



PLAYBOOK

U.S. BANK STADIUM

VIKINGS VS. LIONS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2016

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INAUGURAL SEASON





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▼ PG 37

VIKINGS PLAYERS DON SALUTE-TO-SERVICE GEAR FOR FRIENDS AND FAMILY WHO HAVE SERVED





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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01



02



03

01 | Stefon Diggs caught eight passes for 76 yards, including this 25-yard touchdown.

02 | Jake Long made his first start at left tackle for the Vikings.



04

THROUGH-THE-LENS

VIKINGS VS. BEARS

THE VIKINGS DROPPED THEIR SECOND ROAD CONTEST IN A ROW WITH A 20-10 LOSS AT SOLDIER FIELD.

Minnesota (5-2) fell behind early and was unable to repeat last season with a fourth-quarter comeback in Chicago.

03 | Harrison Smith came close to getting an interception, but the Vikings were unable to force a turnover by the Bears.

04 | Adam Thielen caught three passes for a total of 40 yards and recovered a Vikings fumble.

"WE'LL GET BACK TO WORK."

— MIKE ZIMMER



05

05 | Matt Asiata rushed 14 times for 42 yards and added 36 yards on two receptions.

06 | Everson Griffen recorded the Vikings only sack of Jay Cutler on a frustrating night for Minnesota's defense.



06

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



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PURPLE HEARTS REUNITED

THE OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE BACK TO THOSE WHO GAVE ALL IS A DEEP AND SINCERE HONOR.

PURPLE HEARTS REUNITED is a non-profit organization whose mission is to return lost or stolen medals of valor to veterans or their family members. The organization, which was founded in 2012 by combat-wounded veteran and active duty Army National Guard officer Zachariah Fike, has located and returned medals to more than 150 veterans or their family members.

The Vikings are pleased to welcome Purple

Hearts Reunited today as the organization presents Purple Hearts to family members of Pfc Selvin Nygaard and 1st Lt. John Frederick Voge, who were injured while fighting in World War I.

These reunions are part of a project to return 100 World War I Purple Hearts before April 6, 2017, the 100th anniversary of the United States' entry into World War I. The medals presented today are the 16th and 17th returned during this initiative.

GAME BALL

Today's game ball was delivered by a skydiving team of former U.S. Navy SEALs, who landed in The Commons and delivered the ball to a joint services guard made up of active duty members from each branch of the military service.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

The National Anthem will be performed by "The United States Air Force Ceremonial Brass Quintet," representatives of a premier ensemble based in Washington, D.C. A moment of silence will be observed prior to the National Anthem to honor those who have fallen during service to our country.

TODAY'S COLORS

Prior to the National Anthem, a full-field American flag will be presented by active duty members of the United States military. Members of the Air Force, Army, Navy, Marines, and Coast Guard will comprise a 160-person guard representing all active military men and women.

HALFTIME SHOW

Rising country star and SONY recording artist Luke Combs will perform as members of each branch of service unfurl flags honoring each branch. Twin Cities-based a cappella group Home Free will conclude the performance by singing "God Bless the USA."

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U.S. Bank Places to Play

Access to high-quality and safe places to play is a big part of what makes Minnesota a great place to live, to raise a family and to express ourselves. That's why U.S. Bank and the Minnesota Vikings are donating \$1 million over three years to create and improve parks, playgrounds, indoor/outdoor athletic facilities and existing trails statewide through U.S. Bank Places to Play.

To learn more about U.S. Bank Places to Play or to apply for a grant for your neighborhood-based nonprofit organization or local school, visit usbank.com/PlacesToPlay. Submissions are due November 17, 2016.



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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 are WWII Veterans Ingmar Molde and Melvin Heckt. Montevideo's Ingmar Molde (103) served in WWII as a Navy Lieutenant. Melvin Heckt (92) served as a special forces Marine Raider and was a Vikings season ticket holder from 1961 - 2013.



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 Vesel 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 \$8.00, 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 Thursday, Nov. 10 at Big Louie's in New Brighton with Terence Newman.

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. 11 at the BWW in Plymouth.

STADIUM BOOK LAUNCH AT THE HISTORY CENTER

U.S. Bank Stadium: The New Home of the Minnesota Vikings is now available at all Vikings Locker Room Stores. The 224-page coffee table book provides a behind-the-scenes look at the spectacular and state-of-the-art stadium. A public celebration featuring the book's author, Steve Berg, is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 15 at the Minnesota History Center. Copies of the book, which features a forward by Alan Page, will be available for purchase.

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 and championship games later this month. The semifinals are scheduled from Nov. 17-19, and the championships are scheduled for Nov. 25-26 and will feature special celebrations of Prep Bowl alumni. Visit mshsl.org/prepbowl for more information.

ABOVE: “GRIDIRON GLORY” EXHIBIT ON DISPLAY NOW AT THE MN HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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MINNESOTA HIGH SCHOOL

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PLAYER TO WATCH: CB XAVIER RHODES

IN RECENT SEASONS against the Lions, Xavier Rhodes has played the part of Calvin Johnson's shadow, following the former Detroit receiver to all parts of the football field. The Lions replaced Johnson with Marvin Jones this offseason. Jones has stepped in seamlessly in his first season and has joined veterans Anquan Boldin and Golden Tate to already combine for 107 receptions, 1,366 yards and nine touchdowns this season. Rhodes is also part of a group that has been incredibly effective this season, teaming in rotation with Terence Newman and Trae Waynes and working with nickel corner Captain Munnerlyn and Vikings safeties to prevent deep passes. Opposing quarterbacks have only completed seven of 25 pass attempts of 21-plus yards for 201 yards with no touchdowns and four interceptions for a passer rating of 21.0.

TIGHT COVERAGE: XAVIER RHODES LIMITED ODELL BECKHAM, JR., DEANDRE HOPKINS AND ALSHON JEFFERY TO EIGHT RECEPTIONS AND 89 YARDS THIS SEASON.

2 IN 16

Rhodes has recorded a career-best two interceptions this season, picking off Eli Manning and Carson Wentz.

2016 SEASON LEADERS

Passing (Yds)	Sam Bradford	1,442
Rushing (Yds)	Jerick McKinnon	217
Receiving (Yds)	Stefon Diggs	466
Tackles	Eric Kendricks	58
Sacks	Everson Griffen	5.0
Interceptions	Rhodes, Sendejo, Waynes	2
KOR (Yds)	Cordarrelle Patterson	245
PR (Avg.)	Marcus Sherels	14.6

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 (5-2)

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	
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 DETROIT

RUSHING YARDS

171	Adrian Peterson on 27 attempts in Minnesota (Nov. 11, 2012)
160	Adrian Peterson on 23 attempts in Minnesota (Sept. 26, 2010)

PASSING YARDS

404	Daunte Culpepper on 25-of-35 passing at Detroit (Dec. 19, 2004)
391	Wade Wilson on 28-of-35 passing in Minnesota (Nov. 6, 1988)

RECEIVING YARDS

210*	Sammy White on seven catches in Minnesota (Nov. 7, 1976)
201	Sidney Rice on seven catches in Minnesota (Nov. 15, 2009)

*—Vikings single-game record

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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: WR MARVIN JONES

MARVIN JONES ISN'T CALVIN JOHNSON, but he's helped the Lions fill the void created by the retirement of the franchise's all-time leader in catches (731), receiving yards (11,619) and receiving touchdowns (83). Jones joined the Lions as a free agent this offseason and quickly has made a mark in the MoTown. Jones debuted with games of 85, 118, 205 and 74 yards in his first four games with the Lions on 23 combined catches. His most notable performance came at Green Bay in Week 3, when he posted six catches for 205 yards and two touchdowns against the Packers. The Los Angeles Rams limited Jones to season lows of two catches for 10 yards on Oct. 16, but he bounced back with four catches for 94 yards the following week in a win over Washington. He enters today's game with 36 catches, 656 yards and four touchdowns this season.

DID YOU KNOW? JONES WAS SELECTED IN THE FIFTH ROUND OF THE 2012 NFL DRAFT BY CINCINNATI WITH THE 166TH OVERALL PICK WHEN VIKINGS HEAD COACH MIKE ZIMMER WAS BENGALS DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR. JONES SET A BENGALS FRANCHISE RECORD WITH FOUR RECEIVING TOUCHDOWNS IN ONE GAME AGAINST THE NEW YORK JETS (OCT. 27, 2013).

18.2 IN 16

The 18.2 yards-per-catch average by Jones this season is 5.3 above the 12.9 he averaged per catch in Cincinnati. Jones ranks fifth in the NFL in receiving yards this season.

2016 SEASON LEADERS

Passing (Yds)	Matthew Stafford	2,154
Rushing (Yds)	Theo Riddick	227
Receiving (Yds)	Marvin Jones	656
Tackles	Tahir Whitehead	74
Sacks	Kerry Hyder	5.0
Interceptions	Slay, Bademosi, Quin, Bush	1
KOR (Yards)	Andre Roberts	382
PR (Avg.)	Andre Roberts	13.4

2016 SCHEDULE

PRESEASON (4-0)

P1	8/12	at Pittsburgh Steelers	W	30-17
P2	8/18	Cincinnati Bengals	L	14-30
P3	8/27	at Baltimore Ravens	L	9-30
P4	9/1	Buffalo Bills	W	31-0

REGULAR SEASON (3-1)

1	9/11	at Indianapolis Colts	W	39-35
2	9/18	Tennessee Titans	L	15-16
3	9/25	at Green Bay Packers	L	27-34
4	10/2	at Chicago Bears	L	14-17
5	10/9	Philadelphia Eagles	W	24-23
6	10/16	Los Angeles Rams	W	31-28
7	10/23	Washington Redskins	W	20-17
8	10/30	at Houston Texans	L	13-20
9	11/6	at Minnesota Vikings		
10	11/13	BYE		
11	11/20	Jacksonville Jaguars		
12	11/24	Minnesota Vikings		
13	12/4	at New Orleans Saints		
14	12/11	at Detroit Lions		
15	12/18	at New York Giants		
16	12/26	at Dallas Cowboys		
17	1/1	Green Bay Packers		

TOP 2s AGAINST MINNESOTA

RUSHING YARDS

220	Barry Sanders on 23 attempts in Minnesota (Nov. 24, 1991)
197	Mel Farr on 24 attempts in Minnesota (Nov. 12, 1967)

PASSING YARDS

410	Scott Mitchell on 30-of-45 passing at Detroit (Nov. 23, 1995)
378	Matthew Stafford on 32-of-46 passing in Minnesota (Sept. 25, 2011)

RECEIVING YARDS

410	Scott Mitchell on 30-of-45 passing at Detroit (Nov. 23, 1995)
378	Matthew Stafford on 32-of-46 passing in Minnesota (Sept. 25, 2011)



OFFENSE

WR

12 Charles Johnson
11 Laquon Treadwell

LT

68 T.J. Clemmings
72 Jake Long

LG

76 Alex Boone
67 Zac Kerin

C

61 Joe Berger
62 Nick Easton

RG

63 Brandon Fusco
64 Willie Beavers

RT

78 Jeremiah Sirles

TE

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

QB

8 Sam Bradford
13 Shaun Hill

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

93 Shamar Stephen
73 Sharif Floyd

NT

98 Linval Joseph
92 Tom Johnson

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	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
72	Jake Long	T	6-7	312	31	9	Michigan
73	Sharif Floyd	DT	6-3	311	25	4	Florida
76	Alex Boone	G	6-8	310	29	7	Ohio State
78	Jeremiah Sirles	T	6-6	315	25	3	Nebraska
82	Kyle Rudolph	TE	6-6	265	26	6	Notre Dame
83	MyCole Pruitt	TE	6-2	258	24	2	Southern Illinois
84	Cordarrelle Patterson	WR	6-2	220	25	4	Tennessee
85	Rhett Ellison	TE	6-5	250	28	5	Southern California
89	David Morgan	TE	6-4	265	23	R	Texas-San Antonio
92	Tom Johnson	DT	6-3	288	32	6	Southern Mississippi
93	Shamar Stephen	DT	6-5	310	25	3	Connecticut
94	Justin Trattou	DE	6-4	258	28	5	Florida
96	Brian Robison	DE	6-3	259	33	10	Texas
97	Everson Griffen	DE	6-3	273	28	7	Southern California
98	Linval Joseph	DT	6-4	329	28	7	East Carolina
99	Danielle Hunter	DE	6-5	252	22	2	LSU



OFFENSE

WR

15 Golden Tate

LT

68 Taylor Decker
70 Corey Robinson

LG

60 Graham Glasgow
72 Laken Tomlinson

C

64 Travis Swanson

RG

75 Larry Warford
66 Joe Dahl

RT

71 Riley Reiff
77 Cornelius Lucas

TE

85 Eric Ebron
86 Khari Lee
84 Clay Harbor
82 Matthew Mulligan

QB

9 Matthew Stafford
8 Dan Orlovsky

WR

11 Marvin Jones Jr.
12 Andre Roberts

WR

80 Anquan Boldin

RB

25 Theo Riddick
36 D. Washington
46 M. Burton (FB)
34 Zach Zenner
30 Justin Forsett

DEFENSE

DE

98 Devin Taylor
51 Brandon Copeland

DT

93 Tyrunn Walker
91 A. Robinson
96 Stefan Charles

DT

92 Haloti Ngata
99 Khyri Thornton

DE

94 Ezekiel Ansah
61 Kerry Hyder
69 Anthony Zettel

OLB

54 DeAndre Levy
57 Josh Bynes

MLB

59 Tahir Whitehead

OLB

52 A. Williams
50 T. Armbrister

CB

23 Darius Slay
29 Johnson Bademosi
38 Adairius Barnes

CB

24 Nevin Lawson
28 Quandre Diggs
39 Johnthan Banks

SS

32 Tavon Wilson
31 Rafael Bush
35 Miles Killebrew

FS

27 Glover Quin
26 Don Carey

SPECIALISTS

PK

5 Matt Prater

P / H

6 Sam Martin

LS

48 Don Muhlbach

KR

12 Andre Roberts
28 Quandre Diggs
36 D. Washington

PR

15 Golden Tate
12 Andre Roberts

NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	AGE	EXP.	COLLEGE
5	Matt Prater	K	5-10	201	32	10	Central Florida
6	Sam Martin	P	6-1	211	26	4	Appalachian State
8	Dan Orlovsky	QB	6-5	215	33	11	Connecticut
9	Matthew Stafford	QB	6-3	226	28	8	Georgia
11	Marvin Jones Jr.	WR	6-2	198	26	5	California
12	Andre Roberts	WR	5-11	192	28	7	Citadel
15	Golden Tate	WR	5-10	197	28	7	Notre Dame
23	Darius Slay	CB	6-0	190	25	4	Mississippi State
24	Nevin Lawson	CB	5-9	192	25	3	Utah State
25	Theo Riddick	RB	5-9	201	25	4	Notre Dame
26	Don Carey	S	5-11	202	29	8	Norfolk State
27	Glover Quin	S	6-0	207	30	8	New Mexico
28	Quandre Diggs	CB	5-9	200	23	2	Texas
29	Johnson Bademosi	CB	6-0	206	26	5	Stanford
30	Justin Forsett	RB	5-8	195	31	9	California
31	Rafael Bush	S	5-11	203	29	6	South Carolina State
32	Tavon Wilson	S	6-0	212	26	5	Illinois
34	Zach Zenner	RB	5-11	221	25	2	South Dakota State
35	Miles Killebrew	S	6-2	222	23	R	Southern Utah
36	Dwayne Washington	RB	6-1	223	22	R	Washington
38	Adairius Barnes	CB	5-11	188	22	R	Louisiana Tech
39	Johnthan Banks	CB	6-2	185	27	4	Mississippi State
46	Michael Burton	FB	6-0	247	24	2	Rutgers
48	Don Muhlbach	LS	6-4	258	35	13	Texas A&M
50	Thurston Armbrister	LB	6-3	235	23	2	Miami (Fla.)
51	Brandon Copeland	DE	6-3	263	25	2	Pennsylvania
52	Antwone Williams	LB	6-3	240	23	R	Georgia Southern
54	DeAndre Levy	LB	6-2	234	29	8	Wisconsin
57	Josh Bynes	LB	6-1	235	27	6	Auburn
59	Tahir Whitehead	LB	6-2	241	26	5	Temple
60	Graham Glasgow	C	6-6	308	24	R	Michigan
61	Kerry Hyder	DE	6-2	270	25	1	Texas Tech
64	Travis Swanson	C	6-5	304	25	3	Arkansas
66	Joe Dahl	OL	6-4	305	23	R	Washington State
68	Taylor Decker	T	6-7	311	23	R	Ohio State
69	Anthony Zettel	DL	6-4	270	24	R	Penn State
70	Corey Robinson	T	6-7	317	24	2	South Carolina
71	Riley Reiff	T	6-6	305	27	5	Iowa
72	Laken Tomlinson	G	6-3	312	24	2	Duke
75	Larry Warford	G	6-3	317	25	4	Kentucky
77	Cornelius Lucas	T	6-9	330	25	3	Kansas State
80	Anquan Boldin	WR	6-1	220	36	14	Florida State
82	Matthew Mulligan	TE	6-4	278	31	8	Maine
84	Clay Harbor	TE	6-3	240	29	7	Missouri State
85	Eric Ebron	TE	6-4	253	23	3	North Carolina
86	Khari Lee	TE	6-4	253	24	2	Bowie State
91	A'Shawn Robinson	DT	6-4	320	21	R	Alabama
92	Haloti Ngata	DT	6-4	345	32	11	Oregon
93	Tyrunn Walker	DT	6-3	310	26	5	Tulsa
94	Ezekiel Ansah	DE	6-5	275	27	4	Brigham Young
96	Stefan Charles	DT	6-5	320	28	4	Regina
98	Devin Taylor	DE	6-7	275	26	4	South Carolina
99	Khyri Thornton	DT	6-3	315	26	3	Southern Mississippi

*Depth chart and roster as of 11/1/16

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TIMEOUT WITH

➔ ZACH LINE

IN THE THICK OF HIS FOURTH NFL SEASON AND SECOND AS THE VIKINGS STARTING FULLBACK, ZACH LINE SAID HE CONTINUES TO APPRECIATE EVERY EXPERIENCE AND OPPORTUNITY THAT COMES HIS WAY.

BY LINDSEY YOUNG

Today's matchup against the Lions marks Line's 28th game in purple and gold and his fourth against Detroit. The Michigan native scored his first career touchdown (1-yard run) against the Lions at home and turned a short pass into a 49-yard reception at Detroit last season. Even with that many games under his belt, Line feels the tingling excitement of nerves before every kickoff.

"If you don't get butterflies before a game, I think you need to get out of the game," Line said. "This is the NFL; this is the highest level, and everyone's coming after you. Obviously I'm confident in my abilities, but I always wait for that first hit to get my engine going a little bit more."

WE MET UP WITH ZACH LINE
FOR A RECENT TIMEOUT



HOMETOWN:
OXFORD, MICHIGAN



HIGH SCHOOL:
OXFORD HIGH SCHOOL WILDCATS



COLLEGE:
SMU MUSTANGS



MINNESOTA VIKINGS:
SIGNED AS AN UNDRAFTED
FREE AGENT IN 2013

Q: You joined the Vikings as an undrafted free agent and are now the team's full-time fullback. What has that journey been like?

A: *I guess it's the underdog story, but that's OK. It's the NFL; it doesn't come easy. That's why it's so few and far in between, guys that play at this level. They preach that to you in high school, but I never believed that, the stats. It's all about what you want to do, and I wanted to play. I wanted to contribute and not cost this team, so I've been working hard every day, and that carries over to game day.*

Q: You've earned a reputation for having great work ethic. Where does that blue-collar mentality come from?

A: *My parents were really good at making you earn everything you got. We were well taken care of, but as far as if you wanted something, you had to do chores, or you had to start your own little lawn-mowing business, which I did. Then I had a really blue-collar football coach, a lot like [Vikings Head Coach Mike Zimmer]. I don't think we took the pads off until the day after the game. We wore them Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and then played the game on Friday in pads. It's just something that's been ingrained in me from a young age.*

Q: As someone who scored 3 touchdowns on only 12 touches last season, what's it like to get into the end zone as a fullback?

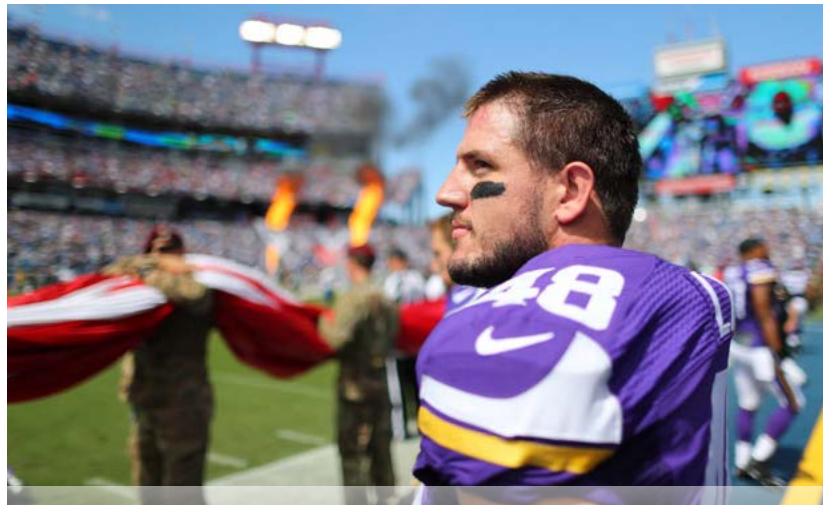
A: *You know, you take it for granted because it's in the playbook, and you think this is kind of how things go. But then you play behind guys like Jerome Felton, [whose only touchdown in his first eight seasons was a fumble recovery]. You can't take those for granted. Those are precious moments, and it helps your team out a lot. When you get your number called, you have to make something happen and trust the guys in front of you to do their job.*

Q: After playing both offense and defense in high school, how did you end up solidified as an offensive player?

A: *Linebacker was always my spot – I loved the defensive side of the ball. Ball hunting was fun for me. But the first day of spring ball, I was running out of the tunnel with SMU, and Coach [June] Jones grabbed me. He saw that I had running back tape, and he asked me if I wanted to play running back. I just wanted to see the field any way possible as a freshman, so I said, 'Sure.' I didn't really think it was going to last – I thought I'd just be helping out over there and then get back to linebacker. I even had people tell me, 'If you want to get to the NFL, you need to go back to linebacker,' [but] their stories changed by year two. I just kind of embrace change, embrace every situation that I'm in. That's kind of what I've done up until this point, and I don't plan on changing that.*

Q: Which NFL players did you watch and admire growing up?

A: *I didn't really watch the NFL, honestly. I watched the NHL. On the Red Wings, the "Grind Line" is what they called it. You had Darren McCarty, Kris Draper and guys like that out there who were just grinders. They were hard workers, blue-collar, didn't ask for praise, and by not doing*



"I GUESS IT'S
THE UNDERDOG
STORY, BUT
THAT'S OK ...
IT'S ALL ABOUT
WHAT YOU
WANT TO DO,
AND I WANTED
TO PLAY."

– ZACH LINE

that, their teammates spoke about them highly. Steve Yzerman was one of those guys – I have his jersey. I kind of caught on to what makes you a good player, a good leader.

Q: What's the best advice you've ever been given?

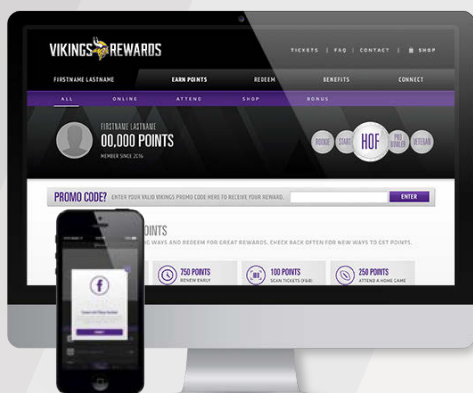
A: *'Great players never take a play off.' That was just something my high school coach always told me. He told me that one time when I was really tired, playing both sides of the ball. I was running back to the sideline for another play call, because I was playing quarterback that game, and he just mentioned that really quick, and I snapped into another gear. That kind of just stuck with me – I think it was the moment and the situation that he said it that kind of ingrained that in my mind.*

Q: After welcoming your daughter Blake in 2015 and with another daughter on the way, what's your favorite part about being a dad?

A: *If you're mentally stressed here – this is the most fun game in the world, a team game, but you get stressed – it's just one of those things where you can go home and no matter what, it just clears your mind and puts a smile on your face. My wife, McKenzie, does a good job of sending me pictures and stuff when we're traveling, and it kind of just makes everything better. My daughter is definitely the highlight of my day.*

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FROM LEARNER TO LEADER

BY LINDSEY YOUNG

WHEN KYLE RUDOLPH CAME TO MINNESOTA AS A ROOKIE, HIS PRIMARY GOAL WAS LEARNING FROM HIS VETERAN TEAMMATES. IT WASN'T UNTIL LATER THAT HE REALIZED HE MAY JOIN THEM IN THE RECORD BOOKS.

Last week at Chicago, Rudolph hauled in five catches, totaling 213 career receptions and bypassing former tight end Visanthe Shiancoe, who tallied 208 catches during his time in Minnesota, for 16th all-time and second among tight ends. He needs four touchdown catches to pass six-time Pro Bowler Steve Jordan for the most by a Vikings tight end, something he's only recently considered.

"The stats aren't something that, when I came here I thought, 'Oh, I'd love to be an all-time record holder in these categories,'" Rudolph said. "A lot of these are getting brought up as I'm getting closer to them. But it's awesome to be right up there with those guys and to be noticed and named in the same sentence."

Rudolph is grateful to not only be included in conversations with Shiancoe but to have also shared a locker room with him. The two overlapped during Rudolph's debut season in 2011. Rudolph first met Shiancoe – along with Jim Kleinsasser (1999-2011) and Jeff Dugan, who was with the Vikings through the 2011 offseason – when he arrived in Minnesota after being drafted 43rd overall. Rudolph passed Kleinsasser's 192 career receptions in Week 3 at Carolina during a seven-catch, 70-yard game that included a touchdown.

"Between those three guys, you had nine years, nine years and 13 years of NFL experience," Rudolph said. "They were great to me – not only being hard on me as a rookie, making me do my 'rookie duties,' but then also teaching me the ropes.

"They really took me under their wings [...] in terms of getting established in this league and learning how things go," Rudolph added. "That made everything in my second year seem so much easier because I'd been through it all."

The torch was passed to Rudolph in 2012, when he assumed the starting tight end position he continues to occupy.

In just his second season, Rudolph was viewed by teammates as a leader in the locker room. He's taken that responsibility seriously from day one.

"I've always been of the mindset of leading by example," Rudolph said. "And not only being professional at the building but professional off the field and in the community as well."

Whether it is through mentoring younger players, speaking up in the team meeting room or taking the lead for community events at the U of M Masonic Children's Hospital, Rudolph has noticed a development in his leadership style over the years.

"As we're here in my sixth year, which I can't believe, you kind of develop the more vocal aspect of things," Rudolph said. "It's always been easy for me to lead by example and do the right thing, but being a vocal leader and being a guy that can go to guys and try to elevate their game is something I've had to learn over my career."

At 26, Rudolph is no longer considered a spring chicken by NFL standards.

"As we get younger and younger as a team, when you're a guy that's been around six years and you're looked at as one of the older

guys on the team, I just try to make sure that I'm there for the young guys," Rudolph said. "It wasn't long ago that I was in their shoes, and I remember what it was like."

BRINGING UP BRADFORD

Most recently, Rudolph took a new teammate – albeit an older one – under his wing.

The few days following Teddy Bridgewater's season-ending injury were a blur. When the Vikings traded picks on Sept. 3 to bring in Sam Bradford, Rudolph's elder by two years and a day, Rudolph said he made an effort to be there for the new quarterback in whatever way possible.

"Being in this system for three years, I feel like I have a pretty good handle around it," said Rudolph, who offered support across the board, from the playbook to the layout of the facility itself. "Just anything I could to help him and make his transition from Philly to here that much easier, so he could just worry about going out and playing football."

As it turns out, Rudolph and Bradford play football pretty well together.

Bradford's first start in purple came Week 2, Minnesota's home opener that saw the Vikings defeat the division-rival Packers.

On third-and-4 in the second quarter, Bradford stepped back in the pocket, looked pressure in the face, and fired with precision. He connected with Rudolph, who snagged the perfectly placed 8-yard pass in the end zone over Packers safety Morgan Burnett.

Rudolph, who also grabbed the first preseason touchdown at U.S. Bank Stadium, said it was special to have the first end zone moment "that counted" in their new home.

"It was fun, because it was actually a play that we had watched that Sam liked and wanted to get called," Rudolph said. "You'll always be in Vikings history in that stadium,

and kind of being around and seeing it go up, playing outside for two years, just everything that goes along with the stadium, and then having the first Vikings touchdown in it is pretty cool."

Immediately after scoring, the two made another exchange – this time Rudolph handed the touchdown ball to Bradford, his first as a Viking.

"He did all the work; I just caught the ball," Rudolph said. "So I thought that he deserved it."

In addition to that play, Bradford has connected with Rudolph 26 times and for another two scores.

Adapting to a brand-new passer in such a stunted period of time can be challenging, but Rudolph has taken the process in stride. After all, Bradford is the eighth quarterback from whom Rudolph has caught a pass in six regular seasons.

"As you transition from each quarterback, as a skill position player, it's really just about getting as many reps as possible," Rudolph said. "The only way to get on the same page with a quarterback is getting out there on the practice field and throwing it. So our offensive staff has been awesome in terms of making sure that we were able to get on the same page and play catchup with [Sam].

"He's a great guy, and he wants to be really, really good," Rudolph added. "He puts the time and the work in, and when you have guys like that, especially at that position, I think it kind of trickles down throughout our whole offense."

To Rudolph, Bradford's presence in the locker room means more than gaining a talented teammate to help guide the offense. It's a show of faith in the 2016 Vikings potential.

"We bring in a guy who's a former No. 1 overall pick and a Heisman Trophy winner –

"I'VE ALWAYS BEEN OF THE MINDSET OF LEADING BY EXAMPLE, AND NOT ONLY BEING PROFESSIONAL AT THE BUILDING BUT PROFESSIONAL OFF THE FIELD AND IN THE COMMUNITY AS WELL."

– KYLE RUDOLPH



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he's über talented," Rudolph said. "It's creating excitement out there for us, knowing that the organization is willing to go out and give up a first-round pick for a guy because they think that we have a chance of being really good right now."

SPINNING THE WHEEL

One individual with weight in the Bradford decision was Vikings tight ends coach Pat Shurmur, who was promoted to interim offensive coordinator this week.

Rudolph said he was excited to learn that Shurmur would be the new position coach for 2016. Shurmur's NFL experience is extensive, including time as both an offensive coordinator and a head coach.

According to Rudolph, Shurmur is a coach who not only understands offense but also understands the dynamics of working with a group of men.

"He knows how to visualize and see things globally from an offensive standpoint," Rudolph said. "[He's added] some new things that we hadn't done in the past, but as he said when he got here, 'The wheel spins great. I just want to make it spin a little bit better.'"

Rudolph said whether it's his first year in the league or his sixth, he's always learning, and Shurmur has been instrumental in improving Rudolph as an athlete.

In turn, Shurmur has nothing but praise for Rudolph, whom he followed during his college days and first five seasons in Minnesota before having the opportunity to coach him.

Shurmur said his role with the Vikings has granted him an "even greater appreciation" of Rudolph.

"I knew when we evaluated him coming out of Notre Dame that he was going to be an outstanding player, but he's a better receiver than I could have imagined," Shurmur said. "He catches the ball extremely well when he's in traffic and is a much better blocker than I thought he would be."

Rudolph's team-first mentality impresses Shurmur on a daily basis.

"All skill players want to catch every pass that's thrown. That's just the nature of being a skill player," Shurmur said. "But he understands that there's many other things that are part of his job description that he has to do, and he handles those extremely well."



CONTINUED ON PAGE 28

"BIG COUNTRY"

YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT WILL COME OF AN EPISODE OF THE BARSTOOL SPORTS PODCAST "PARDON MY TAKE."

The show made a trip to Minnesota for the Vikings-Giants game on Oct. 3 and featured Rudolph and safety Harrison Smith as guests. Before he knew it, Rudolph was receiving a nickname, "Big Country," from co-host PFT Commenter.

"He said I just looked like a 'Big Country,'" Rudolph said. "I tried to explain to him that I'm from the City of Cincinnati and really can't be considered a country guy, and his response was, 'Isn't the United States a country?'"

Added Rudolph with a laugh: "I said, 'Touché. I'm from the country, then.'"

When PFT Commenter continued interacting with Rudolph via Twitter using "Big Country," it was clear the nickname was here to stay.

Vikings Entertainment Network and GHMW designed a corresponding T-shirt, and the moniker not only stuck but went viral across social media platforms.

Rudolph then developed the idea to use the concept as a way to raise money for the "Kyle Rudolph's End Zone," campaign, an effort to build a state-of-the-art patient family-centered space at Masonic Children's Hospital. Shirts will soon be available for purchase, with all proceeds benefiting the new hospital space.



"I KNEW WHEN WE EVALUATED HIM COMING OUT OF NOTRE DAME THAT HE WAS GOING TO BE AN OUTSTANDING PLAYER, BUT HE'S A BETTER RECEIVER THAN I COULD HAVE IMAGINED."

- PAT SHURMUR



WOMEN OF THE VIKINGS, MATTER TEAM UP

THE WOMEN OF THE VIKINGS APPLIED TEAMWORK OFF THE FIELD TO HELP MULTIPLE MINNESOTA WOMEN'S SHELTERS.

BY LINDSEY YOUNG

To raise awareness and support for Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the Vikings along with Matter, a Minnesota non-profit organization, loaded approximately \$400,000 worth of donated items for distribution to 10 shelters.

"We've been working with Matter as a partner to find innovative and progressive ways that we can, as an organization, engage with our community to make an impact," Director of Women's Initiatives Tami Krause said.

Krause and the Vikings worked with Matter to locate women's shelters that were in need and could benefit from donations that were collected prior to the Vikings home game against the Houston Texans and from outside companies, including The Apothecary and Patterson Dental.

"What we're really about here at Matter is trying to create a movement of people," Matter President Quenton Marty said. "We're an organization, but much more than that, a movement of people who really care about everyone in this world having access to live a full and healthy life.

"We're really excited about the partnership that we have with the Vikings," Marty continued. "We work with a lot of great

companies [...]. We just feel like companies are the bedrock of our community here, and they have the ability to get a lot of things done."

Vikings Chief Operating Officer Kevin Warren and former Vikings long snapper Mike Morris joined the Women of the Vikings and Minnesota Vikings Cheerleaders in the effort.

"When you're here and come to Matter, you realize that there are certain issues in this world that we all need to figure out a way to make better, to do more, to make a difference," Warren said. "Organizations such as Matter, and the great work that they do, just really reiterates why the Vikings are so pleased to have them as a partner and to really be able to hold hands and walk forward together.

Volunteers worked together to move and load pallets of personal care products and Matter boxes into vehicles of 10 partnering organizations – including Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women, Mary's Place and Catholic Charities – that delivered the products to women's shelters.

Vikings fans will have another opportunity to team up with Matter and pack boxes outside U.S. Bank Stadium prior to the Cardinals game on Nov. 20.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27

TWIN ADDITIONS

Last month, Rudolph added one more job description to his resume: father.

Rudolph and his wife, Jordan, welcomed twin daughters, Andersyn and Finley, to their family on Oct. 4. The new dad couldn't have been happier with the timing of the bye week, which allowed him to be home with the girls for their full second week.

"It's been awesome. They're the most perfect babies," Rudolph said. "They've really spoiled Jordan and I [...] I wouldn't have guessed that three weeks into it I'd be getting this much sleep."

Added Rudolph with a laugh: "Which is good, because I love sleep."

Rudolph said his pursuit to be the best player he can be hasn't changed, but his motivation behind that goal has shifted some with the girls' arrival.

"There are two sets of eyes that will always be on me," Rudolph said. "I can only imagine that as these girls get older and they continue to watch, there will just be a little added pressure, but also a little extra support and love that you get when you go home – whether it's after a tough loss or a big win."

Rudolph hopes there's a lot more of the latter in store for this season. While recognizing the obstacles the Vikings have faced through injuries to key players this season, Rudolph's faith in the team is unwavering.

He said he's never been around a team that was so driven and so resilient.

"There's a goal in mind: winning a championship," Rudolph said. "No matter what adversity we face, we don't feel that we can be derailed from that goal."





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BACK TO THE START

THE SUN HAD SET, AND A BUDDING STAR STREAKED ACROSS THE PRACTICE FIELDS AT WINTER PARK. THE FIGURE MOVED THROUGH HEADLIGHT BEAMS OF A CAR THAT WAS ABOUT TO LEAVE THE PARKING LOT. THE ILLUMINATION REVEALED STEFON DIGGS CHOOSING TO EXTEND THE FIRST DAY OF THE VIKINGS ROOKIE MINICAMP IN 2015.

BY CRAIG PETERS

Diggs had been drafted in the fifth round the previous week to enter pro football. The 20th receiver off the board that year immediately showed that he planned to be professional in his approach.

"You only get one time to make a first impression, and I know from day one, I wanted them to know I was serious," Diggs said. "That was the first time that I got my playbook and in the swing of things. I wanted to approach it the right way."

No quarterback, no football, no teammates were there. It was just Diggs, blades of grass and a full-day's-worth of notes.

"I had my notepad with me, all the notes I wrote down, all of the plays, saying the plays out loud so I could hear them."

Diggs likened the session to a reader taking another trip through a passage to boost comprehension, but he's only just begun writing his story with the Vikings.

Receivers coach George Stewart said Diggs has shown "great passion for the game" since arriving in Minnesota.

"He loves to play the game; he loves to practice," Stewart said. "Going back to his first night here as a professional, he was on the field way after dark, running routes on his own.

"His passion is there," Stewart added. "It wasn't false. It wasn't fake. It was just him."

Diggs' behind-the-scenes work as a rookie understudy prepared him for the part in Week 4 at Denver. He had six catches (tying a Vikings record for receptions in a debut) and 87 yards (third-most in a debut with Minnesota) against the Broncos.

Diggs followed with 129 yards against Kansas City in his first game ever in front of the Vikings faithful. His next encore was a 108-yard showing that included a 36-yard flying touchdown catch at Detroit and made him the first Vikings rookie since Randy Moss to post consecutive games with at least 100 receiving yards.

The following week, Diggs turned a short pass into a game-tying, 40-yard touchdown that helped Minnesota claim its first win at Soldier Field since 2007.

"That's God-given skills. It's nothing that you teach," Stewart said. "You'd like to think you teach them, but those are God-given, and he is blessed with a skillset that most of the better receivers in this league are blessed with, and that's a reason he's playing on Sundays. He's a very talented young man."

Diggs ranked second in the NFL among rookies with 52 receptions and 720 yards in his first campaign, but he wasn't satisfied. He's remained committed to "sharpening my blade" and continuing to improve.

"If they tell you that you need to do a lot of things better, you need to do a lot of things better," Diggs said. "Self-criticism is the best way to approach it. Each day you've got to get better at something you did wrong and just over-study and watch your opponent."

The Vikings and the NFL were shocked when Teddy Bridgewater suffered a dislocated knee on Aug. 30, just days before the regular season, elevating Shaun Hill and creating a situation where the Vikings executed a trade to acquire Sam Bradford on Sept. 3.

Diggs helped quarterback Hill in the Sept. 11 season opener, and the former Maryland Terrapins players connected seven times for 103 yards at Tennessee.

"Shaun is still a great player. He's a smart player, been around the game a long time," Diggs said.

The two had built rapport and confidence a year ago at training camp when Diggs was working with the second team. That wasn't the case at all for Diggs and Bradford, but the quarterback found Diggs nine times for 182 yards in their first game action to help Minnesota defeat Green Bay in the first regular-season game at U.S. Bank Stadium.

Bradford said that Diggs "just kind of popped" out on the first few film clips of the Vikings he watched and "was pretty much unstoppable" against the Packers.

"You just kind of notice him," Bradford said after the Week 2 win. "He's always getting separation, he seems to always be finding a way to get open."

Diggs hauled in receptions of 46 and 44 yards, as well as a beautiful 25-yarder for a touchdown.

"Sam has an amazing arm. Some people know it, and some people don't. I've seen him make throws like that all day," Diggs said. "For those things to happen in a game and for them to click the way they did, it's amazing. I like to keep things as simple as possible.

"I'm out there trying to get open and make a play for my guy," Diggs added. "He got hit on the play, too, trying to do everything he can to give me a chance.



DIGGS
VS. THE NFC NORTH

39 RECEPTIONS
FOR 590 YARDS

15.1 YARDS
PER REC.

6 TOUCHDOWNS
2015: CHI (3), DET
2016: GB, CHI

7 TOTAL GAMES

You've got two guys trying to do everything in their power to make a play."

Diggs became the third Vikings receiver to post 100-plus yards in Weeks 1 and 2 of a season, joining Gene Washington and Hall of Famer Cris Carter, and he did so by playing much more in the slot than in his rookie year.

The Vikings have started Diggs at an outside receiver position but also moved him inside, Stewart said, to allow him to take advantage of the whole field and open spaces.

Diggs calmly downplayed the added responsibility, as well as the hard hits that can confront receivers in the middle of the field.

"It's not like — I mean, I've never been scared of contact, so it's not too much of an adjustment, just doing what you can for your team.

"It's more so spacing and understanding where you're at and timing and being where you're supposed to be when you're supposed to be there," Diggs added. "On the outside, it's one-on-one more often."

Diggs posted eight catches for 76 yards and a touchdown on Monday at Chicago. He leads the Vikings with 35 catches and 466 yards this season.

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SALUTING A SOLDIER'S SACRIFICE

AUDIE COLE OFTEN THINKS ABOUT THE COURAGE AND COMMITMENT BY MEMBERS OF ALL BRANCHES OF THE MILITARY. TODAY, HOWEVER, THE VIKINGS LINEBACKER WILL AGAIN PAY TRIBUTE TO A FORMER HIGH SCHOOL AND YOUTH LEAGUE TEAMMATE, ARMY PFC ERIC HARIO, BY WEARING A U.S. ARMY DECAL ON THE BACK OF HIS HELMET AS PART OF THE NFL'S ANNUAL SALUTE-TO-SERVICE INITIATIVE.

BY CRAIG PETERS

"It means a lot. I think about it a lot, the people that go out and do that, not only Eric and not just the Army, there are people in all branches of the military that have gone over, served and done things that I can't even imagine," Cole said. "I have the utmost respect for them and the things they do. They go over, do what they've got to do, take care of business and do it for us."

Pfc Hario was 19 when he died in combat in Afghanistan on Aug. 29, 2009. He had fulfilled his lifelong dream of serving in the Army and enlisted in June 2008, shortly

after graduating from Monroe High School. A member of the 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, Pfc Hario was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon and the Parachutist Badge.

Cole was a year older than Pfc Hario, who wore No. 62 and played offensive and defensive line and wrestled in high school.

"People back home, to this day, there's so much support for Eric and his family. They're just so proud of who he was and what he did," Cole said. "That's the kind of guy he

was. He was commitment, a team guy, always working hard. In the offseason, he was in the weight room with everyone, kind of running it, was real strong. He was a great guy, and that was kind of always his goal, to serve in the military.

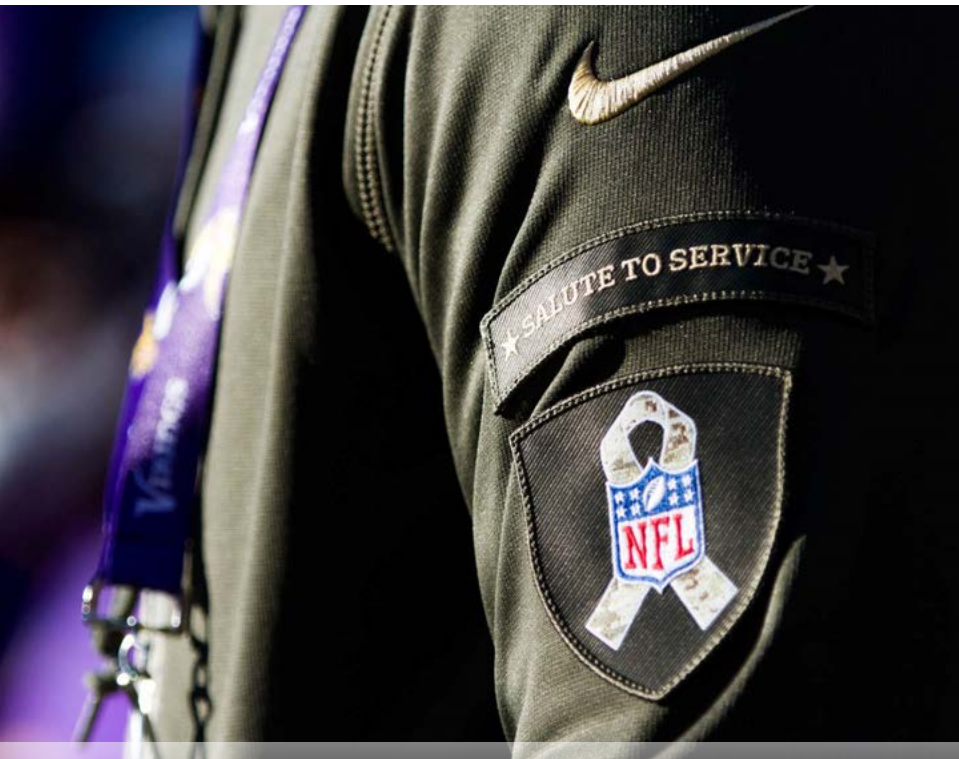
"He wasn't just going to be in the Army, he wanted to become a Ranger," Cole added. "He was mentally tough."

Cole said Pfc Hario's legacy has been continued at the school.

"They always tell all the kids the story because we're proud of him," Cole said. "I think his jersey is the only number that's retired. They tell everyone every year that this is a guy to look up to who paid the ultimate sacrifice."

"I HAVE THE UTMOST
RESPECT FOR THEM
AND THE THINGS THEY
DO. THEY GO OVER, DO
WHAT THEY'VE GOT
TO DO, TAKE CARE OF
BUSINESS AND DO IT
FOR US."

— AUDIE COLE



After finishing his collegiate career at N.C. State, Cole was selected in the seventh round of the 2012 NFL Draft. He has played 48 games, including each one this season. Cole served as special teams captain in Week 3 when Minnesota defeated Carolina and is a core special teams player under the direction of Mike Priefer, who flew helicopters during his service in the Navy. Cole said Priefer's service is highly

respected by teammates.

"I think the military instills so many characteristics and qualities of discipline in people," Cole said. "Coach Priefer, it's where he learned them, and he instills those kinds of things in us. It's always great when Prief' starts telling us a story. All eyes are locked in on him, and everyone is so interested. He takes pride in it. I think that's a good thing."

WELCOME HOME AND THANK YOU

THE VIKINGS ARE PROUD TO HOST THE 682ND ENGINEER
BATTALION OF THE MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD AT
TODAY'S GAME AFTER A YEAR-LONG DEPLOYMENT IN KUWAIT.

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WILL FEATURE DECALS THAT
HONOR THE BRANCHES
OF THE MILITARY AND
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ANTHONY HARRIS
ARMY | GRANDFATHER

KEVIN MCDERMOTT
ARMY | GRANDFATHER

ZACH LINE
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CHAD GREENWAY
NATIONAL GUARD | COUSIN

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KYLE RUDOLPH
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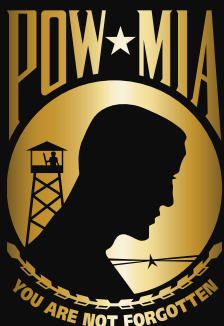
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THEY WILL NOT BE FORGOTTEN

Every Vikings game at U.S. Bank Stadium has been a sell-out, but one of the best seats in the house has remained unfilled.

This seat stands out amidst a sea of purple. All black, it is decorated with the POW/MIA logo that was established during the Vietnam War. The POW/MIA logo and flag has been extended to military personnel in all conflicts and honors the 1,618 U.S. military personnel missing and unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War.

The seat is located in Section V8 and is part of the Medtronic Club level. It sits in front of a wall that displays the seals of the five branches of the United States Military: Army, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard and Air Force.



SOLDIERS STAND GUARD AT THIS SEAT DURING VIKINGS GAMES



Current soldiers stand guard over the seat during Vikings games, and there is a changing of the guard ceremony between quarters.

A plaque accompanies the seat and says:

“WITH REVERENCE WE HOLD THIS SEAT OF VALOR FOR THOSE BRAVE MEN AND WOMEN, LIVING AND DEAD, WHO SACRIFICED IN THE LIMELIGHT OF HONOR AND GLORY THAT WE MAY HAVE FREEDOM. THEY WILL NOT BE FORGOTTEN.”

Since formation in 1970, the National League of POW/MIA Families has sought the return of all prisoners of war, the fullest possible accounting for those still missing, and repatriation of all recoverable remains.

Organizations like the National League of POW/MIA Families have worked to locate 965 U.S. personnel since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975. Another 63 personnel were recovered and identified before the end of the war, but the search continues.

This seat at U.S. Bank Stadium is a strong reminder of their courage, service and sacrifice.

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WE SAT DOWN WITH MICHAELA TO FIND OUT WHAT SOME OF HER FAVORITES ARE



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Viktor's

EMOJI PUZZLE

This week Viktor has created eight different puzzles using emojis.
See if you can decode the meaning of each set of emojis!

1. 🙌 ⬇️

5. 👉 ⬇️

2. 🚔 ⚓ 2 4

b. ⚡ 8 4

3. 💰 👨‍👩‍👧 9 7

7. 💜 🌧️ 🏆

4. 🚦 🚧 2 9

8. ✈️ 2 1

5. FIRST DOWN
6. CORDARELLE PATTERSON "FLASH"
7. PURPLE REIGN
8. JERICK MCKINNON "JET"

ANSWER KEY:
1. TOUCHDOWN
2. CAPTAIN MUNNERTLYN
3. EVERSON GRIFFEN "SACK DADDY"
4. XAVIER RHODES "RHODES CLOSED"



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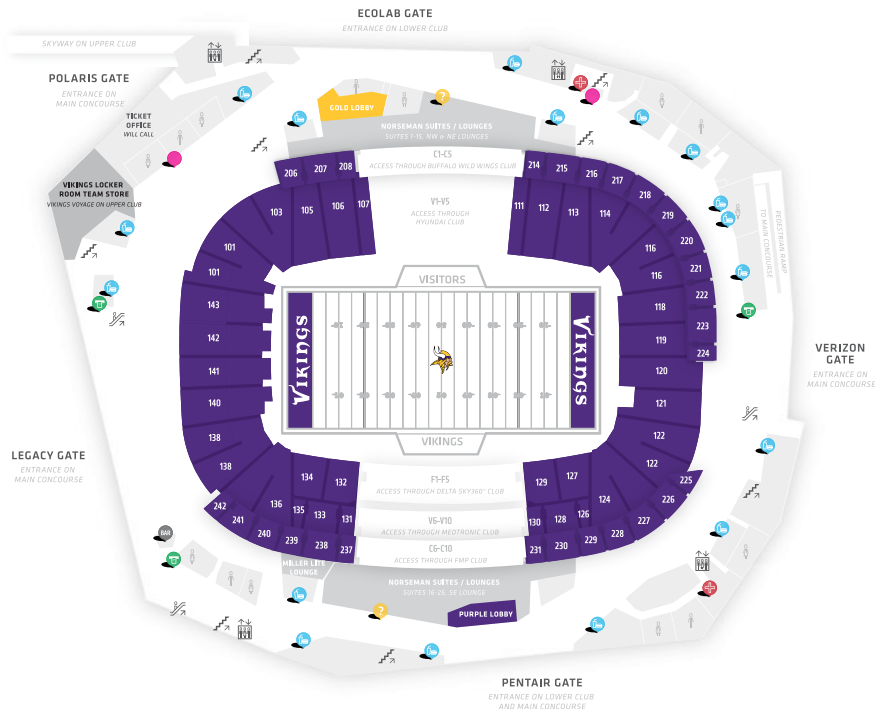
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- VALHALLA SUITES
- NORSEMAN SUITES 16-25
- SE NORSEMAN SUITES
- LOFT SUITES 28-46



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

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THE TRUTH BEHIND RUNESTONES

THE MONUMENTAL RUNIC MARKERS ARE THE MOST LASTING OF ALL VIKING ACCOMPLISHMENTS

*IÞR† IÞ†R
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††RÞRIB

"HONOR YOUR LEGACY, DEFEND THE NORTH"

THE TRUTH BEHIND SERIES

Outside of U.S. Bank Stadium, fans are greeted by the Minnesota Vikings own versions of runestones. These structures help as wayfinding for fans searching for gates, stores and other locales around the stadium. Other stylized runestones line the team entryway and spit flames as players take the field. All of these structures are modern creations, but have their origins in Viking history. This week we explore the Truth Behind Viking Runestones.

The monumental runic markers are the most lasting of all Viking accomplishments. We know of more than 3,500 runestones from Scandinavia and in the Viking colonies on the British and Atlantic Isles. More than 80 percent of all runestones are found in Sweden.

Viking runic markers usually consist of undressed blocks of stone. They stand at roads and bridges or on grave fields. Almost all are

memorials to a deceased person. Many rune carvers sign their inscriptions. Some contain an obituary, 'He died in England', for example. Runestones were news outlets in Viking times, even a sort of Twitter.

Nearly all runic monuments are Christian, and only a few are pagan. Many runestones are ornamented, typically with a snake pattern or a dragon. The serpent body frames the runic inscription, curving along the face of the rock. Red paint made the carving stand out, and occasionally other colors were used, too.

The Danish king Harold Bluetooth triggered the real runestone fashion, starting in the 960s. On his stone he boasts of having converted all Danes. Soon, everyone rich enough joined the fad, combining the Norse hunger for an immortal reputation with the desire for eternal life offered by the new religion.

"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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