

FIRST REGULAR-SEASON GAME

■ ROSTERS

■ DEPTH CHARTS

■ PLAYER SPOTLIGHTS



PLAYBOOK

U.S. BANK STADIUM

VIKINGS VS. PACKERS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2016

—
INTO THEIR 10TH SEASONS

PETERSON & ROBISON



PRESENTED BY





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MINNESOTA VIKINGS

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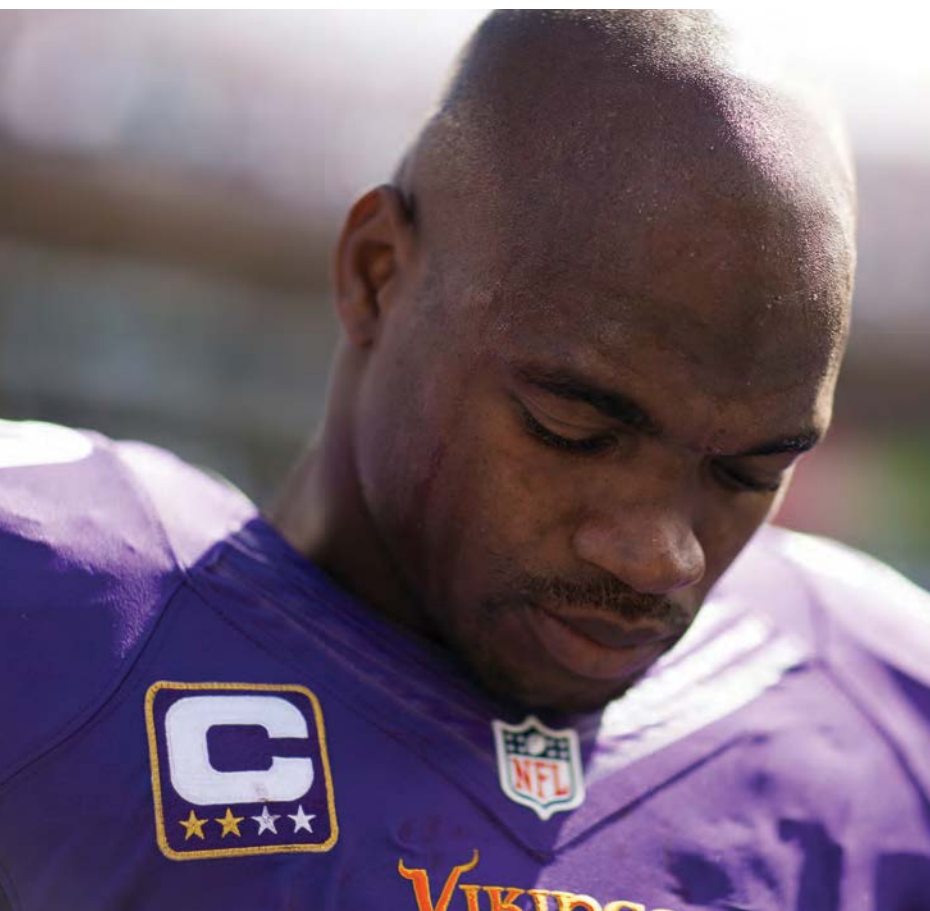
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TCO is proud to be a part of the new Vikings headquarters and home campus in Eagan.

Featuring Twin Cities Orthopedics Performance Center (*right*) and TCO Stadium (*left*).

Opening Spring 2018.





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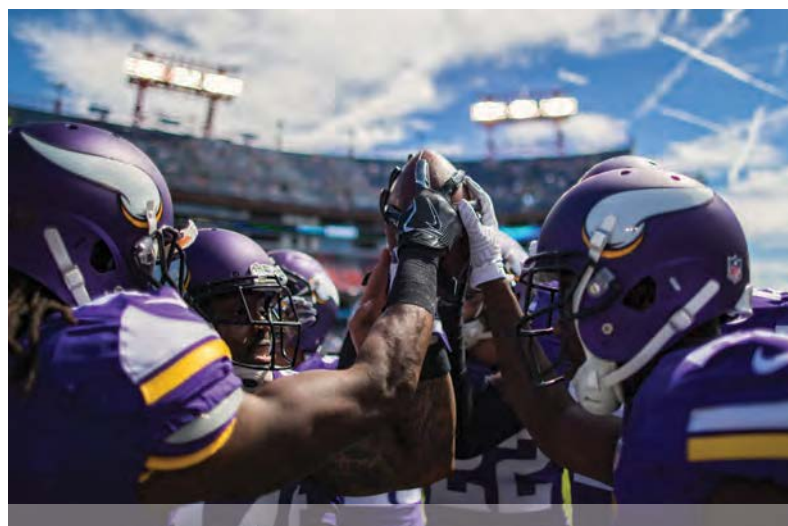
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▼ PG 4 | THROUGH-THE-LENS: GAME 1 RECAP





WE ARE VIKINGS, NOT BARBARIANS

We are confident that our fans lead the NFL in enthusiasm, support, hospitality and sportsmanship. Our image is shaped not only by our players, coaches and employees, but by our fans as well. Our goal is to create a high-energy environment to lend support to our team, while maintaining a family-oriented atmosphere.

TO ENSURE that all fans have a pleasant game-day experience, each patron should act responsibly and be considerate of others. Unruly behavior will not be tolerated and, in some cases, might be deemed grounds for dismissal from U.S. Bank Stadium. These cases include, but are not limited to the following:

- Being under the influence of drugs or alcohol
- Underage drinking
- Actions that are harmful to or endanger others
- Throwing items of any kind
- Using foul or abusive language and/or gestures
- Displaying inconsiderate behavior toward others
- Disorderly conduct
- Wearing obscene or indecent clothing
- Smoking in non-designated areas

- Sitting or standing in the aisles
- Entering or attempting to enter the field of play
- Failure to follow instructions of stadium security personnel
- Entering the stadium with any prohibited items
- Harassment of visiting-team fans

Season Ticket Owners are responsible for the actions of any individual using their tickets. Any of the above behavior by anyone using an account owner's ticket(s) may be cause for non-renewal of ticket privileges. Vikings management and security reserve the right to deem an act or exhibited behavior as inappropriate and take action, based on available information and circumstances. Thank you for making U.S. Bank Stadium an enjoyable and friendly atmosphere to watch Vikings football!

REPORT GAME DAY ISSUES

Text VIKES (space), the issue and location to:

78247

You may also contact an usher or security officer, or stop by the nearest Fan Services location, to report the problem.

Standard text message rates and other charges may apply.

NFL BAG POLICY

The Vikings strongly encourage fans to not bring any type of bags, but should the need arise, fans will be able to carry the following style and size bag, package or container at stadium plaza areas, stadium gates, or when approaching queue lines of fans awaiting entry into the stadium:



CLEAR PLASTIC BAG
No larger than 12" x 6" x 12"



SMALL CLUTCH BAGS
No larger than 4.5" x 6.5"



ONE GALLON BAG
Clear plastic freezer bag

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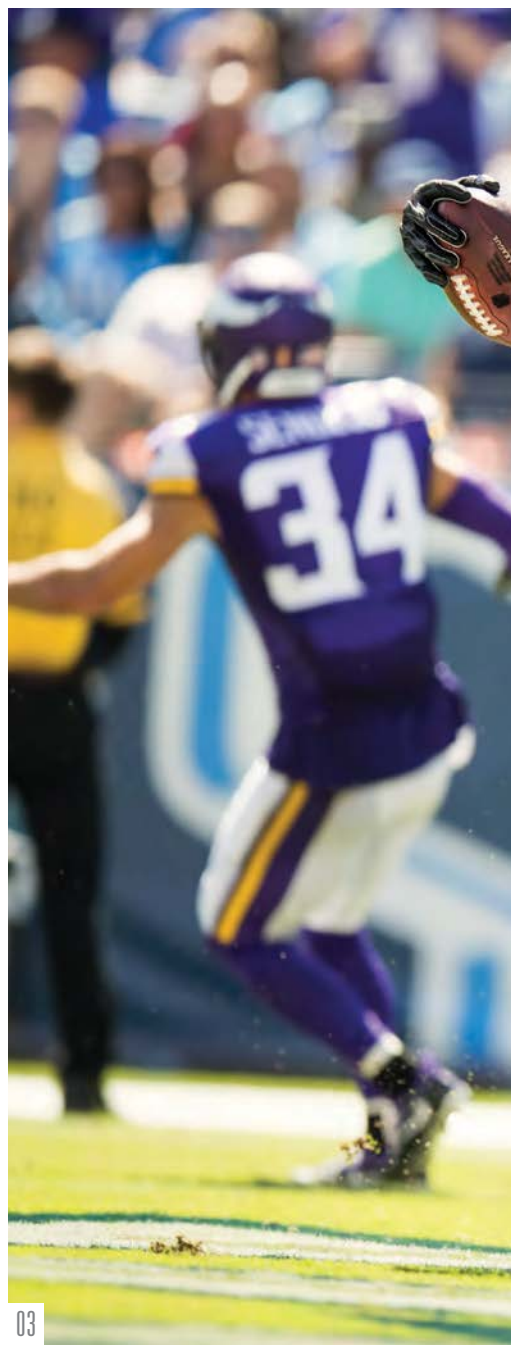
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01



02



03

01 | Trae Wayne started at corner in place of Xavier Rhodes and led the Vikings with 12 tackles (11 solo), including this takedown of Derrick Henry for a loss.



THROUGH-THE-LENS

VIKINGS AT TITANS

THE VIKINGS OPENED ON THE ROAD FOR THE FOURTH STRAIGHT SEASON, BUT RETURNED HOME WITH A 25-16 WIN UNDER THEIR BELTS.

Minnesota protected the football and took it away from Tennessee three times. Sparked by a 61-yard kickoff return by Cordarrelle Patterson to open the second half, the Vikings put together a run of 25 unanswered points to erase a 10-0 halftime deficit. The defense scored twice and kept the Titans from scoring again until less than 30 seconds remained.

“WE’RE A BLUE-COLLAR
TEAM AND A BLUE-COLLAR
DEFENSE.”

- ERIC KENDRICKS

02 | *Linval Joseph helped the Vikings run defense limit the Titans to 64 yards on 22 carries. Joseph also sacked Marcus Mariota.*

02 | *Danielle Hunter returned his first career fumble recovery 24 yards for a touchdown. Hunter also recorded a sack of Mariota five plays later.*



04

04 | *Eric Kendricks returned his first career interception 77 yards for a touchdown that put the Vikings ahead 12-10 in the third quarter.*

05 | *Stefon Diggs hauled in seven catches for 103 yards to lead the Vikings in receiving. His day included this grab that gained 33 late.*



05

➔ SEE THE FULL THROUGH-THE-LENS GALLERY ON VIKINGS.COM OR IN THE VIKINGS APP



PLEDGE YOUR LOYALTY

VIKINGS APP

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- Real-time breaking news from the Vikings, previews of upcoming matches, post-game blogs

- Video-on-demand clips of post-game highlights, press conferences, coach and player interviews

- Real-time statistics and scores from around the NFL

VIKINGS  **REWARDS**

- Earn points by using the app and redeem for great prizes and Vikings experiences

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FIRST REGULAR, SEASON GAME AT U.S. BANK STADIUM

THE VIKINGS AND PACKERS will renew their rivalry in the 112th Border Battle (including two playoff games) in the first regular-season game at U.S. Bank Stadium.

These two teams have combined to win seven of the past eight NFC North titles. Last year's crown came down to Week 17 when the Vikings upended the Packers at Lambeau

Field 20-13. Everson Griffen recorded 2.0 of the Vikings 5.0 sacks and forced a fumble that Captain Munnerylyn returned 55 yards for a touchdown that gave the Vikings a 20-3 lead with less than 20 minutes to go. Minnesota withstood a comeback attempt from Green Bay with the help of an interception in the end zone by Xavier Rhodes.

“WE CAN'T GET CAUGHT UP IN THE RIVALRY. ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS FIGURE OUT WHO TO BLOCK, WHEN TO BLOCK THEM, WHEN TO COVER AND ALL THAT STUFF. I THINK IT'S GREAT FOR THE FANS. WE NEED TO BEAT THEM A LOT MORE OFTEN FOR IT TO BE A RIVALRY.”

- MIKE ZIMMER

KENDRICKS NAMED
NFC DEFENSIVE PLAYER
OF THE WEEK



Eric Kendrick was named the NFC Defensive Player of the Week after securing his first career interception and returning it 77 yards for his first career touchdown. Kendrick is the eighth different Viking to earn NFC Player of the Week honors on defense or special teams under head coach Mike Zimmer.

TONIGHT'S GAME PRESENTED BY



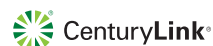
HALFTIME PERFORMANCE

Tonight's halftime show, presented by U.S. Bank, will feature the Grammy-winning Minnesota Orchestra led by internationally renowned conductor Osmo Vänskä.

This special performance will also include the largest projection mapping show ever in the State of Minnesota.

The Vikings are proud to welcome back the following alumni players for the first regular-season game in U.S. Bank Stadium history:

CRIS CARTER
DAVE DIXON
CARL ELLER
CHUCK FOREMAN
JOHN GILLIAM
ROBERT GRIFFITH
WES HAMILTON
PAUL KRAUSE
GARY LARSEN
LEO LEWIS
JIM MARSHALL
DAVE OSBORN
ALAN PAGE
DOUG SUTHERLAND
FRAN TARKENTON
MICK TINGELHOFF





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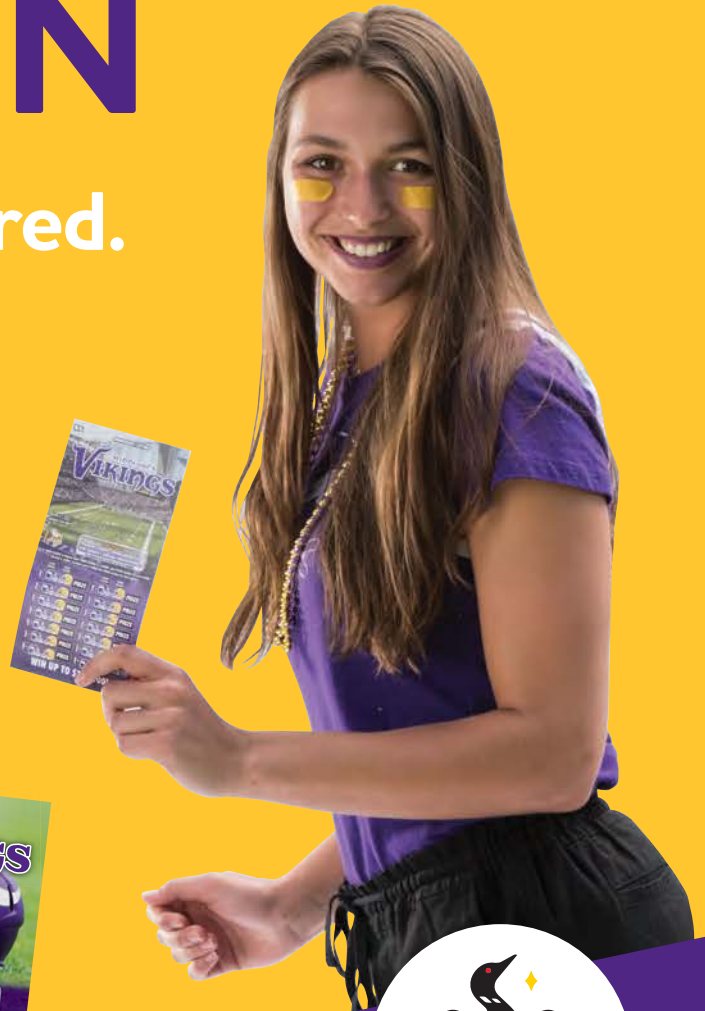
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TONIGHT'S GAME

PROMOTIONS



GET IN ON THE ACTION WITH THESE
PROMOTIONS DURING TONIGHT'S GAME

U.S. BANK COIN TOSS

Are you the Vikings biggest fan? Enter to win two tickets and an unforgettable Vikings coin toss experience! Share a picture using #VikingsBiggestFan and #USBankSweepstakes for a chance to be on the field for the official coin toss! Visit Vikings.com/biggestfan for more information.



BUFFALO WILD WINGS OPENING DRIVE

During tonight's game, how many plays will the Vikings run in their opening drive? Tweet your guess to @VikingsPromos for your chance to win Buffalo Wild Wings gift cards, and watch the video board for more ways to score with B-dubs!



KWIK TRIP FAMILY OF THE GAME

Kwik Trip is going to pick one lucky family every home game this season to be the Kwik Trip Family of the Game. Your family could be chosen to win four lower-level tickets to the next Vikings home game, along with on-field passes and more! Text "FIELD" to 77887 to register. Congratulations to tonight's Kwik Trip Family of the Game, the Wilder family from Rochester!



U.S. BANK HOMETOWN HERO

During each Vikings home game, U.S. Bank and the Minnesota Vikings will recognize one individual who has helped make our community a better place to live. We will honor a Minnesotan who has gone to extraordinary measures to benefit his or her community. Nominate a Hometown Hero by visiting Vikings.com/HometownHero.



HY-VEE #OPENTHEGATES

Share a photo at tonight's game using #OPENTHEGATES to see yourself on the video board and for the chance to win a Hy-Vee gift card!



SPALON MONTAGE GIVEAWAY

Spalon Montage will be giving away a \$100 gift card at tonight's game! Show us your game-day hairstyle by tweeting a photo @VikingsPromos using #VikingsHairstyle to enter.



VIKINGS WIN, YOU WIN FROM PAPA JOHN'S

Join Papa John's this season in cheering on the Vikings. Every time the Vikings win during the 2016 season, fans receive 50 percent off their entire order the next day at participating Papa John's locations. Just order online at papajohns.com and type in promo code "VIKES50." Visit the Promotions page on vikings.com for more details.



SNAP, TWEET, WIN

Vikings fans, we want you to show us your Miller Time! It's easy - just follow @MillerLite on Twitter, snap a Miller Time photo and tweet it to @MillerLite using #ItsMillerTime #Vikings. Look for your photo on the video board at tonight's game!



TWEET YOUR SEAT LOCATION TO @VIKINGSPROMOS FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN PRIZES FROM THE VIKINGS STREET TEAM AT TONIGHT'S GAME.



FAMILY FUN IN THE COMMONS PARK

Vikings fans will be able to enjoy downtown's newest treasure, The Commons Park, during Vikings home games. The Vikings will fill the easterly block of The Commons prior to each game this season with great family-friendly activities and entertainment. Complete with Vikings inflatable games, face painting, a DJ or live music and visits from Viktor, the SKOL Line and Vikings Cheerleaders, The Commons will have something for the entire family.

VIKINGS COUNTRY PRESENTED BY MILLER LITE

The popular *Vikings Country* radio show is back for another season. Host Mike Mussman is joined each week by a Vikings player. Tune in on KFAN and the Vikings Radio Network at 6 p.m. each Thursday night at various locations around or attend the live broadcasts the Twin Cities.

THURSDAY NIGHT LIGHTS AT MYSTIC LAKE

Get in on the action at Mystic Lake Casino Hotel every week during Thursday Night Lights this season. Join in during our own *2 Minute Drill* talk show that features football alumni analyzing the season and upcoming games. Plus, score your share of over \$300,000 in cash, FREE slot play and prizes with an Instant Win Game and Drawings. For all the details, visit mysticlake.com or download the Mystic Lake app at the App Store or on Google Play.

FRIDAY FOOTBALL FEAST AT BUFFALO WILD WINGS

Join KFAN each Friday morning from 9 a.m. to noon for a Friday Football Feast. Paul Allen and Paul Charchian will get you set for the weekend's action, including an in-depth preview of the upcoming Vikings game. Use #MVPTablePromo in your tweets and photos for your chance to win an MVP experience! Check out vikings.com for a complete schedule of dates and locations.



VISIT [VIKINGS.COM/PROMOTIONS](http://vikings.com/promotions) OR
DOWNLOAD THE VIKINGS APP FOR MORE



UPCOMING EVENTS – FALL 2016

LIFE TIME KIDS FOOTBALL CLINIC

Life Time invites kids ages 5-12 to participate in a FREE Vikings football clinic on Thursday, Oct. 20 at the Eagan Life Time. The clinic will be run by Vikings Youth Football Manager E.J. Henderson. Kids will also have the opportunity to meet two current Vikings players. Register by visiting Vikings.com/promotions.

DELTA VIKINGS VILLAGE

Opening two-and-a-half hours prior to kickoff, this Vikings fan engagement area is located across Chicago Ave. from Medtronic Plaza. Fans can find their favorite tailgate fare, ice-cold Miller Lite

and plenty of interaction with Vikings partners, receive autographs from Vikings Legends and hear live music each game from the Pepsi "Sound The North" stage. The centerpiece of the Vikings Village will be the Longhouse, a 6,000-plus-square-foot, climate-controlled gathering space. The Longhouse and Vikings Village will be free to attend for Vikings fans with or without game tickets and will be the ultimate destination for fans looking to congregate and celebrate together before, during and after Vikings home games. The pregame festivities will include the KFAN pregame radio broadcast as well as nine 55-inch televisions to keep fans up to date on the NFL. In addition, live music will be rocking the Delta Vikings Village each game from within the Miller Lite Beer Garden.

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PLAYER TO WATCH: WR/KR CORDARRELLE PATTERSON

PATTERSON INJECTED A DOSE OF ADRENALINE into the Vikings last week against the Titans when he returned the opening kickoff of the second half 61 yards to set up a field goal for Minnesota's first points of the season. The return sparked a run of 25 unanswered points by the Vikings in a 25-16 win. Patterson also fought through contact and gained 8 yards during a rush attempt to convert a second-and-7 and made a difficult catch along the sidelines for a gain of 6 to set up a third-and-1 during offensive possessions. Vikings Head Coach Mike Zimmer said Patterson is earning a bigger role in the offense this season.

THE RECORD: A MARK THAT CAN ONLY BE MATCHED AND NEVER BROKEN IS THE NFL RECORD FOR LONGEST PLAY, WHICH PATTERSON TIED WITH A 109-YARD KICKOFF RETURN FOR A SCORE AGAINST GREEN BAY IN 2013, THE FINAL GAME AGAINST THE PACKERS IN THE METRODOME. PATTERSON HAD 228 YARDS ON FIVE KICKOFF RETURNS (45.6 PER RETURN) IN THAT GAME.

31.8 IN '15

Patterson led the NFL with a kickoff return average of 31.8 yards in 2015, totaling 1,019 yards on 32 returns. He was the only player in the NFL with two kick returns for touchdowns last season. He became the first Viking to have more than 1,000 kickoff return yards in two seasons.

2016 SEASON LEADERS

Passing (Yds)	Shaun Hill	236
Rushing (Yds)	Adrian Peterson	31
Receiving (Yds)	Stefon Diggs	103
Tackles	Trae Waynes	12
Sacks	L. Joseph, D. Hunter	1.0
Interceptions	Eric Kendricks	1
KOR (Yds)	C. Patterson	61
PR (Avg.)	Marcus Sherels	3.3

2016 SCHEDULE

PRESEASON (4-0)

P1	8/12	at Cincinnati Bengals	W 17-16
P2	8/18	at Seattle Seahawks	W 18-11
P3	8/28	San Diego Chargers	W 23-10
P4	9/1	Los Angeles Rams	W 27-25

REGULAR SEASON (1-0)

1	9/11	at Tennessee Titans	W 25-16
2	9/18	Green Bay Packers	
3	9/25	at Carolina Panthers	
4	10/3	New York Giants	
5	10/9	Houston Texans	
6	10/16	BYE	
7	10/23	at Philadelphia Eagles	
8	10/31	at Chicago Bears	
9	11/6	Detroit Lions	
10	11/13	at Washington Redskins	
11	11/20	Arizona Cardinals	
12	11/24	at Detroit Lions	
13	12/1	Dallas Cowboys	
14	12/11	at Jacksonville Jaguars	
15	12/18	Indianapolis Colts	
16	12/24	at Green Bay Packers	
17	1/1	Chicago Bears	

TOP 2s AGAINST GREEN BAY PACKERS

RUSHING YARDS

210	Adrian Peterson on 21 attempts at Green Bay (Dec. 2, 2012)
199	Adrian Peterson on 34 attempts in Minnesota (Dec. 30, 2012)

PASSING YARDS

442	Randall Cunningham on 20-of-32 passing at Green Bay (Oct. 5, 1998)
384	Tommy Kramer on 38-of-55 passing in Minnesota (Nov. 29, 1981)

RECEIVING YARDS

190	Randy Moss on five catches at Green Bay (Oct. 5, 1998)
153	Randy Moss on eight catches in Minnesota (Nov. 22, 1998)



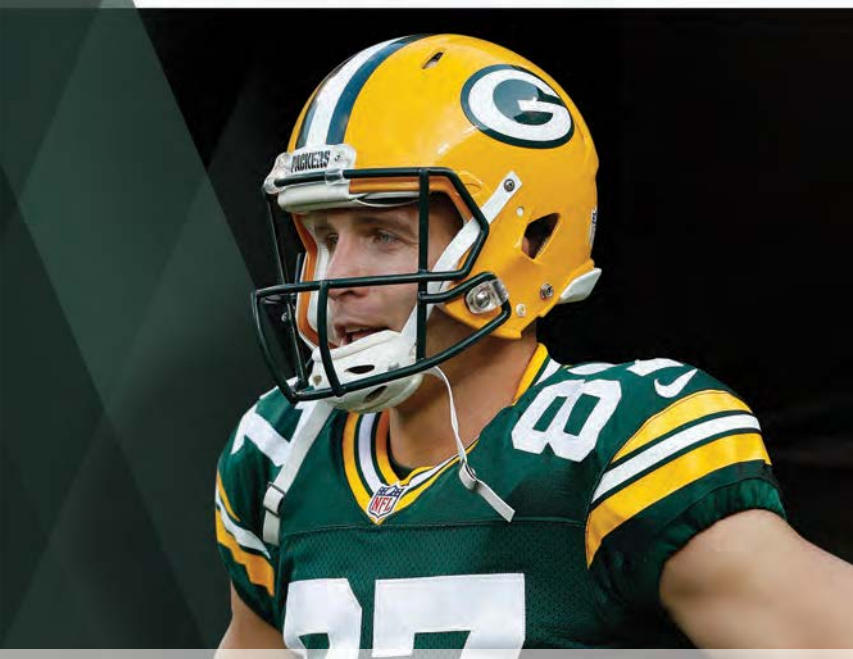
MINNESOTA VIKINGS
LOCKER ROOM
OFFICIAL TEAM STORE

TODAY'S ITEM OF THE GAME



U.S. Bank Stadium Home Opener T-Shirt

While supplies last.



PLAYER TO WATCH: WR JORDY NELSON

AFTER MISSING ALL OF 2015 WITH A TORN ACL, Nelson returned to action last week for the first time since the postseason that followed 2014. He caught six passes on nine targets for 32 yards at Jacksonville that included a 6-yard touchdown pass from Aaron Rodgers. Nelson has totaled 406 receptions for 6,141 yards and 50 touchdowns since his selection in the second round of the 2008 NFL Draft. After working as a receiver and kickoff returner for the first three years of his career, Nelson became more involved with the offense in 2011. He was targeted 96 times that season and caught 68 passes for 1,263 yards. Nelson was targeted 278 times in 32 games from 2013-14.

BETTER THAN AVERAGE: NELSON HAS AVERAGED 15.2 YARDS PER CATCH IN EACH OF HIS PAST FOUR SEASONS, INCLUDING 18.6 IN 2011, 15.2 IN 2012, 15.5 IN 2013 AND 15.5 IN 2014 WHEN HE POSTED CAREER HIGHS OF 98 RECEPTIONS ON 151 TARGETS FOR 1,519 YARDS AND MADE THE PRO BOWL. HIS AVERAGE AGAINST THE JAGUARS, HOWEVER, WAS 5.3 YARDS WITH A LONG OF 8.

45 FOR 636

In 13 games against the Vikings that date back to 2008, Nelson has recorded 45 receptions for 636 yards (14.1 yards per catch) and six touchdowns. Nelson did his greatest amount of damage in Minnesota in 2013 when he caught seven passes for 123 yards and two scores in the final Border Battle at the Metrodome.

2016 SEASON LEADERS

Passing (Yds)	Aaron Rodgers	199
Rushing (Yds)	Eddie Lacy	61
Receiving (Yds)	Randall Cobb	57
Tackles	Morgan Burnett	8
Sacks	Burnett, Matthews, Perry	1.0
Interceptions	Joe Thomas	1
KOR (Yds)	Ty Montgomery	14
PR (Avg.)	No punts returned yet	

2016 SCHEDULE

PRESEASON (3-1-1)

P1	8/7 vs. Indianapolis Colts*	T 0-0
P2	8/12 vs. Cleveland Browns	W 17-11
P3	8/18 vs. Oakland Raiders	W 20-12
P4	8/26 at San Francisco 49ers	W 21-10
P5	9/1 at Kansas City Chiefs	L 7-17

REGULAR SEASON (1-0)

1	9/11	at Jacksonville Jaguars	W 27-23
2	9/18	at Minnesota Vikings	
3	9/25	vs. Detroit Lions	
4	BYE		
5	10/9	vs. New York Giants	
6	10/16	vs. Dallas Cowboys	
7	10/20	vs. Chicago Bears	
8	10/30	at Atlanta Falcons	
9	11/6	vs. Indianapolis Colts	
10	11/13	at Tennessee Titans	
11	11/20	at Washington Redskins	
12	11/28	at Philadelphia Eagles	
13	12/4	vs. Houston Texans	
14	12/11	vs. Seattle Seahawks	
15	12/18	at Chicago Bears	
16	12/24	vs. Minnesota Vikings	
17	1/1	at Detroit Lions	

TOP 2s AGAINST MINNESOTA

RUSHING YARDS

164	Jim Taylor on 17 attempts in Minnesota (Oct. 14, 1962)
161	Ahman Green on 25 attempts in Minnesota (Dec. 17, 2000)

PASSING YARDS

384	Aaron Rodgers on 26-of-37 passing in Minnesota (Oct. 5, 2009)
383	Lynn Dickey on 23-of-41 passing at Green Bay (Oct. 23, 1983)

RECEIVING YARDS

191	Donald Driver on six catches in Minnesota (Nov. 12, 2006)
159	James Lofton on seven catches in Minnesota (Nov. 29, 1981)

*Hall of Fame Game cancelled because of field conditions.


OFFENSE

WR		TE	
12 Charles Johnson		82 Kyle Rudolph	
11 Laquon Treadwell		85 Rhett Ellison	
LT		83 MyCole Pruitt	
75 Matt Kalil		89 David Morgan	
78 Jeremiah Sirles		WR	
LG		14 Stefon Diggs	
76 Alex Boone		19 Adam Thielen	
67 Zac Kerin		84 C. Patterson	
		17 Jarius Wright	
C		FB	
61 Joe Berger		48 Zach Line	
62 Nick Easton		HB	
RG		28 Adrian Peterson	
63 Brandon Fusco		21 Jerick McKinnon	
RT		44 Matt Asiata	
71 Andre Smith			
68 T.J. Clemmings			
QB			
13 Shaun Hill			
8 Sam Bradford			

DEFENSE

LE		SLB	
96 Brian Robison		55 Anthony Barr	
99 Danielle Hunter		51 Edmond Robinson	
DT		LCB	
73 Sharif Floyd		23 Terence Newman	
92 Tom Johnson		26 Trae Waynes	
		35 Marcus Sherels	
NT		RCB	
98 Linval Joseph		29 Xavier Rhodes	
93 Shamar Stephen		24 C. Munnerlyn	
RE		20 M. Alexander	
97 Everson Griffen		SS	
94 Justin Trattou		34 Andrew Sendejo	
WLB		27 Jayron Kearse	
52 Chad Greenway		FS	
59 Emmanuel Lamur		22 Harrison Smith	
MLB		41 Anthony Harris	
54 Eric Kendricks			
57 Audie Cole			
40 Kentrell Brothers			

SPECIALISTS

P		KR	
18 Jeff Locke		84 C. Patterson	
K		35 Marcus Sherels	
3 Blair Walsh		PR	
LS		35 Marcus Sherels	
47 Kevin McDermott		19 Adam Thielen	
H			
18 Jeff Locke			

NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	AGE	EXP.	COLLEGE
3	Blair Walsh	K	5-10	170	26	5	Georgia
8	Sam Bradford	QB	6-4	224	28	7	Oklahoma
11	Laquon Treadwell	WR	6-2	215	21	R	Mississippi
12	Charles Johnson	WR	6-2	217	27	4	Grand Valley State
13	Shaun Hill	QB	6-3	230	36	15	Maryland
14	Stefon Diggs	WR	6-0	191	22	2	Maryland
17	Jarius Wright	WR	5-10	191	26	5	Arkansas
18	Jeff Locke	P	6-0	195	26	4	UCLA
19	Adam Thielen	WR	6-2	200	26	3	Minnesota State
20	Mackensie Alexander	CB	5-10	192	22	R	Clemson
21	Jerick McKinnon	RB	5-9	205	24	3	Georgia Southern
22	Harrison Smith	S	6-2	214	27	5	Notre Dame
23	Terence Newman	CB	5-10	197	38	14	Kansas State
24	Captain Munnerlyn	CB	5-9	195	28	8	South Carolina
26	Trae Waynes	CB	6-0	190	24	2	Michigan State
27	Jayron Kearse	S	6-4	215	22	R	Clemson
28	Adrian Peterson	RB	6-1	220	31	10	Oklahoma
29	Xavier Rhodes	CB	6-1	218	26	4	Florida State
34	Andrew Sendejo	S	6-1	210	29	6	Rice
35	Marcus Sherels	CB	5-10	175	28	6	Minnesota
40	Kentrell Brothers	LB	6-1	242	23	R	Missouri
41	Anthony Harris	S	6-1	192	24	2	Virginia
44	Matt Asiata	RB	6-0	219	29	5	Utah
47	Kevin McDermott	LS	6-5	240	26	4	UCLA
48	Zach Line	FB	6-1	233	26	4	SMU
51	Edmond Robinson	LB	6-3	245	24	2	Newberry
52	Chad Greenway	LB	6-3	237	33	11	Iowa
54	Eric Kendricks	LB	6-0	232	24	2	UCLA
55	Anthony Barr	LB	6-5	255	24	3	UCLA
57	Audie Cole	LB	6-5	248	27	5	NC State
59	Emmanuel Lamur	LB	6-4	245	27	5	Kansas State
61	Joe Berger	C	6-5	305	34	12	Michigan Tech
62	Nick Easton	C	6-3	303	24	2	Harvard
63	Brandon Fusco	G	6-4	306	28	6	Slippery Rock
67	Zac Kerin	G	6-5	305	25	2	Toledo
68	T.J. Clemmings	T	6-5	309	24	2	Pittsburgh
71	Andre Smith	T	6-4	325	29	8	Alabama
73	Sharif Floyd	DT	6-3	311	25	4	Florida
75	Matt Kalil	T	6-7	317	27	5	Southern California
76	Alex Boone	G	6-8	310	29	7	Ohio State
78	Jeremiah Sirles	T	6-6	315	25	3	Nebraska
82	Kyle Rudolph	TE	6-6	265	26	6	Notre Dame
83	MyCole Pruitt	TE	6-2	258	24	2	Southern Illinois
84	Cordarrelle Patterson	WR	6-2	220	25	4	Tennessee
85	Rhett Ellison	TE	6-5	250	27	5	Southern California
89	David Morgan	TE	6-4	265	23	R	Texas-San Antonio
92	Tom Johnson	DT	6-3	288	32	6	Southern Mississippi
93	Shamar Stephen	DT	6-5	310	25	3	Connecticut
94	Justin Trattou	DE	6-4	258	28	5	Florida
96	Brian Robison	DE	6-3	259	33	10	Texas
97	Everson Griffen	DE	6-3	273	28	7	Southern California
98	Linval Joseph	DT	6-4	329	27	7	East Carolina
99	Danielle Hunter	DE	6-5	252	21	2	LSU

PACKERS

OFFENSE

WR	TE
87 Jordy Nelson	82 Richard Rodgers
17 Davante Adams	89 Jared Cook
83 Jeff Janis	80 Justin Perillo
LT	WR
69 David Bakhtiari	18 Randall Cobb
78 Jason Spriggs	84 Jared Abbrederis
	88 Ty Montgomery
LG	11 Trevor Davis
65 Lane Taylor	QB
67 Don Barclay	12 Aaron Rodgers
C	7 Brett Hundley
73 JC Tretter	6 Joe Callahan
67 Don Barclay	RB
RG	27 Eddie Lacy
70 T.J. Lang	44 James Starks
67 Don Barclay	26 Jhurrell Pressley
RT	FB
75 Bryan Bulaga	22 Aaron Ripkowski
68 Kyle Murphy	

DEFENSE

DE	ROLB
94 Dean Lowry	52 Clay Matthews
97 Kenny Clark	95 Datone Jones
	51 Kyler Fackrell
NT	LCB
98 Letroy Guion	23 D. Randall
99 Christian Ringo	24 Quinten Rollins
	28 Josh Hawkins
DT	RCB
76 Mike Daniels	37 Sam Shields
97 Kenny Clark	36 LaDarius Gunter
LOLB	SS
53 Nick Perry	42 Morgan Burnett
56 Julius Peppers	33 Micah Hyde
95 Datone Jones	25 Marwin Evans
ILB	FS
47 Jake Ryan	21 Ha Ha Clinton-Dix
48 Joe Thomas	32 Chris Banjo
ILB	29 Kentrell Brice
50 Blake Martinez	
48 Joe Thomas	

SPECIALISTS

K	H
2 Mason Crosby	10 Jacob Schum
10 Jacob Schum	18 Randall Cobb
P	LS
10 Jacob Schum	61 Brett Goode
2 Mason Crosby	
PR	KR
33 Micah Hyde	88 Ty Montgomery
11 Trevor Davis	84 Jared Abbrederis
84 Jared Abbrederis	33 Micah Hyde

NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	AGE	EXP.	COLLEGE
2	Mason Crosby	K	6-1	207	32	10	Colorado
6	Joe Callahan	QB	6-1	216	23	R	Wesley
7	Brett Hundley	QB	6-3	226	23	2	UCLA
10	Jacob Schum	P	5-10	211	27	2	Buffalo
11	Trevor Davis	WR	6-1	188	23	R	California
12	Aaron Rodgers	QB	6-2	225	32	12	California
17	Davante Adams	WR	6-1	215	23	3	Fresno State
18	Randall Cobb	WR	5-10	192	26	6	Kentucky
21	Ha Ha Clinton-Dix	S	6-1	208	23	3	Alabama
22	Aaron Ripkowski	FB	6-1	246	23	2	Oklahoma
23	Damarious Randall	CB	5-11	196	24	2	Arizona State
24	Quinten Rollins	CB	5-11	195	24	2	Miami (Ohio)
25	Marwin Evans	S	5-11	211	23	R	Utah State
26	Jhurrell Pressley	RB	5-10	206	24	R	New Mexico
27	Eddie Lacy	RB	5-11	234	26	4	Alabama
28	Josh Hawkins	CB	5-10	189	23	R	East Carolina
29	Kentrell Brice	S	5-11	200	22	R	Louisiana Tech
32	Chris Banjo	S	5-10	207	25	3	Southern Methodist
33	Micah Hyde	DB	6-0	197	25	4	Iowa
36	LaDarius Gunter	CB	6-2	201	24	2	Miami
37	Sam Shields	CB	5-11	184	28	7	Miami
42	Morgan Burnett	S	6-1	209	27	7	Georgia Tech
44	James Starks	RB	6-2	218	30	7	Buffalo
47	Jake Ryan	LB	6-2	240	24	2	Michigan
48	Joe Thomas	LB	6-1	227	25	2	South Carolina State
50	Blake Martinez	LB	6-2	237	22	R	Stanford
51	Kyler Fackrell	LB	6-5	245	24	R	Utah State
52	Clay Matthews	LB	6-3	255	30	8	Southern California
53	Nick Perry	LB	6-3	265	26	5	Southern California
56	Julius Peppers	LB	6-7	287	36	15	North Carolina
61	Brett Goode	LS	6-1	255	31	9	Arkansas
65	Lane Taylor	G	6-3	324	26	4	Oklahoma State
67	Don Barclay	T/G	6-4	305	27	5	West Virginia
68	Kyle Murphy	T	6-6	305	22	R	Stanford
69	David Bakhtiari	T	6-4	310	24	4	Colorado
70	T.J. Lang	G	6-4	318	28	8	Eastern Michigan
73	JC Tretter	C/G	6-4	307	25	4	Cornell
75	Bryan Bulaga	T	6-5	314	27	7	Iowa
76	Mike Daniels	DT	6-0	310	27	5	Iowa
78	Jason Spriggs	T	6-6	301	22	R	Indiana
80	Justin Perillo	TE	6-3	250	25	3	Maine
82	Richard Rodgers	TE	6-4	257	24	3	California
83	Jeff Janis	WR	6-3	219	25	3	Saginaw Valley State
84	Jared Abbrederis	WR	6-1	195	25	3	Wisconsin
87	Jordy Nelson	WR	6-3	217	31	9	Kansas State
88	Ty Montgomery	WR	6-0	216	22	2	Stanford
89	Jared Cook	TE	6-5	254	29	8	South Carolina
91	Jayrone Elliott	LB	6-3	255	24	3	Toledo
94	Dean Lowry	DE	6-6	296	22	R	Northwestern
95	Datone Jones	DE/LB	6-4	285	26	4	UCLA
97	Kenny Clark	DT	6-3	314	20	R	UCLA
98	Letroy Guion	DT	6-4	322	29	9	Florida State
99	Christian Ringo	DT	6-1	298	24	1	Louisiana-Lafayette

*Unofficial depth charts and rosters as of 9/14/16

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TIMEOUT WITH ADAM THIELEN

ADAM THIELEN PUSHED. HE PULLED. HE DID IT AGAIN, AND AGAIN, AND AGAIN. THE VIKINGS RECEIVER — AND PLAYER THAT SOME VIEW AS A PERENNIAL UNDERDOG FOR A ROSTER SPOT — MUSHED AHEAD.

Thielen worked to drag a weighted-down sled back and forth across brand-new, green, synthetic turf inside the ETS Thielen gym he became a co-owner of this summer. The exercise reflects the way Thielen wrestled himself into an NFL career, working and sweating through plenty of resistance.

After joining the Vikings as an undrafted free agent in 2013, Thielen spent a year on the practice squad before offering glimpses of potential on special teams throughout his next two seasons. He wrapped up the 2015 regular season with a fake-punt play at Green Bay, in which Thielen received the pigskin from long snapper Kevin McDermott, ran around the edge and sprinted 41 yards down the sideline to pick up the first down and put the offense back on the field. Thielen's splashy dash ultimately helped the Vikings dethrone the Packers as division champions.

The Minnesota native has seen his hard work pay off.

After an impressive training camp and preseason heading into year three, Thielen proudly takes the field as part of the purple and gold's young receiving corps.



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SCHOOL



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MINNESOTA STATE
UNIVERSITY, MANKATO

Q: What's your favorite part of being a gym owner?

A: *Being able to go in and work out whenever I want, and also that I'm able to go and work out with the youth in that community and have fun in the offseason.*

Q: What's your favorite offseason workout?

A: *My favorite workout is "Four Quarter Friday" — my trainer Ryan [Engelbert] puts us through it. It's my favorite and my least favorite all in one, because it's definitely not the easiest.*

Q: What went through your head on the fake punt play?

A: *It's just one of those things where you've been practicing it all season, and when you finally get the play called, you just have to make it work. The guys did a great job blocking, and basically the only thing going through my mind was, 'Get the first down,' and whatever happened after that was a bonus.*

BY LINDSEY YOUNG

In addition to hauling in four catches for 54 yards, Adam Thielen added two tackles on special teams last week at Tennessee. ▶

Q: As a Minnesotan, what's it like to play for the Vikings?

A: *It's great – I take a lot of pride in it. I grew up a fan, and I just want to make sure I'm doing everything I can to help this football team win games and reach the goals that [we've set].*

Q: How much bigger is the Green Bay rivalry for you?

A: *It's big, because I always grew up watching those rivalry games. It's always been a great rivalry with a lot of excitement around that game. In this locker room, it means something to us – obviously it's a division opponent, so I think all those games are big.*

Q: What were your first impressions of U.S. Bank Stadium?

A: *Unbelievable. It's a great feel – it feels like you're outside, but you're inside and get the inside elements. It definitely feels like home.*

Q: What's your most memorable NFL moment so far?

A: *I think just getting to that playoff game. It's finally an achievement that I hadn't reached individually, and obviously that was a goal of ours as a team. Just to be able to get to the playoffs – obviously we would have liked to go farther, but every year we want to go and keep getting better.*



MOST RUSH YARDS IN A GAME BY VIKINGS WR:

C. PATTERSON 102
AT ST. LOUIS, 9/7/14

ADAM THIELEN 67
AT GREEN BAY, 1/3/16

LONGEST VIKINGS FAKE PUNTS:

A. SENDEJO 48 RUN
AT CHICAGO, 11/16/14

BOBBY WALDEN 45 RUN
VS. SAN FRANCISCO,
10/30/66

ADAM THIELEN 41 RUN
AT GREEN BAY, 1/3/16

Q: You and your wife are expecting a son this fall. What about fatherhood are you most excited about?

A: *I think just being able to influence him in his life and just to be able to go through the growing pains and help him out, help mentor him in whatever he needs. My wife is super excited just to be able to bring life into this world.*

Q: Have any teammates given you parenting advice?

A: *Yeah, a few guys. I think it's been more sleep advice than parenting advice. But no, I think every guy that has a kid on the team just says it's the best thing in the world, and they couldn't be happier for me and my wife, Caitlin.*

“[GREEN BAY] HAS ALWAYS BEEN A GREAT RIVALRY WITH A LOT OF EXCITEMENT AROUND THAT GAME. IN THIS LOCKER ROOM, IT MEANS SOMETHING TO US.”

– ADAM THIELEN



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STILL GOING STRONG

BY CRAIG PETERS

THE REPUTATIONS preceded the first repetition.

Having already trained the likes of Pro Football Hall of Famer Darrell Green and Robert Horry, a member of seven NBA title teams, James Cooper decided to find out if what people told him about Adrian Peterson's work ethic in workouts was true.

"I heard about what he would do and the stories," Cooper said this summer, "but depending on the people that are saying it, usually if it's coming from the NFL and other peers, they don't really work that hard to me, but when other track guys would say, 'He's a worker, he's a real hog,' I said, 'Let me get my hands on him.' "

A track is actually where Peterson and Cooper first sized each other up after Peterson rushed for 1,341 yards and 12 touchdowns as a rookie. Former Florida State defensive end Roland Seymour had told each man about the other, but both wanted reality checks.

Peterson was no stranger to running track. His mother, Bonita Jackson, was one of the tops in Texas, and he finished second in the 100 meters in high school as a senior, to go along with his consensus National Player of the Year award in football. Cooper's demands, however, were a different story.

"He was throwing up," Cooper recalls. "I said, 'You've got to listen to me and trust me, it will work out. We will be fine.' He said, 'OK,' and I think he threw up again, and I said, 'Now we're going to cut back.' I know

he was probably thinking, 'This guy is crazy,' but from what I had heard, he was just as crazy as I was, so it was a match made in heaven. Crazy loves crazy."

Peterson was convinced that Cooper was the one to get him where he wanted to go.

"That first workout, I was sold, 'This is my guy,' " he recalls. "We've just been building a relationship ever since."

The men have had an agreement, a conviction to make one of the sport's best ever become even better.

'THEME PARK'

Peterson and Cooper expanded their commitment this offseason by opening O Athletik, a 33,000-square foot gym, complete with sports turf, an inclined ramp for running (or scaling through other methods), a sand pit, yoga studio, boxing ring, octagon for mixed martial arts, wrestling mats, weight room, cardio machines and infinity pool with treadmills.

"It's kind of like my Disneyland," Cooper says. "Now, having everything here, Adrian kind of looks and is like, 'Oh boy,' you know, he's in his own theme park."

Cooper designed the gym, and Peterson invested in it to provide a one-stop shop. It is open to the public and offers more than 100 classes each week to members. Cooper and Peterson previously hopped gym-to-gym, to four or five locations around Houston in a day.

The only thing this gym is missing is a track, but a quick ride through Houston Heights leads the



men and others – including Vikings defensive end Danielle Hunter on the heels of his first NFL season – to John H. Reagan High School.

A couple of warm-up laps lead into three rounds of 300 meters with a goal of 42 to 46 seconds per lap. Peterson is the last player to put his hands on his hips from getting winded and doesn't do so until after the second 300 meters. He is strong in the third, and then everyone shifts to 200-meter relays, running three legs apiece before returning to O Athletik.

Prior to the Vikings season opener at Tennessee last week, Peterson told members of the Nashville media that a combination of running in the Texas heat and paying more attention to nutrition have helped him enter his 10th pro season with six percent body fat at 220 pounds.

"Here lately, well actually this summer, I've been more conscious of what I put in my body. Well, I've always been conscious of what I put in my body, but just kind of to a different level," Peterson said. "I've been drinking a lot of green juices and stuff. That's like 90 percent of what I take in. I normally eat like a meal or so a day, and everything else is just green juices. Here recently, that has helped me keep that body fat down."

MT. COOPER

Workouts over the years have included a zipwire resistance tool on the football so that a 40-yard run might take Peterson 90 seconds. In another drill, Cooper would hand Peterson a mouthpiece, lace up boxing gloves and punch the football.

The workout on the Monday after the Vikings wrapped their minicamp in June, however, doesn't include boxing, and the fun of carrying a football feels as distant as Minnesota.

The hill awaits. It is a 30-degree incline that is 20 yards long. Peterson and other players sprint up, which helps them gain speed and power without the need for weighted vests, over and over.

Cooper stands atop the hill, critically surveying the technique. Just getting up Mt. Cooper isn't enough. The trainer is focused on the how because he knows doing it the right way will create the max benefit.

"What I'm looking at is their posture and their knee drive, as opposed to their hand action, to see if their elbows and hands are meeting up while they're running," Cooper says, "to make sure that they're not popping up but they're driving and that their steps are consistent all the way."

After six or eight trips up, "they tend to get off rhythm while they're running."

By the third or fourth week of summits, Cooper usually sees players finishing trips as strong as they start and thinks, "OK, he's going to break some tackles."

"You give him one inch, and he's going to pull away from you," Cooper says. "That's when I get excited and can say, 'Yeah! He did it or broke a tackle and bounced around or made a cut or a spin move and went from really a standstill, from zero to 20 miles an hour within about 12 yards.'"



TRACK WORK HAS BEEN AN IMPORTANT PART OF ADRIAN PETERSON'S OFFSEASON WORKOUTS.

Next Gen Stats clocked Peterson hitting 21.89 mph during his 48-yard touchdown run at Denver last season when he became just the third player to lead the NFL in rushing at age 30 or older. Peterson's 1,485 rushing yards at 30 placed him in the company of Hall of Famers Marion Motley (810 in 1950) and Curtis Martin (1,697 in 2004).

"I take a lot of pride in it because I put a lot of work into what I do to be able to come out and perform and last an entire season, and to be the best at what I do, as well," Peterson said recently. "There's a lot of pride that comes with that, especially when everyone's calling you old."

THE QUEST CONTINUES

Peterson ranks 16th all-time in career rushing yards. The only active player ahead of Peterson is Frank Gore (12,099), who entered the NFL in 2005 and had 2,303 yards before Peterson's rookie season. Gore has played 165 games, compared to 121 by Peterson (11,706 yards).

The ultimate goal for Peterson is to help the Vikings win their first Super Bowl. Beyond that, Emmitt Smith is the all-time leading rusher with 18,355 career yards that were totaled in 15 seasons. Jim Brown is 10th all-time with 12,312 yards, just 606 yards away.

"I'm sure it'll feel good," Peterson said. "But I'm really more focused on helping my team win each week."

"I know records are meant to be broken. It'll be cool. I'll sit back and take it all in as I gradually pass everyone," he added. "I just try to stay humble and just keep working (and) not get caught up in the hype of everything. I've got to keep putting the work in."

Some have speculated the worst entity chasing Peterson is "Father Time" because of the decades of running backs whose production has decreased at age 31 or beyond. Smith gained 4,392 yards in five seasons after turning 31, and Marcus Allen gained 4,286 of his 12,243 career yards in seven seasons after turning 31.

Peterson knows others are now chasing numbers he's posted, but he doesn't mind passing along what's helped him become so successful.

"It makes me feel good, like I've kind of switched roles and become more of a mentor for these guys, but I've let them know that I'm not old," Peterson said. "I am still young, so don't get it twisted. I love the role."

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A LEADER TO FOLLOW

BY CRAIG PETERS

IN ORDER TO LEAD, A PLAYER MUST SOMETIMES FOLLOW.
BRIAN ROBISON'S WILLINGNESS TO DO THE LATTER HELPED
HIM BECOME AN EVEN BETTER LEADER.

The veteran was selected by teammates as one of four season-long Vikings captains, joining draft classmate Adrian Peterson, defensive lineman Everson Griffen and locker-room neighbor Chad Greenway.

Peterson, Griffen and Greenway are in their second year as season-long captains, which were implemented by Vikings Head Coach Mike Zimmer before his second season with the club.

Zimmer started his wave of changes with Xs and Os in 2014 when he was hired for his first head coaching position after 14 years of success in the NFL as a defensive coordinator and six as an assistant. Robison didn't bronc or buck the new notions even

though he had already played 110 games.

Instead, he listened to coaches and learned new techniques to help make the Vikings defense more successful.

In 2015, he was willing to slide inside from his defensive end position to defensive tackle so that the Vikings can deploy several skilled pass rushers at once or bluff pressure to confuse quarterbacks. Griffen, who became a starter in 2014, said Robison's professionalism has helped him accept an expanded role as well.

"He does his job, he does it well and is another role model to me," Griffen said. "He's a great player, a great man and is like a brother to me. I love him."

Defensive line coach Andre Patterson said Robison has embraced his evolving role and "executed what our defense needs to happen for us to be successful" with a "whatever it takes" mentality.

"That's real unique for him to be able to execute all of those assignments from all of those different positions, and you've got to be intelligent to be able to handle that," Patterson said.

Robison opened his 10th season with a pass breakup and tackle for loss on consecutive plays. He has 48.5 sacks in 87 starts and 143 games played.

Robison said Patterson has been a "huge influence" on the defensive line.

"He brought in a different methodology than we had all learned in the past. I think it's helped us all, not only as individuals, but as a unit," Robison said. "The thing about him is he wants every one of us to be technicians, and that's what we work at every day. Every day is about technique."

"It's not always about going out there, running around and making plays. It's about doing your technique right," Robison said. "Sometimes it might be sacrificing yourself, with your technique to do the right things in order for someone else to make plays, but sometimes it comes back on you, and he does a great job of making sure we understand that."

Zimmer said Robison's work — tinged with a blue collar under purple pads — goes well beyond game days and stat sheets.

"I think Brian's taken the role of trying to show guys how to be professionals," Zimmer said. "And also, when [I] came in here, he had to buy into a new coaching staff, new style of defense, new all that stuff. So I think it's good. It shows that guys can adapt to different things, and as long as you work hard and you do what you're supposed to, guys appreciate it."

Robison is an expressive — often humorous, sometimes feisty — communicator who knows it's important to validate verbiage. He takes advantage of brief breaks during practice to show tips to younger players. The

instruction extended to walking back from the Minnesota State University, Mankato practice fields during several days at Vikings Training Camp.

"I take a lot of that responsibility, because at the end of the day, I'm here for one reason and one reason only, that's to hopefully bring a championship to the State of Minnesota," Robison said. "The only way you can do that is to help the younger guys, bring them along and make sure that everybody is on board with our defense."

Discussions might include recaps of how Robison is seeing a younger player position his hips or hands, then fine-tuning for the next rep.

"A lot of times they get out here and get so enamored with the plays and what they're doing with the plays, and staying on track and things like that, that they kind of forget other things."

Robison also is smart — and or humble — enough to seek help in his own game, based on what younger players are seeing him do.

"I think that's what's great about our group. We're all kind of perfectionists, even me. I'm a 10-year guy, but I'm going to Ev' and asking him certain things about his pass rush and what he does," Robison said. "Not everything is going to work for me. Some of the stuff that Sharif [Floyd] is asking me, not everything I do is necessarily going to work for him, but there's always some bits and pieces you can take out of that and add to your game that's going to help you become more successful. That's what I love about our group is always trying to find a way to be better."

Zimmer has encouraged players to "find a way" to win games in the absence of Pro Bowl quarterback Teddy Bridgewater, who suffered

a dislocated knee at practice on Aug. 30.

It's not up to one person to do that; it's up to the team, from the most experienced in the locker room to rookies, but many believe that players like Robison can help the team build on its 11-5 mark from a year ago and defend its NFC North title when it's their time to shine.

"There's going to be times that the plays are going to come to you," said Robison, recalling last year's home opener against the Lions (he had six tackles, five solo, one for loss, a quarterback hit and two passes defended on the press box stat sheet).

"It wasn't that I did anything extraordinary or different," Robison said. "It was that the plays came to me, so it's the same thing. A lot of times, it's 10 guys doing their jobs right so one guy can make the play. You've just got to go out there every single down and do your technique and do what you're supposed to do within the scheme of the defense and just hope that the play comes to you."

Robison is counting on the other 10 to make his 10th successful for the team and Vikings fans as they open U.S. Bank Stadium together.

"I'm an emotional player, so I don't think it will be different than it has any other year. I think as you get higher in years, you understand the end is coming closer and closer. You never know when that time is going to be, but you go out there and play every game like it's going to be your last, and the same thing with practices.

"You've got to go out here with the mentality that you never know if it's going to be your last day," Robison said, "so you just go out there every single day, whether it's practice or a game, and give it your all and try to make the team better."

MEMORABLE MOMENT

BY CRAIG PETERS

Brett Favre couldn't shake Brian Robison, and the memory struck with both men.

In just his fourth NFL game, Robison recorded a sack of the Hall of Fame quarterback, becoming the final Vikings player to sack Minnesota's long-time nemesis and future teammate for two seasons.

"It's one of those deals that you'll never forget," Robison recalled. "I remember that first year that we played him, just looking across, and that was probably the only guy I've ever seen in the league that I was just kind of like, 'Holy cow, I'm playing against Brett Favre.' It was just an awesome experience."

It was the third of Robison's 48.5 career sacks, but it stands above others.

"When he got here in 2009, he kind of mentioned it," Robison said. "It was pretty funny. We had some pretty good jokes about that one."

Time has helped Robison appreciate that timeless moment.

"I was like 'this is easy.' Then I went another 10 games without a sack. It's just one of those deals where sometimes everything clicks together and sometimes it doesn't," Robison said. "That's when you have to become aware of being able to look at your tape yourself; not even on tape, but in the game and realize, 'I'm not using my hands the right way, or my hips aren't turned down hill. I'm turning up the field.'"

“ YOU’VE GOT TO GO OUT HERE WITH THE MENTALITY THAT YOU NEVER KNOW IF IT’S GOING TO BE YOUR LAST DAY. ”

- DEFENSIVE END BRIAN ROBISON

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THE TESTIMONY

ONE REP IN ONE PRACTICE — THE VIKINGS FINAL SESSION OF THE PRESEASON — ALTERED THE 2016 SEASON SIGNIFICANTLY BUT DIDN'T DIMINISH THE GOAL THAT MINNESOTA HAS OF DEFENDING ITS NFC NORTH TITLE.

BY CRAIG PETERS

QUARTERBACK TEDDY BRIDGEWATER suffered a knee dislocation and torn ACL early during the Aug. 30 practice, just 13 days before the Vikings were set to open the regular season.

Vikings Head Coach Mike Zimmer said the severe injury was disappointing first and foremost because "Teddy is such a great kid."

"Everybody loves him, so they were disappointed," Zimmer said about two hours after Bridgewater was transported from Winter Park in an ambulance.

The coach immediately cancelled practice as players grappled with tough emotions.

Less than two days after suffering the improbable injury, Bridgewater resumed his leadership of teammates.

Several Vikings players visited Bridgewater in the hospital with the goal of cheering up the 23-year-old. They left with their spirits lifted because of the young star's demeanor and determination.

After his Sept. 1 release from the hospital, Bridgewater wrote:

"In order to have a testimony, you have to have a test. I come from amazing DNA, I watched my mom fight and win against breast cancer. We will, as a team, attack my rehab with the same vigor and energy. My faith is strong, my faith is unwavering and my vision is clear. My purpose will not be denied."

Captain Munnerylyn was among the group who had visited Bridgewater in the hospital. He was impressed by the 2015 Pro Bowl quarterback, saying Bridgewater's statement, "almost put tears in my eyes."

"It let everybody know that, 'I'm going to be OK. I have faith, I'll be back, and I'll back better than ever,'" Munnerylyn said.

The demeanor of Bridgewater amazed Vikings guard Alex Boone, who has only been a teammate since March.

"We went to try to cheer him up, but he was already cheerful," Boone said. "He's one of those guys who's just resilient until the end, so you have to love it. We all came down there pretty bummed out, but he got everybody excited."

Kyle Rudolph, who has one of the closest relationships with Bridgewater, said he felt bad for Bridgewater because he had worked so hard this offseason.

"You're devastated for the kid," Rudolph said. "He put himself in a position to have a ton of success this year, and his season's over before it even got to start. But the process is, you have to move on. Like Coach Zim' said in his press conference, the sun comes up the next morning, and we have to go to work."

Rudolph said the team accepted the challenge from Zimmer and Bridgewater to find a way to win.

"He expects us to go out and take care of our business," Rudolph said. "That's just the kind of kid he is – that's the way he works. We know he's going to take care of

I WATCHED MY MOM FIGHT AND WIN AGAINST BREAST CANCER. WE WILL, AS A TEAM, ATTACK MY REHAB WITH THE SAME VIGOR AND ENERGY. MY FAITH IS STRONG, MY FAITH IS UNWAVERING AND MY VISION IS CLEAR.

– TEDDY BRIDGEWATER

his business with his rehab – he's going to tackle it head on, like he said. We have to take care of our business on the field, and that's winning football games."

Shaun Hill, a veteran of 15 NFL seasons, completed 18 of 33 passes for 236 yards and didn't commit a turnover. His first ever start with the Vikings complemented a stellar second half by the defense in which Minnesota forced three turnovers and



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↓ CONTINUED FROM PG. 32

scored two touchdowns after a spark from the special teams units.

Vikings Director of Sports Medicine and Head Athletic Trainer Eric Sugarman issued the following statement on Bridgewater after his surgery.

"Teddy Bridgewater had his left knee surgically repaired. The procedure was performed by Dr. Dan Cooper at the Carrell Clinic in Dallas, Texas. The knee dislocation resulted in Teddy needing a multi-ligament reconstruction. I was able to be present in Dallas, support Teddy and observe the entire procedure. The repair was excellent and gives Teddy every reason to be very optimistic."

The Vikings personnel department combed through hours of film footage to survey their options, and General Manager Rick Spielman executed a trade with the Eagles for Sam Bradford on Sept. 3. Spielman swapped two draft picks (a first-round selection in 2017 and a conditional pick in 2018) to Philadelphia for the No. 1 overall pick in the 2010 NFL Draft.

"I think as we went through this process, and spoke with a lot of teams and looked at all of our options out there ... we felt this was a very rare and unique opportunity to add a quarterback of Sam's caliber," Spielman said.



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VIKINGS GAMEPLAN

Vikings Gameplan returns for a 10th season, featuring the "Voice of the Vikings" Paul Allen as well as head coach Mike Zimmer, a weekly player guest, game film review and expert analysis. *Vikings Gameplan* is produced by VEN and airs Saturdays on FOX 9 KMSP and Sundays on FOX Sports North.

VIKINGS CONNECTED

Vikings Connected is a Vikings fan-centric show driven by digital content and is co-hosted by Erin Newburg and Chris Hawkey from the Vikings Radio Flagship KFAN. Fans can interact with the show throughout the season by using #VikingsConnected. *Vikings Connected* is produced by VEN and airs

Saturday nights on My 29 WFTC and Sundays on Fox Sports North.

VIKINGS: BEYOND THE GRIDIRON PRESENTED BY CENTURY LINK

Vikings: Beyond the Gridiron is an Emmy Award-winning show that offers rare, behind-the-scenes looks at the Vikings on and off the field. *Vikings: Beyond the Gridiron* is produced by Elite Edge Productions in conjunction with VEN and airs Fridays on My 29 WFTC, Sundays on KMSP and re-airs on Fox Sports North.

VIKINGS GAMEDAY LIVE

New this year is *Vikings GameDay LIVE*, the team's live, one-hour pregame TV show. Featuring in-depth analysis and

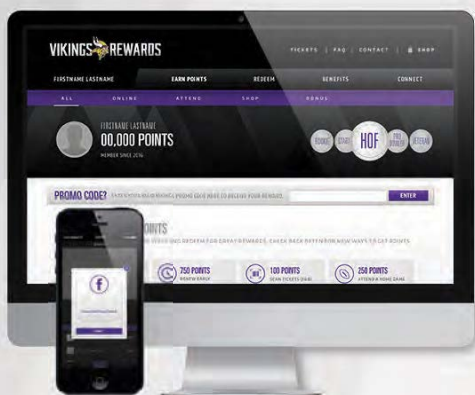
commentary to get you ready for each week's game, *Vikings GameDay LIVE* will bring you live reports from the field each week. *Vikings GameDay LIVE* is produced by VEN in conjunction with FOX 9 KMSP and airs Sunday mornings on FOX 9 KMSP.

VIKINGS HUDDLE

Also new this season is *Vikings Huddle*, a show for our young Vikings fans. Each week will feature a chance for fans to get to know their favorite Vikings players, both on and off the field in a fun, entertaining way. Plus, we'll teach you how lessons learned on the football field can be used in everyday life. *Vikings Huddle* is produced by VEN and airs Saturday mornings on FOX 9 KMSP.

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THE TRUTH BEHIND THE

GJALLARHORN

G'YALL-AR-HORN

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THE MINNESOTA VIKINGS HAVE USED THE GJALLARHORN TO SIGNAL THE VIKINGS ARE COMING AND THE START OF A GREAT BATTLE ON THE GRIDIRON SINCE 2007. AN HONORARY VIKING IS CHOSEN TO SOUND THE HORN EACH GAME, AND THIS HONOR HAS INCLUDED CELEBRITIES, VIKINGS LEGENDS, OLYMPIANS, FANS, AND MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY. THE ICONIC SOUND HAS BECOME AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE VIKINGS GAME DAY EXPERIENCE THAT FANS LOVE AND OPPONENTS HAVE GROWN TO FEAR. HOWEVER, THIS VIKING RITUAL IS STEEPED IN BOTH HISTORY AND MYTHOLOGY. TODAY, WE EXPLORE THE TRUTH BEHIND THE GJALLARHORN.

THE TRUTH BEHIND SERIES

THERE REALLY WAS A VIKING GJALLARHORN in ancient Norse myth. There the god Heimdallr serves as watchman for the other gods. He sits by the bridge over the river Gjöll at the end of the world. If hostile giants approach the bridge, **HEIMDALLR SOUNDS HIS HORN.** In Minnesota at Vikings games, Heimdallr's role is served by an Honorary Viking each game.

The name Gjallarhorn contains the Old Icelandic **EQUIVALENTS OF THE ENGLISH WORDS "YELL" AND "HORN."** (In Modern Icelandic, gjallarhorn means "megaphone").

THE GJALLARHORN ALSO COULD BE USED AS A DRINKING VESSEL, the basis for the horns you may find with some Vikings fans on game days. Odin, the chief of the gods, wanted to gain supreme knowledge and could only get it by drinking from the well of Mímir. The wisest of the gods, Mímir drinks from the horn every day and only granted Odin a draught if he sacrificed an eye for it.

At the final battle in Norse mythology, the Ragnarök, Heimdallr will **SOUND A MIGHTY BLAST ON THE GJALLARHORN** to awaken the other gods. It is from this the Minnesota Vikings have found use of the Gjallarhorn prior to their battles on the football field. The Gjallarhorn, an integral element of Norse myth and history, **WILL FOREVER BE A PART OF YOUR MINNESOTA VIKINGS.**

"The Truth Behind" is a recurring series in which we've worked with Professor Henrik Williams of Uppsala University in Sweden to separate fact and fiction to identify the real-life happenings that are sometimes masked by storied Vikings lore.



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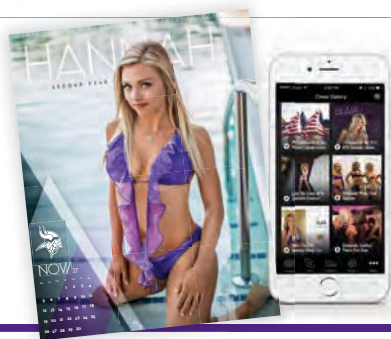
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VIKTOR'S

PHOTO HUNT


Viktor has created a fun photo hunt to kick off the regular season! The bottom photo has been altered – can you find all eight differences between the two photos?



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'X' FOR STRIKE: XAVIER RHODES BOWLS FOR A GOOD CAUSE

*"IT'S GREAT TO GET OUT IN THE COMMUNITY AND LET THE VIKINGS
FANS KNOW THAT I'M A PERSON, TOO, OUTSIDE OF FOOTBALL."*

- XAVIER RHODES, CB FOR THE MINNESOTA VIKINGS

BY LINDSEY YOUNG

The 'X' in Xavier Rhodes' name seemed fitting when he bowled a number of strikes for a good cause.

Rhodes teamed up with Strikes for Kids on Sept. 2 to provide a fun evening for Vikings fans while also making a significant difference in the lives of students.

"There was a time when I was young, and I wanted someone to come and reach out to me, to show me the way," Rhodes said. "I'm happy where I am now, and I wanted to do [for others what] I wasn't given as a child."

Fans could purchase tickets to bowl alongside Rhodes and three of his current teammates – Harrison Smith, Andrew Sendejo and Anthony Harris – at Brunswick Zone XL in Brooklyn Park as well as receiving autographs from and taking photos with the players.

Proceeds from the event went toward local high school seniors to assist them with the costs of college. Scholarship requirements include a minimum 3.0 GPA, 40-plus hours of community service, a minimum of two years' participation in an extracurricular activity and a 2,000-word essay submitted by applicants.

"You have to instill that in kids' [minds] today, that education is very important," said Rhodes, who majored in social science at Florida State. "Anything you want to accomplish in life, you need to have an education."

Rhodes, who has also purchased gifts to deliver to children's hospital patients in December, said he enjoys being a part of the Twin Cities community and giving back in any way he can, especially to youth. The



cornerback is entering his fourth season in Minnesota and said he wants Vikings fans to understand who he is beneath the No. 29 jersey.

Sendejo appreciates that Vikings fans can observe "the good kid" that his teammate is.

"Xavier has a good heart, he laughs and smiles a lot – he never has anything bad to say," Sendejo said. "The way he works when he comes to the facility, [he] studies hard, practices hard, plays hard and is obviously an integral part to our team and our defense."

Since the Vikings drafted Rhodes 25th overall in 2013, he's recorded 182 tackles, two interceptions, 11 tackles for loss, two forced fumbles and two interceptions.

"It's good for people to see [this] side of him outside of football," Sendejo said. "I love Xavier to death, and that's why I came out here, to help him out with his event."

As the evening wrapped up, Rhodes considered it an all-around success.

"It's great to get out in the community and let the Vikings fans know that I'm a person, too, outside of football," Rhodes said. "They support me, and I need to support them."

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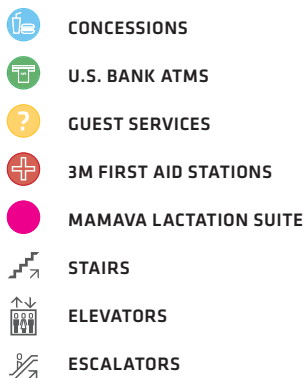
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BEHIND THE SCENES

Gamedays to Feature Longhouse, Family Activities

Vikings pre-game festivities will extend beyond the glass and zinc-paneled walls of U.S. Bank Stadium into a “Vikings Village” and The Commons greenspace that will be open to the public.

The Vikings plan to have an array of activities for fans with or without game tickets to create a festive and communal atmosphere in a neighborhood that is being transformed by the 1.75-million-square-foot venue.

Vikings Vice President of Marketing and Fan Engagement Dannon Hulskotter said the spaces that are west of U.S. Bank Stadium’s Legacy Gates represent a significant expansion of space for fans over what previously existed outside the Metrodome.

The Delta Vikings Village will feature the Vikings Longhouse, a 67-foot-wide by 115-foot-long structure that will be in place all season. The Longhouse features glass walls in aluminum frames on its front and sides, maintaining a visual connectivity with the rest of the events in Delta Vikings Village west of the stadium, while providing a space that can be climate controlled.

The Longhouse drew inspiration from eponymous historic structures utilized by Vikings, but it will be modernized by the

BY CRAIG PETERS

same Wi-Fi connectivity inside state-of-the-art U.S. Bank Stadium.

“It’s really an extension of all the different hospitality spaces within U.S. Bank Stadium on non-Vikings game days,” Hulskotter said. “It’s not just a game-day asset.”

Hulskotter said the Longhouse will open two-and-a-half hours before home games and remain open until approximately sixty minutes after games. Food and beverage offerings will be available.

Outside the Longhouse, there will be more space, with a stage for live music or a DJ, a Miller Lite Beer Garden and several interactive displays near the U.S. Bank Stadium LRT station.

The game-day festivities also will expand to the easterly block of The Commons, a grassy patch between Fourth and Fifth Streets and Portland and Park Avenues that was recently completed. The Commons will be alcohol-free and feature activities for young people.

“The Commons is an area, that from the very beginning, we wanted to designate as a place to engage families and children,

keep it kind of a youth-oriented area,” Hulskotter said.

The residential population near the stadium has significantly increased since the Vikings final game at the Metrodome in 2013, and The Commons should offer a unique experience for the neighborhood.

“I think for residents that have families, The Commons is a great option for them, even if they don’t have a ticket for the game,” Hulskotter said. “They can come and take part in those activities, and there’s going to be a certain level of excitement and atmosphere that the expanded fan-engagement area outside of U.S. Bank Stadium will bring.”





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