



PLAYBOOK

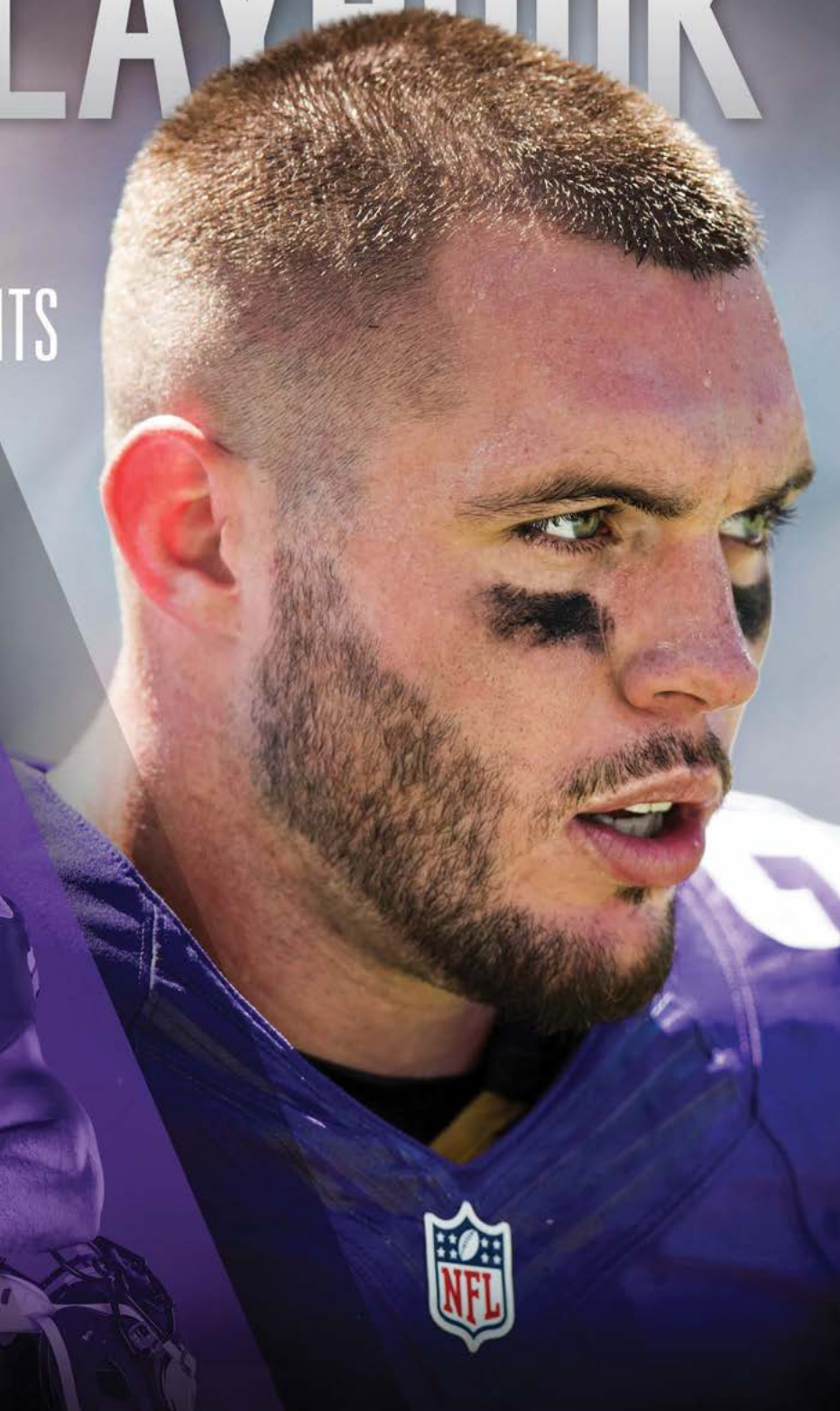
U.S. BANK STADIUM

VIKINGS VS. GIANTS

MONDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2016

COVERAGE PLAN

SMITH & SENDEJO



U.S. BANK STADIUM
INAUGURAL SEASON



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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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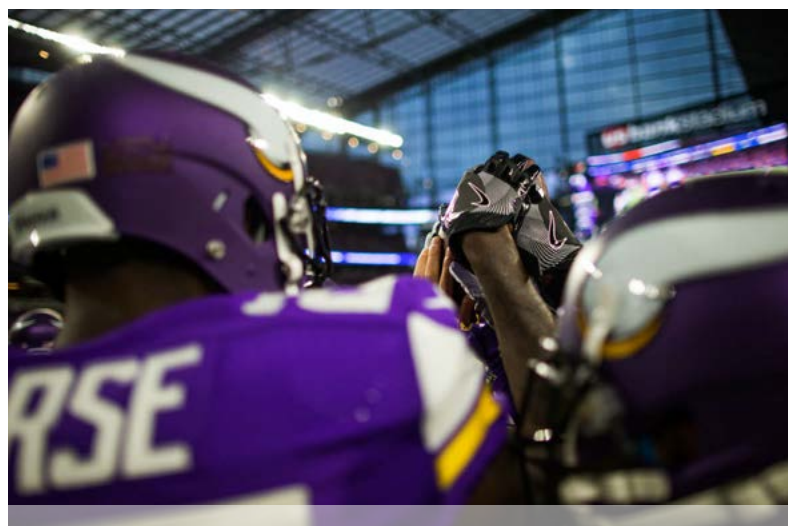
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▼ PG 21 | OPEN THE GATES: FIRST GAME AT U.S. BANK STADIUM





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

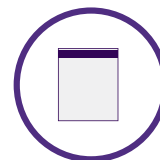
The Vikings strongly encourage fans to not bring any type of bags, but should the need arise, fans will be able to carry the following style and size bag, package or container at stadium plaza areas, stadium gates, or when approaching queue lines of fans awaiting entry into the stadium:



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

↑ **EVERSON IS OUR THIRD STRAIGHT NFC PLAYER OF THE WEEK WINNER**

IT IS THE FIRST TIME IN VIKINGS HISTORY THAT WE'VE OPENED A SEASON WITH THREE PLAYERS CONSECUTIVELY HONORED.



03

01 | *Marcus Sherels returned a punt 54 yards for a touchdown, extending his franchise record to four scores on punt returns and helping sway momentum.*



THROUGH-THE-LENS

VIKINGS AT PANTHERS

THE VIKINGS UPENDED THE DEFENDING NFC CHAMPION PANTHERS AND SNAPPED CAROLINA'S 14-GAME HOME WIN STREAK THAT DATED TO 2014 WITH A 22-10 VICTORY IN WEEK 3.

Minnesota sacked reigning NFL MVP Cam Newton eight times and intercepted him three times for a passer rating of 47.6 (the fourth-lowest of his career). The Vikings offense, defense and special teams units combined to score the game's final 22 points.

"WINNING IS FUN.
WINNING IS
A LOT OF FUN."

— EVERSON GRIFFEN

02 | Everson Griffen fought through an illness and recorded 3.0 sacks of Cam Newton. Griffen has 26.5 sacks since 2014, which is the fourth-most in the NFL.

03 | Linval Joseph recorded a sack for the third consecutive game. It was one of eight takedowns of Newton.



04

04 | Kyle Rudolph led the Vikings with seven catches for 70 yards, including this 15-yard touchdown reception from Sam Bradford.

05 | Tom Johnson recorded his first career interception, corralling a floating pass that was forced with pressure by Griffen.



05

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



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GIANTS AT VIKINGS

A MATCHUP PRIMED FOR MONDAY NIGHT

THE VIKINGS WILL TRY TO EXTEND THEIR REGULAR-SEASON WINNING STREAK TO SEVEN GAMES IN TONIGHT'S MATCHUP WITH THE GIANTS.

MINNESOTA IS 15-12 ALL-TIME in the series (14-10 in regular-season games) and has won five of the past seven, including a 49-17 contest last December that clinched the Vikings first postseason berth since 2012.

Ben McAdoo was promoted to replace Tom Coughlin as head coach after spending the past two seasons as New York's offensive

coordinator. Prior to that, McAdoo was an assistant with Green Bay (TEs 2006-11; QBs, 2012-13).

Eli Manning is back for his 13th season. Manning has thrown for 925 yards with four touchdowns and three picks so far this season. The two-time Super Bowl MVP, who is 3-5 in his career against the Vikings, has thrown for 45,112 yards and 298 touchdowns in his 13-season career. Manning ranks 10th all-time in passing yards and eighth in passing touchdowns.

Manning is 3-5 against the Vikings, completing 132 of 244 passes (54.1 percent) for 1,445 yards with five touchdowns and 14 interceptions for a rating of 54.8.

NFL PLAY 60

The NFL Play 60 movement encourages young people to participate in physical activity for 60 minutes a day and make healthy lifestyle and nutritional choices. Local youth groups will be on the field before tonight's game during the National Anthem.



HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

The National Football League and its teams will celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with a series of special events from September 15 - October 15.

The theme of this year's Hispanic Heritage Month recognition is "Feel the Orgullo." In Spanish, the word *orgullo* means pride. Latino players, fans and coaches have a strong sense of pride not only in their culture but in their team and the NFL. During Hispanic Heritage Month, the NFL and its 32 teams will amplify the rich history, heritage and tradition of Latinos, and honor the positive impact they have had on the game and country.

The Minnesota Vikings are proud to present Braulio Carrasco, Race Equity Organizer, Education Minnesota, with the NFL Hispanic Heritage Leadership Award.

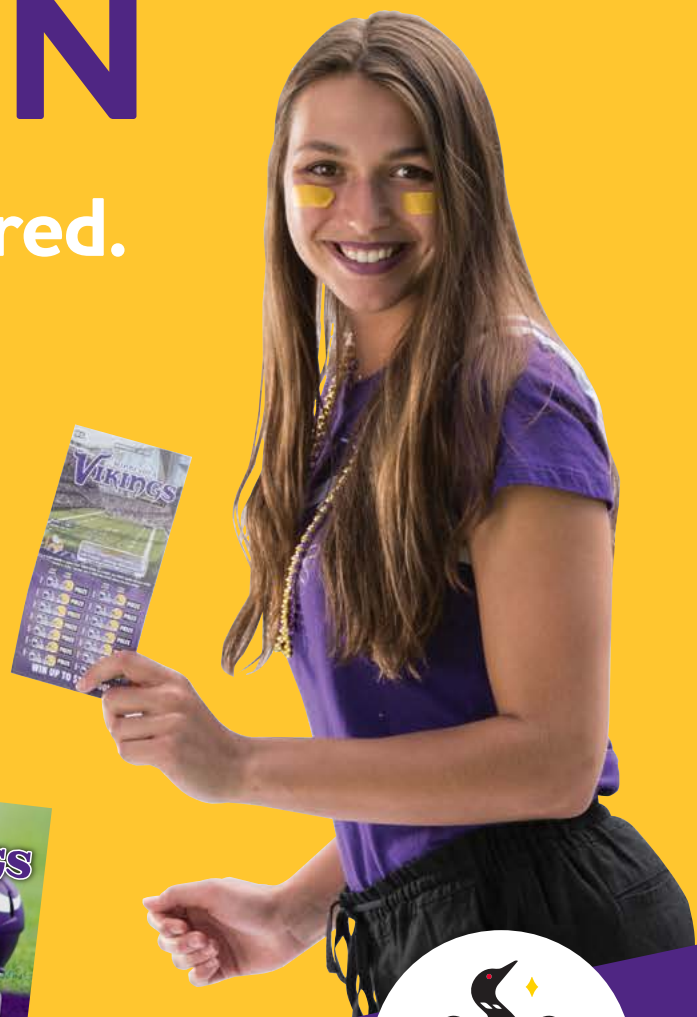


MEMORIAL BLOOD AND THE VIKINGS WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL FANS WHO STEPPED UP TO DONATE BLOOD AND #BLEEDPURPLE AHEAD OF TONIGHT'S GAME. VISIT MBC.ORG TO LEARN MORE.



GRIDIRON ACTION

No helmet required.

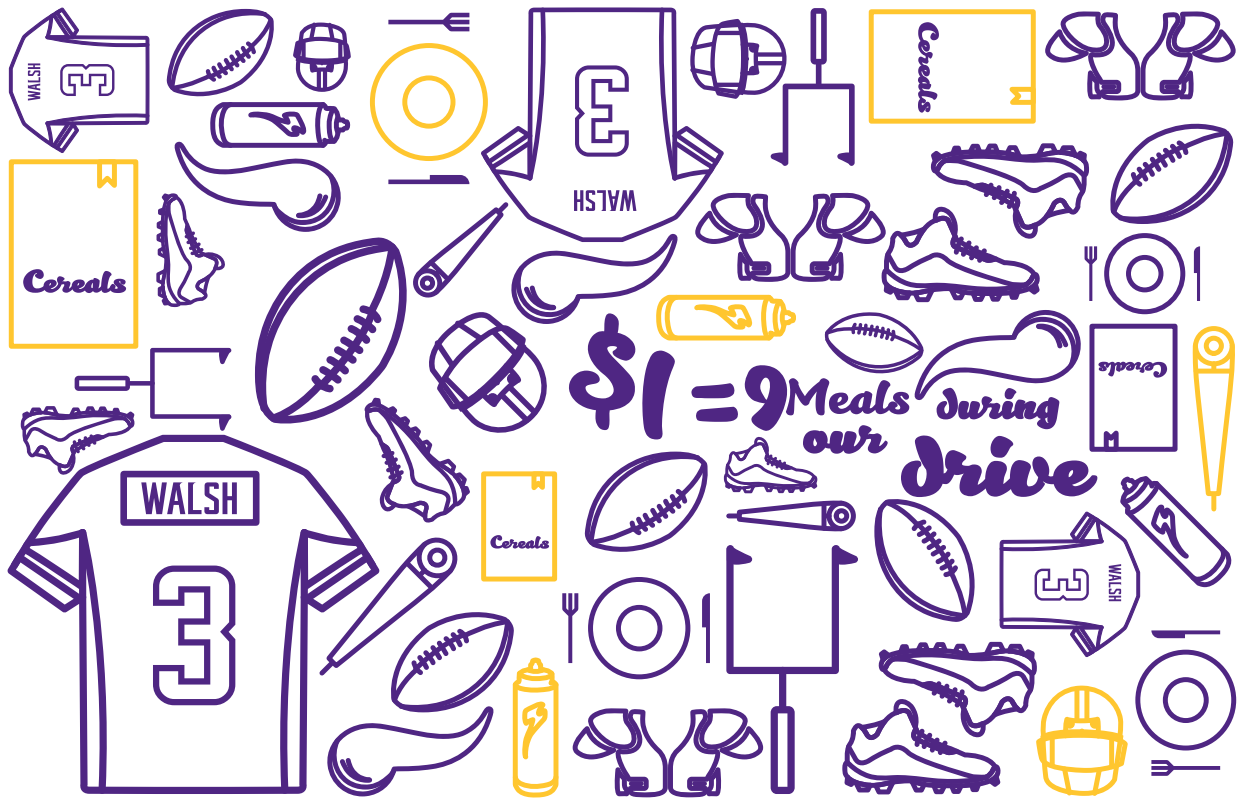


Must be 18+ to play.



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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!



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.



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. Art Erickson, the co-founder of Urban Ventures, is tonight's U.S. Bank Hometown Hero. Urban Ventures' mission is to empower individuals and strengthen families to transform urban communities. Nominate a Hometown Hero by visiting 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 tonight's Kwik Trip Family of the Game, the Griffin family from Minneapolis.



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!



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.



➔ 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.

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.

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 thru 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 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 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 live broadcast this Thursday, Oct. 6 at Shortstop in Coon Rapids.

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 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! This week's Friday Football Feast will take place on Oct. 7 at the Buffalo Wild Wings in Lakeville.



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PLAYER TO WATCH: WR STEFON DIGGS

STEFON DIGGS' SPEED, QUICKNESS AND SMOOTHNESS in changing directions play a factor in his ability to create separation from defenders. He is leading the Vikings with 20 receptions for 325 yards (16.3 yards per reception) with a long of 46 yards and had a 25-yard touchdown against Green Bay. The second-year pro posted career highs of nine catches and 182 yards to power the Vikings past the Packers. Diggs tracked a deep toss from Sam Bradford for a 44-yard play, then showed ability to turn a short completion into a substantial gain. He entered Week 4 second in the NFL in receiving yards this season.

ELITE COMPANY: DIGGS WAS INACTIVE AS A ROOKIE FOR THE FIRST THREE GAMES OF THE 2015 SEASON BEFORE BURSTING ONTO THE SCENE. THROUGH THREE GAMES THIS SEASON, HIS YARDS PER RECEPTION IS UP FROM 13.8 TO 16.3, AND HIS CATCH PERCENTAGE IS UP FROM 61.9 TO 74.1 PERCENT. IN WEEK 2, HE BECAME THE FIRST VIKINGS PLAYER SINCE RANDY MOSS TO HAVE MORE THAN 180 RECEIVING YARDS AND AT LEAST ONE TOUCHDOWN IN A GAME.

72 IN **16**

Diggs played his 16th regular-season game last week at Carolina. In the equivalent of a full NFL season, the former fifth-round pick has totaled 72 receptions for 1,045 yards (14.5 yards per reception) and five touchdowns. He has been targeted a total of 110 times by Vikings quarterbacks.

2016 SEASON LEADERS

Passing (Yds)	Sam Bradford	457
Rushing (Yds)	Jerick McKinnon	53
Receiving (Yds)	Stefon Diggs	325
Tackles	Eric Kendricks	24
Sacks	Everson Griffen	4.0
Interceptions	Trae Waynes	2
KOR (Yds)	C. Patterson	163
PR (Avg.)	Marcus Sherels	13.6

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 (3-0)

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	
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 NEW YORK GIANTS

RUSHING YARDS

167	Michael Bennett on 15 attempts in Minnesota (Nov. 10, 2002)
146	Robert Smith on 16 attempts at New York (Dec. 26, 1999)

PASSING YARDS

316	Brett Favre on 25-of-31 passing in Minnesota (Jan. 1, 2010)
299	Warren Moon on 23-of-34 passing at New York (Oct. 10, 1994)

RECEIVING YARDS

171	Randy Moss on 10 catches in Minnesota (Nov. 19, 2001)
152	Gene Washington on seven catches in Minnesota (Sept. 21, 1969)

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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 for more information.



PLAYER TO WATCH: ODELL BECKHAM, JR.

THE 12TH OVERALL PICK of the 2014 NFL Draft out of LSU has made quite the splash and some dazzling catches in his first two-plus seasons. Beckham's pregame warmup usually draws a crowd of fans because of his interesting routine, and he's generally noted at all times by defenses. He posted 121 yards on seven catches last week against Washington and will face a defense that hasn't allowed a receiver 100 yards this season but did allow five in 2015. In 30 games, Beckham became the fastest player to reach 200 receptions (206) and 3,000 yards (3,035). He also has 25 touchdowns.

THROWING HIS WAY: BECKHAM HAS BEEN TARGETED A TOTAL OF 318 TIMES (10.6 PER GAME) AND HAS CAUGHT PASSES 64.8 PERCENT OF THE TIME. HIS SINGLE-GAME HIGH WAS 21 TARGETS AGAINST PHILADELPHIA IN THE 2014 REGULAR-SEASON FINALE, AND HIS LOW IS TWO AGAINST THE EAGLES EARLIER THAT SEASON. ELI MANNING THREW TOWARD BECKHAM EIGHT TIMES IN THE SEASON OPENER AND THEN 11 TIMES IN EACH OF THE PAST TWO WEEKS.

16 IN 30

Beckham has played in 30 regular-season games and recorded 100 or more receiving yards 16 times. The Giants are 6-10 in games in which Beckham has hit the century mark. Beckham posted four straight games with 100 or more to cap his rookie season and put together a streak of six in a row in 2015.

2016 SEASON LEADERS

Passing (Yds)	Eli Manning	925
Rushing (Yds)	Shane Vereen	147
Receiving (Yds)	Odell Beckham, Jr.	280
Tackles	Johnathan Casillas	25
Sacks	Hall, Vernon, Pierre-Paul, Collins	1.0
Interceptions	None	
KOR (Yds)	Dwayne Harris	61
PR (Avg.)	Dwayne Harris	13.3

2016 SCHEDULE

PRESEASON (2-1)

P1	8/12 Miami Dolphins	L 10-27
P2	8/20 at Buffalo Bills	L 0-21
P3	8/27 at New York Jets	W 21-20
P4	9/1 New England Patriots	W 17-9

REGULAR SEASON (2-1)

1	9/11 at Dallas Cowboys	W 20-19
2	9/18 New Orleans Saints	W 16-13
3	9/25 Washington Redskins	L 27-29
4	10/3 at Minnesota Vikings	
5	10/9 at Green Bay	
6	10/16 Baltimore Ravens	
7	10/23 at Los Angeles Rams	
8	10/30 BYE	
9	11/6 Philadelphia Eagles	
10	11/14 Cincinnati Bengals	
11	11/20 Chicago Bears	
12	11/27 at Cleveland Browns	
13	12/4 at Pittsburgh Steelers	
14	12/11 Dallas Cowboys	
15	12/18 Detroit Lions	
16	12/22 at Philadelphia Eagles	
17	1/1 at Washington Redskins	

TOP 2s AGAINST MINNESOTA

RUSHING YARDS

161	Rodney Hampton on 33 attempts at New York (Jan. 9, 1994)
127	Tiki Barber on 24 attempts in Minnesota (Nov. 10, 2002)

PASSING YARDS

381	Kerry Collins on 28-of-39 passing at New York (Jan. 14, 2001)
375	Kerry Collins on 23-of-39 passing in Minnesota (Oct. 26, 2003)

RECEIVING YARDS

155	Ike Hilliard on 10 catches at New York (Jan. 14, 2001)
149	Homer Jones on four catches in Minnesota (Nov. 5, 1967)


OFFENSE
WR

12 Charles Johnson
11 Laquon Treadwell

LT

68 T.J. Clemmings
78 Jeremiah Sirles

LG

76 Alex Boone
67 Zac Kerin

C

61 Joe Berger
62 Nick Easton

RG

63 Brandon Fusco
64 Willie Beavers

RT

71 Andre Smith

QB

8 Sam Bradford
13 Shaun Hill

TE

82 Kyle Rudolph
85 Rhett Ellison
83 MyCole Pruitt
89 David Morgan

WR

14 Stefon Diggs
19 Adam Thielen
84 C. Patterson
17 Jarius Wright

FB

48 Zach Line

HB

21 Jerick McKinnon
44 Matt Asiata
33 Ronnie Hillman

DEFENSE
LE

96 Brian Robison
99 Danielle Hunter

DT

73 Sharrif Floyd
92 Tom Johnson

NT

98 Linval Joseph
93 Shamar Stephen

RE

97 Everson Griffen
94 Justin Trattou

WLB

52 Chad Greenway
59 Emmanuel Lamur

MLB

54 Eric Kendricks
57 Audie Cole
40 Kentrell Brothers

SLB

55 Anthony Barr
51 Edmond Robinson

LCB

23 Terence Newman
26 Trae Waynes
35 Marcus Sherels

RCB

29 Xavier Rhodes
24 C. Munnerlyn
20 M. Alexander

SS

34 Andrew Sendejo
27 Jayron Kearse

FS

22 Harrison Smith
41 Anthony Harris

SPECIALISTS
K

3 Blair Walsh

P / H

18 Jeff Locke

LS

47 Kevin McDermott

KR

84 C. Patterson
35 Marcus Sherels

PR

35 Marcus Sherels
19 Adam Thielen

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	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
64	Willie Beavers	G	6-5	322	22	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	Sharrif 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	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



OFFENSE

WR	QB
13 Odell Beckham, Jr.	10 Eli Manning
82 Roger Lewis, Jr.	12 Ryan Nassib
	8 Josh Johnson
LT	WR
74 Ereck Flowers	87 Sterling Shepard
65 Will Beatty	17 Dwayne Harris
LG	RB
67 Justin Pugh	23 Rashad Jennings
68 Bobby Hart	26 Orleans Darkwa
	43 Bobby Rainey
C	28 Paul Perkins
70 Weston Richburg	
69 Brett Jones	
RG	WR
77 John Jerry	80 Victor Cruz
68 Bobby Hart	15 Tavarres King
RT	
73 M. Newhouse	
65 Will Beatty	
TE	
84 Larry Donnell	
45 Will Tye	
89 Jerrell Adams	

DEFENSE

LDT	WLB
90 Jason Pierre-Paul	52 Jonathan Casillas
72 Kerry Wynn	57 Keenan Robinson
78 Romeo Okwara	
LDT	LCB
98 Damon Harrison	41 D. Rodgers-Cromartie
96 Jay Bromley	24 Eli Apple
97 Montori Hughes	25 Leon Hall
RDT	SS
95 J. Hankins	21 Landon Collins
99 Robert Thomas	29 Nat Berhe
RDE	FS
54 Olivier Vernon	29 Nat Berhe
58 Owa Odighizuwa	27 Darian Thompson
	33 Andrew Adams
SLB	RCB
59 Devon Kennard	20 Janoris Jenkins
94 Mark Herzlich	31 Trevin Wade
ILB	39 Michael Hunter
91 Kelvin Sheppard	
93 B.J. Goodson	

SPECIALISTS

K	KR
3 Josh Brown	17 Dwayne Harris
P / H	43 Bobby Rainey
9 Brad Wing	87 Sterling Shepard
LS	PR
51 Zak DeOssie	17 Dwayne Harris
	43 Bobby Rainey
	13 Odell Beckham, Jr.

NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	AGE	EXP.	COLLEGE
3	Josh Brown	K	6-0	202	37	14	Nebraska
8	Josh Johnson	QB	6-3	215	30	6	San Diego
9	Brad Wing	P	6-3	205	25	3	LSU
10	Eli Manning	QB	6-4	218	35	13	Ole Miss
12	Ryan Nassib	QB	6-2	223	26	4	Syracuse
13	Odell Beckham, Jr.	WR	5-11	198	23	3	LSU
15	Tavarres King	WR	6-1	200	26	2	Georgia
17	Dwayne Harris	WR	5-10	202	29	6	East Carolina
20	Janoris Jenkins	CB	5-10	198	27	5	North Alabama
21	Landon Collins	S	6-0	216	22	2	Alabama
23	Rashad Jennings	RB	6-1	231	31	8	Liberty
24	Eli Apple	CB	6-1	199	21	R	Ohio State
25	Leon Hall	CB	5-11	195	31	9	Michigan
26	Orleans Darkwa	RB	6-0	215	24	3	Tulane
27	Darian Thompson	S	6-1	213	23	R	Boise State
28	Paul Perkins	RB	5-10	208	21	R	UCLA
29	Nat Berhe	S	6-0	194	25	3	San Diego State
31	Trevin Wade	CB	5-10	190	27	5	Arizona
33	Andrew Adams	S	5-11	202	23	R	Connecticut
39	Michael Hunter	CB	6-0	186	20	R	Oklahoma State
41	D. Rodgers-Cromartie	CB	6-2	193	30	9	Tennessee State
43	Bobby Rainey	RB	5-8	212	28	5	Western Kentucky
45	Will Tye	TE	6-2	262	24	2	Stony Brook
51	Zak DeOssie	LS	6-4	249	32	10	Brown
52	Jonathan Casillas	LB	6-1	227	29	8	Wisconsin
54	Olivier Vernon	DE	6-2	275	25	5	Miami (FL)
57	Keenan Robinson	LB	6-3	238	27	5	Texas
58	Owa Odighizuwa	DE	6-3	270	24	2	UCLA
59	Devon Kennard	LB	6-3	251	25	3	USC
65	Will Beatty	T	6-6	319	31	8	Connecticut
67	Justin Pugh	G	6-4	301	26	4	Syracuse
68	Bobby Hart	G	6-4	334	25	2	Florida State
69	Brett Jones	C	6-2	318	24	2	Regina
70	Weston Richburg	C	6-3	298	25	3	Colorado State
72	Kerry Wynn	DE	6-5	264	25	3	Richmond
73	Marshall Newhouse	T	6-4	328	28	7	Texas Christian
74	Ereck Flowers	T	6-6	329	22	2	Miami (FL)
77	John Jerry	G	6-5	340	30	7	Ole Miss
78	Romeo Okwara	DE	6-5	265	21	R	Notre Dame
80	Victor Cruz	WR	6-0	204	29	7	Massachusetts
82	Roger Lewis, Jr.	WR	6-0	196	22	R	Bowling Green
84	Larry Donnell	TE	6-6	265	27	4	Grambling State
87	Sterling Shepard	WR	5-10	194	22	R	Oklahoma
89	Jerrell Adams	TE	6-5	247	23	R	South Carolina
90	Jason Pierre-Paul	DE	6-5	278	27	7	South Florida
91	Kelvin Sheppard	LB	6-2	249	28	6	LSU
93	B.J. Goodson	LB	6-1	242	23	R	Clemson
94	Mark Herzlich	LB	6-4	246	29	6	Boston College
95	Johnathan Hankins	DT	6-2	320	24	4	Ohio State
96	Jay Bromley	DT	6-3	306	24	3	Syracuse
97	Montori Hughes	DT	6-4	350	26	4	Tennessee -Martin
98	Damon Harrison	DT	6-4	350	27	5	William Penn
99	Robert Thomas	DT	6-3	325	25	3	Arkansa

*Depth chart and roster as of 9/28/16

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01

FANFARE MADE U.S. BANK STADIUM'S FIRST REGULAR-SEASON GAME A NIGHT FOR THE AGES.

The Vikings opened the Legacy Gates, five of the world's largest pivoting glass doors, for the first regular-season game in U.S. Bank Stadium and claimed a 17-14 victory over the Packers. The Vikings celebrated the proud history of the franchise and Minnesota, as well as the team's passionate fans, while introducing new activities that will become traditions.



02



03

01 | A stunning sunset lined up with the downing of a new era of Vikings football, complete with a fire-breathing dragon as the team took the field.

02 | Former American Idol winner Jordin Sparks performed the National Anthem.

03 | Hall of Fame Coach Bud Grant, 89, sounded the Gjallarhorn to a huge ovation from the crowd.

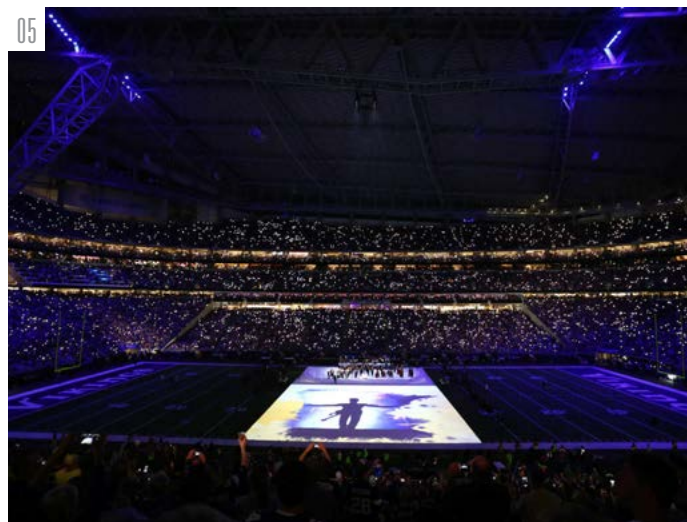
04 | FLIGHT SIGHT

Although U.S. Bank Stadium is enclosed, clear material on 60 percent of its roof allows fans to enjoy a flyover.



04

05



05 | IN TRIBUTE

The Minnesota Orchestra, led by Osmo Vänskä, was joined by a projection mapping program and Purple Rain from the rafters in a special tribute to Prince.

06 | PATH OF PRIDE

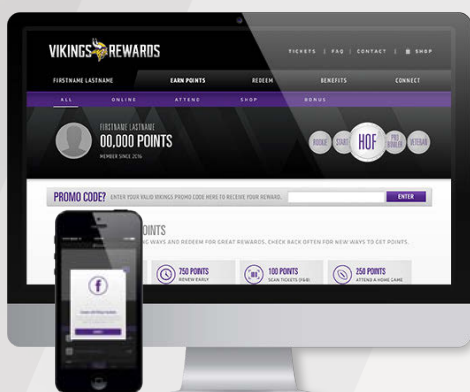
Anthony Barr celebrates the victory with Vikings fans on the way to the locker room through the Delta Sky360 Club.



06

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SENDEJO

SMITH



COVERAGE PLAN

A SHOUT ABOVE THE CROWD OR A WAVE OF THE ARM DOESN'T LOOK LIKE MUCH. BUT WHAT APPEARS TO BE A SMALL SUBTLETY TO MANY IS AN EXTENSION OF THE COMMUNICATION THAT HELPS VIKINGS SAFETIES HARRISON SMITH AND ANDREW SENDEJO STAY IN TOUCH AMIDST THE PRE-SNAP FRENZY IN THE NFL.

BY ERIC SMITH

THE PAIR OF DEFENSIVE BACKS roam the secondary on game days for Head Coach Mike Zimmer's defense, rarely in the same place on consecutive snaps but always knowing where the other is.

They say that comes from extensive film study, an area they've ingrained into their preparation, using technology to connect outside of the team's headquarters.

"Usually during the week while we're studying or prepping, if I see a play or Harry sees a play that could potentially give us some problems, we'll video it and send it to each other," Sendejo said. "We'll say, 'Well how do you see us playing this versus this coverage,' or, 'What would you do in this?'"

"Sometimes I'm watching a certain game, and he's watching a certain game, and we see stuff that the other doesn't see," Sendejo added. "We just kind of send it to each other and figure it

out then, or the next day we'll talk about it."

Smith, who earned his first Pro Bowl selection in 2015, said the communication has grown in recent years. Both players signed multiyear extensions this offseason.

"It's gotten more and more (frequent) the more we've played together because it's hard to watch every play of the team you're playing," Smith said. "We don't sit there and say, 'I'll watch this, and you watch this.'"

"We talk through what we're going to do with it," he added. "It really helps because it keeps you one step ahead."

Zimmer has noticed how well Smith and Sendejo have worked together.

"I think they communicate well," Zimmer said. "Almost all the time, they're in the right place."

"They help a lot of guys get lined up," he added. "They play real hard and physical, so it's been a good tandem."

The duo first met in 2012, when Smith was a first-round pick out of the University of Notre Dame. Sendejo, an undrafted free agent out of Rice University, had just completed his first season in Purple.

They didn't play together much at first, as Sendejo worked his way up from a key special teams contributor to starting at safety last season.

Along the way, Smith and Sendejo have formed a bond and a trust that is nearly unbreakable.

The results have been there, too.

Although Smith and Sendejo each missed a few games due to injuries in 2015, they started 11 games next to each other. Add in the first three games of the 2016 season, and the Vikings have compiled an impressive 12-2 record when the duo started next to each other in the secondary.

They also helped anchor a defense that allowed just 18.9 points per game last season, good for fifth in the league.

"We both hold each other accountable," Sendejo said. "We both know the work that the other puts in during the week to be prepared for the game.

"I know that when I need help from Harry on a certain coverage, I know he's going to be there, and he knows that I'm going to be there," he added. "It allows us to play well together."

Smith said their connection stems from practices, meetings and games. But the quick text messages during a week of game-planning also come in handy.

"If we're not on the same page, it's not going to be good," Smith said. "There's time where I'll be stuck, and he'll say something and get me in the right spot.

"Stuff like that happens a lot because the game is so fast," he added. "Things happen so quick, so you have to have both of us keeping each other in check."

Smith and Sendejo's bond has even branched out to non-football activities.

Smith is involved with Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Twin Cities and hosts an annual kickball game for "Bigs" and "Littles" at Winter Park.

Likewise, Smith had Sendejo's back in June when Sendejo rappelled down a 38-story building in Austin, Texas, to raise funds and awareness for the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

"Somebody had to be there in case he fell off," Smith quipped. "But it was pretty cool, him hanging off a side of a building."

The friendship between the safeties also extends to other defensive backs. Smith and Sendejo showed up to support Vikings cornerback Xavier Rhodes at his annual charity bowling event earlier this year.

"Just showing up for each other ... offense, defense, whatever, but especially within the DB room," Smith said. "You've got to have that (support system) back there

because you're going to go through adversity.

"You've got to stick together and fight for one another," he added.

Sendejo estimated the pair spends dozens of hours together during the week before going home and keeping in touch with their phones or iPads.

The 29-year-old Sendejo noted he likes to put on some music and study in 30-minute increments to keep his brain fresh.

And since the two know each other so well, they said they don't need to send long and elaborate messages when getting the other up to speed on a particular coverage, play call or tendency of an opponent.

"A paragraph is way too long," Smith said with a laugh.

Added Sendejo: "It's usually just a video with the coverage. Sometimes it's just the video of a play that could be a potential issue depending on what we have going in that week."

The constant communication all adds up to each other being reliable when called upon during games.

"You're kind of quarterbacking the coverage so to speak," Sendejo said. "It's a pretty complex defense as far as what we have in.

"You have to be able to do your job. If you can't do your job or you don't know what you're supposed to be doing, they're not going to put you on the field," he added. "We have to make a lot of checks and adjustments and get the other guys lined up."

It's not all business all the time for Smith and Sendejo, however. The pair noted they look for humorous moments while watching film that they can point out to each other or one of their teammates.

"We'll also keep each other in check," Smith said. "If something funny happened in a game and it's one of us, we'll send that, too, to make sure we know that we saw the other guy mess up.

"But it could be anybody," he added.

"No one is safe."

Neither are opposing offenses, it seems, especially when Smith and Sendejo are hard at work behind the scenes.

"It's not like there is an 'Ah-ha' moment or something like that," Smith said. "It's basic adjustments that once you talk through them, they're simple.

"But if we haven't seen them before, they could trip you up," he added.

"They are things we notice that make us play faster."





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PICKS BY THE PAIR

ANDREW SENDEJO
& HARRISON SMITH

BY ERIC SMITH

IT'S A GOOD BET that Eli Manning will make sure he knows where Minnesota's safeties are at all times tonight.

When the Vikings hosted New York in Week 16 of the 2015 season, both Harrison Smith and Andrew Sendejo picked off the Giants quarterback.

Those were two of three interceptions thrown by Manning in a game the Vikings won 49-17 to get their 10th win of the season and clinch a berth in the playoffs.

Sendejo said he was so focused on the victory that he hardly realized it was the first game in which he and Smith both had interceptions.

"I didn't really think about the fact that we both had one," Sendejo said.

Sendejo nabbed his pick midway through the first quarter, corralling a deflection of a Manning pass by cornerback Xavier Rhodes before returning it nine yards.

"My pick was pretty easy," Sendejo said. "Xavier had great coverage and tipped it in the air. I just happened to be standing right there.

"Sometimes you get those lucky bounces that come your way ... I was fortunate enough to be there for that one," he added. Smith gave him a bit more credit.

"A lot of times you see guys drop the easy ones," Smith said. "They all count the same."

Smith's interception put points on the board for the Vikings. With just over four minutes left in the second quarter, Smith

baited Manning into a throw on the right hashmark. The former first-round selection leapt up and caught the pass before racing 35 yards for the score.

Smith's pick-6 was the fourth of his career, which set a Vikings franchise record. It also gave Minnesota a double-digit lead.

"I remember Harry's pick being at a crucial time," Sendejo said. "It changed the momentum of the game. Obviously, anytime you score on defense, that's huge."

Smith said he was just glad to capitalize on the opportunity. He said defensive backs talk often about how the team's chances to win skyrocket if the defense can create a turnover and find the end zone.

Smith had a comical celebration on the play. As he wound up to throw the ball, it slipped out of his hands.

Sendejo, who said Smith was "way too juiced" after the score, is looking for the first touchdown of his career.

He's been close.

In a 2014 road game against Chicago, Sendejo gained 48 yards on a fake punt but was tackled at the 7-yard line. And against Detroit at home last year, he was tackled by Lions running back Ameer Abdullah on the 6-yard line after scooping up a fumble.

Sendejo, who had two career interceptions entering this season, even had two fumble recoveries in the first two games of 2016.

"We actually have a running joke about me getting into the end zone," Sendejo said. "But I've been knocking at the door.

"Every time we get the ball, the first thing that comes into our head is that we're scoring," he added. "That's our mentality, so hopefully it'll pay off for us soon. We don't always get the ball, so when we do we're going to make the most of it."

Perhaps pay dirt is just on the horizon.

TIMEOUT WITH MATT ASIATA



MATT ASIATA IS A MAN OF FEW WORDS, BUT WHEN HE HITS THE FIELD, HE SPEAKS VOLUMES.

BY LINDSEY YOUNG

The running back heard his number called in 2014 when the Vikings played nearly the entire season without Adrian Peterson. He finished that season with nine touchdowns.

When Peterson suffered a torn meniscus against the Packers two weeks ago and needed surgery, Asiata was prepared to step up again.

"It's devastating when your friend and teammate goes down," Asiata said, "But me, Jerick [McKinnon] and Zach Line are going to try to hold it down for him."

Asiata and McKinnon shared the load at Carolina in the Vikings first full game

without Peterson, and the trend will likely continue. It isn't uncommon for the Vikings to bring in Asiata for pass protection or in third-down situations, and the hard-working back is prepared to do whatever is asked of him.

"You just have to go in there and execute and do your job," Asiata said. "For me, I just want the whole team to win, so I try to go in there and help pass protect or run the ball, just trying to get down the field and get first downs."

Peterson in the first two games drew extra defensive reinforcements, and Minnesota was challenged in making headway on the ground. Asiata now takes the responsibility on his shoulders to get that part of their game up and running – literally.

"There's always something to improve every day and every week, and that's something as a team we're going to work on, is our running game," Asiata said. "Just go out there and do our best to clean it up."



WE MET UP WITH MATT ASIATA
FOR A RECENT TIMEOUT

Q: How do you and Jerick as a tandem challenge defenses?

A: *We have different styles. A one-cut guy or a guy who can make you miss out in the open. Me and Jerick are just going to go out there and do our best and try to hold it down for our running backs.*

Q: What's one of the biggest things you've learned from Adrian?

A: *Just the attitude with which you approach the game. Just his attitude and coming into the game with focus, knowing what to do and running the ball hard. How he runs is how he acts.*

Q: What is Coach Kevin Stefanski like in his first year with the running backs?

A: *[He's] a great coach. He tells us what to do on the field, and it's our job to execute.*

Q: What did you learn about coming back from injury after suffering a broken leg in college?

A: *It's all mental. All the physical stuff you can handle by yourself, but the mental part is something you really have to overcome. Sometimes you want to quit and just say, 'OK, I'll go find a job,' but just being mentally prepared and trying to push yourself to the next level.*

“FOR ME, I JUST WANT THE WHOLE TEAM TO WIN, SO I TRY TO GO IN THERE AND HELP PASS PROTECT OR RUN THE BALL, JUST TRYING TO GET DOWN THE FIELD AND GET FIRST DOWNS.”

- MATT ASIATA

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CAREER 3-TD RUSHING GAMES BY VIKINGS

ADRIAN PETERSON	5
MATT ASIATA	3
CHUCK FOREMAN	2

Q: What is your favorite part about U.S. Bank Stadium?

A: *I think it's everything. It's exciting just to be out there in a brand-new stadium in front of all the Vikings fans and your family.*

Q: Who has been the biggest inspiration in your life, and why?

A: *My wife. We've been together since junior high. We have five kids, and she does all the work, and I am just [able] to come in and play football. She's back home taking care of the kids, getting them to school, changing diapers all day, and my job's easy. I give credit to her.*

Q: What do you most enjoy about being a dad to five children?

A: *Just being around them – just hang out, play with them, really just chill out. Just hanging out and being with them [as often as possible]. Having lunch together.*

Q: What is your family's favorite Twin Cities activity during the offseason?

A: *During the offseason, as a family we enjoy just going to dinner, going out and spending time together. Eat dinner and talk about, 'How was your day?' and 'How's school going?' and so forth.*



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UTAH UTES

Q: If you weren't playing football, what could you see yourself doing?

A: *At first I wanted to become an FBI agent or a cop, but I don't know. I think I want to chill and just coach my son in high school football – go back to my high school and coach. Football is basically my life, and that's what I'm good at. After the NFL, hopefully I can continue in the sport.*



ASIATA HAS SHOWN AN AFFINITY FOR THE END ZONE, NOTCHING THREE GAMES WITH THREE RUSHING TDs.

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THE 'VIKINGS SKOL CHANT' HEARD ACROSS THE GLOBE

ANOTHER CHAPTER IS BEING ADDED TO VIKINGS LORE

BY LINDSEY YOUNG

THE VIKINGS OPENED THEIR cutting-edge home at U.S. Bank Stadium by introducing a new tradition, the "Vikings SKOL Chant."

During the Vikings home opener against the Packers on Sept. 18, Hall of Fame quarterback Fran Tarkenton led a sea of purple in the new ritual. Fans raised their arms in the shape of a V, waited for two drum beats separated by a dramatic pause, then clapped their hands while chanting "SKOL" in unison. As the pattern repeated, the tempo increased.

"That was crazy," Vikings cornerback Captain Munneryn said. "I didn't know it was going to be that crazy, but when they got it down, I was like, 'Wow. Keep doing it!' And it was great."

Receiver Charles Johnson said he thought the chant was "really cool," especially after fans united their rhythm.

"Some people were offbeat a little bit, but you know, first time, a little rusty," Johnson said with a laugh. "You have to try it out a little bit. I think it was definitely cool to get everybody going like that – it was exciting out there."

The chant is a modified version of the stirring "Vikings War Chant" that swept across the globe when the Icelandic National Soccer Team returned home to 35,000 fans after its upset of England at the Euro 2016.

Vikings Vice President of Content and Production Bryan Harper saw the Icelandic chant in videos and was drawn to it – and he wasn't the only one.

"It was super intimidating, showing people together in unison. Immediately after it, I saw it and people are texting me," Harper said. "Over the course of the next day, we got hundreds of emails from fans, 'We've got to do this,' and we're the only team that can do it."

"This came from the fans. This is the best part about it," Harper added. "When stuff comes from the fans, it's more authentic."

Aron Gunnarsson, the captain of the Icelandic Soccer Team, and Thor Björnsson, who stars as "The Mountain" in *Game of Thrones*, appeared in a video to help transfer the chant to Vikings fans.

After seeing the response from Vikings fans at the Packers game, Gunnarsson said it was a bit surreal to see the tradition adopted – and adapted – by an NFL team.

"It was pretty special," Gunnarsson told Iceland reporter Eiríkur Stefán Ásgeirsson, as translated through Google Chrome. "You realized that the Viking [Chant] has become [major] and world famous. Therefore [it's] noticed almost wherever [one] goes."

Quarterback Sam Bradford made his Minnesota debut in a game of firsts, and he said he was impressed by the energy of the Vikings fans.

"That's one of the best atmospheres I've probably ever played in," Bradford said. "Our fans were tremendous."

As Bradford continues to lead the Vikings, the team hopes to hear the Vikings SKOL Chant as a regular battle cry.

And Minnesota gained one more fan who will be cheering from across the world.

Although he didn't watch much of the NFL beyond the Super Bowl in years past, Gunnarsson said he has no choice but to now join the Purple and Gold.

"It must be so," Gunnarsson 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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TEXT TWIST

Viktor has created a fun puzzle by scrambling six letters. Can you unscramble the letters and spell all the words in the blank spaces provided?

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U.S. BANK PLACES TO PLAY PROGRAM IN MOTION

"THE PLACES TO PLAY INITIATIVE IS IMPORTANT TO THE VIKINGS BECAUSE IT'S ALSO OUR COMMUNITY. IT WILL CREATE BIG MEMORIES FOR A LOT OF YOUNG KIDS" - STEFON DIGGS

BY CRAIG PETERS

Stefon Diggs isn't too far removed from his playground days.

The 22-year-old is in his second season in the NFL after starring at the collegiate and high school levels of football, but he can recall a playground near his grandmother's house where he could just be a kid.

Diggs was pleased to learn about the U.S. Bank Places to Play Program, a three-year, \$1 million investment across Minnesota that awards grant funding to non-profit, neighborhood-based organizations and schools in low- to moderate-income communities to improve the quality, safety and accessibility of local play spaces.

As part of U.S. Bank's "Community Possible" platform, this grantmaking initiative focuses on parks, playgrounds, indoor/outdoor athletic facilities and repairs to existing trails over three years.

The first recipients chosen were Beltrami Neighborhood Council in Minneapolis, Ecolibrium3 in Duluth, Fairmont Area Schools, Family Pathways in North Branch, Joy of the People Foundation in St. Paul, the Trust for Public Land in St. Paul and Urban Ventures Leadership Foundation in Minneapolis.

Diggs, the 2015 Vikings Children's Fund Rookie of the Year, was on hand for the check presentation to the first recipients.

"The Places to Play initiative is important to the Vikings because it's also our community," Diggs said. "It will create big memories for a lot of young kids."

The Places to Play Program is evaluating another round of applicants for matching grants that range from \$25,000 to \$50,000.



In order to be eligible for a grant under the program, projects must be sponsored by community-based non-profit organizations registered as exempt from Federal Income Tax under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3) or by schools located in or primarily serving low- to moderate-income communities in Minnesota.

Strong preference will be given to those proposals that accomplish the following, in no particular order: (1) seek to upgrade existing facilities that are in poor condition or otherwise underutilized; (2) demonstrate active use of the spaces; (3) attract matching funding that exceeds the minimum required match of 1:1; (4) involve local partnerships with non-profit community partners (e.g., Parks and Recreation departments, YMCA branches, etc.) to promote youth safety and community programming; and (5) provide for continuing maintenance and safety.

Please email placestoplay@usbank.com and provide name, email address and organization's name to request a proposal submission link.

Proposals must be submitted by noon (CT) on Nov. 17, 2016.

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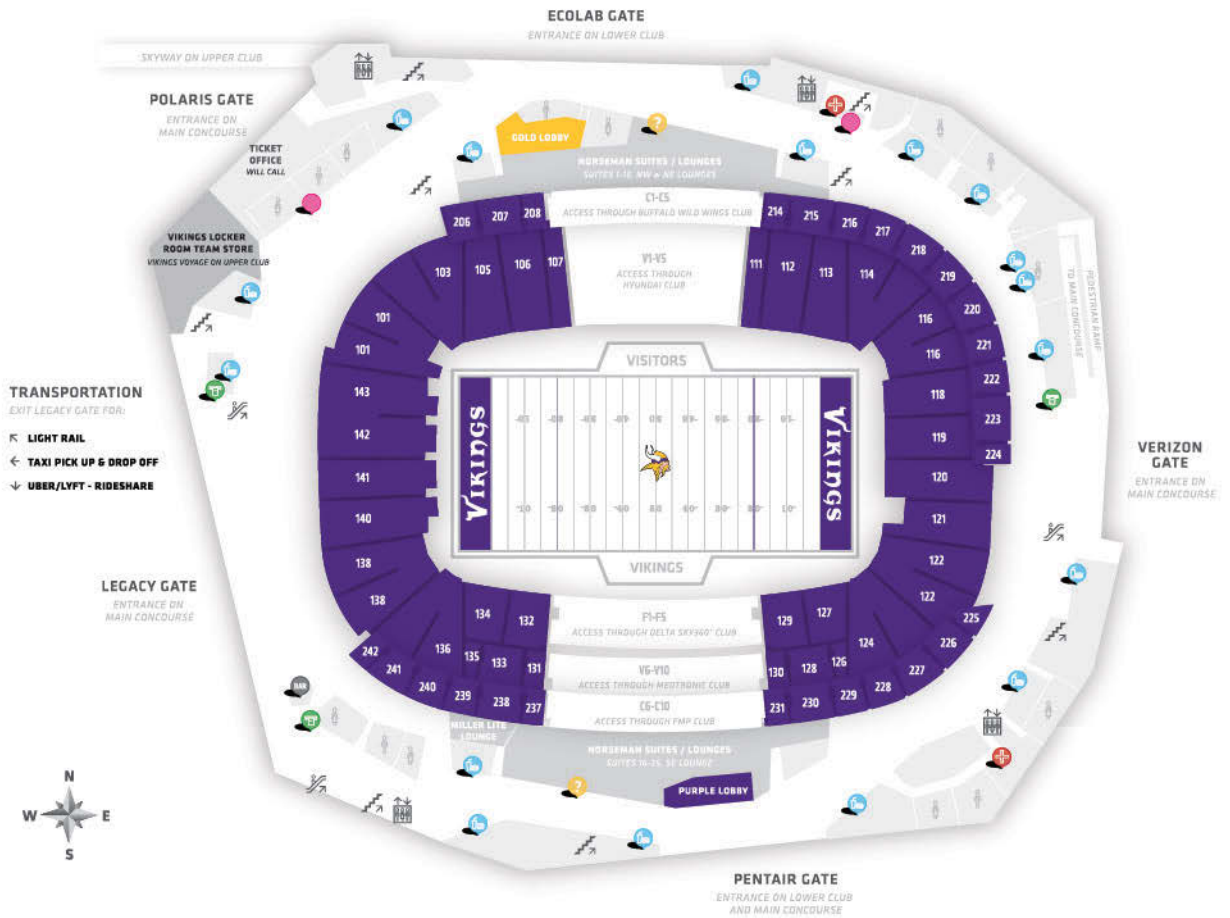


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THE TRUTH BEHIND THE HORNED HELMET

A LOT HAS CHANGED SINCE 1961, BUT ONE THING THAT HAS NEVER ALTERED IS THE ICONIC VIKINGS HORNED HELMET



“WHY DO THE MINNESOTA
VIKINGS HAVE HORNS PAINTED
ON THEIR HELMETS? **MANY**
BELIEVE IT’S BECAUSE HELMETS
HAD HORNS IN THE VIKING AGE.”

THE TRUTH BEHIND SERIES

A lot has changed since the Minnesota Vikings first began play during the 1961 season. Players have come and gone, new stadiums have been built, and uniforms have been updated. However, one thing that has never changed is the team’s iconic horned helmets. From Fran Tarkenton in 1961 to Everson Griffen in 2016, every Vikings player has donned the horned helmets. This week we explore the Truth Behind horned helmets in the Viking Age.

Why do the Minnesota Vikings have horns painted on their helmets? Many believe it’s because helmets had horns in the Viking Age. In popular culture, we find them everywhere. The comic *Hägar the Horrible* is just one example. There, helmets with horns are standard; even children, dogs and ducks wear them!

The truth is that Vikings never had horns on their helmets. It would have been very strange if they did. Helmets are defensive weaponry and protect against sword blows.

A blade striking a bare helmet glances off. Knobs, on the other hand, absorb the shock into the skull. We have never found any horned helmets from the Viking Age. No contemporary pictures of Viking warriors show horns on their helmets.

The costume designer Carl Emil Doepler designed winged helmets for Richard Wagner’s opera series *The Ring of the Nibelung* in 1876. Doepler then added horns in an 1882 book on Germanic gods and heroes. The horns have become a signature of Viking imagery ever since.

The image of a Viking with horns on the helmet is simply too good to pass up. Even Scandinavians love to wear them, especially as fans of their national sports teams. The horns serve as identification. They also stress the wildness of the Vikings in berserk mood. As such, they fit perfectly on the helmet of the Minnesota Vikings right where they have always been.

“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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