



REMEMBERING

JIM MARSHALL

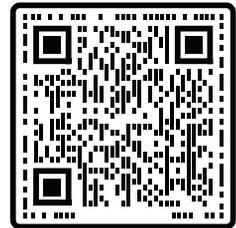
VIKINGS VS. BENGALS

Urgent Care Go to TCO



Walk in 8 - 8

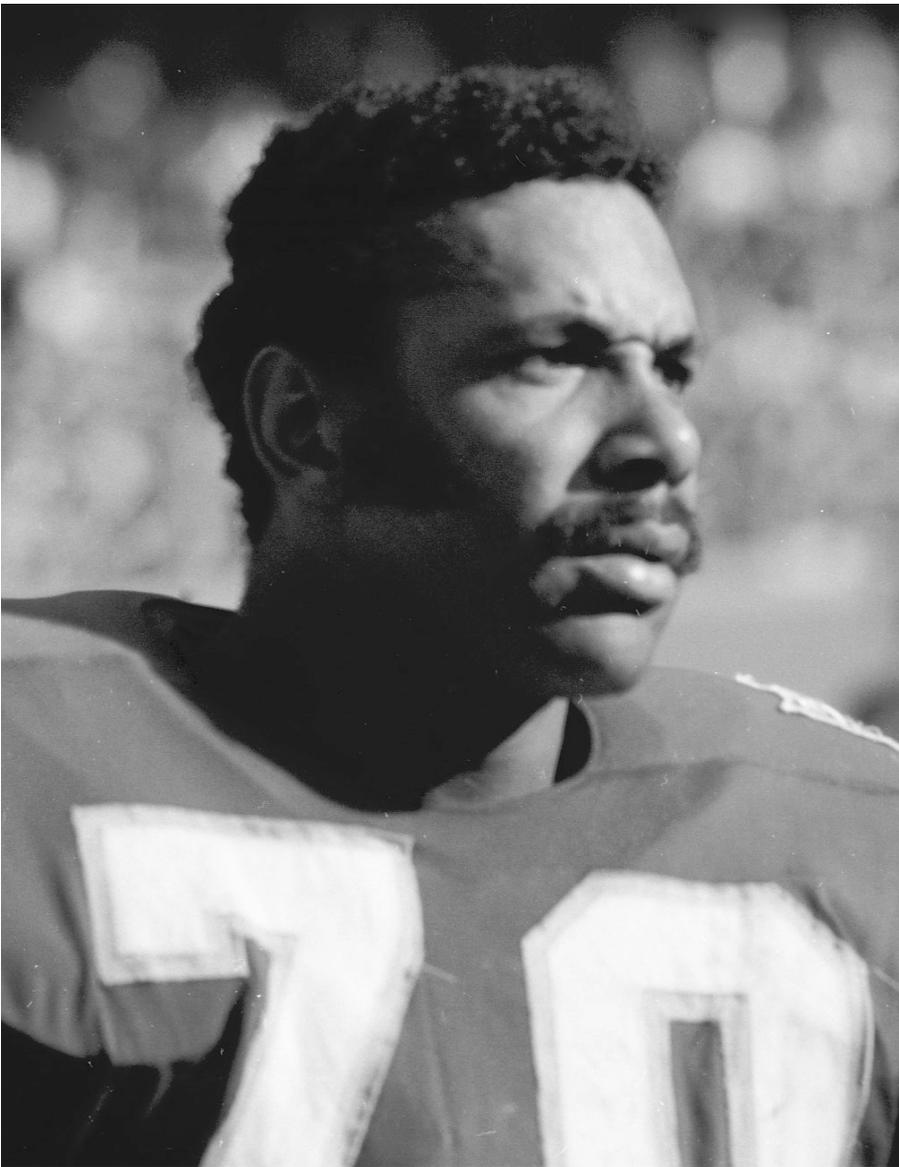
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and wait times



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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.

FOX LOCAL is FOX 9

STREAM LIVE
Newscasts

&



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THE PHONE APP**



2025 TEAM STATS

YARDS PER GAME / ALLOWED

	RUSH	PASS
MIN OFF	99.0 226.0 31ST IN THE NFL	127.0
CIN DEF	94.0 363.5 24TH IN THE NFL	269.5
CIN OFF	47.0 245.5 30TH IN THE NFL	198.5
MIN DEF	168.5 321.5 17TH IN THE NFL	153.0

SEPT. 21, 2025 | U.S. BANK STADIUM

TODAY'S GAME MARKS THE 16TH ALL-TIME BETWEEN THE VIKINGS AND BENGALS.

Minnesota, which has a 7-8 record, will try to improve to 7-0 when hosting Cincinnati. This is the first meeting between the teams at U.S. Bank Stadium since Dec. 17, 2017, when the Vikings claimed the NFC North.

In-game entertainment elements include the following:

LEGENDS WEEKEND

The Vikings are proud to celebrate Legends Weekend annually to honor alumni. This year's festivities are highlighted by a celebration of the adventurous life and accomplished career of

Jim Marshall, a 14-time captain who played every game of Minnesota's first two decades. Marshall passed away on June 3 at age 87.

SHOWTIME SEQUENCE

Fans are encouraged to be in their seats by 11:40 to experience the new "Showtime" sequence leading up to the game.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Esera Tuaolo, who played defensive tackle for the Vikings from 1992-96, will perform the National Anthem.

HALFTIME

Back by "popular" demand, the Corgi Classic returns featuring dog races.



TODAY, THE VIKINGS WILL HONOR THE SPIRIT, TRADITIONS AND RICH CULTURE OF THE HISPANIC AND LATINO COMMUNITY.

Vikings staff have been offered the opportunity to celebrate the diversity and strength of the Hispanic and Latino community by wearing Vamos Vikings lapel pins on game day! These pins represent the organization's commitment to building a diverse and inclusive environment – for our staff, our fans and our larger community. The pins are also for sale in the Vikings Locker Room store.



TODAY'S GAME PRESENTED BY **Lite**

102.1 FM

K102



DUBS

CHRIS

SAM

**CHRIS CARR
& COMPANY**

6-10am MORNINGS



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 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/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.



BOGO BALL

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 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 to make a difference!



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.





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 for details.

FREE BIG MAC

Victory never tasted so good. Get a free Big Mac when the Vikings score two touchdowns in a game, only on the McDonald's App. \$2 minimum purchase required.



JAMESON FOOTBALL FANATIC

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 and submit your fan photo today.



GAME-DAY AUCTION

Benefiting the Minnesota Vikings Foundation

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, visit vikings.com/auction.

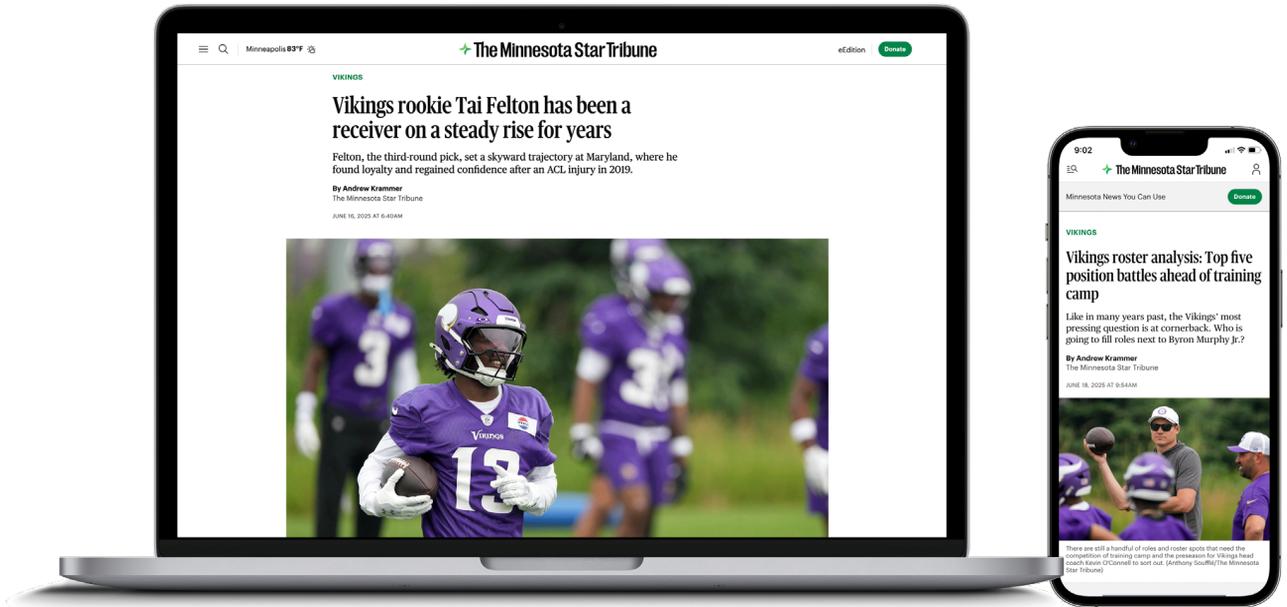
WIN VIKTOR'S RIDE!

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.



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Star Tribune

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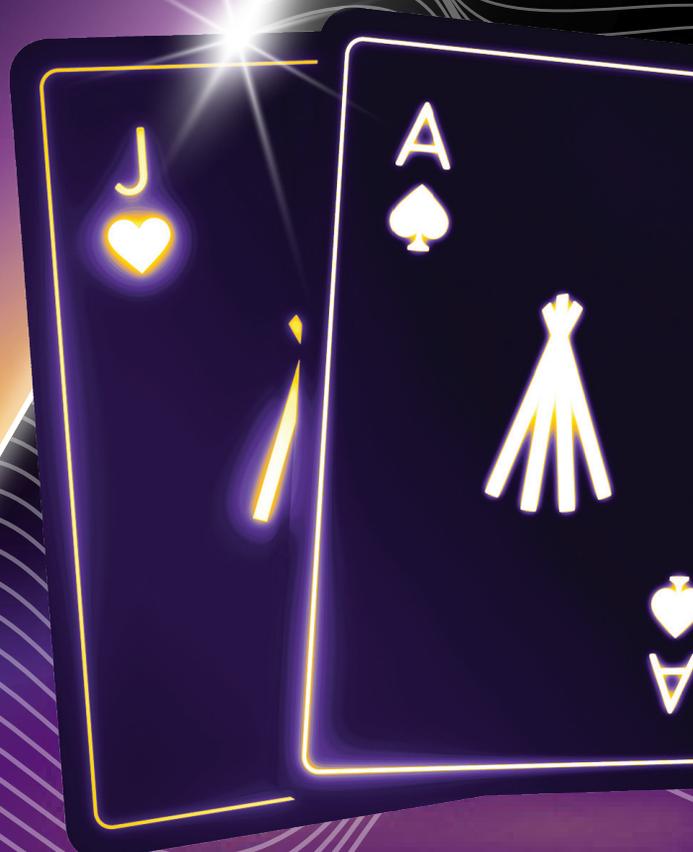


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CHI WK1
W, 27-24

WK2
L, 22-6 **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**

BYRON MURPHY JR.

THE VIKINGS PRIORITIZED RE-SIGNING BYRON MURPHY, JR., TO A THREE-YEAR DEAL THIS OFFSEASON FOLLOWING A BANNER YEAR IN WHICH HE TIED FOR THIRD IN THE NFL WITH A CAREER-BEST SIX INTERCEPTIONS.

The Arizona native became the first Vikings cornerback to record six interceptions in a season since Jimmy Hitchcock in 1998. Murphy started all 17 games on the way to setting career highs in passes defended

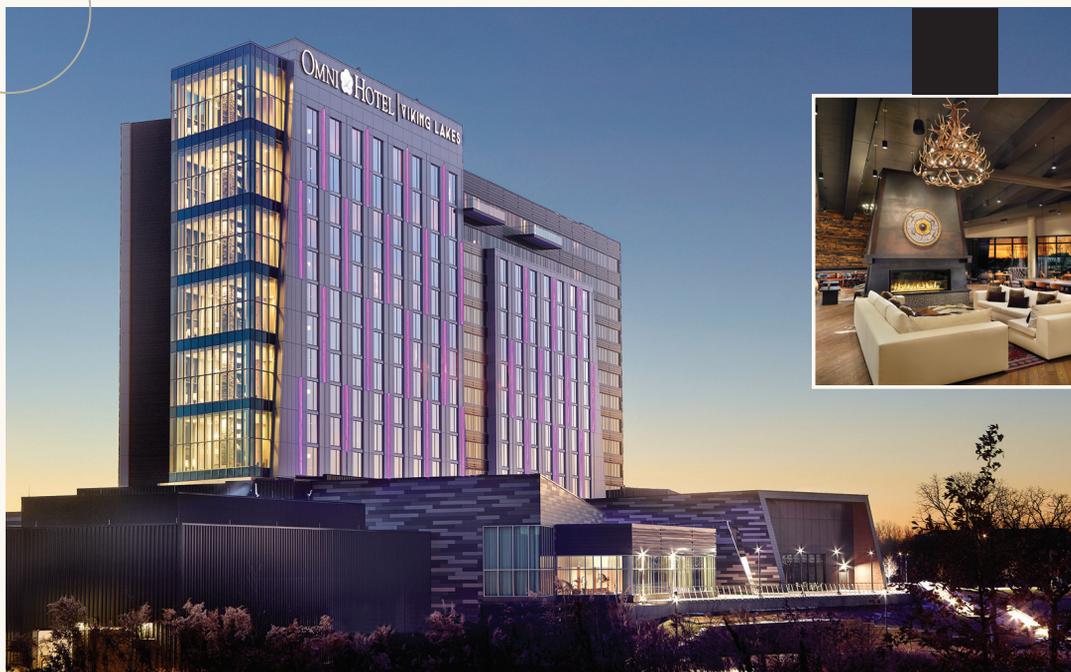
(14), tackles (81) and tackles for loss (6). The impressive play by Murphy resulted in his first selection to the Pro Bowl, and he secured Defensive MVP honors in the all-star game thanks to an 8-yard interception return TD after picking off Drake Maye.

FAMILIAR FOE

Murphy teamed in college for two seasons with Bengals QB Jake Browning, who is starting today's game in place of Joe Burrow. Browning entered the NFL as an undrafted free agent with Minnesota in 2019 and started for Cincinnati against Minnesota in December 2023.

Home field advantage is *right* HERE.

EXPERIENCES MATTER HERE



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VIKINGS ROSTER

#	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	EXP	COLLEGE	HOMETOWN
0	Ivan Pace Jr.	LB	5-10	236	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	UMass Amherst	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
14	Tim Jones	WR	6-1	209	27	4	Southern Mississippi	Biloxi, MS
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
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
55	Eric Wilson	LB	6-1	231	30	9	Cincinnati	Redford, MI
56	Austin Keys	LB	6-2	244	23	R	Auburn	Taylorville, 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
81	Nick Vannett	TE	6-5	266	32	10	Ohio State	Westerville, 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

* ROSTER AS OF PRINT DEADLINE (9.17.25)

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE...

#	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	EXP	COLLEGE	HOMETOWN
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
**	Desmond Ridder	QB	6-3	207	26	4	Cincinnati	Louisville, KY
INJURED RESERVE								
##	Alexander Williams	DL	6-7	291	25	R	Middle Tenn. State	Akron, OH
##	Rondale Moore	WR	5-7	181	25	5	Purdue	New Albany, IN
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
51	Blake Cashman	LB	6-1	235	29	7	Minnesota	Eden Prairie, MN
63	Zeke Correll	C	6-3	307	24	R	N.C. State	Cincinnati, OH
69	Matt Nelson	T	6-7	315	29	4	Iowa	Cedar Rapids, IA
RESERVE/SUSPENDED								
3	Jordan Addison	WR	5-11	179	23	3	USC	Frederick, MD
INJURED RESERVE-DESIGNATED FOR RETURN								
30	C.J. Ham	FB	5-11	250	32	9	Augustana	Duluth, MN
96	Tyler Batty	OLB	6-6	271	26	R	BYU	Payson, UT
RESERVE/PHYSICALLY UNABLE TO PERFORM								
86	Gavin Bartholomew	TE	6-5	249	22	R	Pittsburgh	Schuylkill Haven, PA
PRACTICE SQUAD								
5	Lucky Jackson	WR	6-0	187	28	3	Western Kentucky	Lexington, KY
20	K'Von Wallace	S	5-11	205	28	6	Clemson	Highland Springs, VA
23	Fabian Moreau	CB	6-0	204	31	9	UCLA	Fort Lauderdale, FL
29	Tyrek Funderburk	CB	6-0	185	24	2	Appalachian State	Indian Trail, NC
34	Zemaiah Vaughn	CB	6-3	180	23	R	Utah	Beaumont, TX
35	Xazavian Valladay	RB	6-0	198	27	1	Arizona State	Matteson, IL
40	Sione Takitaki	LB	6-1	245	30	7	BYU	Menifee, CA
59	Gabriel Murphy	OLB	6-2	248	24	1	UCLA	Dallas, TX
63	Max Pircher*	OL	6-7	318	26	4	Innsbruck	Bressanone, Italy
66	Vershon Lee	G	6-4	318	23	R	South Carolina	Woodbridge, VA
68	Henry Byrd	G	6-5	314	26	2	Princeton	Nashville, TN
82	Jeshaun Jones	WR	6-1	188	25	1	Maryland	Fort Myers, FL
83	Bryson Nesbit	TE	6-5	228	22	R	North Carolina	Charlotte, NC
89	Dontae Fleming	WR	6-2	180	23	R	Tulane	LaPlace, LA
92	Jonathan Harris	DL	6-5	295	29	6	Lindenwood	Aurora, IL
94	Taki Taimani	DL	6-1	324	25	2	Oregon	Salt Lake City, UT
**	Cam Akers	RB	5-10	217	26	6	Florida State	Clinton, MS

*INTERNATIONAL PLAYER PATHWAY

**NUMBERS NOT ASSIGNED BEFORE PRINT DEADLINE

ROSTER AS OF PRINT DEADLINE (9.17.25)

UNOFFICIAL DEPTH CHART

VIKINGS OFFENSE

WR	Jefferson	Nailor	Price
LT	Darrisaw	Skule	
LG	D. Jackson	Huber	
C	Kelly	Jurgens	
RG	Fries	Brandel	
RT	O'Neill	Rouse	
TE	Hockenson	Oliver	Yurosek
WR	Addison [R/SUS]	Thielen	Felton
QB	McCarthy	Wentz	Brosmer
RB	Mason	Scott	
FB	Ham [IR-DTR]		

VIKINGS DEFENSE

OLB	Greenard	Richter	Batty [IR-DTR]
DL	Allen	Ingram-Dawkins	
DL	Redmond	Williams	
DL	Hargrave	Rodriguez	
OLB	Van Ginkel	Turner	Chambliss
LB	Wilson	Keys	
LB	Pace Jr.	King	
CB	Murphy Jr.	McGlothern Jr.	
CB	Rodgers	Okudah	
S	Smith	T. Jackson	Thomas
S	Metellus	Ward	

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Powertrain Limited Warranty

2026 PALISADE Calligraphy AWD model shown with optional features. Preproduction model shown. America's Best Warranty claim based on total package of warranty programs. See dealer for limited warranty details. Hyundai is a registered trademark of Hyundai Motor Company. All rights reserved. ©2025 Hyundai Motor America.



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FIRST TEAMS



27
RUNNING BACK
JORDAN
MASON



9
QUARTERBACK
J.J. McCARTHY



30
FULLBACK
C.J. HAM
[IR/DTR]



3
WIDE RECEIVER
JORDAN
ADDISON
[R/SUS]



87
TIGHT END
T.J.
HOCKENSON



75
RIGHT TACKLE
BRIAN O'NEILL



76
RIGHT GUARD
WILL FRIES



78
CENTER
RYAN
KELLY



74
LEFT GUARD
DONOVAN
JACKSON



71
LEFT TACKLE
CHRISTIAN
DARRISAW



18
WIDE RECEIVER
JUSTIN
JEFFERSON

VIKINGS OFFENSE

BENGALS DEFENSE



29
CORNERBACK
CAM
TAYLOR-BRITT



58
DEFENSIVE END
JOSEPH
OSSAI



98
DEFENSIVE TACKLE
T.J.
SLATON JR.



92
DEFENSIVE TACKLE
B.J. HILL



91
DEFENSIVE END
TREY
HENDRICKSON



20
CORNERBACK
DJ
TURNER II



23
NICKEL CORNERBACK
DAX HILL



22
SAFETY
GENO STONE



55
LINEBACKER
LOGAN
WILSON



44
LINEBACKER
DEMETRIUS KNIGHT JR.



27
SAFETY
JORDAN
BATTLE

VIKINGS SPECIAL TEAMS



16
KICKER
WILL
REICHARD



17
PUNTER
RYAN WRIGHT



42
LONG
SNAPPER
ANDREW
DEPAOLA



4
PUNT & KICK
RETURNER
MYLES PRICE



22
SAFETY
HARRISON SMITH



55
LINEBACKER
ERIC WILSON



0
LINEBACKER
IVAN PACE JR.



44
SAFETY
JOSHUA
METELLUS



7
CORNERBACK
BYRON
MURPHY JR.



58
OUTSIDE
LINEBACKER
JONATHAN
GREENARD



93
DEFENSIVE LINE
JONATHAN ALLEN



61
DEFENSIVE LINE
JALEN REDMOND



97
DEFENSIVE LINE
JAVON
HARGRAVE



43
OUTSIDE
LINEBACKER
ANDREW VAN
GINKEL



2
CORNERBACK
ISAIAH
RODGERS

VIKINGS DEFENSE

BENGALS OFFENSE



1
WIDE RECEIVER
Ja'MARR
CHASE



80
WIDE RECEIVER
ANDREI
IOSIVAS



75
LEFT TACKLE
ORLANDO
BROWN JR.



63
LEFT GUARD
DYLAN
FAIRCHILD



64
CENTER
TED
KARRAS



66
RIGHT GUARD
DALTON
RISNER



71
RIGHT TACKLE
AMARIUS
MIMS



89
TIGHT
END
DREW
SAMPLE



5
WIDE
RECEIVER
TEE HIGGINS



6
QUARTERBACK
JAKE
BROWNING



30
RUNNING BACK
CHASE
BROWN

BENGALS SPECIAL TEAMS



2
KICKER
EVAN
McPHERSON



8
PUNTER
RYAN
REHKOW



46
LONG SNAPPER
WILLIAM
WAGNER



15
PUNT & KICK
RETURNER
CHARLIE JONES





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BENGALS ROSTER

#	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	EXP	COLLEGE	HOMETOWN
1	Ja'Marr Chase	WR	6-0	205	25	5	LSU	New Orleans, LA
2	Evan McPherson	K	5-11	185	26	5	Florida	Fort Payne, AL
5	Tee Higgins	WR	6-4	220	26	6	Clemson	Oak Ridge, TN
6	Jake Browning	QB	6-2	209	29	3	Washington	Folsom, CA
8	Ryan Rehkow	P	6-4	235	27	2	BYU	Veradale, WA
11	Brett Rypien	QB	6-2	200	29	6	Boise State	Spokane, WA
15	Charlie Jones	WR	6-0	190	26	3	Purdue	Deerfield, IL
20	DJ Turner II	CB	5-11	185	24	3	Michigan	Suwanee, GA
22	Geno Stone	S	5-11	210	26	6	Iowa	New Castle, PA
23	Dax Hill	CB	6-0	195	24	4	Michigan	Tulsa, OK
24	Marco Wilson	CB	5-11	191	26	5	Florida	Plantation, FL
25	Tahj Brooks	HB	5-9	220	23	R	Texas Tech	Manor, TX
26	Tycen Anderson	S	6-2	205	26	4	Toledo	Toledo, OH
27	Jordan Battle	S	6-1	215	24	3	Alabama	Fort Lauderdale, FL
28	Josh Newton	CB	5-11	190	25	2	TCU	Monroe, LA
29	Cam Taylor-Britt	CB	5-11	200	25	4	Nebraska	Montgomery, AL
30	Chase Brown	HB	5-10	210	25	3	Illinois	London, Ontario, CANADA
34	Samaje Perine	HB	5-11	240	30	9	Oklahoma	Pflugerville, TX
37	PJ Jules	S	6-0	203	24	1	Southern Illinois	Orlando, FL
38	DJ Ivey	CB	6-1	192	25	3	Miami	Florida City, FL
42	Oren Burks	LB	6-3	233	30	8	Vanderbilt	Lorton, VA
44	Demetrius Knight Jr.	LB	6-2	240	25	R	South Carolina	Locust Grove, GA
46	William Wagner	LS	6-2	240	24	R	Michigan	Alpharetta, GA
49	Barrett Carter	LB	6-0	231	22	R	Clemson	Suwanee, GA
50	Shaka Heyward	LB	6-3	238	25	2	Duke	Dacula, GA
55	Logan Wilson	LB	6-2	245	29	6	Wyoming	Casper, WY
58	Joseph Ossai	DE	6-4	263	25	5	Texas	Ketu Ijanikin, Lagos, NIGERIA
61	Cody Ford	T	6-3	345	28	7	Oklahoma	Pineville, LA
63	Dylan Fairchild	G	6-5	318	22	R	Georgia	Cumming, GA
64	Ted Karras	C	6-4	310	32	10	Illinois	Indianapolis, IN
65	Matt Lee	C	6-4	310	24	2	Miami	Oviedo, FL
66	Dalton Risner	G	6-5	312	30	7	Kansas State	Wiggins, CO
69	Mike Pennel	DT	6-4	332	34	11	Colorado State-Pueblo	Aurora, CO
71	Amarius Mims	T	6-8	350	22	2	Georgia	Cochran, GA
74	Jalen Rivers	G	6-6	319	23	R	Miami	Jacksonville, FL
75	Orlando Brown Jr.	T	6-8	350	29	8	Oklahoma	Baltimore, MD
80	Andrei Iosivas	WR	6-3	210	25	3	Princeton	Honolulu, HI
81	Jermaine Burton	WR	6-0	204	24	2	Alabama	Atlanta, GA
82	Mitchell Tinsley	WR	6-1	205	26	2	Penn State	Lee's Summit, MO
85	Cam Grandy	TE	6-5	253	25	2	Illinois State	Benson, IL
86	Noah Fant	TE	6-4	249	27	7	Iowa	Omaha, NE
87	Tanner Hudson	TE	6-5	241	30	6	Southern Arkansas	Camden, TN
88	Mike Gesicki	TE	6-6	245	29	8	Penn State	Stafford, N.J.
89	Drew Sample	TE	6-5	260	29	7	Washington	Bellevue, WA
90	Kris Jenkins Jr.	DT	6-3	310	23	2	Michigan	Olney, MD
91	Trey Hendrickson	DE	6-4	265	30	9	Florida Atlantic	Apopka, FL
92	B.J. Hill	DT	6-3	311	30	8	N.C. State	Oakboro, NC
93	McKinnley Jackson	DT	6-2	330	23	2	Texas A&M	Lucedale, MS

* ROSTER AS OF PRINT DEADLINE (9.17.25)

#	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	EXP	COLLEGE	HOMETOWN
95	Howard Cross III	DT	6-1	285	24	R	Notre Dame	Paramus, NJ
96	Cam Sample	DE	6-3	272	26	5	Tulane	Snellville, GA
97	Shemar Stewart	DE	6-5	267	21	R	Texas A&M	Miami, FL
98	T.J. Slaton Jr.	DT	6-5	340	27	5	Florida	Plantation, FL
99	Myles Murphy	DE	6-5	275	23	3	Clemson	Marietta, GA

PRACTICE SQUAD

4	Sean Clifford	QB	6-2	212	27	2	Penn State	Cincinnati, OH
4	Mike White	QB	6-4	225	30	7	Western Kentucky	Pembroke Pines, FL
14	Jordan Moore	WR	6-0	191	23	R	Duke	Sykesville, MD
19	Kendric Pryor	WR	5-11	189	27	2	Wisconsin	Hazel Crest, IL
21	Bralyn Lux	CB	5-10	180	25	R	Texas Tech	San Jose, CA
32	Gary Brightwell	HB	6-1	218	27	4	Arizona	Chester, PA
35	Jalen Davis	CB	5-10	186	29	5	Utah State	La Mesa, CA
36	Kendall Milton	HB	6-1	230	23	1	Georgia	Fresno, CA
39	Russ Yeast	S	5-10	195	26	3	Kansas State	Danville, KY
43	Joe Giles-Harris	LB	6-2	234	28	2	Duke	Montvale, NJ
51	Isaiah Foskey	DE	6-5	280	24	3	Notre Dame	Antioch, CA
56	Myles Cole	DE	6-6	280	25	2	Texas Tech	Shreveport, LA
60	Jaxson Kirkland	G	6-7	325	27	2	Washington	Portland, OR
68	Seth McLaughlin	C	6-4	304	24	R	Ohio State	Buford, GA
73	Javon Foster	T	6-5	319	25	2	Missouri	Detroit, MI
79	Andrew Coker	T	6-7	315	24	1	TCU	Katy, TX

INJURED RESERVE

9	Joe Burrow	QB	6-4	215	28	6	LSU	Athens, OH
33	Daijahn Anthony	S	6-0	200	25	2	Mississippi	Richmond, VA
52	Cedric Johnson	DE	6-3	264	23	2	Mississippi	Mobile, AL
62	Lucas Patrick	G	6-3	313	32	9	Duke	Brentwood, TN
67	Cordell Volson	G	6-6	315	27	4	North Dakota State	Balfour, ND

RESERVE-PHYSICALLY UNABLE TO PERFORM

83	Erick All Jr.	TE	6-5	255	25	2	Iowa	Fairfield, OH
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* ROSTER AS OF PRINT DEADLINE (9.17.25)

UNOFFICIAL DEPTH CHART

BENGALS OFFENSE

WR	Chase	Burton	
LT	O. Brown Jr.	Ford	
LG	Fairchild	Rivers	
C	Karras	Lee	
RG	Risner	Rivers	
RT	Mims	Ford	
TE	D. Sample	Gesicki	Fant
WR	Iosivas	Jones	
WR	Higgins	Tinsley	
HB	C. Brown	Perine	Brooks
QB	Browning	Rypien	

BENGALS DEFENSE

LDE	Ossai	Stewart	
DT	Slaton Jr.	Pennel	Jackson
DT	B.J. Hill	Jenkins	Cross III
RDE	Hendrickson	Murphy	C. Sample
LB	L. Wilson	Carter	
LB	Knight Jr.	Burks	Heyward
NCB	D. Hill	Newton	
CB	Taylor-Britt	M. Wilson	
CB	Turner II	Ivey	
S	Stone	Anderson	
S	Battle	Jules	

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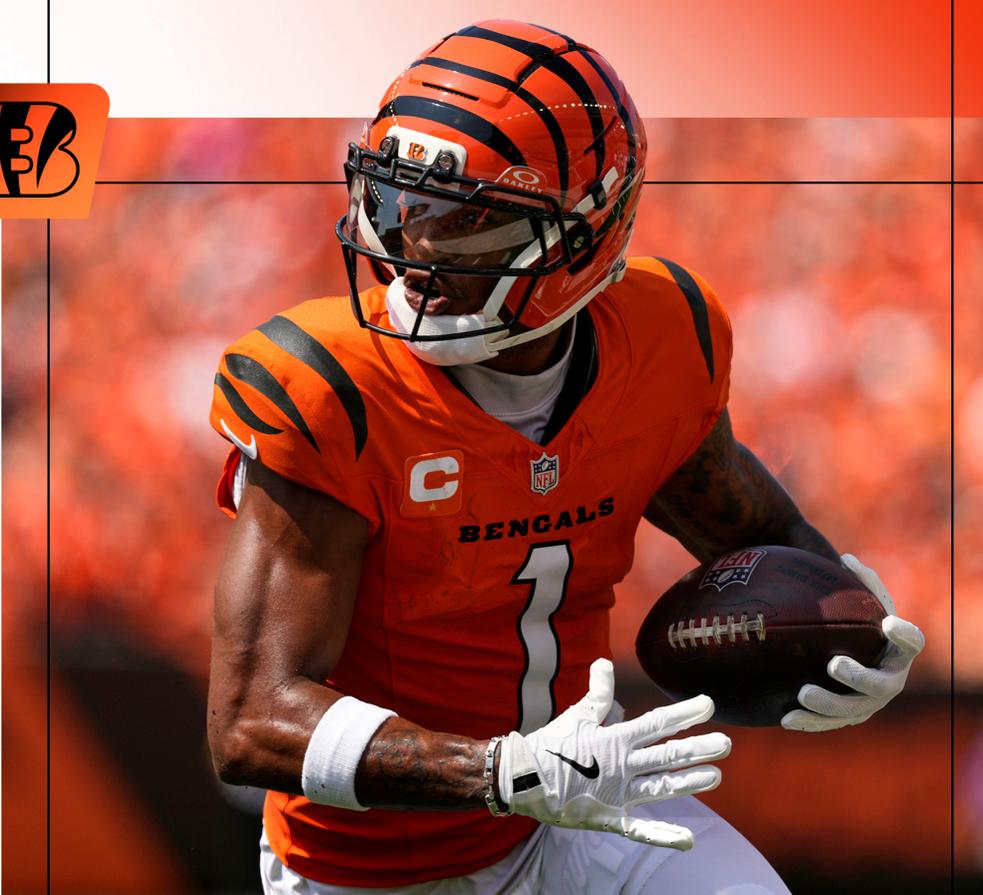
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CLE WK1
W, 17-16

WK2
W, 31-27 **JAX**

MIN WK3
SEPT. 21

DEN WK4
SEPT. 29

WK5
OCT. 5 **DET**

GB WK6
OCT. 12

WK7
OCT. 16 **PIT**

WK8
OCT. 26 **NYJ**

WK9
NOV. 2 **CHI**

BYE WK10
NOV. 9

PIT WK11
NOV. 16

WK12
NOV. 23 **NE**

BAL WK13
NOV. 27

BUF WK14
DEC. 07

WK15
DEC. 14 **BAL**

MIA WK16
DEC. 21

WK17
TBD **ARI**

WK18
TBD **CLE**

JA'MARR CHASE

ENTRENCHED IN HIS FIFTH NFL SEASON, JA'MARR CHASE ALREADY RANKS FIFTH IN BENGALS HISTORY WITH 47 TOUCHDOWN CATCHES AND IS TOP 10 AND CLIMBING QUICKLY IN RECEPTIONS (411) AND RECEIVING YARDS (5,616).

The No. 5 overall draft pick in 2021 enters Week 3 with 87.8 career receiving yards per game, which is second in history behind his CFP National Championship teammate Justin Jefferson (95.7). Paired primarily with his college quarterback, Joe Burrow, Chase has earned his stripes as a pro.

Only six players all-time have more 200-yard receiving efforts than Chase (3), and only seven have more games of at least 10 catches, 100 yards and a touchdown (10).

Chase rebounded from a quiet Week 1 with 14 catches for 165 yards and a TD in Cincinnati's Week 2 win against Jacksonville. It was Chase's 12th career game with double-digit receptions.

TRIPLE-CROWN THREAT

Last year, Chase became the league's first Triple Crown winner since Cooper Kupp in 2021. Chase paced all players with 127 catches, 1,708 receiving yards and 17 touchdown grabs.

SERIES HISTORY



TOP 2 AGAINST BENGALS

ALL-TIME RESULTS

REGULAR SEASON

VIKINGS ARE 7-8

6-0 IN HOME GAMES

1-8 AS ROAD TEAM

LONGEST WIN STREAKS

2 BY VIKINGS;

2 BY BENGALS

(1989-92 for Vikings;
2021-23 for Bengals)

FIRST MEETING

DEC. 2, 1973 | AT CIN | BENGALS 27, VIKINGS 0

The rare series began on a cool (42 degrees Fahrenheit) and humid (68 percent) day in Cincinnati, setting up a series of struggles by Minnesota there. The Vikings failed to put any points on the board. After a scoreless first quarter by both teams, the Bengals scratched 10 points in the second and third quarters and added one more touchdown in the fourth. The loss was the second and final of the regular season for a Vikings team that claimed the NFC Championship at Dallas but lost Super Bowl VIII to Miami.

PREVIOUS MEETING

DEC. 16, 2023 | AT CIN | BENGALS 27, VIKINGS 24, OT

The Vikings built a 17-3 lead through three quarters, but the Bengals scored touchdowns on a pass from Jake Browning and a short run by Joe Mixon to tie the game midway through the fourth. Jordan Addison's second touchdown from Nick Mullens put the Vikings ahead with 3:48 remaining, but Tee Higgins' second TD catch from Jake Browning with 39 seconds remaining forced overtime. Evan McPherson's 29-yard field goal ended the game after Minnesota's OT possession halted at the 42 on consecutive unsuccessful QB push plays.

THROWBACK MOMENT

DOLEMAN GETS HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Pro Football Hall of Fame member Chris Doleman recorded four sacks, and Henry Thomas added two more of Boomer Esiason in a 29-21 Vikings win on Christmas Night in 1989. Doleman and Thomas recovered fumbles by Cincinnati, and Scott Studwell, Darrell Fullington and Mark Dusbabek

nabbed interceptions.

Wade Wilson threw for 303 yards and two touchdowns (one each to Rick Fenney and Brent Novoselsky), connecting with Anthony Carter seven times for 118 yards and Hassan Jones four times for 90 yards. Rich Karlis kicked five field goals for Minnesota.

RUSHING YARDS

133 Chuck Foreman on 29 attempts in Minnesota (Nov. 13, 1977)

132 Ty Chandler on 23 attempts at Cincinnati (Dec. 16, 2023)

PASSING YARDS

351 Kirk Cousins on 36-of-49 passing at Cincinnati (Sept. 12, 2021)

318 Rich Gannon on 25-of-32 passing at Cincinnati (Sept. 27, 1992)

RECEIVING YARDS

124 Cris Carter on 11 catches at Cincinnati (Sept. 27, 1992)

118 Anthony Carter on seven catches in Minnesota (Dec. 25, 1989)

AGAINST VIKINGS

RUSHING YARDS

127 Joe Mixon on 29 attempts at Cincinnati (Sept. 12, 2021)

115 Pete Johnson on 26 attempts at Cincinnati (Oct. 19, 1980)

PASSING YARDS

367 Boomer Esiason on 31-of-54 passing in Minnesota (Dec. 22, 2013)

363 Andy Dalton on 27-of-38 passing at Cincinnati (Dec. 22, 2013)

RECEIVING YARDS

198 Billy Brooks on seven catches in Minnesota (Nov. 13, 1977)

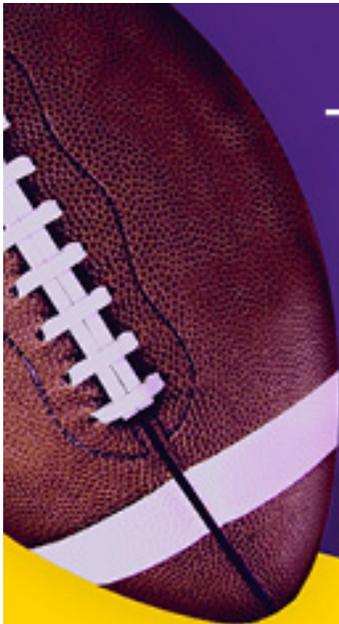
139 Chad Johnson on seven catches at Cincinnati (Sept. 18, 2005)



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(YUROSEK CHANGED TO #85 AFTER FINAL ROSTER CUTS)

Q&A **BEN YUROSEK**

BY LINDSEY YOUNG

When Ben Yurosek was visiting teams ahead of the 2025 NFL Draft, the Vikings stood out to the former Stanford and Georgia tight end as an organization he'd like to play for.

So as much as he wanted to hear his name called as a selection, having the opportunity to join Minnesota as an undrafted free agent has worked out well for Yurosek, who is one of seven UDFA's to make the team's initial 53-man roster.

Yurosek has seen the Vikings find other hidden gems over the seasons – take, for example, veteran teammates C.J. Ham and Adam Thielen – and is excited for a chance to leave his impact in a similar way.

“Just going to work every day and knowing it was going toward something, then seeing the fruits of my labor, is something awesome,” the tight end said. “It’s been amazing here. It’s a special place, special culture, from the coaching staff to players.”

Yurosek, who prides himself on working hard to be a complete tight end, is especially grateful to learn from the likes of T.J. Hockenson and Josh Oliver, two vets and highly touted players at the position.

“First of all, they’re great human beings. They’re wanting to help, provide any tips, all that stuff. They’re always there for you,” he said. “And then you’ve got one of the best blocking tight ends (Oliver), who obviously is great in the pass game as well, and one of the best pass-catching tight ends (Hockenson) who’s also great in the run game.

“I’m just trying to pick their brains as

much as possible every day,” Yurosek added.

We sat down with Yurosek to chat about an exciting year on and off the field, his passion for giving back and his family’s legacy in the vegetable market.

Q: YOU GREW UP IN CALIFORNIA, PLAYED COLLEGE IN CALIFORNIA AND IN GEORGIA; HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT BEING IN A COLD-WEATHER STATE?

A: I love it in Minnesota. Obviously I haven’t dealt with cold like this ever before (Editor’s note: It was 58 degrees during this interview), but amazing people here. Minnesota, the Twin Cities, it’s a very special place. So, I’m excited to be part of this community. But yeah, we’re definitely going to have to bundle up a lot.

Q: YOU RECENTLY GOT MARRIED, RIGHT? IT’S BEEN A WHIRLWIND 6 MONTHS FOR YOU!

A: They say this is the craziest, longest year of your life, and I just keep adding on to it to make it even crazier. (Laughs). Lexi and I got married by Santa Barbara, right there on the coast and everything. And it was just about three months ago now. It’s been awesome.

Q: YOU RECENTLY JOINED ROOKIE TEAMMATES TO HELP HOST THE ALL-ABILITIES FOOTBALL CLINIC WITH SHRINERS CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL; WHY WAS THAT IMPORTANT TO YOU?

A: I think it just brings you back to the simple things in life. Sometimes in football and even just this world we live in, everything can kind of get

out of perspective, you experience all the pressures and stuff like that. But events like the football clinic just bring so much happiness. Being around kids truly allows you to have gratitude and appreciation for where you're at and what you're doing, and seeing that smile on a kid's face makes your whole day.

Q: YOU'VE MENTIONED BEING CLOSE WITH YOUR FAMILY; HOW HAVE THEY SUPPORTED AND MADE POSSIBLE THIS PATH TO THE NFL?

A: I couldn't do it without my family. Obviously starting with my mom and dad, both former D-I athletes, the lessons, discipline, all that stuff they've instilled in me has stuck with me to this day – as well as growing up in Bakersfield, California, having a little of that blue-collar mentality. But I'm also the middle of five children, and we always push each other; we're competitive. Both my older siblings played collegiate sports, and both of my younger ones might, too. I just have the most supportive family, even extending outside that immediate nucleus.

Q: YOU COME FROM A FARMING FAMILY, RIGHT? HOW HAS THAT INDUSTRY BACKGROUND HELPED SHAPE YOU?

A: Without a doubt. I mean, I would be the fifth generation in agriculture. For the most part, it's been carrots. My great grandpa, my grandpa; my dad was with Bolthouse Farms for a little while, in the carrot section, as well. Yeah, Central Valley, California, has been very good to us. I think working out on the farms and stuff, I remember it was before my freshman year at Stanford, and it's time to go out into the fields, I'm working out there, there are [middle-aged workers] twice as fast as me (laughs), and my back's

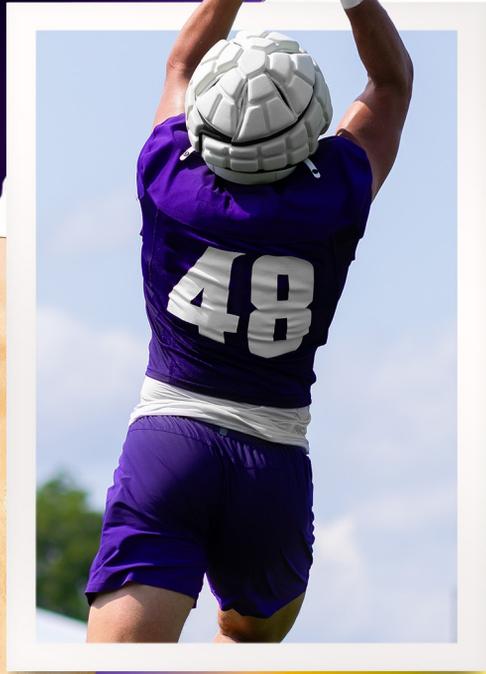
killing me, it's a lot. Those lessons of hard work and so many other things were instilled in me.

Q: YOU KNEW THIS QUESTION WAS COMING ... TELL ME ABOUT HOW YOUR GRANDFATHER INVENTED THE BABY CARROT?

A: Well, first there's got to be a problem. Luckily, my "Noni," my grandpa's wife, she was the one who first said, 'Hey, I've gotta do these dinners. Gotta cut up these carrots, peel them, all this stuff. Can't you guys help us with this process?' So it was originally for dinners. ... They were throwing out a bunch of carrots, whether they're disfigured, not perfect for the market. So instead of throwing them out, they were repurposing them. They were using a potato peeler and then cutting them up. It took a year to figure out the oxidation process, and once they figured that out, packaged them, they thought it was gonna be great for dinners – turns out, it's an amazing snack and destroyed the snack market. Sadly, we didn't see any of that; you can't patent the vegetable, really, but it's a really fun story. And without "Noni," none of this would have happened.

Q: IS THIS SOMETHING THAT COMES UP IN CONVERSATION A LOT?

A: Anytime I go somewhere new, people find out about it. When you're growing up, you're telling everybody, 'Hey, my great grandfather invented the baby carrot.' It's a great icebreaker. But then, you want to keep it more low key and stuff as you get older. But first time going to college at Stanford, then at Georgia, people are surprised at first. It's fun, though.





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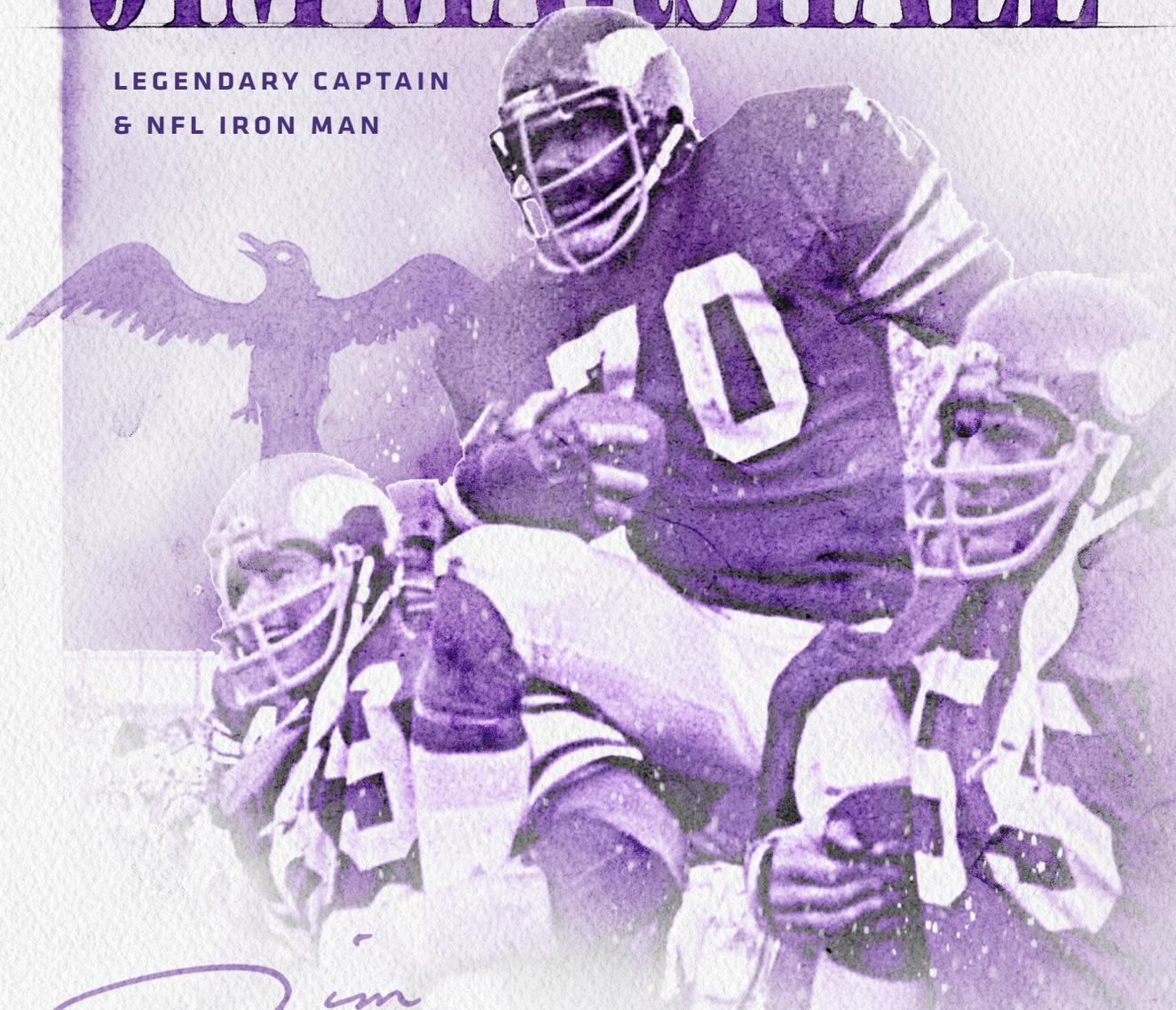
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In Memoriam

JIM MARSHALL

LEGENDARY CAPTAIN
& NFL IRON MAN



*Jim
Marshall*

BY CRAIG PETERS

On the day of Jim Marshall's final home game at Metropolitan Stadium in December 1979, he was encouraged to address the fans.

He humbly said, "I just hope I've given you as many thrills as you fans have given me. Thank you."

Marshall then placed his helmet back on his head and jogged to teammates. They enveloped him with hugs and pats. Scott Studwell and Doug Sutherland hoisted him into the air for another thrill ride off the field.

It was the 269th of 270 consecutive regular-season starts for Minnesota by Marshall, whose record-setting career certainly featured thrills over 20 NFL seasons, including the first 19 in Vikings history.

He gave everything he had at every step, fostering a Vikings identity hallmarked by a relentless pursuit that took the team from fledgling to formidable.

It's why if you ask anyone who has worn the Purple, he'll tell you the epic story of the Vikings – and the NFL – simply cannot be written without including Marshall's contributions.

Known affectionately as "The Captain" or "Captain Jim" – or "*Mis-ter Mar-shall*" if the addressor was legendary Head Coach Bud Grant – Marshall started every game for the entirety of the Vikings franchise's first two decades.

On behalf of his cherished wife, Susan, it was with heavy hearts and an abundant gratitude for the joy he brought to the franchise and region, that the Minnesota Vikings announced Marshall passed away June 3 at the age of 87, following a lengthy hospitalization.

Beyond athletic prowess, Marshall's legacy is one of an enduring and endearing spirit and deep generosity. His exuberance positively affected countless others, and his memory will continue to inspire.

The team hosted Celebrate Jim Marshall Day during Vikings Training Camp on Aug. 7, and a No. 70 logo was painted on the berm overlooking Minnesota's practice fields for the duration of camp.

Players are wearing No. 70 helmet decals in Marshall's honor, and staff have lapel pins that match.

The team hosted a celebration of his life – and what a life it was – Thursday at U.S. Bank Stadium to kick off Legends Weekend with Twin Cities sportscaster Mark Rosen serving as emcee. Rosen was in his early 20s when he started at WCCO amidst one of the greatest eras in Vikings history. One of his earliest assignments was covering Minnesota's win at Dallas in the 1973 NFC Championship Game.

"The guys in that locker room were already folk heroes,"

Rosen recalled last month. "[Fran] Tarkenton and Alan Page, Gary Larsen, Carl Eller, and then Jim, of course, and all the other guys I got kind of close with over the years, Wally Hilgenberg. But I just remember Jim being an obvious leader. It was like, 'God, wherever that guy goes, I want to follow him.'"

Over time, Marshall and Rosen developed a friendship, enjoying chats during home visits. Marshall visited Rosen's mother, a huge Vikings fan, when she was in an assisted living facility.

When visiting Marshall and while serving as emcee, Rosen understood his unique opportunity to be an ambassador for all of Minnesota and Vikings fans beyond.

"People study the history of this franchise ... it kind of starts and stops with Jim," Rosen said. "The last thing I told him was when the Vikings win that Super Bowl, we are going to toast you like no one's business. It's been an honor to be your friend."

Marshall was 100 percent real but seemed to be a mythical figure, perfectly cast in a setting that befit his aura.

"He lived and breathed the Minnesota Vikings," Rosen said. "He was the man. I can't imagine anyone ever having that kind of influence as a captain."

The Vikings organization, from ownership through the football and business staffs, will continue to honor The Captain's influence in multiple ways.

Vikings Owner/President Mark Wilf, Vikings Owner/Chairman Zygi Wilf and the Wilf family ownership group issued the following statement:

"No player in Vikings history lived the ideals of toughness, camaraderie and passion more than the all-time iron man. A cornerstone of the franchise from the beginning, Captain Jim's unmatched durability and quiet leadership earned the respect of teammates and opponents throughout his 20-year career. Jim led by example, and there was no finer example for others to follow. His impact on the Vikings was felt long after he left the field. Jim will always be remembered as a tremendous player and person. Our hearts are with his wife, Susan, and all of Jim's loved ones."

Marshall arrived in Minnesota in September 1961 after a trade with Cleveland brought the man with iron resolve to the land of the Iron Range. He made the drive from Ohio as the Vikings prepared to host – and ultimately shocked – the Bears 37-13 in Week 1.



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Original Vikings Head Coach Norm Van Brocklin credited Marshall with forcing two interceptions by creating QB pressures in his debut.

It didn't matter that Marshall had been with Minnesota for less than a week, or that he had lost significant weight during Cleveland's 1961 training camp while battling encephalitis.

Marshall's legacy of leadership and determination created an identity that resonated throughout a locker room and region, reverberating for generations of Vikings players, coaches, staff and fans to come.

He authentically appreciated enduring the elements and accomplished unfathomable feats, yet remained relatable. He could philosophize to the depths and embark on adventures but also remain within reality. He created art and memorized poetry, but game days displayed his finest artistry and verse.

Upon his hire in 1967, Grant quickly recognized Marshall's "leadership qualities were in spades." He often credited Marshall's impact with being so important to Minnesota's successes.

"He was a special player," Grant said during an interview recorded at Winter Park, several years before his passing in 2023. "Many times you're asked, 'Who are the greatest players?' As a coach, you can't say who is the best, but there is a category you do have, and that is 'special.' Jim Marshall was 'special.'"

Interviews conducted over the past decade-plus illustrate just how deeply teammates revered Marshall, including Fran Tarkenton, a rookie in 1961 who teamed with Marshall for 13 of the quarterback's 18 NFL seasons (1961-66 and 1972-78).

"Jim Marshall set the tone for how this franchise goes today," Tarkenton said. "We had the Purple People Eaters. They were the foundation of



who we are. The leader of the band was Jim Marshall."

From right to left, it was Marshall, Alan Page, Gary Larsen and Carl Eller in the group that referred to itself as the "Purple Gang."

The havoc the group caused opponents, combined with a popular rock song, led to most calling the group the Purple People Eaters, who planned to meet at the quarterback.

"If you looked in the dictionary and tried to find the definition of a football player, Jim Marshall's picture would be there," said Page, who joined the group in 1967.

Larsen, a former Marine with Nordic lineage, played for Minnesota from 1965-74.

"Everybody looked up to him. He led by example. He showed you what had to be done and did it," Larsen said.

Eller, who started 201 games for Minnesota from 1964-78, said Marshall's persistent determination helped other players find a way.

"We'd look at Jim and say, 'Man, if he can go, I can go.' So Jim, more than anything, was inspirational all through my career," Eller said.

Some people have a certain magnetism that pulls people together. The motivation can at times be for attention of self or seeking adoration, but Marshall directed his power to guide a focus on togetherness in

pursuit of adventure and celebrate the joy of football.

"He was the best captain of any team that I've ever been on," said receiver Ahmad Rashad, whose talent fully blossomed after arriving in Minnesota.

Right tackle Ron Yary started 180 games for the Vikings from 1968-81 and was the first offensive lineman ever selected from the No. 1 overall spot in an NFL draft.

"When things were the worst is when he presented himself as the best," Yary said. "He made me a better football player because I wanted to play for Jim. I didn't want to let him down."

Marshall set an NFL record for consecutive games by a position player (282) that was later broken by Brett Favre (299). Marshall still ranks fourth in the latter category behind Favre (298), Bruce Matthews (292) and Jerry Rice (284).

Marshall set the NFL record with 29 career opponent fumble recoveries that was later tied by Jason Taylor.

Although sacks did not officially count until the 1982 season, pro-football-reference.com analyzed stat books from all games since 1960 and tallied 130.5 for Marshall, which ranked third in NFL history at the time of his retirement. Only Hall of Famers Deacon Jones (173.5) and his Vikings teammate Eller (133.5) tallied more than Marshall through the 1979

season. Marshall was selected to two Pro Bowls and started 19 playoff games, including all four of the Vikings trips to Super Bowls.

His final start occurred on Dec. 16, 1979, two weeks before he turned 42 years old.

As Steve Sabol said in an NFL Films feature about Marshall, “No player in the history of the game ever played harder, longer than Jim Marshall.”

Paul Wiggin, who played 146 games for Cleveland, including 12 in 1960 as Marshall’s teammate, knew just where he should look for quality game film after Wiggin became a coach.

“I studied 30 great linemen at that time, both inside and outside players,” Wiggin said. “Jim Marshall, in my opinion, was the most natural and best football player of all of them. I know the difference between good and great. He was great.”

“It isn’t easy [to play every week] because there are days where Sunday, you get up and you don’t know how you’re going to do it,” the former defensive lineman added. “He did it forever.”

Grant in 1979, upon Marshall announcing his intention to retire predicted the appreciation for Marshall would grow over time. Like most cases, Grant was correct.

“I don’t think any of us here really appreciates Jim Marshall today,” Grant was quoted by *The Associated Press*. “As time and years go by, we’ll appreciate him more than ever.

“Maybe we’ve taken it for granted that Jim Marshall plays hurt,” Grant said. “But durability is the most important ability you have. You can’t achieve greatness without durability, and that is personified in Jim Marshall. He has been hurt. But he doesn’t break. He bends. He heals. He has a high pain threshold. ... Jim not only plays hurt; he plays as well when he’s hurt as when he isn’t.”

Grant was among the speakers during a 1999 halftime ceremony when Marshall’s No. 70 jersey was retired and he was inducted into the Vikings Ring of Honor.

Upon retiring from the game, Marshall continued to make his home in Minnesota and give back to this community.

He and former teammate Oscar Reed co-founded The Link to support youth and families experiencing homelessness, young people who are survivors of sex trafficking and youth involved in the juvenile justice system. The Link offers programs designed to empower youth with resources and relationships to pursue their goals, serving more than 2,000 youth and

families in the Twin Cities each year.

Donations to The Link or the Minnesota Vikings Foundation in memory of Jim are a way fans and friends can continue to impact the community.

Beyond the community impact that will continue through The Link, Marshall will continue to inspire the Vikings locker room. In 2024, with support from Head Coach Kevin O’Connell and General Manager Kwesi Adofo-Mensah, the Jim Marshall Vikings Captains Legacy Wall was installed at the players’ entry of Twin Cities Orthopedics Performance Center.

The display features a permanent picture of Marshall, as well as a photo of current captains and a listing of all-time captains, that will be updated annually.

“The first thing the players see when they walk in the building every day is the Jim Marshall Vikings Captains Legacy Wall,” O’Connell said when the display was unveiled. “I think it’s really important, a huge part of our history and a great way to honor the greatest captain in the history of our organization and one of the best defensive players to ever do it.”

From contributing to the organization’s legacy to impacting the Twin Cities Community to helping launch new traditions, Marshall’s influence is woven throughout Vikings history.

He and the Purple People Eaters helped introduced the popular SKOL Chant at U.S. Bank Stadium in 2016. Fittingly, every “Boom, boom, SKOL!” reaffirms the importance of togetherness and the relentless pursuit of a shared goal.

“He was, if anybody ever has been, the heart and soul of the Minnesota Vikings,” Page said. “It was my high honor to play next to him.”



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THE FIRST 500

79 GAMES AND A CLOUD OF CATCHES

BY ROB KLEIFIELD

JUSTIN JEFFERSON HAS STACKED SPECTACULAR MOMENTS AND SHATTERED MULTIPLE RECORDS, BUT IN WEEK 2, HE TIED ANOTHER NFL MARK WITH HIS FIRST RECEPTION, A 9-YARD GAIN ON A SPEED OUT.

Jefferson matched Minneapolis native (and former Vikings ball boy) Larry Fitzgerald as the youngest player in NFL history (26 years and 90 days) to record 500 receptions. Cowboys wide receiver CeeDee Lamb just reached 500 catches Week 1 at 26 years and 149 days of age and is now the third youngest.

"That's really a credit to the amount of work I've put in, and it's also a credit to the quarterbacks I've been with, to give me those opportunities, to give me those chances to make the most out of them," Jefferson recounted five days before the season started at Chicago. "But I'm always going to continue to better myself every single year and chase those accolades 'cause ... I want to be in the Hall of Fame and get that Gold Jacket. And the only way to do that is to chase the greatness that [transpired before me]."

Jefferson crossing the five-century threshold in his first 79 games is ridiculous. It's indicative of his

superhumanness. Here's how several football phenoms fared in an equal number of games out of the gate: Fitzgerald ledged 443 receptions, Randy Moss recorded 408, Calvin Johnson caught 390 and Jerry Rice secured 362.

It's not solely his sheer number of catches that impresses but the yards he's accumulated.

That's where Jefferson's epic entrance turns to lore. What he's managed yardage-wise via his first 500 catches is preternatural, seen once before (from Julio Jones) on a slightly lesser scale and never in the history of the Vikings – or anything remotely close to it. In 79 games, Jefferson has stockpiled 7,557 yards. He has hauled





in 116 explosives (receptions of 20 or more yards). Twelve of his 41 touchdown grabs can be characterized as long, which we classified as 30-plus yards; he's netted 53 receptions in the red zone, and clutched 10 chain-moving catches on fourth down, including one that will live in our heads in perpetuity.

"He does a great job of making things look like they're not," recently retired cornerback Patrick Peterson said. "When I was coming up (in the professional ranks) watching film, I used to always tell myself, 'Don't believe the receiver's illusion.' He's a guy that presents a lot of illusion -

and he gets guys to fall for it."

While longevity and steady output will determine Jefferson's Pro Football Hall of Fame candidacy when it's all said and done, his 96.5 career receiving yards per game is italicized and colored gold on pro-football-reference.com to show he's not merely the active leader but the all-time record holder, and nine yards in front of the second player.

"I've called the Vikings about a handful of players, but none like [Jefferson]," Hall of Fame wide receiver Cris Carter said in reference to phoning former General Manager Rick Spielman after five days of bonding with Jefferson in the 2020 pre-draft process. "He had a great deal of confidence,

and I know receivers - I know when some of it is fake. He had,

really, a genuine confidence in his ability to be a big-time player."

Vikings receivers coach Keenan McCardell observed shades of Jefferson in football giants of yesteryear. But Jefferson's game is unique. His hand-eye coordination is "really, really unbelievable," McCardell said. Stuff he does leaves McCardell in awe, like, "All right, here we go. What is he gonna give us this week?"

Carter said Jefferson "has the intangibles that the greatest have, and he's trying to get better."

Considering stats are fungible, and records are set for the purpose of being shattered, it honestly feels like a disservice to dissect the first 79 games and 500 catches of Jefferson's career by the numbers.

Instead, let's do it by his brilliance: Let's appreciate the enigmatic player and hear from "Jets" himself, along with reputable witnesses of his transcendence from scrawny recruit to national champion on one of the most prolific college teams of all-time, to the fifth - fifth! - receiver selected in the 2020 NFL Draft and what seems like unanimous acceptance, now, as one of the most stellar football players on the planet.

'IN A LEAGUE OF HIS OWN'

The man upstairs had a plan.

McCardell, awaiting his final turn as Jacksonville's receivers coach in 2020, saw Jefferson work out at the combine and was convinced the Jaguars would take him with one of their two first-rounders that year. His two takeaways were Jefferson "has the exact same body type as Jalen Ramsey" and "he can flat play."

In the end, Jacksonville's leadership decided on the receiver's teammate, LSU outside linebacker K'Lavon Chaisson, two slots before Spielman and Vikings brass celebrated its submission of Jefferson's name card.

"The man upstairs must have known that I wanted to coach him," McCardell quipped after tracing the dots of Jacksonville dismissing its staff to Mike Zimmer hiring him in Minnesota. "I guess, the rest has been history."

History, quite literally.

"The first two years he was just running around out there like he's a young doe ... not understanding



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what people were trying to do to him," McCardell reflected on Jefferson's maturation. "Now he's really focusing on how people are trying to play him, how he needs to win. He has really good input on what he likes and what he sees. That's a big thing for him because he faces so many coverages. I would say 75-80 percent of the time he's doubled."

A blanket statement courtesy McCardell verifies the fear that Jefferson makes defenders feel.

"I guarantee you, that guy does not wanna be on ESPN with [Justin] running by him," he said. "The stride length makes the defender look at him like, 'Oh man, he's closing the cushion on me. I have to back up.'"

Except, Jefferson's course is not often linear. He weaves and bops, and weaves again. He goes 0-60 like a McMurtry Spéirling. Pure and deceives the naked eye with doctorate-level breaks. He runs with grace, with zero wasted effort, and makes simple catches look spectacular. And spectacular catches look simple.

Extraordinarily, his competitiveness accentuates every skill. "It's crazy, he thinks he's the underdog all the time," McCardell admired. "It pushes him over the edge."

"He has that kill switch,"

Peterson said. "Like, he's super, super chill, mild-mannered when he's off the field, but when he puts the helmet on and it's time to go to work, he turns into a whole different person."

"He wants to win and comes from winning so that's the only thing he's comfortable with," Peterson continued. "I'm sure he brings that out of his teammates as well, when they see the work that he puts in; they see how he comes to the office and practices, and his attention to details in the film room. Those are the traits that are going to take him a long way. And I'm sure guys are going to be willing to follow him."

Game days resonate to the zenith degree for McCardell, who played 17 NFL seasons. He is so fond of coaching Jets because ultra-violet flames in the star's spirit spark memories of his own on-field attitude.

"The thing that I like is I know when the lights come on I got the best player in the league," McCardell, a Super Bowl Champion with the 2002 Bucs, stated with his chest. "He's the most competitive player I've ever seen."

REALITY OVER FANTASY

Even the silver screen would struggle to accurately capture Jefferson's ascent.

"The time I think he's outdone himself," said McCardell, "he does something else."

In an almost unfathomable spin - unless you've experienced Jefferson's swagger up close or sat with him and gauged his psyche - get this: his entire career was manifested when he was a "puppy," Peterson said.

The future Hall of Famer roomed

and became best friends with one of Justin's older brothers, Jordan, at LSU. The youngest Jefferson was around frequently, even role playing as a receiver snatching touchdowns from his quarterback brother, who went 24-8 as a starter and roared the Tigers to an 11-2 mark in 2010.

"That's actually what made [playing for the Vikings] so surreal, because everything that he pretty much said that he was gonna do back in '08 and '09, it all came true," Peterson remarked. "Being his teammate and watching how hard he worked, I remembered that's how he was after the games in front of the WCA (West Campus Apartments); catching the ball with one hand; talking about when he gets to high school what he's gonna do, when he gets to college what he's gonna do. Now he's doing all those same things."

And there's no sight of his ceiling. Every next step, leap and catch exceeds the swankiest script. Carter, harking back to his impromptu call with Spielman, said, "It was like all this stuff was meant to happen."

It's not at all wild to believe it was indeed.

"Every kid has a dream of being a superstar, being an NFL player and being on this platform, but there's millions of people that don't get that opportunity or don't get to live that dream," Jefferson said humbly. "So for me to manifest it, to be outside, throwing the ball up to myself ... hard work definitely pays off."

"No one had to tell me to go and put the work in. I went out there and did it on my own," he added, before pausing and laughing in genuine amusement. "It feels like everything happened for a reason, and I was made or meant to be in this position. It's definitely a blessing and so unreal to be in this situation."





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ADAM THIELEN

BACK LIKE HE NEVER LEFT

BY LINDSEY YOUNG

Seeing Adam Thielen stroll down the halls of TCO Performance Center, often sporting an UNRL hoodie and with paper Caribou Coffee cup in hand, just seems right.

Watching him warm up with Justin Jefferson on game day and haul in catches, including one from J.J. McCarthy for a 2-point conversion Week 1? Even better.

The Vikings acquired Thielen from Carolina via trade Aug. 27, returning him to Minnesota just over a week before the 2025 season opener at Chicago. After starting his career in Purple as a rookie tryout and spending his first 10 NFL seasons with his home-state team, Thielen's journey really has come full-circle.

"I'm like a kid in a candy store," the 35-year-old said, beaming. "This is just what I love to do. Obviously, this place means so much to me. I'm just happy to be here. I'm happy to be in that huddle with a great group of guys and great coaches, just the people around this building.

"That's kind of always been my personality, to just take advantage of the moment and enjoy it," Thielen added.

He maintained that mindset over two seasons with the Panthers, as well, growing even closer with his wife Caitlin and three young



children as they tackled "this little adventure" away from friends and family.

"So much growth, and a different perspective on life and football and this organization, the city, the state, what it means to us," Thielen said. "I'm going to make sure that this emotion doesn't just fade away. It's going to be, hopefully, something that lasts my entire

time here, just how appreciative I am to be here."

The feeling is mutual.

Fans rushed to their No. 19 jerseys, while Vikings coaches helped jump-start Thielen's recall of Kevin O'Connell's offensive system. Teammates welcomed back the wideout with open arms, falling back into stride with Thielen's sense of humor and locker room vibes.

"You know, sometimes you lose a guy and you don't really remember his vibe, and then once he gets back in there, it's like, 'Oh, man, I missed you,'" T.J. Hockenson said with a grin.

Vikings Offensive Coordinator Wes Phillips shared similar sentiments shortly after Thielen's return.

"It's great to have Adam back in this building," Phillips told media members. "I think everyone, not just coaches and players, I think everyone's kind of felt it – his energy coming back here and his enthusiasm."

Before Thielen even landed in the Twin Cities, he connected via FaceTime with Jefferson, and the teammates' shared excitement translating smoothly through the phone screen.

Jefferson called Thielen's return "special," noting he immediately adds extra talent, depth and leadership to the position group.

The reunion is reminiscent in some

ways to Jefferson's early days with the Vikings, he and Thielen both remarked.

And yet, the tables have turned.

Rather than Thielen showing Jefferson the ropes, it's been the younger receiver checking in on the vet, making sure he's up to speed.

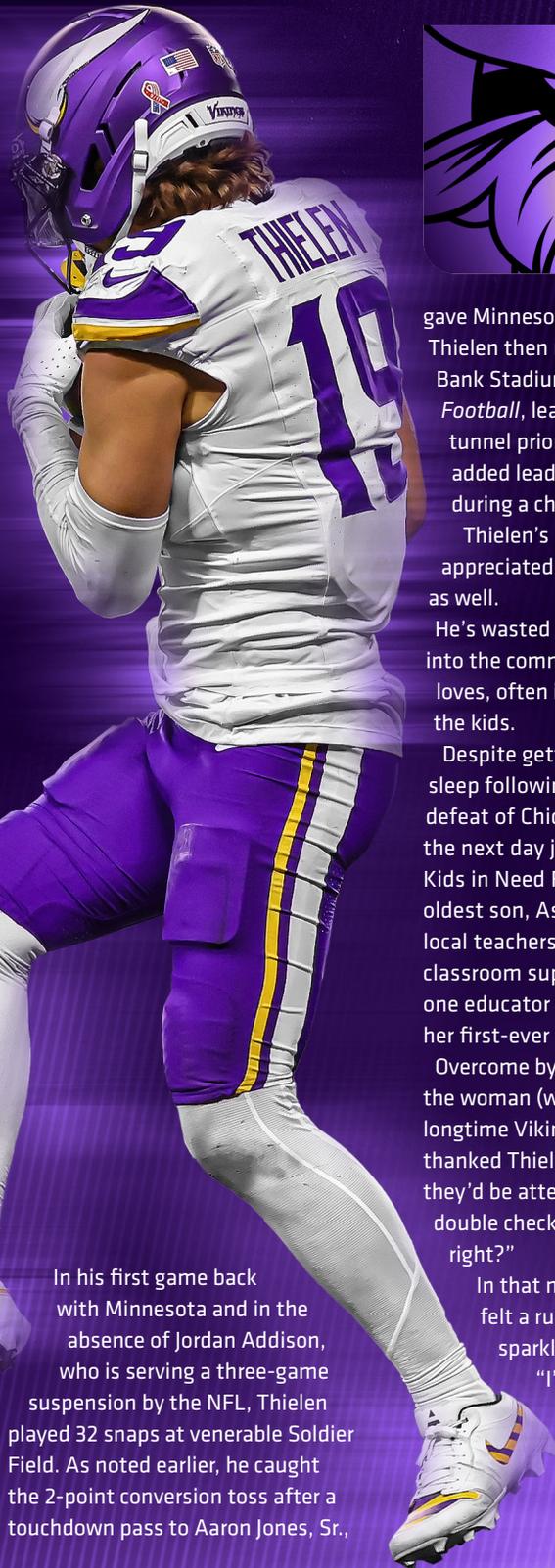
Jefferson has discovered Thielen retained much of what he learned from O'Connell and Phillips the first time around, which has been key in immediately contributing.

"We trust Adam, he's a pro," Phillips said. "And physically, he looks really good. I know he's done some things even since he's left here that he's talked about, around taking care of his body and some of his routine. He feels really good and looks good out there on the field."

Back like he never left.

Thielen started 101 of 135 regular-season games played for the Vikings before joining the Panthers in 2023. He totaled 534 catches for 6,682 yards and 55 touchdowns, averaging 12.5 yards per reception before heading to Carolina. The Detroit Lakes native surpassed the 1,000-receiving-yard mark in 2017 and 2018, garnering Pro Bowls after each season; in 2020, he scored a career-high 14 TDs.

Thielen currently holds the NFL record for most consecutive games with 100-plus receiving yards to start a season, which he achieved in 2018 with eight straight games. He tabbed his ninth 100-yard outing of the season in Week 11, racking up 125 yards on eight catches against the division-rival Packers, to break the franchise record previously held by Randy Moss. Jefferson recorded 10 100-yard games in 2022 to set a new single-season record.



gave Minnesota its first lead of 2025. Thielen then made his return to U.S. Bank Stadium on *Sunday Night Football*, leading the team out of the tunnel prior to kickoff and providing added leadership to the offense during a challenging game.

Thielen's return is felt and appreciated beyond the football field, as well.

He's wasted no time jumping back into the community he knows and loves, often including Caitlin and the kids.

Despite getting only a few hours of sleep following Minnesota's comeback defeat of Chicago, a smiling Thielen the next day joined teammates at the Kids in Need Foundation. He and his oldest son, Asher, teamed up with local teachers to help them shop for classroom supplies and even surprised one educator with tickets to attend her first-ever Vikings game.

Overcome by surprise and emotion, the woman (whose husband is a longtime Vikings fan) profusely thanked Thielen and assured him they'd be attending before pausing to double check, "And you'll be playing, right?"

In that moment, Thielen again felt a rush of gratitude that sparkled in his eyes.

"I'll be playing," he answered, smiling. "I'll be there."

After all, this is home.

In his first game back with Minnesota and in the absence of Jordan Addison, who is serving a three-game suspension by the NFL, Thielen played 32 snaps at venerable Soldier Field. As noted earlier, he caught the 2-point conversion toss after a touchdown pass to Aaron Jones, Sr.,

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VIKINGS ROOKIES HOST

ALL-ABILITIES

FOOTBALL CLINIC

BY LINDSEY YOUNG

Max Brosmer didn't stop grinning the entire evening.

The rookie QB and former Golden Gopher spent over an hour on the field of TCO Stadium, a majority of that time dedicated to helping young people toss a football toward an inflatable target.

"We're making quarterbacks over here!" he exclaimed.

Brosmer and his fellow Vikings rookies – along with second-year tackle Walter Rouse – came together earlier this month to host an annual All-Abilities Football Clinic with young people from Shriners Children's and other area hospitals. Most of the youth participating are facing physical challenges, such as limb differences or reliance on a wheelchair. A few participants also experience cognitive challenges.

Zachariah Kuper, 23, and his family every year drive from Nebraska to take part in the unique camp that strives to create an even playing field for those with disabilities. Zachariah's mother, Mindy West, explained he has been a Shriner Kid since the age of 2.

"We would come up to the hospital every four to six months, and when he'd have surgeries, we'd come up every month," West said. "Then four years ago we came to the first event they had, and we fell in love with the football players and the whole experience.

"Being here, it makes these kids feel like anything's possible," West added.

"It's incredibly important that we get Zachariah here every year."

Ten-year-old Teddy shares a similar love for the All-Abilities Clinic and is also a repeat attendee. He doesn't let the fact he was born with achondroplasia, the most common type of dwarfism, hold him back. Just ask Rouse or Vikings outside linebacker Chaz Chambliss, who rooted the youngster on as he did ladder drills or ran full-speed into the blocking dummy Chambliss held.

Teddy's father, Chris, looked on proudly. "This is just great. He gets to come out here and be a part of the Vikings, a part of the team, and gets to do drills and hang out with other kids," Chris said. "It's just the highlight of his year."

Vikings defensive lineman Elijah Williams, who made the team's 53-man roster after being invited to rookie minicamp on a tryout basis, shared a drill station with Rouse and encouraged the campers as they executed each exercise.

"It's really inspiring. These kids are coming out here and just having fun," Williams said. "No matter what was thrown at them, the cards they were dealt in life, they still find a way to be out here and enjoy this moment for what it is."

Brosmer appreciated the opportunity not only to connect with some of the youth but also to step back and admire their confidence and adaptability.

"They've been doing an amazing job," he said. "Sometimes there's a stigma surrounding physical limitations, people assume it's too hard for kids to participate in a sport, but [these kids] are showing the complete opposite. ... I'm proud I can represent the Vikings doing this."

THANK YOU, TEACHERS

VIKINGS & PEPSI SHARE GRATITUDE FOR EDUCATORS



Brooklyn Roberts was excited to shop for her students.

She ended up getting school supplies and a whole lot more.

Roberts, who teaches at Washington Technology High School, arrived at Kids in Need Foundation and was greeted by Vikings players, Minnesota Vikings Cheerleaders and the Vikings SKOL Line.

"This is amazing," she said, smiling. "I was like, 'Oh my gosh, I came here for a backpack!'"

Roberts teaches ninth- and 10th-grade special education classes, and some of her students' families are unable to afford all the necessary school supplies. Kids in Need helps local educators supplement their classrooms without reaching into their own pockets – something entirely all too common for teachers.

"Kids in Need providing this is huge. Students don't want to feel like they're missing out on anything, or to have to ask or feel belittled," Roberts explained. "It eases some of the stress on them. The financial part of it for

me is huge, too, but I would still spend the money on them if I had to. They all deserve a quality education."

The Vikings and Pepsi teamed up with Kids in Need during the week of Sept. 8 to celebrate educators across the Twin Cities.

Roberts was assisted during her shopping trip by Vikings running back Jordan Mason, who casually strolled the aisles and shared his own education experiences with her, joking he may have been relatable to some of her lesser-behaved students.

Mason thanked Roberts for being committed to her students, and his teammates expressed similar gratitude to the teachers they shopped with. Adam Thielen, C.J. Ham, Bo Richter, Walter Rouse and Henry Byrd all enjoyed the opportunity to make an impact.

Byrd has seen firsthand the sacrifices teachers make, as both of his girlfriend's parents are educators, and he embraced the chance to spend an afternoon saying "thank you" and helping teachers stock up on chapter books, coloring supplies and other items.

"I know how dedicated teachers are," Byrd said, "and for an organization like this that is willing to bridge that gap for them, take that financial stress off them ... it makes their lives so much easier and allows them to focus solely on teaching."

After Roberts and Mason finished filling her cart with necessities, she asked the running back if he might be willing to autograph her reusable water bottle.

Mason agreed, then told Roberts he was going to find a metallic marker for the bottle's black surface. He came back with one more surprise up his sleeve, however.

Instead of a marker, Mason showed up with an oversized ticket to the Vikings home opener against Atlanta.

Roberts' face said it all.

"What?!" She shrieked. "Are you serious?" Mason was quite serious. He smiled and offered Roberts a hug, inviting her and a guest to the *Sunday Night Football* game.

"I was just blown away," Roberts said, still beaming. "This will be something I'll never forget."

BY LINDSEY YOUNG

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Survey says... you've beat the odds!

Vikings defensive linemen Levi Drake Rodriguez and Elijah Williams share *Family Feud* as their favorite game show, but that isn't the only thing they have in common. Both also overcame "long shots" to their NFL dreams, earning the respect of coaches and teammates and making the Vikings 53-man roster.

Rodriguez, a seventh-round selection in 2024, became the first alum from East View High School (Georgetown, Texas) to be tabbed in an NFL Draft; he was inactive for all but two games during his rookie season but impressed throughout this offseason. The Vikings signed Williams this spring as an undrafted rookie out of Morgan State after he participated in minicamp on a tryout basis. The New Jersey native was one of seven UDFA's to make the Vikings initial 53-man roster.

Rodriguez and Williams both have proven themselves to be dynamic additions to Brian Flores' defense.

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

53

FAVES



RODRIGUEZ

WILLIAMS

KARAOKE SONG

"EL REY" BY VICENTE FERNÁNDEZ

"ADORN" BY MIGUEL

PIZZA TOPPINGS

PEPPERONI, JALAPEÑO, HONEY

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TATIANA

CELEBRATES FAMILY & HERITAGE



Some of MVC Tatiana's favorite days are spent with family.

She especially enjoys low-key afternoons with her three older siblings, catching up over pizza and listening to her niece and nephews laughing and playing together.

The siblings' ages span 14 years; Tatiana and her sister Mahriana are youngest, and they each were adopted from Colombia as infants.

"Our family has always been open with us about where we come from, and they helped us learn early on that the love you have for those around you is what creates family culture – not necessarily the blood within us," Tatiana said. "Their willingness to be so open with us growing up really made me proud of my heritage and proud to share my story with others."

As Tatiana takes great pride in her Colombian roots, she also is grateful for the Vikings fandom she's inherited through her grandfather, "the biggest Vikings fan I've ever known."

"Unfortunately, he passed before he could see me become a Minnesota Vikings

Cheerleader last year," Tatiana shared. "I dedicate every game to him, as well as other family members I've recently lost.

"It's a true blessing to represent an organization they were all so proud of, and to carry them with me on those days is truly something special," she added. "I know they have the best seats at U.S. Bank Stadium."

Tatiana followed in Mahriana's footsteps and started dancing at just 3 years old. She remembers family days spent at recitals, she and Mahriana performing

with their respective classes while their brothers cheered them on from the audience.

"My mom contributed lots of time and energy to make those dance dreams come true," Tatiana said. "It's clear that she and my whole family could see how much dance fulfilled me. I'll forever be thankful for the support I received and continue to receive as an MVC."

Though Tatiana wasn't raised in Colombia, she finds strength and connection to her culture through dancing.

"Dance is such a beautiful universal language," she said. "I'm so blessed to have been trained in a variety of different styles of dance, [and] diving deeper into those, learning their backgrounds and how they differ from one another, yet how similar they also are, has always inspired me to not only keep exploring and learning about dance all around the world, but it's also taught me to be proud of my heritage and continue sharing what I've learned."

Tatiana is deeply grateful to be part of a Vikings organization that truly values diversity and inclusivity and that is intentional in recognizing Hispanic & Latino Heritage Month.

"I believe it's so important to learn about other cultures," Tatiana said. "Navigating through life and recognizing we're all unique and bring different things to the table is one of the best things about engaging with a variety of people.

"One of the best things about being an MVC has been learning about one another, hearing how we each got to where we are and our hopes for the future," she added. "Culture is intertwined in our day-to-day decisions, as well as our goals. I'm excited to see where life takes me!"

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THINKING ABOUT HIS MUSTACHE? SKOL.
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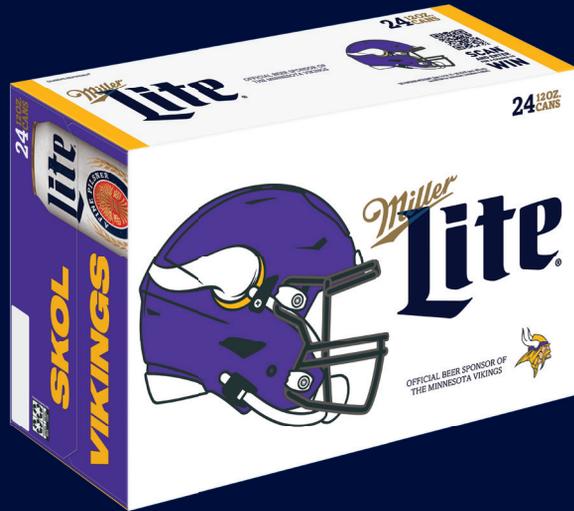


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