

# WAS

WK 14 12.07

MINN  
VS WAS



FB  
C.J. HAM



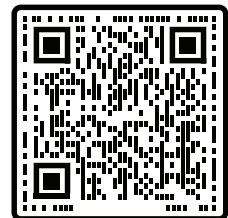
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**EDITOR:** Craig Peters

**COPY EDITOR:** Lindsey Young

**WRITERS:** Rob Kleifield, Craig Peters & Lindsey Young

**ART DIRECTION & DESIGN:**

Jordan Anderson, Elizabeth Douglas, Alicia Dreyer, Ashley Harris, John Paul Nguyen, Joey Snippes and Jacqueline Ramacher

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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.



MINNESOTA VIKINGS

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# MIN vs.

# WAS



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## 2025 TEAM STATS

YARDS PER GAME / ALLOWED

	RUSH	PASS
<b>MIN OFF</b>	99.4	173.2
	272.6   29TH IN THE NFL	
<b>WAS DEF</b>	133.3	254.9
	388.3   31ST IN THE NFL	
<b>WAS OFF</b>	138.9	198.7
	337.6   15TH IN THE NFL	
<b>MIN DEF</b>	128.4	178.4
	306.8   10TH IN THE NFL	

## WALTER PAYTON NFL MAN OF THE YEAR NOMINEE

Fullback C.J. Ham was selected by teammates for the second consecutive season as Minnesota's nominee for the Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year Award, which was first presented in 1970 and recognizes excellence on and off the field.

- Cris Carter 1996-99
- Robert Griffith 2000
- Matt Birk 2001-08
- E.J. Henderson 2009
- Madiou Williams 2010
- Chad Greenway 2011; 2014-16
- Adrian Peterson 2012
- John Sullivan 2013
- Kyle Rudolph 2017-19
- Eric Kendricks 2020
- Anthony Barr 2021
- Adam Thielen 2022
- Harrison Phillips 2023
- C.J. Ham 2024-25

Please join in celebrating the community impact of C.J. and his family.

## DEC. 7, 2025 | U.S. BANK STADIUM

### WELCOME TO THE 29TH ALL-TIME MEETING BETWEEN MINNESOTA AND WASHINGTON.

The Vikings are 15-13 in the series, including 13-10 in regular-season games and 2-3 in postseason contests.

Minnesota has won the past three contests between the teams, beginning with a 38-30 win at Washington in 2017 and including a 19-9 decision in 2019, Washington's only previous trip to U.S. Bank Stadium.

In-game entertainment

elements for today's game include the following:

### NATIONAL ANTHEM

Minnesota-raised country singer/songwriter Cori Kennedy, who recently competed for Team Reba on Season 28 of "The Voice" will sing the National Anthem.

### COLOR GUARD

St. John's ROTC will present the colors.

### HALFTIME

The Minnesota Wind Chill, the 2024 UFA Champions, will host the D.C. Breeze in a professional Ultimate Frisbee exhibition.

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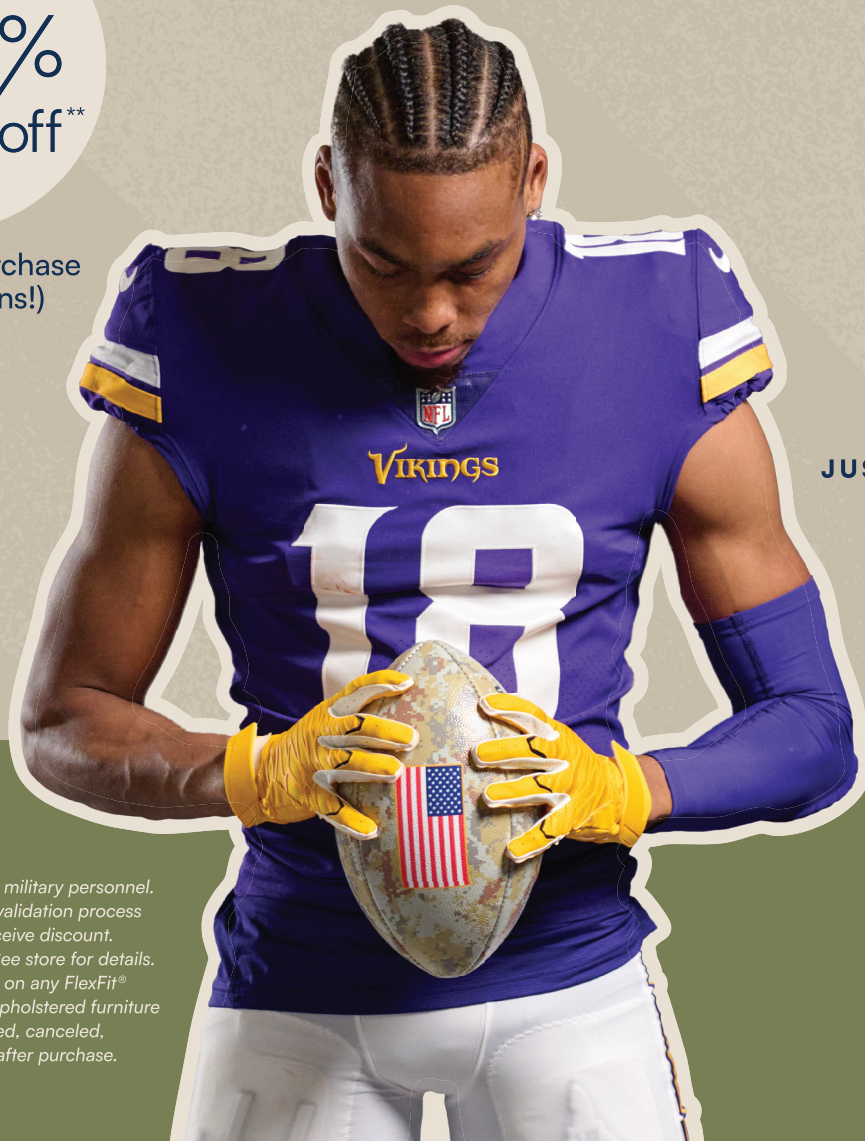
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# TODAY'S

# GAME

PROMOTIONS & CONTESTS

## SACKS FOR WINGS

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

Visit [nmdp.org/vikings](http://nmdp.org/vikings) to make a difference!



## 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

## 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.



## SPALON MONTAGE GIVEAWAY

Spalon Montage is giving one lucky fan a \$200 gift card to go get their hair done like the Minnesota Vikings Cheerleaders! Follow @Spalon1991 on Instagram and scan this QR code to be entered!

**SPALON**  
EST. 1991





## 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.



## WINTER WHITEOUT SWEEPSTAKES



Enter for your chance to win the U.S. Bank Winter Whiteout Sweepstakes, a fan experience fit for a Viking. Prizes include two suite tickets for the Dec. 25 Winter Whiteout game, pregame field passes and a Vikings swag bag!



## BOGO BALL

They get the ball, you get a BOGO Caribou Coffee! Whenever the 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 game. Visit [vikings.com/caribou](https://vikings.com/caribou) for your digital coupon and 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.



## WIN TICKETS TO MIN VS. GB

Scan the QR code to enter to win four tickets to watch the Minnesota Vikings take on the Green Bay Packers in January. Plus, we'll hook you up with pregame pops and some exclusive, COOL JonnyPops swag to rep your favorite frozen treat.



## 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!





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# ANDREW VAN GINKEL

ANDREW VAN GINKEL IS SET TO PLAY HIS 25TH REGULAR-SEASON GAME AS A VIKING AND 98TH IN THE NFL.

The Rock Valley, Iowa, native provides quite a presence for the Vikings defense thanks to his elite instincts and versatile skill set, which helped him garner a selection to the Pro Bowl and Second-Team All-Pro honors last season.

This year, Van Ginkel returned to action after dealing with a neck

injury. He has recorded 4.0 sacks, seven tackles for loss and five passes defended through seven games. Van Ginkel has been effective when dropping into coverage, limiting foes to a 64.3 completion percentage (9-for-14) and a passer rating of 73.8.

## COMBO PLATTER

Van Ginkel is one of four players since he entered the NFL in 2019 with at least 55 tackles for loss, 32 passes defended and four forced fumbles. He is joined by Lavonte David, Cameron Heyward and T.J. Watt.

**@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  
L, 28-22 **PHI**

**@LAC** WK8  
L, 37-10

**@DET** WK9  
W, 27-24

WK10  
L, 27-19 **BAL**

WK11  
L, 19-17 **CHI**

**@GB** WK12  
L, 23-6

**@SEA** WK13  
L, 26-0

WK14  
DEC. 7 **WAS**

**@DAL** WK15  
DEC. 14

**@NYG** WK16  
DEC. 21

WK17  
DEC. 25 **DET**

WK18  
TBD **GB**

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WHITEOUT  
JERSEY**



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# VIKINGS ROSTER

ROSTER AS OF PRINT DEADLINE (12.03.25)

#	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	EXP	COLLEGE	HOMETOWN
0	Ivan Pace Jr.	LB	5-10	236	24	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
7	Byron Murphy Jr.	CB	5-11	190	27	7	Washington	Scottsdale, AZ
9	J.J. McCarthy	QB	6-3	219	22	2	Michigan	La Grange Park, IL
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
22	Harrison Smith	S	6-2	211	36	14	Notre Dame	Knoxville, TN
23	Fabian Moreau	CB	6-0	204	31	9	UCLA	Ft. Lauderdale, FL
24	Jay Ward	S	6-1	190	25	3	LSU	Moultrie, GA
26	Theo Jackson	S	6-1	205	27	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
33	Aaron Jones Sr.	RB	5-10	208	31	9	UTEP	El Paso, TX
36	Zavier Scott	RB	6-1	221	26	2	Maine	Fort Hood, TX
37	Tavierre Thomas	S	5-10	212	29	8	Ferris State	Detroit, MI
42	Andrew DePaola	LS	6-1	227	38	11	Rutgers	Parkton, MD
43	Andrew Van Ginkel	OLB	6-4	242	30	7	Wisconsin	Rock Valley, IA
44	Joshua Metellus	S	5-11	208	27	6	Michigan	Pembroke Pines, FL
50	Levi Drake Rodriguez	DL	6-2	307	25	2	East Texas A&M	Georgetown, TX
51	Blake Cashman	LB	6-1	235	29	7	Minnesota	Eden Prairie, MN
55	Eric Wilson	LB	6-1	231	30	9	Cincinnati	Redford, MI
56	Austin Keys	LB	6-2	244	23	R	Auburn	Taylorsville, MS
57	Chaz Chambliss	OLB	6-1	244	23	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	29	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	23	R	Ohio State	Cypress, TX
75	Brian O'Neill	T	6-7	310	30	8	Pittsburgh	Wilmington, DE
76	Will Fries	G	6-6	321	27	5	Penn State	Cranford, NJ
78	Ryan Kelly	C	6-4	315	32	10	Alabama	West Chester, OH
84	Josh Oliver	TE	6-5	264	28	7	San Jose State	Paso Robles, CA
85	Ben Yurosek	TE	6-4	251	23	R	Georgia	Bakersfield, CA
87	T.J. Hockenson	TE	6-5	248	28	7	Iowa	Chariton, IA
89	Ben Sims	TE	6-5	250	25	3	Baylor	San Antonio, TX
90	Tyrion Ingram-Dawkins	DL	6-5	290	22	R	Georgia	Gaffney, SC

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE...

#	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	EXP	COLLEGE	HOMETOWN
93	Jonathan Allen	DL	6-3	300	30	9	Alabama	Ashburn, VA
96	Tyler Batty	OLB	6-6	271	26	R	BYU	Payson, UT
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
8	Jeff Okudah	CB	6-1	205	26	6	Ohio State	Grand Prairie, TX
11	Carson Wentz	QB	6-5	237	32	10	North Dakota State	Bismarck, ND
32	Ty Chandler	RB	5-11	205	27	4	North Carolina	Nashville, TN
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/PHYSICALLY UNABLE TO PERFORM								
86	Gavin Bartholomew	TE	6-5	249	22	R	Pittsburgh	Schuylkill Haven, PA
PRACTICE SQUAD								
5	John Wolford	QB	6-1	218	30	4	Wake Forest	Jacksonville, FL
6	Dwight McGlothern Jr.	CB	6-2	185	23	2	Arkansas	Houston, TX
23	Fabian Moreau	CB	6-0	204	31	9	UCLA	Fort Lauderdale, FL
25	Kahlef Hailassie	S	6-1	195	25	2	Western Kentucky	Elk Grove, CA
29	Tyrek Funderburk	CB	6-0	185	25	2	Appalachian State	Indian Trail, NC
34	Zemaiah Vaughn	CB	6-3	180	23	R	Utah	Beaumont, TX
40	Sione Takitaki	LB	6-1	245	30	7	BYU	Menifee, CA
59	Gabriel Murphy	OLB	6-2	248	25	1	UCLA	Dallas, TX
63	Max Pircher*	OL	6-7	318	26	4	Innsbruck	Bressanone, Italy
66	Vershon Lee	G	6-4	318	24	R	South Carolina	Woodbridge, VA
68	Henry Byrd	G	6-5	314	26	2	Princeton	Nashville, TN
81	Dontae Fleming	WR	6-2	180	23	R	Tulane	LaPlace, LA
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
92	Jonathan Harris	DL	6-5	295	29	6	Lindenwood	Aurora, IL
94	Taki Taimani	DL	6-1	324	26	2	Oregon	Salt Lake City, UT

\*INTERNATIONAL PLAYER PATHWAY

ROSTER AS OF PRINT DEADLINE (12.03.25)

## 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 Sims
WR	Addison	Felton	
QB	McCarthy	Brosmer	
RB	Jones Sr.	Mason	Scott
FB	Ham		

### VIKINGS DEFENSE

OLB	Greenard	Richter	Batty
DL	Allen	Ingram-Dawkins	
DL	Redmond	Williams	
DL	Hargrave	Rodriguez	
OLB	Van Ginkel	Turner	Chambliss
LB	Cashman	Pace Jr.	
LB	Wilson	Keys	
CB	Murphy Jr.		
CB	Rodgers	Moreau	
S	Smith	T. Jackson	Thomas
S	Metellus	Ward	



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# FIRST TEAMS



**33**  
RUNNING BACK  
AARON  
JONES SR.



**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



**74**  
LEFT GUARD  
DONOVAN  
JACKSON



**71**  
LEFT TACKLE  
CHRISTIAN  
DARRISAW



**18**  
WIDE RECEIVER  
JUSTIN  
JEFFERSON

## VIKINGS OFFENSE

## COMMANDERS DEFENSE



**31**  
CORNERBACK  
JONATHAN  
JONES



**52**  
DEFENSIVE END  
PRESTON  
SMITH



**94**  
DEFENSIVE TACKLE  
DARON  
PAYNE



**99**  
DEFENSIVE TACKLE  
JAVON  
KINLAW



**55**  
DEFENSIVE END  
JACOB  
MARTIN



**0**  
CORNERBACK  
MIKE  
SAINRISTIL



**24**  
OUTSIDE LINEBACKER  
VON MILLER



**6**  
OR CORNERBACK  
NOAH  
IGBINOGHENE



**39**  
STRONG SAFETY  
JEREMY REAVES



**54**  
LINEBACKER  
BOBBY  
WAGNER



**4**  
LINEBACKER  
FRANKIE  
LUVU



**20**  
SAFETY  
QUAN  
MARTIN

## 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



**55**  
LINEBACKER  
ERIC WILSON



**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

### COMMANDERS OFFENSE



**17**  
WIDE RECEIVER  
TERRY  
McLAURIN



**83**  
WIDE RECEIVER  
JAYLIN  
LANE



**78**  
LEFT TACKLE  
LAREMY  
TUNSIL



**75**  
LEFT GUARD  
CHRIS  
PAUL



**63**  
CENTER  
TYLER  
BIADASZ



**76**  
RIGHT GUARD  
SAM  
COSMI



**72**  
RIGHT TACKLE  
JOSH  
CONERLY JR.



**86**  
TIGHT  
END  
ZACH  
ERTZ



**1**  
WIDE  
RECEIVER  
DEEBO  
SAMUEL



**5**  
QUARTERBACK  
JAYDEN  
DANIELS



**22**  
RUNNING BACK  
JACORY  
CROSKEY-MERRITT

### COMMANDERS SPECIAL TEAMS



**16**  
KICKER  
JAKE  
MOODY



**10**  
PUNTER  
TRESS  
WAY



**69**  
LONG SNAPPER  
TYLER  
OTT



**83**  
PUNT RETURNER  
JAYLIN  
LANE



**1**  
KICKOFF  
RETURNER  
DEEBO SAMUEL



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# COMMANDERS ROSTER

ROSTER AS OF PRINT DEADLINE (12.03.25)

#	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	EXP	COLLEGE	HOMETOWN
0	Mike Sainristil	CB	5-10	182	25	2	Michigan	Everett, MA
1	Deebo Samuel Sr.	WR	6-0	215	29	7	South Carolina	Inman, SC
3	Will Harris	S	6-1	206	29	7	Boston College	Suwanee, GA
4	Frankie Luvu	LB	6-3	235	28	8	Washington State	Tafuna, American Samoa
5	Jayden Daniels	QB	6-4	210	24	2	LSU	San Bernardino, CA
6	Noah Igbinoghene	CB	5-11	197	25	6	Auburn	Trussville, AL
8	Marcus Mariota	QB	6-4	222	32	11	Oregon	Honolulu, HI
10	Tress Way	P	6-1	220	35	12	Oklahoma	Tulsa, OK
13	Treyton Burks	WR	6-2	225	25	4	Arkansas	Warren, AR
14	Josh Johnson	QB	6-3	214	39	16	San Diego	Oakland, CA
16	Jake Moody	K	6-1	210	25	3	Michigan	Northville, MI
17	Terry McLaurin	WR	6-0	210	30	7	Ohio State	Indianapolis, IN
18	Tyler Owens	S	6-2	213	24	2	Texas Tech	Plano, TX
19	Chris Moore	WR	6-1	200	32	10	Cincinnati	Tampa, FL
20	Quan Martin	S	6-0	195	25	3	Illinois	Lehigh Acres, FL
22	Jacory Croskey-Merritt	RB	5-11	208	24	R	Arizona	Montgomery, AL
24	Von Miller	OLB	6-3	250	36	15	Texas A&M	DeSoto, TX
25	Darnell Savage	S	5-11	198	28	7	Maryland	Newark, DE
26	Jeremy McNichols	RB	5-9	205	29	9	Boise State	Long Beach, CA
31	Jonathan Jones	CB	5-9	185	32	10	Auburn	Carrollton, GA
34	Antonio Hamilton Sr.	CB	6-0	200	32	10	South Carolina State	Johnston, SC
35	Percy Butler	S	6-0	190	25	4	Louisiana	Plaquemine, LA
36	Chris Rodriguez Jr.	RB	5-11	224	26	3	Kentucky	McDonough, GA
39	Jeremy Reaves	S	5-11	200	29	8	South Alabama	Pensacola, FL
51	Ale Kaho	LB	6-2	230	25	R	UCLA	Reno, NV
52	Preston Smith	DE	6-5	271	32	11	Mississippi State	Stone Mountain, GA
54	Bobby Wagner	LB	6-0	242	35	14	Utah State	Ontario, CA
55	Jacob Martin	DE	6-2	242	29	8	Temple	Aurora, CO
56	Kain Medrano	LB	6-3	230	24	R	UCLA	Pueblo, CO
57	Nick Bellore	LB	6-1	250	36	15	Central Michigan	Whitefish Bay, WI
58	Jordan Magee	LB	6-3	225	24	2	Temple	Dover, DE
63	Tyler Biadasz	CB	6-3	316	27	6	Wisconsin	Amherst, WI
67	Nick Allegretti	G	6-4	310	29	7	Illinois	Frankfort, IL
69	Tyler Ott	LS	6-3	252	33	11	Harvard	Tulsa, OK
71	Andrew Wylie	T/G	6-5	304	31	8	Eastern Michigan	Midland, MI
72	Josh Conerly Jr.	T	6-4	315	22	R	Oregon	Seattle, WA
73	Trent Scott	T	6-5	320	31	8	Grambling State	Huntsville, AL
74	Brandon Coleman	G	6-6	320	25	2	TCU	Denton, TX
75	Chris Paul	G	6-4	324	26	4	Tulsa	Houston, TX
76	Sam Cosmi	T/G	6-7	309	26	5	Texas	Humble, TX
77	George Fant	T	6-5	316	33	10	Western Kentucky	Bowling Green, KY
78	Laremy Tunsil	T	6-5	313	31	10	Mississippi	Lake City, FL
80	Colson Yankoff	TE	6-4	225	25	2	UCLA	Coeur d'Alene, ID
82	Ben Sinnott	TE	6-4	245	23	2	Kansas State	Waterloo, IA
83	Jaylin Lane	WR	5-10	196	23	R	Virginia Tech	Clover, SC
86	Zach Ertz	TE	6-5	250	34	12	Stanford	Alamo, CA
87	John Bates	TE	6-6	256	27	5	Boise State	Lebanon, OR

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE...

#	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	EXP	COLLEGE	HOMETOWN
94	Daron Payne	DT	6-3	320	28	8	Alabama	Birmingham, AL
95	Jer'Zhan Newton	DT	6-2	295	23	2	Illinois	St. Petersburg, FL
96	Jalyn Holmes	DE	6-5	283	29	8	Ohio State	Norfolk, VA
97	Eddie Goldman	DT	6-3	320	31	10	Florida State	Washington, D.C.
98	Sheldon Day	DT	6-1	294	31	10	Notre Dame	Indianapolis, IN
99	Javon Kinlaw	DT	6-5	319	28	6	South Carolina	Charleston, SC

#### PRACTICE SQUAD

15	Sam Hartman	QB	6-1	209	26	1	Notre Dame	Charlotte, NC
22	Car'lin Vigers	CB	6-2	200	25	R	Louisiana-Monroe	Eunice, LA
29	Darius Rush	CB	6-2	198	25	2	South Carolina	Kingstree, SC
32	Donovan Edwards	RB	5-11	205	22	R	Michigan	West Bloomfield, MI
38	Chase Edmonds	RB	5-9	205	29	8	Fordham	Harrisburg, PA
41	Daryl Worley	S	6-1	205	30	10	West Virginia	Philadelphia, PA
46	Tre Hawkins III	CB	6-3	195	25	3	Old Dominion	Temple, TX
47	Robert McDaniel	S	6-2	207	25	R	Jackson State	Jackson, MS
48	River Cracraft	WR	6-0	198	31	7	Washington State	Santa Margarita, CA
50	DeMarcus Walker	DE	6-4	280	31	9	Florida State	Jacksonville, FL
59	T.J. Maguranyanga*	DE	6-4	222	22	R		Harare, Zimbabwe
60	Michael Deiter	C	6-6	315	29	7	Wisconsin	Curtice, OH
61	Julian Good-Jones	G	6-5	313	28	2	Iowa State	Cedar Rapids, IA
66	Ricky Barber	DT	6-3	295	24	R	UCF	Louisville, KY
68	Timothy McKay	G	6-4	312	23	R	N.C.	State Raleigh, NC
88	Ja'Corey Brooks (INJ.)	WR	6-3	195	24	R	Louisville	Miami, FL
89	Lawrence Cager	TE	6-5	220	28	4	Georgia	Baltimore, MD

\*INTERNATIONAL PLAYER PATHWAY

#### INJURED RESERVE

2	Marshon Lattimore	CB	6-0	192	29	9	Ohio State	Cleveland, OH
11	Luke McCaffrey	WR	6-2	195	24	2	Rice	Highlands Ranch, CO
23	Trey Amos	CB	6-1	190	23	R	Mississippi	New Iberia, LA
30	Austin Ekeler	RB	5-10	200	30	9	Western Colorado	Eaton, CA
53	Lucas Niang	T	6-6	315	27	4	TCU	New Canaan, CT
80	Tyree Jackson	TE	6-7	249	28	3	Buffalo	Norton Shores, MI
85	Noah Brown	WR	6-2	225	29	9	Ohio State	Flanders, NJ
90	Javontae Jean-Baptiste	DE	6-4	260	25	2	Notre Dame	Spring Valley, NY
91	Deatrich Wise Jr.	DE	6-5	280	31	9	Arkansas	Carrollton, TX
93	Drake Jackson	DE	6-4	273	24	3	USC	Corona, CA

## UNOFFICIAL DEPTH CHART

### COMMANDERS OFFENSE

<b>WR</b>	McLaurin	Burks		
<b>WR</b>	Lane			
<b>LT</b>	Tunsil	Fant		
<b>LG</b>	Paul	Coleman		
<b>C</b>	Biadasz	Allegretti		
<b>RG</b>	Cosmi	Wylie		
<b>RT</b>	Conerly Jr.	Scott		
<b>TE</b>	Ertz	Bates	Sinnott	Yankoff
<b>WR</b>	Samuel	Moore		
<b>RB</b>	Croskey-Merritt	McNichols	Rodriguez Jr.	
<b>QB</b>	Daniels	Mariota	Johnson	

### COMMANDERS DEFENSE

<b>DE</b>	Smith	Holmes		
<b>DT</b>	Payne	Newton	Day	
<b>DT</b>	Kinlaw	Goldman		
<b>DE</b>	Martin	Holmes		
<b>OLB</b>	Miller			
<b>LB</b>	Wagner	Magee	Medrano	
<b>LB</b>	Luvu	Bellore	Kaho	
<b>CB</b>	Jones	Hamilton Sr.		
<b>CB</b>	Igbinoghene			
<b>CB</b>	Sainristil			
<b>SS</b>	Reaves	Butler	Owens	
<b>FS</b>	Martin	Savage		

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**WK1**  
W, 21-6 **NYG**

**GB** **WK2**  
L, 27-18

**WK3**  
W, 41-24 **LV**

**ATL** **WK4**  
L, 34-27

**LAC** **WK5**  
W, 27-10

**WK6**  
L, 25-24 **CHI**

**DAL** **WK7**  
L, 44-22

**KC** **WK8**  
L, 28-7

**WK9**  
L, 38-14 **SEA**

**WK10**  
L, 44-22 **DET**

**MIA** **WK11**  
L, 16-13 OT

**BYE** **WK12**  
NOV. 23

**WK13**  
L, 27-26 OT **DEN**

**MIN** **WK14**  
DEC. 7

**NYG** **WK15**  
DEC. 14

**WK16**  
DEC. 20 **PHI**

**DAL** **WK17**  
DEC. 25

**PHI** **WK18**  
TBD



# VON MILLER

VON MILLER IS SET TO PLAY HIS 199TH REGULAR-SEASON GAME AS HE CONTINUES HIS FIRST SEASON WITH THE COMMANDERS.

Miller, 36, has climbed the career sacks leaderboard with 5.0 so far in 2025. He enters today's contest with 134.5, which ranks 13th overall on the NFL's official list (since 1982) and 18th among

players since 1960. Miller is now chasing Jared Allen (136) and Richard Dent and John Randle (137.5 each). The eight-time Pro Bowler, three-time First-Team All-Pro and Super Bowl 50 MVP is a member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame's All-2010s Team.

## ANNUAL PRODUCTION

Miller has had at least 5.0 sacks in 13 of 14 seasons played (excludes 2020, which he missed with an ankle injury).

# SERIES HISTORY



## ALL-TIME RESULTS

### REGULAR SEASON

VIKINGS ARE 15-13

IN 28 GAMES

INCLUDES 2-3 POSTSEASON

### LONGEST WIN STREAK

7 BY WASHINGTON

(Jan. 15, 1983 – Jan. 2, 1993)

## FIRST MEETING

NOV. 3, 1968 | IN MIN | MINNESOTA 27, WASHINGTON 14

Gene Washington caught touchdowns of 5 and 61 yards from Joe Kapp, and Charlie West returned a punt a franchise-record 98 yards for a touchdown in building a 27-0 lead in the fourth quarter. Paul Krause recorded Minnesota's lone interception against the team that drafted him in the second round in 1964.

## PREVIOUS MEETING

NOV. 6, 2022 | AT WAS | MINNESOTA 20, WASHINGTON 17

Minnesota overcame Cam Bynum colliding with a ref on a 49-yard Washington TD thanks to a fourth-quarter interception by Harrison Smith and a remarkable TD catch by Dalvin Cook on a 12-yard pass from Kirk Cousins two plays later. The Vikings orchestrated a drive that lasted almost all of the final six minutes of regulation before ending with a 28-yard field goal with 12 seconds remaining. T.J. Hockenson caught nine passes for 70 yards in his Vikings debut, and Justin Jefferson caught seven passes for 115 yards with one score.

## THROWBACK MOMENT

### ASIATA 1, 2 & 3

Matt Asiata scored three go-ahead rushing touchdowns, putting Minnesota up 14-10, 21-20 and 29-26 for the final margin against Washington on Nov. 2, 2014. Playing the first of two seasons at the University of Minnesota, rookie Teddy Bridgewater completed 26 of 42 passes for 268 yards and started the Vikings

scoring with a 20-yard touchdown to tight end Chase Ford.

Captain Munnerylyn recorded the game's only interception. Chad Greenway, Everson Griffen, Anthony Barr and Brian Robison each recorded sacks, and Sharrif Floyd and Tom Johnson split another against Robert Griffin III. Floyd is now a Washington assistant coach.

## TOP 2 AGAINST COMMANDERS

### RUSHING YARDS

**109** Toby Gerhart on 11 attempts at Washington (Dec. 24, 2011)

**103** Robert Smith on 24 attempts in Minnesota (Oct. 18, 1998)

### PASSING YARDS

**490** Tommy Kramer on 20-of-35 passing at Washington (Nov. 2, 1986)

**357** Fran Tarkenton on 27-of-37 passing at Washington (Nov. 30, 1975)

### RECEIVING YARDS

**179** Steve Jordan on six catches at Washington (Nov. 2, 1986)

**166** Adam Thielen on eight catches at Washington (Nov. 12, 2017)

## AGAINST VIKINGS

### RUSHING YARDS

**139** Alfred Morris on 26 attempts in Minnesota (Nov. 7, 2013)

**138** Robert Griffin III on 13 attempts at Washington (Oct. 14, 2012)

### PASSING YARDS

**378** Jay Schroeder on 24-of-47 passing at Washington (Nov. 2, 1986)

**327** Kirk Cousins on 26-of-45 passing at Washington (Nov. 12, 2017)

### RECEIVING YARDS

**164** Ricky Sanders on eight catches in Minnesota (Dec. 26, 1987)

**123** Gary Clark on six catches at Washington (Nov. 2, 1986)





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DEC. 25



**MIN vs. GB**

TBD



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# Q&A WILL REICHARD

BY TATUM EVERETT

**Will Reichard's résumé is worthy of a Pro Bowl selection, but that's not his focus.**

He doesn't harp on field goal distances, no matter how long or historically significant. Instead, he directs his thoughts to quality contact on the ball and leg speed.

You can vote to send the second-year kicker to his first Pro Bowl by scanning this code:



Now that that's taken care of, read this interview with Vikings Entertainment Network's Tatum Everett to find out more about what makes Minnesota's kicker tick.

**Q: WHAT'S BEEN THE KEY TO YOUR CONSISTENCY THIS SEASON?**

A: Just another year of experience and being comfortable out there on the field, playing free. [Holder] Ryan [Wright] and [long snapper Andrew DePaola] have made it really easy for me. And then we've got the best field goal protection in the league. They keep it clean, so they give me the best opportunity to go through and do my job.

**Q: EARLIER THIS SEASON, YOU MADE A FRANCHISE-RECORD 62-YARD FIELD**

**GOAL. HOW DO YOU APPROACH THAT AND NOT MAKE THE MOMENT TOO BIG FOR YOURSELF?**

A: Just trying to go out there and execute, try to keep it simple. Anytime you make a field goal bigger than what it is, no matter the situation or how much time is on the clock, what the score is like, that's just a bunch of external factors that you're putting on yourself. If you can just make it as simple as possible, like we're out there on the practice field just trying to make kicks, the more you can put yourself in that mentality, I think the better chance you have.

**Q: AT GREEN BAY YOU BECAME THE FIRST NFL KICKER WITH FOUR FIELD GOALS OF 59-PLUS YARDS IN ONE SEASON. WHAT HAS IT BEEN LIKE TO CHASE RECORDS?**

A: I honestly didn't even realize that was the case until someone said it after the game. That was pretty cool. I mean, obviously, losing was tough, and you're kind of in that mindset, but it was a little bit of a bright spot. I don't really think too much about it. Just try to go out there and make my kicks.

**Q: HOW DO YOU PREPARE MENTALLY FOR LONG-DISTANCE KICKS LIKE THAT?**

A: I think it's just trusting the preparation. I honestly don't hit too many in practice during the week, just because if I'm hitting one from 55, I can see how much it has left on it. So that's kind of my gauge. I don't really want to go back super far all the time, because I



think it creates a little bit of bad habits like swinging a little too hard. If you go back too far, you could create some technique things that probably aren't going to work out the best. Whenever I get in that situation, I just know I have a little bit of adrenaline, so the ball goes a little bit farther, and I just trust in my operation and my offensive line to block for me, too.

**Q: AT WHAT POINT DID YOU REALIZE YOU COULD KICK THAT FAR?**

A: Probably in high school. I've been kicking since I was in second grade, which is pretty uncommon, I would say. I mean, most guys probably start eighth or ninth grade, so I've been doing it for a while, and just fell in love with it at a young age.

**Q: KICKERS ARE HAVING BANNER SEASONS RIGHT NOW, ALL THESE LONG-DISTANCE FIELD GOALS BEING MADE. WHAT IS IT ABOUT THE EVOLUTION OF THE KICKER THAT'S ENABLED THAT TREND?**

A: I think guys are just getting better. You look in college and high school, and guys there are even better than they were 10 years ago. Guys start training younger and younger, and there's better coaching out there. Guys are getting faster, stronger, just like any other position.

**Q: HOW MUCH OF YOUR SUCCESS COMES FROM THE TECHNIQUE THAT YOU'VE WORKED ON THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE YEAR, VERSUS THE POWER OF THE ACTUAL KICK?**

A: I think it's mostly technique. I mean, there's a reason you don't see guys who can squat 800 pounds

out there kicking field goals. It's not necessarily about leg strength. It's more about leg speed and technique. And the guys that can do that the best are the ones that kick it the farthest.

**Q: HOW DO YOU BALANCE THE RIGHT TYPE OF WORKOUTS IN THE WEIGHT ROOM?**

A: I work out probably more than most kickers. I know there's some guys that don't really even go in the weight room at all. I'm not a huge weights guy by any means, but I will go in there and work out. For me, it's more about leg speed, so more sprinting and running agility stuff, trying to make sure that I can control where my foot is going. So a lot of ladder stuff, where I'm telling my foot where to go.

**Q: WHO TAUGHT YOU YOUR MENTALITY?**

A: Probably Coach [Nick] Saban just preaching to everyone, no matter your position, you're trying to do your job and try to count on everyone else do theirs, and it'll all play out.

**Q: WHAT KIND OF IMPACT DID HE HAVE ON YOU?**

A: Pretty big; [he's] probably the greatest college football coach ever. There's times I look back, and I wish I had my notepad out a little bit more in meetings. I didn't really start doing that until my last year, and there were just so many things that I could write down, and even 20 years from now, look back if I'm going through something, and just kind of see the wisdom that he had.

**Q: WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE "SABANISM"?**

A: I used to always like when he would get mad. Not at me, of course, but his getting mad at other guys kind of sparked an energy in our team, a little bit. And guys responded to it really well. Whenever I saw that, it was like, all right, we're ready to roll.







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# JUSTIN JEFFERSON'S MAKE-A-WISH CLEATS

*Illustrate Relationships  
& Ripple Effect*

BY LINDSEY YOUNG

**The impact of Jets Day extends so much farther than the time measurement in its title.**

It's true for the 10 Make-A-Wish recipients who spent an unforgettable September afternoon with Justin Jefferson; it's also true, however, for the phenom Vikings receiver.

Jefferson is continuing to hold those young men close to his heart, and he continued sharing their stories last weekend. For the NFL's My Cause My Cleats initiative, Jefferson's cleats last Sunday were custom-painted to represent Make-A-Wish – and featured the 10 signatures of his special guests.

Avery Fast, 18, initially was at a loss for words upon hearing his name was on Jefferson's cleats for the Week 13 clash in Seattle.

"It makes me feel like it wasn't a one-time thing," Fast reflected. "Jets Day wasn't something out of obligation or to look good, but rather because he loves the community

and loves us. That's what this really shows me. Plus, it adds even more memories for us.

"It's so awesome he built on from that day," Fast added. "The days just keep getting better and better with Justin Jefferson – those memories keep getting better and better – and he just adds to it by wearing these cleats."

Jefferson grinned ear-to-ear when he saw his cleats for the first time, picking them up and turning them over in his hands to admire the autographs hand-painted in white, each one unique, on an airbrushed gray background. Vikings Purple laces complemented the design.

"Oh, these are tough with the signatures," he said, grinning. Jefferson's smile softened, hinting at a moment of emotion as he carefully read over each name.

"These are fire," he reiterated with a nod.

It's been three months since Jefferson hosted the young people, who ranged from 5 to 18 years old





and have faced significant medical challenges, at a Twin Cities Air Reserve hangar.

Jefferson participated in a Q&A moderated by *Sunday Night Football's* Maria Taylor, offering inspiration to the guests of honor, and then spent an additional two hours connecting and creating intentional memories.

The young men and their families also attended the Vikings-Falcons game the following day, after which a grateful Jefferson stopped by their turf-level suite and reconnected.

"Truly once-in-a-lifetime," Fast said of the weekend.

The experience has continued to influence the way Fast approaches his everyday life.

Fast, a senior at Windom Area High School, was tasked this fall with ideating a project that would benefit his community. Inspired by Jefferson, the 18-year-old decided to plan and host his own "Tackle Cancer" football game to support the Randy Shaver Cancer Research and Community Fund.

"Jefferson does so much with his community, and I thought it would be a really cool idea," he said.

Fast expressed gratitude to the Vikings, who provided silent auction items that included T.J. Hockenson, Joshua Metellus and Head Coach Kevin O'Connell autographed footballs, mini helmets signed by Jefferson and J.J. McCarthy and Crucial Catch hats. Small businesses from Windom and neighboring towns also donated items for the cause, as did the Minnesota Gophers.

Fast planned the initiative around the Windom-Jackson County Central game, hoping to capitalize on a traditional rivalry, and even recruited support from the opposing team and its community.

Vikings Director of Youth & High School Football Joe Rush, who spent time with the Fast family on Jets Day and has kept in close contact with Avery, and Vikings Director of Alumni Relations Tom West traveled to Windom for the game and were accompanied by Vikings Legend Dave Dixon.

"It was just awesome," Fast said. "Joe is such a good guy, and he wanted to learn more about me when we met at Jets Day, and we've just connected really well. It was awesome they came to support."

Thanks to Fast's passion and energy, the Windom-Jackson County "Tackle Cancer" game raised more than \$6,000.

Consider it one more experience that will stick with him for years to come.

"Giving back means a lot," Fast said. "After the Make-A-Wish experience, and then doing, on my own, my own project was so fun, and I just loved the feeling. It's an awesome feeling to make a difference, and I'd love to keep doing it – that's just one of the things I learned from Justin Jefferson."



Fast



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HF 30

THE MAN HE'S

# ALWAYS BEEN

BY LINDSEY YOUNG

**C.J. Ham has always been wise beyond his years. Just ask his best friend Rex Dopp, who's actually a year older than Ham but has looked up to him for years.**

Ham and Dopp first met in the third grade, when C.J.'s mother Tina dropped her son off at school and asked two students if they could show him to his classroom.

"We actually ditched C.J. in the lunchroom," Dopp said, simultaneously laughing and wincing at the childhood memory. "Annnnd then we didn't really connect until seventh grade."

Despite the rocky beginning, the pair of young teenagers that year attended a house party, during which Dopp "made some mistakes" and was shamelessly reprimanded the next morning by Ham as they walked home together.

"We've been close ever since then," Dopp smiled.

Nearly two decades later, the two remain thicker than thieves, often referring to each other as cousins or brothers, admittedly confusing this Vikings writer.

Now married and with children, Ham is





approaching the end of his ninth accrued NFL season. Dopp, also a father and affectionately called “God Dad” by the Hams’ trio of littles, reflects and identifies C.J. as a source of stability throughout his life.

“He’s still the only one...” Dopp’s voice trails off for a moment, a hint of emotion cracking his usually upbeat demeanor. “No matter what, he’s always been that constant.”

It’s why Dopp isn’t surprised Ham has been selected as the Vikings 2025 Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year nominee for a second straight season.

Neither is anyone you talk to who’s known Ham for one year, five years or his whole life.

It’s just always been who he is.

Teammates say that giving back means even more to “Hammer” than football ... and we all know how much the game means to him.

Ham’s passion is pure, illustrated by his embracing of the sometimes-thankless fullback position.

Vikings right tackle Brian O’Neill pointed to his teammate’s blue-collar work ethic as one of the reasons he easily garners so much respect throughout the locker room and beyond.

“There aren’t many 32-year-olds that play all four special teams phases in the NFL,” O’Neill said. There aren’t many people who, in year 10 in the NFL, are willing to be on the punt protection team every single day of OTAs and training camp. That exemplifies his team-first attitude. Wherever he can possibly help, he’s going to.”

Since O’Neill joined the Vikings as a second-round draft pick in 2018, he’s observed the way Ham commits himself to making a difference both on and off the field.

“If he had 53 C.J. Hams on the roster,” O’Neill said with a chuckle, “We’d really be in a great spot.”

Nonprofit directors across the Twin Cities likely would say something similar. And while Ham can’t be everywhere all at once, he spends a great amount of time embedded in the community that’s supported him throughout his journey.

He especially is committed to the Boys & Girls Clubs, having been a regular at his local Duluth location from age 5 to 18. Ham consistently connects with young people to encourage, inspire and just engage with them during after-school or athletic programs. He and Stephanie every year “adopt” a Boys & Girls Clubs Family facing hardship and generously fulfill their holiday wish list – and then some.

Ham recently joined teammates in serving Thanksgiving

dinner to families at the Southside Boys & Girls Club, during which he shared his connection to the organization and emphasized the familial connection.

Khadija, a mother who attended the dinner with her young children, has been inspired by Ham’s story and his remembering where he came from. She sees a bit of herself in his journey, having also grown up from a young age with the Boys & Girls Club.

“To hear what it’s meant to C.J., it gives me so much motivation. It inspires me to be very optimistic, knowing that people can start small in a program and achieve great things,” Khadija said. “The fact that he came back [to pour into Boys & Girls Club], it’s so beautiful. That’s something that I want to do; I want to achieve big goals, as well. I’m just so proud of him. He’s making me proud. He’s inspiring me to do exactly what he’s doing and to come back to my community and make it better.”

Ask Ham about where that compassion comes from, and he’ll point back to his parents, Tina and Cortez Sr., who often worked multiple jobs to support their family but still found time and resources to give back to others.

Ham continues to honor his mom, who passed away in 2021 after a 14-month battle with pancreatic cancer, by living out one of her favorite sayings: “Blessed to be a blessing.”

Whether encouraging young people, volunteering at his children’s school, visiting the children’s hospital, supporting teammates in their charitable endeavors or serving as an American Cancer Society Ambassador, Ham does so with Tina in mind. He especially does so each October when he and Steph host Pamper Her Purple, an all-day event honoring women and girls who have fought – or are currently fighting – cancer.

Cortez Sr. said Ham has “always had a thing about caring for people.”

“That’s a real gift God gave him,” he said. “It makes me real proud. He’s a good example. ... He loves his family, number one, loves his wife, and he really ... you can’t really put it into words the impact he has on other people.

“He’s impacted my life, too,” Cortez Sr. added. “I’m enjoying his dream and blessed to be here and be a part of it.”

C.J. and Steph make it a point to involve their children

A snowman is the central figure in the image. It is constructed from three snowballs, with a carrot nose, black bead eyes, and a brown scarf. It wears a red, glittery top hat and has two small red berries for buttons. The snowman is holding two thin, snow-covered branches as arms. The background is a winter forest with bare trees and a soft, out-of-focus light, suggesting a snowy night or early morning.

**MINNESOTA'S  
CHRISTMAS  
STATION**





in give-back opportunities throughout the year, and the effect is evident even at their young ages.

Dopp sees firsthand the way Skylar, Stella and Trip are following in their parents' – and grandparents' – footsteps.

He continues to be deeply grateful for Cortez Sr. and Tina taking him into their home as a high schooler, when his parents got into legal trouble and left the city.

"I had nowhere to go, and his family was so quick to help. He just took me in," Dopp said.

Ham often paid for Dopp's guest pass at the local YMCA so he could join their friends in playing basketball. And one year when Dopp needed a pair of basketball shoes, the Ham family came back from a trip to Chicago with a brand-new pair of Starburys. Dopp recalled another instance when the two were hanging out at a park, and a young woman asked for money to purchase a Subway sandwich; without hesitation, Ham obliged.

"He's always helping. And he's been a rock for me," Dopp said. "When I was going through my hard moments, and every time he talked to me, he's been that person for me my whole life.

"He's unknowingly saved my life a lot of times," Dopp added.

Ham's teammates may not have known him for the same length of time, but they daily see the same character and care. It's why for the past two years, his name has risen to the top in Vikings WPMOY voting.

"Because the things he does in the community, people can tell it comes from a genuine place. It's not for show. Not for credit," O'Neill said. "We know how much playing here means to him, and the things he does come from truly a place of appreciation for where he came from and wanting to help the community who helped him get to where he is now."

And though humility is Ham's M.O. and he doesn't much enjoy the attention, those around him will remind just how well-deserved the nomination is.

"I always tell him, 'I'm so proud of you,'" Dopp said with a smile. "Just watching him do what he's done ... from us running 40s in the street to where he is, and he's never changed. He's always been blessing everybody, and I'm just super proud of him."



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# JONATHAN ALLEN

## CONNECTIONS RUN DEEP

BY ROB KLEIFIELD

**Jonathan Allen played eight seasons for his hometown team and is facing Washington for the first time.**

The son of a nuclear biological chemical warfare specialist in the U.S. Army, and a two-time Pro Bowl selection while with the Commanders (2021-22) after he was drafted 17th overall by the organization in 2017, Allen joined arms with Minnesota in free agency in March to be impactful in more ways than one.

"Just about everything I learned, I learned from my dad – discipline, hard work; all the things that are kind of cliché, you hear guys say them all the time, I feel like I truly learned them from [him]," Allen said.

His leadership qualities have been noticed at team headquarters and between the whistles.

"He's so consistent every single day – his work, his preparation, his presence in our building," Head Coach Kevin O'Connell expressed the Friday before playing at Green Bay. "He really seems to be finding his stride of exactly what his role is snap-to-snap and how to be the best version of himself in our defense. We've seen some real positive stretches here from J.A., and he's only getting better and better."

Through 12 starts, Allen leads the Vikings defensive linemen with 46 total tackles.

Allen's laurels include one recovered fumble, 2.5 sacks and eight QB hits. O'Connell partially credits him and Javon Hargrave for Jalen Redmond's rise; the young DL has 4.0 sacks, three "blocked shots" (batted passes) and a Pro Bowl case.

"Having guys like that around you elevates your game," Allen said of his relationships with "Grave" and Redmond. "And then them being good dudes on top of it – it's been awesome" to play alongside them.

It's difficult for Allen to reflect on his individual performance – or the emotions he may feel when his team of eight seasons meets his new one – because of frustrating outcomes and the importance of being where his feet are. On the field, that means handling a 77-percent defensive snapshare. And off of it ...

That entails layering up for his first Midwest winter with his wife, Hannah, and infant daughter. It's their first time living in a place one of them didn't live before. Minnesota, however, isn't new territory per se.

The ninth-year pro has made many offseason trips to the state to visit with his agent and financial advisor, who are both





based here. Allen has boated on Lake Minnetonka in the summers, and he even subjected himself to the icy temps during Super Bowl LII when U.S. Bank Stadium hosted the Eagles and Patriots. The high was 9 degrees and the low was minus-4. A couple favorite aspects of Allen's new home are the business opportunities – he was amazed at first to discover so many Fortune 500 companies – and the food. His top two restaurants right now are Vagabondo located in Excelsior and CöV in Wayzata.

"I've always loved Minnesota," he shared. "[And] the locker room K.O. has built is incredible."

There's surely a level of familiarity for Allen, though he's just nine months into this purple-colored chapter of his career. His work stall at Twin Cities Orthopedics Performance Center is in the same row of lockers as veteran center Ryan Kelly, another one of Minnesota's free-agent additions and one of the defender's teammates for three seasons at Alabama. They both said they are closer now than in college.



"Offense hung out with offense, defense hung out with defense," Allen noted about the 'Bama divide.

"Now we're both old guys in the league," Kelly quipped. "It's just awesome to get to know him personally. ... I met his wife and his kid, and to see [a college teammate] kind of transition into being a grown man and having a family, it's been really awesome to see. And we come from the same background – 'Back in the old days at Alabama,' you know? We're the old guys now. And we get the honor to say 'Back in our day.' But just to see what he can still do on Sundays; it's just so impressive."

There weren't a ton of "me vs. you" moments between Allen and Kelly during their SEC come-ups because of the way practices are structured, with a reliance on scout teams to give starting units a look, but there were "definitely some battles," Kelly recalled. "I got him pretty good a couple times in the chest. I had pretty good hands. I think he learned a lot [competing against me]. I think it was vice-versa."

Another connection is about 30 feet from Allen's locker space: 22-year-old receiver Tai Felton.

The rookie's smile brightens when Allen's name is brought up. Felton used to idolize Allen's All-American jersey hanging on the wall as he walked to class at Stone Bridge High School in Ashburn, Virginia, he said.

"I'm like, 'That can be me one day,'" Felton remembered of his mindset. "It's awesome having somebody [go] through there – and watching him for all this time – [and now] me being on the same team as him."

Believe it or not, Allen has been keeping tabs on Felton for as much time, if not longer.

"It's really cool because my little nephew used to train with him back in Washington, [D.C.], so I've known

about him for a while," Allen said with excitement. "One of my coaches at Alabama, coach [Mike] Locksley, is the head coach at Maryland – so he was [Tai's] coach – so I've been following Tai's career for a long time. So to have the chance to play with him is kind of a surreal moment, because I followed him in high school, and then followed him in college and now have the chance to lace 'em up as teammates."

Some conversations have centered on their similar pasts, such as playing for the same HS coach; other times, Allen has extended knowledge – tips on how to care for your body; how to withstand the grind of a 17-game regular season, after playing 12 in college, while preparing for more in the event of playoffs.

Sometimes, Felton said, Allen tells him tricks of their profession. Felton watches Allen's routine, as well.

It's a bit different for Kelly, because they went through the mud together and he has seen Allen excel at every turn of his career. Nowadays, they like to rib rookie Donovan Jackson when he gets "mouthy about winning a National Championship," Kelly said, joking that Alabama used to win 'em all in a harder format.

It's neat for them to be teammates, again, and to wear some of the same badges of honor.

"You share in some of those days where you just come off the practice field and you're like, 'Golly! This reminds us of when we were back in Tuscaloosa,'" Kelly exclaimed. "And then just sharing life experiences as fathers has been really fun. I think it's a blast when you get to share [big life undertakings]. Kids are so much fun, so much work, and as you're balancing being the best husband, best father, trying to be the best player still when you start to get older, it's not always the easiest thing."



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M I N N E S O T A V I K I N G S

# HABITAT FOR HUMANITY BUILD WEEK

BY LINDSEY YOUNG

## **Vikings players traded in helmets and thigh pads for safety goggles and knee pads in November.**

Eight teammates spent a portion of an off day volunteering during the Vikings annual Habitat for Humanity Build Week presented by Andersen Windows & Doors, dividing between brand-new, neighboring homes to transfer and hang sheetrock, as well as cut and lay flooring.

"Connecting with the community any way you can is awesome," long snapper Andrew DePaola said. "And when you're providing housing for people who really need it, it goes even deeper than that."

DePaola, who participated in Habitat for Humanity builds while growing up in Maryland and during previous NFL stops, emphasized the security home ownership can provide for a family.

"There's a couple things in life that are needs, not just wants, and housing is one of those needs," he said.

DePaola was joined by Theo Jackson, Bo Richter, Walter Rouse, Ty Chandler, Henry

Byrd, Joe Huber and Sione Takitaki.

"Today means everything," Rouse said. "The fact I get to come out here and know I'm going to be helping a family, helping people move into a house they can live, love and grow in – that's what makes this all so worth it."

"Being able to work on the flooring is fun, too," Rouse laughed, showing off his work gloves, "but the main thing is being able to help people."

Vikings volunteers were welcomed by Habitat for Humanity's Catherine Penkert, Chief of Staff, and Kate Loe, Vice President of Resource Development, who explained the impact Habitat makes throughout the Twin Cities.

"Healthy families, healthy communities, start with home. And that's what we try to make possible for as many people who want to own a home as possible in the Twin Cities," Penkert said. "We build homes, new construction like you're working on today, and we rehab homes."

While Habitat for Humanity homes are not free of cost, the monthly mortgage is capped at 30 percent of the qualifying homebuyers' income.

The largest affordable homeownership builder in the seven-country metro area, Twin Cities Habitat has partnered with more than

1,800 families since 1985 to unlock the power of homeownership. Thousands more have stabilized and improved their housing, finances and quality of life through Habitat's programming.

"We have a real laser-focus on advancing racial equity, and specifically advancing Black home ownership, and all of that sits on a foundation of engaging our community," Loe explained. "You are all part of that community, so for that, we thank you."

Habitat for Humanity is also thankful for Andersen Windows & Doors, one of the Vikings existing partners, for donating or deeply discounting all doors and windows installed in Habitat Twin Cities homes.

Eliza Chlebeck, Andersen Corporation Vice President of Communications & Community, attended the build and called the event a "super special" alignment of missions.

"As a company that makes windows and doors, we know firsthand the importance of home, and the work that Habitat does to create safe, stable, affordable home-ownership opportunities for families is so vital to the strength and stability of this community, which is something Andersen cares about," Chlebeck said.



2025 MINNESOTA HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

# ALL-STATE TEAM

The 2025 Minnesota Vikings All-State Team presented by Gatorade and the Vikings High School Coach of the Year will be recognized today. The team is comprised of senior student-athletes from all classes of football in the state, selected in conjunction with the Minnesota Football Coaches Association. The Vikings All-State Team has been selected annually since 2002.

*Jaxon Bartkowicz, QB/DE/P, Holdingford (2A)*

*Julian Beckstrand, RB/S/P/KR, Barnum High School (1A)*

*Josh Bergan, DL, Lakeville South (6A)*

*Braylon Breyfogle, RB/CB/P/PR, Lakeview (1A)*

*Sawyer Brown, WR/CB/PR, Becker (4A)*

*Kade Bush, TE/RB/WR, Chanhassen (5A)*

*Micah Bush, WR/S/KR/PR, Hills-Beaver Creek (9-P)*

*James Engle, Jr., RB, Maple Grove (6A)*

*David Erlandson, RB/LB, Breckenridge (1A)*

*Caleb Francois, RB/WR/QB/DB/KR/PR, Minnetonka (6A)*

*Levi Harris, QB/DB/P/KR/PR, Elk River (5A)*

*Carson Heimer, RB/S/KR, Byron (4A)*

*Izaak Johnson, QB, Cretin-Derham Hall (5A)*

*Howie Johnson, DL, Forest Lake Area (6A)*

*Max Jones, LB, Rosemount (6A)*

*Logan Lachermeier, QB, Minneapolis North (3A)*

*Kane Larson, RB/LB, Fillmore Central (1A)*

*Owen Linder, T, Chanhassen (5A)*

*Joseph Mapson, QB, Andover (6A)*

*Alex Medina-Lizarraga, QB/DB/P, Litchfield (3)*

*Jack Morrisette, T/DL, Alexandria (5A)*

*Kayden Oakland, TE/DE, Northfield (5A)*

*Chris Rehak, RB/ILB/P, Farmington (6A)*

*Todd Rogalski, S/NB/WR/KR/PR/LS, Saint Thomas Academy (5A)*

*Deron Russell, WR/DB/KR/PR, Waseca (3A)*

*Henry Schloe, QB/P, St. Cloud Cathedral (2A)*

*Oliver Spahn, MLB, Grand Rapids (4A)*

*Andrew Stelter, RB/LB/K, Marshall (4A)*

*Jax Sullivan, QB/S/K/P, Littlefork-Big Falls (9-P)*

*Nicholas Thein, RB/OLB/KR/LS, Pine Island (3A)*

*Roman Voss, QB/WR/CB/S/DE, Jackson County Central (3A)*

*Gabriel Westman, WR/CB/PR, Annandale (3A)*

## 2025 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

### 9-PLAYER

*Hills-Beaver Creek 46, Hillcrest Lutheran Academy 22*

### 1A

*Minneota 49, Breckenridge 14*

### 2A

*Jackson County Central 20, Goodhue 15*

### 3A

*Annandale 17, Waseca 7*

### 4A

*Orono 21, Kasson-Mantorville 14*

### 5A

*Spring Lake Park 24, Chanhassen 21*

### 6A

*Edina 42, Moorhead 35*

## BLOOMINGTON OPENS STADIUMS WITH HELP FROM VIKINGS

**Bloomington Public Schools in October celebrated the opening of John F. Kennedy and Thomas Jefferson Stadiums.**

The venues replace shared usage of Bloomington Stadium by the two schools and will allow sports teams to play and practice on the campus of those schools. The Vikings and the NFL Foundation provided a \$400,000 grant to the district to cover the installation of turf fields.

"It's an honor to play a role in this incredible milestone for Bloomington Public Schools. These fields represent more than just a place to play football. They symbolize opportunity, access and belonging for every student who will step onto them," Vikings Director of Youth & High School Football Joe Rush said. "At the Vikings, we believe every young person deserves a safe, high-quality space to be active, to learn and to grow. Projects like this strengthen not only schools, but the overall health and connection of our communities."



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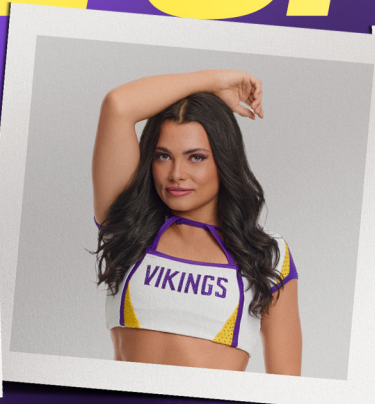
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# MVC MORGAN INSPIRED BY LATE FATHER'S LOVE OF LIFE



BY LINDSEY YOUNG

## Third-year MVC Morgan doesn't remember a time in her life without dance ... or football.

Having started dance lessons at just 2-and-a-half years old, the Nebraska native didn't grow up an NFL fan but naturally fell into a generations-old passion for Notre Dame football instilled in her by her Irish grandfather and dad.

Morgan will never forget the time her dad Jeff (in the heart of Huskers territory, mind you) mowed the Notre Dame logo into the family's front yard – and then, to his wife's dismay, spraypainted it. And while that was a one-time thing, every single college game day, Morgan and her two sisters would proudly follow their dad, carrying the Notre Dame flag, and parade down the street belting out the school's fight song.

"My mom would record the whole thing," Morgan laughed. "Looking back, I honestly cannot imagine what our neighbors thought of us. But it was a tradition we always did."

Everywhere the family went, people were drawn to Jeff's warmth and energy. Grocery trips and hardware store errands often took longer than they should have because her dad took the time to chat with and connect with cashiers and other customers.

"He was so personable," Morgan said. "He lit up every room he walked into; he had the brightest smile and the loudest, funniest

laugh. He truly impacted every person he interacted with."

When Morgan was 11, Jeff started experiencing symptoms that prompted doctors' visits and one test after another. The diagnosis came after a process of elimination: ALS.

Also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease, ALS is a rapidly progressive, fatal neurological disease that attacks the nerve cells responsible for controlling voluntary muscles.

The condition's effects started out slowly, first impacting his voice and ability to eat. He grew dependent on a tablet for communicating within his first year of being diagnosed, then a feeding tube for nutrition. Even then, he was always smiling, never giving away what he was internally processing. His condition progressively declined, and he ultimately became dependent on a wheelchair.

Morgan, her sisters and her mother served as Jeff's primary caretakers on evenings and weekends, working together to provide the rock of their family with as much comfort and love as possible.

"We were a team," Morgan said.

Jeff died one day before Morgan's 17th birthday.

Both before and after his passing, Jeff has inspired Morgan to give her best,

whether at dance recitals all through her childhood, cheering collegiately for the University of Colorado, moving to Minnesota after graduation or auditioning for the MVC.

The way he lived his life moves Morgan to live hers to the fullest, in a way continuing his legacy.

"Before he got sick, he was the life of the party. He really knew how to maximize his days, and he love, love, *loved* spending time with his family," she reflected. "Even before he was diagnosed, he lived life knowing tomorrow's never guaranteed. And I've adopted that mindset."

Whether running (she's currently training to run a marathon to support ALS awareness), traveling (15 countries and counting), volunteering for ALS nonprofits and serving the Minneapolis homeless community, Morgan thinks about her dad and how he approached each day.

She also does so on Vikings game days, surrounded by MVC teammates who have become an extension of family.

"When I'm on the field, I can feel he's right there with me, and he's so excited for me," Morgan said. "I just know he's so pumped to see me living out my dream. I know he'd try to be at every single game if he was here and, in a way, he still is."



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# FAVES

You likely won't find Blake Cashman and Eric Wilson eating too many sweets in-season, but the Vikings linebackers share a favorite dessert: chocolate chip cookies, a classic.

Perhaps it's fitting the duo picked such a no-frills treat, as Cashman and Wilson are blue-collar defenders in Purple jerseys. Wilson re-joined the Vikings this season after spending his first four NFL seasons (2017-20) in Minnesota and the next four with other teams, most notably the division-rival Packers (2022-24). The 2017 UDFA currently is Minnesota's second-leading tackler with 78. He trails only 83 by Cashman, who missed four games with a hamstring injury but has quickly made up for lost time.

Beyond sharing an affinity for chocolate chip cookies, here are five of Cashman and Wilson's other faves:



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FACIAL HAIR. (HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM  
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BY MADIE GILE

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**JUAN SANCHEZ FERNANDEZ**  
BEST

**TODD RADKE**, BEST

**ZACH SCHNEIDER**  
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