

Mystic LAKE

WIKI WIS

WK 07 10.19

MIN  
VS PHI



CRUCIAL CATCH

CB  
ISAIAH  
RODGERS

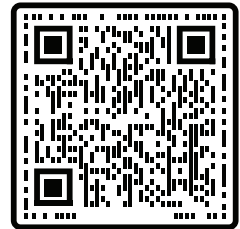


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and wait times**



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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.

THE BEST SPORTS BAR IN TOWN

MYSTIC

# HOP HOUSE

SPORTS & MUSIC



*WHERE BIG  
PLAYS HAPPEN*

SCORE DETAILS  
[mysticlake.com](https://mysticlake.com)



Mystic Lake

OFFICIAL CASINO OF THE MINNESOTA VIKINGS





## 2025 TEAM STATS

YARDS PER GAME / ALLOWED

	RUSH	PASS
<b>MIN OFF</b>	106.8	198.2
	305.0   25TH IN THE NFL	
<b>PHI DEF</b>	134.3	208.5
	342.8   21ST IN THE NFL	
<b>PHI OFF</b>	95.3	179.2
	274.5   30TH IN THE NFL	
<b>MIN DEF</b>	132.2	157.6
	289.8   6TH IN THE NFL	

## CRUCIAL CATCH

Now in its 17th season, the NFL's Crucial Catch continues as a year-round initiative with the American Cancer Society, focused on early detection and risk reduction for multiple types of cancer.

Together with the American Cancer Society, Crucial Catch has accomplished the following:

- Impacted more than 1.9 million people through education, navigation and screening reminders
- Raised more than \$35 million through grants, merchandise sales, NFL Auction and fundraising efforts
- Provided 840,000 cancer screenings in communities with the greatest need through CHANGE grants

The Vikings are honored to pay tribute to those whose lives have been claimed by cancer, encourage patients and caregivers on their journeys and recognize survivors with elements of today's game presentation.

## OCT. 19, 2025 | U.S. BANK STADIUM

Presented by Mystic Lake, today's game is the 32nd meeting between the Vikings and Eagles (regular season or postseason) and Philadelphia's first trip to U.S. Bank Stadium since October 2019. Minnesota is 15-12 in regular-season contests and 0-4 in the postseason against Philly.

## SHOWTIME SEQUENCE

Fans are encouraged to be in their seats by 11:40 to experience

the "Showtime" sequence leading up to the game.

## NATIONAL ANTHEM

St. Paul native and singer/songwriter Monique Blakey will perform the National Anthem, and the Native American Women Warriors will present the colors.

## TODAY'S GAME PRESENTED BY

**Mystic Lake**  
CASINO • HOTEL



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Proud Partner of the Minnesota Vikings





# 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](https://vikings.com/bww) for your digital coupon and offer details.



## KWIK TRIP TO THE 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](https://kwiktrip.com/sweepstakes) for details.

**KwikTrip**

## 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 disease, a cure exists: a stem cell transplant. Visit [nmdp.org/vikings](https://nmdp.org/vikings) to make a difference!



## 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.



## 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](https://vikings.com/fans) and submit your fan photo today!



## 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.





## 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.



## GAME-DAY GLOW GIVEAWAY



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

## 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](http://vikings.com/caribou) for your digital coupon and more details.



## 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](http://vikings.com/auction).



## SPLIT THE POT

*Benefiting the Minnesota Vikings Foundation*

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





A • R • O  
PISTACHIOS

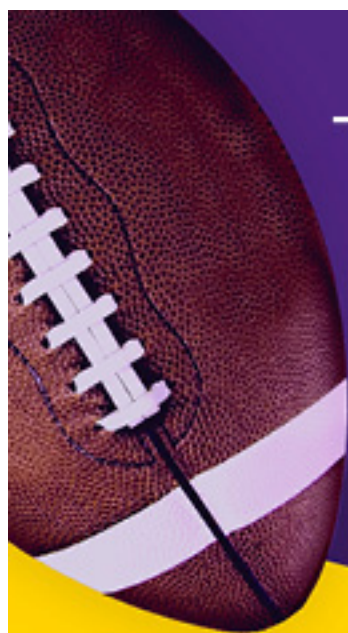
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Adjacent to Viking Headquarters and minutes from U.S. Bank Stadium, Omni Viking Lakes makes game day and every day unforgettable with spacious accommodations, four exceptional dining destinations and a full-service spa and indoor pool. Omni Viking Lakes Hotel is proud to be the official hotel partner of the Minnesota Vikings.



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OMNI  
VIKING LAKES

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**@CHI** **WK1**  
W, 27-24

**WK2**  
L, 22-6 **ATL**

**WK3**  
W, 48-10 **CIN**

**@PIT** **WK4**  
L, 24-21

**@CLE** **WK5**  
W, 21-17

**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**



## JOSH OLIVER

**JUST FIVE GAMES INTO THE 2025 CAMPAIGN, JOSH OLIVER IS ONE AWAY FROM MATCHING HIS SEASON-HIGH TOUCHDOWN TOTAL.**

Oliver caught Carson Wentz's first TD pass as a Viking during the Week 3 contest against Cincinnati, giving Minnesota an early lead in an eventual 48-10 rout of the Bengals. Oliver scored his second TD of 2025 against the Browns in London, successfully executing a Vikings trick play in which RB Cam Akers took the direct snap and launched a pass to Oliver for the 32-yard score.

The 28-year-old also continues to stand out as one of the league's top blocking

tight ends. Oliver has been especially integral as Minnesota's navigated a barrage of injuries on the offensive line, offering another security measure in protecting the pocket.

### 9 FROM 6

Oliver hasn't scored a high number of touchdowns throughout his pro career, but those he's recorded have been from a wide range of passers.

In fact, the nine TDs to Oliver's name have come from six different teammates: Lamar Jackson, Kirk Cousins, Joshua Dobbs, Sam Darnold, Wentz and Akers. He's only caught multiple touchdowns from two QBs, Jackson and Darnold.





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# VIKINGS ROSTER

ROSTER AS OF PRINT DEADLINE (10.14.25)

#	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
3	Jordan Addison	WR	5-11	179	23	3	USC	Frederick, MD
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
30	C.J. Ham	FB	5-11	250	32	9	Augustana	Duluth, MN
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	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
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

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE...

#	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	EXP	COLLEGE	HOMETOWN
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
INJURED RESERVE								
##	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
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
78	Ryan Kelly	C	6-4	307	32	10	Alabama	West Chester, OH
INJURED RESERVE-DESIGNATED FOR RETURN								
51	Blake Cashman	LB	6-1	235	29	7	Minnesota	Eden Prairie, 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								
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
31	Cam Akers	RB	5-10	217	26	6	Florida State	Clinton, MS
34	Zemaiah Vaughn	CB	6-3	180	23	R	Utah	Beaumont, TX
35	Corey Kiner	RB	5-9	209	23	R	Cincinnati	Cincinnati, OH
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
81	Nick Vannett	TE	6-5	266	32	10	Ohio State	Westerville, OH
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

\*INTERNATIONAL PLAYER PATHWAY

ROSTER AS OF PRINT DEADLINE (10.14.25)

## UNOFFICIAL DEPTH CHART

### VIKINGS OFFENSE

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

### VIKINGS DEFENSE

OLB	Greenard	Richter	Batty [IR-DTR]
DL	Allen	Ingram-Dawkins	
DL	Redmond	Williams	
DL	Hargrave	Rodriguez	
OLB	Van Ginkel	Turner	Chambliss
LB	Cashman [IR-DTR]	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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**K★102**

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**SAM**

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& COMPANY**

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# FIRST TEAMS



**33**  
RUNNING BACK  
AARON JONES SR.  
[IR]



**9**  
QUARTERBACK  
J.J. MCCARTHY



**30**  
FULLBACK  
C.J. HAM



**3**  
WIDE RECEIVER  
JORDAN  
ADDISON



**87**  
TIGHT END  
T.J.  
HOCKENSON



**75**  
RIGHT TACKLE  
BRIAN O'NEILL



**76**  
RIGHT GUARD  
WILL FRIES



**78**  
CENTER  
RYAN KELLY  
[IR]



**74**  
LEFT GUARD  
DONOVAN  
JACKSON



**71**  
LEFT TACKLE  
CHRISTIAN  
DARRISAW



**18**  
WIDE RECEIVER  
JUSTIN  
JEFFERSON

## VIKINGS OFFENSE

## EAGLES DEFENSE



**8**  
CORNERBACK  
ADOREE'  
JACKSON



**0**  
EDGE  
JOSHUA  
UCHE



**98**  
DEFENSIVE TACKLE  
JALEN  
CARTER



**90**  
DEFENSIVE TACKLE  
JORDAN  
DAVIS



**97**  
DEFENSIVE TACKLE  
MORO  
OJOMO



**58**  
EDGE  
JALYX  
HUNT



**27**  
CORNERBACK  
QUINYON  
MITCHELL



**33**  
NICKEL CORNERBACK  
COOPER DEJEAN



**24**  
SAFETY  
ANDREW MUKUBA



**30**  
LINEBACKER  
JIHAAD  
CAMPBELL



**53**  
LINEBACKER  
ZACK BAUN



**32**  
SAFETY  
REED BLANKENSHIP

## 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



**51**  
LINEBACKER  
BLAKE CASHMAN  
[IR-DTR]



**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

### EAGLES OFFENSE



**11**  
WIDE RECEIVER  
A.J.  
BROWN



**2**  
WIDE RECEIVER  
JAHAN  
DOTSON



**68**  
LEFT TACKLE  
JORDAN  
MAILATA



**69**  
LEFT GUARD  
LANDON  
DICKERSON



**51**  
CENTER  
CAM  
JURGENS



**56**  
RIGHT GUARD  
TYLER  
STEEN



**65**  
RIGHT TACKLE  
LANE  
JOHNSON



**88**  
TIGHT  
END  
DALLAS  
GOEDERT



**6**  
WIDE  
RECEIVER  
DEVONTA  
SMITH



**1**  
QUARTERBACK  
JALEN  
HURTS



**26**  
RUNNING BACK  
SAQUON  
BARKLEY

### EAGLES SPECIAL TEAMS



**4**  
KICKER  
JAKE  
ELLIOTT



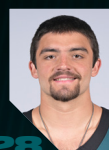
**10**  
PUNTER  
BRADEN  
MANN



**57**  
LONG SNAPPER  
CAL  
ADOMITIS



**2**  
PUNT RETURNER  
JAHAN  
DOTSON



**28**  
KICK  
RETURNER  
WILL SHIPLEY







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advantage?

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# EAGLES ROSTER

ROSTER AS OF PRINT DEADLINE (10.14.25)

#	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	EXP	COLLEGE	HOMETOWN
0	Joshua Uche	OLB	6-1	240	27	6	Michigan	Miami, FL
1	Jalen Hurts	QB	6-1	223	27	6	Oklahoma	Channelview, TX
2	Jahan Dotson	WR	5-11	184	25	4	Penn State	Nazareth, PA
4	Jake Elliott	K	5-9	167	30	9	Memphis	La Grange, IL
6	DeVonta Smith	WR	6-0	170	26	5	Alabama	Amite, LA
7	Kelee Ringo	CB	6-2	207	23	3	Georgia	Tacoma, WA
8	Adoree' Jackson	CB	5-11	185	30	9	USC	Gardena, CA
10	Braden Mann	P	5-11	198	27	6	Texas A&M	Cypress, TX
11	A.J. Brown	WR	6-1	226	28	7	Mississippi	Starkville, MS
13	Azeez Ojulari	OLB	6-3	240	25	5	Georgia	Marietta, GA
14	Sam Howell	QB	6-1	225	25	4	North Carolina	Monroe, NC
16	Tanner McKee	QB	6-6	231	25	3	Stanford	Corona, CA
17	Nakobe Dean	LB	5-11	231	24	4	Georgia	Horn Lake, MS
18	John Metchie III	WR	6-0	195	25	4	Alabama	Brampton, Ontario, Canada
21	Sydney Brown	S	5-10	211	25	3	Illinois	London, Ontario, Canada
22	Mac McWilliams	CB	5-10	191	23	R	UCF	Pensacola, FL
24	Andrew Mukuba	S	5-11	186	22	R	Texas	Austin, TX
26	Saquon Barkley	RB	6-0	232	28	8	Penn State	Coplay, PA
27	Quinyon Mitchell	CB	6-0	193	24	2	Toledo	Williston, FL
28	Will Shipley	RB	5-11	209	23	2	Clemson	Weddington, NC
29	A.J. Dillon	RB	6-0	247	27	6	Boston College	Groton, MA
30	Jihaad Campbell	LB	6-3	235	21	R	Alabama	Erial, NJ
32	Reed Blankenship	S	6-1	203	26	4	Middle Tenn. State	Lester, AL
33	Cooper DeJean	DB	6-0	198	22	2	Iowa	Odebolt, IA
34	Parry Nickerson	CB	5-10	182	30	6	Tulane	New Orleans, LA
36	Cameron Latu	TE	6-5	244	25	2	Alabama	Holladay, UT
37	Tank Bigsby	RB	5-11	215	24	3	Auburn	LaGrange, GA
39	Marcus Epps	S	6-0	191	29	7	Wyoming	Huntington Beach, CA
42	Smael Mondon	LB	6-2	224	22	R	Georgia	Dallas, GA
48	Patrick Johnson	OLB	6-2	248	27	5	Tulane	Chattanooga, TN
51	Cam Jurgens	C	6-3	303	26	4	Nebraska	Beatrice, NE
53	Zack Baun	LB	6-3	225	28	6	Wisconsin	Brown Deer, WI
54	Jeremiah Trotter Jr.	LB	6-0	225	22	2	Clemson	Hainesport, NJ
56	Tyler Steen	G/T	6-6	321	25	3	Alabama	Miami, FL
57	Cal Adomitis	LS	6-2	238	27	4	Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh, PA
58	Jalyx Hunt	OLB	6-3	252	24	2	Houston Christian	DeBary, FL
64	Brett Toth	OL	6-6	304	29	6	Army	Charleston, SC
65	Lane Johnson	T	6-6	325	35	13	Oklahoma	Groveton, TX
66	Drew Kendall	C/G	6-4	308	23	R	Boston College	Norwell, MA
68	Jordan Mailata	T	6-8	365	28	8	No college	Sydney, Australia
69	Landon Dickerson	G	6-6	332	27	5	Alabama	Hudson, NC
74	Fred Johnson	T	6-7	326	28	7	Florida	Royal Palm Beach, FL
79	Matt Pryor	G/T	6-7	332	30	8	TCU	Lakewood, CA
81	Grant Calcaterra	TE	6-4	240	26	4	SMU	Rancho Santa Margarita, CA
83	Kylen Granson	TE	6-3	242	27	5	SMU	Austin, TX
87	Xavier Gipson	WR	5-9	189	24	3	Stephen F. Austin	Dallas, TX

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE...



#	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	EXP	COLLEGE	HOMETOWN
88	Dallas Goedert	TE	6-5	256	30	8	South Dakota State	Britton, SD
90	Jordan Davis	DT	6-6	336	25	4	Georgia	Charlotte, N.C.
94	Byron Young	DT	6-3	292	24	3	Alabama	Laurel, MS
95	Ty Robinson	DT	6-5	288	24	R	Nebraska	Gilbert, AZ
97	Moro Ojomo	DT	6-3	292	24	3	Texas	Katy, TX
98	Jalen Carter	DT	6-3	314	24	3	Georgia	Apopka, FL

#### PRACTICE SQUAD

19	Kyle McCord	QB	6-3	218	23	R	Syracuse	Mount Laurel, NJ
31	Andre' Sam	S	5-10	194	26	1	LSU	Iowa, LA
35	Brandon Johnson	CB	5-10	185	22	R	Oregon	Newton, NC
38	Ambry Thomas	CB	6-0	190	26	5	Michigan	Detroit, MI
46	Quez Watkins	WR	6-0	193	27	5	Southern Miss	Athens, LA
49	Audric Estimè	RB	5-11	227	22	2	Notre Dame	Nyack, NY
59	Chance Campbell	LB	6-2	232	25	4	Mississippi	Ellicott City, MD
63	Hollin Pierce	T	6-8	341	24	R	Rutgers	Trenton, NJ
72	Luke Felix-Fualalo*	T	6-7	318	25	R	Hawaii	Brisbane, Australia
75	Jake Majors	C/G	6-3	315	23	R	Texas	Prosper, TX
82	Terrace Marshall	WR	6-2	200	25	5	LSU	Bossier City, LA
84	E.J. Jenkins	TE	6-6	245	26	2	Georgia Tech	Fredericksburg, VA
85	Britain Covey	WR	5-8	173	28	4	Utah	Provo, UT
86	Javon Baker	WR	6-1	202	23	2	UCF	Atlanta, GA
93	Antwaun Powell-Ryland	OLB	6-3	258	23	R	Virginia Tech	Chesapeake, VA
96	Gabe Hall	DT	6-6	295	24	1	Baylor	Waller, TX

\*INTERNATIONAL PLAYER PATHWAY

#### INJURED RESERVE

3	Nolan Smith	OLB	6-2	238	24	3	Georgia	Savannah, GA
23	Jakorian Bennett	CB	5-10	200	25	3	Maryland	Mobile, AL
41	Tariq Castro-Fields	CB	6-1	197	26	3	Penn State	Upper Marlboro, MD
43	Ben VanSumeren	FB	6-2	231	25	3	Michigan State	Bay City, MI
45	Ogbo Okoronkwo	OLB	6-2	250	30	8	Oklahoma	Houston, TX
47	Charley Hughlett	LS	6-4	248	35	11	UCF	Tampa, FL
61	Willie Lampkin	G/C	5-11	290	23	R	North Carolina	Lakeland, FL
73	Cameron Williams	T	6-6	317	21	R	Texas	Duncanville, TX
80	Darius Cooper	WR	5-11	210	23	R	Tarleton State	St. Louis, MO
89	Johnny Wilson	WR	6-6	228	24	2	Florida State	Pacoima, CA

## UNOFFICIAL DEPTH CHART

### EAGLES OFFENSE

WR	Brown			
LT	Mailata	F. Johnson		
LG	Dickerson	Toth		
C	Jurgens	Kendall		
RG	Steen	Pryor		
RT	L. Johnson			
TE	Goedert	Calcaterra	Granson	Latu
WR	Dotson	Gipson		
WR	D. Smith	Metchie III		
RB	Barkley	Shipley	Dillon	Bigsby
QB	Hurts	McKee	Howell	

### EAGLES DEFENSE

EDGE	Uche	Ojulari
DT	Carter	
DT	Davis	Robinson
DT	Ojomo	Young
EDGE	Hunt	P. Johnson
LB	Baun	Trotter Jr. Mondon Jr.
LB	Campbell	Dean
NCB	DeJean	McWilliams
CB	Mitchell	Ringo
CB	Jackson	Nickerson
S	Blankenship	Epps
S	Mukuba	Brown

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**WK1**  
W, 24-20 **DAL**

**@ KC** **WK2**  
W, 20-17

**WK3**  
W, 33-26 **LAR**

**@ TB** **WK4**  
W, 31-25

**WK5**  
L, 21-17 **DEN**

**@ NYG** **WK6**  
L, 34-17

**@ MIN** **WK7**  
OCT. 19

**WK8**  
OCT. 26 **NYG**

**BYE** **WK9**  
NOV. 2

**@ GB** **WK10**  
NOV. 10

**WK11**  
NOV. 16 **DET**

**@ DAL** **WK12**  
NOV. 23

**WK13**  
NOV. 28 **CHI**

**@ LAC** **WK14**  
DEC. 8

**WK15**  
DEC. 14 **LV**

**@ WAS** **WK16**  
DEC. 20

**@ BUF** **WK17**  
DEC. 28

**WK18**  
TBD **WAS**



# JALEN HURTS

JALEN HURTS IS SET TO PLAY HIS THIRD CAREER CONTEST AGAINST THE VIKINGS AFTER ENTERING THE NFL AS A SECOND-ROUND DRAFT PICK BY PHILADELPHIA IN 2020.

Hurts led the Eagles to regular-season victories over Minnesota in September of 2022 and 2023. His 81.5 career completion percentage against Minnesota is greater than against any other opponent. Today's matchup will be his first game at U.S. Bank Stadium.

Over the past five-plus seasons, the former Sooner has racked up 15,839 yards and 93 touchdowns through the air and has thrown 40 interceptions.

His passer rating over 83 games (72 starts) is 94.0.

Hurts has also scored 60 rushing touchdowns, holding the NFL record for most rushing TDs by a QB in his first five seasons.

## FAMILIAR FACES

Hurts is plenty familiar with a couple of faces on Minnesota's roster, and not just as opponents.

Vikings defensive linemen Jonathan Allen (Alabama) and Jalen Redmond (Oklahoma) teamed with Hurts in college in 2016 and 2019, respectively.

Though Dallas Turner, Will Reichard and Walter Rouse share an alma mater with Hurts, they never overlapped with the QB.



# SERIES HISTORY



## ALL-TIME RESULTS

### REGULAR SEASON & POSTSEASON

VIKINGS ARE 15-16

15-12 REGULAR SEASON

0-4 POSTSEASON

### LONGEST WIN STREAK

7 BY VIKINGS

(Oct. 28, 1962 - Dec. 3, 1978)

## FIRST MEETING

OCT. 28, 1962 | IN MIN | VIKINGS 31, EAGLES 21

Tommy Mason and Fran Tarkenton, who were Minnesota's first and third draft picks ever, put on a show in their second NFL season. Mason tied the game at 7 in the second quarter on a 1-yard rush. Tarkenton put the Vikings up 14-7 on a 10-yard touchdown. The duo then connected for a 74-yard touchdown to round out a 21-point second quarter. After a 42-yard field goal by Jim Christoperson in the third quarter, the Eagles rallied with two touchdowns to make it 24-21 Vikings. Tarkenton and Mason then put the game away with an 8-yard score.

## PREVIOUS MEETING

SEPT. 14, 2023 | AT PHI | EAGLES 34, VIKINGS 28

For the second time in as many seasons, Minnesota visited Philadelphia for the Eagles home opener in prime time. The Eagles scored 24 points in eight minutes of game time from late in the second quarter until early in the third. The flurry included two 1-yard rushing touchdowns by Jalen Hurts, a 61-yard field goal after Minnesota fumbled at the goal line and a 63-yard pass from Hurts to DeVonta Smith. Minnesota made it close with touchdown passes of 62 yards to Jordan Addison and 10 to K.J. Osborn by Kirk Cousins, but Philadelphia added a rushing TD with 4:31 remaining. T.J. Hockenson caught Minnesota's first and final TDs.



## THROWBACK MOMENT

### FOOTBALL IS IN THE AIR

Forty-four years ago this weekend, the Vikings hosted the Eagles at Metropolitan Stadium, and both teams aired it out in a 35-23 win for Minnesota.

Vikings QB Tommy Kramer threw for four touchdowns, including three in the second quarter, and 257 yards, and Eagles QB Ron Jaworski threw for 330 and two touchdowns. Joe Senser, Sammy White, Bob Bruer and Ahmad Rashad caught scores from Kramer.

Minnesota RB Ted Brown added a rushing touchdown in the fourth quarter and racked up 92 rushing yards and 82 receiving yards. Philly counterpart Wilbert Montgomery scored a rushing and receiving touchdown and totaled a whopping 143 receiving yards on 10 catches plus 62 more on the ground. Wilbert is the father of Vikings offensive quality control coach Derron Montgomery.

## TOP 2 AGAINST EAGLES

### RUSHING YARDS

**200** **Chuck Foreman** on 28 attempts at Philadelphia (Oct. 24, 1976)

**125** **Robert Smith** on 22 attempts in Minnesota (Sept. 28, 1997)

### PASSING YARDS

**382** **Matt Cassel** on 26-of-35 passing in Minnesota (Dec. 15, 2013)

**364** **Kirk Cousins** on 31-of-44 passing at Philadelphia (Sept. 14, 2023)

### RECEIVING YARDS

**167** **Stefon Diggs** on seven catches in Minnesota (Oct. 13, 2019)

**163** **Greg Jennings** on 11 catches in Minnesota (Dec. 15, 2013)

## AGAINST VIKINGS

### RUSHING YARDS

**175** **D'Andre Swift** on 28 attempts at Philadelphia (Sept. 14, 2023)

**169** **Wilbert Montgomery** on 20 attempts in Minnesota (Sept. 14, 1980)

### PASSING YARDS

**428** **Nick Foles** on 30-of-48 passing in Minnesota (Dec. 15, 2013)

**333** **Donovan McNabb** on 23-of-36 passing in Minnesota (Oct. 28, 2007)

### RECEIVING YARDS

**195** **DeSean Jackson** on 10 catches in Minnesota (Dec. 15, 2013)

**174** **Timmy Brown** on five catches in Minnesota (Oct. 28, 1962)

# ITEM OF THE GAME

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# THEO JACKSON

BY CRAIG PETERS

**Theo Jackson is a pin seeker — on a golf course and at bowling alleys.**

The Vikings safety didn't pack his clubs or bowling ball for Minnesota's recent international double dip, but he did manage to play a round of golf at Hanbury Manor, where the team headquartered in the United Kingdom ahead of topping the Cleveland Browns at London's Tottenham Hotspur Stadium.

The Vikings arrived in the English countryside on Monday, Sept. 29, after a flight from Ireland. They nestled in as best as they could to try to make Week 5 as normal as possible. That meant some free time for players on the final day of September, and Jackson knew what he wanted to do.

The only delay was the availability of left-handed clubs because fellow safety and Tennessee native Harrison Smith was already on the course with the club's only set of rentals for lefties.

After Smith completed a round of 9 holes, Jackson stepped up to the first tee.

He didn't love carding a 96 on the beautifully rolling par-72 but appreciated the opportunity and kept the scorecard as a memento.

He's negotiated other Southpaw challenges, from avoiding smears on his hand while writing, or even asking for help from others during his early school years when special scissors weren't available.

"If I do anything with my right hand, it looks crazy," Jackson laughed.

We caught up with Jackson, who turned 27 on Oct. 2, to ask

about his off-field hobbies and on-field advancements.

**Q: WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT TURNING 27 HERE?**

A: I feel like it's just one of those birthdays where it's like in between a big one. It feels good to be — you're older, but it's 27. It's kind of like that weird age.

**Q: IT'S NOT REALLY A MILESTONE, BUT IT'S GOT TO BE ONE OF THE MORE UNIQUE ONES, RIGHT? DO YOU MAKE ANY PLANS?**

A: There ain't much we can do out here. The closest thing is an hour away. I love it because it's peaceful. And then we've got the golf course out there, so that's fine. It definitely makes us lock in, because there isn't anything else to do. So, you can easily just go look at your playbook or study the other team.

**Q: WHAT WAS THE COURSE LIKE?**

A: The course is really nice. They do a great job of keeping it clean, and everything is nice.

**Q: YOU'RE ALSO A BOWLER AND REALLY GOOD AT THAT, RIGHT? WHAT IS IT ABOUT DBs AND BOWLING, BECAUSE I'VE KNOWN A LOT OF DBs IN THE NFL WHO LOVE BOWLING?**

A: I don't know. For me, it's like a family thing. Once I got into it, and I got some of my other boys into it, it just became the thing for us.

**Q: HOW'S YOUR FORM?**

A: Form is phenomenal. Picture Perfect.



**Q: WHAT'S THE HIGHEST YOU'VE SCORED?**

A: 280. I kept that scorecard.

**Q: WHAT?! HOW MANY STRIKES IN A ROW DID YOU GET?**

A: So in my head, I'm one pin away from a 300. I got a strike on the first frame, a nine spare on the second, and strikes for the rest of the game.

**Q: WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST TAKEAWAY FROM COMING OVER TO EUROPE?**

A: The fan experience is definitely better than I thought it was gonna be. We were in Ireland, I mean, we were the away team. You could hear Pittsburgh fans going crazy, but still, just to have that type of support that they had. And then last year, with us playing the Jets, it was really eye-opening to see how big [American] football is over here.

**Q: WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER FROM YOUR FIRST CAREER INTERCEPTION AT PHILADELPHIA IN 2023?**

A: In this defense, they tell us just to do our job, and the plays will come. I did what I was supposed to do, and [Jalen Hurts] threw me one. It was kind of one of those moments like, 'Oh, wow, he really threw it.' And then you have to really focus on those, because it's an easy pick. And those are the ones you drop. I really just had to lock in and catch it and make it to the ground just to complete the catch.

**Q: WAS THAT KIND OF SIMILAR TO WHEN YOU LINED UP GENO SMITH LAST YEAR AT SEATTLE?**

A: That one, we were just playing a coverage where I knew where the weakness was, so I just told Gilly

(Stephon Gilmore), 'Stay inside, and if he breaks outside, I got you.' He did just that, so then I broke on and made the play.

**Q: YOU, HARRISON, JORDAN MASON, TY CHANDLER, WHAT'S IT BEEN LIKE TO HAVE SO MANY TENNESSEANS IN THE LOCKER ROOM WITH YOU?**

A: I love it. We're growing, you know, because we get overshadowed by everybody talking about Florida, talking about Texas or Georgia, but Tennessee is growing. [Jordan and I] were at a high school awards ceremony for academics and football and kept in touch over the years.

**Q: WHAT'S BEEN THE MOST VALUABLE THING YOU'VE BEEN ABLE TO LEARN FROM HARRISON?**

A: You don't have to do everything 100 miles an hour. You can take your time with some things, but you still have to turn it on at some point. You can take your time with reads. You can take your time with doing certain things so everything isn't moving fast. Your body's moving fast. Your mind is moving fast. It's just certain — your mind can move fast, but your body can still be under control. That's what I struggle with. I'm like, 'Be there, be there, be there.' And my mind is going there, too. And then I'm just out here messing up. But once he told me that, I started to slow down a little bit and really understand what I was doing.







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# PULLING A FAST ONE



**FREE AGENT  
ISAIAH RODGERS  
MAKES QUICK IMPACT**

BY ROB KLEIFIELD

# *History is framing Isaiah Rodgers' story. The first to do this. The first to do that. The fastest since ...*

***In Week 3 this season, the 5-foot-10, 180-pound cornerback emerged from the secondary and shadows of his past as the first NFL player with a pick six, a scoop-and-score and two forced fumbles in one game.***

He "played out of this world," said Defensive Coordinator Brian Flores, "for the lack of a better term."

Really, there is nothing more on-the-nose to describe the game Rodgers savored Sept. 21 against Cincinnati. He intercepted a pass and sprinted 87 yards for his first career defensive score. Shortly after, he forced and recovered a fumble and dashed 66 yards to the opposite end zone for his second defensive touchdown. Rodgers also rejected a jump ball while on an island against Tee Higgins, who has a 6-inch height advantage, and canceled a 15-yard catch by Ja'Marr Chase with one of his knockouts.

Grizzled vet Harrison Smith suggested an asterisk in the record books since Rodgers did all that in a half.

"What makes this story more interesting is my wife," former Vikings cornerback Xavier Rhodes offered. "She called my phone, she was like, 'Oh my God, I thought he had your record! I was about to get upset, but he didn't. I'm good. All right, I love you,' and she hung up the phone. I'm like, she is something else!"

Rodgers' first goal-line crossing represented the longest pick six by a Viking since Rhodes, who was coincidentally on site for Legends Weekend festivities, traveled the length of the field in Week 11 of 2016.

The three-time Pro Bowl honoree and 2017 First-Team All-Pro Rhodes was hanging in a stadium suite when Rodgers lived out "every corner's dream," gave Rhodes' wife a scare and made his mentor proud.

"He was always willing to learn," Rhodes said of Rodgers, who entered the NFL the same year Rhodes went from Minnesota to Indianapolis. "You have some guys that come in the game and think they know it all and think you can't really tell 'em anything, or they would sit there and act like they are listening to you and still do their own thing. But with him, he was a student of the game. He wanted to get better."

Upon their initial meeting, Rhodes said he thought "Isaiah was a great breath of fresh air."

"It's no ego with him. Zero ego. Like, he doesn't have an ego," Rhodes shared repeatedly. "You can go, 'Isaiah, I need you to be the kicker' – 'OK' – and he's gonna do it with a smile on his face. It's hard to find players like that, man. It's hard to find someone that's gonna give it his all no matter where you put him."

"That's why we gravitated to one another because that's someone you need around you," Rhodes said. "That's someone you need in your life, 'cause we're all gonna have bad days, and you're gonna need a guy like Isaiah that's gonna be around you to joke around with you, make you laugh and lift your day up."

Rhodes continued, "You tend to forget [about your blessings in life], but a guy like him, he's always gonna





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remind you, 'Bro, we're here in the NFL, we're part of the less than 1 percent, let's live it up.' "

Rodgers has shared "office space" with elite cornerbacks such as Rhodes and Stephon Gilmore in his time with the Colts and backed up Darius Slay in 2024 for the Super Bowl Champion Eagles. Additionally, Rodgers has relished elite moments, cribbing a kickoff in his fifth career game, Oct. 11, 2020, and recording his second NFL interception off future first-ballot Hall of Fame QB Tom Brady on Nov. 28, 2021.

Everything pales, however, to what he has done lately.

Five games into his first season as a full-time starter, Rodgers is football's top-performing cornerback, according to Pro Football Focus (min. 100 snaps). His 82.2 overall grade is boosted by a 86.1 mark in coverage, as well as the first "perfect" game grade (99.9) since PFF started data collection in 2006. He's allowed only 13 catches on 26 targets for 112 yards, zero touchdowns and a 45.7 passer rating against.

"Personally, I just feel like he's going to do more," Rhodes said. "And once he's (even) more consistent, we're going to have a conversation of him being one of the best Vikings players or DBs they've ever had."

The success was anticipated by people close to Rodgers, like Rhodes, and college teammate Jordin Hamilton, who was a junior at UMass when Rodgers – "this super, super skinny kid" – materialized.

"He may have been all of 5-9, a buck 35 soaking wet, if that," Hamilton said.

"Seriously," Rodgers' good friend to this day emphasized, "he was tiny."

Hamilton said he doesn't think he saw Isaiah, or 'Zay', squat over 185 pounds in the leadup to his freshman season. He remembers training camp that summer vividly, though, because Rodgers was a blur in conditioning tests and an amoeba on defense, capturing passes left and right – like he was the target.

"I'll never forget," Hamilton reminisced. "We had Andy Isabella on our team at the same time, who ended up being a second-round draft pick [in 2019]. He was by far the fastest player on our team. And then we're running 40-yard sprints and this new kid is not just beating Andy; he's dusting him. So we're like, 'Hold on, who is this little guy? Like, Isaiah, where are you from? Like, how are you fast like this?' "

Rodgers made a mutual impression on Rhodes.

"I wish y'all would mic him up," Rhodes said excitedly. "I think when he's running, he's laughing. Like, I think he's gifted to that point where he's not running to his full potential. I think he's literally that fast.

"It's like, c'mon bro, stop playing with us," Rhodes quipped. "You're making me look bad!"

Rodgers made more history while chasing Pittsburgh's DK Metcalf across the soft Irish soil. During Metcalf's 80-yard catch-and-run TD in Dublin, Rodgers reached a max speed of 23.32 MPH, which is the fastest by any player in the Next Gen Stats registry (since 2017). Staunchly, Hamilton said, "That honestly wasn't even a shock to me. He by far is the fastest human being that I've ever been in contact with."

Recalling Rodgers' debut camp at UMass, Hamilton stated, "His athletic ability was just superior."

Even then, with ample empirical evidence, some Minutemen weren't sold on the rail-thin cornerback making an early impact. Hamilton noted skepticism – "they were somewhat hating" – from teammates pushing for playing time: They doubted Rodgers' size, ridiculed his technique and reminded of his rank.

Hamilton retorted, " 'Yeah, well guys, he has like eight interceptions in the span

of 10 practices. I mean, how many interceptions do you guys have?' So from then on, I was like, 'This guy's gonna be a player.' "

A player, without question. But how about a playmaker.

UMass opened its 2016 season at The Swamp and eased Rodgers into the fold. They played Florida tough, falling 24-7 (the Gators leading receiver in that game was former Viking Brandon Powell). By the third game of Rodgers' freshman campaign, he was a starter, putting to bed concerns about his build.

"The plays he was making at his size and his age, I've never seen anybody do that before," said Hamilton, who works for a sports agency now and assists the high school scene, and whose father, Conrad, was drafted in the seventh round by the Giants in 1996 and





intercepted Dan Marino as a rookie cornerback.

Rodgers finished his on-boarding year with 40 tackles, seven pass breakups to lead the IFBS independent programs (consisting then of Massachusetts, BYU, Army and Notre Dame), and interceptions against Wagner and Troy. It was a buildup to bigger and better. Over the next three seasons, Rodgers plucked nine more picks and recovered several fumbles. He racked up 242 return yards on 11 college interceptions; he took three the distance; and he emerged as a superstar in the kicking game, amassing an FBS-best 1,295 yards on kickoff returns and no less housed a 42-yard punt return, as a senior. Yup, a playmaker in every sense.

"Nobody expects guys from UMass" to make the kinds of plays Rodgers did Nov. 4, 2017, at Mississippi State, Hamilton expressed, singling out that game, on that stage, as the erasure of any residual suspicion.

In front of an SEC crowd clanging deafening cow bells, Rodgers intercepted two passes. On the first, he jumped a hitch route and cruised 29 yards untouched into the Bulldogs end zone, resembling his cousin Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie, a 2008 first-round draft pick who had an inclination for pick sixes. 'Zay' maintained lockdown coverage to nab INT No. 2 on a trick-play deep pass attempted by a MSU receiver.

"By the time he got out of there," Hamilton said Rodgers "knew [the defense] like the back of his hand."

"I believe that even if they wanted to line him up down at nickel, if they needed him to play safety at some point in time, he could have done it," Hamilton elaborated. "Now he may not have been the prototypical looking safety or nickel, but [he could have done it because of] his knowledge of the game."

When Rodgers was ready to swap UMass' logo for an NFL shield, he was already firmly on the radar of Flores, whose pathway from scout to assistant with New England (90 odd miles from campus) drew him to Rodgers making plays in multiple phases, as he was entering his first year as the Dolphins head coach.

Both men had to wait – Rodgers to hear his name late in the sixth round with the 211th selection, and Flores to coach someone he believed was an ascending talent. Historically, good things are well worth it.

"I was all in," Flores said this summer, rehashing his desire to acquire Rodgers in free agency.

"I'm happy we got him," the defensive coordinator added. "He's got a great football IQ and acumen."

Rhodes and Hamilton are elated, too.

"I was talking to him the other day, and I was just like, 'I've had so many people reach out to me about [your playmaking] you would think that my name is Isaiah Rodgers and I was the guy out there doing it,'" Hamilton joked. "I'm just happy for him. I think that truly the sky's the limit for him. I know that people say that all the time when it comes to people's success

and things of that nature. But truly, I think that this year for him, whether it's this late in his career or not, I think this is gonna be a major turning point."

The joy for Rodgers has hit Rhodes hard; he delineated football's only promise is that it's Not For Long.

"He's playing lights out," Rhodes said. "It's like, man, it's one of those things where you put in all the work, and now you're starting to see the results. Now you're starting to see everything you worked for, [knowing] all the sacrifices you made. And now you're starting to see the light at the end of the tunnel."

On the heels of his historic NFC Defensive Player of the Week performance, Rodgers flipped a simple question – What'd Flo' tell you after the game? – with a simple response: "I told him, 'That's why I came here.'"

"I just knew, once I finally got my shot, whether it was Year 6 or Year 10, whenever that time came, I was going to be the best Isaiah Rodgers I could be," the 27-year-old said humbly. "I just think everything happens for a reason, and I think it's perfect timing for it to be now rather than earlier in my career where I was more of an immature player and don't think I would've meshed [with Flo'] and this system.

"So I think everything is perfect timing," Rodgers reiterated, flashing a radiant smile. "I'm in the right state of mind, and I just want to go out there and make plays like he expects the whole entire unit to do."

# I WAS ALL IN. I'M HAPPY WE GOT HIM.

**HE'S GOT A GREAT FOOTBALL IQ AND ACUMEN." - DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR BRIAN FLORES**



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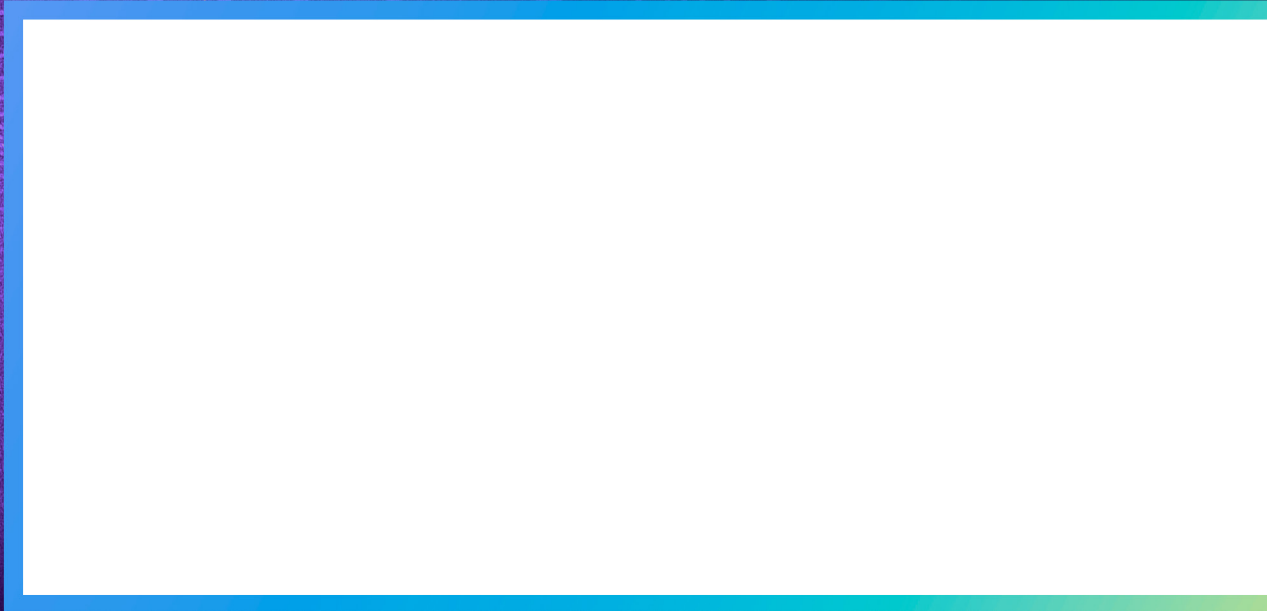






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The Vikings annually raise awareness during their Crucial Catch game, which features on-field and in-stadium Crucial Catch elements, in addition to honoring cancer survivors and those currently battling the disease.

### C.J. HAM

**LOST MOTHER, TINA, TO  
PANCREATIC CANCER IN 2021**

Ham has been deeply involved in furthering the Crucial Catch impact since the passing of his mother, annually hosting the "Pamper Her Purple" event to support and connect with those impacted by cancer.

"I can empathize with them and be with them and just try to show love and let them know, 'You're not in this fight alone. There are people that are here that love you. The fight is worth it. Continue to fight. Don't give up.'

"[Mom taught me] every single day is a blessing. Every single time you open your eyes and take a breath, every morning is an opportunity to be your best self, but it's truly a gift from God. At any point, anything can happen, so just cherish the moments, cherish the people around you and enjoy life."

### WILL REICHARD

**LOST FATHER, GARY, TO  
PANCREATIC CANCER IN 2016**

Reichard honors his father's memory after every made field goal, pointing a finger toward the sky. And each time he laces his cleats, Reichard said, he thinks about the way his father helped get him into kicking and set his journey to the NFL in motion.

"He was someone who wanted the best for both of his kids. He was a great role model. He worked really hard at what he did, very selfless. He had a lot of interests and hobbies that he gave up once me and my sister were born, to pour the most he could into us.

"Growing up, every Saturday, we'd go to the field ... and we'd be out there for hours. It was hard work, and he wasn't easy on me, but it's something I can look back on and be so grateful I had someone like that in my life to push me. And the opportunity that we had to have fun together resonates still."

### DONOVAN JACKSON

**GRANDFATHER, WILSON, BATTLED  
AND DEFEATED PROSTATE CANCER**

Jackson is grateful to his grandfather, Wilson, who worked as an NCAA official, for passing along his love of football. Jackson recalled watching games together with his grandfather and deepening his understanding of – and affection for – the sport.

"I know he watches every game. Early on in my career he'd send notes on what I had to do better. I'm like, 'Papa Jack, I have a whole building full of people that tell me how to do better. I don't need you to tell me that. I'll be fine.' But now you know, he'll call in and check in sometimes, ask how I'm doing."

"The Crucial Catch initiative and what it represents, what it promotes, impacts millions of families. My story is just one of many."



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# JAVON HARGRAVE

RELENTLESS IN HIS ROLE

BY ROB KLEIFIELD

## THERE'S MUCH TO SAY ABOUT A MAN OF FEW WORDS.

**When the Vikings signed defensive lineman Javon Hargrave to a two-year deal this past spring, former Vikings linebacker and current radio analyst for the team, Pete Bercich, said he jumped out of his chair.**

"This guy is an absolute menace on the field," Bercich ascertained as he studied Hargrave's tape.

In the thick of training camp, returning star Jonathan Greenard said, "I can't even describe" the pairing of Hargrave and Jonathan Allen.

"'Gravedigger,' as we call him, man, he's a dog. I've been watching him since he was in Philly, so I just know all about his game, and to see it in-person – it's no fraud at all, man."

The nickname, issued to Hargrave spur-of-the-moment by former South Carolina State Defensive Coordinator Mike Adams following Javon's first of 37 collegiate sacks, is perfect in origin. It has stuck like a bug in a Midwest summer – and now is perfect in Purple; 13 years and 47.5 professional sacks later.

During his first press conference with Twin Cities media back in March, Hargrave recognized the evolution of his position and money that's "jumped up for the defensive tackles who can pass rush."

Holy cow – and fortunate for him and the Vikings – does he do that well.

After a buzzworthy camp, Hargrave debuted in Week 1 as a starter for the defense he said he was enamored with when he was on the losing end of

Vikings wins against San Francisco in 2023 and 2024.

"Last year," he said in a hushed tone that juxtaposes his power-to-speed and speed-to-power pass rushes, "that was one of the craziest games I've seen, like how the defense came and played – sacking, catching picks and just causing havoc the whole game. I think that just kind of influenced my decision."

Hargrave's NFL CV, headlined by a couple Pro Bowls and Super Bowl appearances in back-to-back seasons on different lines – the Eagles in '22 and 49ers in '23 (both losses to Kansas City) – plus a history of making life miserable on opposing quarterbacks, was more than enough to influence Minnesota.

The Vikings, in an effort to more frequently invade offenses from the inside, welcomed Hargrave off a partially torn right triceps that limited his 2024 campaign to three games. His impact was instantaneous.

Together, Hargrave and Allen pressured Bears QB Caleb Williams 13 times in the season opener. Hargrave sacked the 2024 No. 1 overall draft pick twice; he stepped right and swam left to easily win a 1-on-1 matchup, crunching Williams in the pocket early in the Vikings fourth-quarter rally. Several



minutes later, after Minnesota claimed its first lead, Hargrave hustled hard to force Williams out of bounds for a 4-yard loss. His seven individual pressures surpassed former Viking Jonathan Bullard's tally across 17 games last season (6) and was approximately half as many as Harrison Phillips had (15).

Defensive Coordinator Brian Flores was specifically asked about the second sack in the aftermath. He smiled and said of Hargrave; "I believed he had the long speed [to cut Williams off]. I believed in him."

At 32 years old, 'Grave is the team's second-oldest defender (Harrison Smith, 36) and has earned the right to be a grumpy old vet, which Smith occasionally calls himself in self-deprecation; but you wouldn't know it by the way he conducts himself. To the perceiving eye, he's shy – smiley, kind and not talkative.

"Chill" is how Hargrave described himself. He's a country boy from smalltown Salisbury, North Carolina, after all. He seems exactly that, unchanged in terms of his personality despite a journey that's taken him to Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, San Francisco and now Minneapolis – big, bustling cities with chatter aplenty.

"He's soft-spoken whenever we're in a group setting," Vikings young defensive lineman Levi Drake Rodriguez said. "But once he's in that [d-line] room, man, he's a little jokester; you can hear his laugh."

It's akin to how he plays, the relentlessness he rushes the passer with – "contagious," Rodriguez added.

Another young interior player, Jalen Redmond, tried to imitate Hargrave's "hehehehe" in good fun.

"He's just a real quiet guy, which I like about him 'cause I'm kind of quiet around people," Redmond affirmed. "You hear that little funny laugh he's got, but outside of that, he doesn't really say too much."

Intentional or not, this take is true: Hargrave lets his play on the field do his talking.

"He's just a beast, honestly," Redmond said.

Hargrave has played 57 percent of Minnesota's defensive snaps across five games, the slight majority at right defensive tackle. He's tied for second on the defense with 2.0 sacks and leads Minnesota's interior defensive



linemen with 21 total tackles.

The in-game role is important, but so is Hargrave's purpose in practices and meeting rooms. It's not a coincidence that his arrival coincides with Redmond establishing himself as a force and Rodriguez breaking out as a rotational player. Both guys are picking their elder's brain, they said, and implementing things Hargrave does well to elevate their individual performance and of course the collective as a result.

"I'm a big mental guy. I like to see how people attack their day, how they take care of their body," Rodriguez said. "It's pretty cool to see; he wouldn't be this successful if he wasn't mentally tough."

Redmond, the Vikings sacks leader (3.0), trusts Hargrave for rush-plan tips – i.e. how he may attack a certain center or guard or how he does "his little step and swipe, which he defeats people with, and just seeing how quick he is off the ball," the ascending second-year player said. "It's been motivation for me."

Ironically, there's much to be said about someone who says so little. Hargrave doesn't have to tell you, though; he'd rather just do it. He sets the pace with his heat on the quarterback and warmth as a leader.

"We're all friends now," he said sincerely about the Vikings d-linemen in the dog days of camp.

The life-sized teddy bear probably would be friends with everyone – except opposing quarterbacks.





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TUESDAYS FROM 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM

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**SHAKOPEE BOWL**  
SHAKOPEE / 3020 W 133RD ST

**09.09**

**212 TAVERN**  
COLOGNE / 114 PAUL AVE S

**09.16**

**BLAINBROOK**  
BLAINE / 12000 CENTRAL AVE

**09.23**

**SHAMROCKS**  
ST. PAUL / 995 W 7TH 55102

**09.30**

**COWBOY JACK'S**  
BLOOMINGTON /  
2801 SOUTHTOWN DRCD

**10.14**

**DAVE'S TOWN CLUB**  
DELANO / 138 RIVER ST N

**10.21**

**MAMA G's**  
MAPLE GROVE /  
9705 COUNTY RD 101

**10.28**

**OFF THE RAILS**  
MINNEAPOLIS / 620 S FOURTH ST

**11.04**

**HOPPERS**  
(SALUTE TO SERVICE)  
WACONIA / 119 S OLIVE ST

**11.11**

**AMERICAN LEGION**  
**APPLE VALLEY**  
(SALUTE TO SERVICE)  
APPLE VALEY / 14521 GRANADA DR

**11.18**

**WILD BOAR**  
HOPKINS /  
1022 MAINSTREET

**11.25**

**TIFFANY SPORTS LOUNGE**  
ST. PAUL /  
2051 FORD PARKWAY #1932

**12.02**

**CARBONE'S PIZZA**  
**& PUB**  
ROSEMOUNT /  
14550 S ROBERT TRAIL

**12.09**

**MALONES**  
MAPLE GROVE /  
12635 ELM CREEK BLVD N

**12.16**

**LOOKOUT**  
(WHITE OUT WEEK)  
MAPLE GROVE /  
8672 PINEVIEW LN N

**12.23**

**BABE'S**  
(WHITE OUT WEEK)  
LAKEVILLE /  
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# HOPE, STRENGTH & THE POWER OF PREVENTION

BY LINDSEY YOUNG

## Today's game holds deep meaning for Zoe.

An MVC rookie this season, the 22-year-old has had today's Vikings Crucial Catch game circled on the calendar since making the team.

"This game is so much more than football to me," she said. "It's a reminder of why I keep pushing forward through the challenges I've faced."

Zoe is considered a severe-high-risk breast cancer patient. Though she does not have active cancer, her day-to-day bears similarities to someone who does — and she is facing significant surgeries in hopes of preserving her future.

Zoe's story started five years ago, when at just 17 years old she was flagged during a dance physical for breast cancer symptoms. Though her initial care providers expressed concern and recommended an ultrasound at the breast center, a physician there dismissed her symptoms and assured her she would be "fine."

She recalled feeling defeated as she exited that appointment; Zoe continued to experience symptoms that included severe

pain in her chest but did not re-address them with a doctor until three years later.

She remains incredibly grateful for that day, when her doctor insisted on further exams and referred her to an oncology center, where Zoe unfortunately met additional hurdles. Despite the fact her grandmother had battled Stage 4 breast cancer and tested positive for the BRCA2 gene mutation, Zoe initially was denied a chest MRI and mammogram, due to her age.

Zoe's mother, however, was approved for testing and was found also positive for the BRCA2 gene mutation, which significantly heightens the risk for multiple cancers. More than 60% of women who inherit a harmful change with BRCA1 or BRCA2 will develop breast cancer during their lifetime. By contrast, about 13% of women in the general population will.

Zoe finally was able to receive her own labs. She was positive for the gene mutation.

Zoe and her mother have





walked this journey side-by-side. They share the same oncologist and genetic counselor, and they've supported one another through painful testing, appointments, surgical procedures and regular MRIs.

The June before her senior year of college, Zoe underwent a triple screening appointment that included an ultrasound and biopsy, mammogram and MRI. She would soon be told the tests had revealed multiple lumps in her right breast, in addition to a stromal fibrosis in her chest that can lead to cancer.

"Although testing positive was emotionally difficult, it gave me the opportunity to finally get the testing I needed," Zoe explained. "I'll never forget the phone call with a genetic counselor telling me about the surgeries I would need, how I should have kids before 30, and how I could get a double mastectomy by 25. It was incredibly overwhelming."

Since her initial diagnosis, Zoe undergoes MRIs every six months that have shown five clumped mass enhancements, some of which have grown, in her breast.

The stromal fibrosis and masses sometimes cause severe pain, even during simple movements like changing into her MVC uniforms or being inadvertently bumped by a teammate.

Zoe will likely have surgery to remove the masses before ultimately having a double mastectomy.

"Although receiving this type of guidance at such a young age is rare, it reassures me that these steps will help me have a healthier future," Zoe said. "My mother has already undergone one of her preventative surgeries, and I was there with her the entire time. Seeing her strength and talking with her surgeon was incredibly informative and gave me insight for my own future."

Facing this reality in her early 20s has been extremely difficult, and Zoe is deeply grateful for the love and support she receives daily from her family, her life partner and the MVC sisterhood.

"Having the support of my coaches, Jacie and Karen, means the world to me. Both inspire me in so many ways and are the epitome of strong women," Zoe said. "They motivate me to stay strong and to face these challenges with kindness and perseverance. Their support also makes me want to do great and be great for them and this team, even amid

all the challenges.

"This team has been so supportive, and I've built such close relationships that I feel like I can really lean on them if I need something," she added.

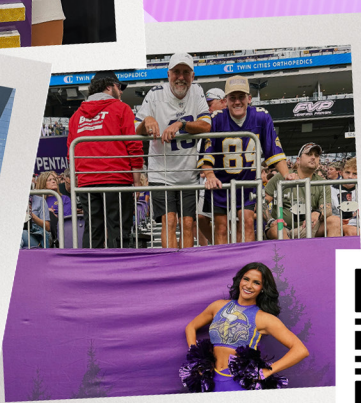
A dancer since the age of 2, Zoe finds comfort and encouragement not only in physically moving her body but in the camaraderie of being part of a team. She danced year-round during her childhood and throughout high school, after which she was recommended to step away due to overuse injuries. Zoe pivoted during her college years to coaching, which kept her near the sport she loves.

"As I slowly healed, I used the studio to try things just for fun; and thanks to my love for the gym and strength training during, I ended up doing things during that time I'd never done before. That was right around the time I was about to enter a chapter of my life that would change me forever," Zoe said. "Dance stayed with me at the beginning of my BRCA2 journey and gave me purpose and drive to live my life to the fullest."

She added: "A long and healthy life is such a gift, and to be part of this team for even a small fraction of that is such an honor."

Up to this point, Zoe has traveled much of her medical journey with minimal discussion. But she's now decided it's time to share her story.

"I'm reminded every six months during my MRIs this is my new normal," she said. "With knowing the mission and cause behind Crucial Catch ... it just felt like the right time to share, ahead of experiencing this part of my life – and the game – together with my teammates."



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TRADEHOME SHOES & VIKINGS

# EXPAND BACK-TO-SCHOOL EVENT

BY ROB KLEIFIELD

**Mark Jacobson surveyed his surroundings and struggled to find the words.**

Recently, a handful of Vikings players spent their day off greatly impacting a different game: life. They gathered at TCO Stadium to surprise about 2,000 youth on hand for the fourth-annual Tradehome Shoes event that is designed to help gear up kids from adoption and foster agencies for the school year.

Jacobson got emotional as he studied the scene, kids blanketing the space with warmth and happiness.

"It makes you tear up," the Tradehome Vice President of Store Personnel said. "It feels good to see how it grows and evolves and becomes a living, breathing [entity]. It's so much more than one person and one person's idea. And then even to think about that fourth-grade class and how each one of them gained some knowledge and now they are all going to go out there and possibly doing different things in their community. It's just unbelievable – a pinch-yourself moment. I don't know,

it's hard to describe."

At this year's event, straight from tables containing endless rows of shoe boxes piled over six-feet high, a little more than 2,000 pairs were distributed, along with bundles of socks and free meals for participants.

"The cool part of it is to be able to see each year how it's grown and evolved," Jacobson reflected. "We get a little more efficient each year, but it's how it's grown inside of the community – the first year had like 300 kids and then it went to like 700 or 800 kids and last year 1,600 kids, and this year there's nearly 2,000. I'd say it's one of my favorite days if not my favorite day of the year."

That sentiment rings true from the players' perspectives.

"This is what it's all about, if I'm being honest," running back Xavier Scott expressed.

"I just love that the people

are coming here, they're enjoying it, they're smiling, they're having a good time, and it's just, there's purpose behind all the stuff that happens on the field. There's people that are being blessed, and there's a lot of special people here. I can feel the love, and I'd like to give it back."

Veteran long snapper Andrew DePaola and second-year outside linebacker Dallas Turner agreed. DePaola called the fourth-year turnout "jaw-dropping"; Turner was honored to do "the Lord's work."

"I love this side of [being a professional athlete]," said DePaola, who has attended the event twice before. "Just to use our platform to help give back, help kids who may need it a little more than some other kids. But anytime I can go out in the community to show my face, get to talk with fans, get to talk with people and get to connect with them on a personal level; that's what really means the most to me."





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# FAVES

**Vikings receivers Jalen Nailor and Jordan Addison are gamers on and off the field.**

When we chatted with them during minicamp, they each highlighted a gaming system as their favorite childhood gift: an Xbox for Nailor and Sony PSP Go for Addison.

Minnesota selected Nailor in the sixth round of the 2022 NFL Draft and the following year tabbed Addison 23rd overall. Though they couldn't have grown up much farther away from each other (Nailor hailing from California and Addison from Maryland), the wideouts have enjoyed sharing an NFL locker room and making an impact in a talented position group.

Beyond video game consoles, here's a look at five of their other faves:



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NAILOR**

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BY MADIE GILE

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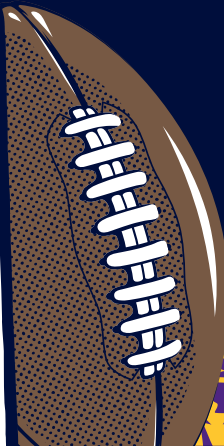


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