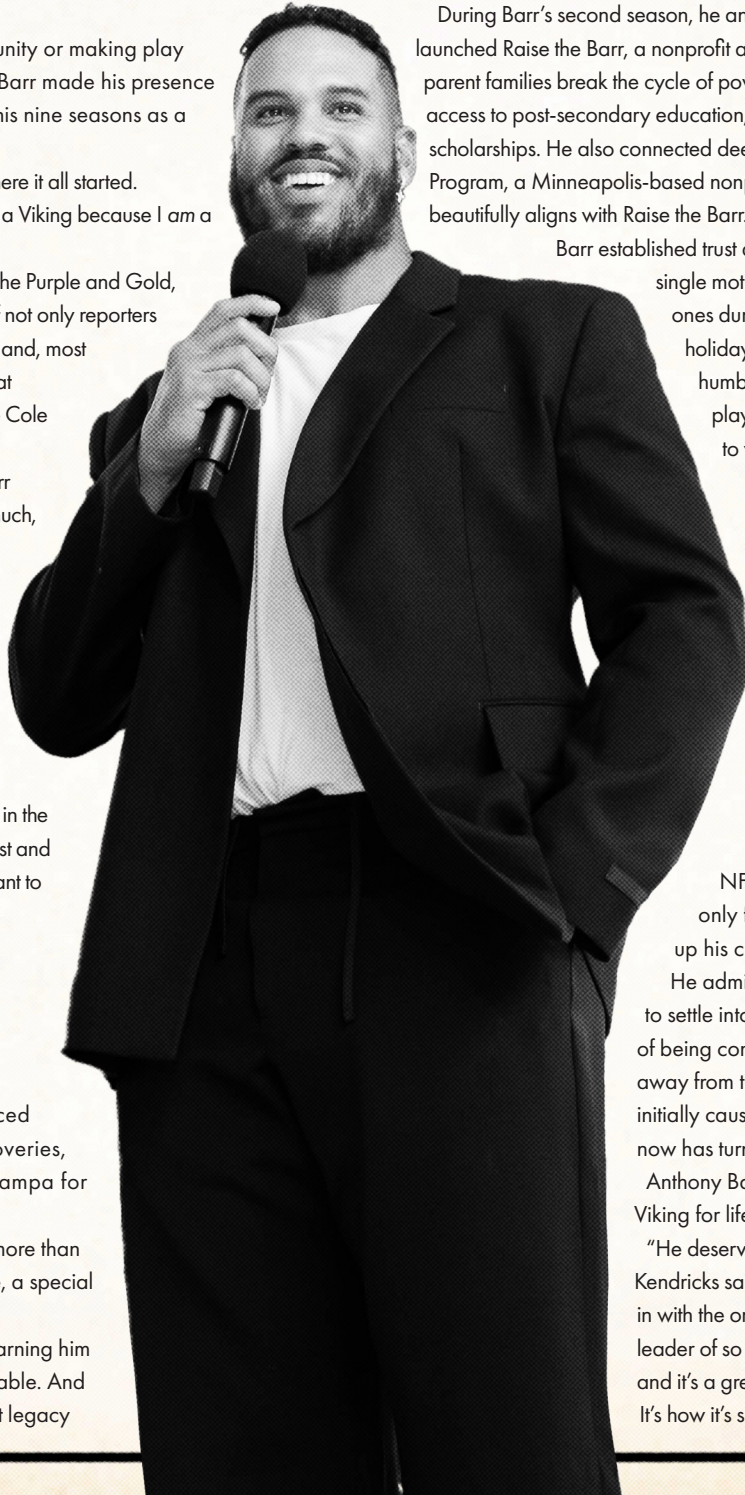
"We try to build that community for our families so they don't feel like they're going through life alone," Barr said.

Reflecting over his NFL career, he found it only fitting to officially hang up his cleats in Minnesota.

He admitted it took some time to settle into the idea of retirement, of being comfortable walking away from the field. But what initially caused pangs of sadness now has turned to deep gratitude.

Anthony Barr is a Minnesota Viking for life.

"He deserves his flowers," Kendricks said. "He put a lot of work in with the organization, he was a leader of so many great defenses, and it's a great story. It's only right. It's how it's supposed to be."



JOINING FORCES



WITH UNITED HEROES LEAGUE FOR BACK-TO-SCHOOL GIFTING

By Lindsey Young

Aaron Jones, Sr., has a few things in common with Troy and Molly Johnson.

All three understand the military family experience, and all three have felt warmly welcomed by Minnesota over the past year-and-a-half.

Ret. Sgt. E-5 Amalia (Molly) Johnson served in the Minnesota Army National Guard from 2009-17, while her husband, Ret. Sgt. E-6 Troy Johnson, served in the Army for 14 years before transitioning to the Air National Guard from 2016-23.

Though Jones did not serve himself, he grew up with both parents being active servicemembers: CSM Alvin Jones, Sr. (1984-2012) and SGM Vurgess Jones (1990-2016).

Troy and Molly and their two sons, all lifelong Vikings fans, were thrilled to meet Jones last month at a unique back-to-school event. Aaron's nonprofit, the A&A All the Way Foundation, joined forces with the Vikings and the United Heroes League to host an afternoon focused on children whose parent (or parents) have served in the military.

"These are full-circle moments for me," Aaron said, "just getting to listen to these families, hearing their story."

Aaron spent the first seven seasons of his NFL career with Green Bay before joining the Vikings last spring as a free agent. He's spoken many times on the warm reception he's gotten from Minnesota fans, and he's put an emphasis on giving back to the community in whatever way possible.

Especially when there's an opportunity to support military families.

"I get to let these kids know, 'Hey, I was once in your shoes. I'm no different than you. I was once a military kid,'" Aaron explained. "I let them know [I understand] they're making sacrifices, as well, and

also thank their parents for their service."

The Johnson family previously had been living in South Dakota and returned to the Twin Cities, where friends told them about United Heroes League. Molly and Troy have already been greatly impacted by the local nonprofit — from Troy being invited on last year's Veterans Voyage trip, to their sons, 11 and 6, being involved in various UHL-sponsored activities.

Those who attended Aaron's event were able to meet the Vikings running back, his twin brother Alvin, sister Chelsirae and Ms. Jones, all of whom are heavily involved with the foundation.

Students selected school supplies that included crayons, multi-colored notebooks, backpacks and Vikings drawstring bags, and families received a meal from the Vikings Table food truck.

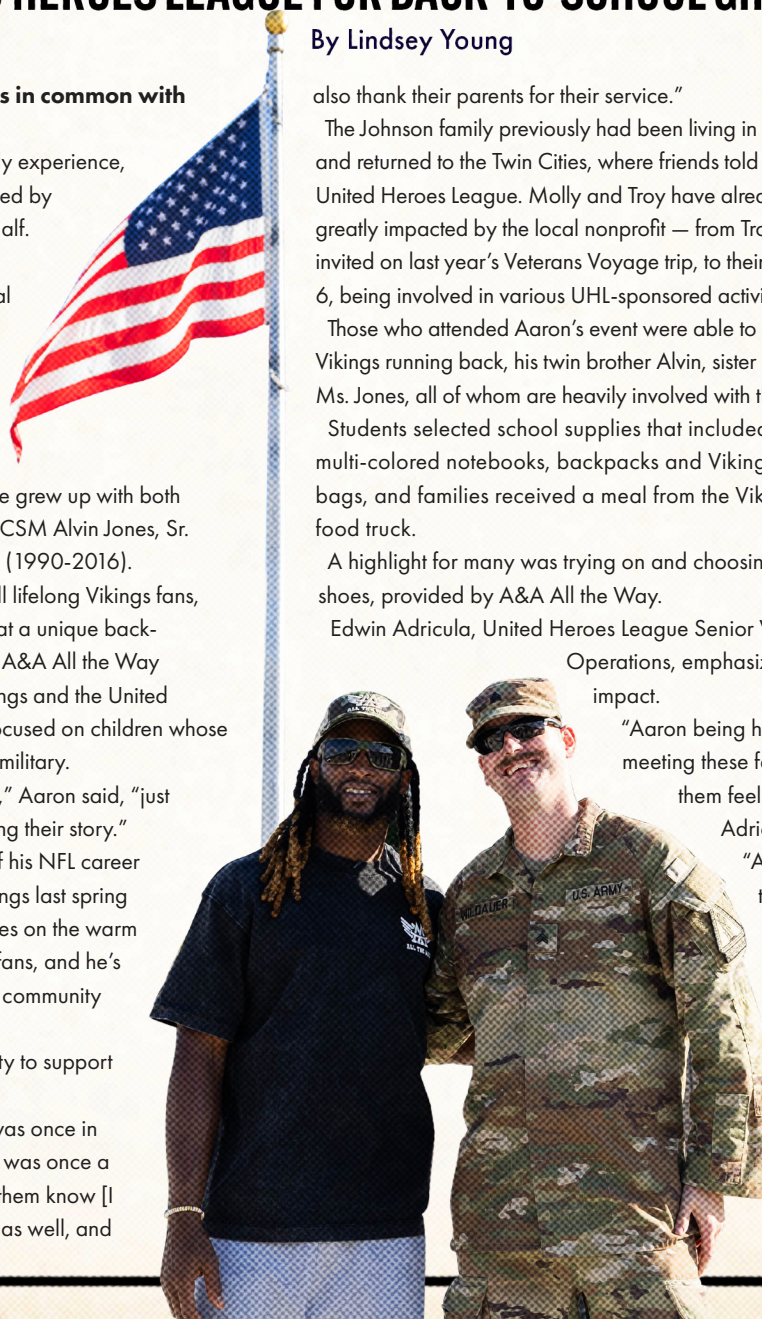
A highlight for many was trying on and choosing brand-new shoes, provided by A&A All the Way.

Edwin Adricula, United Heroes League Senior VP of Operations, emphasized the event's impact.

"Aaron being here and meeting these families makes them feel special,"

Adricula said.

"And to include the children, to be proud of Mom and Dad for their service and to be selected for this event with Aaron, it's incredible."



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5 FAVES

Vikings safeties Joshua Metellus and Theo Jackson each signed extensions this year to stay in Purple for the foreseeable future.

Metellus continues to be a Swiss Army knife in Brian Flores' defense, entering his fifth season and third as a full-time impact player. Last season, he racked up 103 tackles and recorded two interceptions, five passes

defensed, six QB hits and a forced fumble. Jackson, a sixth-round pick by Tennessee in 2022, has bided his time in a talented safeties group but impressed teammates and coaches along the way and has earned the expanded spot he'll step into this season.

Jackson and Metellus have varying tastes in multiple areas but share a love for making big plays.

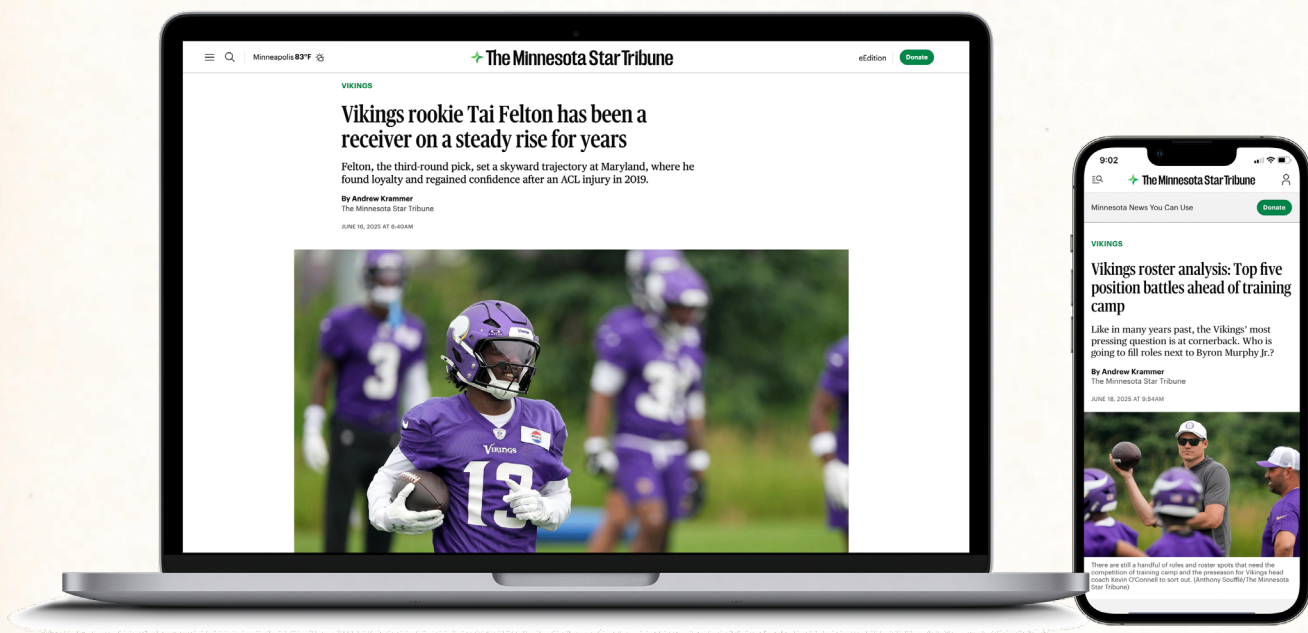
Here's a look at five of their other faves:



	THEO JACKSON	JOSHUA METELLUS
GAME SHOW	<i>FAMILY FEUD</i>	<i>BIG BROTHER</i>
DESSERT	STRAWBERRY CHEESECAKE	CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES
KARAOKE SONG	"FRIENDS IN LOW PLACES" BY GARTH BROOKS	"UNWRITTEN" BY NATASHA BEDINGFIELD
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Soonji

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her as a newborn wearing a teeny hat and Vikings onesie), Soonji's earliest memories often revolve around watching games with her family asking "probably a hundred questions" to learn more about football.

"I'd spend Sundays sitting next to my dad. We'd go to Taco Bell at halftime and then come back and hopefully watch the Vikings win," Soonji smiled.

"It might sound corny," she added, "but I feel like I was born to be around football. I live and breathe it, and the sport means so much to me. Being part of the MVC means so much to me."

Ask Soonji what's kept her passionate about her MVC role for nearly a decade, and it's hard for her to pinpoint just one thing.

The adrenaline of performance. Friendship. Making an impact. Being part of a team. Contributing to the Minnesota Vikings legacy.

"I love the people I dance next to," Soonji said, emotion cracking her voice. "I truly love them with my whole heart. What we do is so special, and the impact we have on people — you can see it on their faces — means the world."

Soonji has been a part of countless Vikings community events over the years, during which she and her teammates have been able to make a difference in a variety of ways. A few experiences particularly have touched her, including in 2023 when she and her teammates helped fulfill 16-year-old Sylvia's Make-A-Wish dream to become an MVC for a day.

"Even in the locker room, helping

her get ready, she was just so excited. It was really, really special," Soonji recalled. "Being on the field with her, I felt so proud even being a small part of her big wish."

She's also appreciated the opportunity to join the Animal Humane Society's "Walk for Animals," where she was accompanied by CC, one of her family's two adopted pups.

Whether cheering on game day (where her parents proudly wear "Soonji Mom" and "Soonji Dad" jerseys), giving back to the community, running her small business or teaching at a local dance studio, Soonji is proud to represent the Minnesota Vikings Cheerleaders.

As far as when she'll hang up her pom poms?

"The last few years, it's always been about, 'Do I want to keep dancing?' And the answer is always-very easily — 'yes,'" Soonji said. "I can't imagine myself being able to do everything this job requires and not being out there. I just love it. One day ... I'll know. But today is not that day."

Time flies when you're having fun.

So as MVC Soonji steps into U.S. Bank Stadium tonight, it feels surreal she's kicking off her eighth Vikings season.

"It's gone by in a blink," she laughed. "When I first auditioned, I just knew I wanted to keep dancing post-high school. My family loves the Vikings, and when my mom saw an ad on Instagram for auditions, it was like, 'Maybe you should see what this is all about.'"

Soonji auditioned for the team, and it's a decision she's forever thankful for.

A lifelong Vikings fan (there's a photo of



By Lindsey Young

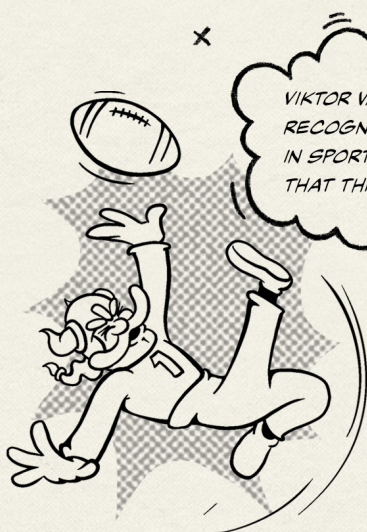
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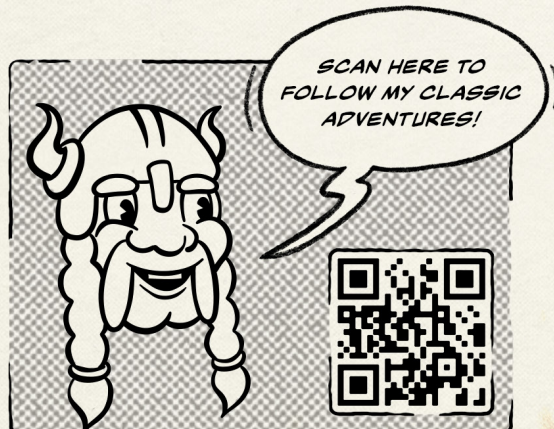


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Spotlight

By Madie Gile

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VIKINGS AMBASSADOR

PAUL ALBERS
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CORY McLOUDEN
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KIM BAUMEISTER
BEST CROWD MANAGEMENT



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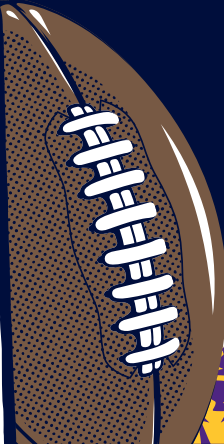


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