



PLAYBOOK

U.S. BANK STADIUM

VIKINGS VS. CARDINALS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2016

FATHER FIGURES

GRIFFEN & GREEN



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INAUGURAL SEASON



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▼ PG 31

CENTER JOE BERGER HAS BECOME A STABILIZING FORCE FOR TWO CHILDREN HE AND HIS WIFE ADOPTED.





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"



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Clear plastic freezer bag

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01



02



03

01 | Kyle Rudolph caught five passes for 69 yards, including a 20-yard touchdown.

02 | Everson Griffen recovered a fumble in the second quarter to set up Minnesota's third touchdown of the game.



04

THROUGH-THE-LENS

VIKINGS **VS. REDSKINS**

MINNESOTA LOST ITS FOURTH GAME IN A ROW AND THIRD STRAIGHT ON THE ROAD IN A 26-20 VERDICT AT WASHINGTON.

The Vikings (5-4) rallied with 20 straight points in the second quarter but were held scoreless in the second half when the Redskins (5-3-1) stymied a comeback attempt.

“WE JUST NEED TO
SETTLE DOWN. WE NEED
TO DO WHAT WE DO.”

— MIKE ZIMMER

03 | Stefon Diggs became the first player in NFL history to record 13 or more receptions in consecutive weeks and set a franchise record with 26 catches in a two-game span.

04 | Adam Thielen scored a 3-yard touchdown as the first half expired.



05

05 | Linval Joseph flexes after forcing a fumble by Chris Thompson with 50 seconds left in the first half.

06 | Sam Bradford completed 31 of 40 passes for a second straight week and totaled 307 passing yards with two touchdown passes.



06

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



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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH, 2016

CARDINALS AT VIKINGS

TODAY'S GAME HEAD TO HEAD

TODAY'S GAME IS THE 27TH (INCLUDING TWO POSTSEASON GAMES) IN THE SERIES BETWEEN THE VIKINGS AND CARDINALS FRANCHISES AND A REMATCH OF A 23-20 WIN BY ARIZONA LAST SEASON.

RECEIVERS FROM EACH TEAM turned in high-flying performances last week. Stefon Diggs became the first NFL player to ever catch 13 passes in consecutive weeks. His 26 receptions in a two-game span broke Cris Carter's franchise record of 24 in 1995. Diggs totaled 164 yards, lifting his season total to 710 yards – just 10 shy of his tally in his 2015

rookie season, and he is tied for fourth in the NFL with 61 receptions this season.

The Cardinals first game at U.S. Bank Stadium will provide a unique homecoming for Minnesota natives Larry Fitzgerald and Michael Floyd. Fitzgerald has 68 receptions (second-most in the NFL) for 687 yards and five touchdowns, and Floyd has added 24 catches for 358 yards with three receiving scores.

The series dates to 1963 when the Cardinals were still in St. Louis.

Arizona is one of seven teams to score 21 or more points against Minnesota since the 2015 season began (25 regular-season games), outdueling the Vikings 23-20 in the desert last December.

Minnesota (5-4) is looking to end a four-game skid. After starting slowly, Arizona (4-4-1) is 3-1-1 in its past five games.

FORMER NO. 1S

The former first overall picks of the 2004 (Arizona QB Carson Palmer) and 2010 (Minnesota QB Sam Bradford) NFL Drafts are facing off. Palmer has completed 207 of 331 passes for 2,444 yards and 11 touchdowns this season. He's also thrown eight interceptions. Bradford has completed 197 of 283 passes this season for a career-high completion percentage of 69.6. He has thrown for 2,022 yards with 11 touchdowns against two interceptions and ranks sixth in the league with a passer rating of 99.9.

DOUBLE TROUBLE

In addition to Larry Fitzgerald and Michael Floyd, the Vikings must deal with another player from the Upper Midwest, David Johnson. The native of Clinton, Iowa, who starred at Northern Iowa, provides a dual threat at running back. Johnson ranks sixth in the NFL in carries (175), fourth in rushing yards (760) and is tied for second with nine rushing touchdowns. He's also recorded 40 catches for 453 yards.

MAJOR MILESTONES

Brian Robison is set to play in his 152nd game with the Vikings and move past Mark Mullaney for most regular-season games played by a Vikings defensive end.

Kyle Rudolph is one touchdown catch away from tying Steve Jordan's franchise mark of 28 career touchdowns by a Vikings tight end.



TERENCE NEWMAN HAS BEEN CHOSEN AS THE MINNESOTA VIKINGS 2016 NOMINEE FOR THE NFL'S THIRD-ANNUAL ART ROONEY SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD.

GRIDIRON ACTION

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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 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!



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!



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 Heroes is Gwen Jorgensen, who won the gold medal in the triathlon at the 2016 Olympics in Rio. Jorgensen was born in Wisconsin and now resides in St. Paul. She has won World Championships (2014, 2015) and has twice been named USA Triathlon's Triathlete of the Year.



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 Sok Family from Apple Valley.



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.



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 today's game!



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



↓ UPCOMING EVENTS – FALL 2016

“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 more than 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.

MINNESOTA FOOTBALL SHOWCASE

The Vikings and the Minnesota Football Coaches Association are proud to announce the Minnesota Football Showcase on Saturday, Dec. 3 at U.S. Bank Stadium. This event is a celebration of all things Minnesota football, featuring the 44th Annual High School All-Star Football Game. Tickets for the Showcase start at \$8, and all proceeds go to the MFCA and the Tackle Cancer Campaign. Learn more at Vikings.com/Showcase.

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 Friday, Nov. 25 at Sunshine Factory in Plymouth with Charles Johnson.

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! The next Friday Football Feast will take place on Nov. 25 at the BWW in Blaine.

COMMONS PARK & DELTA VIKINGS VILLAGE

Fans are able to enjoy family-friendly activities and entertainment – games, face painting, music and visits from Viktor, the SKOL Line and Vikings Cheerleaders at The Commons Park.

The Delta Vikings Village opens two-and-a-half hours before kickoffs. There is plenty of tailgate fare, ice-cold Miller Lite and promotions. Vikings Legends sign autographs, and the Pepsi “Sound The North” stage features live music, and KFAN broadcasts live before games. The Vikings Village features the Longhouse, a 6,000-plus-square-foot, climate-controlled gathering space. Activities are free to attend for fans with or without tickets to the game.

MN STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE PREP BOWL

U.S. Bank Stadium will host the Minnesota State High School League semifinal (Nov. 17-19) and championship games (Nov. 25-26). Prep Bowl alumni players, winning coaches and record holders will be honored during halftime of the 6A title game on Nov. 25. Visit mshsl.org/prepbowl for more information.

KFAN & VIKINGS TOYS FOR TOTS DRIVE

KFAN and the Vikings will host an annual Toys for Tots drive, presented by CenturyLink, at the Mills Fleet Farm in Lakeville on Dec. 6. KFAN will broadcast throughout the day beginning at 5:30 a.m. with the *Power Trip*. Donations will be accepted on-site all day, and donors will be entered into drawings for prizes.

ABOVE: KFAN AND THE VIKINGS WILL PARTNER FOR THEIR ANNUAL TOYS FOR TOTS DRIVE AT MILLS FLEET FARM IN LAKEVILLE.



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MINNESOTA HIGH SCHOOL

ALL STAR GAME

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PLAYER TO WATCH: WR ADAM THIELEN

THE MINNESOTA RECEIVER has come a long way since earning a spot on the Vikings practice squad in 2013 as an undrafted invitee to the team's rookie minicamp. The Detroit Lakes native and Minnesota State University, Mankato alum has capitalized on increased opportunities each season. He caught eight passes for 137 yards in a limited role in 2014 and 12 for 144 last season. Thielen also rushed four times for 89 yards in 2015, including a 41-yard gain on a fake punt at Green Bay in the division-clincher. Thielen moved up the depth chart this year and has delivered 32 receptions for 453 yards, including a 36-yard touchdown against Houston. It will be interesting to watch how Thielen fits in the Vikings plan of attack against a strong and deep Cardinals secondary.

CAREER HIGHS: THIELEN TOTALED CAREER HIGHS OF SEVEN CATCHES AND 127 YARDS AGAINST THE TEXANS, STEPPING UP WHEN STEFON DIGGS WAS SIDELINED ON OCT. 9.

32 OF 45

The Vikings have targeted Thielen 45 total times in nine games this season, and he's recorded a reception 32 times (a catch rate of 71.1 percent).

2016 SEASON LEADERS

Passing (Yds)	Sam Bradford	2,022
Rushing (Yds)	Jerick McKinnon	241
Receiving (Yds)	Stefon Diggs	710
Tackles	Harrison Smith	72
Sacks	Everson Griffen	6.0
Interceptions	Rhodes, Sendejo, Waynes	2
KOR (Yds)	Cordarrelle Patterson	376
PR (Avg.)	Marcus Sherels	13.7

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 (5-4)

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	W 31-13
6	10/16	BYE	
7	10/23	at Philadelphia Eagles	L 10-21
8	10/31	at Chicago Bears	L 10-20
9	11/6	Detroit Lions	L 22-16
10	11/13	at Washington Redskins	L 20-26
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 ARIZONA

RUSHING YARDS

165	Adrian Peterson on 28 attempts at Arizona (Dec. 14, 2008)
153	Adrian Peterson on 23 attempts in Minnesota (Oct. 21, 2012)

PASSING YARDS

446	Brett Favre on 36-of-47 passing in Minnesota (Nov. 7, 2010)
355	Warren Moon on 29-of-47 passing at Arizona (Oct. 2, 1994)

RECEIVING YARDS

167	Cris Carter on 14 catches at Arizona (Oct. 2, 1994)
157	Cris Carter on 12 catches at Arizona (Nov. 12, 1995)

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PLAYER TO WATCH: WR LARRY FITZGERALD

THE MINNEAPOLIS NATIVE, former Academy of Holy Angels star and third overall pick of the 2004 NFL Draft is still going strong and doing so as a class act. The 33-year-old was named the inaugural winner of the Art Rooney Sportsmanship Award after the 2014 season and was selected to his ninth Pro Bowl after the 2015 season. Fitzgerald has 1,086 catches, the most among active players and sixth all-time. He can move into the top five, past Hall of Famer Tim Brown, with nine more receptions and is 17 shy of passing Hall of Famers Cris Carter (1,101) and Marvin Harrison (1,102) for third. In 195 career games, Fitzgerald has posted 100 or more receiving yards 42 times, including seven games with more than 150 receiving yards. Last week, he caught 12 passes for 133 yards, bringing his season total to 68 receptions for 687 yards.

DID YOU KNOW? FITZGERALD, WHO SPENT PART OF HIS YOUTH AS A BALL BOY FOR THE VIKINGS, POSTED HIS SINGLE-GAME CAREER HIGH IN YARDS (172) IN MINNESOTA ON NOV. 26, 2006. IN SEVEN GAMES AGAINST MINNESOTA, FITZGERALD HAS CAUGHT 44 PASSES FOR 610 YARDS AND ONE TOUCHDOWN.

14,053 REC
YDS

Fitzgerald ranks 11th all-time in receiving yards with 14,053. He is second among active players behind Steve Smith (14,349) and needs 133 to move into the top 10.

2016 SEASON LEADERS

Passing (Yds)	Carson Palmer	2,444
Rushing (Yds)	David Johnson	760
Receiving (Yds)	Larry Fitzgerald	687
Tackles	Deone Bucannon	66
Sacks	Chandler Jones	7.0
Interceptions	Marcus Cooper	3
KOR (Yards)	Andre Ellington	163
PR (Avg.)	John Brown	5.9

2016 SCHEDULE

PRESEASON (1-3)

P1	8/12	Oakland Raiders	L	10-13
P2	8/19	at San Diego Chargers	L	3-19
P3	8/28	at Houston Texans	L	24-34
P4	9/1	Denver Broncos	W	38-17

REGULAR SEASON (4-4-1)

1	9/11	New England	L	21-23
2	9/18	Tampa Bay Buccaneers	W	40-7
3	9/25	at Buffalo Bills	L	18-33
4	10/2	Los Angeles Rams	L	13-17
5	10/6	at San Francisco 49ers	W	33-21
6	10/17	New York Jets	W	28-3
7	10/23	Seattle Seahawks	T	6-6
8	10/30	at Carolina Panthers	L	20-30
9	11/6	BYE		
10	11/13	San Francisco 49ers	W	23-20
11	11/20	at Minnesota Vikings		
12	11/27	at Atlanta Falcons		
13	12/4	Washington Redskins		
14	12/11	at Miami Dolphins		
15	12/18	New Orleans Saints		
16	12/24	at Seattle Seahawks		
17	1/1	at Los Angeles Rams		

TOP 2s AGAINST MINNESOTA

RUSHING YARDS

182	Wayne Morris on 27 attempts in Minnesota (Nov. 6, 1977)
164	Ottis Anderson on 25 attempts at St. Louis (Nov. 4, 1979)

PASSING YARDS

405	Matt Leinart on 31-of-51 passing in Minnesota (Nov. 26, 2006)
353	Jim Hart on 28-of-43 passing at St. Louis (Nov. 11, 1974)

RECEIVING YARDS

172	Larry Fitzgerald on 11 catches in Minnesota (Nov. 26, 2006)
159	Sonny Randle on six catches in Minnesota (Nov. 6, 1963)


OFFENSE
WR

19 Adam Thielen
12 Charles Johnson
11 Laquon Treadwell

TE
82 Kyle Rudolph
85 Rhett Ellison
89 David Morgan

LT

78 Jeremiah Sirles
69 Rashod Hill

QB
8 Sam Bradford
13 Shaun Hill

LG

76 Alex Boone
67 Zac Kerin

WR
14 Stefon Diggs
84 C. Patterson
17 Jarius Wright

C

61 Joe Berger
62 Nick Easton

FB
48 Zach Line

RG

63 Brandon Fusco
64 Willie Beavers

HB
21 Jerick McKinnon
44 Matt Asiata
33 Ronnie Hillman

RT

68 T.J. Clemmings

DEFENSE
LE

96 Brian Robison
99 Danielle Hunter

SLB

55 Anthony Barr
51 Edmond Robinson

DT

93 Shamar Stephen
73 Sharif Floyd

LCB

23 Terence Newman
26 Trae Waynes
35 Marcus Sherels

NT

98 Linval Joseph
92 Tom Johnson

RCB

29 Xavier Rhodes
24 C. Munnerlyn
20 M. Alexander

RE

97 Everson Griffen
94 Justin Trattou

SS

34 Andrew Sendejo
27 Jayron Kearse

WLB

52 Chad Greenway
59 Emmanuel Lamur

FS

22 Harrison Smith
41 Anthony Harris

MLB

54 Eric Kendricks
57 Audie Cole
40 Kentrell Brothers

SPECIALISTS
K

2 Kai Forbath

KR

84 C. Patterson
35 Marcus Sherels

P/H

18 Jeff Locke

PR

35 Marcus Sherels
19 Adam Thielen

LS

47 Kevin McDermott

NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	AGE	EXP.	COLLEGE
2	Kai Forbath	K	5-11	197	29	5	UCLA
6	Taylor Heinicke	QB	6-1	210	23	2	Old Dominion
8	Sam Bradford	QB	6-4	224	29	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	23	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	25	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
69	Rashod Hill	T	6-6	313	24	R	Southern Mississippi
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	27	6	Notre Dame
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	28	7	East Carolina
99	Danielle Hunter	DE	6-5	252	22	2	LSU



ARIZONA CARDINALS

OFFENSE

WR	TE
11 Larry Fitzgerald	85 Darren Fells
14 J.J. Nelson	89 Hakeem Valles
10 Brittan Golden	
LT	QB
73 John Wetzel	3 Carson Palmer
75 Ulrick John	5 Drew Stanton
LG	WR
76 Mike Iupati	15 Michael Floyd
65 Taylor Boggs	12 John Brown
	19 Chris Hubert
C	RB
53 A.Q. Shipley	31 David Johnson
70 Evan Boehm	38 Andre Ellington
	30 Steffan Taylor
RG	33 Kerwynn Williams
78 Earl Watford	
61 Cole Toner	TE
	84 Jermaine Gresham
RT	
74 D.J. Humphries	
75 Ulrick John	

DEFENSE

DT	ILB
93 Calais Campbell	51 Kevin Minter
90 Robert Nkemdiche	54 Joplo Bartu
91 Ed Stinson	
NT	WILL
98 Corey Peters	44 Markus Golden
94 Xavier Williams	96 Kareem Martin
72 Olsen Pierre	
DT	LCB
92 Frostee Rucker	21 Patrick Peterson
97 Josh Mauro	28 Justin Bethel
95 Rodney Gunter	
SAM	RCB
55 Chandler Jones	41 Marcus Cooper
57 Alex Okafor	29 Tharold Simon
	26 Brandon Williams
LB	SS
20 Deone Bucannon	22 Tony Jefferson
50 Gabe Martin	25 Christian Bryant
	FS
	32 Tyrann Mathieu
	36 D.J. Swearinger

SPECIALISTS

K	KR
7 Chandler Catanzaro	10 Brittan Golden
	14 J.J. Nelson
P/H	38 Andre Ellington
2 Drew Butler	
LS	PR
46 Aaron Brewer	12 John Brown
	21 Patrick Peterson
	10 Brittan Golden

NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	AGE	EXP.	COLLEGE
2	Drew Butler	P	6-1	217	27	4	Georgia
3	Carson Palmer	QB	6-5	235	36	14	USC
5	Drew Stanton	QB	6-3	243	32	10	Michigan State
7	Chandler Catanzaro	K	6-3	200	25	3	Clemson
10	Brittan Golden	WR	5-11	186	28	3	West Texas A&M
11	Larry Fitzgerald	WR	6-3	218	33	13	Pittsburgh
12	John Brown	WR	5-11	179	26	3	Pittsburg State
14	J.J. Nelson	WR	5-10	160	24	2	UAB
15	Michael Floyd	WR	6-2	220	26	5	Notre Dame
19	Chris Hubert	WR	5-9	170	23	R	Fayetteville State
20	Deone Bucannon	LB	6-1	211	24	3	Washington State
21	Patrick Peterson	CB	6-1	203	26	6	LSU
22	Tony Jefferson	S	5-11	212	24	4	Oklahoma
25	Christian Bryant	S	5-10	198	24	2	Ohio State
26	Brandon Williams	CB	6-0	200	24	R	Texas A&M
28	Justin Bethel	CB	6-0	200	26	5	Presbyterian
29	Tharold Simon	CB	6-3	202	25	4	LSU
30	Steffan Taylor	RB	5-9	216	25	4	Stanford
31	David Johnson	RB	6-1	224	24	2	Northern Iowa
32	Tyrann Mathieu	S	5-9	186	24	4	LSU
33	Kerwynn Williams	RB	5-8	198	25	3	Utah State
36	D.J. Swearinger	S	5-10	205	25	4	South Carolina
38	Andre Ellington	RB	5-9	199	27	4	Clemson
41	Marcus Cooper	CB	6-2	192	26	4	Rutgers
44	Markus Golden	LB	6-3	260	25	2	Missouri
46	Aaron Brewer	LS	6-5	232	26	5	San Diego State
50	Gabe Martin	LB	6-2	236	24	1	Bowling Green
51	Kevin Minter	LB	6-0	246	25	4	LSU
53	A.Q. Shipley	C	6-1	307	30	5	Penn State
54	Joplo Bartu	LB	6-2	239	26	4	Texas State
55	Chandler Jones	LB	6-5	265	26	5	Syracuse
57	Alex Okafor	LB	6-4	261	25	4	Texas
61	Cole Toner	G	6-5	300	22	R	Harvard
65	Taylor Boggs	G	6-3	302	29	5	Humboldt State
70	Evan Boehm	C	6-3	310	23	R	Missouri
72	Olsen Pierre	DT	6-5	293	25	1	Miami
73	John Wetzel	T	6-7	328	25	1	Boston College
74	D.J. Humphries	T	6-5	307	22	2	Florida
75	Ulrick John	T	6-5	307	24	3	Georgia State
76	Mike Iupati	G	6-5	331	29	7	Idaho
78	Earl Watford	G	6-3	300	26	4	James Madison
84	Jermaine Gresham	TE	6-5	260	28	7	Oklahoma
85	Darren Fells	TE	6-7	281	30	3	UC Irvine
89	Hakeem Valles	TE	6-5	260	23	R	Monmouth
90	Robert Nkemdiche	DT	6-4	296	22	R	Mississippi
91	Ed Stinson	DT	6-4	287	26	3	Alabama
92	Frostee Rucker	DT	6-3	280	33	11	USC
93	Calais Campbell	DT	6-8	300	30	9	Miami
94	Xavier Williams	NT	6-2	309	24	2	Northern Iowa
95	Rodney Gunter	DT	6-5	305	24	2	Delaware State
96	Kareem Martin	LB	6-6	272	24	3	North Carolina
97	Josh Mauro	DT	6-6	282	25	3	Stanford
98	Corey Peters	DT	6-3	305	28	7	Kentucky

*Depth chart and roster as of 11/16/16

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TIMEOUT WITH RONNIE HILLMAN

RONNIE HILLMAN HAS PLAYED FOR A YOUTH TEAM ORGANIZED BY SNOOP DOGG AND ALONGSIDE PEYTON MANNING IN THE BRONCOS BACKFIELD. BOTH EXPERIENCES HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO WHO HE IS AS A PERSON AND PLAYER.

BY CRAIG PETERS

After growing up in Los Angeles (La Habra, California), Hillman played two seasons at San Diego State and ranks fourth in school history with 3,243 rushing yards. He was drafted by Denver in the third round of the 2012 NFL Draft and totaled 1,842 yards and 12 touchdowns, including a 72-yarder against the Vikings last season.

Hillman joined the Vikings in September after Adrian Peterson was placed on injured reserve. He had a career-long 32-yard reception against Detroit in Week 9 and 30 yards on seven carries.



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THE DENVER BRONCOS



WE MET UP WITH RONNIE HILLMAN FOR A RECENT TIMEOUT

Q: Who was your favorite running back growing up?

A: *There were a few of them. You can go from guys like LT (LaDainian Tomlinson) to Priest Holmes, Brian Westbrook and Warrick Dunn. I liked a lot of guys so it's kind of hard to pinpoint just one. If I'm naming top two, I'd say LT and Marshall.*

Q: Who is your biggest inspiration off the field?

A: *Probably my dad (Ronnie). You see him come back from a stroke, heart attack, diabetes, that's a lot of [stuff], so to see him fighting and still living, you know, he had a heart attack and a stroke in the same year, so just to see him [overcome that], and then he's got diabetes. He's strong.*

Q: How long have you had the nickname of Flash?

A: *I was a kid, 13-14, right before I got to high school. At that time, I was getting in trouble a lot, so kids around me called me 'Flash' because I was a hot head. I took things and went with it. I guess it turned into something different. Now it's just speed.*

Q: You played on a team coached by Snoop Dogg?

A: *I played for Snoop for a year. It was cool. That league was crazy, a lot of good players, like a super league. It made you better. It was giving inner-city kids the chance to travel, go to Miami and play different teams, go to Detroit. It had a lot to do with changing my life and getting me on the right track.*

Q: How much interaction did you have with him?

A: *Not too much, because he had separate teams, and I was on the older group, but every now and then we'd chat or have an*

interaction. I talk to him more now than when I actually played in his league. It's cool to have that kind of story and where you come from.

Q: You said it helped change your life. Why did that reach you at that stretch in your life?

A: *Because I was in the eighth grade. That's kind of where a kid decides if he wants to be bad or take football seriously. I think when I went to Miami, we played Uncle Luke's Pop Warner team, and I was like, 'I want to do this.' It shifted me from that tipping edge to the good side.*

Q: That had to be something, loading up on a plane...

A: *Yeah, loading up on the plane, going over and playing in Dolphin Stadium. We met all of these NFL players and celebrities. It was like, 'Dang, this mess is cool.' You're a kid, so it's like, 'This is the coolest thing ever. I want to do this all of the time.' It made me shift my focus.*

Q: What do you think about reaching the NFL?

A: *It's a blessing, not only to me but to many people. I grew up with so many different kids, half of my Pop Warner team has been in jail or is in jail. Just to be an example is cool. You want other people to make it, but just to be that kid that made it out and can be an example for other kids in the same position as me is cool.*

Q: What do you like to do off the field?

A: *Off the field, I'm heavy into fashion and music. I love clothes. If it's nice and looks good, I'm into it if it fits my style. My favorite designer is Saint Laurent. It's a few, a lot. I could talk to you about fashion all day.*

Q: What sparked that?

A: *Just being around. Living in LA, you see so many different streams of culture and*



“OFF THE FIELD,
I’M HEAVY
INTO FASHION
AND MUSIC. ...
I COULD TALK
TO YOU ABOUT
FASHION ALL
DAY.”

— RONNIE HILLMAN

fashion that it intrigues you, how this guy dresses, and that guy dresses. It's culture, you know?

Q: How have you adjusted from LA to Minnesota?

A: *Well, I really didn't have to adjust from LA. I had Denver. Denver and Minnesota is like sea salt and regular salt. You've got the salt you have to grind, and the salt you shake. It's the same salt, there's just different ways to get it.*

Q: Best memory of Peyton Manning?

A: *It's not my favorite story or moment, but kind of like how I learned a lesson. My first week of practice, I didn't really know what I was doing. I messed up on a play, and he was like, 'Get him out of here!' in front of the whoooooole team and coaches. 'Get him out of here! He doesn't know what he's doing!' I'm like, 'Oh, my God. I'm a rookie and so I'm already...I mean he's at the top of his lungs. I think I messed up on a checkdown and I'm like, 'I'm never playing again.' That's a classic moment.*

Q: Did you see the viral video of the iguana breaking loose from the snakes?

A: *Yeah, I did see that. The snake had it, and it kept going. I need to watch film on that lizard. He's very elusive.*



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FROM PUNK TO

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IT TOOK ONLY A
GLANCE AT TRAINING
CAMP TO SEE THAT
EVERSON GRIFFEN IS
PLAYING FOR A LOT
MORE THAN HIMSELF.

A miniature Vikings fan stood on the sideline, eyes tracing Griffen's every movement. DADDY is stitched across the nameplate of the young boy's purple 97 jersey in white lettering.

The player in the full-size Griffen jersey has had quite the growth spurt since entering the NFL.

"I was a knucklehead," Griffen said of his first rookie season with the Vikings in 2010. "Reckless, immature, I really wasn't teachable.

"I tried to have a chip on my shoulder, I thought I knew it all," he added. "But I didn't know anything."

Now, however, things have changed.

This season marks the second in which Griffen's teammates have voted him as one of four season-long team captains.

"I think they respect the way he works, the way he studies, the way he wants to be great," Vikings Head Coach Mike Zimmer said of Griffen this summer. "He's not a guy that's afraid to voice his opinion or his leadership skills."

When Griffen, a native of Avondale, Arizona, was elected a captain in 2015, Zimmer called him into his office to talk about the new role.

"I think at first he tried to be the image of a captain and just not the image of himself," Zimmer said. "I think he felt better after we had that talk to just be himself and do what he keeps doing and people will respect him."

Griffen is one-of-a-kind. His infectious, tell-tale laugh is recognizable anywhere. It's a calling card his teammates rib him about, but Griffen's humor and big heart are as much a moniker as his ferocity on the field.

Defensive line coach Andre Patterson said Griffen's teammates experience the whole Everson.

"He's able to show his teammates all of his personality," Patterson said. "He can be serious when it's time to be serious. He can be jovial and funny when it's OK to do that, and he can show that he cares about his teammates, too."

Griffen, who said he learned from veteran teammates like Jared Allen, Kevin Williams and Brian Robison, strives to now be a reliable leader in the locker room himself.

"I try to be the same guy every day," Griffen said. "I just try to lead by example. If I can help the guy next to me, then I'm doing my job right. It's not all about me - it's about the team."

Griffen learned a lot about support from his mother, Sabrina Scott. He largely credits her with where he is today.



BY LINDSEY YOUNG

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"She made sure I got good grades. She kept me in line, and that was pretty hard to do," Griffen said of his mother, who passed away unexpectedly in 2012. "But she was always there."

Scott never missed any of her son's sporting events – from baseball, to basketball, to football, which he didn't start playing until ninth grade.

"She's the reason I'm here," he added. "I always had her support. I just tried to do the right things as a kid, and it really helped me get to this point."

Griffen calls the past six seasons in Minnesota a journey, and it's been well-worth the ride.

When the Vikings first drafted Griffen in 2010, he was primarily a contributor on special teams for the first two seasons. In 2011, he helped the Vikings special teams unit set a then-team record with a kickoff return average of 26.9 yards for the season.

He showed real talent and potential, but Griffen was frustrated with his lack of playing time on defense.

"I think in 2012 I could have made the Pro Bowl in special teams, but I was so immature at the time," Griffen said. "I took it upon myself to say, 'If you're not going to play me any more on defense, I'm not going to do special teams like you want.' And that affected me in the long run."

Looking back, Griffen sees how his attitude may have held him back from making the jump he would make in 2014. He received his first starting nod in 2012, but it wasn't until two seasons later that he became a full-time

starter at defensive end.

Under the guidance of Zimmer and Patterson, he flourished.

"[Coach Patterson] came in and taught me how to be the best me," Griffen said. "He's the best d-line coach I've ever had."

Griffen helped the Vikings become the most improved defense in the NFL in 2014, recording a career-best 12 sacks and earning Vikings Defensive MVP honors.

The following year, Griffen helped Minnesota achieve the NFC North title and playoff berth by leading the team in sacks (10.5), and he was selected to his first career Pro Bowl.

"He earned it," Patterson said. "It wasn't given to him because he was a big-name guy; he earned it from his play."

"The thing that made me the proudest was that Griff' gave credit to his teammates [for helping] him achieve that goal," Patterson said.

So far this season, Griffen has 36 total tackles and 6.0 sacks. His impact is felt far beyond the stat line, however. Throughout the first five games, Griffen's tenacity against the run helped the Vikings hold opponents to an average of just 77 yards per game.

Robison said he's seen an immense amount of growth from Griffen in the three seasons they've held down the ends of the defensive line together. The 10-year veteran said Griffen was "kind of a run-and-gun" player early on, focused more on making splash plays than on executing technique.

"I think the one thing where you've seen him grow a lot is that he's tried to become a technician in everything he does," Robison said. "A lot of that comes back on Andre [Patterson] as well, but you also have the type of player that he is, that understands that's the type of player he needs to be. I think for him, not only his maturity level, but also the way he's become a technician on the field."

According to Patterson, Griffen has developed into one of the league's top defensive ends.

"You have some guys that are name guys in this league that are good pass rushers, but they're a liability against the run. They don't want to play the run," Patterson said. "What makes Griff different is that Griff wants to get out there and hit you in the mouth with the run game."

"I know [defensive ends] get their publicity off of sacks, which he's done a good job with the past two years," Patterson added. "But what makes him a complete guy is that he's the best run defender, other than Linval Joseph, that we have on our team."

But Patterson mentors Griffen in much more than technique, hand placement and footwork. The defensive end explained that Patterson, a father of two, teaches not only what happens on the turf but also what happens in life.

Patterson's message to his defensive linemen is, "If I'm just teaching you football, I'm not doing my job."

It's a lesson that Griffen takes seriously.

"He's teaching us how to see the world through a different lens; he's teaching us how to be a great husband, a great father," Griffen said. "And he's also teaching us how to be a great football player when we step on the field."

Griffen prides himself on his performance, but the motivation behind lacing his cleats every day has evolved along with his talent. Another factor – or rather, three – that Griffen credits for keeping him on track is his wife, Tiffany, and his two young sons, Greyson and Ellis, who give him that extra drive to give 110 percent at work.

He makes it a constant goal to be the best dad he can be and to teach his sons life lessons, to help them learn from his mistakes and not hit similar bumps in the road.

"Not just on the football field, but off the field, too – teach them to be gentlemen," Griffen said. "Tell them that with hard work and dedication, you can pretty much do anything. I just want to be an example for my kids, that no matter where you start, you can always finish strong."

The path hasn't been easy for Griffen. However, he says that if he was given the opportunity to do it all over again, he wouldn't change a thing.

"Whatever I did in the past is a learning experience," Griffen said. "When you learn from your mistakes and move forward and don't allow them to happen again, that's when you have growth."

"Now I see that it's my journey," he added. "Everybody has their own journey, their own path. But now I'm here, and I'm here to stay."



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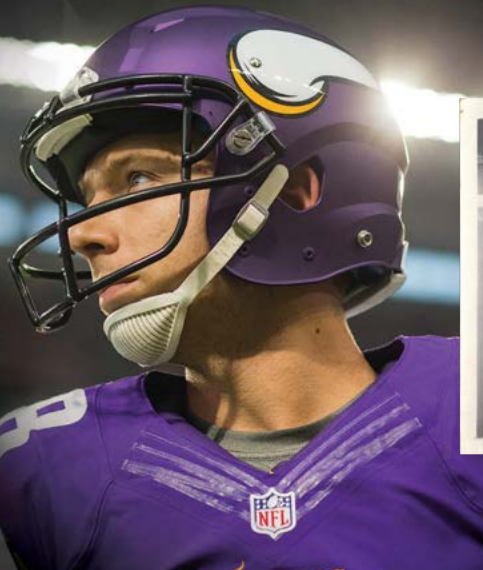
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STANDING WITH THE FORCE



JEFF LOCKE HAS MADE STRONG COMMITMENTS TO SUPPORTING ACTIVE MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY, VETERANS AND FAMILY MEMBERS THROUGHOUT HIS CAREER.

He participates in a golf-athon fundraiser for "Tee It Up for the Troops" each June and has frequently visited the VA hospital. He lends his time and ears to American heroes, connecting with them on a personal level by listening and learning about their sacrifices and ailments.

"When you're hearing some of these stories, it's hard not to be a good listener," Locke said. "You're kind of on the edge of your seat, and you realize the sacrifices they've made. It's definitely something I've tried to work on personally over the years. When someone is talking to you and telling you about their life, just forget everything else and listen to them."

Locke recently learned more about the service of another veteran – his grandfather, James Locke – through stories relayed by Locke's father, Robert, a veteran of the Air Force who retired as a Lt. Col. after 21 years of service and more than 3,000 fighter hours. Jeff was born at a U.S. Army hospital in Germany while his father was serving.

"As a kid, I hung out with my grandpa a few times, and he would show me some of his stuff from the war and he didn't like talking about it personally," Locke said. "My dad told me he lost his eye as a 2-year old and still got scholarships to play sports and had a long

and successful military career and was able to help so many people. It was kind of cool to see. When I was young and he passed, I hadn't talked to him about these things.

"My grandfather was Army, started as military police and was actually on a football and basketball scholarship when World War II broke out, so he went to the Philippines and ended up being what we consider pre-CIA," Locke said.

In the early 1950s, Locke's grandfather entered the Air Force as an Air Police Captain and served in France in 1955, an assignment that was quite fateful when he met his future wife, Margery Boles, who was working in an Air Force finance office after World War II.

"My dad loves to tell the story that their first date was him escorting her to Paris to pick up some payroll stuff for the finance office," Locke said. "My dad was born in France a couple of years later, so he's also an overseas brat like myself."

Growing up in a military family shaped Locke into the man he is and boosted his authentic appreciation for the service and sacrifices made by members of the military and their loved ones.

"You weren't late too much. Five minutes early was on time to say the least," Locke said. "In general, I was lucky because I was still really young when my dad was moving around

a lot. He kind of settled when I was developing. There's plenty of stories from my mom having three boys when my dad's overseas, and the whole military family kind of comes together and becomes one family for all of the pilots and service men and women that are away from home."

Locke said as he grew older he realized the sacrifices that his mother made while her husband was serving.

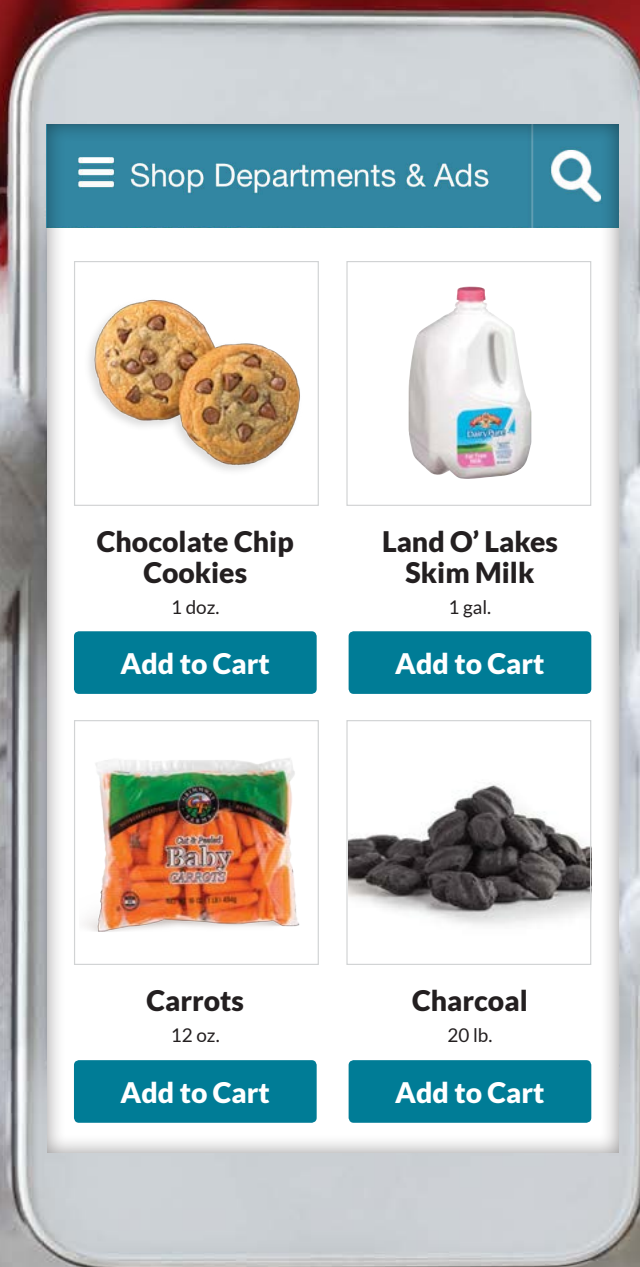
"We always tend to focus on the service men and women who are making a huge sacrifice for us, but the families back home are going through some tough times, too," Locke said. "Some of my mom's closest friends to this day are some of the other wives and spouses that kind of had to come together to help raise kids and kind of get through being in another country or in the state without their significant other."

Locke has been chosen as the Vikings nominee for the NFL's annual "Salute To Service" Award because of his continued off-the-field commitments to the military and their families. Locke is also having a good year on the field.

He ranks second in the NFL with 23 punts downed inside the 20-yard line of an opponent through nine games and has already tied his best mark in the category (23 in 2013 and in 2015).

Locke has tallied 16 punts of more than 50 yards and worked with the coverage unit for a net average of 40.0 so far this season.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29

"That's better for me than any type of stats, our [inside the 20] recognition or anything along those lines," Locke said. "When I do my job and then I get to see my teammates succeed, I get to see Marcus [Sherels] tackle a guy that usually catches because of good hang time, that's cool. Or seeing Everson [Griffen] and Danielle [Hunter] pin their ears back because we have them inside the 5, and we can get a safety or they're punting from their own end zone, that's what makes my job great, not the stats, not anything else. It's seeing my teammates succeed because I did my job."

Locke said the military service of Special Teams Coordinator Mike Priefer, who flew helicopters for the U.S. Navy, positively impacts the Vikings units.

"I think it's huge. Obviously one of the key principles in the military is discipline, and you can totally see that in the way our special teams play, from technique to eliminating number of fouls," Locke said. "Prief' and I personally have the Air Force-Navy thing going on, which can get pretty fun. When he locks in and tells us a story to give us an example to go by on the field, guys' heads are up with eyes straight. We love having him here with his experience."

Locke and his teammates also know their careers are privileges that have been extended by the service and sacrifice of so many.

"When I see the service men and women on the field, I try to thank as many of them as I can," Locke said. "It makes you appreciate having the ability to do what we do on a daily basis, whether it's walking the street wherever I go or being able to play football for a living. There's a lot of countries out there that don't have the opportunity that we do, and a lot of that comes down to people that gave their lives or served or are currently serving."



IN 2015, THE MINNESOTA VIKINGS WERE THE ONLY TEAM IN THE NFL TO USE THE SAME COMBINATION OF FIVE STARTING OFFENSIVE LINEMEN ALL SEASON.

BY ERIC SMITH

The 2016 season has been more like a merry-go round for the unit.

As the Vikings sit at 5-4 heading into today's game against Arizona, Minnesota has fielded five different starting offensive lines and used 10 total linemen in all.

Only one of them, center Joe Berger, has played every snap this season.

"With injuries in this game, you can't plan for them and you don't know when they're going to happen," Berger said. "You just kind of keep playing."

"But we've had good guys coming in when guys go down for a week or whatever," he added. "It's nice to play next to the same guy every week, but we've got good guys waiting to go in so it makes it all right."

The 12-season pro out of Michigan Tech University is in his sixth season with the Vikings, having previously spent four total seasons in Miami and two in Dallas.

Berger's veteran experience and leadership have been valuable to an offensive line that's been hit hard by injuries. The Vikings signed left tackle Jake Long in October, and he started three games at left tackle before suffering

a season-ending Achilles injury last week at Washington.

Long, who played with Berger with the Dolphins, said his linemate was always available to him when he first arrived in Minnesota and made a headfirst dive into the playbook.

"Joe is one of the smartest players I've been around," Long said. "He knows the playbook inside and out, so any questions I had, I went to him and he had the answers."

"He just knows how to study the game," he added. "He can predict stuff and is good at reading defenses. He's been around for a long time, so he knows how to handle certain situations."

While Berger has been busy helping stabilize the Vikings offensive line, he also welcomed a new addition to his family.

Berger and his wife, Abby, completed a domestic adoption of a new daughter earlier this season. Macy, the Bergers' new baby girl, was born in May.

"She's super calm," Berger said. "Of the four kids, she's probably the most easy-going baby we've had. She's pretty mellow. If you keep her needs met, then she's smiling and happy."

Macy is the second child the Bergers have adopted. They also have an adopted 6-year-old son named Blake, who splits the difference between their firstborn, 9-year-old son, Gavin, and 3-year-old daughter, Ella.

Berger said he and Abby, who have been married for 12 years, were partially inspired to adopt based on Abby's family history.

"We had talked about it before we got married, but I had to think about it a little bit," Berger said. "Her dad grew up in an orphanage in Ireland ... her mindset was like, 'Why wasn't my dad good enough to have a family?'"

"We talked about it and decided it was something we wanted to do," he added.

Berger said there are many factors that go into an adoption. But the main goal is that each child is placed into a caring and loving environment.

"It's not easy," Berger said. "There's a lot of difficulties with adoption sometimes, and I think everyone has a story.

"But kids deserve to have parents in a forever home," he added.

Berger isn't the only one associated with the Vikings who has gone through the adoption process. Vikings General Manager Rick Spielman and his wife, Michele, have adopted their six children, and Executive Vice President of Football Operations Rob Brzezinski and his wife, Leah, have adopted five children.

Berger said he's actually enjoyed having four kids more than three simply because each parent can handle two of them.

"It was harder going to three kids because now you're outnumbered all of

the sudden," Berger quipped. "The first kid is a big shock, and the second one is fun, but three ... it's like they've got us beat now.

"Four has been an easier transition than three," he added.

Berger said he and Abby got a phone call in April about the opportunity to adopt Macy.

Berger said that he looks forward to coming home from practice and games to see his family, especially after a tough loss.

"Just the unconditional love the kids give you, especially when they're young," Berger said. "You can have a bad day at work, and they are there to give you a hug because Dad is home.

"It makes you smile to go home and see your kids," Berger said. "I love being a dad."

Berger said the toughest part of balancing fatherhood and playing professional football is Minnesota's annual training camp in Mankato. He said getting ready for the season is always a bittersweet feeling.

"They come visit a little bit," Berger said. "But probably the hardest part about training camp for me at this point is leaving the kids.

"I think you could talk to a lot of guys, and it's probably the same for them," he added. "The work is one thing, and it's not easy, but leaving your family might be the hardest part of it."

The father of four said having his family with him during the season is a treat. Especially now that Macy is a part of the group.

"Everything is new (for her)," Berger said. "But (kids) seem to grow quickly."

VIKINGS RECOGNIZED FOR WORK WITH ADOPTION

CRAIG PETERS

The Vikings were among the 2016 National Angels in Adoption® honorees who were recognized in September by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI).

Spielman and his wife, Michele, have six adopted children, and Brzezinski and his wife, Leah, have five adopted children. The families and the Vikings host an annual Adoption Family Fun Fest at the team's headquarters and frequently advocate the merits of adoption.

Spielman and Brzezinski attended the CCAI's 18th annual awards gala at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, D.C.

"The Angels in Adoption® Program is an opportunity to share the story of the heroes who have helped children in U.S. foster care and orphans around the world realize their basic right to a family," said CCAI Executive Director Becky Weichhand. "The generosity and leadership of Minnesota Vikings General Manager Rick Spielman and Executive Vice President of Football Operations Rob Brzezinski have inspired the NFL to support adoptees and adoptive families throughout the years."

More than 415,000 children in America live in foster care today. Nearly 108,000 of those children are eligible for adoption. Children living in orphanages globally are estimated conservatively at eight million, with unknown numbers living on the streets. CCAI's mission is to advocate for these children. November is National Adoption Awareness Month.

Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-MN, Sen. Roy Blunt, R-MO, and Rep. Brenda L. Lawrence, D-MI are Co-Chairs of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption.

"I am proud that this year's honorees include the Minnesota Vikings, who are being recognized for their longtime support for adoptive children and families," said Sen. Klobuchar. "The Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute has proven to be an incredible resource in the adoption process – not just for members of Congress, but also to adoption organizers and adoptive families."

"JUST THE UNCONDITIONAL LOVE THE KIDS GIVE YOU, ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY'RE YOUNG. YOU CAN HAVE A BAD DAY AT WORK, AND THEY ARE THERE TO GIVE YOU A HUG BECAUSE DAD IS HOME."

-JOE BERGER



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A TRIBUTE TO

DENNIS GREEN

BY CRAIG PETERS



FEB. 17, 1949 – JULY 21, 2016
113 TOTAL REGULAR-SEASON WINS



HEAD COACH
1992 - 2001



HEAD COACH
2004 - 2006

ON THE SAME DAY THE VIKINGS

celebrated the ribbon cutting for the grand opening of U.S. Bank Stadium, they honored the memory of a groundbreaker, former Head Coach Dennis Green, who passed away at age 67, with a moment of silence.

The franchise is pleased to again honor Green and his family at today's game between two teams he coached.

Green became the third African-American head coach in NFL history and the second in the modern era when he was hired by the Minnesota Vikings on Jan. 10, 1992. A decade earlier, Green became the second African-American head coach in NCAA Division I-A at Northwestern in 1981.

When Vikings.com interviewed Green for the "Celebrate Perseverance" Black History Month content series that launched in February 2015, he spoke about the appreciation he had for being "born at the right time." He said he witnessed a period of substantial change that allowed him greater opportunities than generations before him were able to enjoy. He wanted to do well so that others would be extended opportunities.

"My generation laid a certain

foundation," Green said, "It's up to the next generation to be able to recognize that really, it's all about equal access and equal opportunity and all of us operating on and playing on the same earth."

Vikings Pro Scout Jeff Robinson played for Green at Northwestern and was an intern in the public relations department in Green's first season. Robinson, who shifted to the scouting department in 1996, said he learned valuable lessons from the way Green approached the position.

"You kind of looked to him as a role model to the things he did to make things better for others," Robinson said, "but it was an interesting path because he worked with and was around so many talented individuals that he didn't make it necessarily about him."

"He always treated everybody fairly. He always looked for the good in everyone, and through that process, he wanted everyone to have a fair chance," Robinson added. "It wasn't about, 'this guy is better than that guy.' It was about a collective teamwork and effort."

With the Vikings, Green coached 171 total games in 10 seasons. He was 97-62 (.610 winning percentage) in the regular

season, guiding the Vikings to eight playoff appearances, four division titles, two NFC Championship game appearances and a jaw-dropping 556 points (34.8) during the 1998 season. The season tally broke a record established by Washington in 1983 that was later topped.

Green is one of seven coaches to lead a team to 15 or more wins in one season, joining Bill Walsh (1984), Mike Ditka (1985), Bill Cowher (2004), Bill Belichick (2007), Mike McCarthy (2011) and Ron Rivera (2015). Green also founded the Vikings Community Tuesday initiative through which players use their day off during the regular season to make positive differences around the community. It's a lasting legacy.

"I think the biggest thing to learn from him overall is you learn how to grow as a person," Robinson said. "You know the structure that you're within because it's a sports environment, but you learn how to deal with a lot of different individuals from a lot of different environments," Robinson said.

“IT WASN'T ABOUT 'THIS GUY
IS BETTER THAN THAT GUY.'
IT WAS ABOUT A COLLECTIVE
TEAMWORK AND EFFORT.”

- JEFF ROBINSON

REMEMBERING COACH

DENNIS GREEN

"Dennis was a big part of the Vikings tradition. We had some really great years under Dennis and some really successful teams. He should be remembered fondly by fans, and I'm sad to hear he is gone."

— HALL OF FAME HEAD COACH BUD GRANT

"Dennis was a great Vikings coach, and there is a special bond between all of us who have coached the Vikings. I met Dennis several times and had to play against his teams many times, and it was always a tough challenge. My thoughts and the prayers of my family are with his family in their time of loss."

— VIKINGS HEAD COACH MIKE ZIMMER

"I always had the utmost respect for him not only as a coach and what he did on the field, but for what he stood for off the field."

— VIKINGS GENERAL MANAGER RICK SPIELMAN

"I can honestly say, Denny Green was one of my favorite coaches. He coached his players hard, but he also loved hard. Denny Green along with our other amazing coaches built that great '98 team that everyone still talks about. He was a man who loved his family and promoted the value of family time. I learned many life traits from Denny Green and appreciate him as a coach, husband and father. He led by example and was a true asset to our team. I will always remember Denny as a great leader of men. I am deeply saddened by the news. May he rest in peace."

— FORMER VIKINGS RECEIVER JAKE REED

"I was fortunate to play for Denny for 11 years, three years at Stanford and eight with the Vikings. I also coached for him with the Arizona Cardinals for one season. I really looked up to him as a leader and a man. Football was the venue he used to raise young men to become grown men. He was like a second father to me that I never wanted to disappoint. He was tough and he was fair. We worked hard and we had fun. He kept the game fun. I lost my father at the same age, 67, just a year and a half ago. [It felt] like I lost my other father. My thoughts, prayers and condolences go out to his family."

— FORMER VIKINGS RECEIVER CHRIS WALSH

"He drafted me as a small school player in the second round, so I've always had a great appreciation for him. I think every player knew exactly what was expected from them, and Coach Green stuck to those principles pretty consistently. I had a bit of a rough rookie year, and his support and calm reassurance still sticks with me. It's very sad."

— FORMER VIKINGS TIGHT END JIM KLEINSASSER

"Professionally, I'm grateful Coach Green took a chance on me in 1998. He had confidence in me as a football player before I did. His record as a coach speaks for itself. He always told us his number one job as a head coach was to create a winning environment. He did that,

and he kept it fun to come to work. He was a character who had a unique way of communicating. The wisdom of the 'Dennyisms' will stick with me forever. Coach Green did it his way."

— FORMER VIKINGS CENTER MATT BIRK

"Dennis and I had a unique relationship. I met him when he was coaching at Stanford and I was considering transferring from Ohio State, but eventually decided not to. Then he got the Vikings job, and when the draft came around I had no idea they were interested or were going to take me. I get the call from Denny and he said, 'I let you get away once, I'm not going to let it happen again.' When I got there, Denny was really a father figure to me. We got very close, we went fishing together, we both loved jazz, and he would show me things on his drums. I truly felt like I was playing for him and to justify the faith he had in me to take me. When I had the injuries early and missed time, I felt worse for the criticism Denny took for having picked me than anything. That's why to end my career healthy and making the Pro Bowl meant so much more. He was intense as a coach and always knew what to say to get the most out of players. And sometimes, that was to say nothing. He was a tremendous motivator."

— FORMER VIKINGS RB ROBERT SMITH

“WE HAD A TEAM, AND THE ONE THING HE TAUGHT US WAS TO PLAY TO ONE BEAT. THERE'S ONLY ONE BALL, AND WE HAVE TO PLAY TO ONE BEAT. HIS LEGACY WILL LIVE ON, AND MY CONDOLENCES TO HIS FAMILY.”

— FORMER VIKINGS RECEIVER RANDY MOSS

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Viktor's

BEFORE & AFTER

Viktor has created a fun puzzle combining Vikings players and pop culture items to form one phrase that has a shared word. See if you can combine the descriptions to solve each puzzle!

*EXAMPLE: (Muppet character in love with Kermit The Frog)
(Place for children to keep their money)*

ANSWER: MISS PIGGY BANK

1. (#20 Vikings cornerback)(Inventor of the telephone)

2. (Prince of Wales, Son of Queen Elizabeth II)(#12 Vikings wide receiver)

3. (#48 Vikings fullback)(Popular at country western dance halls)

4. (#17 Vikings wide receiver)(Inventor of the airplane)

5. (National personification of the U.S.)(#8 Vikings quarterback)

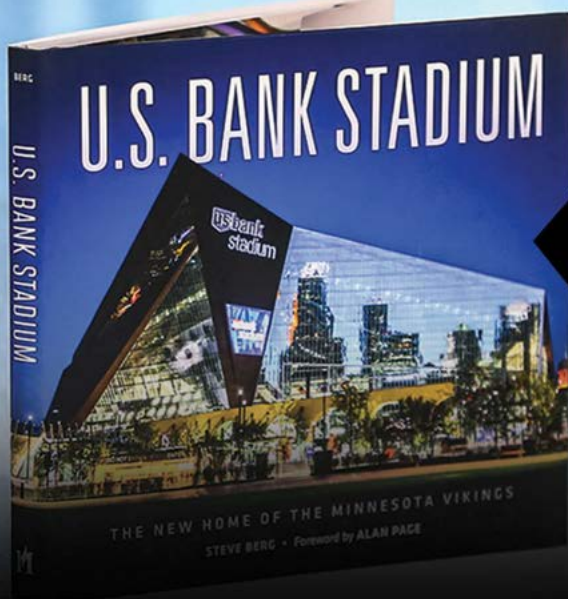
6. (#82 Vikings tight end)(Popular reindeer)



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VIKINGS SHOW SUPPORT, VISIT VETERANS AT VA MEDICAL CENTER

ON THE VIKINGS ANNUAL VISIT TO THE MINNEAPOLIS VETERANS AFFAIRS HEALTH CARE SYSTEM, VIKINGS GUARD ALEX BOONE SOUGHT TO MAKE A GESTURE THAT WOULD DEFLECT ATTENTION OFF OF HIM AND BACK TO THE VETERANS.

BY LINDSEY YOUNG

"A lot of these guys deal with some serious issues," Boone said. "And sometimes I think they get a little bit too overlooked. To come in here and say thank you for everything they did and make them happy was really the job of my year."

Joining Boone were teammates Danielle Hunter and Kentrell Brothers, along with Vikings alumni Rickey Young and Dave Osborn. Executive Director of Player Development/Legal Les Pico, Minnesota Vikings Cheerleaders and Viktor the Viking also participated in the visit. Players mingled with long-term patients in the community living room and Spinal Cord Injury Center multi-purpose room. Patients were given

Vikings ball caps to have autographed, and they also posed for photographs with the Vikings guests.

Ralph Heussner, Public Affairs Officer with the Minneapolis VA, said the Vikings annual visit is extremely important to all of the center's patients.

"As both a Vikings fan and as a VA employee, this is a big deal," Heussner said. "It's a huge break in the routine, and it's an opportunity to meet these players on a human level. It's really cool to see that the players are asking [the veterans] about themselves.

"You could say that it is Veterans Day here every day," he added.

In addition to spending time in the common areas, Boone also paid personal visits to those patients unable to leave their rooms.

One gentleman Boone met was Steven Carlson, a former Army sergeant who spent two years serving in the Vietnam War. Although Steven was non-verbal due to his condition, his facial expression when Boone walked into the room spoke volumes.

Boone connected immediately with Steven, who proudly wore a Vikings shirt and shorts.

Steven's wife, Bebe, said she was overwhelmed by the graciousness of Boone and the other Vikings to spend time with the veterans. She explained that Steven has been a lifelong fan of the purple and gold.

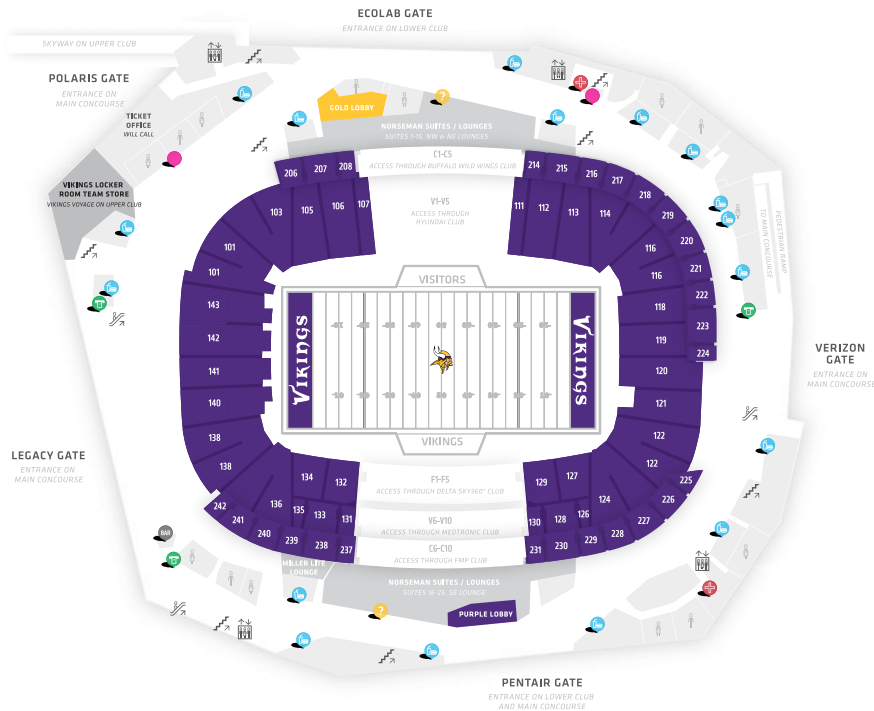
"He's loved the Vikings since he was a little boy – only the Vikings. They're his team," Bebe said. "He's always been football, football, football. He's been waiting [excitedly] for hours. It was wonderful that they took the time to come and visit him."

Supporting military members is a cause that hits home for Boone. Although he didn't personally serve, his older brother, James, was in the U.S. Marine Corps and served a tour in Iraq. Boone said watching James go through his time in the Marines and serve overseas significantly impacted him.

"Having my brother over there, it really kind of changed my life," said Boone, who hopes to return soon to the medical center. "To see the things that he went through when he was in the war and barely being able to talk to him when he was over there.

"When he came home and the things that he went through, just being there with him and seeing the struggle [to where] he is now," Boone added. "It changes your life and really makes you thankful for everything these guys do."

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- TRUSS BAR
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- VALHALLA SUITES
- NORSEMAN SUITES 16-25
- SE NORSEMAN SUITES
- LOFT SUITES 28-46



NACHOS – 116, 122, 131, 360
Chicken & Beef Nachos, Peanuts

NEW AMSTERDAM VODKA – 307
Peanuts, Liquor, Beer

NORTH STAR – 103, 124, 132, 304, 313, 328, 345
Hot Dogs, Brats, Burgers, Chicken Tenders, Veggie Burger, Chicken Sandwich, Cheese Curds (103, 124), Ice Cream (103, 304), Nachos, French Fries, Peanuts

PRAIRIE DOGS – 122
Handcrafted Hot Dogs, Peanuts

R TACO – 310

RED ZONE GRILL – 101, 105, 113, 126, 131
Hot Dogs, Brats, Burgers, Chicken Tenders, Potato Chips, French Fries, Candy, Cracker Jacks, Peanuts

REVIVAL – 111
Pork Rinds, Chicken Sandwich, Chicken with Coleslaw, Banana Cream Pie

THE RIVAL – 334
Peanuts, Beer

SHARE YOUR STACK – 107
Seasoned Fresh Cut Chips Topped with BBQ Pulled Pork, Chopped Brisket & Chives

STATE FAIR FAVORITES – 114
Cheese Curds, Peanuts, Cinnamon Rolls

THE STACK – 328
Stackwich, Peanuts, Beer

STONE ARCH PIZZA – 134, 307
Pizza, Pretzels, Candy, Cracker Jacks, Peanuts

TWIN CITIES FOODIE – 101
Chicken Meatballs, Jerk Bacon Sammie, Chicken Nachos, Peanuts

WILD RICE MARKET – 124, 318
Salads, Deli Wraps, Hummus with Pretzel, Boom Chicka Pop Popcorn, Gluten-Free Beer & Nonalcoholic Beer

612 BURGER KITCHEN – 143, 339
Burgers, Tots, Peanuts

ANDREW ZIMMERN'S CANTEEN – 121
Lamb Bucket, Lamb Sandwich, ½ or Whole Chicken, Frozen Hot Chocolate, Crispy Fried Potatoes, Chicken Sandwich

ANDREW ZIMMERN'S HOAGIES – 344
Italian Sausage Hoagie, Porketta Hoagie, Italian Beef, Roasted Pork, Frozen Hot Chocolate

BARS - NEAR PURPLE /GOLD LOBBY, 301, 326
Beer, Liquor, Wine, Bloody Mary's (outside Purple & Gold Lobbies)

THE BRAT STAND – 317, 347
Footlong Brats, Footlong Hotdogs, Peanuts

BUD'S BBQ – 324
Pulled Pork Sandwich, Brisket, Mac N Cheese, Baked Beans

CARIBOU COFFEE BAR – 136

CRAFT MYLO – 103, 118, 121, 237, 301, 312, 343, 360
Domestic & Craft Beer

CINNIESMITHS – 114
Cinnamon Rolls, Ice Cream

CROWN ROYAL STAND – 341
Beer & Cocktails

CURDS N CAKES – 114
Blue Moon Beer-Battered Bacon Cheese Curds

GO BIG... OR GO HOME – 347
Jumbo Nachos, Peanuts, Beer

HEADWATERS – 114, 119
Beer & Peanuts

IKE'S – 119, 329
Beer, Peanuts, Hand Carved Sandwiches

THE KERNEL – 103, 318
Popcorn, Beer

KRAMARCZUK'S – 108, 336
Beer, Peanuts, Sausages

THE LOOP – 136, 311, 346
Pretzels With Dipping Sauce & Peanuts

MAC & CHEESE STAND – 336
Mac N Cheese With Chicken Or Brats

MILL CITY CLASSICS – 105, 113, 129, 130, 311, 317, 341, 349
Hot Dogs, Brats, Nachos, Popcorn, Pretzels, Peanuts

MILLER TIME PUB – 314
Beer, Liquor, Wine

METRO BREW – 101, 116, 318, 336
Miller Lite, Coors Light, Redd's, Blue Moon

GLUTEN-FRIENDLY
OPTIONS

MILL CITY CLASSICS – SECTIONS 113, 317
Gluten-Friendly Hot Dog Buns

WILD RICE MARKET – SECTIONS 124, 318
Gluten-Free Beer

EVERYWHERE –
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THE TRUTH BEHIND VALHALLA

VALHALLA, THE HALL OF THE SLAIN, IS THE GREAT HOUSE IN ASGARD WHERE THE HEATHEN GODS LIVE



"THE DEEPER MEANING OF VALHALLA IS TO PROMOTE BOLDNESS. A VIKING EARNED HIS REPUTE BY BEING BRAVE AND BOLD, AND BEYOND ALL TO MAKE LITTLE OF HARDSHIP."

THE TRUTH BEHIND SERIES

With the approach of Super Bowl LII, Minnesota looks forward to welcoming people from across the country and world to the Bold North. What if we told you that the Bold North also has its roots in Viking mythology? Also, inside of U.S. Bank Stadium some of the nicest premium seating areas are called the Valhalla Suites. While only a select few are able to enter these premium areas, the Valhalla of Vikings lore also had restrictions. This week we look at the Truth Behind the Vikings and Valhalla.

Valhalla, the hall of the slain, is the great house in Asgard where the heathen gods live according to myths. Valhalla is the counterpart of Paradise, but Vikings did not get there by being good. Only men killed in battle made it to Valhalla.

Valkyries greet the valiant warriors (called einherjar) who play games, drink beer and

eat pork from the boar Sæhrimnir. This pig resurrects each morning to be butchered again. The rest of the time, the einherjar spend in combat. Those killed revive the next day, too.

Valhalla is a huge building. It is golden, and the roof is made of spear shafts. In the walls are set 640 doors, so wide that 960 einherjar may exit each doorway at the same time. They do this when it is time for the final battle against the enemies of the gods.

The deeper meaning of Valhalla is to promote boldness. It is doubtful if pagan Vikings really believed in an afterlife. The safest way of attaining immortality was instead to acquire a worthy reputation. Wealth and family will vanish and everyone will die; only one's renown is of lasting value. A Viking earned his reputation by being brave and bold, and beyond all to make little of hardship. To die defending your chieftain was the highest honor.

"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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