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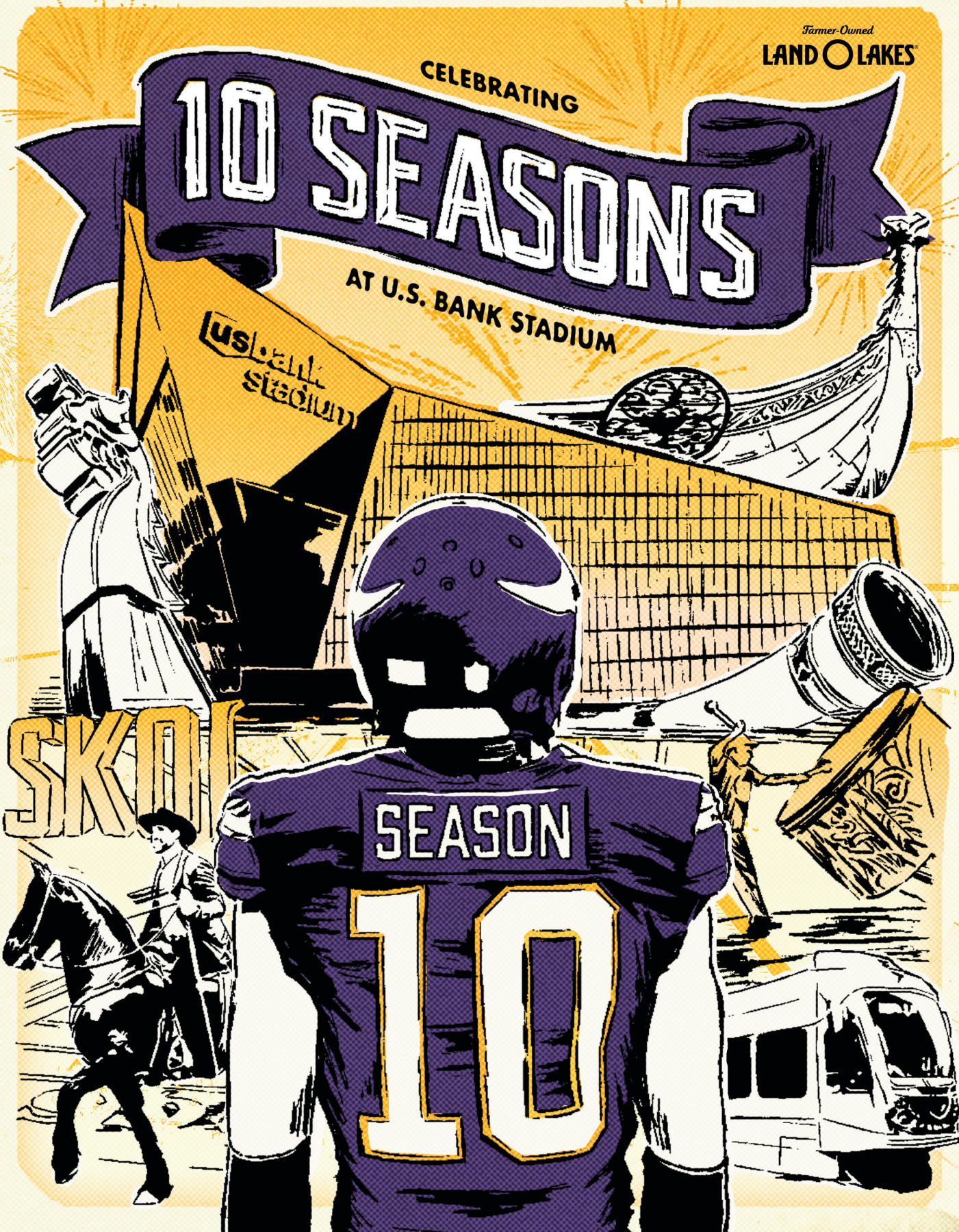
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stadium

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**10**



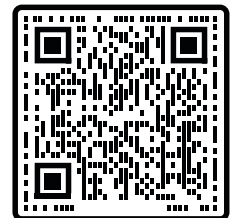


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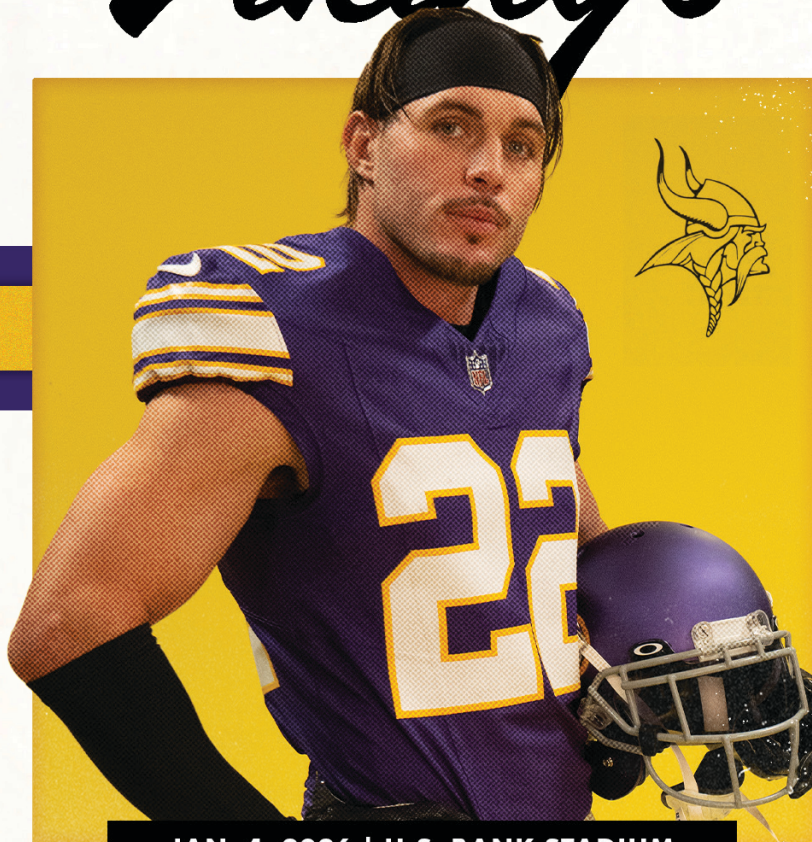


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# Vikings

CLASSIC GAME



JAN. 4, 2026 | U.S. BANK STADIUM

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COMPLY CAN RESULT IN REMOVAL FROM THE STADIUM.**

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## TODAY'S GAME



MINNESOTA

*Vikings*

VS. GREEN BAY  
PACKERS



### 2025 TEAM STATS

	RUSH	PASS
MIN OFF	106.5	163.0
	269.5   29TH IN THE NFL	
GB DEF	116.5	192.1
	308.6   11TH IN THE NFL	
GB OFF	119.3	226.5
	345.8   10TH IN THE NFL	
MIN DEF	123.9	168.8
	292.7   5TH IN THE NFL	

### WELCOME TO TODAY'S GAME BETWEEN THE VIKINGS AND PACKERS IN THE 131ST BORDER BATTLE.

The divisional matchup will conclude the 2025 regular-season for both teams and the 10th of the Vikings calling U.S. Bank Stadium their home.

Head Coach Kevin O'Connell expressed his appreciation for the atmosphere fans provided, particularly in Week 17's Winter Whiteout, after last week's game and again this Monday.

"Just want to highlight, once again, the atmosphere at U.S. Bank Stadium and what it felt like from

the time we arrived to the time we were able to walk out of there with a win," O'Connell said. "Just total compliments. I love our fan base and love everything about the environment we get every game we get to play at U.S. Bank Stadium."

Coaches, players and the entire organization thank Vikings fans for helping make this one of the best venues in sports.

In-game entertainment elements for today's regular-season finale include the following:

#### VIKINGS CLASSIC

Minnesota will sport the Vikings Classic uniform, and the stadium will feature throwback elements.

### NATIONAL ANTHEM

Jessica Jaunich, a Minneapolis-born national recording artist and singer-songwriter, will perform the National Anthem.

### COLOR GUARD

The colors will be presented by the United States Navy.

### IN-GAME RECOGNITION

The USA Wheelchair Curling Team is preparing for the 2026 Paralympics in Milan-Cortina. Join in recognizing the mixed team of Matthew Thums, Oyuna Uranchimeg, Sean O'Neill, Dan Rose and Katie Verderber and mixed doubles duo of Laura Dwyer and Steve Emt.

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# TODAY'S Promotions

## SACKS FOR WINGS

**Presented by Buffalo Wild Wings**

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



## SPLIT THE POT

**Benefiting the Minnesota Vikings Foundation**

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

## BOGO BALL

**Presented by Caribou Coffee**

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



## HY-VEE PERKS CARD

**Presented by Hy-Vee**

THEY score, YOU save! Shop your local Hy-Vee store following game day to receive great fuel savings. Simply spend the same amount that the Vikings scored, and earn a 1¢ credit on your Hy-Vee PERKS® card. If the Vikings score 14 points, spend \$14 or more the next day and earn 14¢ credit on your Hy-Vee PERKS® card. SKOL! Promotion valid at all Minnesota Hy-Vee locations, some limitations apply. See store for details.



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**Presented by Spalon Montage**

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!



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EST. 1991

## FIELD GOALS FOR CHARITY Presented by Innovative

A Vikings field goal means another donation to Field Goals for Charity, courtesy of Innovative and Post-It brand. Funds raised will help add potential blood stem cell donors to the registry, help patients with uninsured costs and fund life-saving research. For patients with blood cancers like leukemia and other life-threatening diseases like sickle cell, a cure exists — a stem cell transplant. Visit [nmdp.org/vikings](http://nmdp.org/vikings) to make a difference!





## FAN CAVE MAKEOVER

Presented by King's Hawaiian

Sliders are for game day! Vote for your favorite King's Hawaiian hacks on slidersunday.com and enter to a Fan Cave Makeover and weekly prizes.



## WIN VIKTOR'S RIDE

Presented by Pepsi

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## GAME-DAY GLOW GIVEAWAY

Presented by Pure Lux Medspa

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



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## GAME-DAY AUCTION + ONLINE AUCTION

Benefiting the Minnesota Vikings Foundation

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

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

## VIKINGS TABLE FOOD TRUCK

Benefiting the Minnesota Vikings Foundation

Vikings Table, powered by Xcel Energy, is a custom-built food truck that sells delicious food on game days. Find us on the Plaza before game days; your purchase directly supports our ability to provide free, healthy meals to kids in need. Join us as we tackle food insecurity in the Twin Cities. Follow us on Instagram and Twitter/X for all Vikings Table updates @vikingsfdn.



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**HARRISON  
SMITH**

## PLAYER SNAPSHOT

**HARRISON SMITH** is wrapping his 14th NFL season, which is ending with another Border Battle. Entering Minnesota's 2025 season finale, Smith has 54 tackles, three tackles for loss, two interceptions, one forced fumble, a fumble recovery and 10 passes defended.

It's fitting the team is wearing the Vikings Classic uniform today, as Smith plays tough, old-school-style football appreciated by Vikings Head Coach Kevin O'Connell, Defensive Coordinator Brian Flores, Smith's teammates and opponents and fans across the league.

He's also well-respected by Vikings Legends, including those he's in a unique club with: 200-plus career games.

Smith played his 200th regular-season game earlier this season when the Vikings hosted

the Bears. He snapped a photo with Scott Studwell and Hall of Famer Carl Eller prior to kickoff and later noted the significance of sharing an honor with the two, as well as Legends Jim Marshall, Fred Cox and Mick Tingelhoff.

### FOURTH IN FRANCHISE HISTORY

"The Hitman" intercepted Marcus Mariota in Minnesota's Week 14 shutout win over Washington and Detroit's Jared Goff in Week 17, pushing his career total to 39, which ranks fourth in Vikings team history. Smith is just one away from tying Ed Sharockman, who played for Minnesota from the inaugural 1961 season through 1972. Paul Krause leads the franchise with 53 interceptions during regular seasons in Purple, and Bobby Bryant totaled 51.

## 2025 SEASON SCHEDULE

**9/8 @CHI**  
W, 27-24

**9/14 ATL**  
L, 22-6

**9/21 CIN**  
W, 48-10

**9/28 @PIT (DUBLIN)**  
L, 24-21

**10/5 @CLE (LONDON)**  
W, 21-17

**10/12**  
BYE

**10/19 PHI**  
L, 28-22

**10/23 @LAC**  
L, 37-10

**11/2 @DET**  
W, 27-24

**11/9 BAL**  
L, 27-19

**11/16 CHI**  
L, 19-17

**11/23 @GB**  
L, 23-6

**11/30 @SEA**  
L, 26-0

**12/7 WAS**  
W, 31-0

**12/14 @DAL**  
W, 34-26

**12/21 @NYG**  
W, 16-13

**12/25 DET**  
W, 23-10

**1/4 GB**  
WK18



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# MINNESOTA VIKINGS ROSTER



No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Yr.	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
6	Dwight McGlothern Jr.	CB	6-2	185	23	2	Arkansas	Houston, TX
7	Byron Murphy Jr.	CB	5-11	190	27	7	Washington	Scottsdale, AZ
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
14	Brett Rypien	QB	6-2	210	29	7	Boise State	Spokane, WA
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
32	Ty Chandler	RB	5-11	205	27	4	North Carolina	Nashville, TN
33	Aaron Jones Sr.	RB	5-10	208	31	9	UTEP	El Paso, TX
34	Zemaiah Vaughn	CB	6-3	180	23	R	Utah	Beaumont, 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
50	Levi Drake Rodriguez	DL	6-2	307	25	2	Texas A&M Commerce	Georgetown, TX
51	Blake Cashman	LB	6-1	235	29	7	Minnesota	Eden Prairie, MN
55	Eric Wilson	LB	6-1	231	31	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
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
68	Henry Byrd	G	6-5	314	26	2	Princeton	Nashville, TN
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
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
93	Jonathan Allen	DL	6-3	300	30	9	Alabama	Ashburn, VA
96	Tyler Batty	OLB	6-6	271	26	R	BYU	Payson, Utah
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

## PRACTICE SQUAD

19	Dontae Fleming	WR
25	Kahlef Hailassie	S
29	Tyrek Funderburk	CB
40	Sione Takitaki	LB
52	Josh Ross	LB
59	Gabriel Murphy	OLB
63	Max Pircher*	OL
66	Vershon Lee	G
79	Caleb Etienne	T
81	Joaquin Davis	WR
82	Jashaun Jones	WR
83	Bryson Nesbit	TE
92	Jonathan Harris	DL
94	Taki Taimani	DL

\*International Player Pathway participant

## INJURED RESERVE

##	Rondale Moore	WR
8	Jeff Okudah	CB
11	Carson Wentz	QB
44	Joshua Metellus	S
58	J. Greenard	OLB
63	Zeke Correll	C
69	Matt Nelson	T
71	Christian Darrisaw	T
78	Ryan Kelly	C
99	Elijah Williams	DL

## RESERVE/PHYSICALLY UNABLE TO PERFORM

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



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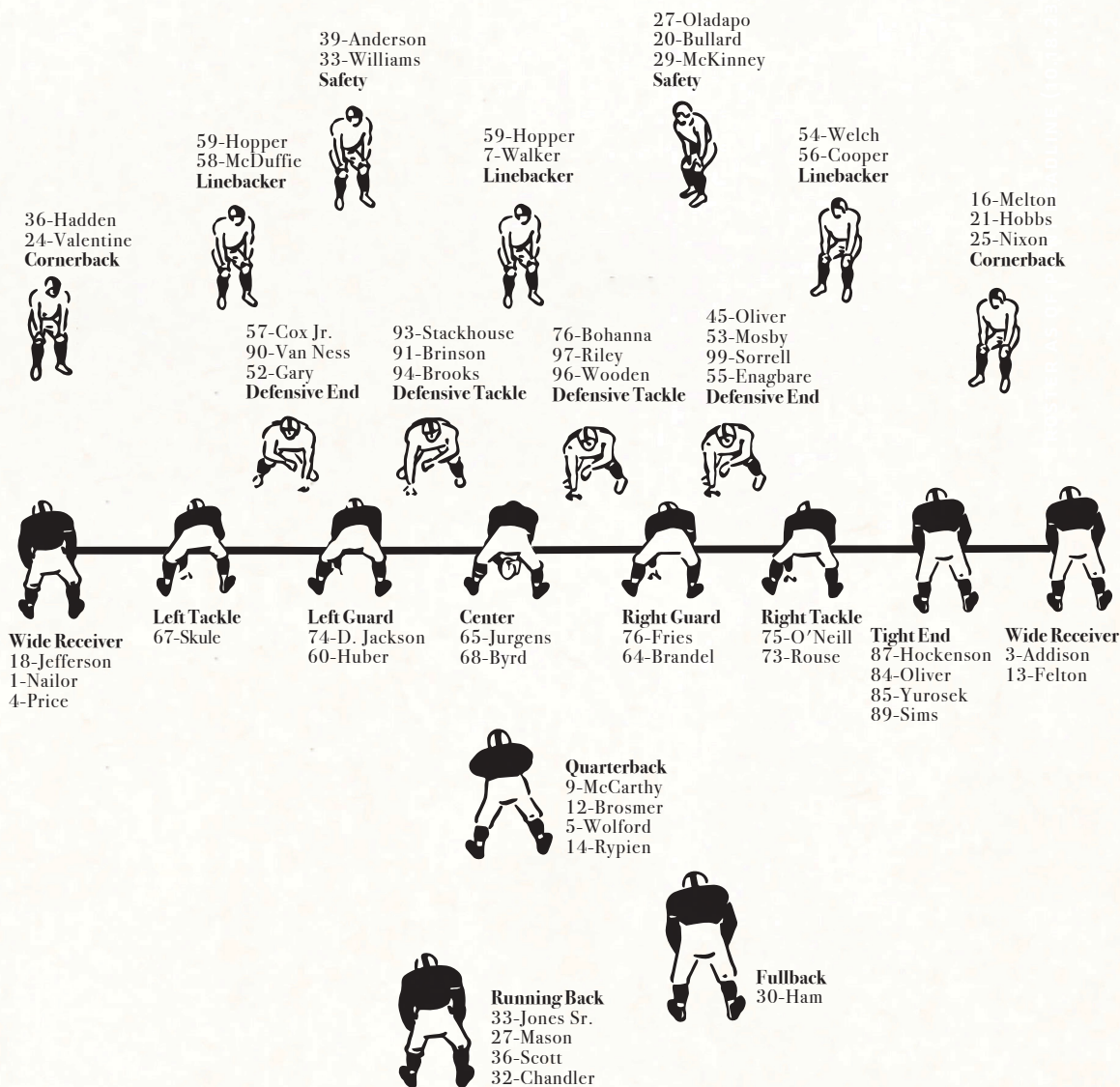


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## PACKERS ON THE DEFENSE



## VIKINGS ON THE OFFENSE

### SPECIAL TEAMS

**Kicker**  
16-Reichard

**Punter**  
17-Wright

**Long Snapper**  
42-DePaola

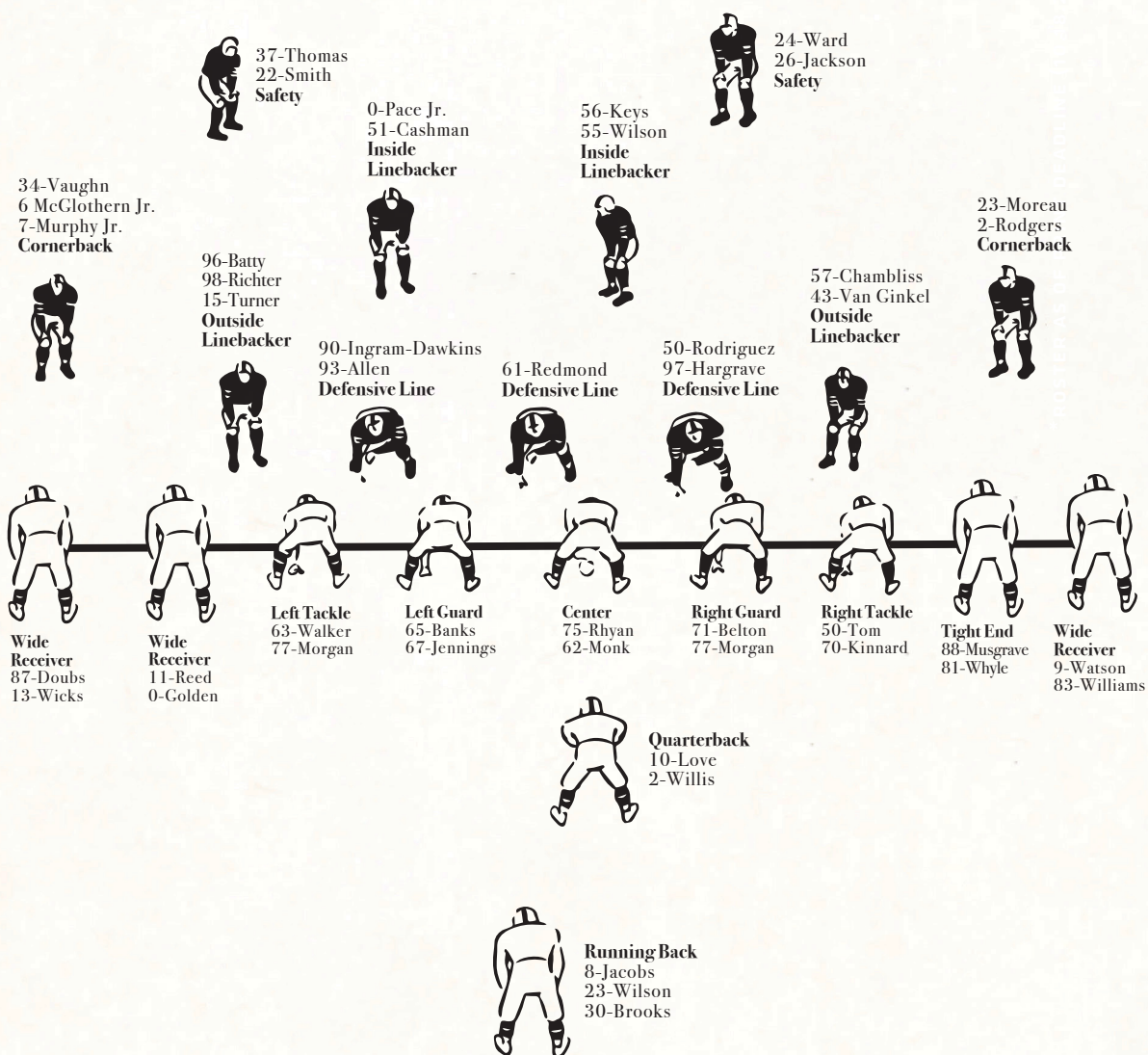
**Kick Returner**  
4-Price  
32-Chandler  
13-Felton

**Punt Returner**  
4-Price





# VIKINGS ON THE DEFENSE



# PACKERS ON THE OFFENSE



## SPECIAL TEAMS

**Kicker**  
17-McManus

**Punter**  
19-Whelan

**Long Snapper**  
42-Orzech

**Kick Returner**  
87-Doubs  
25-Nixon  
0-Golden

**Punt Returner**  
83-S. Williams  
16-Melton  
25-Nixon



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## PRACTICE SQUAD

6	Clayton Tune	QB
22	Pierre Strong Jr.	RB
34	Shemar Bartholomew	CB
35	Lucas Havrisik	K
37	Johnathan Baldwin	DB
38	Jaylin Simpson	DB
47	McCallan Castles	TE
48	Jamon Johnson	LB
49	Drake Dabney	TE
68	Lecitus Smith	G/C
69	Dante Barnett*	DL
72	Brant Banks	T
78	Dalton Cooper	T
80	Isaiah Neyor	WR
82	Will Sheppard	WR
84	Jakobie Keeney-James	WR
98	James Ester	DL

\*International Player Pathway participant

## INJURED RESERVE

1	Micah Parsons	DL
31	Nick Niemann	LB
32	MarShawn Lloyd	RB
54	Kristian Welch	LB
74	Elgton Jenkins	C/G
79	Travis Glover	T
85	Tucker Kraft	TE
86	John FitzPatrick	TE
95	Devonte Wyatt	DL

## RESERVE/ PHYSICALLY UNABLE TO PERFORM

73	John Williams	G
----	---------------	---

# GREEN BAY PACKERS ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Yr.	College	Hometown
0	Matthew Golden	WR	5-11	191	22	R	Texas	Klein, TX
2	Malik Willis	QB	6-1	225	26	4	Liberty	Roswell, GA
7	Quay Walker	LB	6-4	241	25	4	Georgia	Cordele, GA
8	Josh Jacobs	RB	5-10	223	27	7	Alabama	Tulsa, OK
9	Christian Watson	WR	6-4	208	26	4	North Dakota State	Tampa, FL
10	Jordan Love	QB	6-4	219	27	6	Utah State	Bakersfield, CA
11	Jayden Reed	WR	5-11	187	25	3	Michigan State	Naperville, IL
13	Dontayvion Wicks	WR	6-1	206	24	3	Virginia	Plaquemine, LA
16	Bo Melton	CB	5-11	189	26	2	Rutgers	Egg Harbor City, NJ
17	Brandon McManus	K	6-3	201	34	12	Temple	Lansdale, Pa.
19	Daniel Whelan	P	6-5	216	26	3	UC Davis	Rancho Mirage, CA
20	Javon Bullard	S	5-10	198	23	2	Georgia	Milledgeville, GA
21	Nate Hobbs	CB	6-0	195	26	5	Illinois	Louisville, KY
23	Emanuel Wilson	RB	5-10	226	26	3	Fort Valley State	Huntersville, NC
24	Carrington Valentine	CB	6-0	189	24	3	Kentucky	Cincinnati, OH
25	Keisean Nixon	CB	5-10	200	28	7	South Carolina	Los Angeles, CA
27	Kitan Oladapo	S	6-2	216	25	2	Oregon State	Portland, OR
29	Xavier McKinney	S	6-0	201	26	6	Alabama	Roswell, GA
30	Chris Brooks	RB	6-1	219	25	3	Brigham Young	Oceanside, CA
33	Evan Williams	S	5-11	200	24	2	Oregon	Mountain View, CA
36	Kamal Hadden	CB	6-1	192	24	1	Tennessee	River Rouge, MI
39	Zayne Anderson	S	6-2	206	28	3	Brigham Young	Stansbury Park, UT
42	Matt Orzech	LS	6-3	245	30	6	Azusa Pacific	Menifee, CA
45	Collin Oliver	DL	6-2	240	23	R	Oklahoma State	Oklahoma City, OK
50	Zach Tom	OL	6-4	304	26	4	Wake Forest	Baton Rouge, LA
52	Rashan Gary	DL	6-5	277	28	7	Michigan	Paramus, NJ
53	Arron Mosby	DL	6-3	250	26	3	Fresno State	Sanger, CA
55	Kingsley Enagbare	DL	6-4	258	25	4	South Carolina	Atlanta, GA
56	Edgerrin Cooper	LB	6-2	229	24	2	Texas A&M	Covington, LA
57	Brenton Cox Jr.	DL	6-4	250	25	3	Florida	Stockbridge, GA
58	Isaiah McDuffie	LB	6-1	227	26	5	Boston College	Buffalo, NY
59	Ty'Ron Hopper	LB	6-2	228	24	2	Missouri	Roswell, GA
62	Jacob Monk	C/G	6-3	308	24	2	Duke	Wendell, NC
63	Rasheed Walker	T	6-6	324	25	4	Penn State	Waldorf, MD
65	Aaron Banks	G	6-5	325	28	5	Notre Dame	El Cerrito, CA
67	Donovan Jennings	G/T	6-4	323	26	1	South Florida	Tampa, FL
70	Darian Kinnard	T/G	6-5	322	26	3	Kentucky	Cleveland, OH
71	Anthony Belton	G/T	6-6	336	24	R	North Carolina State	Tallahassee, FL
75	Sean Rhyan	C/G	6-5	321	25	4	UCLA	San Juan Capistrano, CA
76	Quinton Bohanna	DL	6-4	327	26	4	Kentucky	Cordova, TN
77	Jordan Morgan	T/G	6-5	311	24	2	Arizona	Tucson, Ariz.
81	Josh Whyle	TE	6-7	248	26	3	Cincinnati	Cincinnati, OH
83	Savion Williams	WR	6-4	222	24	R	TCU	Marshall, TX
87	Romeo Doubs	WR	6-2	204	25	4	Nevada	Los Angeles, CA
88	Luke Musgrave	TE	6-6	253	25	3	Oregon State	Bend, OR
90	Lukas Van Ness	DL	6-5	272	24	3	Iowa	Barrington, IL
91	Warren Brinson	DL	6-5	315	23	R	Georgia	Bradenton, FL
93	Nazir Stackhouse	DL	6-4	327	23	R	Georgia	Decatur, GA
94	Karl Brooks	DL	6-3	296	25	3	Bowling Green	Lansing, MI
96	Colby Wooden	DL	6-4	273	25	3	Auburn	Lawrenceville, GA
97	Jordon Riley	DL	6-5	338	27	3	Oregon	Durham, NC
99	Barryn Sorrell	DL	6-3	256	23	R	Texas	New Orleans, LA

Roster as of 12/30 Print Deadline





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# XAVIER McKINNEY

## PLAYER SNAPSHOT

**XAVIER McKINNEY** has been a force to be reckoned with this season, making plays all over the field for Green Bay. The veteran safety hasn't repeated the lead-leaguering eight interceptions he nabbed in 2025, but he continues to be a threat in multiple areas.

Entering today's Border Battle, McKinney has 107 tackles (his second-highest season total), a sack, two interceptions, one forced fumble and 10 passes defended, second-most among Green Bay defenders. The 27-year-old recorded three tackles against the Vikings in the teams' first meeting of the 2025 campaign, which Green Bay won 23-6.

McKinney hasn't made many mistakes this season. He's currently ranked No. 1 among safeties in tackling by analytics site Pro Football Focus. His PFF grade of 90.4 is the highest of his career thus far.

### **DURABLE DEFENSIVE BACK**

Over the past three seasons, he's played 100, 98 and 100 percent of defensive snaps for his respective teams (2023 with the Giants and the past two seasons with the Packers). McKinney has been on the field for 2,120 defensive and 313 special teams snaps over the past two seasons with Green Bay.



## 2025 SEASON SCHEDULE

**9/7 DET**

W, 27-13

**9/11 WAS**

W, 27-18

**9/21 @CLE**

L, 13-10

**9/28 @DAL**

T, 40-40 (OT)

**10/5**

BYE

**10/12 CIN**

W, 27-18

**10/19 @ARI**

W, 27-23

**10/26 @PIT**

W, 35-25

**11/2 CAR**

L, 16-13

**11/10 PHI**

L, 10-7

**11/16 @NYG**

W, 27-20

**11/23 MIN**

W, 23-6

**11/27 @DET**

W, 31-24

**12/7 CHI**

W, 28-21

**12/14 @DEN**

L, 34-26

**12/20 @CHI**

L, 22-16 (OT)

**12/27 BAL**

L, 41-24

**1/4 @MIN**

WK18



**SERIES HISTORY****MINNESOTA***Vikings***VS. GREEN BAY PACKERS****NFL WEEK 18 | CLASSIC****THROWBACK  
MOMENT****DENYING DESPERATION  
ATTEMPT FOR DIVISION  
TITLE | JAN. 3, 2016**

Anthony Barr knocked down a Hail Mary attempt from Aaron Rodgers to James Jones as time expired, securing a 20-13 win and the 2015 NFC North title for the Vikings on the final play of the regular season.

Green Bay advanced the ball from its 42 to the Minnesota 38 but needed 57 seconds to gain the 20 yards.

Adrian Peterson rushed for 67 yards and a touchdown, and Adam Thielen totaled 67 rushing yards thanks to getting 41 on an early fake punt. Minnesota was limited to 99 passing yards for the game but leaned heavily on the defense for a 13-3 halftime lead.

Everson Griffen forced a fumble during one of his two sacks of Rodgers, and Captain Munnerlyn returned the football 55 yards for a touchdown in the third quarter to lead 20-3.

**FIRST MEETING****OCT. 22, 1961 | PACKERS 33,  
VIKINGS 7**

The Packers closed with a 23-0 run that included 17 points in the fourth quarter against the upstart Vikings. Bart Starr completed just nine passes but threw for 206 yards. Fran Tarkenton provided Minnesota's lone touchdown on his second career rushing score.

**LAST TIME IN MIN****DEC. 29, 2024  
VIKINGS 27, PACKERS 25**

The Vikings built a 27-10 lead through three quarters and withstood two Packers touchdowns, a 2-point conversion and an extra point in the final 6:12. Jalen Nailor (31 yards), Jordan Addison (18) and Cam Akers (9) caught touchdowns from Sam Darnold, who threw for 377 yards. Four Vikings (Nailor, Addison, Justin Jefferson and T.J. Hockenson) had 68+ receiving yards. Blake Cashman led Minnesota with 11 tackles and 1.5 sacks.

**TOP 2****AGAINST PACKERS****RUSHING YARDS**

- 210** Adrian Peterson on 21 attempts at GB (12.2.12)  
**199** Adrian Peterson on 34 attempts in MIN (12.30.12)

**PASSING YARDS**

- 442** Randall Cunningham on 20-of-32 passing at GB (10.5.98)  
**425** Kirk Cousins on 35-of-48 passing at GB (09.16.18)

**RECEIVING YARDS**

- 202** Adam Thielen on 12 catches at GB (12.24.16)  
**190** Randy Moss on five catches at GB (10.5.98)

**AGAINST VIKINGS****RUSHING YARDS**

- 161** Ahman Green on 25 attempts in MIN (12.17.00)  
**154** Aaron Jones, Sr., on 23 attempts in MIN (12.23.19)

**PASSING YARDS**

- 389** Jordan Love on 32-of-54 passing at GB (09.29.24)  
**385** Aaron Rodgers on 23-of-33 passing in MIN (11.21.21)

**RECEIVING YARDS**

- 191** Donald Driver on six catches in MIN (11.12.06)  
**162** Donald Driver on 11 catches in MIN (12.24.04)

**ALL-TIME RESULTS****REGULAR SEASON & POSTSEASON**

Vikings are 60-67-3 in 130 games (59-66-3 in regular season; 1-1 in postseason)

**LONGEST WIN STREAK**

7 games by Minnesota (Nov. 2, 1975 - Oct. 22, 1978)



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# ITEM OF THE GAME



MINNESOTA VIKINGS

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# RIGHT APPROACH FOR

# Mr. Wright

BY ROB KLEIFIELD



## **There's a trace of self-deprecating humor in Ryan Wright's voice.**

"I'm not a good golfer by any means," he said. "(But) I have some good shots every once in a while."

The Vikings punter has discovered applicable value in the gentleman's game. He frequents the links in the offseason, and he analogizes his bag of clubs to his burly right leg on his 6-foot-3, 245-pound frame.

"When I'm out there on the field, I'm really looking to hit that nice and easy 6- or 7-iron, whereas if you try to hit that driver, it can spray," Wright explained in mid-December. "I'll hit some shots and be like, 'Why did I swing so hard?' when I just need to let the club do the work. It's the same thing with my leg."

A collection of games and recent admiration for Minnesota's specialists (also long snapper Andrew DePaola and kicker Will Reichard) shared by Head Coach Kevin O'Connell confirmed Wright has made some good punts more than every once in a while: "They've been a huge part for us winning in a year where maybe we haven't [taken] the normal path that we've kind of been accustomed to either offensively or at times with some of the things we've had to navigate on [defense]," the coach said. "That one-play phase has turned into a massive play phase for us to try to play complementary football."

Like his counterparts, "Mr. Wright" is an unsung standout and a top player among NFL specialists.

Seated comfortably at a high-top table adjacent to the locker room inside Twin Cities Orthopedics Performance Center, the 25-year-old former UDFA reflected on 2025, a season full of personal highlights, with a punter's humility — uninterested in tooting his horn or circling a specific moment as his favorite.

Wright is modest, the requisite trait for a person playing an oft-thankless position. He doesn't gloat about his NFL season-long 77-yard punt versus Cleveland in London or his 65-yard "alley oop" at Dallas, which practically landed on rookie gunner Tai Felton's heels and bounced to the Cowboys 3-yard line.

"I'm prouder of just the overall consistency and the performance that I've put in this year," Wright said. "I'm a little bit smarter, my football IQ's a little bit better, I understand the punt play a little bit better. And that's just reps — having reps in the league and doing it at the highest level possible and just knowing what exactly I want to do with every single ball and having that supreme confidence to [do it]."

Wright's in-season routine hasn't switched up much from years past, he noted, but he feels like he is more homed in on the specifics of his job. He's not cutting corners, or banking



on his talent alone. He owns the complacency he showed after a strong debut 2022 season. He now wants to master his craft.

"The potential was always there for this guy," Special Teams Coordinator Matt Daniels expressed a couple of days after Minnesota's win over the Cowboys, reiterating what he said near the start of Wright's fourth season. "But I think the biggest thing [is] being coachable, having a growth mindset, trying to get rid of some old bad habits that we had — take the coaching and be able to run with it.

"Even looking back at his rookie year," Daniels continued. "The leg talent was there. There were just inconsistencies in his game, and so now he's found a way to stack positive performances and build off that, which has really given him a ton of confidence to go in and perform at an elite level for us."

Wright recalled dialogue with his coach/friend that was a harbinger of his breakout: "I mentioned to 'Hat' [this summer] I actually felt as strong as I did coming out of college for a change, which I think has really been helpful because I don't have to put as much into a ball to get the result that I want anymore."

Wright is a yogi and incorporates pilates; both activities help with his range of motion. He's been a huge power-cleaner since high school (no wonder his go-to punt is called a "napalm" — a "bomb" that whips left). He splits his focus throughout the week, drilling his footwork and his ball handling. It's important for

his line (the setup of his foot strike) to be habitual, like brushing teeth. He uses a short JUGS machine that blasts out balls at a lower trajectory to simulate snaps and strives for a daily average of 100 drops.

"I have my wife toss me some every once in a while," Wright said with a smile. "If I'm in a hotel room or my own bedroom at home, I'll just kind of spin it to myself, drop it on the bed. Just small things like that."

He has embraced all these idiosyncrasies to "play free" when it counts.

A major component is "visualizing where I want to put the ball, where I want my feet to be on the hash marks — on the outside of the hash marks — where this drop needs to be, how much it needs to be angled in and just really building up that muscle memory," he added. "Whether that's finishing my foot at the ear, whether that's having a relaxed arm ... just

[polishing] everything as far as technique goes."

The results of Wright's attention to detail and maturation as a professional are glowing.

With one game left on the docket, he ranks third in the league in net yards per punt (44.2) and seventh in average yards (49.0). Ideally, Wright's hang time matches his yardage — for instance, a 45-yarder reaches its destination in 4.5 seconds. His average hang is 4.48 seconds and is tied for No. 8 out of 32 punters with 20-plus attempts, per Pro Football Focus, and is 0.08 longer than his prior highwater mark set in 2022.

Maybe most impressive, Wright has synced power with accuracy. He's pinned 37.7% of his 61 punts inside the opponent's 20, and he has just three touchbacks on the season.

Wright has an easy time likening his success as a punter to his strife as a golfer because they're mostly mental endeavors. Regardless of if he's teeing off with his "napalm" punt or chipping with a knuckling "moon ball" or attempting to find the green from the fairway with a "banana ball" that spins sideways, his key is his preparation — the 100 drops and repeated actions — and a confidence he won't be denied.

"I believe in what I do," Wright said. "I believe that when I'm at my best, there's nothing a team can do to get a good return. And that's not just me, either. That's the gunners (Felton and Tavierre Thomas), that's the protection, that's the whole op — every person on the field.







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**BY LINDSEY YOUNG**

# A DECADE OF MEMORIES, BIG PLAYS AND SKOL CHANTS.

**The Vikings today are wrapping up their first 10 seasons at U.S. Bank Stadium with the venue's 81st regular-season game.**

Minnesota recently secured its 50th regular-season victory in the state-of-the-art venue, shutting out the Commanders 31-0 in Week 14.

More than 66,000 fans played crucial roles in such moments as the Minneapolis Miracle in January 2018 and the NFL's greatest comeback in December 2022.

From the Vikings inaugural game — a Border Battle win — and Danielle Hunter becoming the league's youngest player to ever reach 50 career sacks, to Harrison "The Hitman" Smith playing his 200th NFL game, here are photos from top moments through U.S. Bank Stadium's first 10 seasons.

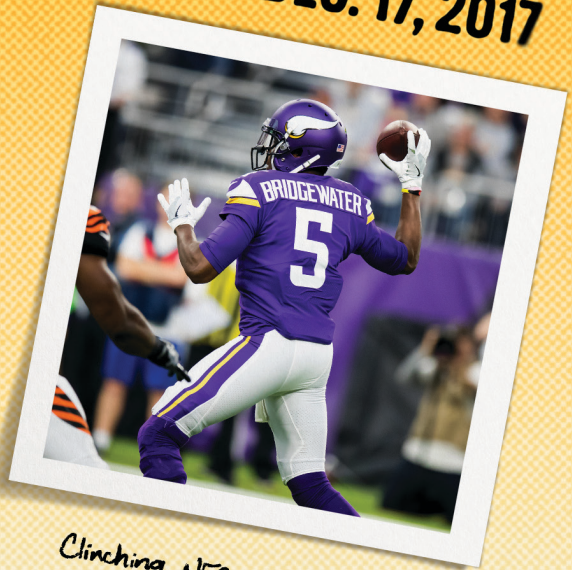


SEPT. 18, 2016



Inaugural regular-season game,  
17-14 win vs. Packers

DEC. 17, 2017



Clinching NFC North as  
Teddy Bridgewater takes  
first snaps since 2016  
injury

JAN. 14, 2018



Minneapolis Miracle

NOV. 17, 2019



Overcoming 20-0 Halftime  
deficit and 23-7 at start  
of Fourth Quarter (won 27-23)

Halftime honored the WWII veterans in a ceremony;  
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video board and the crowd went wild, helping the  
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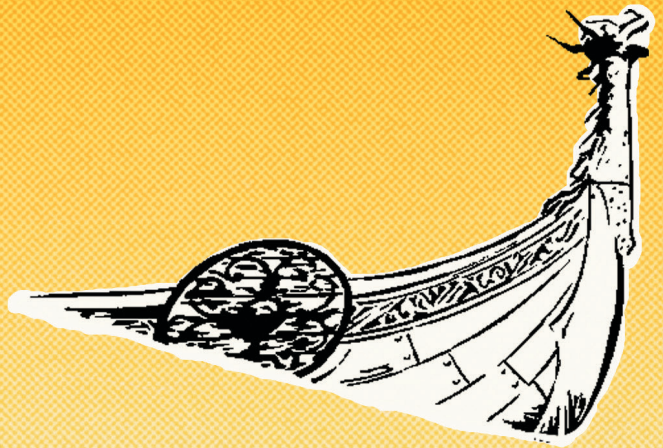
**6-10am MORNINGS**



DEC. 8, 2019 —



Danielle records 3.0 sacks  
to become NFL's youngest  
with 50 in his career



— SEPT. 11, 2022



Kevin O'Connell's  
First Game

OCT. 30, 2022 —



Jared Allen  
on a Horse





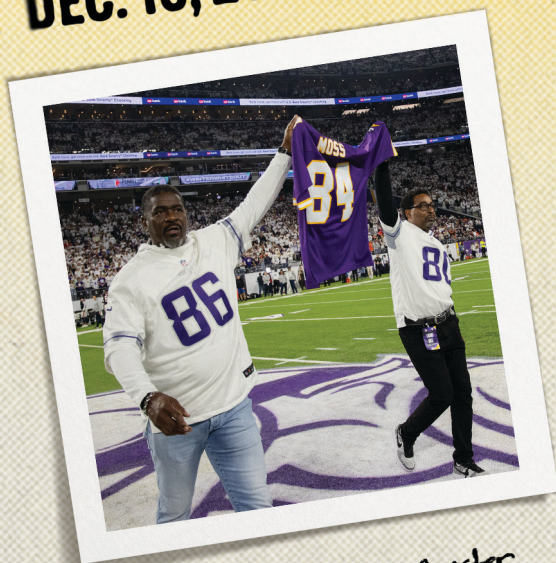


— DEC. 17, 2022



DEC. 16, 2024 —

Comeback Against Colts after  
trailing 33-0 at Halftime for  
39-36 OT Win

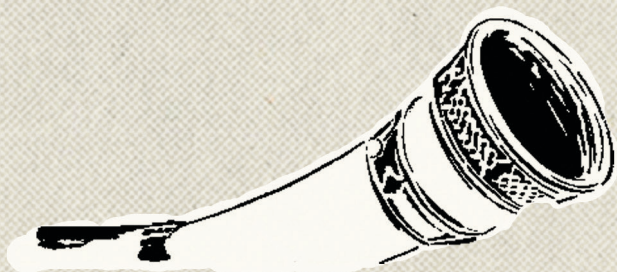


Jake Reed + Cris Carter  
honor Randy Moss

— NOV. 16, 2025



Harrison Smith plays 200th  
career regular-season game







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# Skol Vikings

Words and Music  
By  
James "Red" McLeod ASCAP

C

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

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

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

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

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

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

**CHARGE!**

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

S Skol Vi - kings let's go Skol!

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GRAY FACE MASK



FRAN  
TARKENTON  
(1962)



# Keep On Truckin'

BY CRAIG PETERS

## **The longship reached its dock with tremendous fanfare.**

The 48-foot Minnesota Vikings equipment trailer, featuring a beautiful wooden floor and golden-hour glowing longship wrap on each side, eased into place at Twin Cities Orthopedics Performance Center at 3:15 p.m. (CT) Dec. 22.

The truck rested after completing its voyage to and from New Jersey hours ahead of schedule.

As the lift gate opened, the equipment staff wheeled out a large speaker, cranked up the tunes and enjoyed wrapping the final road trip of 2025 with gratitude the truck had returned so fast. After all, every minute matters in a short week that also included Minnesota wearing its Winter Warrior uniforms on Christmas.

Throw in a sunny day with temps above 35, and everyone was grooving to OutKast's "The Way You Move."

A few steps over in a warehouse, truck driver Terry Pernsteiner stood — doesn't that always feel good after a long roadie? — and summed up his thoughts after his fourth trip in five weeks.

"I have to admit, it's very bittersweet because this fraternity, this unspoken thing we talked about [with Vikings staff and employees from other teams] is very real, kind of familial,"

Terry said. "You know what I mean?"

*I do — both in terms of my normal duties, as well as the enlightenment from riding along with Terry to and from Green Bay, plus visiting with him at Seattle and Dallas.*

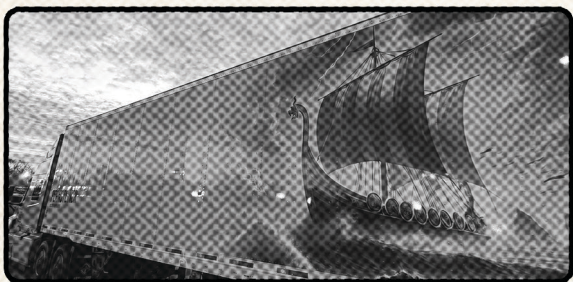
"When the season ends, there's this vacuum," he explains. "It becomes so much of you because we invest all our passion into the season. You walk away and feel like a lost puppy."

Having not been on the trip to the Giants game (I feel a weird combo of gratitude and guilt, since it was such an ordeal for those on the team charter), I had numerous questions.

As Terry described meaningful relationships he's developed with Giants assistants, a downtime jaunt to the iconic McSorley's Old Ale House (Est. 1854) and Burp Castle ("We went to a whisper bar!") in the East Village of Lower Manhattan, the time spent waiting at MetLife Stadium for the Vikings equipment staff's arrival late the previous Saturday, and a favorite Pennsylvania truck stop with potato chips cooked in lard, Vikings Director of Equipment Services Mike Parson approached.

"Every equipment manager needs a great truck driver, and we've got the best in the business in Terry, because he's going to get everything there before he says he will, and once he





gets there, he's an extension of our staff," Parson said. "He's already ahead of the game by the time we land."

I ask how helpful Terry — and trucking so much of the equipment — was with overcoming the prolonged travel delay. The Vikings team charter neared Milwaukee on its initial plane before returning to MSP because of a mechanical issue. Eventually everyone and everything moved to a smaller plane that landed at Newark International around 11:30 p.m. (ET).

"It was great, because going to a smaller plane, if we didn't truck, we wouldn't have had enough room to put everything underneath," Parson said. "We would have been trying to figure out, 'What's the most important thing?'"

Editor's note: This story offers excerpts from the full-length feature on Vikings.com. Special thanks to Parson, Terry, Vikings Assistant Equipment Manager Adam Groene, who rides with Terry on the trips to Green Bay and Chicago each year, and Ben Ryan, who goes everywhere, for OK'ing the ride-along.

## A ROAD WITH ROOTS

"We're heavy," Terry says before the first full turn of 18 wheels away from the loading dock. It's 6:20 a.m. the day before Minnesota visits Green Bay for the 130th Border Battle.

He'd know, and he's correct. An axiom established by former Vikings Equipment Manager Dennis Ryan is "be prepared for everything a player or coach could want." The timing of this game, along with weather's prerogative to change, meant hauling 39,000 pounds of equipment — setting a new Vikings record likely to become the general standard for late-season outdoor games.

This is as familiar of a trip as it gets, even though this is the first time the truck is making a delivery at the team hotel in Appleton before heading to Lambeau Field. He mentions that he's been tracking conditions for Snoqualmie Pass on I-90 in Washington for the following week's trip (another CDL driver also makes the long trips so that the truck can keep moving when Terry's hours reach their limit).

So how did Terry go from a modest upbringing in Medford, Wisconsin, to spending social time at training camp with Joe Montana and offering Dan Marino respite, or joining Minnesota for the international double dip in non-driving support roles since the NFL contracted Rock-It Cargo, which built its business with major rock tours, for logistics help.

"Imagine the guys that do rock 'n' roll bands. They're covered in tattoos and stories," Terry says as an aside.

Minnesota shipped some items well in advance of the team's Ireland/UK departure. Terry, by the way, has guided vessels through 7-foot waves on Lake Superior near Isle Royale and survived 14-footers while steering a Nordhavn near the Bahamas.

"The freedom, it was amazing. I fell in love with it," Terry said, pointing to his wrist and a shark's tooth necklace. "That's why I have all these bracelets. I was a competitive swimmer."

From high seas to highways, Terry keeps the wheels turning ahead of schedule to fulfill regimented requirements of an NFL team — but he also enjoys unexpected discoveries along the way.

His NFL origin story is rooted in how many squads formerly held training camps in Wisconsin. In 1991, Terry made a connection with the Chiefs in River Falls, handling their gear from the airport to campus and from campus to a scrimmage with the Vikings at the Metrodome. Unbeknownst to Terry, he was being evaluated at every turn, and after impressing people, he was brought in to help with the Vikings.

It's never been about money or fame. It's about building



**TERRY SETTING UP  
HARRISON SMITH'S LOCKER**



genuine, long-lasting relationships and honoring his word.

"When you grow up poor, you've got one thing: your reputation," Terry says. "You lose it, you've got nothing; and I fiercely hold onto to that."

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

"The interesting thing about sports and everyone around it is everyone is really honest and full of gratitude to be able to do this," Terry explains. "I did it for years for almost nothing. I used to go pick up the Chiefs, and I just wanted to shag punts and throw the football. I charged them 220 bucks to go over to River Falls and back to the airport. For years, it was so fun to be around. There was a time I could catch punts. Ben's a master. My days are over."

*I saw you fielding punts on the hillside in Ware.*

"Hahaha," he bellows. "That was pure entertainment."

*I mean it's not the easiest thing to do on flat ground, and you were on an English hillside.*

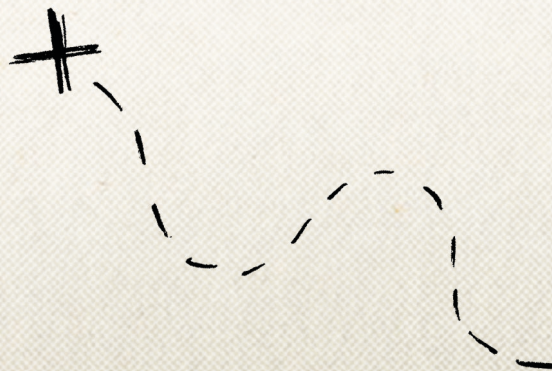
"Yeah, it's wet and the grass is long."

*We just needed that visual by that point of that week. I was just standing there enjoying the scene.*

"Everyone was. When I fell down, I was going back down to the grid, hit the flat and fell back. ... Andrew DePaola patted me on the back and said, 'That's what I like about you. You're old-school, tough.' "

During free time the Saturday night before Minnesota's game against Cleveland, Terry held court at The Brewery Tap, circa 1509. He ingratiated himself as a bloke with patrons and the the pub's owner, receiving a special tour of a unique cellar space.

"I was with my mates. One guy was a bin hauler, a garbage



guy, and the other guy was a construction guy," said Terry, who also is a builder and developer beyond the NFL, where he's known as the first call for a team visiting Minnesota.

## IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCES

During Super Bowl LII, Terry was the first call for both teams.

"No one had ever done both [participating teams] because that's 2,200 (each team has 1,100 friends and family)," he explained. "You've got multiple flights. I got all my friends — 52 trucks, cube vans, anything I could get.

"The Patriots said, 'It's the first time in all the Super Bowls that every suitcase went to the right hotel,' " Terry continued. "I tell you what, there's some luck involved there: 2,200 pieces of luggage going to 12 different hotels. Sometimes the plane would come in and have seven different hotels.

"The Eagles asked if I wanted to be on the sideline with them. It was kind of surreal," he added. "After the game, the locker room has the trophy, shirts, hats — what an immersive experience!"

"Immersive" is perhaps the best word, as Terry likes to create experiences for others.

At the Seattle team hotel, Terry and Ben met Aaron Clark, a member of the Vikings 2025 Unified Flag Team. Upon learning Aaron's enthusiasm for big trucks, Terry offered the opportunity for Aaron and his father Kim to ride in the semi to the Unified Bowl at the Seahawks headquarters. Terry helped create forever memories for Aaron, having him sit in the driver's seat and pull down the cord to sound the truck's mighty horn.

Terry's a driver of things and a builder of people, living generously because he understands the privilege of making a positive impact on others.



**TERRY MADE A MEMORY FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS ATHLETE AARON CLARK BEFORE THE UNIFIED BOWL IN SEATTLE**





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# SACKS FOR WINGS

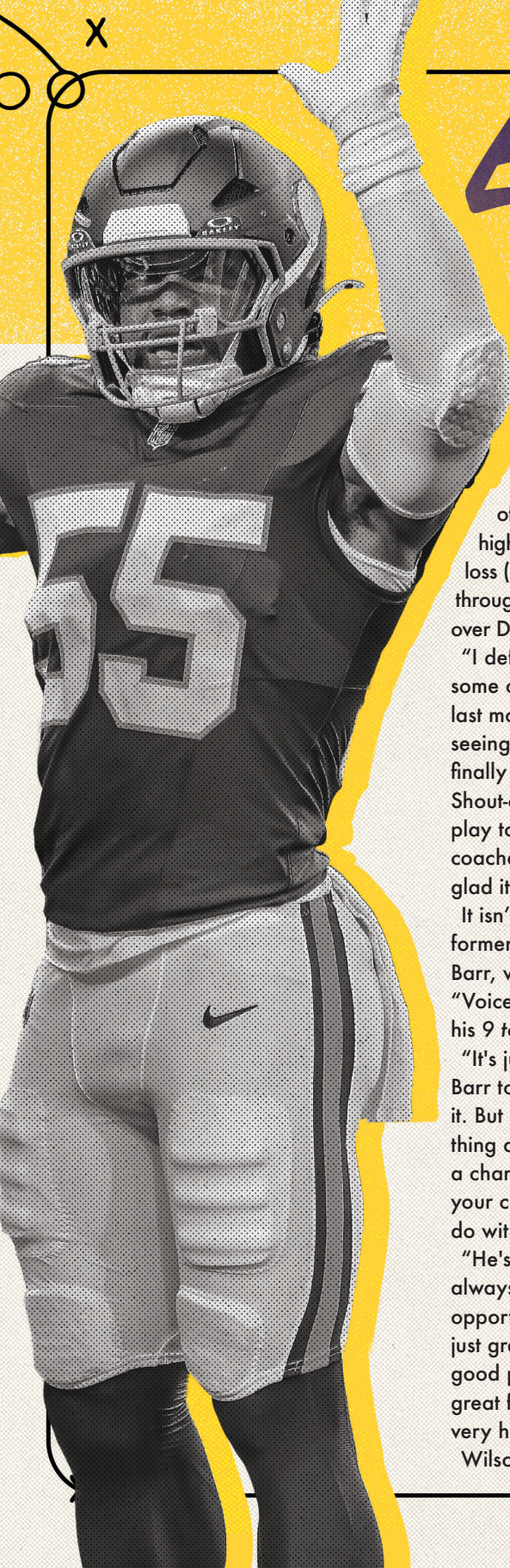


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# Eric Wilson

## MAN OF OPPORTUNITY

BY LINDSEY YOUNG

### **Eric Wilson just has a nose for the football.**

He's shown up all over the field this season, wreaking havoc for opposing offenses and logging career-highs in sacks (6.5), tackles for loss (16) and forced fumbles (4) through Minnesota's Week 17 win over Detroit.

"I definitely feel like I'm playing some of my best ball," Wilson said last month. "I think I'm maybe seeing football for what it is. It finally clicked in a certain way. Shout-out to my teammates; we play together pretty well, and coaches help me out a lot. I'm just glad it's coming together."

It isn't surprising to Wilson's former Vikings teammate, Anthony Barr, who recently spoke with "Voice of the Vikings" Paul Allen on his 9 to Noon radio show.

"It's just kind of what he does," Barr told Allen. "I've seen him do it. But it's just the opportunity. The thing about this league is getting a chance, and then when you get your chance, what do you want to do with it?"

"He's one of those guys that always takes advantage of his opportunities," Barr added. "It's just great to see such a good dude, good person, great football player, great family ... see that success. I'm very happy for him."

Wilson has helped spark

Minnesota's defense, which ranked No. 4 in the NFL in sacks per pass attempt and fifth against third downs through Week 17.

And the thing of it is, Wilson wasn't necessarily slated to start when he re-signed with Minnesota this spring and returned where his career began in 2017 as an undrafted rookie out of Cincinnati. He played his first four seasons in Purple, initially making a splash on special teams and gradually earning more defensive snaps, eventually starting 15 games in 2020 and hauling in three interceptions. He joined the Eagles in free agency following that season but was released in November and claimed off waivers by Houston.

Wilson started the 2022 season on the Saints practice squad but was signed by the Packers in October; he went on to play the next two-and-a-half seasons in Green Bay, where he overlapped with running back Aaron Jones, Sr.

"A very underrated player. Every time I see him, I give him his flowers," said Jones, now in his second season with Minnesota. "Anytime I got a chance to play against him, play with him — he leaves it all out on the field, and you can see that, and it's contagious. His energy is contagious."

"And then when he gets the



opportunities, he plays his butt off. And you've never heard of him complaining, 'Oh, I'm not the starter,' " Jones continued. "When he was in Green Bay, he wasn't starting, necessarily. But when his opportunity came, he made the most of it, and things changed. It's the same thing here."

Wilson impressed during training camp on defense and special teams but was listed as a backup behind Blake Cashman and Ivan Pace, Jr. When Cashman suffered a hamstring injury during the Vikings opener, however, it was next man up.

Wilson answered the bell and hasn't looked back.

He's hung onto a starting position, joining Cashman, who returned in Week 7.

Jones noted young players farther down the depth chart would benefit by studying Wilson's career and approach to the game.

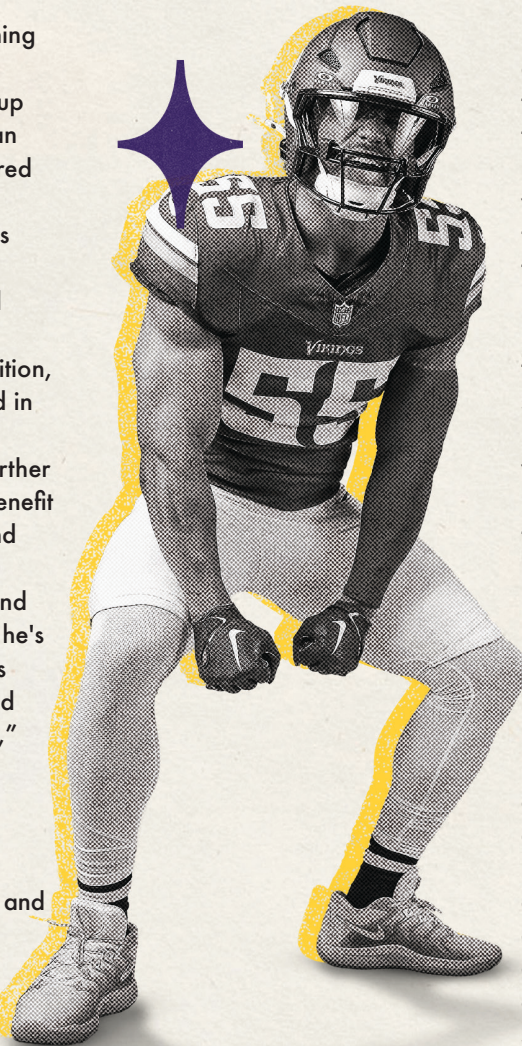
"I'm just super proud of him and continue to see the player that he's grown into, the person, and it's a joy to call him my brother and go to work with him every day," Jones said.

Vikings Head Coach Kevin O'Connell and Defensive Coordinator Brian Flores have been grateful for Wilson's play and leadership on the defense.

O'Connell recently told reporters he'd admired Wilson from afar before having the opportunity to coach him this season.

"You know, I obviously wasn't here with E-Wil previously, but I just remember hearing the way people talked about him, the type of person he was, the

physicality he played with, the football I.Q.," O'Connell said. "I was excited about the idea of bringing him back, just knowing that we had competed against him. He jumped off the tape to me, playing as many snaps as he did last year for Green Bay, and



just wanted to see if it would be possible to get a player like that in that linebacker room."

Though other suitors came calling for Wilson, he and the Vikings were mutually excited for a reunion.

O'Connell said Wilson has exceeded already-high expectations for being "a perfect fit" in Flores' defense.

Wilson has thrived in the system that bears some similarities to past defenses he's played in but still is its own animal.

"I love the ways that we attack," he said. "I like our style of play, and I like the guys on our team. I think we play well together — from the front, second, third level."

Anyone who comes into contact with Wilson can see how much fun he has in every aspect of the game.

From a sweltering training camp practice to a December walk-through session, Wilson has a smile on his face.

"He's a joy to come to work with," Jones said. "Every day, he's speaking to everybody in the facility; how do you not like a guy like that?"

Truthfully, Wilson just can't help it.

"I'm just super grateful, man. I've come a long way to get here," he said. "You've gotta love the game, and I love the game. I'm happy to be out here each time."

Though the Vikings enter today's game knowing it marks the end of their season, which fell short of their ultimate goal, Wilson continues to be thankful for every snap he plays — and to love what he does, no matter the outcome.

"It's just fun playing with these guys, man, in whatever game it is," Wilson said. "Win, lose or draw, we're playing together. The love we have for one another is awesome."



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# Up Lifts

YOUTH HOSPITAL PATIENTS FOR HOLIDAYS



By Lindsey Young

**Oftentimes, people become starstruck around Justin Jefferson.**

But during a recent visit to the M Health Fairview Masonic Children's Hospital, the Vikings receiver was the one in awe. "You're a warrior," he told 16-year-old Brooklyn.

Jefferson listened intently as Brooklyn openly shared with him her story, which included an attempt to take her life in July, ensuing medical complications, and an error in treatment at a hospital outside Minnesota that resulted in bilateral amputations below her knees.

Brooklyn has spent the past 21 weeks at the Masonic Children's Hospital, to which she was airlifted from the previous medical center, with her mother (and on many days, the hospital's therapy dogs) by her side. She carries an incredible strength into each day, which she demonstrated clearly to Jefferson during their conversation.

"We can't change the past," Brooklyn said, "and we're moving forward."

Jefferson commended her accepting the situation and showing fortitude in the face of such adversity.

"There are so many people that love you. We love that you're on this earth, sitting here talking with us, smiling. That means the world," Jefferson encouraged. "It isn't ending today, or tomorrow, or anytime soon."

Brooklyn visibly took Jefferson's words to heart, locking eyes with the receiver and nodding as he spoke. The two also chatted

casually about things she enjoys, their shared gratitude for family support and a mutual love of pups.

Jefferson posed for photos with Brooklyn and her mother, Amanda, and offered hugs as he exited the room, in addition to another reminder:

"You remember what we talked about, OK? Always remember."

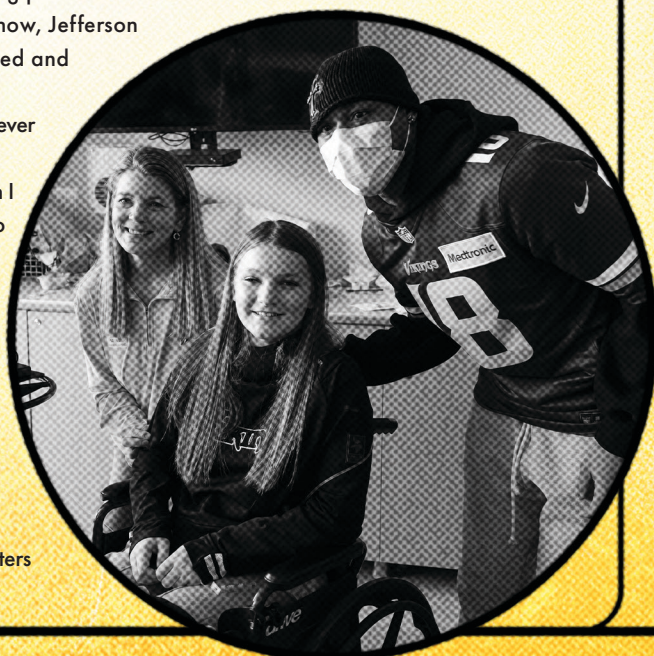
Though Jefferson never donned cleats or a helmet during his visit, he so authentically exhibited what makes him special off the field.

Whether visiting with Brooklyn, spending time with 12-year-old Uriel who underwent a bone marrow transplant just last week or cheering on young patients in a holiday fashion show, Jefferson was present, engaged and uplifting.

"My family and I [never went through any of these situations] when I was growing up, so to talk to these kids and hear their stories ... it's devastating to hear about kids going through this adversity," Jefferson said. "I told them, 'Stay with it. Have that strong mindset. Lean on your supporters

... to get you through this tough time.' But for me to be here with them and to share those moments with them was everything.

"My day-to-day life is football — not really dealing with real adversity and the things they're dealing with," Jefferson added. "So taking the time to step aside from football and not really think about plays or what's going on with the team, but to think about what's more serious in these kids' lives — how can they enjoy this time, being around the holidays, around Christmas, and just have that joyful vibe — that's what it's about today."







# FAN OF THE

# Year

## VIKINGS SURPRISE 2025 FAN OF THE YEAR

BY CRAIG PETERS

prepared to work her way through physical therapy to continue strengthening her surgically repaired knee.

As she walked in, she

noticed an easel holding a

canvas with her name painted above and a left-pointing arrow painted below her picture. She inched her way to follow the arrow as the heavy boots of Viktor echoed with each stomp toward her.

Josh and Theresa helped Viktor explain the surprise and presented two oversized tickets featuring Super Bowl LX artwork.

Leanne was “flabbergasted” as she processed the news.

A couple of years earlier she had mentioned to Theresa, “If I could go to the Super Bowl or be Fan of the Year, that would be my dream.”

Theresa replied, “Well, let’s make that happen.”

As it turns out, Theresa was one of multiple people who nominated Leanne.

“If you know Leanne, you know she’s a Vikings fan, period, first and foremost. When you think of who a Fan of the Year should be, she’s exactly who I’d picture,” Theresa said.

Theresa noted in the nomination how Leanne’s experience as a single mom prompted her to help other single mothers by supporting Jeremiah Program and founding LARK (Ladies Acts of Random Kindness) in Eagan to support nearby charities.

“I’m just incredibly honored to represent the Purple. I am a huge fan. I bleed purple, but I was also very pleasantly surprised that it’s not just about the game-day experience or being a big fan,” Leanne said. “There’s the giving back and the community service that means a lot to me, as well. I retired early, and I’ve really tried to give back as much as I possibly could in that time.”

A Vikings Season Ticket Member since 2013 in the final year of the Metrodome, Leanne weathered the two seasons in the elements at the University of Minnesota before helping open U.S. Bank Stadium.

Leanne and her children have made it a point to attend at least one road game per season, creating a bucket list of visiting every NFL stadium.

The group was in Detroit for Minnesota’s upset in Week 9 and attended the Vikings game at the Giants in December, which will push their total to 17 of 30 stadiums visited.

“The future isn’t guaranteed, so I would like to continue to tick them off,” Leanne said. “We were the only Vikings fans in the tailgate lot [at Detroit], but the people there were amazing.”

Asked the type of fan his mom is, Josh said, “Loud, energetic, sometimes off-the-handle a little bit, but always in the nicest of ways.”

“I think one thing I’ve noticed at the games is whether you’re a home fan or away fan, she can really enjoy the game with you,” Josh said.

Others will be ready to enjoy Super Bowl LX with Leanne.

**Sundays during Leanne Adkins’ youth were pretty super at her family’s dairy farm in Pease, Minnesota.**

Attending church was followed by tuning in with her father to watch some of the greatest Vikings teams dominate with the Purple People Eaters and dazzle with Fran Tarkenton. The love for the Purple has continued flowing, with Leanne sharing it with her children (daughters Jennica and Tessa and son Josh).

Josh, who lives in Minnesota, and his sisters, who live out of state, were able to keep a secret from their mom until recently when Josh and Leanne’s friend Theresa Foss — and Viktor the Viking — surprised Leanne with the news she had been selected as the 2025 Vikings Fan of the Year, an honor that comes with two tickets to Super Bowl LX.

When Leanne arrived at the Viking Lakes location of Twin Cities Orthopedics, she was



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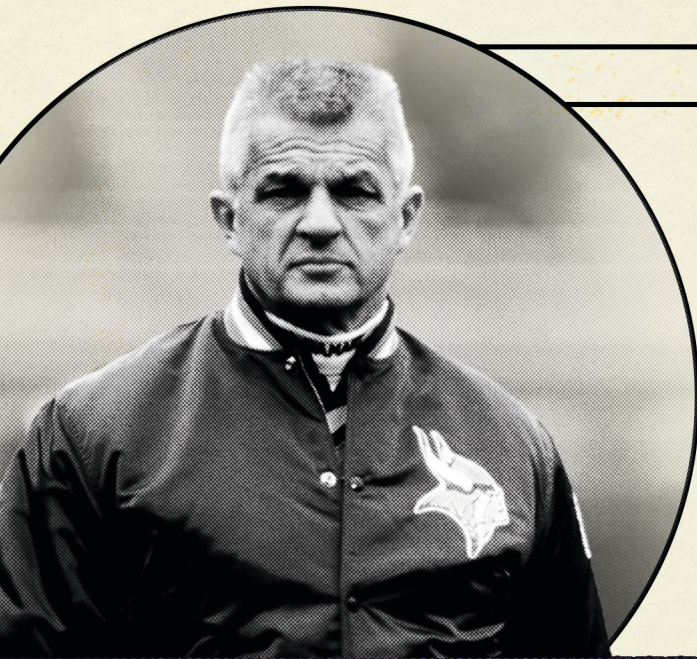


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VIKINGS MOURN FORMER COACH & PERSONNEL EXEC

## PAUL WIGGIN

**Any of the achievements by Paul Wiggin were impressive enough to be life-defining. He could have rested on laurels long ago but loved working in football too much.**

The Vikings are mourning the passing of the longtime assistant coach and personnel executive who died Dec. 12, 2025, at age 91.

Vikings Owners Mark and Zygi Wilf released a statement on behalf of the Wilf family ownership group in which they noted Wiggin's impressive contributions, including helping build Minnesota's personnel department "from the ground up."

"We had the honor of meeting Paul when we purchased the team in 2005, and it quickly became clear how much he loved the Minnesota Vikings," they added. "He captivated staff members and us with his stories about the history of the franchise and the NFL."

Wiggin joined the Vikings as an assistant coach in 1985 and remained with the organization for 40 years in a variety of roles in the personnel department after leaving the sidelines. He assessed linemen for scouting reports and offered valued counsel to co-workers.

Vikings Executive Vice President of Football Operations Rob Brzezinski began working with Wiggin in 1999 and appreciated Wiggin's wisdom and approach.

"Coach Wiggin is a legend as a person, player, coach and personnel executive. For 40 years, he demonstrated an incredible dedication to the Vikings, a team he truly loved," Brzezinski said. "'Wigs' was a humble man with a generous heart who was a mentor and friend to players, coaches and staff. Above all, 'Wigs' loved his family and was an incredible husband, father and grandfather."

Vikings Ring of Honor linebacker Scott Studwell played in 201 regular-season games for the Vikings from 1977-90 before joining Minnesota's personnel department and overlapping with Wiggin for nearly three decades. Studwell described Wiggin as a "class act who epitomized everything the Vikings stand for on and off the field."

"Paul was not only a great coach and dear friend of our family, but he was also a mentor to some of the all-time greats in Vikings history, and the respect he earned from his players, fellow coaches and entire Vikings staff was unmatched," Studwell said.

The modest man from Modesto, California, was a gentleman in every sense — yet effective in bringing out the best in his players. Just ask John Randle.

"Paul was the original guru. He had a quiet way of imparting his knowledge and wisdom in a way that changed the game," Randle said. "He never raised his voice or spoke in harsh words. His humble leadership pushed you to be a better player and a better man."

A two-time All-America selection at Stanford, Wiggin was invited to participate in the 1956 East-West Shrine Game. Drafted in the sixth round of the 1956 NFL Draft by Cleveland, Wiggin joined Jim Brown (1957-65) and Jim Marshall (1960) in suiting up for Hall of Fame Head Coach Paul Brown, helping Cleveland win the 1964 NFL Championship and earning Pro Bowl selections after the 1965 and 1967 seasons.

Wiggin was an assistant with the 49ers (1968-74) and Saints (1978-79) and head coach of the Chiefs (1975-77) and Stanford Cardinal (1980-83). In 1982, he endured "The Play" against Cal (known for "The band is out on the field!" broadcast call) and coached John Elway on the quarterback's way to becoming the top pick in the 1983 NFL Draft.

After helping with the 1984 Summer Olympics, Wiggin was hired as Vikings defensive line coach by Hall of Famer Bud Grant. Wiggin remained on Jerry Burns' staff for Burns' six seasons as head coach before transitioning to the personnel department in 1992.



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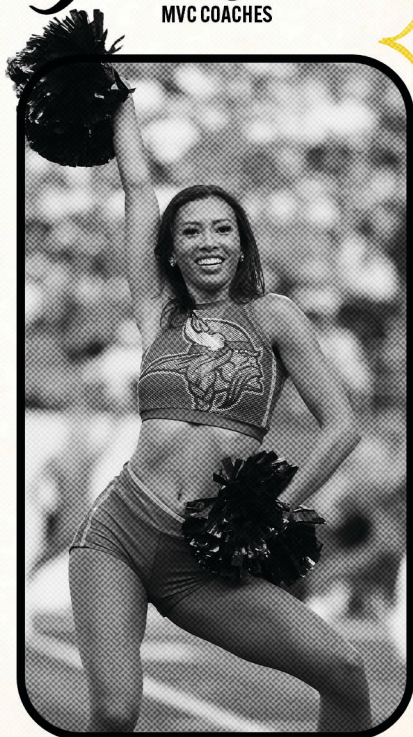
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*-Whitney*  
2025 PRO BOWL MVC



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*-Jacie and Karen*  
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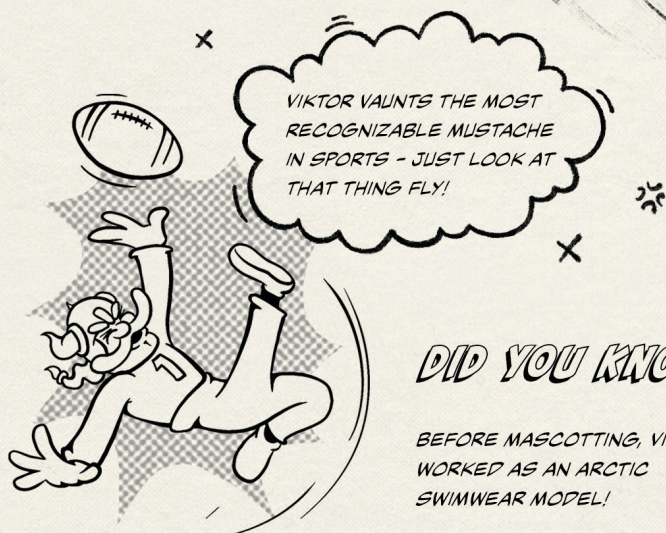
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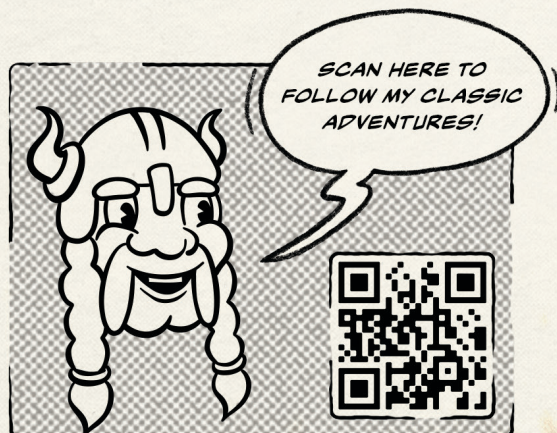
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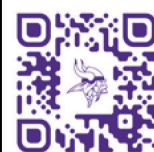
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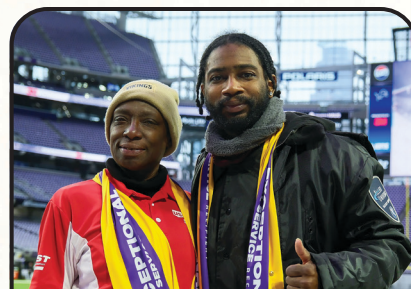
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## SKOL SERVICE

### Spotlight

By Madie Gile

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Each option is worth trying, but the star of the lineup is the

Pulled Pork Mac and Cheese. It's rich, bursting with flavor and incredibly comforting. If the cone itself feels a little adventurous, grab a fork and let it double as a uniquely shaped bowl. However you eat it, Roon's Savory Cones delivers a memorable, can't-miss bite.

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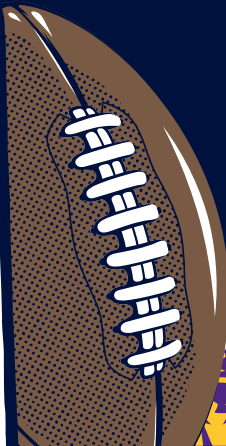


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