

3M

WINTER



12.25  
WK 17



MIN  
DET



WINTER WHITEOUT

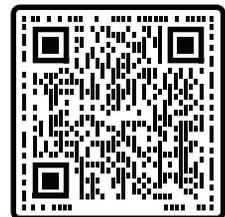
# Urgent Care

## Go to TCO



**Walk in 8 - 8**

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



**OFFICIAL SPORTS  
MEDICINE PROVIDER**



**View urgent care locations  
and wait times**



## GUIDE TO GAME DAY

- 3 Today's Game
- 5 Today's Promotions

## TODAY'S MATCHUP

- 9 Vikings Snapshot
- 11 Vikings Roster
- 14 Vikings & Lions First Teams
- 17 Lions Roster
- 21 Lions Snapshot
- 22 Series History

## FEATURE STORIES

- 25 Q&A: Joshua Metellus
- 28 Justin Jefferson: Positive Influence
- 32 Winter Warrior Returns
- 34 North Pole Express
- 37 Youth Shopping Spree
- 39 Inspire Change Award
- 43 Unified Flag
- 47 MVC: Lauren

## PLAYBOOK EXTRAS

- 49 5 Faves
- 51 Viktor the Viking
- 52 U.S. Bank Stadium Highlights

**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

**PHOTOGRAPHY:** Andy Kenutis, Alli Rusco, Maddie Crooke and AP Images

© 2025 by Minnesota Vikings Football, LLC. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written consent of the publisher is prohibited.



## QUESTIONS AT TODAY'S GAME?



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

# The kind of safety you want on your team.

The 2026 Hyundai TUCSON  
with available HTRAC AWD.



The weather may get nasty, but confidence stays steady with the Hyundai TUCSON's available HTRAC All Wheel Drive. It brilliantly distributes power between the front and rear axles to give you optimal traction, which is especially useful on rough terrain or in inclement weather. So, at home or away, the TUCSON gives your team the advantage.



Scan for  
end of the  
year deals.



HYUNDAI



Proud Partner of the Minnesota Vikings



**2025 TEAM STATS**

YARDS PER GAME / ALLOWED

	RUSH	PASS
<b>MIN OFF</b>	102.3	177.1
	279.4   28TH IN THE NFL	
<b>DET DEF</b>	106.7	231.1
	337.9   21ST IN THE NFL	
<b>DET OFF</b>	131.1	248.8
	379.9   4TH IN THE NFL	
<b>MIN DEF</b>	127.6	180.4
	307.9   9TH IN THE NFL	

**PIXMOB LED WRISTBANDS**

The Vikings and Netflix have partnered with PixMob to provide wearable LED wristbands that will be synced with a stadium-wide light show during halftime and a break in the third quarter. To engage with these moments, fans should remove a paper tab to activate and then place on their wrists. All wristbands are recyclable, so please return them to specially designated recycling bins at the end of the game. The wristbands will not operate outside U.S. Bank Stadium.

**TODAY'S GAME  
PRESENTED BY**



**WELCOME TO THE FOURTH ANNUAL VIKINGS WINTER WHITEOUT GAME.**

The Winter Whiteout tradition began in December 2022. This will be the second time Minnesota has worn its Winter Warrior uniforms, featuring the usage of a white helmet.

**HOLIDAY HISTORY**

Today's game marks the fifth time the Vikings have played a regular-season or playoff contest on Christmas Day and the third time Minnesota has been the holiday host. The first occurrence was a 1971 playoff game claimed by the Cowboys 20-12. The second occurred in the 1989 season finale,

a 29-21 win in which the Vikings sacked Bengals QB Boomer Esiason six times to finish the season with a franchise-record 71 sacks and make the playoffs.

**HALFTIME**

Netflix is shaking up the playbook on holiday traditions with a halftime you won't want to miss. Global icon Snoop Dogg will take center stage for Snoop's Holiday Halftime Party.

**RALLY TOWELS**

Each fan in attendance will receive a commemorative Winter Whiteout Rally Towel courtesy of 3M, the official science partner of the Minnesota Vikings.



# There's snow place like home.

3M is proud to be  
an official partner of the  
Minnesota Vikings



# TODAY'S

# GAME

## 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.



## 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 chosen at the end of the season!

## 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!





## 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 pre-game pops and some exclusive, COOL JonnyPops swag to rep your favorite frozen treat.

Jonny Pops



## 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!

## 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.



## BOGO BALL

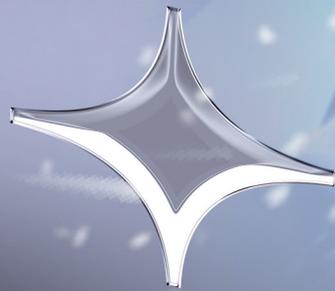
They get the ball, you get a BOGO Caribou Coffee! Whenever the Vikings intercept the ball, earn Buy One, Get One drinks of equal or lesser value free, in-store only at participating Caribou Coffee locations. Offer valid for one day after each eligible game. Visit [vikings.com/caribou](https://vikings.com/caribou)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



JAMESON

# WINTER WHITEOUT

COLLECTION



MINNESOTA VIKINGS  
**LOCKER ROOM**  
A Fanatics Experience

THE BEST SPORTS BAR IN TOWN

MYSTIC

# HOP HOUSE

SPORTS & MUSIC



*WHERE BIG  
PLAYS HAPPEN*

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



Mystic Lake®

OFFICIAL CASINO OF THE MINNESOTA VIKINGS



**@ 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**  
W, 31-0 **WAS**

**@ DAL** **WK15**  
W, 34-26

**@ NYG** **WK16**  
DEC. 21\*

**WK17**  
DEC. 25 **DET**

**WK18**  
TBD **GB**

# T.J. HOCKENSON

T.J. HOCKENSON REACHED 50 CATCHES ON THE SEASON DURING MINNESOTA'S SUNDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL GAME AT DALLAS, WHERE HE RECORDED FOUR RECEPTIONS FOR A SEASON-HIGH 66 YARDS.\*

Hockenson has proven a reliable target for Vikings quarterbacks this season, especially on first and second down. Through Week 15, 25 of Hockenson's 50 catches occurred on second down – and he racked up 122 yards after the catch in those instances. Hockenson was targeted 20 times on first down and hauled in 18 of those passes, boasting a 90% catch rate in the same span.

The tight end scored three receiving

touchdowns through his first 14 games, including one in Detroit to help the Vikings defeat the Lions in Week 9. Minnesota upset Hockenson's former team 27-24 and will look to sweep the division rival today.

## HOCKENSON FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Though Hockenson played in three Thanksgiving Day games during his time with the Lions and has six Thursday games under his belt, today will mark his first career Christmas Day action.

Hockenson has played on Christmas Eve twice, both with the Vikings; in 2022, he caught two touchdown passes from Kirk Cousins to help Minnesota defeat the Giants 27-24.

\*Flex scheduling began Week 5.

\*Due to print deadlines, stats do not include the Vikings 12/21 game at the New York Giants.



**Power when you need it.** From the preseason heat to the postseason freeze, this battery was made for Vikings Country. Test yours at a shop near you or visit [FVP.com](http://FVP.com). FVP - a trusted brand of Factory Motor Parts.



**FACTORYMOTORPARTS™**  
WE SUPPLY YOUR SUCCESS.



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL



# VIKINGS ROSTER

#	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	EXP	COLLEGE	HOMETOWN
0	Ivan Pace Jr.	LB	5-10	236	25	3	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	24	R	Indiana	Dallas, TX
5	John Wolford	QB	6-1	218	30	4	Wake Forest	Jacksonville, FL
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	Fort 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	Taylorville, 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	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	23	R	Ohio State	Cypress, TX
75	Brian O'Neill	T	6-7	310	29	8	Pittsburgh	Wilmington, DE
76	Will Fries	G	6-6	321	27	5	Penn State	Cranford, NJ
78	Ryan Kelly	C	6-4	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

ROSTER AS OF PRINT DEADLINE (12.16.25)

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE...

#	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	EXP	COLLEGE	HOMETOWN
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
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	30	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

6	Dwight McGlothern Jr.	CB	6-2	185	23	2	Arkansas	Houston, TX
19	Dontae Fleming	WR	6-2	180	24	R	Tulane	LaPlace, LA
25	Kahlef Hailassie	CB	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
52	Josh Ross	LB	6-0	229	26	4	Michigan	Southfield, MI
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	Nick Vannett	TE	6-5	266	32	10	Ohio State	Westerville, OH
82	Jeshaun Jones	WR	6-1	188	26	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

^DESIGNATED FOR RETURN IN WEEK 14

ROSTER AS OF PRINT DEADLINE (12.16.25)

## 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	Wolford	
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	

# GIVE WITH JOY

BY DONATING TO THE SALVATION ARMY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

**JOIN CRIS CARTER  
AND SUPPORT  
THE SALVATION ARMY.**



DONATE \$25 TO HELP PROVIDE  
FOOD, SHELTER AND CARE  
FOR MINNESOTA FAMILIES

SCAN TO DONATE OR VISIT  
[SALVATIONARMYNORTH.ORG/GIVewithJOY](https://salvationarmynorth.org/givewithjoy)





# 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

## LIONS DEFENSE



**4**  
CORNERBACK  
D.J.  
REED



**97**  
EDGE  
AIDAN  
HUTCHINSON



**54**  
DEFENSIVE LINE  
ALIM  
MCNEILL



**98**  
DEFENSIVE LINE  
DJ  
READER



**92**  
EDGE  
MARCUS  
DAVENPORT



**21**  
CORNERBACK  
AMIK  
ROBERTSON



**34**  
LINEBACKER  
ALEX  
ANZALONE



**29**  
SAFETY  
AVONTE MADDOX



**46**  
LINEBACKER  
JACK  
CAMPBELL



**31**  
SAFETY  
KERBY JOSEPH



**55**  
LINEBACKER  
DERRICK  
BARNES

## 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**

**LIONS OFFENSE**



**14**  
WIDE RECEIVER  
AMON-RA ST. BROWN



**11**  
WIDE RECEIVER  
KALIF RAYMOND



**68**  
LEFT TACKLE  
TAYLOR DECKER



**74**  
LEFT GUARD  
KAYODE AWOSIKA



**60**  
CENTER  
GRAHAM GLASGOW



**69**  
RIGHT GUARD  
TATE RATLEDGE



**58**  
RIGHT TACKLE  
PENEI SEWELL



**86**  
TIGHT END  
ANTHONY FIRKSER



**1**  
WIDE RECEIVER  
JAMESON WILLIAMS



**16**  
QUARTERBACK  
JARED GOFF



**0**  
RUNNING BACK  
JAHMYR GIBBS

**LIONS SPECIAL TEAMS**



**39**  
KICKER  
JAKE BATES



**3**  
PUNTER  
JACK FOX



**49**  
LONG SNAPPER  
HOGAN HATTEN



**11**  
PUNT RETURNER  
KALIF RAYMOND



**25**  
KICKOFF RETURNER  
JACOB SAYLORS



# PURPLE PEOPLE EATERS:

## **PISTACHIO**

### GOURMET HOLIDAY PISTACHIOS SHIPPING NOW!



#AROPISTACHIO



SHOP HOLIDAY GIFTS  
DIRECT FROM THE FARM  
[ARONUTS.COM](http://ARONUTS.COM)

X f d i GOURMET NATURAL JUMBO CALIFORNIA PISTACHIO NUTS



## A FAN-TASTIC COMBINATION

[enjoyeagan.com](http://enjoyeagan.com)

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



# LIONS ROSTER

ROSTER AS OF PRINT DEADLINE (12.16.25)

#	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	EXP	COLLEGE	HOMETOWN
0	Jahmyr Gibbs	RB	5-9	202	23	3	Alabama	Dalton, GA
1	Jameson Williams	WR	6-1	182	24	4	Alabama	St. Louis, MO
2	Daniel Thomas	S	5-10	215	27	6	Auburn	Montgomery, AL
3	Jack Fox	P	6-2	218	29	6	Rice	St. Louis, MO
4	D.J. Reed	CB	5-9	190	29	8	Kansas State	Bakersfield, CA
5	David Montgomery	RB	5-11	230	28	7	Iowa State	Cincinnati, OH
8	Kyle Allen	QB	6-3	210	29	8	Houston	Scottsdale, AZ
11	Kalif Raymond	WR	5-8	180	31	9	Holy Cross	Lawrenceville, GA
12	Thomas Harper	S	5-8	195	25	2	Notre Dame	Knoxville, TN
14	Amon-Ra St. Brown	WR	6-0	202	26	5	Southern California	Anaheim Hills, CA
15	Grant Stuard	LB	5-11	225	27	5	Houston	Conroe, TX
16	Jared Goff	QB	6-4	217	31	10	California	Novato, CA
18	Isaac TeSlaa	WR	6-4	214	23	R	Arkansas	Hudsonville, MI
19	Dominic Lovett	WR	5-10	185	23	R	Georgia	Belleville, IL
21	Amik Robertson	CB	5-9	183	27	6	Louisiana Tech	Thibodaux, LA
23	Rock Ya-Sin	CB	5-11	195	29	7	Temple	Decatur, GA
25	Jacob Saylor	RB	5-11	195	25	1	East Tennessee State	Jasper, TN
27	Arthur Maulet	CB	5-9	190	32	9	Memphis	New Orleans, LA
29	Avonte Maddox	DB	5-9	191	29	8	Pittsburgh	Detroit, MI
30	Khalil Dorsey	CB	5-8	188	27	4	Northern Arizona	Ontario, CA
31	Kerby Joseph	S	6-0	210	25	4	Illinois	Orlando, FL
33	Sione Vaki	RB	5-11	216	24	2	Utah	Antioch, CA
34	Alex Anzalone	LB	6-3	234	31	9	Florida	Wyomissing, PA
38	Nick Whiteside	CB	6-1	200	25	1	Saginaw Valley State	Auburn Hills, MI
39	Jake Bates	K	5-10	202	26	2	Arkansas	Tomball, TX
44	Malcolm Rodriguez	LB	5-11	230	26	4	Oklahoma State	Wagoner, OK
46	Jack Campbell	LB	6-5	246	25	3	Iowa	Cedar Falls, IA
49	Hogan Hatten	LS	6-2	239	25	2	Idaho	Scottsdale, AZ
51	Roy Lopez	DL	6-2	312	28	5	Arizona	Tempe, AZ
53	Trevor Nowaske	LB	6-3	237	27	2	Saginaw Valley State	Canton, MI
54	Alim McNeill	DL	6-2	310	25	5	North Carolina State	Raleigh, NC
55	Derrick Barnes	LB	6-0	240	26	5	Purdue	Covington, KY
57	Trystan Colon	OL	6-3	317	27	5	Missouri	Webb City, MO
58	Penei Sewell	T	6-5	335	25	5	Oregon	Malaeimi, American Samoa
60	Graham Glasgow	OL	6-6	315	33	10	Michigan	Aurora, IL
62	Michael Niese	OL	6-5	300	27	2	Temple	Chesterfield, MO
68	Taylor Decker	T	6-7	324	32	10	Ohio State	Vandalia, OH
69	Tate Ratledge	OL	6-6	315	24	R	Georgia	Rome, GA
70	Dan Skipper	T	6-9	334	31	5	Arkansas	Arvada, CO
71	Miles Frazier	OL	6-6	325	24	R	LSU	Camden, NJ
74	Kayode Awosika	G	6-3	322	27	4	Buffalo	Maple Grove, MN
78	Tyler Lacy	DL	6-4	279	26	3	Oklahoma State	Sachse, TX
84	Shane Zylstra	TE	6-4	244	29	4	Minnesota State	Spicer, MN
85	Tom Kennedy	WR	5-10	195	29	4	Bryant	Farmingdale, NY
86	Anthony Firkser	TE	6-2	245	30	7	Harvard	Manalapan, NJ
91	Tyleik Williams	DL	6-3	328	22	R	Ohio State	Manassas, VA
92	Marcus Davenport	EDGE	6-6	285	29	8	Texas-San Antonio	San Antonio, TX
94	Mekhi Wingo	DL	6-0	288	22	2	LSU	St. Louis, MO
96	Al-Quadin Muhammad	EDGE	6-3	250	30	8	Miami (Fla.)	Irvington, NJ

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE...

#	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	EXP	COLLEGE	HOMETOWN
97	Aidan Hutchinson	EDGE	6-7	268	25	4	Michigan	Plymouth, MI
98	DJ Reader	DL	6-3	330	31	10	Clemson	Greensboro, NC
99	Tyrus Wheat	EDGE	6-2	260	26	3	Mississippi State	Amite, LA

#### PRACTICE SQUAD

17	C.J. Beathard	QB	6-2	215	32	6	Iowa	Franklin, TN
24	Loren Strickland	S	5-10	202	25	2	Ball State	Carpentersville, IL
27	Jabari Small	RB	5-11	213	23	1	Tennessee	Memphis, TN
35	Damontae Kazee	S	5-11	174	32	9	San Diego State	San Bernardino, CA
36	Erick Hallett II	S	5-11	200	25	1	Pittsburgh	Cypress, TX
40	Zach Horton	TE	6-4	252	23	R	Indiana	Roanoke, VA
61	Ahmed Hassanein*	EDGE	6-2	275	23	R	Boise State	Cairo, Egypt
63	Mason Miller	G	6-7	310	24	R	North Dakota State	Ada, MN
64	Christopher Hubbard	OL	6-4	295	34	11	UAB	Columbus, GA
65	Kingsley Eguakun	OL	6-3	305	24	1	Florida	Jacksonville, FL
66	Myles Adams	DL	6-2	299	27	4	Rice	Arlington, TX
77	Devin Cochran	OL	6-7	330	27	2	Georgia Tech	Athens, GA
80	Malik Cunningham	WR	6-1	190	27	2	Louisville	Montgomery, AL
83	Jackson Meeks	WR	6-2	218	22	R	Syracuse	Phenix City, AL
88	Giovanni Ricci	TE	6-3	240	29	4	Western Michigan	Loveland, OH
90	Chris Smith	DL	6-1	316	26	2	Notre Dame	Detroit, MI
95	Pat O'Connor	DL	6-4	300	32	8	Eastern Michigan	Chicago, IL

\*INTERNATIONAL PLAYER PATHWAY

#### INJURED RESERVE

6	Terrion Arnold	CB	6-0	195	22	2	Alabama	Tallahassee, FL
9	Ennis Rakestraw Jr.	CB	5-11	188	23	2	Missouri	West Dallas, TX
28	Dan Jackson	S	6-1	195	25	R	Georgia	Gainesville, GA
32	Brian Branch	DB	6-0	203	24	3	Alabama	Fayetteville, GA
47	Ezekiel Turner	LB	6-2	225	29	7	Washington	Pasadena, MD
52	Zach Cunningham	LB	6-3	230	31	9	Vanderbilt	Pinson, AL
59	Giovanni Manu	OL	6-7	350	24	2	British Columbia	Pitt Meadows, British Columbia
72	Jamarco Jones	T	6-4	315	29	6	Ohio State	Chicago, IL
73	Christian Mahogany	OL	6-3	327	25	2	Boston College	Elmwood Park, NJ
75	Colby Sorsdal	OL	6-6	315	25	3	William & Mary	Pittsburgh, PA
87	Sam LaPorta	TE	6-3	245	24	3	Iowa	Highland, IL
89	Brock Wright	TE	6-5	254	27	5	Notre Dame	Cypress, TX

#### NON-FOOTBALL INJURY

93	Josh Paschal	EDGE	6-3	275	26	4	Kentucky	Prince George's County, MD
----	--------------	------	-----	-----	----	---	----------	----------------------------

#### RESERVE/PHYSICALLY UNABLE TO PERFORM

##	Levi Onwuzurike	DL	6-3	304	27	5	Washington	Allen, TX
----	-----------------	----	-----	-----	----	---	------------	-----------

ROSTER AS OF PRINT DEADLINE (12.16.25)

## UNOFFICIAL DEPTH CHART

### LIONS OFFENSE

WR	St. Brown	Lovett		
WR	Raymond	TeSlaa		
LT	Decker	Skipper		
LG	Awosika	Frazier		
C	Glasgow	Colon		
RG	Ratledge	Niese		
RT	Sewell			
TE	Firkser	Zylstra		
WR	J. Williams	Kennedy		
RB	Gibbs	Montgomery	Vaki	Saylors
QB	Goff	Allen		

### LIONS DEFENSE

EDGE	Hutchinson	Muhammad	Wheat
DL	McNeill	T. Williams	Wingo
DL	Reader	Lopez	
EDGE	Davenport	Lacy	
LB	Anzalone	Rodriguez	
LB	Campbell	Stuard	
LB	Barnes	Nowaske	
CB	Reed	Ya-Sin	Whiteside
CB	Robertson	Dorsey	
S	Maddox	Thomas	
S	Joseph	Harper	



# **SPLIT THE POT**

**MINNESOTA VIKINGS FOUNDATION**

**YOU COULD BE THE LUCKY**

**GAMEDAY WINNER**

**TO SHARE THE JACKPOT!**

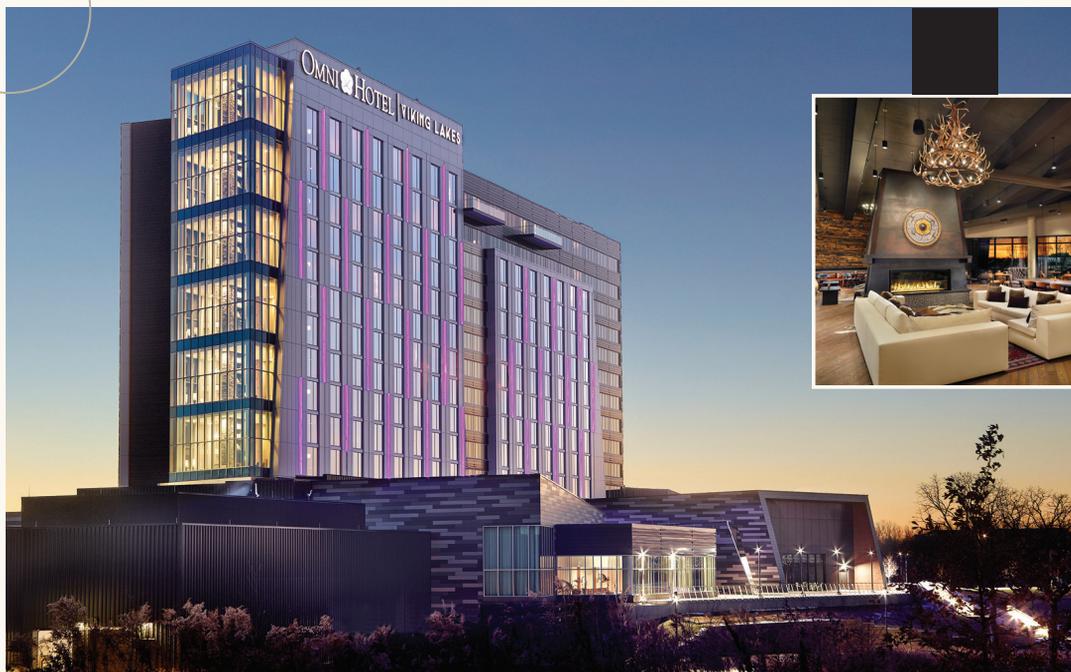
Purchase your raffle tickets with a debit card from sellers at kiosks or roaming throughout the concourse. Winning ticket will be selected by a random drawing and posted online after the game. Winner has 30 days to claim the prize.

**VISIT [VIKINGS.COM/SPLITTHEPOT](https://vikings.com/splitthepot) FOR DETAILS**

**SPLIT THE POT SUPPORTS MINNESOTA VIKINGS FOUNDATION  
YOUTH HEALTH AND EDUCATION INITIATIVES.**

# Home field advantage is *right* HERE.

EXPERIENCES MATTER HERE



## Stay in the game at Omni Viking Lakes.

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.



OFFICIAL HOTEL OF THE MINNESOTA VIKINGS  
STAY IN *The Game* WITH US

OMNI  
VIKING LAKES

[OMNIHOTELS.COM/VIKINGLAKES](https://omnihotels.com/vikinglakes)



**@ GB** WK1  
L, 27-13

WK2  
W, 52-21 **CHI**

**@ BAL** WK3  
W, 38-30

WK4  
W, 34-10 **CLE**

**@ CIN** WK5  
W, 37-24

**@ KC** WK6  
L, 30-17

WK7  
W, 24-9 **TB**

**BYE** WK8  
OCT. 27

WK9  
L, 27-24 **MIN**

**@ WAS** WK10  
W, 44-22

**@ PHI** WK11  
L, 16-9

WK12  
W, 34-27, OT **NYG**

WK13  
L, 31-24 **GB**

WK14  
W, 44-30 **DAL**

**@ LAR** WK15  
L, 41-34

WK16  
\*DEC. 21 **PIT**

**@ MIN** WK17  
DEC. 25

**@ CHI** WK18  
TBD



# AIDAN HUTCHINSON

**AIDAN HUTCHINSON MISSED MOST OF THE 2024 SEASON WITH A BROKEN LEG BUT RETURNED AT FULL STRENGTH.**

The Lions defensive end continues to wreak havoc on opposing quarterbacks, logging 9.5 sacks through Week 15. He also had 39 tackles, nine tackles for loss, three passes defended, a fumble recovery and forced a career-high four fumbles.\*

In Week 9, the Vikings limited Hutchinson to just one sack of J.J. McCarthy. The Lions defender was flagged for unnecessary roughness when he whipped his leg toward

Minnesota's quarterback during an earlier sack attempt.

Minnesota will have a challenge in Hutchinson, who earned a spot on the 2022 PFWA All-Rookie Team and a Pro Bowl nod following the 2023 season.

## **WOLVERINE VS. WOLVERINE**

Hutchinson has plenty of familiarity with McCarthy, the fellow Michigan alum he'll be sniffing out today.

The two overlapped at Michigan during the 2021 season, McCarthy's freshman campaign in which he logged just 59 passes and five touchdowns prior to becoming the Wolverines full-time starter in 2022.

*Flex scheduling began Week 5.*

*\* Due to print deadlines, stats do not include the Lions 12/21 game against Pittsburgh.*

# SERIES HISTORY



# TOP 2 AGAINST LIONS

## RUSHING YARDS

- 206 Dalvin Cook** on 22 attempts in Minnesota (Nov. 8, 2020)
- 171 Adrian Peterson** on 27 attempts in Minnesota (Nov. 11, 2012)

## PASSING YARDS

- 425 Kirk Cousins** on 31-of-41 passing at Detroit (Dec. 11, 2022)
- 411 Nick Mullens** on 22-of-36 passing in Minnesota (Dec. 24, 2023)

## RECEIVING YARDS

- 223 Justin Jefferson** on 11 catches at Detroit (Dec. 11, 2022)
- 210 Sammy White** on seven catches in Minnesota (Nov. 7, 1976)

## AGAINST VIKINGS

## RUSHING YARDS

- 220 Barry Sanders** on 23 attempts in Minnesota (Nov. 24, 1991)
- 197 Mel Farr** on 24 attempts in Minnesota (Nov. 12, 1967)

## PASSING YARDS

- 410 Scott Mitchell** on 30-of-45 passing at Detroit (Nov. 23, 1995)
- 378 Matthew Stafford** on 32-of-46 passing in Minnesota (Sept. 25, 2011)

## RECEIVING YARDS

- 207 Calvin Johnson** on 12 catches in Minnesota (Nov. 11, 2012)
- 180 Marvin Jones, Jr.** on 12 catches at Detroit (Jan. 3, 2021)

## ALL-TIME RESULTS

### REGULAR SEASON

VIKINGS ARE 81-45-2 IN 128 GAMES

### LONGEST WIN STREAK

13 BY MINNESOTA (Oct. 6, 1968 - Sept. 22, 1974)

### FIRST MEETING

NOV. 19, 1961 | LIONS 37, VIKINGS 10

Fran Tarkenton hit Jerry Reichow on a 23-yard touchdown pass for a 10-0 lead in the first quarter, but Detroit rallied with the next 37 points. Earl Morrall threw three touchdowns and led Detroit with 62 rushing yards.

### PREVIOUS MEETING

NOV. 2, 2025 | VIKINGS 27, LIONS 24

J.J. McCarthy threw touchdowns to Justin Jefferson and T.J. Hockenson in the first quarter for a 14-7 edge. Minnesota broke a tie at 14 with a 50-yard field goal with less than five minutes remaining in the first half. McCarthy added a 9-yard TD run in the third quarter, and Will Reichard added a short field goal in the fourth after Levi Drake Rodriguez blocked a FG attempt by Detroit. Isaiah Rodgers returned the ball at 41 yards. Minnesota's defense disrupted Detroit and recorded five sacks of Jared Goff, led with 2.0 by Eric Wilson.

## THROWBACK MOMENT

### ALLEN'S SAFETY & WILLIAMS' SPREE | OCT. 12, 2008

This Metrodome matchup between the Vikings and Lions has become most famous for former Detroit QB Dan Orlovsky stepping out of the back of the end zone to avoid the hot pursuit of Jared Allen, a member of the 2025 Pro Football Hall of Fame Class.

But Kevin Williams, Allen's former teammate who is gaining traction for a spot in Canton, also had a mammoth day. The defensive tackle sacked Orlovsky four times

(Ben Leber and Ray Edwards combined for another takedown).

The two points on the safety were the only points of the first quarter. Detroit took the lead with a field goal late in the second quarter and added a 12-yard TD pass from Orlovsky to Calvin Johnson in the third. "Big-play" Bernard Berrian scored on an 86-yard pass from Gus Frerotte in the third quarter, and Ryan Longwell kicked the game-winner with 0:09 remaining.



# More Tailgates. More Roadtrips.



**Find  
Your  
More**

**GET MORE WITH MORRIE'S**





What's our home field advantage?

**UNION BUILT.**



**Builders of U.S. Bank Stadium & Partners of the Minnesota Vikings**

**Build your future with LIUNA!  
LOCAL563.ORG**

EDEN PRAIRIE CENTER

**WILDFIRE®**

**STEAKS, CHOPS & SEAFOOD**

CELEBRATING **30** THIRTY YEARS

LUNCH · DINNER · CATERING · CARRYOUT · PRIVATE PARTIES





# Q & A JOSHUA METELLUS

BY LINDSEY YOUNG

Holidays are meant to be spent with family.

So there's nowhere else Joshua Metellus would rather be today than right here at U.S. Bank Stadium, with his brothers.

"The great part about having a Christmas Day game at home is you get that family feel from both sides," Metellus said. "Obviously it's family in this building, but you also get to wake up in the morning and spend time with your family ... and then come do your thing. The thing you love to do with your guys and the people you've built relationships with throughout the whole year. We're a very close-knit group."

The Vikings have endured ample adversity this season but have stuck together as a locker room, which Metellus is deeply grateful for. In the final stretch of his sixth season in Purple, he's also thankful for making holiday memories with his wife Haley and two young children, Joshua ("Joshy") and Miyana.

We recently caught up with Metellus to chat about becoming a girl dad, childhood holiday moments and hidden talents.

**Q: DO YOU GUYS DO "SECRET SANTA" IN THE LOCKER ROOM?**

A: We actually do a "white elephant" gift exchange. I think the gift I'm gonna bring, I usually do travel vouchers. Shout-out to 22 (Harrison Smith), he gave me the idea, and every year I've been spicing them up a little bit.

**Q: WHAT IS THE BEST GIFT YOU'VE EVER GOTTEN FROM A TEAMMATE?**

A: A laptop. Use it every day. That was from [former Vikings cornerback] Najee [Thompson]. He gave me a tablet, too.

**Q: YOUR SON IS 4 NOW, RIGHT? WHAT'S ON HIS WISH LIST THIS YEAR?**

A: Football stuff. *AIIII* the football stuff. (Laughs). He wants Vikings stuff. He wants a toy U.S. Bank Stadium to play his little figurines inside. Anything to do with football, he's obsessed with it.

**Q: DOES AN "ELF ON THE SHELF" VISIT THE METELLUS HOME THIS TIME OF YEAR?**

A: We have Elfie and Elsie also now, for my daughter Miyana. Joshy gets so excited, and he also asks about Santa and is being on his best behavior for Santa. ... He's all about everything Christmas and the holiday activities. He gets that from his mom.

**Q: WHERE'S THE MOST UNIQUE PLACE ELFIE AND ELSIE HAVE SHOWN UP?**

A: Well, last year Elfie came to my work. He snuck in a guy's book bag, popped up in spots around the facility. I took some videos to send to Joshy, and guys were taking photos with Elfie for him.

**Q: WHAT WAS SOMETHING YOU REALLY WANTED FOR CHRISTMAS AS A KID?**

A: Man, a basketball. I wanted a basketball so bad at one point, and I finally got one for Christmas, and it was one of my favorite gifts. ... I played the piano, so I got a set

of bagpipes with the keyboard on the side. A kids' version, Toys R Us version. I thought I was a musician as a kid, and I don't have a musical bone in my body. Like, playing the piano is all memorization for me.

**Q: DO YOU STILL PLAY THE PIANO?**

A: Yeah, Haley got me a keyboard two Christmases ago, an electric keyboard, and it really sparked something in me. I thought, "I'm gonna spend money to get a real, good one." I got one a couple months later, and I've been playing ever since. Actually, Beezy (Cam Bynum) was really the one who [inspired me], too.

**Q: WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE SONG TO PLAY?**

A: "All of Me" (by John Legend). A couple Ed Sheeran songs. A lot of love songs I like to play with Haley. "A Whole New World" from *Aladdin*, that's the first one I tried to learn for her.

**Q: YOU AND HALEY WELCOMED A LITTLE GIRL THIS YEAR; CONGRATS ON BEING A GIRL DAD! DOES SHE HAVE YOU WRAPPED AROUND HER FINGER?**

A: Yeah, she really does. You know, you have a little boy and you see yourself in him – especially when he has the same name as you. I see a lot of myself in Joshy, and with Miyana it's like, "What can I provide for her to see from me in her life?"

**Q: WHAT DO YOU ENVISION DOING TOGETHER WITH MIYANA, ESPECIALLY AS SHE GETS A LITTLE OLDER?**

A: Sports. Whatever sport she wants to play, but I know she'll play something. Or maybe baking, teaching her how to bake. I've got my little sourdough thing going on, and I'm gonna need somebody to do that with. I'll have to wait a few years for that, because there's so much detail involved, but that's something I'm definitely gonna want to do with her.

**Q: WHEN DID YOU GET INTO SOURDOUGH BAKING?**

A: This past offseason. I pick up a new hobby every offseason, and around February I started that.

**Q: WHAT FLAVOR HAS BEEN THE FAVORITE?**

A: Cheddar jalapeno. At least, that's what the people tell me. But I like my double chocolate, because I love chocolate. Red velvet, that's really good. I like the sweet stuff.

**Q: HAVE YOU HAD ANY TOTAL FLOPS?**

A: Yeah, of course. When I first started, I had a bunch of flops. But I learned fast. So after about a month, I kinda had it down. And it was the offseason; I had nothing else to do, so I'm trying it every day. My wife is from San Francisco, so that's the reason I even started doing this, was for her. We started sending it to our friends and stuff, and it became a whole thing. I love it.

Portraits credit:  
Katina Elizabeth Photography



x  44

# TAKE METRO TRANSIT TO U.S. BANK STADIUM!

Skip the line.  
Scan here to  
buy tickets.

[metrotransit.org/Vikings](https://metrotransit.org/Vikings)

Unilever

# MAKE A FRESH PLAY

TIME TO ELEVATE YOUR  
GAME-DAY PREP

**Dove Men+Care**  
CLEAN COMFORT  
72H PROTECTION  
LONG LASTING FRAGRANCE  
FOR MEN AND BOYS  
RINSE & REAPPLY  
NET WT. 3.0 OZ. / 85g

**TRESemmé**  
DRY TEXTURE  
SPRAY  
POURABLE HOLD  
FINISHES STYLE  
NET WT. 6.2 OZ. / 175g

**Dove**  
deep moisture  
nourishes the driest skin  
nourrit la peau la plus sèche  
hydratation  
profonde  
24hr lotion-soft skin  
lotion 24h peau douce  
body wash | nettoyant corporel

**Vaseline**  
NEW RECYCLABLE PUMP  
NOUVELLE POMPE RECYCLABLE  
Intensive Care™  
cocoa radiant®  
48H MOISTURE /  
HYDRATION  
ULTRA-HYDRATING  
LIPDS /  
HYDRATANTS  
Skin  
Health  
for all  
LOTION  
3 US FL OZ / 600 mL

©2025 Unilever



**JUSTIN  
JEFFERSON**

# POSITIVE INFLUENCE

BY ROB KLEIFIELD

**Aaron Jones, Sr., was concerned he let his friend down.** “I know he really hadn’t had the ball all game, and so I got to the sideline, and I just put a towel up,” Jones recalled of apologetically hiding his face. “And I’m like, ‘Bro, I can’t even look at you. It’s my fault.’” Justin Jefferson inquired, “What do you mean?”

Minnesota was unbelievably close to embossing an exclamation point on its wire-to-wire Week 14 win. The offense drew up a play on the sideline mid-game and got the defensive look it desired to execute it.

Except, Jones “lunged a little bit,” he said, and could only chip ageless wonder Bobby Wagner instead of squaring up the linebacker in pass protection. Thus, Wagner blitzed through the middle of the offensive line and forced young quarterback JJ. McCarthy off his spot. Forty-five yards down the field, Jefferson stuck his right arm in the air like a windmill, then 360ed in slow motion as a sure-thing TD turned into a 16-yard QB run.

The Vikings went ahead by 31 points eight plays later, prompting Jones to return to the bench reluctantly.

“When you go back and look at that play,” the running back reiterated to Jefferson, “it’s my fault.”

The reply to his accountability was revealing: “He said to me, ‘No, you’re good, bro. I’m more worried about winning than stats. This is when I’m having the most fun. This is what I want to see on the sideline – guys smiling.’” Jones reflected on Jefferson’s selfless attitude.



**HE MADE THAT MOMENT NOT ABOUT HIM. HE MADE IT MORE ABOUT THE GUYS THAN HIMSELF – AND IT’S NEVER ABOUT HIM. IT’S ALWAYS BIGGER THAN HIM.”**

#### **INCREDIBLE SET OF INTANGIBLES**

The first five seasons delivered by Jefferson, the 22nd overall pick and fifth WR drafted in the Class of 2020, were historic, which makes it easy to think his sixth has not maximized his generational talent.

But Minnesota’s roller-coaster

calendar has emphasized lesser-known parts of Jefferson’s brilliance.

Teammates are witnesses. That includes McCarthy, the 22-year-old with single-digit NFL starts who’s been tasked with feeding the football to the phenom and has been poised through the noise.

“You see so many receivers around the league just kind of be a ‘me guy,’ and he’s not a ‘me guy,’ ” McCarthy said during the week of his breakthrough performance against Washington, in which he passed for 163 yards and three TDs. “Obviously, it’s frustrating. Obviously, he’s the greatest in the world and going through tough times, but the way he’s responded, the way he’s acted toward me and just how he wears that ‘C’ on his chest – it’s something amazing, and that just amplifies his ability as a player.”

Around the same time, between lines that look out of place in Jefferson’s career game logs – two catches for 4 yards in a scoreless showing at Seattle and two for 11 in the following Sunday’s shutout of the Commanders – T.J. Hockenson shared that Jefferson’s leadership this year is a testament to his evolution as a person.

“Just being vocal, I think, is a huge thing,” the tight end said. “I came here three years ago, halfway through the season and, obviously, I knew who Justin Jefferson was, but I was also very homed in on the playbook, and so I didn’t really even talk to Justin for a few days. And then I finally went up to him, and he was quiet. And now he’s very front and center, letting people know who he is, and [pushing] this team.”

Hockenson sourced instances of Jefferson’s competitiveness (the receiver’s distaste for losing, he

recently said, traces back to his aversion of being defeated in board games) showing up in a challenging season: “Jets” is running as fast as he’s run before and routing up defenders as often, Hockenson said.

“That’s who he is,” he continued to credit the 26-year-old star. “And, yeah, unfortunately this year’s not gone the way he’s wanted, anybody’s wanted, I’ve wanted – but he’s still continued to press on, work on his craft and do everything that he’s needed to do to be the greatest wide receiver to play.”

Hockenson added, “We all don’t like [being a sub-.500 team]. We all want to go out there on game days and show our best and play our best and ultimately come out with the win no matter what. So, he’s frustrated and I understand – and we’re all frustrated – but that doesn’t [mean he’s bowed out].”

There’s a sea of snaps that suggest the opposite, actually; Jefferson’s total impact is clearer than ever.

He’s king of the route tree – and does dirty work willfully. He’s the face of the franchise (a global celebrity, too, with a cameo in Paris Fashion Week plus a leading role in a Prime Video series) – and champions his teammates. He’s a marvel of production amidst his prime – and a paragon of patience.

On Nov. 16, he blasted Bears safety Kevin Byard III out of the frame on a Jordan Mason touchdown trot and made headlines. On Dec. 7, he was the first progression on a pass and reacted to a 21-yard dot on third down from McCarthy to Jordan Addison, fit snugly into a void that emerged when a player converged on Jefferson’s shallower route, with the kind of enthusiasm you see from doting fathers on Pop Warner sidelines – spinning to his QB, pointing his index finger in approval and clapping his hands.

# FOX LOCAL is FOX 9

STREAM LIVE  
Newscasts

&



**DOWNLOAD  
THE PHONE APP**

Vikings Head Coach Kevin O'Connell characterized Jefferson as a "coach on the field in a lot of ways."

"[His] football intelligence is off the charts," said O'Connell, drawing attention to defenses playing Jefferson differently than virtually anyone. "We've seen every coverage known to man in that pure world, and his ability to handle that and learn and grow – he plays football at a wildly elite level between the ears. And then his physical skill set, his impact on the organization, impact on much more than just people in this building, clearly, as the best in the world at what he does is – he's phenomenal."

## LEADING WITH HIS HEART

The outcome of a play does not define Jefferson's relationship with his teammates.

If he didn't make the catch, that's OK, because he's a force multiplier; his presence is a confidence boost for the 10 other Vikings in the offensive huddle; and his gravitational pull post-snap frees somebody else.

"And then there's nobody more excited," said O'Connell, when another guy's number is called.

"Justin has been elite from a leadership standpoint, character standpoint, being one of our captains and guys that drives this organization," the coach outlined the day after smothering Washington. "That's no matter what the look on his face has been. That's no matter what the statistical columns say. I can't say enough about him.

"Even when he doesn't have a smile on his face, he's still the same guy," O'Connell said later that week, with game-planning for Dallas in full swing. "He, every single day, means the world to this organization."

Moreover, tribulations this season have not changed the contents of Jefferson's heart.

On the second day of December, the offense's lack of production in the Pacific Northwest still raw, there was a cause bigger than football for celebration: Jones' 31st birthday. A gesture by Jefferson blew Jones away.

It started with Jones buying into a coincidence.

As he and his twin, Alvin, Jr., pulled into the parking lot of a restaurant, the brothers spotted Justin's father John. Through the car window, they smiled and said their hellos, thinking nothing more of it. Moments later, Aaron and Alvin strolled into the eatery they'd picked out for a low-profile B-Day dinner with family.

Upon entering, Jones said, they were guided to a quaint private room; a door opened, and Jones realized the chance encounter was something else entirely. Justin, John and Elaine Jefferson were at Jones' table.

"I just – I couldn't believe he was there," Jones said a week later.

"It speaks a lot [about] him," Jones noted with the same emotion he felt in the moment. "And I never want to feel like I'm bothering anybody, so for him to come out in a busy week – it's snowing, and he just shared his time. I mentioned that, and he said, 'It's not bothering.' He kind of laughed when I said that."

Remember ... It's never about "Jets." It's always bigger than him.

"Over the past two years, we've really gotten to grow our friendship," Jones said.

A wiz in his own right – Jones has made the Pro Bowl; he's led the NFL in touchdowns; he's racked up more than 10,000 career scrimmage yards; and he's endeared himself to both fanbases of one of the league's storied rivalries – the running back said there was a mutual respect between him and Jefferson before he joined the Vikings last season. Since then, Jefferson's family has acted as an extension of Jones' and vice-versa.

"I know in his position it can be hard, just even trying to be a normal person," Jones said candidly. "I think he knows I kind of know that [feeling], as well. Our friendship is natural. We just clicked. And then it goes well on the field; I see him turn up, I'm ready to turn up. He sees me turn up, he's ready to turn up. It's a brotherhood. That's what it's become. We're brothers, and he knows we're locked in for life."

The Joneses and Jeffersons look out for one another. When Aaron glances at the stands and spots Justin's parents, a sense of security sweeps over him. "When I see [Elaine], it's like I'm seeing my mom," Jones said, and "seeing him (John) is like seeing my dad." If Aaron's brother, and mom Vurgess, are out of town when he's at practice and his girlfriend is in clinicals, he trusts the Jefferson family to watch his kids. He has faith in them because "they're part of our village, and we're part of their village."

That's one aspect of too many to count that confirms 2025 is not a wash but a widening of the scope that should be used to appreciate the youngest player in history to reach 8,000 career receiving yards.

As breathtaking as his routes and jaw-dropping as his body control and hand strength at the catch point, Justin Jefferson is a graceful and considerate teammate – a leader the franchise can passionately follow.

"He wants me to be as good as I want to be, and that's not common," Jones offered with a glint of amazement raising his voice. "A lot of times, the only man that wants to see you do better is your father."

# WINTER WARRIOR

## SHOWCASES VIKINGS ELEMENTS

**A cold front hit Minnesota in June 2024 when the Vikings unveiled their “Winter Warrior” uniforms.**

The uniforms feature white alternate jerseys and pants paired

with the first usage of a white helmet in franchise history. The uniforms are accented with metallic gray, including the face mask, and purple.

The introduction of Winter Warrior capped a design process that started more than two years earlier with initial concepts by Vikings Senior Art Manager Jackie Ramacher.

The Vikings debuted the “Winter Whiteout” uniforms during the 2022 season as a sort of market survey on the ultimate goal of a head-to-toe white look.

“We wanted to see, ‘Would people embrace wearing all-white? How would it go?’

Our fans loved it, and that’s how we knew, ‘OK, we really want to embrace this and use this direction for our new alternate uniforms,’”

Vikings Creative Director of Brand and Design Alicia Dreyer explained.

“Some of the biggest

feedback we got from fans with our Winter Whiteout was wanting to see an all-white helmet, but it’s a two-year process to actually create the new uniforms and new helmets – so we appreciate people being patient with us.”

The Winter Warrior design goals were to emulate a “modern Viking” and embrace the frigid North. The uniforms feature a number of elements inspired by ancient Viking culture and the Northern climate, including the cool-toned color palate and subtle variation on the standard jerseys’ numbers, creating the look of ice drips.

Also unique is a completely new finish for the helmet, which was developed through close collaboration with the Vikings, the NFL and Riddell. A metallic stripe was added to the center of the helmet as a modern interpretation of the riveted metal strips used in early battle helmets.

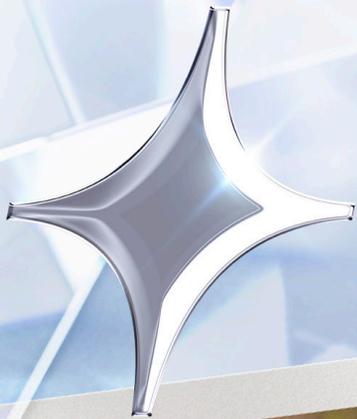
Two additional details include the VIKINGS wordmark on the chest of the jersey written in SKOL font, a pivot from the original Vikings script that traditionally has been used, and the Nordic knot design embroidered on the back neckline.

A Nordic pattern initially was added in 2016 to the inside neckline, but Dreyer and Ramacher wanted to make the detail more visible for fans. The revised knot design includes three shields that are a nod to Kevin O’Connell’s mantra: “Our Way. Our Team. Our Process.”





**MINNESOTA'S  
CHRISTMAS  
STATION**



BY LINDSEY YOUNG

C.J. HAM & VIKINGS HOST ANNUNCIATION STUDENTS ON

# NORTH POLE EXPRESS



The evening truly felt magical. Snow that had lengthened commutes and fell in droves suddenly felt sparkling and whimsical, floating past train windows and bright-colored Christmas lights.

---

C.J. Ham, the Vikings Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year Club Winner, and his family joined Verizon to host children from Annunciation Catholic School and their parents for a night highlighted by the North Pole Express, a holiday-themed train ride from St. Paul Union Depot to ... well, you know, Santa Claus' headquarters.

"I'd better mark that I was 'mostly good,' " pondered a young boy, looking over a Santa letter template.

"That sounds about right," laughed his dad, offering him a wink and a smile.

Wearing a Justin Jefferson jersey, Vikings beanie and even some "Jets"-style shades, the 9-year-old started to craft his Christmas wish list – which he topped with *Madden 26*.

Families were welcomed by the train's conductor and engineer, who encouraged the youngsters to watch closely out the windows as they chugged leisurely through the North Pole village. Elves dressed in green-and-red and with pointy ears played tricks on each other in the rising snow; then the Grinch suddenly appeared, sprinting alongside the tracks holding a large, wrapped gift above his head.

"He's stealing presents!" A girl yelled incredulously.

Riders enjoyed multiple entertainers, including a magician, a face-paint artist and a snow princess who rapped about reindeer.

But what really stole the show was when Santa Claus himself boarded the train, prompting wide eyes and excited whispers.

Each family had the opportunity to meet Kris Kringle, many of the children eagerly crawling into his lap and relaying what they wanted for Christmas. His excited visitors included

C.J. and Stephanie's two youngest, 7-year-old Stella and 4-year-old Trip.

"I asked him for a remote-control monster truck," Trip later informed.

Family photos were the perfect way to end a fun-filled evening that started with a catered dinner, sprinkled Christmas cookies and activities inside the depot. A special Verizon station featured a rotary phone children could use to call and leave additional messages for Santa.

C.J. was introduced to the group as the Vikings WPMOY Club Winner for the second straight season and presented with a trophy, as well as a custom-painted Vikings helmet.

He took time to connect with families, signing autographs for the kids and shaking hands with parents, looking them in the eyes to encourage them. Less than four months after their lives were violently disrupted by the mass shooting at Annunciation, many of the guests wore navy blue sweatshirts bearing the school's logo and the words "Move Your Feet," referencing a motto they've adopted in response to tragedy. On the sleeves were two white hearts with the initials of 10-year-old Harper Moyski and 8-year-old Fletcher Merkel, who were killed in the shooting.

"I know you all have been through a lot," C.J. told the group. "I can already tell the reason you are able to make it through is by leaning on your faith, and also community."

As C.J. spoke, a mother sitting near the front of the room nodded in affirmation, her eyes welling with tears.

"The way you kids and the parents have interacted with each other just in this short amount of time, I can see there's so much love," he continued. "There's so much compassion, and I love to see that. I'm honored to share this

night with you all and have fun with you. Thank you for being here."

Vikings Director of Community Relations Logan Johnson and C.J. both emphasized the desire to honor the Annunciation community in whatever way possible.

"We know nothing the Vikings or anybody else does can change anything these families have had to go through," Johnson said. "But if we can do something as simple as providing them with a new memory for tonight, that's really important to us.

"We will have more touch points with them moving forward, because we understand how important it is for them to continue to create those new memories," Johnson noted. "That's something that we're going to take very seriously as an organization."

C.J. later reflected on the evening and expressed gratitude for being able to spend time with parents and young people.

"I can't even imagine what they've been through," he said. "But they're leaning on each other, leaning on their faith, doing things together.

"Right before we got on the train, one of the moms came up to me and said, 'Thank you,' " continued C.J., who paused for a moment to gather his emotions. "It's hard for me to even put into words. Because she said, 'It's nice not to be forgotten.' And it hit me right in the heart, just to know what some of these young children had to see, had to endure.

"I'm just grateful I was able to share this night with them, celebrate with them, hopefully bring them some hope," C.J. added. "Because honestly? It's them who gave me a lot of hope."

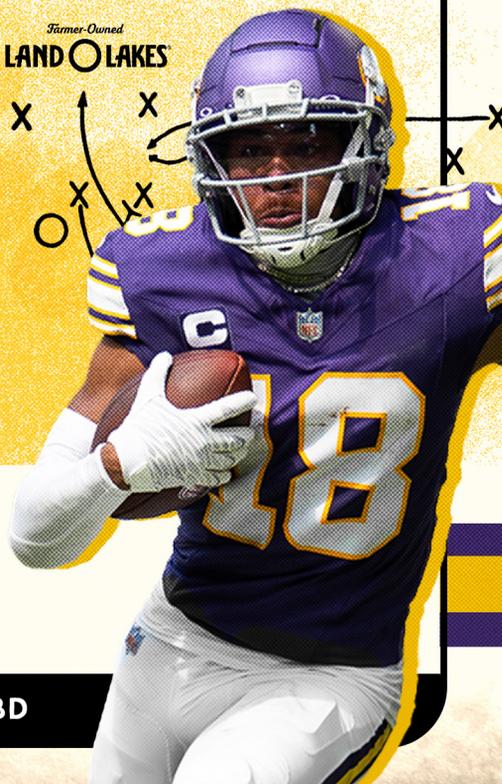
**Tickets  
AVAILABLE**



**vs.**



Farmer-Owned  
**LAND O LAKES**



SCAN THE CODE TO GET TICKETS  
OR VISIT [VIKINGS.COM/TICKETS](https://vikings.com/tickets)

**WEEK 18 | VIKINGS CLASSIC | DATE TBD**



**EXPERIENCE GREATNESS**

Relive your favorite Vikings memories and discover the untold stories of the team at the Vikings Museum in Eagan.

Celebrate Legends in purple and see how it all began through interactive exhibits and one-of-a-kind artifacts.

**VIKINGS MUSEUM**



SCAN THE CODE TO GET TICKETS OR VISIT [VIKINGS.COM/MUSEUM](https://vikings.com/museum) FOR MORE INFORMATION

VIKINGS & SCHEELS PROVIDE

# MEMORIES FOR YOUTH DURING SHOPPING SPREE

BY ROB KLEIFIELD

**Even on his day off, Isaiah Rodgers was playing defense.**

His opponent was an unusual one, though. And much more a new friend than an adversary. The veteran defensive back in his first season with the Vikings repeatedly shuffled his feet, swerved around several corners and tried with all his might (we're only kidding) to gently tackle a 2-and-a-half-year-old boy named Azari.

Like a kid in a candy store, but at SCHEELS (which coincidentally has a candy store in it), there were a million things tempting the toddler: neon green sneakers the size of a computer mouse, a toy firetruck and figurines of animals.

"I was a little upset when he walked past the WWE items, but it's a different era now. I was hoping he'd pick up one so I could be a kid in that moment," Rodgers said, his voice trailing off before perking back up. "But seeing how smart he is, knowing all the different dinosaurs; it makes me relate back to my kids."

**STANDING STILL FOR A RARE SECOND, HE ADDED, "JUST TO SEE THE SMILE ON HIS FACE PUTS A SMILE ON MINE."**

Rodgers, along with teammates Jalen Nailor, T.J. Hockenson, Blake Cashman and Levi Drake Rodriguez, dedicated about an hour each at different times to guide single mothers, who are currently enrolled in college courses through the Jeremiah Program, and their children around SCHEELS. Jeremiah Program provides stability for single-parent families two generations at a time. The families were picked via a randomized drawing and received a \$1,000 stipend from the Vikings and SCHEELS to pack shopping carts to the brim.

Jeremiah Program Family Services Director Nicole Weiler called the event "super wonderful."

"I don't think anyone thought that the players were going to hang out and shop with them all day; it was an engaging experience," Weiler said. "The kids were really excited because of the 'football celebrities.'"

The fun started for Rodgers around 1 p.m. after he did an interview on KFAN, which broadcasted live from SCHEELS during the all-day

event. Rodgers whimsically chased Azari into aisles, fitting rooms and elevators, and tried refocusing and delivering him to his mom, Marrisra, and 7-year-old brother Josiah.

The latter made sure to fill his cart with NERF toys and wore a new pair of shoes out of the store.

Cashman, who grew up in Eden Prairie and starred at the U of M, arrived shortly after Rodgers and adventured the massive sporting goods store with JoAnna and children (also) Josiah, 7, and Jazmine, 1.

They gravitated toward pairs of Nike shoes described by Cashman as "sweet," colorful outfits, smartly including cold-weather gear, and LEGO sets. Jazmine's eyes also darted to a collection of stuffed animals.

"I love interacting with the kids and their families," Cashman explained. "It brings joy to my heart and brings me back to the [feeling] of when you're a little kid."

Weiler was extremely complimentary of Marissa and JoAnna.

"They both are crushing school and are two of the most caring mothers, who are fiercely protective of their children and really, really patient in ways that are just inspiring when you're juggling so many things in your life and still able to put your children first in every single way," she shared. "And I think as you saw, the contents of their carts today, that continues to be true. Just incredible people in our program."

Like Rodgers and his flock, Cashman's crew finished its shopping spree with 10-15 minutes of immersive games. Jazmine watched curiously as Josiah and Blake hopped in the "Halo: Fireteam Raven" arcade engine and defeated alien species. For a moment in time, Cashman was transported to his youth.

"Josiah – he was holding it down!" the linebacker smiled. "I had a lot of fun playing the arcade games."





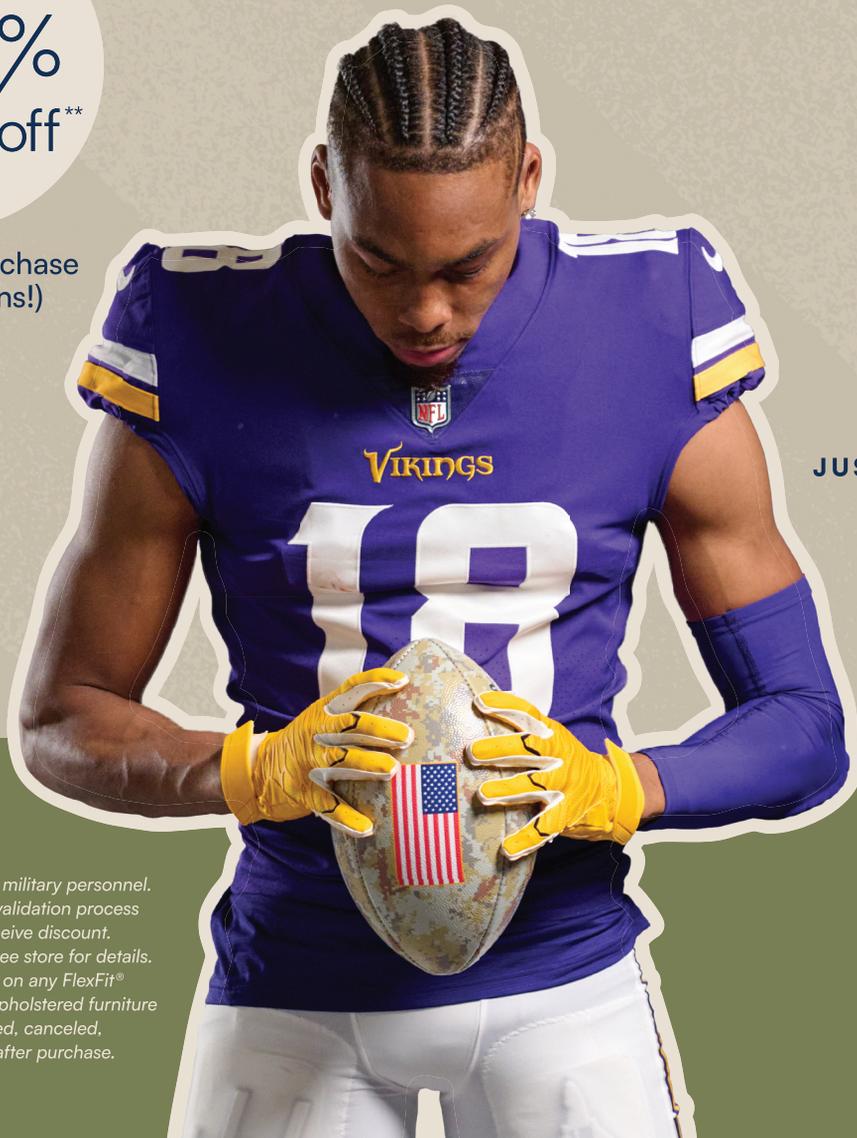
# Military & Veterans

We're thanking all active, veteran, retired and reservist personnel of the U.S. armed forces with an exclusive discount — **supporting the NFL's Salute to Service.**

Take an additional

**10%**  
off\*\*

your entire purchase  
(no exclusions!)



**JUSTIN JEFFERSON**

*Minnesota Vikings  
Wide Receiver*

\*\*Valid to current and past military personnel. Must complete SheerID validation process to confirm status and receive discount. Restrictions may apply. See store for details. No returns or exchanges on any FlexFit® smart adjustable base. Upholstered furniture orders cannot be changed, canceled, exchanged, or returned after purchase.

LEARN MORE:



KHYREE JACKSON'S FAMILY RECEIVES

# 'INSPIRE CHANGE CHANGEMAKER AWARD'

BY LINDSEY YOUNG

**Khyree Jackson achieved his lifelong dream of being drafted by an NFL team.**

Now, his parents are making sure his other goal of impacting underprivileged youth also is accomplished.

Khyree tragically passed away in a car accident on July 6, 2024, less than three months after the Vikings drafted him in the fourth round.

His mom and dad, Ebony and Raymond, launched the Khyree Jackson Foundation the following April.

"This foundation is keeping Khyree's legacy alive," Raymond said. "I think sometimes when people lose a loved one ... you kind of just let things sit, you never get back to it. So we wanted to do something kind of early – to keep us busy, to help with the grieving process and make sure we go in hands-first in something to keep his legacy alive. Do a lot of the things he wanted to do, things he loved to do."

Khyree's family says his journey was defined by his unwavering determination,

perseverance and a "never give up" spirit. These qualities are now central to the foundation, ensuring Khyree's legacy of resilience and hard work continues to inspire others.

Ebony and Raymond helped design "Khyree's Locker of Hope." The physical locker serves as a symbol for the initiative that provides athletic equipment to underserved youth in Minnesota and Khyree's home state of Maryland.

"It's just beautiful," Ebony said of the locker wrapped in an image of Khyree. "The only thing we've been able to do is just hope – some days are a little better than other days. Seeing the locker, we'll be able to take it with us anytime we do outreach events, community events, and people can see ... this is something Khyree wanted to do.

He wanted to give back, and we're just stepping into his shoes and doing what we know he wanted."

In addition to community outreach and hosting youth football camps, the Khyree Jackson Foundation funds two different scholarships to support students who share



Khyree's determined spirit in reaching their educational goals and professional dreams.

Ebbony and Raymond's efforts through the foundation have profoundly impacted Vikings outside linebacker Dallas Turner, who teamed at Alabama with Khyree before the corner transferred to Oregon. Dallas and Khyree were then reunited as 2024 draft picks by Minnesota, spending three months together realizing their NFL dreams before the accident that claimed Khyree's life.

"He was a very loving person when it comes to leading people in the right direction, especially the youth, and being a figure for other people that he didn't have growing up," Dallas said. "There are still good things being said and done related to his name even though he's not here with us. His parents are doing such a good job [with the] foundation and [keeping his memory] alive."

It's why the Vikings this year have chosen to honor the Jackson family with the Inspire Change Changemaker Award. The award recognizes a person or family in each NFL team market who is making a difference in their community through social justice work, either individually or as part of a community organization.

Each Inspire Change Changemaker will receive a \$10,000 donation from the NFL Foundation, paid directly to a nonprofit organization of their choice.

The Vikings Social Justice Committee, a player-led group, voted on this year's recipient; the Jacksons rose to the top by an overwhelming margin.

"It's so well-deserved," said Vikings Head Coach Kevin O'Connell, who surprised Ebony and Raymond with the news via video call, along

with Vikings Director of Player Development Jasper Brinkley.

"With the Khyree Jackson Foundation and just the inspiration you guys are, keeping his memory and his life on all of our hearts and minds by the good you're doing ... and setting such an unbelievable example for so many to see," O'Connell told the Jacksons. "The way you have stayed so strong as a family and harnessed all that love into doing such powerful things, starting the foundation and already having such an incredible impact.

"You guys know how much you mean to me; you know how much you mean to Jasper and the entire Minnesota Vikings family," he added. "So it is a huge honor for me to get to tell you this."

O'Connell proceeded to invite Ebony and Raymond to U.S. Bank Stadium for today's Inspire Change Game, during which they will be honored.

"We want to make sure all of our Vikings family, our great fans, everybody within our organization, gets to see on the field and recognized for the impact that you are," O'Connell said. "And more importantly – most importantly – a major part of our Vikings family here with how much you mean to us."



**KILLER<sup>®</sup>  
BROWNIE**

**IT'S TIME TO  
GET MESSY.**



FIND US AT **HyVee**



DOWNLOAD THE  
**VIKINGS  
APP**

For Latest Team News, Exclusive Content, Access Your Tickets, and Customize Your Push Notifications

**VIKINGS.COM/APP**



MINNESOTA VIKINGS  
**LOCKER ROOM**  
A Fanatics Experience

**EXCLUSIVE**

JUSTIN JEFFERSON VARSITY HOCKEY JERSEY



Receive a FREE Justin Jefferson bobblehead with purchase

IN-STORE ONLY. STARTING BLACK FRIDAY, WHILE SUPPLIES LAST.



BY CRAIG PETERS

# UNIFIED FLAG

VIKINGS & TCO ORTHOPEDICS CREATE MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES FOR SPECIAL OLYMPIANS

**Food, fellowship and football – just as Thanksgiving weekend should be – accented by some thrown (and caught) fish.**

The 2025 Vikings Unified Flag Football Team enjoyed all the above and so much more when it visited Seattle Nov. 28-Dec. 1 for this year's Unified Bowl.

The Vikings and Twin Cities Orthopedics sponsored Special Olympics athletes from the Omega Storm who signed contracts and met with Vikings Head Coach Kevin O'Connell and General Manager Kwesi Adofo-Mensah earlier in the fall.

The Vikings Unified team received swag, from clutch zip-

up hoodies to custom-painted kicks, ahead of the trip and participated in a press conference and practices at TCO Performance Center in advance of the Unified Bowl. Brothers Patrick and Sean Healy, who were members of the inaugural Vikings Unified Team that played in L.A. in 2019, attended the press conference to encourage this year's squad.

The team also attended a Saturday walk-through practice in November where the group broke down the huddle and Jillian Sitarz showed off her selfie-taking skills alongside Justin Jefferson.

## AN INCREDIBLE JOURNEY

**Members of Seattle's Blue Thunder drumline, Seahawks Dancers and mascot Blitz helped welcome both squads with festivities before the game and at halftime.**

Ultimately, the hosting Seahawks-sponsored team prevailed 36-30, thanks to some big touchdown plays and effective blitzes down the stretch. The Vikings, however, were valiant in their comeback effort from deficits of 22-8, 28-14 and 36-24.

With Ray Roberts, a former Seahawks and Lions tackle (1992-2000) who now works for Special Olympics, and Sidney Rice, a receiver with the Vikings (2007-10) and Seahawks (2011-13), cheering for both teams, the squads lived out the Special Olympics athlete oath, "Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt."

Minnesota's Justin Evilsizer scored a rushing touchdown just before halftime, and teammate and Unified Partner Isaac Nelson intercepted

Seattle on the opening drive of the second half.

Seattle, however, was able to score on a 36-yard pass before Minnesota's Emily Schlegel found Andrea Racioppi for a 12-yard touchdown.

The Seahawks squad struck quickly again, breaking free on a 35-yard TD run for a 36-24 edge.

Minnesota answered with a 7-yard pass from Lauren McCullough to Dan Nohr.

Nelson, a veteran of the Marines and fan of Harrison Smith because of the safety's loyalty and consistency, recorded his second interception of the game with 1:15 remaining. The Seattle squad, however, was effective with blitzes to halt Minnesota's final opportunity.

The sportsmanship displayed by both sides continued through

a jersey swap and massive cheers when Evilsizer of Minnesota and a player named Sam from Seattle were surprised with tickets to Super Bowl LX.

It was an incredible journey for the Vikings team, who flew out early the Friday after Thanksgiving and arrived in the Emerald City in time to attend the Professional Women's Hockey League game between the Minnesota Frost and the Seattle Torrent, the first home game ever for the franchise, which was played in front of a sell-out crowd. The Frost topped the Torrent 3-0.

Players and their families enjoyed having time to explore Seattle, making their way to the famed Pike Place Market, where the fresh fish are thrown and caught as part of the sights. Some athletes ventured to the Space Needle on Saturday morning.

The camaraderie of the group was on full display during a team lunch. After fueling up, the athletes practiced touchdown celebrations, including a bowling strike that knocked down human pins.

The unified teams attended the NFL game between the Vikings and Seahawks the following day, and Minnesota's group returned Monday. Special Olympics Minnesota Corporate Relations Manager Kaitlin

Mack and Senior Sports and Training Manager Derek Schiebel were with the travel party.

"We're so thankful the Vikings have brought to the forefront our mission of inclusion and are truly building on that," Mack said. "We're focused on the athlete, so you've got TCO, the Vikings and Special Olympics, and we're working together toward inclusion and healthy athletes. We want to see our athletes be healthy and strong and be included in a space, and sports do just that."

When Schiebel was a high school math teacher, he began coaching adaptive sports and "fell in love with the community." He now manages competitions, planning events year-round with 50 to 1,200 athletes, and trains coaches across the state.

"The Unified programming is a really cool way to see how change can happen, using sports as a vessel. You often hear that Special Olympics Minnesota is a sports organization. We do sports, and we also do a lot more, and it really comes from using sports as a vessel, or health as a vessel," Schiebel said. "It's really all about improving, all about change, and whether that's changing mindsets, changing actions, having inclusion at the forefront is really the big thing."

---

## **MEET THE 2025 VIKINGS UNIFIED FLAG FOOTBALL TEAM**

### **COACH DEB NOHR**

Game show: *Name That Tune*; Childhood gift received: Organ; Actor: Hugh Jackman; Movie: *When Harry Met Sally*; Pizza topping: Hawaiian; Viking: Harrison Phillips

### **NO. 6 DREW NOHR**

Dessert: Culer's; Actor: Jack Black; Movie: *Minecraft*; Pizza topping: Sausage; Viking: Justin Jefferson

### **NO. 7 EMILY SCHLEGEL**

Game show: *Wheel of Fortune*; Dessert: Any type of chocolate or cheesecake; Actor: Chris Evans or Sebastian Stan; Pizza topping: Canadian bacon & pineapple

### **NO. 11 DAN NOHR**

Game show: *Match Game*; Childhood gift received: A chest that belonged to ancestors from Norway; Actor: Jack Nicholson; Pizza topping: Supreme; Viking: Kyle Rudolph

### **NO. 12 LAUREN McCULLOUGH**

Game show: *The Weakest Link*; Karaoke song: "We Will Rock You"; Actress: Hayden Panettiere or Michelle Trachtenberg; Pizza topping: Pickles; Vikings: Adrian Peterson and Justin Jefferson

### **NO. 18 JILLIAN SITARZ**

Game show: *Family Feud*; Karaoke song: "Baby" by Justin Bieber; Actor: Zac Efron; Pizza topping: Sausage; Viking: Justin Jefferson

### **COACH KIM CLARK**

Game show: *Hole in the Wall*; Childhood gift received: Bike; Actor: Johnny Yen; Movie: *Avengers Infinity*; Pizza topping: Sausage; Viking: Randy Moss

### **NO. 30 ARIANNA HAWKINS**

Game show: *Family Feud*; Karaoke song: "Love is an Open Door" from *Frozen*; Actress: Scarlett Johansson; Childhood gift received: A tie blanket with ducks on it; Pizza topping: Pineapple

### **NO. 33 ANDREA RACIOPPI**

Game show: *Wipeout*; Karaoke song: "Life is a Highway"; Childhood gift received: First softball glove; Dessert: Strawberry milkshake; Actor: The Rock; Movie: *Cars*; Viking: Randy Moss

### **NO. 36 JUSTIN EVILSIZER**

Game show: *The Price is Right*; Karaoke song: "Baby" by Justin Bieber; Movie: *The Greatest Showman*; Pizza topping: Cheese; Vikings: JJ. McCarthy and Justin Jefferson

### **NO. 42 ISAAC NELSON**

Game show: *Family Feud*; Karaoke song: "I Want It That Way"; Actor: Chris Pratt; Movie: *Lord of the Rings* trilogy; Pizza topping: Sausage; Viking: Harrison Smith

### **NO. 55 AARON CLARK**

Game show: *Jeopardy!*; Childhood gift received: A LEGO movie theater; Movie: *Bad Guys*; Pizza topping: Cheese; Viking: Justin Jefferson

# THIS COULD BE YOUR YEAR

WIN UP TO  
\$100,000!



ON SALE  
8/7

**\$5** MINNESOTA LOTTERY

## Minnesota Vikings

2ND CHANCE ON BACK  
SCRATCH TO REVEAL CODE

WINNING NUMBERS YOUR NUMBERS

WIN UP TO \$100,000!

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

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



MUST BE 18+  
TO PLAY.



Preferred Sports Bar of the Minnesota Vikings

# SACKS FOR WINGS



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



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

TM & © 2025 Buffalo Wild Wings, Inc. 25\_1843300

# INSPIRED TO INSPIRING

BY LINDSEY YOUNG



MVC  
Lauren

## Lauren sometimes still can't believe she's part of the MVC.

Born and raised in Minnesota, she doesn't remember a time of her life when the Vikings weren't involved in some way, either attending games at the Metrodome or watching games in the living room as a family.

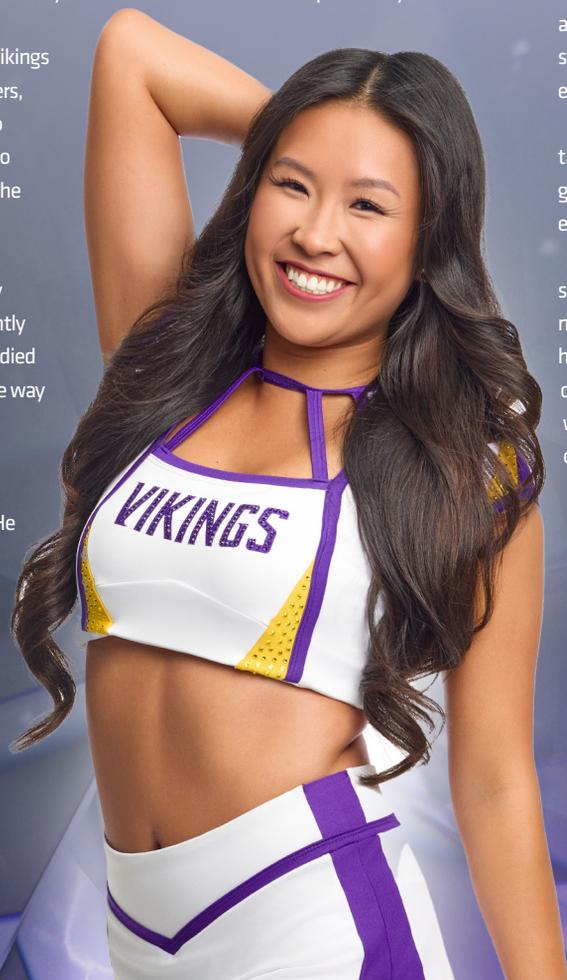
But it actually wasn't football that initially drew Lauren in.

"My dad has always been a huge Vikings fan, and as a girl dad of two daughters, he didn't always have someone who shared his excitement about going to games – until he introduced me to the MVC," Lauren recalled. "We saw the cheerleaders one day at the Mall of America, and he explained who they were and what they did. I was instantly captivated by everything they embodied – the confidence, the energy and the way they connected with fans.

"From that moment on, going to Vikings games became something special for both of us," she added. "He got to watch the football he loved so much, and I got to watch the cheerleaders who inspired me."

Lauren's father had a friend at the time who worked for the team, and he occasionally was able to provide pregame field passes. Lauren still remembers how special she felt when getting to meet some of the MVC and take photos with them.

Lauren admired the MVC long before she actually picked up dance herself, beginning at age 12. She tried almost every sport growing up – figure skating, tennis, lacrosse, hockey, soccer, golf – "you name it!" But when she was introduced to dance and performing on stage, Lauren felt a passion she hadn't discovered previously.



Fast-forward to her time at the University of Minnesota, and she decided to audition for the MVC. She acknowledges now she didn't expect to make the team on her first go-round.

"So when I got the call that I made the team, I was completely shocked... and absolutely over the moon," Lauren said. "I was standing in the kitchen with my family, and as soon as they realized I'd made the team, they all started jumping up and down and screaming in excitement. It's a moment I'll never forget."

Now in her fourth season, Lauren doesn't take a moment for granted. She's especially grateful for the opportunity to inspire and encourage other young girls.

Two years ago, she was dancing on the sidelines at U.S. Bank Stadium when she noticed a girl in a field-level suite pointing at her and enthusiastically telling her mom, "That cheerleader looks like me!" In stopping to talk with the family, Lauren learned the girl also is of Chinese descent.

"She told me she wanted to be just like me when she grew up," Lauren said. "Seeing her excitement and the way her face lit up during our interaction was such a full-circle moment for me. I used to be that little girl – wide-eyed, inspired and dreaming big every time I saw the cheerleaders.

"To now stand on the other side of that moment, not only as an MVC but also as someone representing the Asian American community, is incredibly meaningful," she added. "It reminded me exactly why I love what I do."

# OUR ENERGY, YOUR POWER.

Explore ways you can save energy at home:



Proud Partner



# 5 FAVES

If C.J. Ham and Aaron Jones, Sr., have a holiday meal together, they'll have to make sure multiple dessert options are available. While Jones' favorite is sweet potato pie, Ham (a Duluth native) went with the Minnesota-staple apple pie.

Now, if the teammates order a pizza pie? They both agree pineapple is a priority.

Ham and Jones have connected over much more than food during two seasons together in the Vikings running backs room. The two quickly bonded when Minnesota signed Jones in 2024, after he spent the first seven seasons of his NFL career with division-rival Green Bay. They mesh well on the field and support one another off it, each showing up for the other's give-back efforts.

Most recently, Ham and his family supported Jones at his AGA All the Way "Drives & Vibes" event at the newly opened Topgolf in Woodbury.

Beyond their affinity for a polarizing pizza topping, here are five of their other faves:



**AARON  
JONES SR.**

**C.J.  
HAM**

**KARAOKE SONG**

"LOCATION" BY KHALID

"BIG GREEN TRACTOR"  
BY JASON ALDEAN

**CHILDHOOD GIFT RECEIVED**

HALF-COURT BASKETBALL COURT

SKATEBOARD

**ACTOR**

MARLON WAYANS

DENZEL WASHINGTON

**MOVIE**

THE 6TH MAN; GLORY ROAD

CREED TRILOGY

**CONCERT ATTENDED**

CHRIS BROWN

MAVERICK CITY

LOOKING FOR THE PERFECT GIFT?



GIVE A

# VIKINGS KIDS CLUB!

MEMBERSHIP



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

WE OFFER TWO LEVELS OF MEMBERSHIP KITS:

## PURPLE LEVEL: \$30

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

LEARN MORE AT  
[VIKINGS.COM/KIDSCLUB](https://vikings.com/kidsclub)

## GOLD LEVEL: \$50

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

\*Onsite Pricing

# Viktor's Holiday I-SPY!



## VIKTOR'S HOLIDAY I-SPY! CAN YOU FIND ALL 10 ITEMS?

A lion, a deer, a truck, a candy cane  
A helmet, SKOL, a moose, a Labubu

A norseman and...  
VIKTOR THE VIKING!

*follow me  
for more  
festive games!*





# SKOL SERVICE Spotlight

BY MADIE GILE

These outstanding individuals were recognized at our last game vs. the Washington Commanders for their exceptional service. Their dedication and excellence in SKOL Service helped ensure that every fan's experience was memorable and enjoyable. We are proud to highlight their contributions to making game days successful.

- CODY HOISINGTON, ALLIED**
- SADDIYA CONLEY, ALLIED**
- FATU MANOBAH, BEST**
- MARK BILDERBACK, LEGENDS**
- SANDRA BROWN, LEGENDS**
- TONY ERSKIN, LEGENDS**
- ROBERT MENARD, LEGENDS**
- GINGER TAFF, LEGENDS**
- MICHAEL VARNADO, LEGENDS**
- DANIEL VANDERSTEEN, VIKINGS**
- CHANDLER WALOWINSKI, VIKINGS**



## CELEBRATION PACKS

Winter Whiteout exclusive gift pack! Winter Whiteout Vikings knit beanie, Winter Warrior Vikings helmet keychain, two Vikings-themed holiday ornaments, white Norseman-engraved insulated mug, Autographed Joshua Metellus Exclusive Trading Card and a surprise gift from Pepsi!

\*All items subject to change.

**SCAN THE QR CODE TO ORDER A GIFT PACK RIGHT TO YOUR SEAT!**

## CONCESSIONS SPOTLIGHT

**COLD STONE CREAMERY | SECTION 134**

Celebrate the Winter Whiteout in sweet style with Cold Stone Creamery! Stop by Section 134 to enjoy fan favorites like Birthday Cake Remix, Chocolate Devotion and Oreo Overload. Don't forget to treat yourself this holiday season. There's a scoop (or two!) for every craving.

*Scan the QR Code for a full list of concession offerings.*

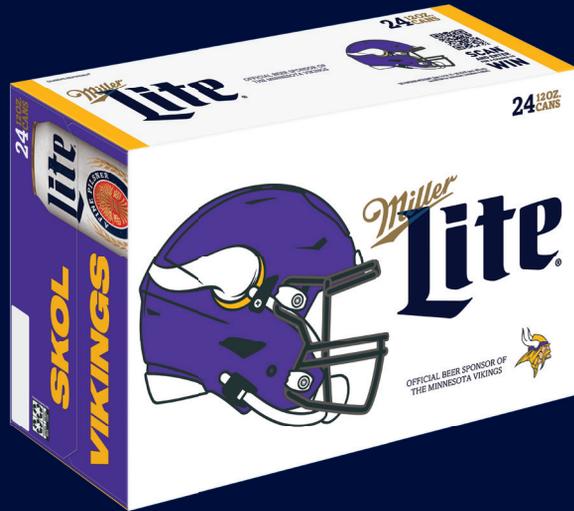


# GAME ON, VIKINGS FANS



IT'S *Miller* TIME<sup>®</sup>

AVAILABLE AT  
PARTICIPATING  
LIQUOR STORES



Keyword: VIKINGS

SCAN\* & ENTER FOR A CHANCE TO  
**WIN VIKINGS TICKETS\* AND MORE**

**CELEBRATE RESPONSIBLY<sup>®</sup>**

©2025 MILLER BREWING CO., MILWAUKEE, WI • BEER

\*NO PURCHASE OR SCAN NECESSARY. Promotion begins on 7/31/25 at 12:00 PM CT and ends on 1/4/26 at 11:59 PM CT. Open only to legal residents of 50 U.S. (D.C.) excl. ME, 21+ years of age. Keyword "VIKINGS" open to MN & select WI zip codes. See Official Rules for details, including how to enter, odds, prize details & restrictions, at [www.millerlitefootball.com](http://www.millerlitefootball.com). Void where prohibited. Tickets may be awarded as Venmo payment.

# Show your team pride all year.



Get a U.S. Bank Visa® Debit Card with the Minnesota Vikings design when you open a U.S. Bank Smartly® Checking Account.

Smart. Simple. Secure. Bank better with a Bank Smartly Checking account and earn extra perks with our complimentary Smart Rewards program.



The Official Bank of  
the Minnesota Vikings



[usbank.com](https://usbank.com)

The U.S. Bank Visa® Debit Card is issued by U.S. Bank National Association, pursuant to a license from Visa U.S.A. Inc.

1. All regular account opening procedures apply. \$25 minimum deposit required to open a U.S. Bank consumer checking account. Members of the military (requires self-disclosure) and clients ages 24 and under and those 65 and over pay no monthly maintenance fee. Digital financial services benchmarking firm Keynova Group ranked U.S. Bank #1 for mobile banking apps in its Q3 2023 Mobile Banker Scorecard. Deposit products are offered by U.S. Bank National Association. Member FDIC. Member FDIC. ©2025 U.S. Bank 1477502 6/25



The Minnesota Vikings and Vikings logo are registered trademarks of NFL Properties, Inc.