

WK 4 | CRUCIAL CATCH | LATINO HERITAGE MONTH | OCT. 4, 2026

Mystic Lake



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QUESTIONS AT TODAY'S GAME?



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**TODAY'S GAME
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CONCESSIONS**

AT TODAY'S GAME >>>



VIKINGS LEADERS

REGULAR-SEASON GAMES

1. Jim Marshall, 270
2. Mick Tingelhoff, 240
- T3. Fred Cox, 210
- T3. Harrison Smith, 210*
5. Carl Eller, 209

*Entering today

JUNIOR CHEER

The Minnesota Vikings Cheerleaders Junior Cheer and Flag Runner program is designed specifically to promote confidence, hard work, leadership and FUN among Junior Cheerleaders and Flag Runners 3-14 years of age. More than 475 participants in the Junior (ages 6-14) and Angel (ages 3-5) groups will perform before the game.



OCT. 4, 2026 | CRUCIAL CATCH

Welcome to the annual Crucial Catch game at U.S. Bank Stadium and the 15th official meeting between the Vikings and Dolphins. The NFL's Crucial Catch mission is to fight cancer through early detection and risk reduction. The league, its clubs, players, the NFL Players Association and the American Cancer Society are committed to providing individuals with the tools they need to help them better understand early detection and ways to reduce their cancer risk.

Each year, every NFL team raises awareness during Crucial Catch games, which feature on-field and in-stadium Crucial Catch elements. Crucial Catch games present a special opportunity to honor cancer survivors and those currently battling cancer, as well as caregivers. Visit crucialcatch.cancer.org

for helpful information or call the 24-hour resource hotline at 800-227-2345.

The following game elements are connected to Crucial Catch.

NATIONAL ANTHEM: Bianca Muniz, a singer-songwriter who has overcome ovarian, breast and lung cancer, will perform the National Anthem.

MEDTRONIC GAME CHANGER: Julissa Rios and La Nueva Esperanza, a St. Paul-based nonprofit that is Minnesota's only Spanish-language cancer support group has helped patients navigate a cancer diagnosis and access critical resources.

HALFTIME: A live performance by Ber of "Time After Time" will help recognize all who have been impacted by cancer.

**¡VAMOS!
VIKINGS**

Today's game presents the opportunity to celebrate the rich cultural heritage and contributions of the Latino community within the NFL and amidst Latino Heritage Month. Check out Page 40 to learn more about a Cadex Herrera mural commissioned by the Vikings that is in the Skyway. Additionally, find the Purple-Rita at Miller Lite Bar, Crown Bar, Absolut Bar and select locations throughout our Premium Hospitality spaces. While supplies last, your cocktail will be served in a specialty Vamos Vikings commemorative cup also designed by Herrera.

FALEN COLT & JENNY



THEY'RE NOT AS COOL AS YOU
BUT... THEY'RE TRYING

MORNINGS 6:00-10:00am 101.3 KDWB

TODAY'S GAME

PROMOTIONS + CONTESTS

SACKS FOR WINGS



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

VIKINGS ZONE

Vikings Fans, you could win VIP Vikings experiences all season long in the @KwikTrip Rewards Vikings Zone! Head to kwiktrip.com/sweepstakes for more details!

KwikTrip

SCORE FREE KING'S HAWAIIAN® CINNAMON BITES

Calling all Vikings fans! This season, YOU have a chance to try NEW King's Hawaiian Soft Swirl Cinnamon Bites for FREE at your local Hy-Vee! Simply scan the QR code to sign up for the rebate, then head to your local Hy-Vee and purchase King's Hawaiian Cinnamon Bites in the Deli. Load your receipt for reimbursement via PayPal or Venmo. See rebate site for details, terms and conditions.



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Whenever the Minnesota Vikings intercept the ball, earn buy one, get one free drink (BOGO) in all participating Minnesota Caribou Coffee® locations.

Three ways to redeem:

1. BOGO is valid in-store at participating Minnesota Caribou Coffee® locations to guests who present proof of offer at time of purchase
2. OR, guest must be a Caribou Perks® member and enter promo code: BOGOBALL26 in the Caribou Coffee app to redeem this offer
3. OR, guest may click the direct link to BOGO reward and redeem in the Caribou Coffee app.

Offer is valid once per eligible day, per guest. Offer is valid only the day after eligible game. Not to be combined with any other coupons, offers or discounts. Offers are not valid on Uber Eats or DoorDash. This offer may be withdrawn, amended or canceled at any time



GAME-DAY GLOW GIVEAWAY

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



FOOTBALL FANATICS SWEEPSTAKES

Showcase your football fandom by submitting your photo as the Jameson Football Fanatic of the Week! Fans will have a chance to win a Vikings and Jameson weekly prize pack, and one fanatic will be named the Jameson Football Fanatic of the 2026 season, winning co-branded gear and more! Submit your fan photo today.

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01	09.13 vs GB W 39-22
02	09.20 @ CHI W 9-3
03	09.27 @ TB W 23-16
04	10.04 vs MIA
05	10.11 @ NO
06	BYE WEEK
07	10.25 vs IND
08	11.01 @ DET
09	11.09 vs BUF
10	11.15 @ GB
11	11.22 @ SF
12	11.29 vs ATL
13	12.06 vs CAR
14	12.10 @ NE
15	12.20 vs DET
16	TBD vs WAS
17	01.03 @ NYJ
18	TBD vs CHI



ANDREW VAN GINKEL

OLB | 6'4" | 242 LBS | 8TH SEASON | WISCONSIN

NOW IN HIS THIRD SEASON IN PURPLE, VAN GINKEL CONTINUES TO MAKE HIS PRESENCE FELT IN A BIG WAY.

The 31-year-old entered today's game with 3.0 sacks, nine tackles, a forced fumble, fumble recovery and an interception. Van Ginkel joined the Vikings as a free agent in 2024 and earned his first career Pro Bowl nod after starting all 17 regular-season games and recording a career-high 11.5 sacks and two interception return touchdowns. The native of Rock Valley, Iowa, is serving as a season-long captain for the first time in his career, embracing the role by continuing to lead with his game-changing plays, including his forcing of a fumble

by Jordan Love during Minnesota's Week 1 comeback victory against Green Bay.

FINS TO VIKES

A fifth-round draft selection by Miami in 2019, Van Ginkel spent his first five NFL seasons with the Dolphins, for whom he played 73 games and made 42 starts. The outside linebacker logged 17 sacks, two interceptions, four forced fumbles, three fumble recoveries and two defensive touchdowns in aqua and orange. Van Ginkel overlapped with Brian Flores in Miami from 2019-21, during which Flores served as the Dolphins head coach. Today's game marks Van Ginkel's first against his former team.



MINNESOTA 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	78	Caleb Tiernan	T	6-7	323	23	R	Northwestern
1	Kyler Murray	QB	5-10	207	29	8	Oklahoma	82	Jeshaun Jones	WR	6-1	188	26	2	Maryland
2	Isaiah Rodgers	CB	5-10	180	28	6	Massachusetts	86	Gavin Bartholomew	TE	6-5	249	23	1	Pittsburgh
3	Jordan Addison	WR	5-11	179	24	4	USC	87	T.J. Hockenson	TE	6-5	248	29	8	Iowa
4	Myles Price	WR	5-9	183	24	2	Indiana	90	Tyrion Ingram-Dawkins	DL	6-5	290	23	2	Georgia
5	Zemaiah Vaughn	CB	6-3	180	24	1	Utah	95	Caleb Banks	DL	6-6	327	23	R	Florida
7	Byron Murphy Jr.	CB	5-11	190	28	8	Washington	97	Domonique Orange	DL	6-2	322	22	R	Iowa State
8	Jakobe Thomas	S	6-1	211	23	R	Miami	98	Bo Richter	OLB	6-1	248	26	3	Air Force
11	Carson Wentz	QB	6-5	237	33	11	North Dakota State	99	Elijah Williams	DL	6-3	298	24	2	Morgan State
12	Max Brosmer	QB	6-2	218	25	2	Minnesota								
13	Tai Felton	WR	6-1	186	23	2	Maryland								
14	Jauan Jennings	WR	6-3	212	29	6	Tennessee	27	Jordan Mason	RB	5-11	230	27	5	Georgia Tech
15	Dallas Turner	OLB	6-3	247	23	3	Alabama	28	Tyreek Chappell	CB	5-11	180	23	R	Texas A&M
16	Will Reichard	K	6-1	190	25	3	Alabama	32	Jamal Adams	LB	6-1	213	30	10	LSU
17	Kyle Van Noy	OLB	6-3	255	35	13	BYU	62	Nick Samac	C	6-4	317	25	2	Michigan State
18	Justin Jefferson	WR	6-1	195	27	7	LSU	84	Josh Oliver	TE	6-5	264	29	8	San Jose State
19	Brett Thorson	P	6-1	237	26	R	Georgia	85	Ben Yurosek	TE	6-4	251	24	2	Georgia
20	Chuck Demmings	CB	6-1	193	23	R	Stephen F. Austin	92	Tyler Batty	OLB	6-6	271	27	2	BYU
21	Demond Claiborne	RB	5-10	188	22	R	Wake Forest								
22	Harrison Smith	S	6-2	211	37	15	Notre Dame								
23	James Pierre	CB	6-2	185	30	7	Florida Atlantic								
24	Jay Ward	S	6-1	190	26	4	LSU	65	Michael Jurgens	C	6-5	311	26	3	Wake Forest
26	Theo Jackson	S	6-1	205	28	5	Tennessee								
29	Jacob Thomas	S	6-1	212	22	R	James Madison								
31	Deejay Dallas	RB	5-10	225	28	7	Miami								
32	Chaz Chambliss	OLB	6-1	244	23	2	Georgia	6	Johnny Hekker	P	6-5	225	36	15	Oregon State
33	Aaron Jones Sr.	RB	5-10	208	31	10	UTEP	30	Audric Estime	RB	5-11	227	23	3	Notre Dame
41	Jake Galloway	LB	6-4	240	23	R	Cincinnati	34	Devin Neal	RB	5-11	213	23	2	Kansas
42	Andrew DePaola	LS	6-1	227	39	12	Rutgers	36	Maceo Beard*	S	6-1	206	26	1	(From Paris, France)
43	Andrew Van Ginkel	OLB	6-4	242	31	8	Wisconsin	37	Tavierre Thomas	S	5-10	212	30	9	Ferris State
44	Joshua Metellus	S	5-11	208	28	7	Michigan	38	Da'Veawn Armstead	CB	6-1	183	23	R	North Texas
45	Max Bredeon	FB	6-2	252	24	R	Michigan	52	Jihad Ward	OLB	6-5	285	32	11	Illinois
50	Levi Drake Rodriguez	DL	6-2	307	26	3	East Texas A&M	54	Kenny Dyson, Jr.	OLB	6-3	235	25	1	Bryant
51	Blake Cashman	LB	6-1	235	30	8	Minnesota	57	Keshawn Banks	OLB	6-3	255	26	2	San Diego State
55	Eric Wilson	LB	6-1	231	32	10	Cincinnati	59	Bangally Kamara	LB	6-2	235	24	R	Kansas
60	Joe Huber	G	6-5	310	24	2	Wisconsin	67	Josh Priebe	G	6-5	300	25	1	Michigan
61	Jalen Redmond	DL	6-3	305	27	3	Oklahoma	68	Henry Byrd	G	6-5	314	27	3	Princeton
64	Blake Brandel	C	6-6	315	29	6	Oregon State	79	Jack Nelson	OL	6-7	314	24	2	Wisconsin
69	Trevor Keegan	G	6-6	315	26	2	Michigan	81	Michael Briscoe	WR	6-2	209	24	R	Cal Poly
71	Christian Darrisaw	T	6-5	315	27	6	Virginia Tech	83	Cam Grandy	TE	6-5	253	26	3	Illinois State
72	Ryan Van Demark	T	6-7	307	28	4	Connecticut	89	Dillon Bell	WR	6-0	209	22	R	Georgia
74	Donovan Jackson	G	6-4	324	23	2	Ohio State	96	Jahvaree Ritzie	DL	6-4	290	23	1	North Carolina
75	Brian O'Neill	T	6-7	310	31	9	Pittsburgh								
76	Will Fries	G	6-6	321	28	6	Penn State								

MINNESOTA VIKINGS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE	1	2	3	DEFENSE	1	2	3
WR	Jefferson	Felton		OLB	Turner	Van Noy	Chambliss
LT	Darrisaw	Van Demark		DL	Redmond	Banks	
LG	D. Jackson	Huber		DL	Rodriguez	Orange	
C	Brandel	Jurgens [DTR]		DL	Ingram-Dawkins	Williams	
RG	Fries	Keegan		OLB	Van Ginkel	Richter	
RT	O'Neill	Tiernan		LB	Cashman	Pace Jr.	
TE	Hockenson	Bartholomew		LB	Wilson	Galloway	
WR	Addison	J. Jones		CB	Murphy Jr.	Demmings	
WR	Jennings	Price		CB	Rodgers	Pierre	Vaughn
QB	Murray	Wentz	Brosmer	S	Smith	T. Jackson	Jac. Thomas
RB	Jones Sr.	Claiborne	Dallas	S	Metellus	Ward	Jak. Thomas
FB	Bredeon						

*ROSTER AND AGES AS OF PRINT DEADLINE (9.30.26)



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FIRST TEAMS



33
RUNNING BACK
AARON
JONES SR.



1
QUARTERBACK
KYLER MURRAY



45
FULLBACK
MAX BREDESON



3
WIDE RECEIVER
JORDAN
ADDISON



87
TIGHT END
T.J.
HOCKENSON



75
RIGHT TACKLE
BRIAN O'NEILL



76
RIGHT GUARD
WILL FRIES



64
CENTER
BLAKE
BRANDEL



74
LEFT GUARD
DONOVAN
JACKSON



71
LEFT TACKLE
CHRISTIAN
DARRISAW



14
WIDE RECEIVER
JAUAN
JENNINGS



18
WIDE RECEIVER
JUSTIN
JEFFERSON

VIKINGS OFFENSE

DOLPHINS DEFENSE



8
CORNERBACK
JUJU
BRENTS



44
EDGE
CHOP
ROBINSON



92
DEFENSIVE TACKLE
ZACH
SIELER



94
DEFENSIVE TACKLE
JORDAN
PHILLIPS



9
EDGE
JOSH
UCHE



4
CORNERBACK
JASON
MARSHALL JR.



3
NICKELBACK
CHRIS JOHNSON



16
SAFETY
MICHAEL TAAFFE



10
LINEBACKER
JACOB
RODRIGUEZ



11
SAFETY
DANTE TRADER JR.



20
LINEBACKER
JORDYN
BROOKS

VIKINGS SPECIAL TEAMS



16
KICKER
WILL
REICHARD



19
PUNTER
BRETT
THORSON



42
LONG
SNAPPER
ANDREW
DEPAOLA



4
PUNT & KICK
RETURNER
MYLES PRICE



SAFETY
HARRISON SMITH



LINEBACKER
BLAKE CASHMAN



LINEBACKER
ERIC WILSON



SAFETY
JOSHUA METELLUS



CORNERBACK
BYRON MURPHY JR.



OUTSIDE LINEBACKER
DALLAS TURNER



DEFENSIVE LINE
JALEN REDMOND



DEFENSIVE LINE
LEVI DRAKE RODRIGUEZ



DEFENSIVE LINE
TYRION INGRAM-DAWKINS



OUTSIDE LINEBACKER
ANDREW VAN GINKEL



CORNERBACK
ISAIAH RODGERS

VIKINGS DEFENSE

DOLPHINS OFFENSE



WIDE RECEIVER
CALEB DOUGLAS



WIDE RECEIVER
CHRIS BELL



LEFT TACKLE
PATRICK PAUL



LEFT GUARD
KADYN PROCTOR



CENTER
AARON BREWER



RIGHT GUARD
JONAH SAVAIINAEA



RIGHT TACKLE
AUSTIN JACKSON



TIGHT END
GREG DULCICH



WIDE RECEIVER
MALIK WASHINGTON



FULLBACK
DJ HERMAN



QUARTERBACK
MALIK WILLIS



RUNNING BACK
JAYLEN WRIGHT

DOLPHINS SPECIAL TEAMS



KICKER
RILEY PATTERSON



PUNTER
BRADLEY PINION



LONG SNAPPER
TUCKER ADDINGTON



PUNT & KICK RETURNER
MALIK WASHINGTON



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MIAMI DOLPHINS ROSTER

#	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	EXP	COLLEGE	#	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	EXP	COLLEGE
0	Ollie Gordon II	RB	6-2	225	22	2	Oklahoma State	77	Caedan Wallace	T	6-5	320	26	3	Penn State
1	Jalen Tolbert	WR	6-1	195	27	5	South Alabama	79	Chukwuebuka Godrick	T	6-5	293	25	1	(From Lagos, Nigeria)
2	Malik Willis	QB	6-1	225	27	5	Liberty	80	Justin Joly	TE	6-3	241	22	R	NC State
3	Chris Johnson	CB	6-0	196	21	R	San Diego State	83	Seydou Traore	TE	6-4	242	24	R	Mississippi State
4	Jason Marshall Jr.	CB	6-0	204	24	2	Florida	84	Ryan Miller	WR	6-2	221	26	3	Furman
5	Jaylen Wright	RB	5-10	205	23	3	Tennessee	85	Greg Dulcich	TE	6-4	245	26	5	UCLA
6	Malik Washington	WR	5-8	192	25	3	Virginia	89	Will Kacmarek	TE	6-6	264	23	R	Ohio State
7	Caleb Douglas	WR	6-4	208	23	R	Texas Tech	90	Malik Herring	EDGE	6-3	275	28	6	Georgia
8	Juju Brents	CB	6-3	203	26	4	Kansas State	92	Zach Sieler	DL	6-6	300	31	9	Ferris State
9	Josh Uche	EDGE	6-3	252	28	7	Michigan	93	Zeek Biggers	DL	6-6	315	23	2	Georgia Tech
10	Jacob Rodriguez	ILB	6-1	235	24	R	Texas Tech	94	Jordan Phillips	DL	6-3	324	22	2	Maryland
11	Dante Trader Jr.	S	5-11	202	23	2	Maryland								
14	Kyle McCord	QB	6-3	218	24	1	Syracuse	INJURED RESERVE							
15	Brady Cook	QB	6-2	215	24	2	Missouri	17	Trey Moore	EDGE/ILB	6-2	247	23	R	Texas
16	Michael Taaffe	S	6-0	190	23	R	Texas	19	Kyle Louis	S	6-0	225	22	R	Pittsburgh
18	Chris Bell	WR	6-2	228	22	R	Louisville	28	De'Von Achane	RB	5-9	195	24	4	Texas A&M
20	Jordyn Brooks	ILB	6-0	240	28	7	Texas Tech	56	Ronnie Harrison Jr.	ILB	6-3	220	29	8	Alabama
21	Kevin Coleman Jr.	WR	5-11	180	23	R	Missouri	78	Kenneth Grant	DL	6-3	326	22	2	Michigan
23	Zayne Anderson	S	6-2	206	29	4	BYU	87	Cole Turner	TE	6-6	261	26	3	Nevada
24	Marcellas Dial Jr.	CB	6-0	190	25	3	South Carolina	95	Rene Konga	DL	6-3	298	23	R	Louisville
25	Julius Wood	S	6-1	193	25	2	East Carolina								
32	Jaylin Simpson	CB	6-0	180	26	1	Auburn	RESERVE/PHYSICALLY UNABLE TO PERFORM							
34	DJ Herman	FB	6-1	242	24	R	San Diego State	22	Darrell Baker Jr.	CB	6-1	197	28	4	Georgia Southern
35	Reese Taylor	CB	5-9	188	27	2	Purdue	29	Storm Duck	CB	6-0	195	25	3	Louisville
40	Willie Gay Jr.	ILB	6-1	246	28	7	Mississippi State								
42	Jackson Woodard	ILB	6-2	229	24	1	UNLV	PRACTICE SQUAD							
44	Chop Robinson	EDGE	6-3	265	23	3	Penn State	26	Carlos Washington Jr.	RB	5-11	210	27	1	SE Louisiana
46	Tucker Addington	LS	6-2	230	29	1	Sam Houston State	27	Ethan Bonner	CB	6-1	192	26	3	Stanford
47	Riley Patterson	K	6-0	196	27	6	Memphis	31	Jarquez Hunter	RB	5-10	211	23	2	Auburn
48	Bradley Pinion	P	6-5	250	32	12	Clemson	43	Major Burns	S	6-2	209	24	1	LSU
51	Rob Beal Jr.	EDGE	6-4	264	27	4	Georgia	50	Liam Anderson	ILB	6-3	230	26	1	Holy Cross
52	Patrick Paul	T	6-7	325	24	3	Houston	53	Amari Gainer	EDGE	6-3	240	26	2	North Carolina
55	Aaron Brewer	C	6-1	290	28	7	Texas State	57	Max Llewellyn	EDGE	6-5	260	24	R	Iowa
58	Andre Jones Jr.	EDGE	6-5	258	27	2	Louisiana	59	Rodney McGraw	EDGE	6-4	273	24	R	Western Michigan
60	Andrew Meyer	C	6-3	290	26	3	UTEP	72	Gottlieb Ayedze	T	6-4	305	26	1	Maryland
62	Jarrett Kingston	T	6-4	308	26	2	USC	81	Will Sheppard	WR	6-3	196	24	1	Colorado
63	DJ Campbell	G	6-3	321	23	R	Texas	82	AJ Henning	WR	5-10	190	25	1	Northwestern
71	Jonah Savaiinaea	G	6-5	325	22	2	Arizona	87	Tre Watson	TE	6-5	250	23	1	Texas A&M
73	Austin Jackson	T	6-5	305	27	7	USC	88	Jalen Reagor	WR	5-11	200	27	6	TCU
74	Kadyn Proctor	G/T	6-7	360	21	R	Alabama	91	Mazi Smith	DL	6-3	337	25	4	Michigan

MIAMI DOLPHINS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE	1	2	3	DEFENSE	1	2	3
WR	Douglas	Miller		EDGE	Robinson	Herring	Jones Jr.
WR	Bell	Tolbert		DT	Phillips		
LT	Paul	Godrick		DT	Sieler	Biggers	
LG	Proctor	Kingston		EDGE	Uche	Beal Jr.	
C	Brewer	Meyer		ILB	Brooks	Woodard	
RG	Savaiinaea	Wallace	Campbell	ILB	Rodriguez	Gay Jr.	
RT	Jackson	Wallace		NB	Johnson	Taylor	
TE	Dulcich	Kacmarek	Traore; Joly	CB	Brents	Dial Jr.	
WR	Washington	Coleman Jr.		CB	Marshall Jr.	Simpson	
QB	Willis	McCord	Cook	S	Taaffe	Anderson	
RB	Wright	Gordon II		S	Trader Jr.	Wood	
FB	Herman						

*ROSTER AND AGES AS OF PRINT DEADLINE (9.30.26)



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01	09.13 @ LV ^L 27-13
02	09.20 @ SF ^L 35-13
03	09.27 vs KC ^L 24-10
04	10.04 @ MIN
05	10.11 vs CIN
06	BYE WEEK
07	10.25 @ NYJ
08	11.01 vs NE
09	11.08 vs DET
10	11.15 @ IND
11	11.22 @ BUF
12	11.29 vs NYJ
13	12.06 @ DEN
14	12.13 vs CHI
15	12.20 @ GB
16	12.27 vs LAC
17	01.03 vs BUF
18	TBD @ NE



JACOB RODRIGUEZ

LB | 6'4" | 235 LBS | ROOKIE | TEXAS TECH

A SECOND-ROUND DRAFT PICK BY MIAMI THIS SPRING, RODRIGUEZ RACKED UP FOUR TACKLES IN HIS FIRST NFL GAME AND IS ALREADY HANDLING "GREEN DOT" DUTIES FOR THE DOLPHINS.

The 24-year-old took a unique path to the pros, starting his collegiate career as a quarterback at Virginia before opting to transfer to Texas Tech as a walk-on. He switched to linebacker for the Red Raiders and took the FBS by storm. As a senior in 2025, he logged 128 tackles, four interceptions, 11 tackles for loss and seven forced fumbles. He received the Chuck Bednarik Award, the Butkus Award, the

Lombardi Award and the Bronko Nagurski Award, becoming the first Texas Tech player to win all four.

SUCCESS STARTED IN MINNESOTA

Rodriguez was born in Hastings and twice won a youth state wrestling championship – at age 5 and again at age 7. The Rodriguez family moved to Wichita Falls, Texas, when Jacob was 10, but he maintained his Vikings fandom. Following the Dolphins. Week 1 game against the Raiders, Rodriguez told former Vikings QB Kirk Cousins, "I grew up a massive Minnesota fan." Along with his Northern roots, Rodriguez is deeply proud of his family's Mexican heritage.

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3 GAMES BY EACH TEAM

MIN: Sept. 25, 1994 – Dec. 21, 2002;

MIA: Sept. 16, 1979 – Oct. 2, 1988

and Nov. 19, 2006 – Dec. 21, 2014

PREVIOUS MEETING

DEC. 16, 2018 | IN MIN | VIKINGS 41, DOLPHINS 17

Miami native Dalvin Cook (19 carries for 136 yards and two touchdowns) and fellow Floridian Latavius Murray (15 for 68 and one score) helped the Vikings rack up 220 rushing yards and 418 total yards of offense in the romp. Kirk Cousins threw touchdowns of 13 yards to Stefon Diggs and 40 to Aldrick Robinson. Minnesota's defense sacked Ryan Tannehill nine times for combined losses of 71 yards. Anthony Barr and Danielle Hunter led with 2.0 each, limiting the Dolphins to 37 net yards. Miami went 2-for-14 on third and fourth downs.



FLASHBACK

DEC. 11, 1976 |

VIKINGS 29, DOLPHINS 7

Sammy White concluded his sensational rookie season with three touchdowns (9, 36 and 7 yards) to bring his season total to 10 scores, helping him claim Offensive Rookie of the Year honors and his first of two Pro Bowls. Fran Tarkenton completed 15 of 23 passes for 184 yards, good for a passer rating of 129.4 at the Orange Bowl. Vikings Ring of Honor members Matt Blair and Bobby Bryant each recorded interceptions and helped limit Miami QBs Don Strock and Bob Griese to a combined passer rating of 41.3.

TOP TWO AGAINST DOLPHINS

RUSHING YARDS

145 Adrian Peterson on 28 attempts in MIN (Sept. 19, 2010)

136 Dalvin Cook on 19 attempts in MIN (Dec. 16, 2018)

PASSING YARDS

355 Daunte Culpepper on 23-of-37 passing in MIN (Sept. 10, 2000)

326 Warren Moon on 26-of-37 passing in MIN (Sept. 25, 1994)

RECEIVING YARDS

168 Cris Carter on nine catches in MIN (Sept. 10, 2000)

127 Jake Reed on nine catches in MIN (Sept. 25, 1994)

AGAINST VIKINGS

RUSHING YARDS

145 Larry Csonka on 33 attempts in Super Bowl VIII (Jan. 13, 1974)

129 Andra Franklin on 28 attempts at MIA (Dec. 5, 1982)

PASSING YARDS

431 Dan Marino on 29-of-54 passing in MIN (Sept. 25, 1994)

396 Ryan Tannehill on 35-of-47 passing at MIA (Dec. 21, 2014)

RECEIVING YARDS

177 Tyreek Hill on 12 catches at MIA (Oct. 16, 2022)

160 Irving Fryar on six catches in MIN (Sept. 25, 1994)

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Q&A DOMONIQUE ORANGE

BY CRAIG PETERS

CONFRONTING A FOURTH-AND-1 RUSH ATTEMPT WHILE TRAILING MEANS IT'S TIME TO POUR OUT EVERYTHING ONE HAS.

Domonique Orange understood the assignment. The rookie interior defensive lineman nicknamed "Big Citrus" was juiced for the moment but did not get overtaken by it.

Instead, he fired off the snap, surged through a block attempt and stuffed Packers QB Jordan Love.

Rather than an adverse "welcome-to-the-NFL moment"

for Orange, the play was a fresh-squeezed momentum shift in Minnesota's eventual 39-22 comeback victory over Green Bay.

Orange recently joined the "Minnesota Vikings Podcast," which has added a friendly and familiar voice for 2026 with Mike Mussman joining Vikings Entertainment Network's Tatum Everett as co-hosts, to discuss his NFL debut – from his pregame emotions, to his first-game outfit and the run fit that

helped the Vikings turn the tide.

"I told my people after the National Anthem, I had a little tear come in my eye because it was a lifetime dream come true, and I'm playing with guys I looked up to," Orange said. "I got to be on the same team as Kyler Murray, as Harrison Smith. At the end of the day, it was a great experience."

Q: HOW MUCH THOUGHT DID YOU PUT INTO YOUR PREGAME 'FIT'?

A: Man, I kid you not. I probably thought about it for a week. I told my teammates, 'Yeah, I'm going to wear this team-issued jumpsuit.' They were like, 'First NFL game, you're going to have the NFL Premier patch. You can't just go team-issue.' So I'm like, 'Now y'all got me nervous.' So I'm going to throw on a fit, find something to wear. I bought extra clothes. I probably went through my whole closet, trying to figure out what to wear.

Q: WHAT WAS THE STYLE YOU WENT FOR?

A: I can't really explain it. I really just threw something together, like putting on a long-sleeved shirt, some jean shorts, some Rick Owens shoes and called it a day. It got to a point where I was like, 'Whatever, bro.'

Q: YOU CAN'T JUST GO JUSTIN JEFFERSON RIGHT AWAY...

A: I saw him and was like, 'No way.'



Q: YOU DEFINITELY HAD IT DURING THE PACKERS GAME, WITH THE BIG STOP YOU HAD ON FOURTH-AND-1. WHEN YOU WERE LINING UP, WHAT WERE YOUR NERVES?

A: My heart was beating. I'm going to be totally honest. The call came in, and everybody on the defense looked at me, 'You ready?' Of course I said yeah, but deep down, I'm like, 'No,' but we've got to roll with the punches anyway, so I made the call, and then the ball was snapped, and I'm going to be honest, I didn't think I got him ... but I'm hearing he didn't make it. I look up, he didn't get it. I'm going to cherish that memory for life.

Q: I REALLY WANT TO KNOW ABOUT THE D-LINE ROOM ... LEVI DRAKE RODRIGUEZ IS AN ABSOLUTE RIOT ...

A: Levi is a great guy. It was crazy. On my draft night, Levi texted me and I didn't see it, so I got here and he said, 'You didn't respond to me.' I'm like, 'Whatchu mean? You didn't text me. I don't even know you.' He was like, 'Give me your phone.' He typed in 'Levi,' and a whole paragraph came up. It was just like, 'Dang, my bad, bro.'

Q: WELL, YOU'VE GOT CALEB BANKS, AND THE TWO OF YOU HAVE A GREAT RELATIONSHIP ...

A: That's my dog. I met him at the combine, hit it off at the combine. When he got drafted, I was excited and still didn't know we were going to play together. When I got drafted, he was probably the first person to text

me. I've said it multiple times: It feels like we've been playing together for years and I've known him for years. I mean, for life. He's finna be my brother, regardless of where he goes, where I go.

Q: HOW [DID] YOU PREPARE FOR A TEAM IN CHICAGO THAT CAME OUT OF THE GATE AND RUSHED FOR ALMOST 300 YARDS?

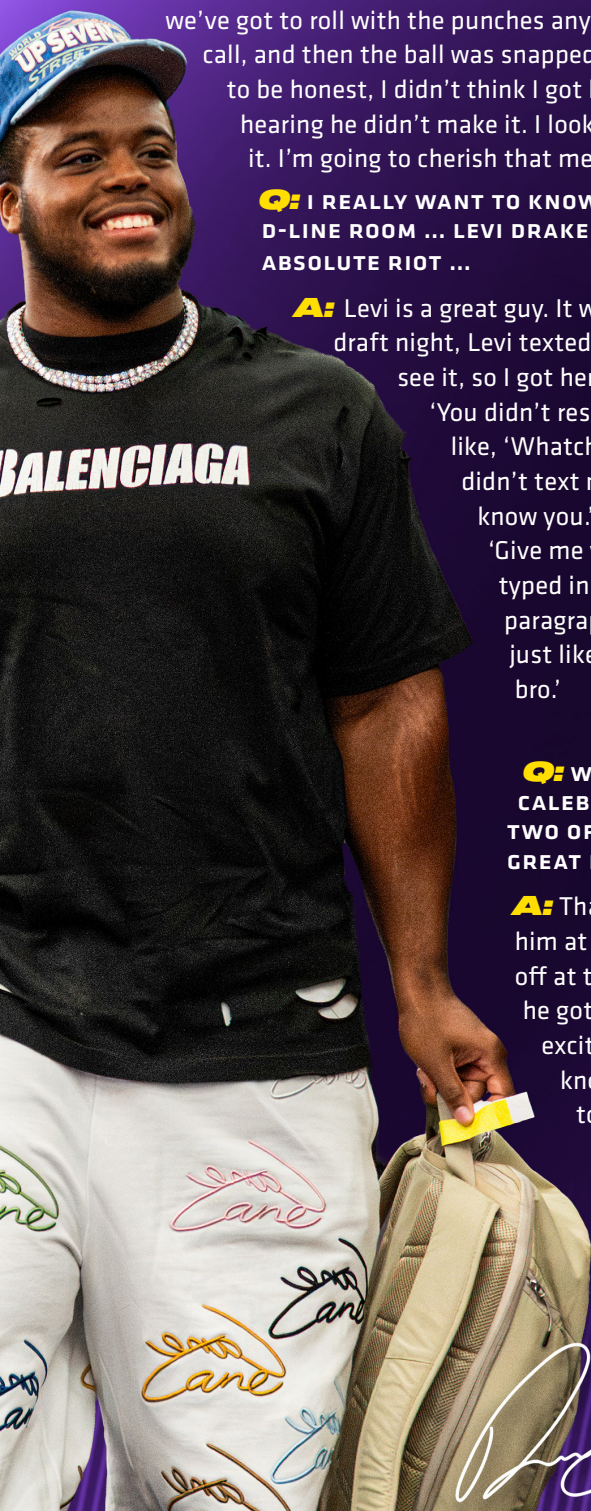
A: We know those guys have talent, from quarterback to o-line to receiver and tight end. It's not anything different that Coach Flo' (Defensive Coordinator Brian Flores) hasn't seen before, that the older guys haven't seen before. It's really about what we're seeing, what Coach Ben Johnson likes to do against this defense.

Q: WHEN YOU'RE IN A BRIAN FLORES DEFENSE, DID YOU HAVE A MOMENT OF, 'OH MY GOD. THIS IS A LOT.'

A: I'm not going to lie. The first week I got here, Levi and Jalen told me, 'Yeah, this playbook is kind of crazy.' I'm like, 'I'm just a rookie. Of course you are going to say it's a little crazy.' I kid you not. I was lost for maybe two weeks. They told us, 'Yeah, we're going to feed you through a water hose. Figure it out.' I didn't believe it until I actually got here. We don't just learn our positions. ... That man's a maniac, and I'm glad I'm on his team.

Q: ANOTHER FIT COMING?

A: Outfits are only for home games for me. Let me get another year under my belt before I figure out outfits for away games. ... Eventually I'll get to the Harrison Smith level, but I've got to keep it a little young. He's an old head. I asked him what year he graduated high school. He said, '2007.' I said, 'Ho-ly, I was born in 2004.' It's so cool to be in the league and be able to talk to Harrison Smith, who I grew up watching, and play with Kyler Murray, who I looked up to when Kyler was at Oklahoma. I wanted to go to Oklahoma because of him. It's such a crazy experience. I'm not going to take it for granted.





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JUSTIN JEFFERSON PASSES RANDY MOSS FOR **2ND** ON VIKINGS RECEPTIONS LIST

BY LINDSEY YOUNG

Justin Jefferson sprinted, smoothly turned inside and let the football drop over Chicago's Tyrique Stevenson, Sr., and into his arms.

Steady rain failed to faze the Vikings receiver, who secured the catch for 30 yards just two plays into the divisional matchup. Jefferson's 588th career reception contributed to Minnesota's Week 2 win; it also moved him past Hall of Famer Randy Moss for second in franchise history for career catches.

Jefferson left soggy Soldier Field with a modest stat line of three catches for 55 yards – but in the win column, which is all that ultimately matters to the phenom receiver.

"Of course I would love to have 150 [yards], three touchdowns, just the fantasy stat line. I definitely would love that," a smiling Jefferson said postgame. "But with these conditions ... it wasn't that type of game. Which is totally fine. As long as we're coming off the ball, executing our plays and just being a

factor in the win, that's all that matters."

The Vikings road victory marked Jefferson's seventh straight at Soldier Field, where he has yet to suffer a loss.

He's helped the Vikings start the season 3-0, including back-to-back wins over NFC North opponents in Weeks 1 and 2. Jefferson recorded two catches for 32 yards at Tampa Bay in Week 3 before leaving the game with an ankle sprain. The injury limited his day to seven offensive snaps.

Jefferson's priority since being drafted 22nd overall in 2020 has been stacking wins. Along the way, he's also put together a résumé that rivals the league's greatest receivers.

"Jets" has consistently surpassed benchmarks set by Moss, starting during his rookie season with seven games of 100-plus receiving yards. He went on to set the NFL record in 2022 for the most receiving yards in a player's first three seasons, once again passing Moss and Odell Beckham, Jr. That same season, he notched his 20th career game with at

least 100 yards through the air, besting Moss' 19 through three seasons.

They say records are made to be broken, and Moss holds no ill will toward the younger pass catcher – quite the opposite, really. In fact, Moss roots for and watches Jefferson proudly, an older pseudo sibling seeing his kid brother succeed.

In an interview last year with TMZ Sports, Moss noted he's "a big fan" of Jefferson's.

"I've always been a fan of a complete football player where you can score from anywhere on the field, and Justin brings that to the table," Moss said.

The game has evolved since Moss' pro career, of course, including the addition of a 17th regular-season game, which admittedly impacts the stat books. It doesn't, however, influence a player's raw talent ... which is exactly what Moss recognizes and respects in Jefferson.

"I think Justin Jefferson is on pace to become, arguably, the greatest ever," Moss said with a grin. "And definitely the greatest Viking to ever do it."

The compliment can't get much bigger coming from "The Superfreak" himself.

Jefferson never has and never will take for granted the respect he's garnered from Moss and relationship he's formed with him.

In August, Moss flew in for the Vikings joint training camp practices with the Ravens. The Vikings Legend observed the on-field action but, more importantly, also spent time in the team's meeting rooms, offering insights to Minnesota's receivers.

Jefferson called it "a really cool thing" for Moss to invest in the next generation of talent. He described "eye-opening conversations" with Moss and "Three Deep" counterpart Cris Carter, emphasizing the value of such dialogue. Carter's 1,004 receptions with Minnesota provide Jefferson with the next milestone to pursue.

"Being a fan of Randy, and him coming to these joint practices and just being a fan of me and wanting to help me and work with me, it's really cool to get those types of tips from him," Jefferson said. "He's in retirement; he doesn't have to be out here."

Though Jefferson's 2025 production decreased comparatively (he still exceeded 1,000 receiving yards) with just two touchdowns on the season, he maintained a positive mindset and kept his nose to the grindstone.

He's ridden the roller coaster of offensive

up-and-downs over the years, navigated catching passes from 10 different Vikings QBs and weathered defensive double teams on nearly a weekly basis.

And still, Jefferson time and time again comes down with contested balls that prompt murmurs of "*Did he really just catch that?*"

"He's unbelievable," Carson Wentz said. "The guy's good. The guy's so good."



RECEPTION LEADERS

NO. 1 CRIS CARTER - 1004

▲ **NO. 2 JUSTIN JEFFERSON - 592**

NO. 3 RANDY MOSS - 587





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"SO MUCH OF THAT PLAY WAS JUSTIN'S GREATNESS HAPPENING."

**- HEAD COACH
KEVIN O'CONNELL**

"He's the best in the world at what he does, and sometimes you've just got to give him a chance. There's games that come and go, and maybe there's limited opportunities for him because teams are very aware of where he is, and coverages dictate that sometimes. But ... when it goes his way, he usually finds a way to come down with it."

Vikings Head Coach Kevin O'Connell noted after Minnesota's Week 1 win against Green Bay that Jefferson "just finds a way" to make something happen.

"Trust his ability," O'Connell said of a 39-yard TD catch by Jefferson. "A lot of guys will struggle in those moments of a late weave or things like that because then you still have to track the ball and know where you are and get your feet down. I think so much of that play was Justin's greatness happening.

"He's clearly one of the best players on the field," O'Connell added. "There's a reason he gets introduced last. There's a reason why when he scores, it just feels different."

Scoring a pair of TDs against the Packers last month already situates Jefferson for higher numbers than in 2025 – but his goal remains more wins than last season.

"He's got enough experience now to see the big picture, which is so unique for that position," O'Connell said. "And just the maturity and standard he sets for everybody around here, it's phenomenal to see where he's at from a leadership standpoint."

During a recent *Good Morning Football* segment, former linebacker Manti Te'o made a similar observation.

"One thing I love about Justin Jefferson is after he got paid that big contract, his tenacity didn't change," Te'o said. "His competitive greatness didn't change, his attention to detail, his leadership – all of those things – his willingness and want to win, didn't change."

There's no doubting Jefferson's status as an elite receiver.

He takes nothing for granted, though, and he'll continue to demonstrate equally top-shelf work ethic.

"Statistically, he's just getting started," O'Connell said. "Where he goes from here, the sky is the limit, for sure."

Jefferson's custom chains and jeweled smile may draw attention, but diamonds out-sparkle the ego of a player who certainly is proud – but also is still humbled by his heroes.

"It just means a lot," he reflected, "to be in these different conversations with Randy and see the different things that I've accomplished since stepping foot in

this league. It's very special.

"It's really a blessing from God to be able to compete with the greats in this league, the people that I've looked up to my whole entire life, people that I've dreamed of being like and even being better than," Jefferson continued. "That's always something that I've tried to achieve, being in those conversations with the greatest of all time.

"When it's all said and done, I want to be in those conversations and want to be at the top of those lists," he added.

"In order for that to happen? I have to compete with [players like Moss], beat their records. I have to do things either

they've done before
– or become the
first one to do
it."



JUSTIN JEFFERSON

MAKES CRUCIAL CATCH CONNECTIONS

BY LINDSEY YOUNG

Justin Jefferson is one of the NFL's best at pulling down highlight-reel catches; now, he's helping raise awareness for catching cancer.

Jefferson is honored to add American Cancer Society Ambassador to his impressive résumé in Purple, and this year's Crucial Catch game holds even greater meaning for the Vikings phenom receiver.

Last month, Jefferson surprised two young cancer survivors, Ada and Arthur, from Children's Minnesota with custom-painted shoes that match Jefferson's custom Crucial Catch cleats.

While the youngsters tried on their sneakers in TCO Studios, Jefferson — who happens to be Ada's favorite player — snuck in to join them.

"Hey, what's up?" Jefferson greeted, laughing at Ada and Arthur's shocked expressions. "I just had to come in here and check out y'all's kicks!"

He offered a sneak peek at his hot-pink cleats, showing Ada where her name was painted on the

side panel of one. Ada was diagnosed in 2023 with Stage 4 Wilms cancer that had spread from her kidney to her lungs. After undergoing surgery and treatment, she was declared in remission in July 2024.

Jefferson took special care alongside 8-year-old Arthur, who was diagnosed three years ago with B-Cell Lymphoblastic Lymphoma and lost all but 5-10% of his vision over two-and-a-half years of grueling treatment.

"Hey man, it's Justin here," Jefferson said, gently laying a hand on Arthur's shoulder and placing the other cleat in the young fan's open palm. "What do you feel there? Check it out."

Arthur ran his fingers deftly across the cleat's surface, stopping over the toe and breaking into a wide grin.

"There's Braille on here!" Arthur exclaimed.

The special touch on Jefferson's shoe, Arthur's name written in the raised bumps of Braille, means the world not only to Arthur but to his parents.

"I don't even really have the words for it, but I was so impressed with just how natural Justin stepped in with Arthur's vision loss, explaining what's in front of him and talking through all that," Bridget

Enselein said. "It was almost like he's been doing it much more than just today."

Jefferson joined Ada and Arthur, who also watched a portion of the Vikings practice and broke down the team huddle, in exploring personalized lockers that were set up for the pair. Arthur and Ada excitedly donned Purple jerseys and pulled out hoodies, T-shirts, Vikings footballs, pink Crucial Catch gloves and more.

"Here, you've gotta have the chain," quipped Jefferson, holding out a large Norseman necklace. "Let me put that on you. Gotta have it. You got some drip, man. You've got more than I have, I think."

Jefferson later reflected on the intimate interaction with Ada and Arthur, who are in attendance at today's game with their families.

"It's a great feeling. It's cool to see their reactions, see their smiles, the things they react to more than others," Jefferson said. "Especially for Arthur, not being able to see, not being able to visually be present, I can only imagine how difficult that is. So for me to touch him, for him to hear my voice, to feel the cleats, that was so cool. And for me to be a part of that is unreal. It's a blessing."



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MEANINGFUL ON MULTIPLE FRONTS

BY LINDSEY YOUNG

The second the ball was snapped, Levi Drake Rodriguez was working.

Jordan Love dropped back, and Levi muscled his way past Packers center Sean Rhyan, through traffic and directly toward Green Bay's QB, whom he grabbed around the legs for a sack.

The play marks Minnesota's first sack of the season and Levi's third of his career.

He knows his father, Narciso, is in the stands. He knows he'll be beaming with pride when Levi's name reverberates through U.S. Bank Stadium, smiling at the RODRIGUEZ nameplate of Levi's jersey as he celebrates the takedown with teammates.

Levi is equally proud to represent his family name. And for today's game against the Dolphins, during Latino Heritage Month, it carries even greater weight.

"I've never had my name on the back of my jersey until I got here. It just means more," Levi said.

It holds extra meaning, also, because there was a time Levi and his family didn't know if his father would live to see his football journey.

The same year Levi started playing flag football at age

4, Narciso received a frightening diagnosis: hairy cell leukemia. A rare, slow-growing blood

cancer, hairy cell leukemia often isn't detected early on because of the gradual onset of symptoms. But when appendicitis landed Narciso in the hospital, additional tests revealed the cancer.

Doctors immediately started treatment that included chemotherapy. Though Levi didn't necessarily grasp the situation's gravity at that age, he recalls the confusion around his dad being too sick and too weak to leave his bed. His mother Dorothy took care of the house, nursed Narciso and made sure Levi and his sister Jirah never missed their respective sports and activities.

The Rodriguez family also was deeply humbled by community members who showed constant support — whether members of their church congregation, Narciso's coworkers or family friends.

"One family, the Webers, I need to shout them out," Levi said. "They gave us a credit card and told us, 'Hey, just use it on whatever you need.' Because so much of my parents' money was going toward treatment.

"During Christmastime, my dad's work family hooked us up with Christmas gifts," he added. "It was so cool to see that rally. I was young, but to see everybody just moving and doing things while my pops is in bed, it was special."



LEVI RECEIVED THIS PONCHO FROM HIS FATHER NARCISO >>>

Narciso battled the cancer for three grueling years and in 2007 was declared in remission – a status he's thankfully held ever since.

Levi recalled the joy that permeated their home, defining it as “a sigh of relief that gave us hope.”

Reflecting on his father's upbringing and hardships he faced during childhood and as an adult causes Levi to look at life through a new lens – one filled with gratitude and a refusal to take anything for granted.

He noted Narciso's difficult background that included his mother passing away and father going to prison while Narciso was just a young boy. Narciso's grandmother stepped in to raise him and his siblings.

“A granny taking care of five little rascals is tough,” Levi said. “My pops isn't supposed to be here. I'm not supposed to be here. To see that appreciation of life he has, it's eye-opening. I try to take bits and pieces of that, all the good sides of my dad, and carry those on.”

Asked to describe Narciso, Levi thinks for a moment and smiles softly.

“He is a gentle, understanding, hard worker and faithful man,” Levi tells me. “That's my father. He's funny, too. Hilarious. Like, dad-joke funny.”

“We call him ‘Sloth’ in my family, because he moves really slow,” Levi laughs. “He always says, ‘If I'm in a hurry, something's wrong’. And that's real. What are we in a hurry all the time for? I need to adopt that.”

Just as Levi seeks to take on his father's qualities, he embraces and strives to honor his Hispanic roots.

A fourth-generation American, he emphasizes “the roots are still there” for him and his family.

“The cookouts, the holidays, there's so much to love. There's so much emphasis on community within the Hispanic culture that I cherish,” Levi said. “The food, the music, the culture that flows through my family is awesome.”

Levi has fond memories of making and eating tamales on Christmas, as well as his grandmother pausing to pray before any presents were opened.

“She wouldn't let us forget the true meaning of Christmas – not let us forget that Christ is the one we are celebrating,” Levi said. “That was an important tradition.”

Thinking back to his early days on the gridiron, Levi is thankful for the Hispanic culture he recognized in making athletics possible, whether playing baseball, moving from flag football “because he wanted to tackle people” and setting a goal at just 8 years old – by writing it on a whiteboard – of making it to the NFL.

“The amount of community, the army it takes to put a young kid through sports is real,” Levi said. “Not having the best shoes, the best clothes, the bat, gloves, whatever it was, but making do what we had to progress. Hispanics in general deeply love and value family. And I'm not saying other races don't, but just from experience, my culture is so tightknit, close together.”

When the Vikings selected Levi in the seventh round of the 2024 draft, he excitedly spoke with media members via videoconference and sought to find a quiet corner in his family's 980-square-foot home filled to the brim with family, friends and neighbors.

“We had that sucker packed,” Levi laughed two years later. “We had 80, 90 people. My dad literally said, ‘Hey guys, don't be jumping. We might go through the floor. Be careful.’ ”

More than two years have passed since that day.

Levi has continued to affirm the Vikings decision to draft him – from appearing in two games as a rookie, to playing in 16 games last season (including two starts) and this year expanding his role for Minnesota.

He's wholeheartedly embraced his new home, consistently giving back to the community that supports him. Levi has a passion for youth in general – but the heartstrings are especially pulled when visiting local children's hospitals and meeting youngsters battling cancer the way his father did. Levi and Elijah Williams recently spent time at Children's Minnesota, where they connected with and prayed for 8-year-old Viola, battling neuroblastoma, among other patients.

“These kids should be running outside, having fun, not tied to all these machines,” Levi said. “So seeing that and providing smiles to people in situations like this, bringing them joy – it's humbling.”

When he takes the field with his long, dark ponytail flowing behind, Levi is filled with gratitude and honored to represent his family's legacy.

“I just thank the Lord,” he said. “I've always said I wanted to impact people, and I didn't know the extent of that until I got here. ... Being able to make an impact, to bring light, to bring love, it's awesome. That's what fuels me. It's also what brings me peace. This platform is so cool, and you've gotta use it while you can.”

**“BEING ABLE TO MAKE AN
IMPACT, TO BRING LIGHT, TO
BRING LOVE, IT'S AWESOME.
THAT'S WHAT FUELS ME.”**





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FLORIDA CONNECTIONS

LINK JAMES PIERRE IN FLORES' DEFENSE

BY ROB KLEIFIELD

James Pierre estimated that 20 kids around the neighborhood used to bring equipment over to his mom's house to play football on carpets covering grass in their backyard.

"We were getting the feel of it," Pierre smiled. "Hitting each other, tackling each other."

His mom would pick up carpets that were in good condition but were going to be tossed away. The mini-games included 5-to-6-year-olds, and Pierre isn't the only one of them who made it to the NFL.

Brandon Powell did, as well.

Pierre is one year and four days younger than the former Vikings receiver. They were raised on the same street in Broward County, Florida, and played tackle football from the morning until they went to sleep.

"Seven years in the league, not drafted, where we come from is like, man, it's surreal," Powell said of Pierre, who signed with Minnesota in March following six seasons and 95 games with the Steelers. "I don't really bother 'Jamie' too much during the season while he's playing, but me and his brother, we literally were just out there at the park talking about it. Like, man, it's crazy how we both

come from playing in the backyard at his mom's house on the carpet, and to now get to watch him on TV."

Pierre has gelled seamlessly so far as a perimeter defender in Brian Flores' scheme. He leads all NFL cornerbacks through three games in passer rating against (6.5), according to Pro Football Focus (min. 70 coverage snaps). He gathered the team's first interception of the season in Week 1 against Green Bay, and he's tied atop the team leaderboard for pass breakups (three) with Byron Murphy, Jr.

"I know Coach Flo' is having a day with him," said Powell, "and I know he's loving it there."

Joshua Metellus said it "Feels like he's been here my whole time. He's one of those great team fits."

There's a backstory there, too, that is serving the Vikings secondary. Metellus and Pierre played against one another during the high school schedule – Metellus wincingly recalled Deerfield Beach squeaking past Flanagan late on the calendar one season – but they trained together and teamed up on a talent-rich 7-on-7 team known as the Florida Fire that traveled the country for tournaments.



"We called him 'Whoa' at the time because all he says is 'Whoa, whoa, whoa,'" Metellus laughed.

Is Pierre any different now compared to then?

"No," Metellus said without pause.

"He's the same exact guy. Literally, the same exact guy.

"No matter what, whatever it was, you could just tell that was a guy who was always about his business," Metellus explained. "To be 30 years old and still progressing and still hitting your peak as an NFL player, I think just goes to how professional he is about his business and handling his stuff."

Powell agreed wholeheartedly and excitedly planned to attend today's game, enhancing his enjoyment of NFL contests as a fan.

"He was always making plays on special teams, and I was a special teamer, so I was always wishing I could have Jamie come block for me while I was doing punt return," Powell continued. "And to see where he's at now, it's crazy. I already got my 23 jersey."

The age gap disallowed Pierre and Powell from being on the same youth team, but they haunted opponents in high school. "B.P." primarily played running back and was a Top 300 recruit who averaged close to 10 yards per carry

"I KNOW COACH FLO' IS HAVING A DAY WITH HIM."

- FORMER VIKINGS WR BRANDON POWELL

as a senior. No matter if referred to as Jamie (what Powell calls him) or Whoa (what Metellus called him and has been heard in the Vikings locker room), Pierre put receivers in a vise grip and initially committed to take his talents to Miami before suiting up at Florida Atlantic.

"We had a lot of fun," Powell reminisced.

"I'll never forget," he added, recalling his days playing alongside Jamie on the Deerfield Beach Bucks. "I caught an interception and I pitched it back to him, and he took it in for a touchdown."

Amazingly, Pierre said he contemplated quitting football altogether at one point in his life.

He credited a teacher for realizing his potential and steering his energy in the right direction. That person was Brandon's father Brian.

"He was like 'Oh no, we're not doing this. I'm signing you up for football,'" he recalled. "It started from that — Brandon Powell's dad was like, 'You're playing football. You're sticking to the script.'"

Brian Powell's impact on Pierre was serious. His interest made the young man feel like he had somebody in his corner in regard to football without his dad who passed away, while his mom was caring about every other aspect of him.

"My mom wasn't too much on me about football," Pierre said. "She was on me about life."

Metellus and Pierre, obviously, went separate ways after high school. But

they rekindled their friendship at the 2020 NFL Scouting Combine, and they were able to pick right up this season.

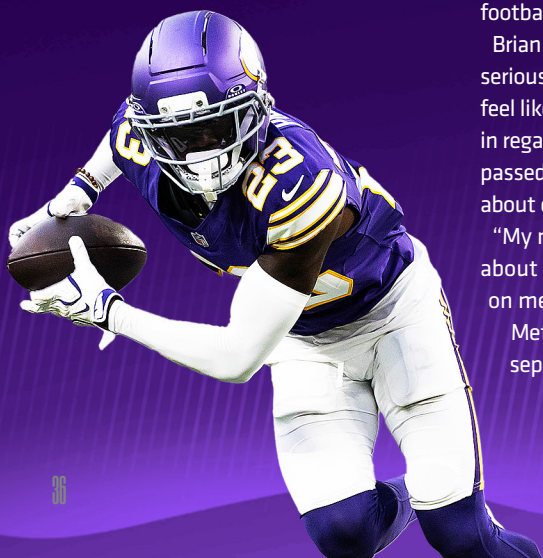
"We ended up coming into the league the same year, and we just always stayed in touch about each other's journeys because we kind of grew up on that same path," Metellus noted. "When we played the Steelers in 2021, we swapped jerseys. I have his Steelers 42 jersey hanging in my house."

The Vikings captain was very complimentary about Pierre.

"We love guys who are tough, smart, and love football, and he's all three of those things," Metellus said. "Tough, for sure. I mean, he has that special teams dawg mentality. He fits this defense very well — aggressive corner, doesn't need much [help]. He knows how to play ball — just a ball player."

The links were undeniable when Pierre opted to sign with Minnesota — and they stretched beyond his youth, to boot. He spent one year observing Flores' style when he was the Steelers linebackers coach and senior defensive assistant in 2022. Also, Pierre was under Pittsburgh's former defensive backs coach and Vikings Defensive Passing Game Coordinator Gerald Alexander in 2022-23 as well as 2025 when he made five starts. Most of all, though, Pierre wanted to play in this Vikings defense.

"Everybody talks about it. The whole world is talking about it," he said.





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VIKINGS AND TRADEHOME SHOES IMPACT 2000 YOUTH

BY LINDSEY YOUNG

When Kyle Van Noy decided to share his adoption story, he never imagined the overwhelming positive response he would receive from fans.

The veteran pass rusher, who signed with the Vikings Sept. 2, opened up last year via *The Players' Tribune* to reflect on his experience being adopted "by an incredible family" and not learning anything about his biological parents until the age of 31.

Van Noy understands the deep gratitude for a loving family; he also understands the questions and emotions that can accompany growing up with parents and siblings whose DNA you don't share.

So when the Vikings and Tradehome Shoes teamed up to bless 2,000 children who have experienced foster care, adoption or homelessness, Van Noy didn't hesitate to be part of it.

"This really hits home," he said. "It was so fun to see the happiness on kids' faces, getting to pick out those shoes. ... Getting shoes that fit them properly, brand-new ones where they can feel that confidence, that's huge.

"It was an honor to be part of this," he added.

Van Noy joined 14 of his new teammates at TCO Stadium, where they helped measure

young people's feet and presented them with brand-new tennis shoes, socks and backpacks courtesy of Tradehome Shoes. The youth and their families also were treated to concessions.

"If you're able to do something like this where you're helping their confidence, giving them shoes and even just an environment where they don't have to worry about anything — they can just come and hang out for the afternoon ... it does an awesome amount of good," Van Noy said.

The 2026 event marked the fifth of its kind.

Tradehome Shoes Vice President of Store Personnel Mark Jacobson matched the afternoon's energy, milling around and speaking with families, players and staff members alike. He was accompanied by his daughter, Kaia, who prompted the idea as a fourth grader who noticed a classmate wearing shoes with holes in them. She spoke with her father about her concern, and the rest is history.

"These memories are going to last forever. I just love the partnership with the Minnesota Vikings and the way it's been able to grow," Jacobson said. "To me and to my family and to the company, you look at it as ... it's about what you can do for others. It's

about how you can give back. And in the end, we end up getting a lot more out of it than even the kids, because it's so fun to be able to see their reactions."

Lyndsay and Mark Petrich attended the evening with six of their eight children. Having a blended family with adopted children, the event has been incredibly impactful for the past two years. Adrian, Lilly, Grayson, Charlene, Damian and Sabrina, ranging in ages from 5 to 12, were all smiles as they tested out their brand-new shoes.

Lyndsay noted the children had been asking since the start of school, "When do we get to go back to the Vikings facility?"

"When you have eight kids, we go through shoes extremely quickly," Lyndsay said. "This takes a huge burden off our family. ... I think it can be kind of an unseen thing, especially when they're adopted, and to have someone notice them and get a benefit or a fun thing out of it is really special."



LOCAL LATINO ARTIST BRINGS

Vamos Vikings

MURAL TO LIFE BY LINDSEY YOUNG

The Vikings are bringing their celebration of Latino Heritage Month to the community. Together with local Latino artist Cadex Herrera, the Vikings last week unveiled an 8-foot by 20-foot mural in the skyway entrance to U.S. Bank Stadium.

The vibrant, rich fresco beautifully captures the spirit of Latino and Hispanic culture against a Twin Cities backdrop stretching from Minneapolis' Lake Street to the West Side of St. Paul – with U.S. Bank Stadium anchoring the artwork.

"We wanted this project to feel rooted in the community, not just inspired by it," Vikings Senior Creative Director Alicia Dreyer said. "We love creating art for the organization, but there's something extra special about collaborating with a local artist and seeing how they interpret the Vikings brand."

"We feel so fortunate to have worked with Cadex. He has a sincere passion for art, a strong connection to the Latino community and a genuine love for the Vikings," Dreyer added. "His excitement and joy were contagious from our very first meeting, and we were confident he'd bring that same energy to the mural."

Herrera was born in Belize and later immigrated to the United States, where he earned bachelor's and master's degrees and currently serves as an art educator at Creative Arts Secondary School (St. Paul). His extensive work has been featured at Inver Hills Community College, St. Paul's Chroma Zone Mural Festival, Minneapolis' Greenway Parkway, the Minneapolis Institute of Arts and many other places.

An excerpt of Herrera's artist statement encapsulates the heart behind his work:

As a public artist, my mission is twofold: to pay homage to the history and heritage of the locations where my art is displayed and to engage the community in meaningful dialogue through my artwork. I believe that art can be a catalyst for conversation and change, and I actively involve local residents in the creative process.

A unique aspect of the ¡Vamos Vikings! mural is the communal contribution to its design by members of Adelante, one of the organization's employee resource groups. Vikings Foundation Program Manager Diego Pleitez reflected on the opportunity to paint a portion of the mural, saying it "meant so much."



AS A FIRST-GENERATION AMERICAN, I'M PROUD OF MY HERITAGE AND I'M GRATEFUL TO THE VIKINGS FOR GIVING US THE OPPORTUNITY TO PAINT THE MURAL. THIS IS A PIECE THAT HIGHLIGHTS MY COMMUNITY AND ITS CULTURE – AND I HOPE OTHERS WILL SHARE APPRECIATION FOR THE BEAUTIFUL WORK THAT CADEX HAS CREATED.

- DIEGO PLEITEZ

RANDY MOSS

HELPING CHASE CURE FOR
PANCREATIC CANCER



Vikings Ring of Honor member, Pro Football Hall of Famer and cancer fighter Randy Moss is uniting his passions for chasing trophy bass and fighting pediatric cancer.

Moss is raising money for the Children's Cancer Research Fund by offering up his fully custom 2026 iKon LXE21 "Rookie of the Year" boat that is valued at \$160,000 through a sweepstakes.

A donation of \$50 receives 100 entries into the raffle for the boat. Chances can be increased with donation amount (200 entries for \$100, 500 entries for \$250 and 1,000 entries for \$500).

The winner and one guest will be flown to

Charlotte, North Carolina, to meet Moss and receive the keys to the boat from him.

Moss has appreciated the opportunity to turn his love of angling into life-saving support and hope for children with cancer.

His YouTube fishing series "Chasing10" chronicles his search for elusive 10-pound bass with special guests. Vikings teammates Jake Reed and Cris Carter, fellow Ring of Honor member and Pro Football Hall of Famer, joined Moss for a special "Three Deep" episode.

Visit chasing10.com for more info on the YouTube series and chasingacureforkids.org for more info on the sweepstakes.

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BY LINDSEY YOUNG

MVC JENNI

HONORING MOM'S COURAGEOUS CANCER BATTLE

Today's game holds special meaning for Jenni.

Currently in her fourth season as a Minnesota Vikings Cheerleader, Jenni looks forward every year to the Vikings Crucial Catch game and the opportunity to emphasize early cancer detection. She also treasures the chance to pay special honor to her mother, Ruby, who continues to courageously battle.

Jenni, who started dancing at the age of 3, is deeply grateful for a mom who's been her biggest supporter.

"She was always there. Every single dance competition, every practice, I could always count on her," Jenni said. "She's just a very selfless person. Anyone who knows her well knows she's always there for everyone else; she's always putting everybody's feelings before hers."

So when Ruby received a devastating Stage 4 lung cancer diagnosis in 2019, she didn't want her loved ones putting their lives on hold.

Jenni was a senior at Eastview High School at the time and recalled the shock and fear she and her family experienced when doctors gave Ruby nine months to live.

"I thought, 'I'm going to stay home, go to school closer to Mom,'" said Jenni, who had been accepted to Iowa State and planned to compete on the Cyclones dance team. "But she was like, 'Nope. You can't stop living your life for me. You have to go.'"

Ruby also refused to let the diagnosis stop her from living. Despite undergoing grueling treatment and often feeling incredibly ill, she did her best to maintain a normal routine and make memories with friends and family. Before she knew it, Ruby passed the 9-month mark ... and just kept going.

She still has cancer in both her lungs, but regular chemotherapy treatment, scans and

appointments at Mayo Clinic have enabled doctors to manage the disease. There have been scares along the way, including an early breast cancer discovery this past February and a recent re-growth prompting a pivot in treatment.

But Ruby, Jenni and the family are incredibly thankful.

"She's the best mom in the world," Jenni said. "I'm so blessed to still have her here."

Jenni is similarly grateful for her MVC family and the care she's received from coaches and teammates.

"Whether it's a good day or a bad day, I have people I can count on," Jenni said. "If I'm celebrating a win with my mom at the doctor or if she had a crappy appointment, I can go to dance and use that time as an outlet. I can talk to my teammates and get that support."

As Jenni takes the field with those MVC teammates today for Crucial Catch, she hopes others will be touched by her mom's story — and encouraged to listen to their bodies and get screened.

"It's a good reminder to listen to your intuition. I love my mom so much, but she's stubborn," Jenni said with a laugh. "She didn't want to go in. In her gut, she knew something was wrong, but I think she knew it would be a bigger battle ... and she didn't go in until it was [advanced]."

"Crucial Catch is a good reminder to get your checkups, go to the doctor, do the things to keep yourself healthy," Jenni added. "But then also remember there are people around you who always have your back. Don't ever forget how strong you are."



JENNI'S FAVES

MUSIC ARTIST: OLIVIA DEAN

VACATION DESTINATION: HAWAII

CHILDHOOD MOVIE: BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

FEMALE ATHLETE: ALY RAISMAN

NON-DANCE HOBBY: HIKING



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