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(Knees & Toes.)



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TRAINING CAMP GUIDE

- 3 Areas of Interest
- 6 Training Camp Map



2026 MINNESOTA VIKINGS

- 8 Headshots
- 13 Vikings Roster
- 14 State of the Vikings
- 21 Schedule Takeaways

PLAYER AUTOGRAPHS

The first 1,000 kids 17 & under can choose a colored wristband upon entry at Training Camp that corresponds to a random line for player autographs after practice!* Corresponding colors will be assigned to player lines in the U.S. Bank Autograph Zone during practice. Scan the QR code for additional details.



GOLDEN WRISTBAND

The Minnesota Vikings Foundation will be auctioning off five "Golden Wristbands" each day of player autographs. With these wristbands, parents will choose which autograph line their child gets to join. The "Golden Wristbands" also come with a white panel football and sideline access for a portion of practice. Bid on the Vikings App before 2 p.m.!

usbank FOOTBALL TOSS

Stick around after practice for your chance to catch a football autographed by a current Vikings player! Players will head toward the bleachers and toss out mini footballs to fans.

Excludes 8/9 and 8/19-20 practices. Wristbands will be distributed at gates while supplies last. Player autograph schedule subject to change.



PLAYBOOK EXTRAS

- 22 Girls Flag Football's Groundswell
- 24 Viktor the Viking

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HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT CAMP?

Scan the code to chat with Ask Vik, our virtual assistant to find what you are looking for and make the most out of your visit to Vikings Training Camp.



HOME OF THE
MINNESOTA VIKINGS



100+

Dining Destinations

19

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AREAS OF INTEREST

GAMES & GIVEAWAYS

FAMILY FUN ZONE

TCO STADIUM | FIELD LEVEL

Stop by to participate in football tosses, field goal kicks, a 40-yard dash, flag football, an obstacle course, bean bag tosses, USTA tennis and more!*



CHUCK FOR CHARITY

BENEFITING THE MINNESOTA VIKINGS FOUNDATION

TCO STADIUM NORTH CONCOURSE

Visit the Foundation tent on the TCO Stadium North Concourse and show off your inner QB at Chuck for Charity. For a donation of \$5, you receive three attempts to throw a football into a target. A completed pass wins you an autographed Vikings item. There is a line closer to the target for younger fans; closer line not eligible for autographed Vikings item(s).*

FREE SUNSCREEN

THE MIDFIELD

Protect your skin while enjoying the sun! Complimentary sunscreen is proudly provided by the American Cancer Society. Take a step toward sun safety today!



VIKINGS MEET & GREET

U.S. BANK AUTOGRAPH ZONE

Viktor the Viking, the Minnesota Vikings Cheerleaders and Vikings Legends will be visiting the Autograph Zone each day to greet fans, take pictures or sign autographs.

DAY PRACTICES:

1-1:45 p.m. Legends Photos at Legends Perch near the U.S. Bank Autograph Zone
1:45-2:30 p.m. Viktor & MVC Autographs @ U.S. Bank Autograph Zone

AUG. 1 LEGENDS WEEKEND:

Legends appearing periodically throughout camp all day

AUG. 9 NIGHT PRACTICE:

5:30-6:15 p.m. Viktor Autographs @ U.S. Bank Autograph Zone
6-6:45 p.m. Legends Autographs @ U.S. Bank Autograph Zone
7:15-8 p.m. MVC Full Team Autographs @ NE Concourse



PENNY PRESS

THE MIDFIELD

Stop by Andersen Windows & Doors to create a commemorative Training Camp memento with their penny press.



FEATURED NONPROFITS

COMMUNITY LANDING

Stop by the Community Landing to meet our featured nonprofit of the day! Learn how local organizations are making a meaningful impact in our community. It's a great opportunity to connect, ask questions, and discover ways to get involved and support the important work happening right here at home.



ENJOY EAGAN UPPER PLAZA

Stop by the Enjoy Eagan booth to learn about the community surrounding TCO Performance Center. Spin the wheel to win prizes, including gift cards from local restaurants and attractions!



COLOR MY CLEATS

UPPER PLAZA

Calling all young artists and Vikings fans! Through Color My Cleats, kids can design their dream pair of cleats for a chance to have them brought to life and win the custom cleats they created. Prize includes two tickets to a Vikings home game and pre-game on-field passes. For more information, visit TCOmn.com/VikingsCamp.



VIKINGS ARCADE

UPPER PLAZA

Visit the Vikings Arcade on the Upper Plaza to try your luck at some games and win fun Vikings items!



* Closed Aug. 9



FUEL UP & COOL DOWN



JONNYPOPS COOL ZONE

TCO STADIUM NORTH CONCOURSE

Cool down with JonnyPops! We're serving up FREE Jonny Pops to help you beat the heat and treat yourself to a sweet moment of joy. Guests can also grab exclusive free T-shirts while supplies last – perfect for repping summer fun in style.



JonnyPops®

HY-VEE TAILGATE

BEHIND PRACTICE FIELDS BLEACHERS

Refresh and refuel at the Hy-Vee Tailgate. Grab a spot in the shade and enjoy a wide variety of food options with family-friendly pricing.*



MINI GOLF

HY-VEE TAILGATE

Experience turf beyond the football field. Practice your putting skills or challenge someone to a friendly competition of mini golf.*

VIKINGS TABLE

POWERED BY XCEL ENERGY |
LOCATED ON THE UPPER PLAZA

Fans can stop by for new mouth-watering menu creations on most days of camp. Proceeds from all Vikings Table sales directly provide free meals for youth and families in need. Vikings Table has proudly provided more than 150,000 free, dignified meals to underserved families and children.



PEPSI HYPE ZONE

THE MIDFIELD

Grab a seat with your cool refreshments and enjoy the music in the Pepsi Hype Zone.



LEINIE'S LODGE

UPPER PLAZA

Enjoy a refreshing beverage, unique photo opportunity and more at Leinie's Lodge!



MILLER LITE BAR

WEST SIDE OF PRACTICE FIELDS

Stop by the Miller Lite Bar for a cold beverage, to play a game of cornhole and enjoy the shade while viewing practice.*



VIKTOR'S CORNER

WEST SIDE OF PRACTICE FIELDS

Enjoy retail, a LEGO bricks station, flag football, coloring and more while staying close to the on-field action.*

TORO

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CONTINENTAL
DIAMOND CLUB

OMNI
HOSPITALITY
TENT

VIKTOR'S
CORNER

MILLER
LITE
BAR

PRACTICE
FIELDS

GENERAL ADMISSION
BLEACHERS

HY-VEE
TAILGATE

LEGENDS
PERCH

U.S. BANK
AUTOGRAPH
ZONE

Vikings

TCO STADIUM
CONCOURSE

UPPER
PLAZA



CONCESSIONS



WATER STATION



RESTROOMS



COOLING
ZONE



GUEST SERVICES



FIRST AID



NURSING
PARENTS ROOM



LEINIE'S LODGE



MILLER LITE
BAR



SEASON TICKET
MEMBER LOUNGE

ADA
PARKING
RAMP

CS PERFORMANCE CENTER

Icons: mobile phone, recycling, people, water drop

JONNYPOPS COOL ZONE

TWIN CITIES ORTHOPEDICS

FAMILY FUN ZONE

TCO STADIUM | FIELD LEVEL

Vikings

Field Entrance

Icons: mobile phone, water drop, people, first aid

UM SOUTH COURSE

THE MIDFIELD

Icons: people, water drop

VIKINGS MUSEUM & TEAM STORE

COMMUNITY LANDING

LOWER ENTRY PURPLE GATE

PARKING LOT

Icons: downward arrow, circular arrow

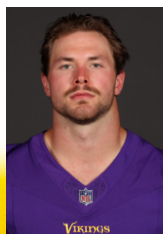
TRAINING HAUS

TCO EAGAN CLINIC & URGENT CARE

HEADSHOTS VIKINGS



OUTSIDE LINEBACKER

**32** Chaz Chambliss

RUNNING BACK

**33** Aaron Jones Sr.

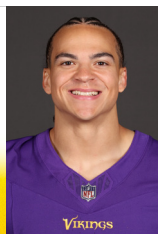
CORNERBACK

**34** Zemaiah Vaughn

RUNNING BACK

**35** Kejon Owens

RUNNING BACK

**36** Xavier Scott

DEFENSIVE BACK

**37** Tavierre Thomas

CORNERBACK

**38** Da'Veawn Armstead

SAFETY

**39** Jacob Thomas

WIDE RECEIVER

**40** Terrill Davis

LINEBACKER

**41** Jake Golday

LONG SNAPPER

**42** Andrew DePaola

OUTSIDE LINEBACKER

**43** Andrew Van Ginkel

SAFETY

**44** Joshua Metellus

FULLBACK

**45** Max Bredeson

WIDE RECEIVER

**46** Michael Briscoe

PUNTER

**47** Brett Thorson

LINEBACKER

**48** Jacob Roberts

OUTSIDE LINEBACKER

**49** Cam'Ron Stewart

DEFENSIVE LINE

**50** Levi Drake Rodriguez

LINEBACKER

**51** Blake Cashman

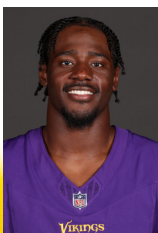
LINEBACKER

**52** Josh Ross

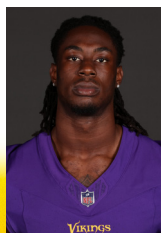
LINEBACKER

**55** Eric Wilson

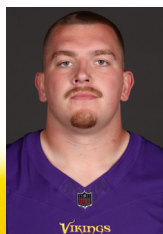
OUTSIDE LINEBACKER

**56** Arden Walker

LINEBACKER

**57** Keli Lawson

CENTER

**58** Gavin Gerhardt

LINEBACKER

**59** Bangally Kamara

GUARD

**60** Joe Huber

DEFENSIVE LINE

**61** Jalen Redmond

OFFENSIVE LINE

**62** Delby Lemieux

OFFENSIVE LINE

**63** Tristan Leigh

OMNI VIKING LAKES



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Adjacent to Viking Headquarters and minutes from U.S. Bank Stadium, Omni Viking Lakes Hotel is your destination for game days, weekend getaways, and everything in between. Enjoy spacious accommodations, four exceptional dining options, a full-service spa, an indoor pool, and a new outdoor pool complete with hot tubs and saunas. Thoughtful service, contemporary design, and memorable experiences come together to create a stay that is as relaxing as it is unforgettable.



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OMNIHOTELS.COM/VIKINGLAKES

CENTER



64 Blake Brandel

CENTER



65 Michael Jurgens

GUARD



66 Vershon Lee

OFFENSIVE LINE



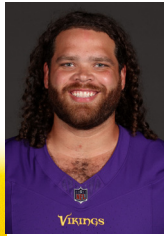
67 Tomas Rimac

OFFENSIVE LINE



68 Henry Byrd

DEFENSIVE LINE



69 Isaiahh Loudermilk

TACKLE



71 Christian Darrisaw

TACKLE



72 Ryan Van Demark

OFFENSIVE LINE



73 Walter Rouse

GUARD



74 Donovan Jackson

TACKLE



75 Brian O'Neill

GUARD



76 Will Fries

OFFENSIVE LINE



78 Caleb Tiernan

TIGHT END



81 Marshall Lang

WIDE RECEIVER



82 Jeshawn Jones

TIGHT END



83 Bryson Nesbit

TIGHT END



84 Josh Oliver

TIGHT END



85 Ben Yurosek

TIGHT END



86 Gavin Bartholomev

TIGHT END



87 T.J. Hockenson

WIDE RECEIVER



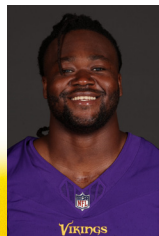
89 Dillon Bell

DEFENSIVE LINE



90 Tyrion Ingram-Dawkins

DEFENSIVE LINE



91 Smith Vilbert

OUTSIDE LINEBACKER



92 Tyler Batty

DEFENSIVE LINE



93 Eric Johnson II

DEFENSIVE LINE



94 Taki Taimani

DEFENSIVE LINE



95 Caleb Banks

DEFENSIVE LINE



96 Jahvaree Ritzie

DEFENSIVE LINE



97 Domonique Orange

OUTSIDE LINEBACKER



98 Bo Richter

DEFENSIVE LINE



99 Elijah Williams



new era

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VIKINGS ROSTER

#	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	EXP	COLLEGE	#	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	EXP	COLLEGE
0	Ivan Pace Jr.	LB	5-10	236	25	4	Cincinnati	50	Levi Drake Rodriguez	DL	6-2	307	25	3	East Texas A&M
1	Kyler Murray	QB	5-10	207	28	8	Oklahoma	51	Blake Cashman	LB	6-1	235	30	8	Minnesota
2	Isaiah Rodgers	CB	5-10	180	28	6	Massachusetts	52	Josh Ross	LB	6-0	229	26	4	Michigan
3	Jordan Addison	WR	5-11	179	24	4	USC	55	Eric Wilson	LB	6-1	231	31	10	Cincinnati
4	Myles Price	WR	5-9	183	24	2	Indiana	56	Arden Walker	OLB	6-2	250	23	R	Colorado
5	Johnny Hekker	P	6-5	225	36	15	Oregon State	57	Keli Lawson	LB	6-4	230	22	R	UCF
6	Dwight McGlothlen Jr.	CB	6-2	185	24	3	Arkansas	58	Gavin Gerhardt	C	6-4	310	24	R	Cincinnati
7	Byron Murphy Jr.	CB	5-11	190	28	8	Washington	59	Bangally Kamara	LB	6-2	235	24	R	Kansas
8	Jakobe Thomas	S	6-1	211	23	R	Miami	60	Joe Huber	G	6-5	310	24	2	Wisconsin
9	J.J. McCarthy	QB	6-3	219	23	3	Michigan	61	Jalen Redmond	DL	6-3	305	27	3	Oklahoma
11	Carson Wentz	QB	6-5	237	33	11	North Dakota State	62	Delby Lemieux	OL	6-5	305	22	R	Dartmouth
12	Max Brosmer	QB	6-2	218	25	2	Minnesota	63	Tristan Leigh	OL	6-4	312	23	R	Clemson
13	Tai Felton	WR	6-1	186	23	2	Maryland	64	Blake Brandel	C	6-6	315	29	6	Oregon State
14	Jauan Jennings	WR	6-3	212	29	6	Tennessee	65	Michael Jurgens	G	6-5	311	26	3	Wake Forest
15	Dallas Turner	OLB	6-3	247	23	3	Alabama	66	Vershon Lee	G	6-4	318	24	1	South Carolina
16	Will Reichard	K	6-1	190	25	3	Alabama	67	Tomas Rimac	OL	6-6	317	23	R	Virginia Tech
17	Luke Wysong	WR	5-10	186	23	R	Arizona	68	Henry Byrd	OL	6-5	314	27	3	Princeton
18	Justin Jefferson	WR	6-1	195	27	7	LSU	69	Isaiah Loder milk	DL	6-7	293	28	6	Wisconsin
19	Dontae Fleming	WR	6-2	180	24	1	Tulane	71	Christian Darrisaw	T	6-5	315	27	6	Virginia Tech
20	Chuck Demmings	CB	6-1	193	23	R	Stephen F. Austin	72	Ryan Van Demark	T	6-7	307	28	4	Connecticut
21	Demond Claiborne	RB	5-10	188	22	R	Wake Forest	73	Walter Rouse	OL	6-6	330	25	3	Oklahoma
23	James Pierre	CB	6-2	185	29	7	Florida Atlantic	74	Donovan Jackson	G	6-4	324	23	2	Ohio State
24	Jay Ward	S	6-1	190	26	4	LSU	75	Brian O'Neill	T	6-7	310	30	9	Pittsburgh
25	Kahlef Hailassie	S	6-1	195	25	3	Western Kentucky	76	Will Fries	G	6-6	321	28	6	Penn State
26	Theo Jackson	S	6-1	205	27	5	Tennessee	78	Caleb Tiernan	OL	6-7	323	23	R	Northwestern
27	Jordan Mason	RB	5-11	230	27	5	Georgia Tech	81	Marshall Lang	TE	6-4	246	24	1	Northwestern
28	Tyreek Chappell	CB	5-11	180	23	R	Texas A&M	82	Jashaun Jones	WR	6-1	188	26	2	Maryland
29	Marcus Allen	CB	6-1	197	22	R	North Carolina	83	Bryson Nesbit	TE	6-5	228	23	1	North Carolina
30	Trayvon Rudolph	WR	5-10	187	24	R	Toledo	84	Josh Oliver	TE	6-5	264	29	8	San Jose State
31	Marcus Sanders Jr.	WR	6-1	190	22	R	Georgia Southern	85	Ben Yurosek	TE	6-4	251	24	2	Georgia
32	Chaz Chambliss	OLB	6-1	244	23	2	Georgia	86	Gavin Bartholomew	TE	6-5	249	23	1	Pittsburgh
33	Aaron Jones Sr.	RB	5-10	208	31	10	UTEP	87	T.J. Hockenson	TE	6-5	248	29	8	Iowa
34	Zemaiah Vaughn	CB	6-3	180	24	1	Utah	89	Dillon Bell	WR	6-0	209	22	R	Georgia
35	Kejon Owens	RB	5-11	210	24	R	Florida International	90	Tyrion Ingram-Dawkins	DL	6-5	290	23	2	Georgia
36	Zavier Scott	RB	6-1	221	27	3	Maine	91	Smith Vilbert	DL	6-6	282	25	R	North Carolina
37	Tavierre Thomas	DB	5-10	205	30	9	Ferris State	92	Tyler Batty	OLB	6-6	271	27	2	BYU
38	Da'Veawn Armstead	CB	6-1	183	23	R	North Texas	93	Eric Johnson II	DL	6-4	320	28	5	Missouri State
39	Jacob Thomas	S	6-1	212	22	R	James Madison	94	Taki Taimani	DL	6-1	324	26	3	Oregon
40	Terrill Davis	WR	6-0	195	22	R	Oklahoma State	95	Caleb Banks	DL	6-6	327	23	R	Florida
41	Jake Golday	LB	6-4	240	23	R	Cincinnati	96	Jahvaree Ritzie	DL	6-4	290	23	1	North Carolina
42	Andrew DePaola	LS	6-1	229	38	12	Rutgers	97	Domonique Orange	DL	6-2	322	22	R	Iowa State
43	Andrew Van Ginkel	OLB	6-4	242	31	8	Wisconsin	98	Bo Richter	OLB	6-1	248	25	3	Air Force
44	Joshua Metellus	S	5-11	208	28	7	Michigan	99	Elijah Williams	DL	6-3	298	23	2	Morgan State
45	Max Bredeson	FB	6-2	252	23	R	Michigan								
46	Michael Briscoe	WR	6-2	209	23	R	Cal Poly								
48	Jacob Roberts	LB	6-1	233	24	R	Wake Forest	47	Brett Thorson	P	6-1	237	26	R	Georgia
49	Cam'Ron Stewart	OLB	6-5	250	23	R	Temple								

MINNESOTA VIKINGS COACHING STAFF

Head Coach: Kevin O'Connell	TEs/Game Management Coord.: Ryan Cordell	Off. Passing Game Coord./Quarterbacks: Josh McCown
Asst. Head Coach: Frank Smith	Asst. Special Teams: Chili Davis	Off. Running Game Coord./Running Backs: Curtis Modkins
Special Teams Coordinator: Matt Daniels	Offensive Assistant: Ben Ellefson	Asst. Wide Receivers: Derron Montgomery
Defensive Coordinator: Brian Flores	Defensive Assistant: Charlie Frye	Def. Running Game Coordinator: Ryan Nielsen
Offensive Coordinator: Wes Phillips	Asst. Defensive Backs: Chenzo Funari	Assistant Offensive Coord.: Chris O'Hara
Def. Passing Game Coord.: Gerald Alexander	Asst. Linebackers: Dalmin Gibson	Asst. to the Head Coach: Henry Schneider IV
Outside Linebackers: Thad Bogardus	Asst. Defensive Line: Patrick Hill	Inside Linebackers/Senior Def. Asst.: Mike Siravo
Offensive Line: Keith Carter	Defensive Assistant: Will Johnson	Asst. Quarterbacks/Passing Game Specialist: Jordan Traylor
Offensive Quality Control: Kyle Caskey	Wide Receivers: Keenan McCardell	Asst. Offensive Line: Derek Warehime

***ROSTER AND AGES AS OF PRINT DEADLINE (7.22.26)**

STATE OF THE VIKINGS



BY ROB KLEIFIELD
& LINDSEY YOUNG

The Vikings are entering their fifth season under Head Coach Kevin O'Connell and first under General Manager Nolan Teasley, whom Minnesota hired June 1. The two-time Super Bowl-winning executive brings a wide swath of experience after spending the past 13 seasons with the Seahawks.

This is the State of the 2026 Vikings.

QUARTERBACKS

RETURNEES:

(listed alphabetically) Max Brosmer, J.J. McCarthy, Carson Wentz

NEWCOMER:

Kyler Murray (2026 free agency)

POSITION OVERVIEW:

The Vikings signed Murray to a one-year deal this spring. The former No. 1 overall pick spent his first seven pro seasons in Arizona and now is trading in Cardinals Red for Vikings Purple. Murray and McCarthy shared reps with the first team during Organized Team Activity and mandatory minicamp practices.

VALUE IN EVERY REP:

A quarterback competition during training camp generates ample intrigue; how will McCarthy, who started 10 games last season, and Murray measure up as practices get underway? There will be value in every rep, and it will be interesting to see how O'Connell approaches practices and preseason games.

RECEIVERS

RETURNEES:

Jordan Addison, Tai Felton (2025 draft pick), Dontae Fleming (practice squad in 2025), Justin Jefferson, Jashaun Jones, Myles Price

NEWCOMERS:

Veteran Jauan Jennings; UDFAs Dillon Bell, Terrill Davis, Marcus Sanders, Jr., Luke Wysong; rookie free agents Michael Briscoe and Trayvon Rudolph

'THIRD & JAUAN':

The Vikings snagging Jennings in free agency is not small potatoes. Nicknamed "Third & Jauan" during his time in San Francisco, the gritty, big-bodied player has garnered a reputation as one of the league's best blocking receivers – and has plenty of talent in catching the ball, as well.

BEHIND THE BIG 3:

Jennings will occupy the WR3 spot vacated by Jalen Nailor, but who will fill in behind Jefferson, Addison and Jennings? Minnesota has multiple young wideouts who will vie for attention – and roster spots – this summer.



TIGHT ENDS

RETURNEES:

Gavin Bartholomew (2025 draft pick; spent season on IR), T.J. Hockenson, Bryson Nesbit (2025 practice squad), Josh Oliver, Ben Yurosek

NEWCOMER:

Free agent Marshall Lang

GETTING A LOOK AT GAVIN:

Minnesota's coaching staff – and fans – never got a good look at Bartholomew last year, as the former Pitt TE suffered a back injury during the offseason program and didn't see any action during the season. This year's camp will offer a better opportunity to assess what the Vikings have in him.

YUROSEK YEAR 2:

Yurosek turned out to be a beneficial pickup for the Vikings as a rookie free agent last year. The former Stanford and Georgia tight end contributed mainly on special teams but did have 116 offensive snaps. Will he take another step forward this summer?

OFFENSIVE LINE

RETURNEES:

Blake Brandel, Henry Byrd (PS in 2025), Christian Darrisaw, Will Fries, Joe Huber, Donovan Jackson, Michael Jurgens, Vershon Lee (PS in 2025), Brian O'Neill, Walter Rouse

NEWCOMERS:

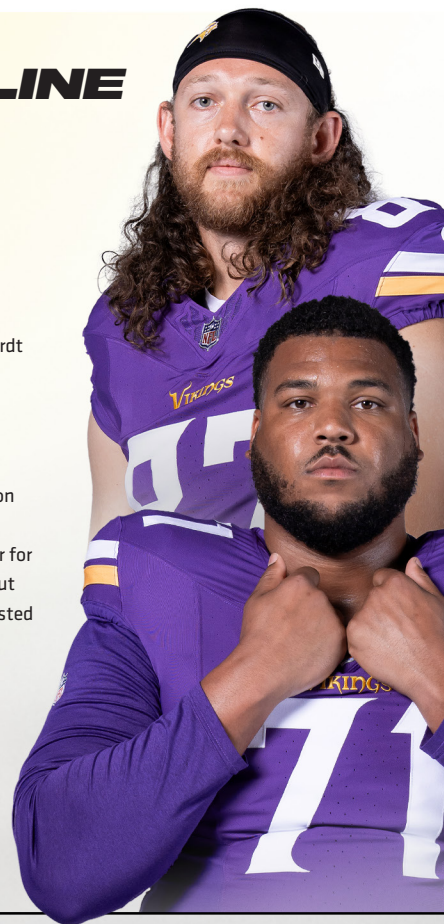
Veteran Ryan Van Demark; draft picks Gavin Gerhardt and Caleb Tiernan; UDFA's Tristan Leigh, Delby Lemieux, Tomas Rimac

SOLIDIFYING CENTER:

Ryan Kelly missed much of 2025 while in concussion protocol and retired following the season; Brandel, who stepped in for Kelly and played center for the first time, took first-team reps there throughout offseason programming. The Vikings will be interested in finding versatility among their reserves.

FRIES WITH THAT?

The Vikings signed Fries as a veteran free agent last spring, and he started all 17 games coming off a significant leg injury suffered in 2024. With a healthy offseason under his belt, the scene is set for Fries to take another step forward in Minnesota's front.



RUNNING BACKS/ FULLBACK

RETURNEES:

RBs Aaron Jones, Sr., Jordan Mason, Xavier Scott

NEWCOMERS:

RBs Demond Claiborne (2026 draft) and Kejon Owens (UDFA); FB Max Bredeson (2026 draft)

DYNAMIC DUO:

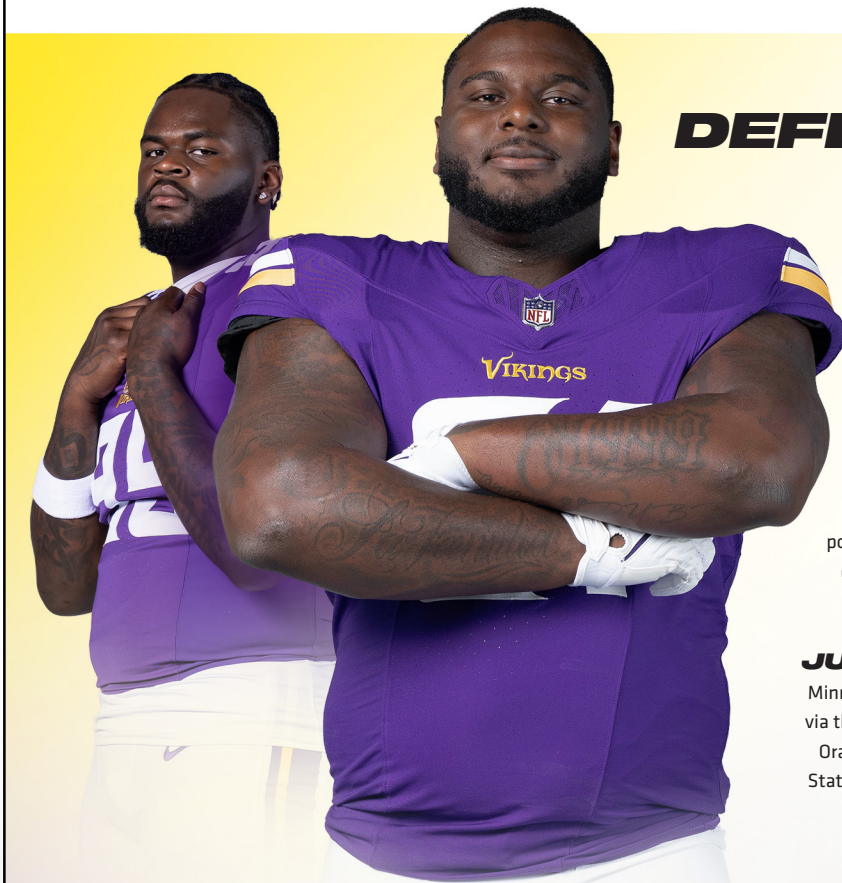
Jones and Mason combined last season for 291 carries, 1,306 yards and eight touchdowns on the ground. The Vikings re-signed Jones, who missed five games in 2025 due to injury, and will likely once again allocate ample reps to the veteran pair.

SPEED FOR DAYS:

Keep an eye on Claiborne, whom the Vikings drafted in the sixth round out of Wake Forest.

The speedster ranked third among RBs in the 40-yard dash at this year's NFL Combine, clocking in at 4.37.





DEFENSIVE LINE

RETURNEES:

Tyrion Ingram-Dawkins, Jalen Redmond, Levi Drake Rodriguez, Taki Taimani, Elijah Williams

NEWCOMERS:

Draft picks Caleb Banks and Domanique Orange; veterans Eric Johnson II, Isaiahh Loudermilk and Jahvaree Ritzie; UDFA Smith Vilbert

STARGAZING:

Mined from the UFL spring league, Redmond took a baby step toward stardom in 2024 and legitimized his potential in 2025. Another year of ascending play, and he could become the Vikings first interior Pro Bowler since Linval Joseph.

JUICE WORTH THE SQUEEZE:

Minnesota added roughly 650 pounds of mass to the group via the draft by taking Banks out of the Sunshine State and Orange, whose nickname is "Big Citrus," from nearby Iowa State. The decisions underpinned the team's desire to shut down the run and level up its pass-rush creativity.

OUTSIDE LINEBACKERS

RETURNEES:

Tyler Batty, Chaz Chambliss, Bo Richter, Dallas Turner, Andrew Van Ginkel

NEWCOMERS:

UDFAs Cam'Ron Stewart and Arden Walker

RISING TIDE:

Trading Jonathan Greenard, a team captain in 2025, to the Eagles for draft capital swung open the doors for Turner to make the kind of impact Minnesota envisioned when he was selected 17th overall out of Alabama in 2024. Turner has 6.5 sacks in 10 career starts (11 sacks in total).

PICK 'EM:

The Vikings like the talent they've landed in undrafted free agency the past three years, but Minnesota's depth of game experience creates a proving ground for young players. Richter might have an edge on the competition based on being around the longest, but don't write off Batty or Chambliss.

LINEBACKERS

RETURNEES:

Blake Cashman, Ivan Pace, Jr., Josh Ross (PS in 2025), Eric Wilson

NEWCOMERS:

Draft pick Jake Golday; free agent Jacob Roberts (CFL); UDFAs Bangally Kamara and Keli Lawson

UNDERRATED DUO:

Cashman has delivered his hometown fans 256 tackles, 6.5 sacks and 10 pass breakups in two seasons (27 games due to injuries) as the Green Dot defender. His reliability was only overshadowed by Wilson's knack for making splashes during his return to Purple in 2025.

GOING FOR GOLDAY:

The 51st overall pick in the draft has been floated as an understudy to Van Ginkel thanks to his on-the-ball experience and versatility. Golday will get introduced to the NFL as an inside linebacker, though, and is trending to be an immediate X-factor on special teams.



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CORNERBACKS

RETURNEES:

Dwight McGlother, Byron Murphy, Jr., Isaiah Rodgers, Zemaiah Vaughn

NEWCOMER:

Veteran James Pierre; draft pick Chuck Demmings; UDFA's Marcus Allen, Da'Veawn Armstead and Tyreek Chappell

FLO'S FINGERPRINTS:

Under Defensive Coordinator Brian Flores, Murphy has plucked 11 passes and denied 34 – his game has soared. Rodgers benefited from a change in scenery and Flores' tutelage, too, producing a game for the ages and his best year to date in 2025. Now, Pierre enters, and like Rodgers, he's someone Flores identified.

DEVELOPING DEPTH:

There's a shortage of experience beyond the top three CBs, but zero shortage of athleticism and playmaking in practice. McGlother and Vaughn have popped throughout multiple offseasons, and this year's additions added to the mix with length, ball skills and competitiveness.



SAFETIES

RETURNEES:

Kahlef Hailassie (PS in 2025), Theo Jackson, Joshua Metellus, Tavierre Thomas, Jay Ward

NEWCOMERS:

Draft pick Jakobe Thomas; UDFA Jacob Thomas

ONE SCENARIO:

Harrison Smith fades into retirement after 14 seasons, accepting 2025 as the end of his Hall of Fame-caliber career and passing the baton for the longest-tenured safety to Metellus, who is hungry to reestablish himself in 2026. This could add urgency to Jakobe Thomas' integration.

ANOTHER SCENARIO:

Smith bides his time away from football and re-signs at some point for Year 15 and another chance to convince the world that he belongs in Canton. This doesn't take Thomas (any of the Thomases) out of the equation but primarily lets him tap into a bank vault of resources.

SPECIALISTS

RETURNEES:

K Will Reichard; LS Andrew DePaola; RS Myles Price

NEWCOMERS:

Veteran P Johnny Hekker; UDFA P Brett Thorson



AIMING TO REPEAT:

Special Teams Coordinator Matt Daniels thinks there's another level Reichard can reach. That's after the 2024 sixth-rounder earned First-Team All-Pro honors and drilled 11 of 13 attempts from 50-plus yards in 2025. DePaola, 39 as of July 28, has been a First- or Second-Team All-Pro since 2022.

RULES OF ENGAGEMENT:

Hekker was voted to the NFL All-Decade Team of the 2010s and has plenty of leg left. He will be tested, however, by the 2025 Ray Guy Award winner out of Georgia. Thorson has an Aussie rules football background and could stick around with the Vikings, win-or-lose the job, due to a roster exemption allowed through the International Player Pathway Program.

COACHING

In addition to Flores signing an extension, and Minnesota retaining Daniels and Offensive Coordinator Wes Phillips, former Dolphins Offensive Coordinator Frank Smith joined O'Connell as assistant head coach, and Keith Carter was promoted to lead the offensive line in his second season. The Vikings added a slew of assistants, too: most notably, Defensive Passing Game Coordinator/Defensive Backs Coach Gerald Alexander and Defensive Running Game Coordinator Ryan Nielsen, a former DC. Smith and Nielsen are very important to the offensive and defensive fronts progressing to championship form.



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6 TAKEAWAYS

BY CRAIG PETERS

3:25 PM >>>>

09.13 vs **GB** 

NOON >>>>

09.20 @ **CHI** 

3:05 PM >>>>

09.27 @ **TB** 

3:05 PM >>>>

10.04 vs **MIA** 

NOON >>>>

10.11 @ **NO** 

BYE WEEK

NOON >>>>

10.25 vs **IND** 

NOON >>>>

11.01 @ **DET** 

7:15 PM >>>>

11.09 vs **BUF** 

NOON >>>>

11.15 @ **GB** 

7:20 PM >>>>

11.22 @ **SF** 

NOON >>>>

11.29 vs **ATL** 

3:25 PM >>>>

12.06 vs **CAR** 

7:15 PM >>>>

12.10 @ **NE** 

7:20 PM >>>>

12.20 vs **DET** 

TBD >>>>

TBD vs **WAS** 

NOON >>>>

01.03 @ **NYJ** 

TBD >>>>

TBD vs **CHI** 

MINNESOTA

VIKINGS

2026

SCHEDULE

>>>>

The 2026 Minnesota Vikings schedule is served.

The "17-course meal" will provide the team the opportunity to open at home for the seventh time in 11 seasons of home games at U.S. Bank Stadium.

Here are six takeaways from the 2026 schedule, which includes games on five different networks/streaming services.

1 DIVISIONAL DUET PLATE

We won't do a food-themed write-up throughout, but why not build off this year's schedule release video featuring "Will the Thrill" Reichard and a special cameo by longtime devoted Vikings fan Chris Jericho.

The Vikings will open a season by hosting the Packers for the third time ever, joining 2020 and 2022.

The rarity extends into the second week when the Vikings visit the Chicago Bears at noon on Sept. 20.

This is just the second time since the NFL aligned teams into eight four-team divisions in 2002 for Minnesota to open with back-to-back division games. The previous instance was 2013, which resulted in losses at Detroit and Chicago in Weeks 1-2.

This is also the first time the Vikings have visited Chicago in Week 1 or Week 2 of consecutive seasons since 2001-02.

2 LESS THAN HALF AT NOON, FOR NOW

Seven games are scheduled for noon kickoffs, which could increase depending on what happens with the Vikings and Commanders seasons and what implications exist for Minnesota, Chicago and the rest of the league in Week 18.

NFL Flex Scheduling could affect some prime-time games, but Minnesota is scheduled for four such appearances: Week 9 vs. Buffalo on *Monday Night Football*, Week 11 vs. San Francisco in Mexico on *Sunday Night Football*, Week 14 at New England on *Thursday Night Football* and Week 15 vs. Detroit on *Sunday Night Football*.

A timing oddity is the appearance of two games

scheduled for 3:05 p.m. kickoffs (Week 3 at Tampa Bay and Week 4 at home against Miami).

In the past 25 seasons, the Vikings have only had 14 games kick off at 3:05 p.m., and it's usually been when visiting the Cardinals, Chargers or Seahawks (three times each).

3 BYE, BYE, BYE

It's a little early in the grand scheme of things, but it's become the recent norm for the Vikings to have a Week 6 bye. This will be the third consecutive year that Minnesota has had that week off.

While there is a bit of monotony there (and somewhat of a repeat of 2020-22 when Week 7 byes occurred each season), a departure from the past two seasons is avoiding a *Thursday Night Football* game on the West Coast in Week 8 that neutralized the effects of the bye.

4 ON THE (THURSDAY) ROAD AGAIN

Speaking of *Thursday Night Football*, the Vikings have one scheduled appearance, and it involves their first visit to New England in eight years.

For the third time in four seasons, Minnesota has only one Thursday game and is on the road on short rest. The Vikings are seeking their first road win in a Thursday game since Thanksgiving 2017.

5 NEW INTERNATIONAL FLAVOR

Minnesota's Week 11 contest against the 49ers will be the seventh regular-season international game and 11th overall (including four preseason contests) for the Vikings, who will try to improve upon their 5-1 mark in regular-season instances during their Mexico debut.

Some thought Minnesota's double dip of Dublin and London in 2025 may result in an off-year, but with the NFL initiative expanding to nine games across four continents, seven countries and eight stadiums in 2026, the league opted to sub this destination for the Bay Area.

6 CLOSING WITH FIVE HOME GAMES OUT OF FINAL SEVEN

The Vikings have an end-of-season reward in the form of playing five of their final seven games at home. It will be up to Minnesota to make the most of key NFC matchups during that stretch.

GIRLS FLAG FOOTBALL

GROUNDSWELL GROWS

BY CRAIG PETERS

Lights, cameras, (flag football) action. The Vikings in April hosted girls flag football players from 62 different high schools for a media production day at Twin Cities Orthopedics Performance Center.

Teams attended either a morning or afternoon session, and all joined for a special discussion with Vikings defensive lineman Levi Drake Rodriguez and USA Football Senior Director of High Performance & National Team Operations Callie Brownson, whose five seasons with the Cleveland Browns from 2020-24 included a historic role as assistant wide receivers coach.

Rodriguez shared his football journey and how hard work motored him through times when he was duct-taping his shoes to becoming a seventh-round pick in 2024.

Brownson shared her love for football began when she was a child being raised singly by her father.

"Football changed my life, and it will change yours if you let it," said Brownson, before she and Rodriguez fielded a variety of questions for how to advance toward potentially earning college scholarships or maybe one day even trying out for or making Team USA.

The content-capture stations included a flashy metallic backdrop that featured an iridescent flag for stylized photos and videos, as well as a dramatically lit area for

filming football skills and a gray backdrop for portraits.

The setup in the Indoor Practice Facility shared similarities to the Vikings annual production day, during which they capture videos and photos for use at U.S. Bank Stadium, in social and digital content and team publications.

Completely unique, players created a flag wall, with attendees writing out their "whys" for loving flag football on multicolored flags.

Students from different schools connected over their love for the sport, and opponents and teammates alike filmed TikTok dances together during lulls. Positive energy and excitement filled the atmosphere.

Themes of opportunity and appreciation for what flag football has offered so far emerged and resonated.

The most celebrated stat? The number of programs in the state has gone from four to 51 to an incredible 104 just three years after the Vikings first launched the campaign on a trial basis. Although girls flag is not yet sanctioned by the Minnesota State High School League, it is clearly surging.

"I think it's really important for the girls to see an organization at the caliber of the Vikings that takes interest in girls and making sure they have experiences that the boys have," Minneapolis North Head Coach Krista Clausen said before the school's second season.

Mahtomedi Head Coach Nick Sullivan, whose squad won the 2025 title, said participation at the school enabled formation of a varsity, JV, JV2 and B-squad team.

Sullivan, a school resource officer, said players "gained an incredible amount of confidence, not only around the game of football, but I think in general."

Vikings Director of Youth & High School Football Joe Rush said the Vikings were pleased to host the production day and are excited about the growth of girls flag football.

The organization has helped support the rapid growth and expansion by providing flag kits and

"MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE IS DRIVEN BY THE SCHOOLS, SO WE'VE GOT TO DO THE GRASSROOTS OF PUTTING PRESSURE ON THEM SO WE CAN GET IT TO BE A SANCTIONED SPORT."

- ROSEMOUNT HEAD COACH JEFF ERDMANN



opportunities for coaches as the Minnesota State High School League has examined the possibility of sanctioning the sport.

"The education is catching up to the interest," Rush said. "There are a lot of community leaders that see the value add to the school and community. We know the power of playing team sports, whether it's the physical nature or the social-emotional side, and flag football is such a low barrier-to-entry opportunity to expand what it means for girls to identify as student athletes and see a viable pathway into the sport of football, so it's adding value to their high school experience, their social circles, and I think leaders are seeing that value and seeking it out. They're coming to us saying, 'How do we start it?' And we're here to support that journey for them."

Rosemount, which finished first in the four-team pilot season, won the 13-team 2026 Minnesota Girls High School Flag Tournament presented by the Minnesota Star Tribune. Talia Vescio threw seven touchdown passes for the second-seeded Irish in the championship against upset-minded Rogers, which began the day as the No. 13 seed.

The Irish edged No. 10 seed Minnetonka in overtime in the quarterfinals and outlasted No. 6 seed Centennial in the semifinals.

Rosemount Head Coach Jeff Erdmann was asked what needs to happen for girls flag football to become sanctioned.

"I think what we need is every school, every parent of a girl that plays, every young parent, they need to call their school athletic directors, their school board members and put pressure on them, that we want this to be a state-sanctioned sport," Erdmann said. "The Vikings have done an incredible job of promoting and giving girls this opportunity, and after our section championship game, we had our girls take their pictures with their moms who never had a chance to play this [sport]."

"We need people to step up and put pressure on their schools to put pressure on the Minnesota State High School League to make this happen," Erdmann said. "Minnesota State High School League is driven by the schools, so we've got to do the grassroots of putting pressure on them so we can get it to be a sanctioned sport."





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