



# PLAYBOOK

U.S. BANK STADIUM

## VIKINGS VS. TEXANS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2016

### RUSHING THE PASSER

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## 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:

**69050**

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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01



02

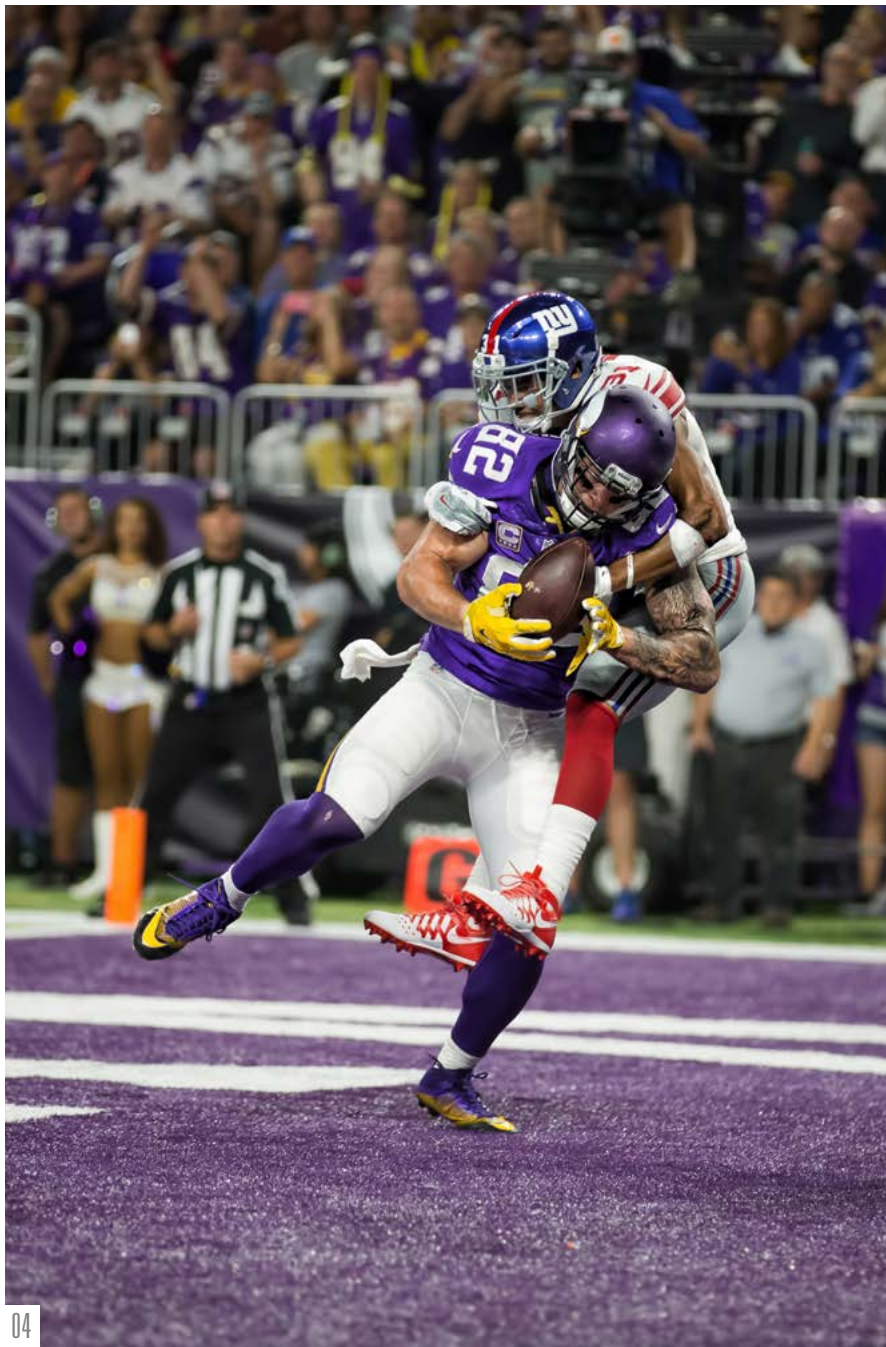


03

01 | The Vikings helped U.S. Bank Stadium make its Monday Night Football debut in signature fashion, emerging through a purple haze and taking down Big Blue.

02 | Xavier Rhodes breaks up a pass intended for Odell Beckham, Jr. Rhodes had an interception and helped the Vikings limit Beckham to a career-low 23 receiving yards.





04

THROUGH-THE-LENS

## VIKINGS VS. GIANTS

THE VIKINGS SHINED UNDER THE LIGHTS IN A 24-10 VICTORY OVER THE GIANTS.

Minnesota improved to 4-0 for the ninth time in franchise history and first time since 2009.

The Vikings seized momentum early, capitalizing on a muffed punt with a 41-yard touchdown drive and never trailed.

“THAT SKOL CHANT,  
THE ENERGY IN THIS  
STADIUM IS REALLY  
FUN TO SEE.”

— MIKE ZIMMER

03 | Cordarrelle Patterson pressures Dwayne Harris into muffing the Vikings first punt of the game. Marcus Sherels recovered the fumble at the New York 41-yard line to set up Minnesota's first touchdown.

04 | Kyle Rudolph walls off Giants cornerback Trevin Wade for his third touchdown catch in as many weeks. Rudolph kept the ball for his twin daughters, who were born last week.





05

05 | Anthony Barr pressures Eli Manning and deflects a pass. Despite not recording a sack, the Vikings were relentless in trying to affect Manning and limited him to a passer rating of 63.3.

06 | Jerick McKinnon strolls into the end zone untouched for a 4-yard touchdown thanks to blocks from T.J. Clemmings, Jeremiah Sirles, Zach Line and Alex Boone.



06

➔ SEE THE FULL THROUGH-THE-LENS GALLERY ON [VIKINGS.COM](http://VIKINGS.COM) OR IN THE VIKINGS APP







SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9TH, 2016

# TEXANS AT VIKINGS

THE VIKINGS WILL HOST THE TEXANS FOR JUST THE SECOND TIME EVER. IT IS ONLY THE FOURTH MEETING BETWEEN THE FRANCHISES AND FIRST SINCE DEC. 23, 2012.

THE HOUSTON TEXANS FRANCHISE began as an expansion team in 2002. Houston's roster, has undergone considerable overhaul since the most-recent matchup with the Vikings.

Of the players who started that game, only tackles Duane Brown and Derek Newton, cornerbacks Kareem Jackson and Johnathan

Joseph and defensive lineman Antonio Smith are on the Texans active roster. All of Houston's receivers and tight ends were on their respective college campuses in 2012.

Houston Head Coach Bill O'Brien and Vikings Head Coach Mike Zimmer were both hired in 2014, and both led their teams to division titles and postseason appearances in their second seasons.

The Texans signed quarterback Brock Osweiler during free agency this spring, and the Vikings traded for Sam Bradford on Sept. 3. Osweiler has never faced the Vikings; Bradford has faced the Texans once in his career as a member of the Rams in 2013.



## VIKINGS THINK PINK

Zeta Tau Alpha [and the American Cancer Society] are suiting up with the Minnesota Vikings to make "A Crucial Catch." Zeta Tau Alpha will be distributing over 30,000 pink ribbons to football fans on The Commons and as they enter the stadium. Thank you fans for showing your support by wearing your pink ribbon in honor of those impacted by breast cancer. Be a hero - It's more than a ribbon! #ZTATHINKPINK.

## NFL'S CRUCIAL CATCH

The American Cancer Society partners with the National Football League and the Minnesota Vikings every October during the League's "A Crucial Catch" initiative. This partnership reminds women about the importance of breast cancer screenings and talking to their doctor about breast cancer. Over the past three years, the "A Crucial Catch" initiative with the American Cancer Society and its partnering clinics, has provided more than 120,000 women cancer screenings and more than 260,000 with information and assistance. To learn more, or to contribute, please visit [NFL.com/pink](http://NFL.com/pink).



BE SURE TO CATCH TODAY'S HALFTIME SHOW AS WE CELEBRATE VIKINGS ALUMNI THIS WEEKEND AND SALUTE THE VIKINGS RING OF HONOR MEMBERS.







## Nominate your school to be selected as MINNESOTA FOOTBALL PROGRAM OF THE YEAR



Minnesota Vikings & Innovative Office Solutions, along with the National Football Foundation and supported by KFAN, will honor one Minnesota community as the “Minnesota Football Program of the Year.” The award will go to the program that best demonstrates how their community gets “In the Game.” The recognition will take place at the Minnesota Football Honors Banquet in the spring.

Nominations are being accepted from now through October 11 on [Vikings.com/InTheGame](http://Vikings.com/InTheGame).

In the spring the Minnesota Vikings, Innovative Office Solutions and KFAN will “takeover” the winning community with a once-in-a-lifetime event including Vikings players, Vikings Mascot Viktor and the Vikings Cheerleaders. The winning community will be given a \$10,000 check for their school’s football program.

**NOMINATE YOUR SCHOOL AT [VIKINGS.COM/INTHEGAME](http://VIKINGS.COM/INTHEGAME)**

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—Main Concourse near the Legacy Gate—



# TODAY'S GAME

PROMOTIONS



GET IN ON THE ACTION WITH THESE  
PROMOTIONS DURING TODAY'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](http://Vikings.com/biggestfan) for more information.



## BUFFALO WILD WINGS OPENING DRIVE

During today'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!



## SPALON MONTAGE GIVEAWAY

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



## 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. Today's U.S. Bank Hometown Hero is Karen Schroepfer, a breast cancer survivor, on behalf of all who are affected by the disease. Nominate a Hometown Hero by visiting [Vikings.com/HometownHero](http://Vikings.com/HometownHero).



## 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 today's Kwik Trip family of the Game, the Morris family from Mankato.



## HY-VEE #OPENTHEGATES

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



## 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](http://papajohns.com) and type in promo code "VIKES50." Visit the Promotions page on [vikings.com](http://vikings.com) for more details.



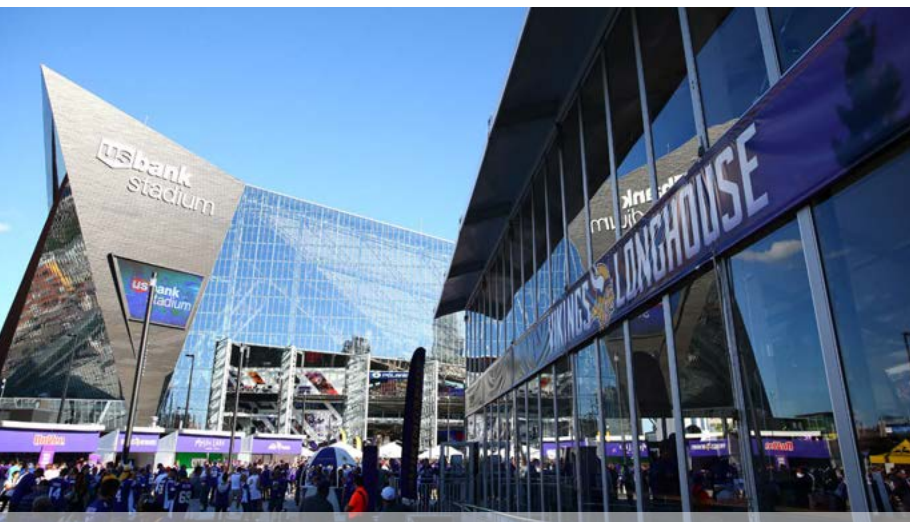
## SNAP, TWEET, WIN

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 today's game!



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





## THE VIKINGS LONGHOUSE

6,000-plus-square-foot, climate-controlled gathering space. The Longhouse and Vikings Village is free to attend for Vikings fans with or without game tickets before, during and after Vikings home games. The pregame festivities will include the KFAN pregame radio broadcast. Live music will rock the Delta Vikings Village each game from within the Miller Lite Beer Garden.

## VIKINGS COUNTRY PRESENTED BY MILLER LITE

The popular *Vikings Country* radio show is back for another season. Host Mike Mussman is joined on air each week by a current Vikings player. Tune in on KFAN and the Vikings Radio Network or attend the next live broadcast on Oct. 20 at Chumley's in Waconia.

## 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 featuring football alumni analyzing the season and upcoming game. 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](http://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! The next Friday Football Feast will take place on Oct. 21 at the BWW in Eagan.



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](http://vikings.com/promotions).

## TWIN CITIES HARVEST FESTIVAL AND MAZE

Explore Minnesota's largest corn maze at the Twin Cities Harvest Festival and Maze. The maze is designed to commemorate the Vikings inaugural season at U.S. Bank Stadium. The festival is open weekends starting now thru Oct. 30 in Brooklyn Park. Tickets available at [TwinCitiesMaze.com](http://TwinCitiesMaze.com).

## GRIDIRON GLORY: THE BEST OF THE PRO FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME

Celebrate America's gridiron history with this major traveling exhibit produced by the Pro Football Hall of Fame. See over 200

rare pro football artifacts, photos and more. Plus, work on your vertical leap, kicking and passing games in the Minnesota Vikings Training Camp, now through Jan. 15.

## 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 easterly block of The Commons will feature family-friendly activities and entertainment, including the following: inflatable games, face painting, a DJ or live music and visits from Viktor, the SKOL Line and Vikings Cheerleaders.

## 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 is the Longhouse, a



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## PLAYER TO WATCH: CB TERENCE NEWMAN

TERENCE NEWMAN'S NFL CAREER is almost as long as that of the Houston Texans. Newman entered the league as a first-round draft pick of Dallas in 2003, the spring after the Texans began play. Receivers have gotten younger, but Newman has been able to keep up with athleticism and intelligence. Houston's oldest two receivers, Keith Mumphrey and DeAndre Hopkins, were 11 years old when Newman played his first game with the Cowboys, but he's been timeless, starting 192 of 194 regular-season games.

**THE PARTNERSHIP:** THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NEWMAN AND VIKINGS HEAD COACH MIKE ZIMMER IS STRONG. ZIMMER WAS DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR FOR THE COWBOYS IN NEWMAN'S FIRST FOUR SEASONS, AND THE TWO WERE IN CINCINNATI FOR TWO SEASONS (2012-13). IT WAS AN EASY DECISION FOR NEWMAN WHEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO REJOIN A ZIMMER DEFENSE CAME ABOUT IN 2015. "HE'S AS GOOD AS THEY ARE. HE KNOWS EVERY FACET OF THE GAME: OFFENSE, DEFENSE, SPECIAL TEAMS, AND HE'S DONE A GREAT JOB FOR SURE. WHEN I SAW THE DEFENSE, IT WAS DEFINITELY A MIKE ZIMMER DEFENSE. WHEN HE ASKED ME TO COME PLAY, I WAS LIKE, 'SIGN ME UP, LET'S DO THIS.' "

41 IN 14

Newman has recorded 41 interceptions over the course of his 14 NFL seasons. Newman has recorded at least one pickoff every year he's played and is the league's active leader. Newman led the Vikings with three interceptions in 2015 and extended his career streak in Week 3 at Carolina, nabbing one of Minnesota's three pickoffs of reigning MVP Cam Newton.

## 2016 SEASON LEADERS

Passing (Yds)	Sam Bradford	719
Rushing (Yds)	Jerick McKinnon	138
Receiving (Yds)	Stefon Diggs	372
Tackles	Smith, Kendricks	32
Sacks	Everson Griffen	4.0
Interceptions	Trae Waynes	2
KOR (Yds)	Cordarrelle Patterson	192
PR (Avg.)	Marcus Sherels	11.6

## 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 (4-0)

1	9/11	at Tennessee Titans	W 25-16
2	9/18	Green Bay Packers	W 17-14
3	9/25	at Carolina Panthers	W 22-10
4	10/3	New York Giants	W 24-10
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 HOUSTON

### RUSHING YARDS

139	Adrian Peterson on 25 attempts in Minnesota (Nov. 2, 2008)
92	Mewelde Moore on 20 attempts at Houston (Oct. 10, 2004)

### PASSING YARDS

396	Daunte Culpepper on 36-of-50 passing at Houston (Oct. 10, 2004)
182	Gus Frerotte on 11-of-18 passing in Minnesota (Nov. 2, 2008)

### RECEIVING YARDS

150	Marcus Robinson on nine catches at Houston (Oct. 10, 2004)
104	Bernard Berrian on two catches in Minnesota (Nov. 2, 2008)

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Download the app for free from the iTunes App Store, Google Play, Amazon App Store and Windows Store.



Due to league restrictions, NFL games are not available through FOX Sports GO on mobile phones. Visit [FOXSportsGO.com](http://FOXSportsGO.com) for more information.



## PLAYER TO WATCH: WR DEANDRE HOPKINS

DEANDRE HOPKINS OPENED HIS CAREER with a blazing start. He became the third-youngest player (23 years, 169 days) in NFL history to reach 200 receptions and 3,000 yards, behind Larry Fitzgerald (23 years, 108 days) and David Boston (23 years, 126 days). He also became the third wide receiver in league history with 1,400 yards and 11 receiving touchdowns in a season by age 23 (Isaac Bruce and Randy Moss). Hopkins turned in a historic clip in the first three games of October 2015 when he became the first player in league history to post nine or more receptions and 145-plus receiving yards in three straight games, totaling 30 catches and 474 yards in that span.

**THE CONSISTENCY AMIDST CHANGE:** HOPKINS' PRODUCTION HAS REMAINED CONSISTENT DESPITE THE TEXANS HAVING NINE DIFFERENT PLAYERS AT QUARTERBACK SINCE HIS ROOKIE SEASON. RYAN FITZPATRICK STARTED THE MOST GAMES (12 IN 2014) FOR HOUSTON DURING THAT SPAN. BRIAN HOYER (NINE IN 2015) AND MATT SCHAUB (EIGHT IN 2013) STARTED THE NEXT-HIGHEST NUMBER OF GAMES. THE TEXANS SIGNED BROCK OSWEILER IN FREE AGENCY THIS SPRING.

1+ IN 52

Hopkins has caught at least one pass in each of the 52 games he's played. He barely continued the streak last week with one reception for four yards on six targets against Tennessee. It was the fifth time in his career that Hopkins has been limited to one catch and the fifth time that he posted single-digit yardage in a game.

## 2016 SEASON LEADERS

Passing (Yds)	Brock Osweiler	949
Rushing (Yds)	Lamar Miller	351
Receiving (Yds)	Will Fuller	323
Tackles	Benardrick McKinney	38
Sacks	John Simon	2.5
Interceptions	Andre Hal, Quintin Demps	1
KOR (Yds)	Tyler Ervin	173
PR (Avg.)	Tyler Ervin	6.4

## 2016 SCHEDULE

### PRESEASON (4-0)

P1	8/14	at San Francisco 49ers	W 24-13
P2	8/20	New Orleans Saints	W 16-9
P3	8/28	Arizona Cardinals	W 34-24
P4	9/1	at Dallas Cowboys	W 28-17

### REGULAR SEASON (3-1)

1	9/11	Chicago Bears	W 23-14
2	9/18	Kansas City Chiefs	W 19-12
3	9/22	at New England Patriots	L 0-27
4	10/2	Tennessee Titans	W 27-20
5	10/9	at Minnesota Vikings	
6	10/16	Indianapolis Colts	
7	10/24	at Denver Broncos	
8	10/30	Detroit Lions	
9	11/6	BYE	
10	11/13	at Jacksonville Jaguars	
11	11/21	at Oakland Raiders	
12	11/27	San Diego Chargers	
13	12/4	at Green Bay Packers	
14	12/11	at Indianapolis Colts	
15	12/18	Jacksonville Jaguars	
16	12/24	Cincinnati Bengals	
17	1/1	at Tennessee Titans	

## TOP 2s AGAINST MINNESOTA

### RUSHING YARDS

62	Steve Slaton on 16 attempts in Minnesota (Nov. 2, 2008)
31	Domanick Williams on 14 attempts at Houston (Oct. 10, 2004)

### PASSING YARDS

372	Derek Carr on 27-of-42 passing at Houston (Oct. 10, 2004)
224	Sage Rosenfels on 21-of-29 in Minnesota (Nov. 2, 2008)

### RECEIVING YARDS

170	Andre Johnson on 12 catches at Houston (Oct. 10, 2004)
133	Owen Daniels on 11 catches in Minnesota (Nov. 2, 2008)




**OFFENSE**

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

**DEFENSE**

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

**SPECIALISTS**

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

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	27	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
29	Xavier Rhodes	CB	6-1	218	26	4	Florida State
33	Ronnie Hillman	RB	5-9	195	25	5	San Diego State
34	Andrew Sendejo	S	6-1	210	29	6	Rice
35	Marcus Sherels	CB	5-10	175	29	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
64	Willie Beavers	G	6-5	322	23	R	Western Michigan
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
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	28	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

# HOUSTON TEXANS

## OFFENSE

<b>WR</b>	<b>TE</b>
10 DeAndre Hopkins	87 C.J. Fiedorowicz
11 Jaelen Strong	84 Ryan Griffin
12 Keith Mumphery	89 Stephen Anderson
<b>LT</b>	<b>QB</b>
76 Duane Brown	17 Brock Osweiler
74 Chris Clark	3 Tom Savage
	5 Brandon Weeden
<b>LG</b>	<b>WR</b>
71 Xavier Su'a-Filo	15 Will Fuller V
78 Oday Aboushi	13 Braxton Miller
<b>C</b>	<b>FB</b>
65 Greg Mancz	45 Jay Prosch
68 Tony Bergstrom	
<b>RG</b>	<b>RB</b>
79 Jeff Allen	26 Lamar Miller
	28 Alfred Blue
<b>RT</b>	41 Jonathan Grimes
72 Derek Newton	
63 Kendall Lamm	

## DEFENSE

<b>RDE</b>	<b>JACK</b>
95 C. Covington	51 John Simon
94 Antonio Smith	
<b>NT</b>	<b>LCB</b>
75 Vince Wilfork	25 Kareem Jackson
98 D.J. Reader	30 Kevin Johnson
<b>LDE</b>	<b>RCB</b>
90 Jadeveon Clowney	24 Johnathan Joseph
91 Devon Still	21 A.J. Bouye
93 Joel Heath	31 Charles James
<b>SAM</b>	<b>FS</b>
59 Whitney Mercilus	29 Andre Hal
57 Brennan Scarlett	43 Corey Moore
<b>MIKE</b>	<b>SS</b>
56 Brian Cushing	27 Quintin Demps
53 Max Bullough	35 Eddie Pleasant
50 Akeem Dent	36 K.J. Dillon
<b>WILL</b>	
55 B. McKinney	
52 Brian Peters	

## SPECIALISTS

<b>PK</b>	<b>KR</b>
8 Nick Novak	34 Tyler Ervin
	13 Braxton Miller
<b>P / H</b>	<b>PR</b>
9 Shane Lechler	34 Tyler Ervin
	13 Braxton Miller
<b>LS</b>	
46 Jon Weeks	

NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	AGE	EXP.	COLLEGE
3	Tom Savage	QB	6-4	230	26	3	Pittsburgh
5	Brandon Weeden	QB	6-4	230	32	5	Oklahoma State
8	Nick Novak	K	6-0	200	35	9	Maryland
9	Shane Lechler	P	6-2	230	40	17	Texas A&M
10	DeAndre Hopkins	WR	6-1	215	24	4	Clemson
11	Jaelen Strong	WR	6-2	205	22	2	Arizona State
12	Keith Mumphery	WR	6-0	210	24	2	Michigan State
13	Braxton Miller	WR	6-1	205	23	R	Ohio State
15	Will Fuller V	WR	6-0	180	22	R	Notre Dame
17	Brock Osweiler	QB	6-8	235	25	5	Arizona State
21	A.J. Bouye	CB	6-0	190	25	4	Central Florida
24	Johnathan Joseph	CB	5-11	185	32	11	South Carolina
25	Kareem Jackson	CB	5-10	185	28	7	Alabama
26	Lamar Miller	RB	5-10	220	25	5	Miami (Fla.)
27	Quintin Demps	S	5-11	210	31	9	Texas-El Paso
28	Alfred Blue	RB	6-2	225	25	3	LSU
29	Andre Hal	S	5-10	195	24	3	Vanderbilt
30	Kevin Johnson	CB	6-0	185	24	2	Wake Forest
31	Charles James	CB	5-9	185	26	3	Charleston Southern
34	Tyler Ervin	RB	5-10	185	22	R	San Jose State
35	Eddie Pleasant	SS	5-10	200	27	4	Oregon
36	K.J. Dillon	S	6-0	200	22	R	West Virginia
41	Jonathan Grimes	RB	5-10	210	26	4	William & Mary
43	Corey Moore	S	6-2	200	23	1	Georgia
45	Jay Prosch	FB	6-1	255	24	3	Auburn
46	Jon Weeks	LS	5-10	250	30	7	Baylor
50	Akeem Dent	ILB	6-1	250	29	6	Georgia
51	John Simon	OLB	6-1	260	25	4	Ohio State
52	Brian Peters	ILB	6-4	240	27	2	Northwestern
53	Max Bullough	ILB	6-3	245	24	2	Michigan State
55	Benardrick McKinney	ILB	6-4	260	23	2	Mississippi State
56	Brian Cushing	ILB	6-3	255	29	8	Southern California
57	Brennan Scarlett	OLB	6-4	260	23	R	Stanford
59	Whitney Mercilus	OLB	6-4	265	26	5	Illinois
63	Kendall Lamm	T	6-6	310	24	2	Appalachian State
65	Greg Mancz	C	6-4	310	23	2	Toledo
68	Tony Bergstrom	C	6-5	310	30	5	Utah
71	Xavier Su'a-Filo	G	6-4	320	25	3	UCLA
72	Derek Newton	T	6-6	315	28	6	Arkansas State
74	Chris Clark	T	6-5	305	31	8	Southern Miss.
75	Vince Wilfork	NT	6-2	325	34	13	Miami (Fla.)
76	Duane Brown	T	6-4	315	31	9	Virginia Tech
78	Oday Aboushi	G	6-5	315	25	4	Virginia
79	Jeff Allen	G	6-4	325	26	5	Illinois
84	Ryan Griffin	TE	6-6	265	26	4	Connecticut
87	C.J. Fiedorowicz	TE	6-5	265	24	3	Iowa
89	Stephen Anderson	TE	6-2	235	23	R	California
90	Jadeveon Clowney	DE	6-5	270	23	3	South Carolina
91	Devon Still	DE	6-5	305	27	4	Penn State
93	Joel Heath	DE	6-6	300	23	R	Michigan State
94	Antonio Smith	DE	6-3	290	34	12	Oklahoma State
95	Christian Covington	DE	6-2	305	22	2	Rice
98	D.J. Reader	NT	6-3	335	22	R	Clemson

\*Depth chart and roster as of 10/5/16

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# TIMEOUT WITH TOM JOHNSON

TOM JOHNSON HAS BEEN A WORLD TRAVELER OF SORTS DURING HIS FOOTBALL CAREER.

BY ERIC SMITH

The Vikings defensive tackle spent the 2007 season playing for the Cologne Centurions of NFL Europe and moved on to Colorado and Philadelphia in 2008 while in the Arena Football League. Johnson went north of the border in 2009 and 2010, playing for Calgary in the Canadian Football League.

And while he then spent three seasons in New Orleans, nowhere has Johnson been a better fit than in the Twin Cities. Now in his third season with the Vikings, the 32-year-old had 12 combined sacks in his first two seasons in Purple.



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COLOGNE GERMANY

Minnesota, he said, is now considered his football home.

"I've had the most success here out of my career. It's a good situation," Johnson said. "Coaches and the organization have showed me so much support and been behind me since I've been here.

"And I feel real productive, so I consider this my home," he added.

Besides the 5.5 sacks he recorded in 2015, Johnson also tallied 50 quarterback hurries, good for second on the team behind defensive end Everson Griffen.

Johnson is on pace to break that mark through three games, as he's recorded a team-high 21 quarterback hurries.



WE MET UP WITH TOM JOHNSON  
FOR A RECENT TIMEOUT

**Q:** In your third season in Minnesota, what has clicked for you here in terms of your production?

**A:** *Dealing with the guys, and the coaches believe in me and gave me the opportunity to display my talent. Once I got into that role, they started grooming me and putting more details on what I needed to work on. [Vikings defensive line coach Andre Patterson] is one of the top defensive line coaches in the league, and he's one of the guys that really takes each individual and is able to mold you and make you the best player you can be. It's been a combination of things.*

**Q:** Are you surprised with how well the defense is playing, or is it what you expected?

**A:** *I'm not surprised at all. We came in this season as if this was going to be our year, because we had two years to get that camaraderie with guys feeding off each other. We saw it during the offseason and OTAs - we started seeing things clicking. Guys know where they're supposed to be, they're more familiar with the scheme and [Vikings Head Coach Mike Zimmer] has a lot of trust in us, also. We know that our four-man rush can get to the quarterback and make a difference.*

**Q:** How would you describe this defense in one word?

**A:** *Explosiveness. We're an aggressive group. If you look at us pound-for-pound, we're one of the smallest D-lines in the league. But we play big ... guys are strong, guys know leverage, guys know discipline and technique. You can see that on Sundays.*

**Q:** What about the unit's unselfishness? It seems the sacks are spread out between the entire line.

**A:** *Every guy has the ability to win [their matchup] at any time. If a team tries to isolate one guy, that just means someone else is going to rise to the occasion and make plays.*

**Q:** You lead the team with 21 QB hurries and have one sack. Is that an example of unselfish play?

**A:** *These guys on the line are very greedy. You have to scratch and claw to try and get to the quarterback. Opponents have been doing a good job of getting the ball out, because they know we're so aggressive. A lot of play-action or things to keep you on your toes, but the [sacks] will come. [Patterson] tells me all the time, 'just continue to do what you do.' If I keep on getting back there and keep on hitting quarterbacks, then the numbers are going to come.*

**Q:** What's your favorite memory from playing in Germany?

**A:** *It was great to be able to have that experience and live in a whole new country and see a whole different culture – the way they do things, the food they eat, the iconic areas. I was able to travel to Hamburg, Berlin, Amsterdam ... I lived in Cologne. Being able to go to Berlin and see the Berlin Wall, it was a great experience.*

**Q:** After spending time with the Saints, how does U.S. Bank Stadium compare to the Superdome in terms of crowd noise?

**A:** *It's getting up there, I can't lie. New Orleans does get crazy, and they have a lot of noise and fans and different audio things. But our fans are real loud, also. We actually had a situation [against Green Bay] where guys had to yell and use extra communication skills to be able to get our calls. It was extra loud in there, and those guys are so great. We're going to continue to have to do better with our communication when we play in there.*

**Q:** You donated jerseys to your high school in Moss Point, Mississippi, this offseason. What inspired you to do that and how did that area impact you?

**A:** *When you come from a small area like I'm from, there aren't too many people that have the opportunity or the resources to be able to do something like that. It's a poverty-driven area, a lot of blue-collar guys down there. I'm one of the few guys who is actually able to do something. When you compare Moss Point to somewhere like Pascagoula, those guys are way more fortunate, schools are better, they have more resources. Going down there and seeing they still have old equipment, old jerseys and stuff, as a player you know that if you look good, you play good. You have that confidence and that swagger. I wanted to give back to those guys. We have a few more things in motion to try to help those guys out.*

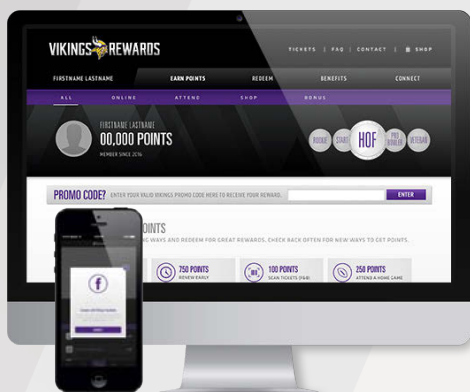


“WE CAME IN THIS SEASON AS IF THIS WAS GOING TO BE OUR YEAR, BECAUSE WE HAD TWO SEASONS TO GET THAT CAMARADERIE WITH GUYS FEEDING OFF EACH OTHER.”

– TOM JOHNSON

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# QB HURRY

BY LINDSEY YOUNG

“THAT’S ONE OF THE BEST  
ATMOSPHERES I’VE PROBABLY  
EVER PLAYED IN. THE  
BUILDING WAS ROCKING. OUR  
FANS WERE TREMENDOUS.”

– SAM BRADFORD

#### A SEA OF PURPLE FLOODED SAM BRADFORD’S PERIPHERAL VISION.

He stepped back in the pocket on third-and-4, looked pressure in the face, and fired with precision.

Bradford connected with Kyle Rudolph, who snagged the perfectly placed 8-yard pass in the end zone over Packers safety Morgan Burnett.

The roar of 66,813 Vikings fans filled grandiose U.S. Bank Stadium from the field level to its signature roof.

“That’s one of the best atmospheres I’ve probably ever played in,” Bradford said. “The building was rocking. Our fans were tremendous.”

The scene mirrored one that children envision in their backyards. The path that brought Bradford to Minnesota, however, would have been far more difficult to dream up.

The second-quarter touchdown was Minnesota’s first in its regular-season home opener and Bradford’s first scoring play in purple.

Rudolph gave Bradford the touchdown ball.

“On two weeks’ preparation, to go out there and play the way he did --



taking hit after hit, he just stayed there and kept throwing the ball downfield. Unbelievable. He just made great decisions all night long.”

Bradford had spent those two weeks buried in the playbook. He came in early. He stayed late. Bradford’s father didn’t hear from his son in over a week, because time spent on the phone could instead be used in the film room. Bradford likely spent more time with Vikings quarterbacks coach Scott Turner than he did sleeping.

“We’d meet as coaches and then go home, and I would send Sam stuff on his iPad, made a lot of additional cut-ups so he could see film of different plays,” Turner said. “We had to get him ready to play.”

Bradford looked nothing but ready when he found Rudolph in the end zone, or when he connected with Stefon Diggs for another score a quarter later. He finished 22-of-31 for 286 yards and a passer rating of 121.2, winning the Border Battle as a newcomer in the NFC North division.

Vikings Head Coach Mike Zimmer liked what he saw in Bradford’s first performance, from composure and decision-making to execution.

“I was impressed with pretty much everything he did tonight,” Zimmer said.



BRADFORD AND HILL CONNECT BEFORE TAKING THE FIELD AGAINST THE PACKERS.

## 15 DAYS

THE OLD ADAGE “IT TAKES A VILLAGE” APPLIED TO THE 28-YEAR OLD BRADFORD AS HE PREPARED TO START AGAINST THE PACKERS. FROM TEAMMATES, TO TURNER, TO TIGHT ENDS COACH PAT SHURMUR, WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY COACHED BRADFORD WITH THE RAMS AND EAGLES, MINNESOTA HAD A SUPPORT SYSTEM IN PLACE FOR ITS NEW QUARTERBACK.

“The list goes on and on of the people that have spent extra time to help me get comfortable in this system,” Bradford said. “I think it’s the guys inside of the locker room. They’ve had my back since day one. They’ve been adamant, they’ve been vocal about it, they’ve made me comfortable in the locker room, and they’ve made me comfortable in the huddle.”

Early mornings and late nights defined a short 15 days. The ultimate quarterback hurry.

Shurmur had served as Bradford’s offensive coordinator in both St. Louis (2010) and Philadelphia (2015), and he worked to translate Vikings terminology into relatable verbiage for Bradford.

“I certainly have a good understanding of what we’re doing offensively, and I’m able to connect the dots as to what it used to be like somewhere else,” Shurmur said. “Offenses tend to overlap, and you use concepts for different things.”

At practice, Bradford not only learned to execute the plays but also observed. When Zimmer named Hill as the Week 1 starter at Tennessee, Bradford took the opportunity on the sideline to hear the play calls and mentally walk through the game.

The crash course was less than ideal. The Vikings, however, believed that Bradford would be up for the challenge.

“Sam has the three primary elements that a quarterback needs,” Shurmur said. “He’s an outstanding decision-maker, he’s extremely accurate and he understands timing.”



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## MAKING THE CALL

BRADFORD WAS AT HIS HOME IN OKLAHOMA OVER LABOR DAY WEEKEND WHEN EAGLES HEAD COACH DOUG PEDERSON CALLED ON SEPT. 3 TO TELL HIM HE'D BEEN TRADED TO MINNESOTA. TEDDY BRIDGEWATER HAD GONE DOWN IN PRACTICE WITH A TORN ACL FOUR DAYS PRIOR, REQUIRING SURGERY AND EFFECTIVELY ENDING HIS 2016 SEASON.

The Vikings needed a quarterback.

Hours before Pederson called Bradford, Vikings General Manager Rick Spielman spent extensive time on the phone with Eagles Executive Vice President of Football Operations Howie Roseman.

"This is not a normal transaction period," said Spielman, who would typically enjoy the convenience of an entire offseason or free agency period to assess and decide on a player move. "I made a lot of phone calls through Thursday, and as we sat there and weighed out all of our options and looked at everything, then I understood where Philadelphia may be a slim possibility of getting this done."

As Bradford hurried to process and pack, he picked up his phone for the second time Saturday morning – this time to call Shaun Hill.

The two were teammates in 2014. Hill served as the Rams backup quarterback but ended up playing nine games – starting eight of them – when Bradford suffered a torn ACL. Hill was prepared to step into the same role for Minnesota when he heard that the Vikings were bringing in Bradford.

"Shaun was disappointed at first, but he's a great person," Zimmer said. "He's a pro's pro, and that's the way he took it."

Hill said Bradford called "to pick his brain" shortly after the trade happened, and Hill offered insight on Zimmer's coaching style, Turner's offense and the Vikings locker room. He didn't harbor any ill feelings toward the younger quarterback flying in to take over his position.

Hill worked to expedite the process for Bradford in more ways than one, even driving him to U.S. Bank Stadium for the Packers game.

"You come together for a common goal, and that's to help the team win," Hill said. "To help whoever's playing to perform at his best."

Hill knew Bradford would arrive in Minnesota ready to do just that because of their prior relationship.

"WE BELIEVE IN HIM, AND HE [TRUSTS] US.  
THERE'S SOME GOOD ENERGY OUT THERE."

– STEFON DIGGS

## SPIRITED IN ST. LOUIS

WHEN HILL WOKE UP BEFORE THE ST. LOUIS SUN AND ARRIVED AT THE RAMS PRACTICE FACILITY IN 2014, HE DIDN'T HAVE THE WEIGHT ROOM TO HIMSELF.

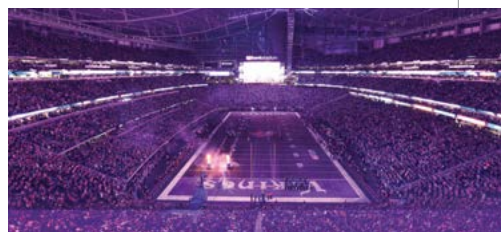
"Sam was already there working out," Hill recalled of his first interactions with Bradford.

The early-morning workouts offered extra opportunity for the new teammates to get to know each other. Hill immediately noticed Bradford's physical strength, work ethic and dedication to reaching greatness.

"Once we got [on the football field], I was just very impressed with how well he threw the ball. I mean, he can sling it," Hill said. "And how good of a player he was. How smart he was, how well he saw the field. I was just very impressed."

That season, Hill watched Bradford rehab his second knee injury and remain confident and driven in the face of adversity. The veteran added mental fortitude to Bradford's attributes.

"This is a very tough game, and it's for the tough-minded people," Hill said. "He's proven that he's tough-minded, to have gone through all the things that he's gone through."



## JOINING THE FAMILY

TWO YEARS AFTER HE AND HILL FIRST MET, BRADFORD FOUND HIMSELF RELYING HEAVILY ON THE VETERAN AND HIS NEW TEAMMATES.

"The guys here have been awesome," Bradford said. "I think any time you join a new locker room, it's not easy at first. These guys have been super supportive of me."

"Shaun's been right with me every step of the way," Bradford added. "He can kind of relate what we're doing back to a former life."

Bradford's win over the Packers was just the start of what he hopes to accomplish in Minnesota.

Most recently, Bradford was 26-of-36 for 262 yards and a touchdown in the Vikings Week 4



## VIKINGS HOST ANNUAL BREAST CANCER AWARENESS LUNCHEON

KAREN BOOTH GREW UP WATCHING THE VIKINGS. CHEERING FOR THEM NOW IS EVEN MORE MEANINGFUL, HOWEVER, BECAUSE SHE HAS A FRIEND ON THE TEAM.

BY LINDSEY YOUNG

Karen first met Marcus Sherels when she attended the annual “A Crucial Catch” luncheon hosted by the Vikings and the American Cancer Society two years ago. She and her sister, Lyn, were seated at a table with Sherels and Brandon Fusco, and the players listened to her story.

“We just had a special bond with Marcus,” said Karen, who sat with Sherels again at this year’s luncheon. “He’s just a really genuine, nice guy that I enjoyed hanging out with.”

The sisters drove down to Rochester this past summer to support Sherels’ fundraiser, and there they received pink “MS35” shirts to support their favorite Viking.

Sherels, who has attended the luncheon every year he’s been with the Vikings, said he was surprised and appreciative when Karen and Lyn came to Rochester.

“Just to hear their stories and hear how strong Karen has been, it’s amazing,” Sherels said. “Karen and Lyn are lifelong friends now.”

They reunited Tuesday when the Vikings hosted the luncheon for survivors and caregivers – and in memoriam of loved ones.

Karen was diagnosed with breast cancer

in December 2012. After undergoing chemotherapy, radiation and surgery, she’s now a proud survivor that continues to support the ACS in any way possible. Karen said the ACS directly helped fund at least two medications she required.

“They’re definitely our heroes,” Sherels said of Karen and other survivors. “Just the strength they have and the influence they have on everyone – to survive something like this is incredible.”

But Karen doesn’t view herself as a hero. “When you get diagnosed with cancer, you don’t have option. You either fight the cancer, or it gets to you. And sometimes it gets to you anyway,” Karen said. “So it’s not that we’re braver or stronger; it’s just that we’re lucky enough to have successful treatment.”

After defeating cancer, Karen said that Sherels inspired her to become more active and an overall healthier person. To hear that Sherels and his teammates at the luncheon admire her is humbling.

“The Vikings have been part of my life since I was little,” Karen said with a smile. “So I love hearing that they’re inspired by me.”



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27

defeat of the Giants. The previous week, Bradford overcame a rocky first-half start on the road. He rebounded with a 14-of-17 second half to help the Vikings snap Carolina’s 14-game home win streak.

“I’m sure there weren’t a lot of people who expected us to come in here and [win],” Bradford said following the Panthers game. “This is probably as tight a locker room as I’ve been a part of.”

Bradford’s new teammates agree.

Chad Greenway has played with 13 starting quarterbacks over his 11 years with Minnesota. When it comes to Bradford, Greenway appreciates his humble personality and blue-collar mentality that fits so well into Zimmer’s team.

Greenway said he and his teammates quietly observed Bradford when he first arrived, and they were impressed by his work ethic.

“Sam has the personality to fit in pretty much anywhere,” Greenway said. “It doesn’t take long for a guy to get our respect when he’s doing things the right way.”

In addition to Rudolph, Diggs has built a fast chemistry with Bradford. The locker neighbors have connected 18 times in Bradford’s three starts. Diggs said he appreciated Bradford’s balance between respecting Bridgewater’s role with the team and simultaneously becoming a leader.

“He knows that it’s his team right now,” Diggs said. “He’s not really too pushy, [but] he brings that fire and charismatic attitude. He wants to play, and he wants to do everything so that we can get a win.”

“The combination of humility and bringing that energy is enough to fill the void or take the bull by the horns,” Diggs added.

Bradford can relate to Bridgewater’s challenge.

“I know what it’s like going through that rehab,” Bradford said. “I wanted to make it known that I was available and willing to talk to [Teddy] about it. And then I asked him if he could please be here as much as possible to help me out, I would really appreciate that, too.”

Hill said Bradford fits right in.

“There’s a saying – if you’re not a humble person, this game will humble you,” Hill said. “Sam kind of endeared himself to the Minnesota fans very quickly and this locker room very, very quickly.”



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BY CRAIG PETERS

**T**he power and speed combo of Danielle Hunter stunned Panthers left tackle Michael Oher and quarterback Cam Newton.

Newton, the reigning NFL MVP, has often dazzled his way past defenders and mimicked the motion of Superman revealing the S on his chest.

The Vikings, however, had a pocketful of Kryptonite, containing Newton between the tackles, recording eight sacks, totaling a dozen hits and forcing three interceptions.

The safety by Hunter provided the first two points of 22 in a row. It was the culmination of extensive hard work transforming a physique that began earnestly as a beanpole — albeit a fast one — to one that would impress any bodybuilder.

Hunter's path to the Vikings began about a decade ago with a youthful game of tag.

Born in Jamaica in 1994, he moved to the United States at age 8. After a relatively short stop in New York, the family settled on the western outskirts of Houston.

Jerry Holmes looked out of his apartment where his son, Jermel, was on roller skates and playing with neighbors.

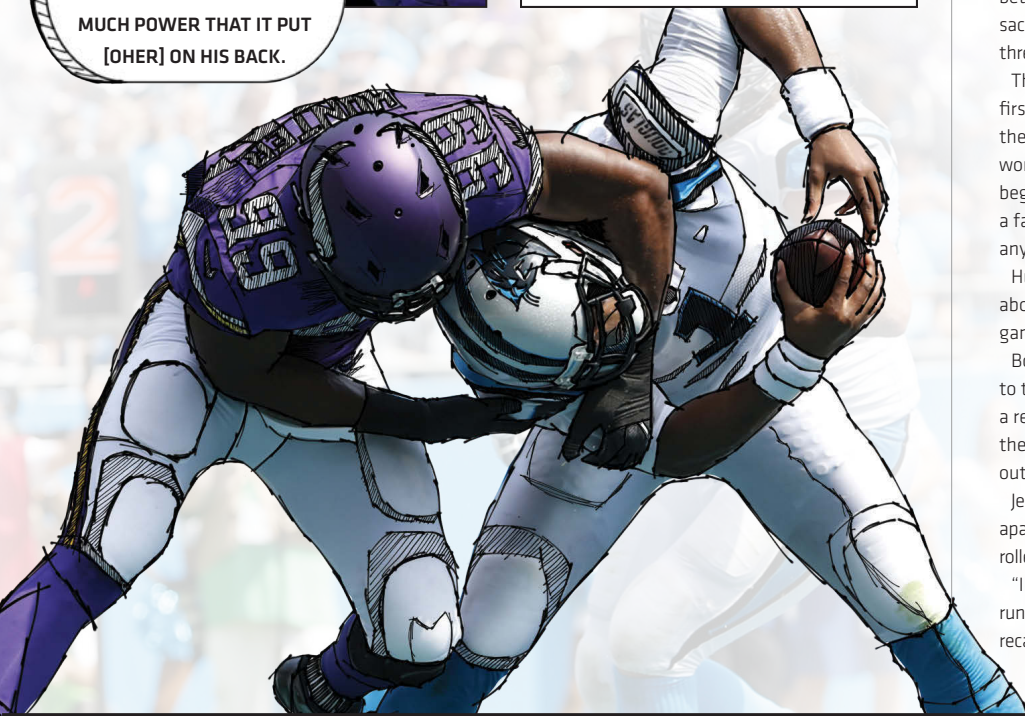
"I saw something blow by, kind of running, and I got up to see," Holmes recalled this summer.

I WAS FREE TO THE QUARTERBACK



SO THEN I COULD JUST USE MY SPEED

HE JUMP SET ME, SO  
[I WENT WITH] POWER.  
UNEXPECTEDLY I HAD SO  
MUCH POWER THAT IT PUT  
[OHER] ON HIS BACK.







**JUST DO YOUR JOB, THAT'S WHAT IT ALL COMES DOWN TO, DON'T TRY TO BE A SUPERHERO OR ANYTHING**

"I asked my son, 'Who is your friend?' "

The next questions for young Danielle, who was not on skates when he caught Jermel, were about his age (11) and if he wanted to join the youth football team that Holmes coached.

"I've never seen a kid that size move like that," Holmes said. "It was incredible, like a gazelle."

Varoy Davis, another youth coach, said Hunter's speed presented a unique challenge.

"He was blowing past all of the plays, so we devised that we'd give him a two count before he took off because he was just blowing past the runner," Davis said.

The most impressive aspect that Danielle showed wasn't on the field. It was between plays and after games. He would pick up the players he knocked down and make friends with foes.

"They knew he was something special because of his speed, but they just gravitated toward him because of his attitude," Holmes said. "He would crush his opponent, but his opponent wanted to be friends with him. He would give out candy to the opponents."

Hunter has carried the values instilled in him early and is committed to maintaining them long after football.

"The one most important thing they always stressed to us was being a better man to your family," Hunter said. "Football is not always going to be there, but your family is always going to be there, so the type of man you are is always going to be there, and that's what they remember you for."

Blazing speed is one thing, but strength is also important in football, particularly on the defensive line.

The weight room at Morton Ranch High School has a board displaying the top lifts in the history of the program. Hunter's name is second with a power clean of 305, and Head Coach Dave Meadows has a picture of Hunter in his LSU college uniform.

Looking at the chiseled Hunter, who will turn 22 this month, it's hard to imagine, but a few feet from where his name and picture are displayed sits a rack and the same bar that brought him to his knees during a squat attempt.

He was about 6-foot-2 and 180 pounds but made it to 210 by his junior year.

"The main thing that I had that most of us didn't have was speed, so I just had to live in [the weight room]," Hunter recalled. "I'd be happy for rainy days because I used to walk home, so it would make me stay after school and lift more."

Meadows, who had coached Super Bowl 50 MVP Von Miller at DeSoto High School, arrived at Morton Ranch during Hunter's sophomore season.

Meadows frequently tells players about Hunter's character and commitment.

"If there was ever a poster boy for what can happen to you in the weight room if you sell out to it, he was it," Meadows said. "You couldn't have a better role model."

When Hunter received a scholarship to LSU, he called his five youth league coaches.

"There were five grown men all choked up, just proud," Davis said.

They've remained connected through three years at LSU and into Hunter's second year in the pros. He finished second among rookies with 6.0 sacks in 2015 as the NFL's youngest player.

Hunter blossomed under Vikings defensive line coach Andre Patterson and assistant Robert Rodriguez. He's also gleaned tips from veterans like Brian Robison and Everson Griffen.

In addition to the tools and techniques that were added to Hunter's repertoire, he worked hard this offseason, training with Adrian Peterson under the guidance of James Cooper at O Athletik, a 33,000-square-foot gym that Peterson and Cooper opened in Houston this spring.

Hunter kept pace with receivers and safeties during laps at a nearby track, then continued to impress during grueling workouts.

Cooper had heard from Peterson that he was going to enjoy working with Hunter. Peterson was right.

"Danielle, I call him, 'Action Figure' because he has this body and looks like an action figure, someone out of Marvel Comics," Cooper said. "His body is ripped up, he's big. ... When Adrian tells me I'm going to like somebody, I get excited."

Peterson texted Vikings Head Coach Mike Zimmer and General Manager Rick Spielman this summer, "Hey, when Hunter comes back, you're going to see a different beast."

"He was already a beast," Peterson explained, "but I knew with how hard he was grinding to finish those workouts, that it was going to reflect on the field."



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# “MADDEN” DEVELOPERS



DAZZLED BY U.S. BANK STADIUM

BY ERIC SMITH

## U.S. BANK STADIUM CONTINUES TO IMPRESS.

A pair of representatives from EA SPORTS spent two days in August digitally scanning and photographing the Vikings new venue, looking for even the smallest details to add to the popular “Madden” video game.

While the duo’s focus was on enhancing the stadium in the game, they couldn’t help but gawk at the impressive 1.75-million-square foot venue.

“Different people like different things, but it’s one of my favorites for sure,” said Jared Morton, a senior environmental modelist who has worked on the “Madden” franchise for the past eight years. “(We) were commenting on this ... it looks good on the outside and the inside.

“There’s a lot of stadiums that look good one or the other,” he added. “With this one, they really took the care to give it a flair.”

Environmental modelist Erwin Tibayan said U.S. Bank Stadium stood out like no other.

“This is the prettiest football stadium I’ve ever been in,” Tibayan said. “The design and architecture (of the stadium) just calls to me ... the truss work is really pleasing to the eye.”

Both Morton and Tibayan said the clear ETFE material that covers 60 percent of the stadium’s roof is a feature unlike they’ve worked with before. The duo spent nearly 10

hours at the stadium one day trying to get a feel for how to replicate the shadows from the roof trusses on the field.

“This is really advanced and a really unique stadium, which is something I really appreciate,” Morton said. “The most unique thing, and the biggest challenge for us, is the fact that it’s essentially half covered and half uncovered.

“We have stadiums that are partially covered and hybrid stadiums where the roof opens and closes,” he added. “This is the only one where you have the sun coming in through the (roof) where you can see the shadows on the ground.”

Morton said players and the game play garner most of the attention during the game but that the stadiums are the “stars of the show” because they’re so widely seen.

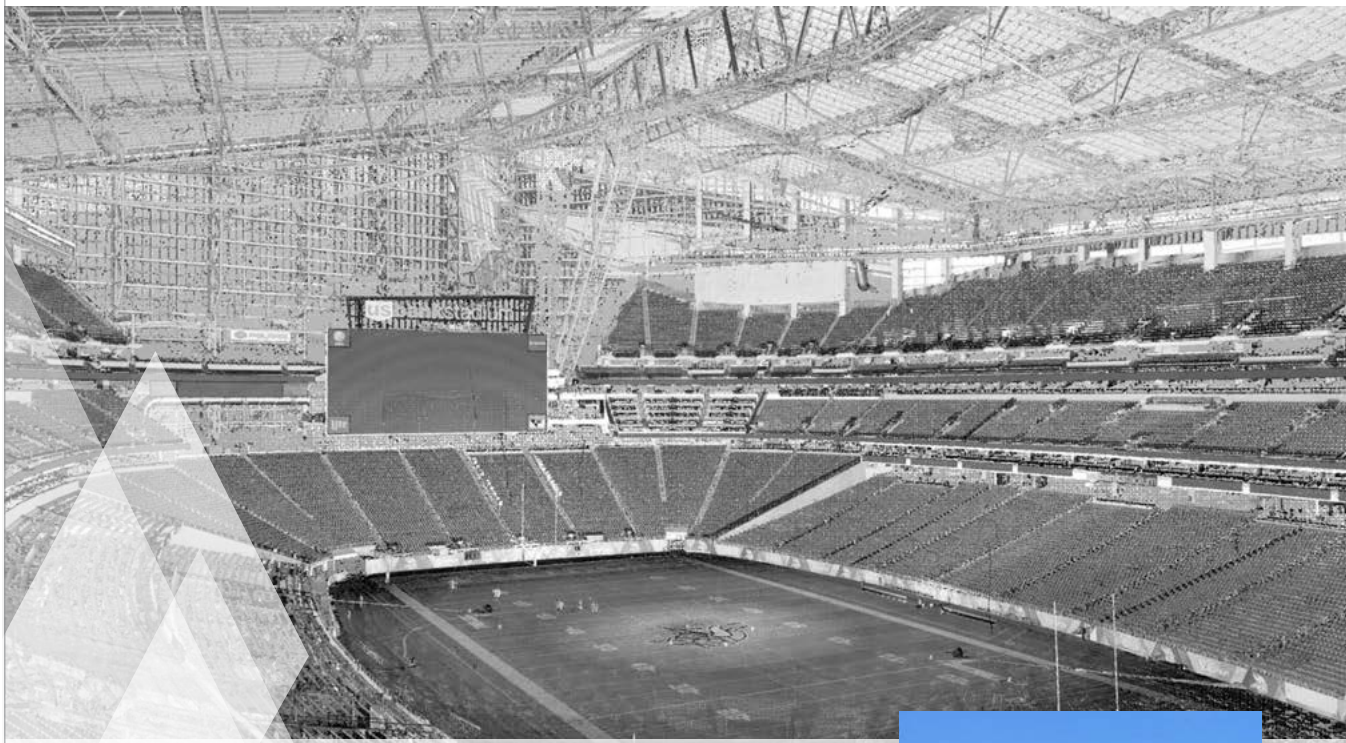
Although U.S. Bank Stadium is featured in the current version of the game, Morton said the company built the stadium based off architectural renderings.

Morton digitally scanned nearly the entire stadium. He said he was documenting interior details such as the video and ribbon boards, signage and concourses as well as signature elements like the Gjallarhorn and the ETFE material.

EA SPORTS, which was in the stadium for the first time, also got images of the Delta Sky360 Club, an area players walk through as they take the field.

“There are always some changes between the architectural design and what was actually built,” Morton said. “So we’re picking up all





THIS IS ONE OF THE SCANS THAT WILL BE USED TO ADD DETAILS OF U.S. BANK STADIUM INTO THE “MADDEN” SERIES.

that and getting a much more accurate piece of reference.”

Tibayan described their roles as putting together a jigsaw puzzle.

Morton estimated that he took about 80 digital scans of the interior of U.S. Bank Stadium. The 3D scanner sat on a tripod, which Morton carried every 60 feet or so to take a new scan. Each scan took two minutes and 45 seconds.

The scanner captured a 360-degree view as a laser hit a spinning mirror inside the device at a 45-degree angle. Scans captured details up to 300 meters away, meaning those taken inside the stadium on the west end could capture the surrounding cityscape outside U.S. Bank Stadium through the wall of glass.

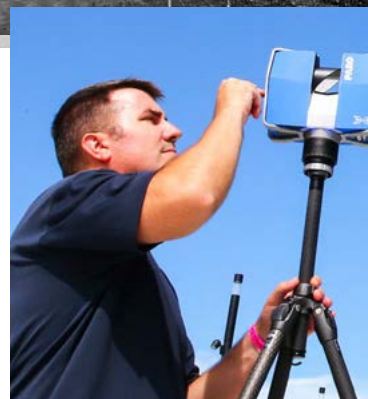
Morton also took a more in-depth scan on the Norseman logo at midfield that took 30 minutes.

Tibayan shot thousands of photos to add even more details of the stadium. EA SPORTS used to digitally create stadiums for game play by using only photographs but started digitally scanning them a few years ago.

The duo also spent a day documenting the exterior of the stadium, including the surrounding buildings. Morton said he took 40 scans outside of the stadium and captured the first wave of buildings of the downtown Minneapolis skyline.

He said U.S. Bank Stadium will give “Madden” fans an incredible experience. Some stadium enhancements are expected to be implemented this season while all will be in place for the 2018 “Madden” game.

“We want it to feel live and real,” Morton said. “Maybe not like you’re in the stadium, but you’re watching on TV but controlling what’s happening.”

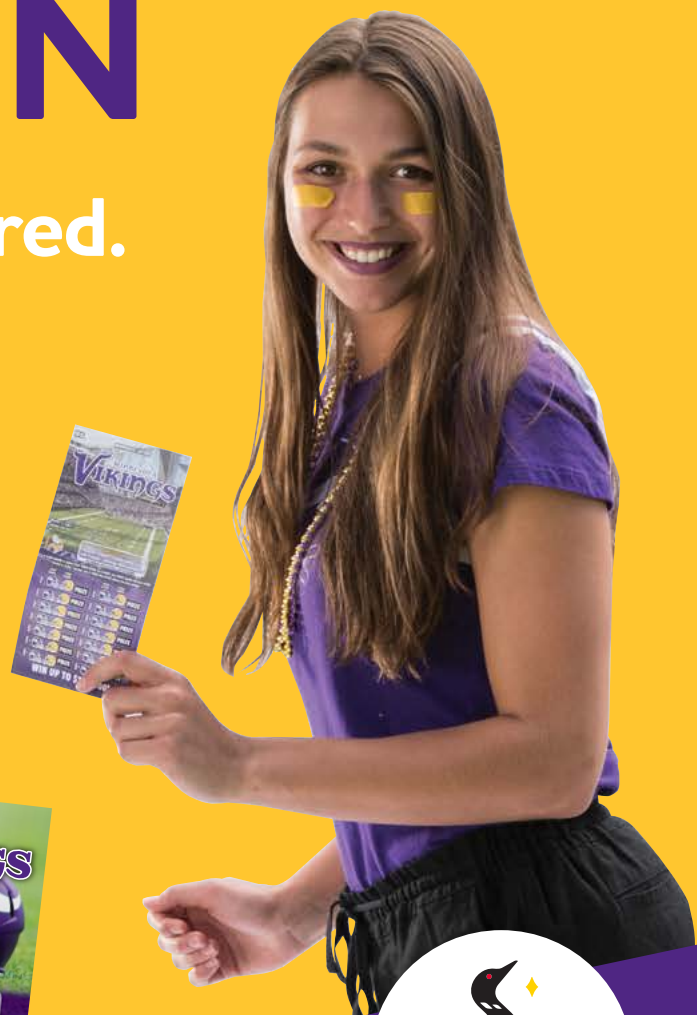


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FOOTBALL  
STADIUM I’VE  
EVER BEEN IN.”

– MODELIST ERWIN TIBAYAN

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# Viktor's

## SCRAMBLE

This week Viktor has created a puzzle using the names of some familiar Vikings. See if you can unscramble each name to decode Viktor's final message!

KIRVOT        
5 2

MIZMER        
6

GISDG       
8

MTHIS        
11

FABDORRD

RINFGEF          
10

RHSEOD

NETSOPTAR            
1

LOHUPRD          
3 4

WEYREGNA           
9

CRKDINESK             
7

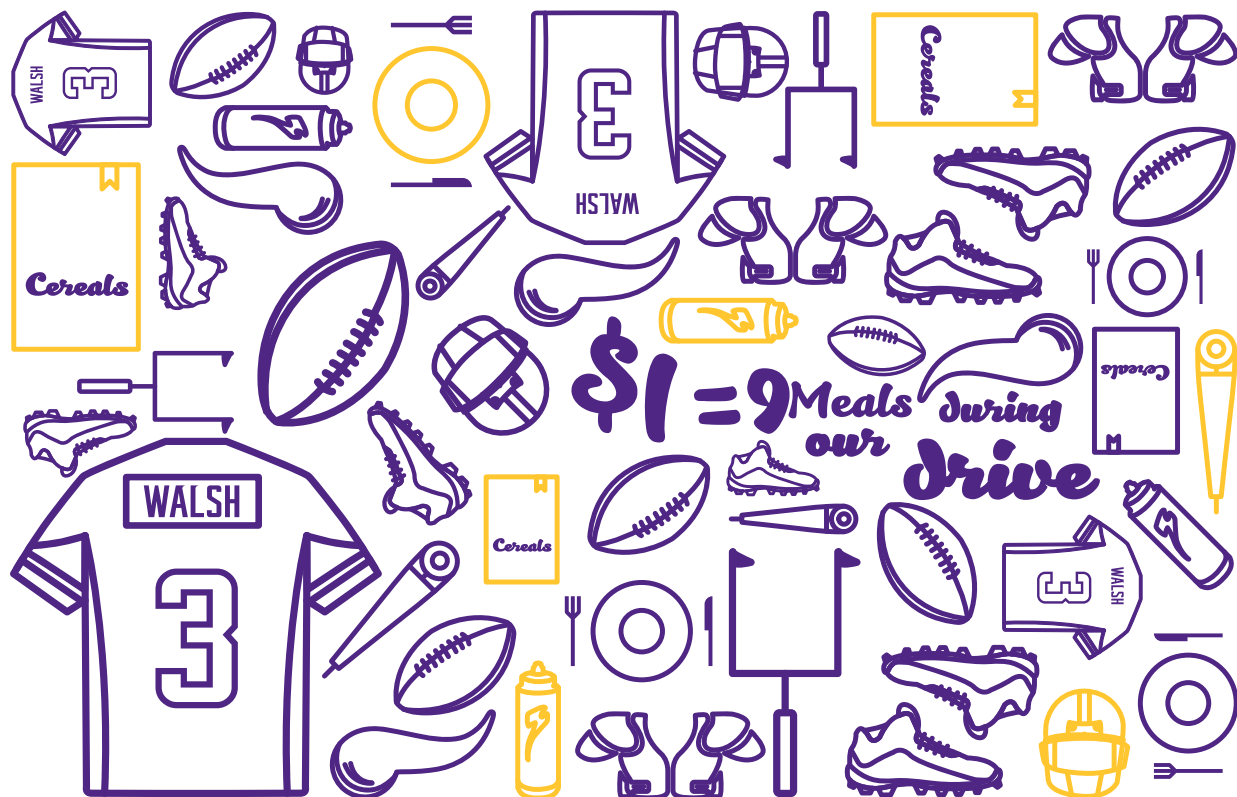
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11



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## BERGER, TRATTOU HELP AT YOUTH FOOTBALL CLINIC

LINDSEY YOUNG

Vikings center Joe Berger doesn't just want to be good at playing football. He also wants to be good at teaching football.

Berger spent a recent evening working on drills with second- through eighth-grade athletes; specifically, he helped teach them how to snap the football.

"It's fun to teach them and then to see how your instructions go," Berger said. "That's always a fun thing with these camps – you think you explain something perfectly, and then it's not so perfect. And you wonder if it's you or them."

"It's good to see the kids out here – we're enjoying a game that I've loved for years," said Berger, in his 12th NFL season and sixth in Minnesota.

The clinic was the third annual event held with the Coon Rapids Youth Football Program. Approximately 300 young men were led by Vikings Youth Football Manager E.J. Henderson, who spoke with them about the importance of education, hard work and perseverance. He was joined by Berger, defensive end Justin Trattou and former Vikings running backs Chuck

Foreman and Ted Brown.

Members of the Coon Rapids High School varsity team were also on hand to manage each of the eight stations – including passing, kicking, gauntlets and handoffs – to assist the alumni and current Vikings. Trattou worked with a group on a pass-rush drill.

"It's always fun working with kids, because they have a ton of energy and excitement, and the simplest things – just seeing guys like us – make their day," Trattou said.

*"IT'S ALWAYS FUN WORKING WITH KIDS, BECAUSE THEY HAVE A TON OF ENERGY AND EXCITEMENT, AND THE SIMPLEST THINGS – JUST SEEING GUYS LIKE US – MAKE THEIR DAY." - JUSTIN TRATTOU*

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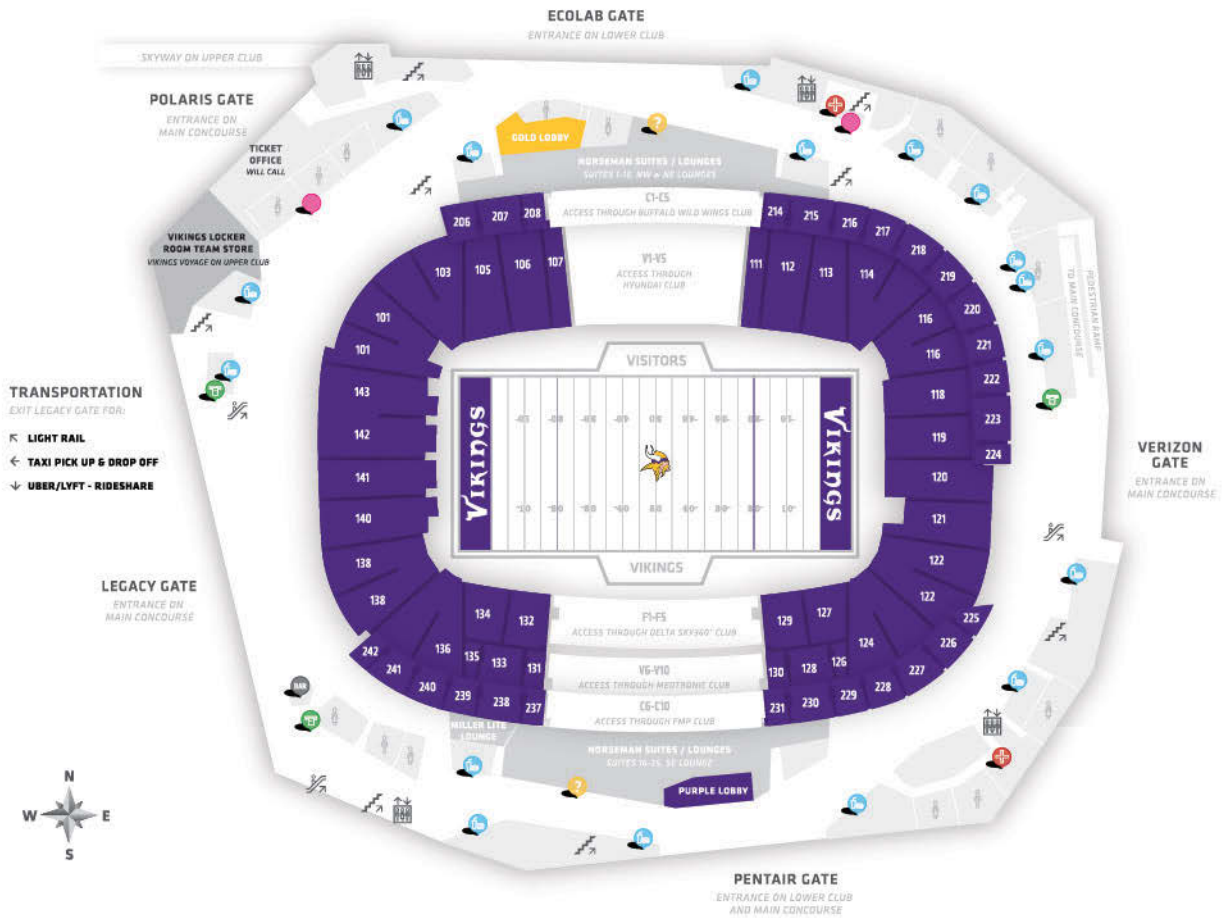


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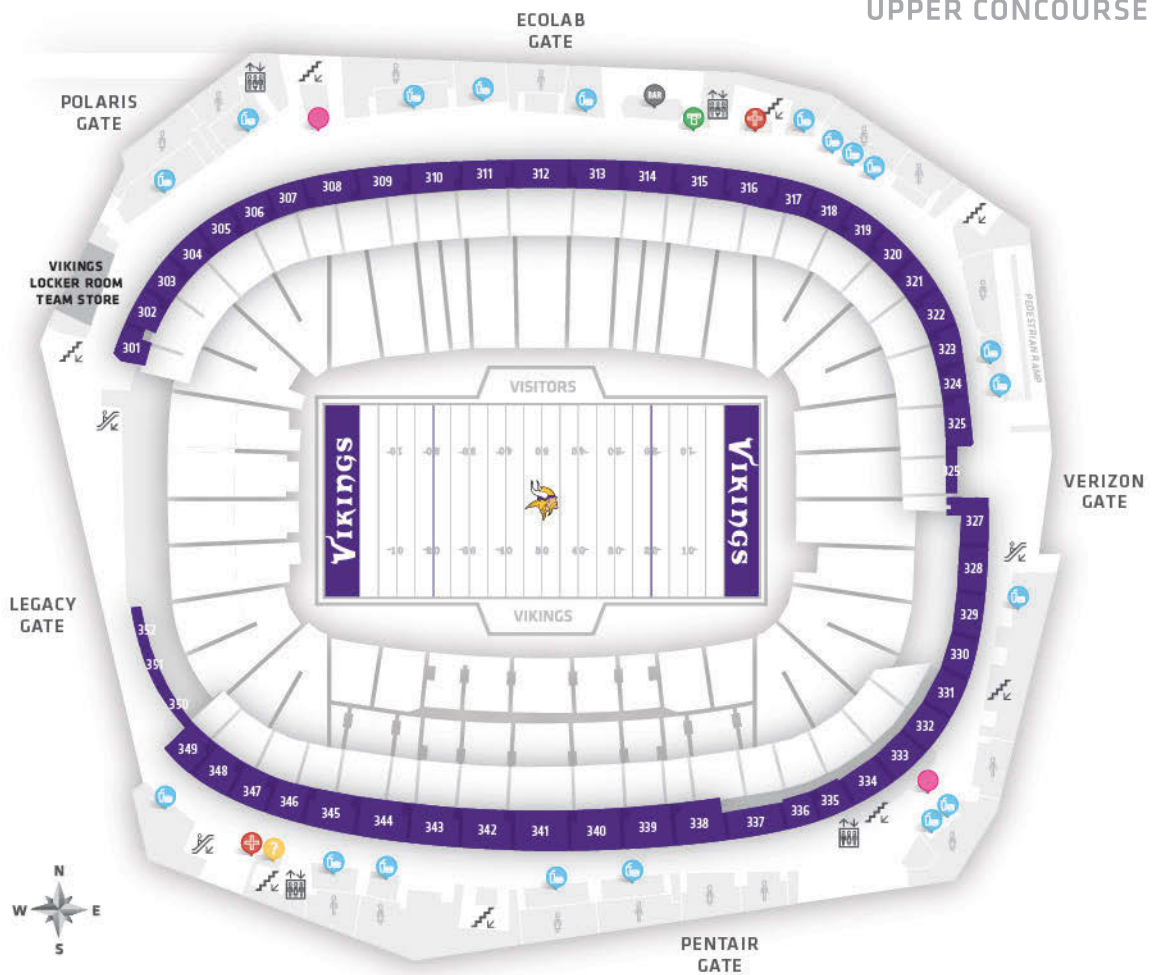
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## THE TRUTH BEHIND THE

# VIKINGS WOMEN



WHETHER AS QUEEN OF THE LAND OR RULER OF A HOUSEHOLD, VIKINGS WOMEN WIELDED POWER



“WHILE FOOTBALL HAS  
TRADITIONALLY BEEN VIEWED  
AS A MALE-DOMINATED SPORT,  
**THE VIKINGS HAVE BEEN  
MAKING EFFORTS TO ENGAGE  
THEIR FEMALE FAN BASE.**”

THE TRUTH BEHIND SERIES

In 2015 Vikings Women was founded with the mission to increase, empower and further connect female fans and corporate women, and the impact they have through Minnesota Vikings Football. While football has traditionally been viewed as a male-dominated sport, the Vikings have been making efforts to engage their female fan base. This week, we explore the Truth Behind the women of the historical Viking Age.

We often think of Vikings as men only. This is wrong, at least if you refer to Scandinavians in general. Women could be as far-travelled and battle-minded as men were.

Women filled many other roles, too. Whether as queen of the land or ruler of a household, women wielded power, especially in the absence of their mate. Others toiled as slaves, sometimes kidnapped from foreign countries. Women could be heathen sorceresses and

priestesses, or in Christian times perform pious deeds and act as influential patrons of churches.

One Swedish runestone tells of a woman setting off on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, a 5,000-mile journey! Most women stayed on the homesteads, performing tasks traditionally allocated to them. Some women were rich and could bequeath much property to their heirs. Viking society afforded women a relatively high status, although never full equality.

Women followed men on settlement journeys, to Russia, France, Britain, Iceland, Greenland and North America. Here, Gudrid had Snorri, the first European reported to be born in the New World. Gudrid married three times, was shipwrecked, made a pilgrimage to Rome and became a nun in Iceland after her return. A true example that women in this culture were every bit as ‘Viking’ as the men.

*“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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