

# PLAYBOOK

12.30.18



Scan in the Vikings app for  
more on S Harrison Smith



# THE COMEBACK

WITH AHMAD RASHAD

## Q. TELL US A LITTLE ABOUT YOUR ANKLE INJURY.

A. I'd had a bad ankle for about 25–30 years and it was progressively getting worse. I'd already had numerous operations, and it just got to the point where I couldn't live the way that I wanted to.

## Q. WHY DID YOU PICK TWIN CITIES ORTHOPEDICS?

A. I'd been searching the country to find a physician who could perform an ankle replacement surgery. When I found TCO and spoke to the physician who'd perform the surgery, it was a no-brainer. I love Minnesota and it all seemed to come together there for a reason. One of the coolest things about my experience is that TCO is the official medicine provider for the MN Vikings. You know, once a Viking always a Viking!

## Q. WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCE AT TCO?

A. The most important part of any surgery is what you do afterward, including therapy. TCO was right on point, from the time my surgery ended to the time I could move my toes. I've had a lot of surgeries, but I've never had the post-care that I had at TCO. Their therapists were right there with me, helping me move forward, and their facilities are second to none. It all felt very personal—they were truly concerned about my condition and getting me healthy again. Choosing TCO was the best decision I ever made; I could never find this type of surgery or care anywhere else. It changed my life forever and I've never looked back.

# “Choosing TCO Was The Best Decision I Ever Made”

## Q. ANY ADVICE FOR SOMEONE CONSIDERING ANKLE REPLACEMENT SURGERY?

A. If there's anyone considering this sort of surgery, there is one thing that I would tell you: Go to TCO! They will take wonderful care of you. It's a no-brainer.

**Ahmad Rashad**  
TCO Patient  
Ring of Honor Recipient



**TWIN CITIES  
ORTHOPEDICS**

**OFFICIAL SPORTS  
MEDICINE PROVIDER**



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Scan the cover in the Vikings app using the 'augmented reality' feature under the 'more' tab for more on Harrison Smith.

## CONTENTS

- 2 Fan Code of Conduct
- 4 Season Recap: Biggest Moments

### TODAY'S GAME

- 8 Today's Game
- 11 Today's Promotions
- 13 Vikings Snapshot
- 14 Bears Snapshot
- 16 Depth Charts & Rosters

### FEATURE STORIES

- 19 Timeout: Anthony Harris
- 22 Harrison Smith in the Spotlight
- 28 Cooking with Dalvin
- 30 Weatherly: Instrumental in Progression
- 35 2019 Pro Bowl
- 39 Giving Back for the Holidays

### ENTERTAINMENT

- 44 Vikings Entertainment Network
- 47 Cheerleader Spotlight
- 48 Viktor the Viking

### EXTRAS

- 50 SKOL Service
- 51 U.S. Bank Stadium Maps
- 52 Concession Offerings

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## WE ARE VIKINGS, NOT BARBARIANS

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

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

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

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

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

### REPORT GAME DAY ISSUES

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

**69050**

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

Standard text message rates and other charges may apply.

## NFL BAG POLICY

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



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



**SMALL CLUTCH BAGS**  
No larger than 4.5" x 6.5"



**ONE GALLON BAG**  
Clear plastic freezer bag





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VIKINGS  
BIGGEST MOMENTS  
OF THE 2018 SEASON

THE VIKINGS 2018 SEASON INCLUDED A DEBUT, DIVING CATCHES AND DEFENSIVE TOUCHDOWNS.

Minnesota enters today's game with an 8-6-1 mark and an opportunity to earn a postseason berth for the third time in four seasons.



01



02

01 | Kirk Cousins made his regular-season Vikings and U.S. Bank Stadium debut against the 49ers in Week 1. Cousins threw for 244 yards and two touchdowns in a 24-16 win over San Francisco.

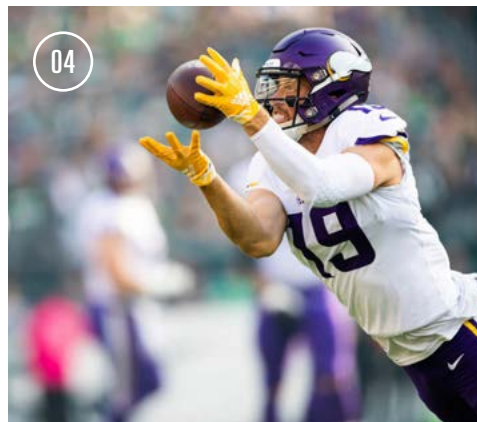
02 | Stefon Diggs kept his balance during a 75-yard touchdown that was part of a 22-point rally at Green Bay in a game that ended tied at 29.



03



04



05



**03 |** Linval Joseph corralled a fumble by Carson Wentz and reaped a reward for all of the cardio he does during a 64-yard return for a touchdown at Philadelphia.

**04 |** Adam Thielen dazzled throughout the year. He set a record by starting a season with eight consecutive 100-yard games, a run that included this diving catch at Philadelphia.

**05 |** Danielle Hunter scooped, scooted and scored during a 32-yard fumble return touchdown against the Lions. He also had 3.5 sacks in the game en route to picking up NFC Defensive Player of the Week honors.



06



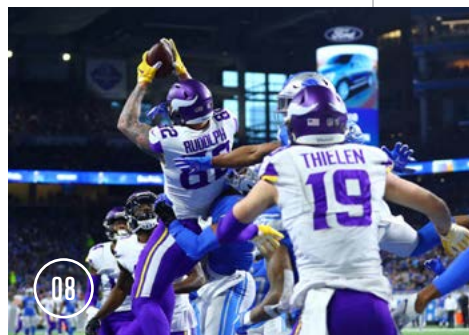
09



07



08



06 | The offense executed the limbo against the team from Lambeau after Dalvin Cook turned a short pass into a 26-yard touchdown.

07 | Randy Moss received his Hall of Fame Ring of Excellence during halftime of the Vikings home game against the Packers. Moss became a first-ballot enshrinee in August.

08 | Kyle Rudolph high-pointed the football during a 44-yard touchdown catch on the final play of the first half at Detroit. Rudolph finished with a career-high 122 receiving yards and two scores on nine receptions.

09 | Dalvin Cook totaled 163 yards from scrimmage and rushed for touchdowns of 13 and 21 yards, helping Minnesota rush for 220 yards against his hometown Miami Dolphins team.



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verizon

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**TODAY'S GAME** between the Vikings (8-6-1) and 2018 NFC North Champion Bears (11-4) is the 116th all-time, including one postseason game that followed the 1994 season. It marks the fourth time in five seasons that Chicago has visited Minnesota to close a regular season, but this matchup has potential postseason implications for both teams.

The Vikings have a "win-and-definitely-in" scenario in which a victory secures a postseason berth as one of two Wild Card

teams. If Minnesota is unable to do so, it will need a loss or tie by Philadelphia (8-7) at Washington (7-8). The Bears can still garner the No. 2 seed in the NFC if they finish with the same record as the Rams (12-3). Chicago will be the No. 3 seed if it loses today.

The Bears claimed a 25-20 victory when the teams met on Nov. 18 at Soldier Field. Chicago leads the NFL with 36 takeaways.

The Vikings have won the past two games and are seeking their second three-game win streak of the season.

## NFC PLAYOFF PICTURE ENTERING WEEK 17

No. 1	NO	[locked in]	No. 5	SEA	(could be MIN)
No. 2	LAR	(could be CHI)	No. 6	MIN	(could be SEA or PHI)
No. 3	CHI	(could be LAR)		PHI	(could get the No. 6 seed)
No. 4	DAL	[locked in]			

## NATIONAL ANTHEM

The National Anthem will be performed by operatic singer, actor and Minnesota Native Joel McKinnon Miller. He plays Don Embry in *Big Love*, which aired on HBO, and is Det. Norm Scully on *Brooklyn Nine-Nine*, which will launch on NBC on Thursday, Jan. 10.



## COLOR GUARD

A Joint Services Honor Guard representing all branches of service will present the colors.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Kirk Cousins enters today's game having already set the Vikings record for completions in a season. He has 405 and is the first Minnesota QB to throw for more than 4,000 yards in a season since Brett Favre in 2009.

Stefon Diggs needs 26 receiving yards to record the first 1,000-yard season of his career. If he does so, he and Adam Thielen will be the first Vikings receiving duo to each post the milestone in a season since Hall of Famers Cris Carter and Randy Moss in 2000.

The Vikings have 50 sacks as a team, the most in any season under Head Coach Mike Zimmer. This is the first season in which Minnesota has recorded 50 sacks since finishing with 51 in 1992.





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**EZ  
PZ**  
meals.



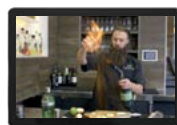
**MOMOSITES**  
ATTRACT.



i think  
i burnt  
the water



theHIVE  
HAUL



THE BEARD  
BEHIND THE  
BAR



The  
Braided  
Apron



## TODAY'S PROMOTIONS



Tweet your seat location to @vikingspromos for your chance to win prizes from the Vikings Street Team at today's game.



### KWIK TRIP FAMILY OF THE GAME

Congratulations to today's Kwik Trip Family of the Game, the Sanchez Family from Mankato, Minnesota. To have your chance at being the next Kwik Trip Family of the Game and win free Vikings tickets or sideline passes, pull out your phone, open the Vikings App, click on "more," then on "games," and enter your selection to today's Kwik Trip trivia question.

**Kwik Trip**

### U.S. BANK HOMETOWN HEROES

Today's Hometown Heroes will be retired Command Sgt. Major Curtis Jasper and his son, First Sgt. Matt Jasper. Curtis served 28 years in the Minnesota Army National Guard before retiring as a Command Sergeant Major. He was awarded a combat action badge, Legion of Merit Medal and a Bronze Star Medal for his service.

Matt is currently a First Sergeant in the Minnesota Army National Guard and has served for 16 years. Matt was awarded a Purple Heart after he was wounded in combat during a deployment to Afghanistan in 2011.

### HY-VEE #SKOL

Share a photo at today's game using #SKOL to see yourself on the video board and for the chance to win a \$25 Hy-Vee gift card and a \$25 Market Grill gift card!

**HyVee**

### 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.



### MILLER LITE "SNAP & SHARE"

Vikings fans, we want to see your game-day pride! It's easy – snap a photo and share it using #HoldTrue #Vikings, then look for your photo on the video board.

**Miller Lite**

### GET CHARGED UP AT YOUR SEAT

If you're a Verizon Up member, you can check out a free portable phone charger to use during the game. To get yours, visit the Verizon Up Fan Zone located on the main concourse by the Verizon Gate on game day.

**verizonup**

### CENTURYLINK BOOST BOX

Enter for a chance to win a CenturyLink Boostbox filled with prizes and exclusive fan experiences handpicked by CenturyLink and Stefon Diggs. For official rules and to enter, visit centurylink.com/Vikings.

**CenturyLink**  
**BOOSTBOX**

### BUFFALO WILD WINGS SACKS FOR APPS

Buffalo Wild Wings brings you "Sacks for Apps" during all Vikings home and away games this season! When the Vikings record 3.0 or more sacks in a game, all fans score a free sharable with a minimum purchase of \$5. Offer is valid for 3 days after each eligible game. Visit vikings.com/bww for your digital coupon and offer details.







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## PLAYER TO WATCH: CB MACKENSIE ALEXANDER

**FOR ALEXANDER**, the first step to excelling in the nickel cornerback position was accepting the role. After playing a lockdown role on the outside during college at Clemson, the 2016 second-round selection was asked to move inside for the Vikings. When Terence Newman retired at the start of the season and transitioned to position coach, it enhanced the need for Alexander to step in and step up. Alexander has performed well in coverage, totaling 9 pass breakups. He also has set a career high with 43 tackles, including 7 for loss (team stats). One of the best attributes that Alexander has shown is an ability to blitz and reach quarterbacks before they can escape. That quickness has helped Alexander record 4.0 sacks, which is the most by a Vikings defensive back in a single season.

**GRAPPLER:** LISTED AT 5-FOOT-10 AND 192 POUNDS, ALEXANDER ISN'T AFRAID TO MIX IT UP AGAINST BIGGER RECEIVING OPTIONS OR IN RUN SUPPORT. IN ADDITION TO RUNNING TRACK AND PLAYING FOOTBALL, ALEXANDER WRESTLED IN HIGH SCHOOL AND WAS RATED IN THE TOP 15 IN HIS WEIGHT CLASS IN FLORIDA.

# 2ND OF 9

Alexander was the second of nine Clemson players drafted in 2016. Of the nine, seven were on defense and three were defensive backs, including Vikings safety Jayron Kearse.

## 2018 SEASON LEADERS

Passing	Kirk Cousins	4,166
Rushing	Dalvin Cook	576
Receiving	Adam Thielen	1,335
Tackles	Eric Kendricks	120
Sacks	Danielle Hunter	14.5
Interceptions	Harrison Smith & Anthony Harris	3
KOR (Yards)	Ameer Abdullah	258
PR (Avg.)	Marcus Sherels	12.0

## 2018 SCHEDULE

### PRESEASON (3-1)

P1	8/11	at Denver Broncos	W 42-28
P2	8/18	Jacksonville Jaguars	L 14-10
P3	8/24	Seattle Seahawks	W 21-20
P4	8/30	at Tennessee Titans	W 13-3

### REGULAR SEASON (8-6-1)

1	9/9	San Francisco 49ers	W 24-16
2	9/16	at Green Bay Packers	T 29-29
3	9/23	Buffalo Bills	L 27-6
4	9/27	at Los Angeles Rams	L 38-31
5	10/7	at Philadelphia Eagles	W 23-21
6	10/14	Arizona Cardinals	W 27-17
7	10/21	at New York Jets	W 37-17
8	10/28	New Orleans Saints	L 30-20
9	11/4	Detroit Lions	W 24-9
10	11/11	BYE WEEK	
11	11/18	at Chicago Bears	L 25-20
12	11/25	Green Bay Packers	W 24-17
13	12/2	at New England Patriots	L 24-10
14	12/10	at Seattle Seahawks	L 21-7
15	12/16	Miami Dolphins	W 41-17
16	12/23	at Detroit Lions	W 27-9
17	12/30	Chicago Bears	

## TOP 2s AGAINST BEARS

### RUSHING YARDS

224	Adrian Peterson on 20 attempts at Chicago (Oct. 14, 2007)
211	Adrian Peterson on 35 attempts in Minnesota (Dec. 1, 2013)

### PASSING YARDS

436	Tommy Kramer on 28-of-55 passing in Minnesota (Sept. 19, 1985)
392	Brett Favre on 32-of-48 passing in Minnesota (Nov. 29, 2009)

### RECEIVING YARDS

204	Randy Moss on 12 catches at Chicago (Nov. 14, 1999)
177	Sammy White on 10 catches in Minnesota (Nov. 28, 1982)

## 2018 SEASON LEADERS

Passing	Mitchell Trubisky	3,060
Rushing	Jordan Howard	826
Receiving	Allen Robinson II	754
Tackles	Roquan Smith	107
Sacks	Khalil Mack	12.5
Interceptions	Kyle Fuller	7
KOR (Yards)	Benny Cunningham	173
PR (Avg.)	Tarik Cohen	13.3

## 2018 SCHEDULE

### PRESEASON (2-3)

P1	8/2	at Baltimore Ravens*	L	17-16
P2	8/9	at Cincinnati Bengals	L	30-27
P3	8/18	at Denver Broncos	W	24-23
P4	8/25	Kansas City Chiefs	W	27-20
P5	8/30	Buffalo Bills	L	28-27

\* Hall of Fame Game, Canton, Ohio

### REGULAR SEASON (11-4)

1	9/9	at Green Bay Packers	L	24-23
2	9/17	Seattle Seahawks	W	24-17
3	9/23	at Arizona Cardinals	W	16-14
4	9/30	Tampa Bay Buccaneers	W	48-10
5	10/7	BYE WEEK		
6	10/14	at Miami Dolphins	L	31-28
7	10/21	New England Patriots	L	38-31
8	10/28	New York Jets	W	24-10
9	11/4	at Buffalo Bills	W	41-9
10	11/11	Detroit Lions	W	34-22
11	11/18	Minnesota Vikings	W	25-20
12	11/22	at Detroit Lions	W	23-16
13	12/2	at New York Giants	L	30-27
14	12/9	Los Angeles Rams	W	15-6
15	12/16	Green Bay Packers	W	24-17
16	12/23	at San Francisco 49ers	W	14-9
17	12/30	at Minnesota Vikings		

## TOP 2s AGAINST VIKINGS

### RUSHING YARDS

275	Walter Payton on 40 attempts at Chicago (Nov. 20, 1977)
197	Gale Sayers on 17 attempts at Chicago (Dec. 18, 1966)

### PASSING YARDS

422	Jim Miller on 34-of-48 passing at Chicago (Nov. 14, 1999)
381	Brian Griese on 26-of-45 passing at Chicago (Oct. 14, 2007)

### RECEIVING YARDS

249	Alshon Jeffery on 12 catches in Minnesota (Dec. 1, 2013)
198	Marty Booker on eight catches at Chicago (Sept. 8, 2002)



## PLAYER TO WATCH: QB MITCHELL TRUBISKY

Trubisky, the second overall pick in the 2017 NFL Draft, has taken major strides in his second pro season. He has increased his completions by 75, completion percentage by 7.0 points, yards by 867 and passer rating by 18.5 points. He also has thrown 24 touchdowns this season after totaling seven in his debut campaign. The Vikings also are aware of the threat that Trubisky poses with his legs. He ran a career-high 10 times for 43 yards when the teams met in Chicago on Nov. 18. It was the fifth time this season that he had at least 40 rushing yards. Trubisky's mobility also helped against a vaunted pass rush. He took just one sack but was intercepted twice by Anthony Harris at Soldier Field.

**MR. FOOTBALL:** TRUBISKY WAS NAMED MR. FOOTBALL IN THE STATE OF OHIO BY *THE ASSOCIATED PRESS* IN 2012 AFTER PASSING FOR 4,063 YARDS AS A SENIOR, WHICH GAVE HIM 9,126 YARDS. HE WAS THE FIRST PLAYER FROM THE GREATER CLEVELAND AREA TO PASS FOR MORE THAN 4,000 YARDS IN A SEASON AND 9,000 IN A CAREER.

19 OUT OF 24

Out of Trubisky's 24 passing touchdowns this season, 19 occurred in eight home games, compared to the five he's thrown in five road games. Trubisky's passer rating was 97.2 at home and 94.0 on the road. He also rushed for 309 yards at Soldier Field and only 96 in road games.




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*SMOOTH FINISH*




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1	Kyle Sloter	QB
3	Trevor Siemian	QB
5	Dan Bailey	K
6	Matt Wile	P
8	Kirk Cousins	QB
11	Laquon Treadwell	WR
12	Chad Beebe	WR
14	Stefon Diggs	WR
15	Brandon Zylstra	WR
17	Aldrick Robinson	WR
19	Adam Thielen	WR
20	Mackensie Alexander	CB
22	Harrison Smith	S
23	George Iloka	S
24	Holton Hill	CB
25	Latavius Murray	RB
26	Trae Waynes	CB
27	Jayron Kearse	S
29	Xavier Rhodes	CB
30	C.J. Ham	FB
31	Ameer Abdullah	RB
33	Dalvin Cook	RB
35	Marcus Sherels	CB
36	Craig James	CB
40	Kentrell Brothers	LB
41	Anthony Harris	S
42	Ben Gedeon	LB
44	Mike Boone	RB
47	Kevin McDermott	LS
50	Eric Wilson	LB
54	Eric Kendricks	LB
55	Anthony Barr	LB
57	Devante Downs	LB
61	Brett Jones	C
63	Danny Isidora	G
65	Pat Elflein	C
69	Rashod Hill	T
71	Riley Reiff	T
74	Mike Remmers	G
75	Brian O'Neill	T
79	Tom Compton	G
82	Kyle Rudolph	TE
83	Tyler Conklin	TE
89	David Morgan	TE
90	Tashawn Bower	DE
91	Stephen Weatherly	DE
92	Jalyn Holmes	DT
93	Sheldon Richardson	DT
94	Jaleel Johnson	DT
96	Tom Johnson	DT
97	Everson Griffen	DE
98	Linval Joseph	DT
99	Danielle Hunter	DE




**33**  
RUNNING BACK  
Dalvin Cook




**8**  
QUARTERBACK  
Kirk Cousins




**30**  
FULLBACK  
C.J. Ham




**14**  
WIDE RECEIVER  
Stefon Diggs




**82**  
TIGHT END  
Kyle Rudolph




**75**  
RIGHT TACKLE  
Brian O'Neill




**74**  
RIGHT GUARD  
Mike Remmers




**65**  
CENTER  
Pat Elflein



**79**  
LEFT GUARD  
Tom Compton



**71**  
LEFT TACKLE  
Riley Reiff



**19**  
WIDE RECEIVER  
Adam Thielen

VIKINGS OFFENSE



**23**  
CORNERBACK  
Kyle Fuller



**52**  
LINEBACKER  
Khalil Mack



**96**  
DEFENSIVE TACKLE  
Akiem Hicks



**91**  
NOSE TACKLE  
Eddie Goldman



**98**  
DEFENSIVE END  
Bilal Nichols



**94**  
LINEBACKER  
Leonard Floyd



**39**  
SAFETY  
Eddie Jackson



**59**  
LINEBACKER  
Danny Trevathan



**58**  
LINEBACKER  
Roquan Smith



**38**  
SAFETY  
Adrian Amos, Jr.

BEARS DEFENSE

VIKINGS SPECIAL TEAMS



**5**  
KICKER  
Dan Bailey



**6**  
PUNTER  
Matt Wile



**47**  
LONG SNAPPER  
Kevin McDermott



**35**  
PUNTERTURNER  
Marcus Sherels



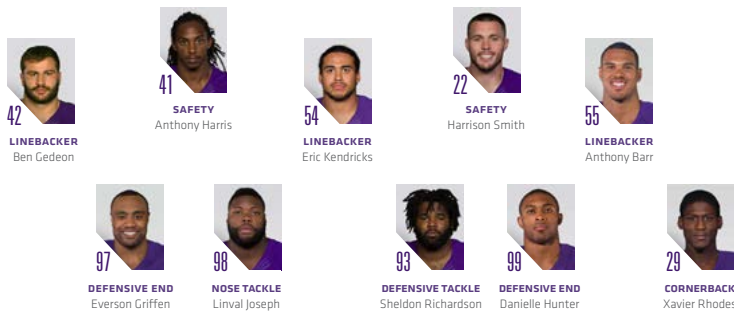
**31**  
KICK RETURNER  
Ameer Abdullah



# ROSTER AND DEPTH CHART MINNESOTA VIKINGS

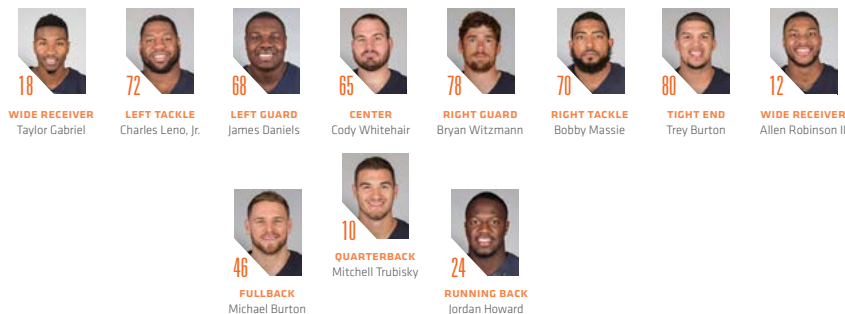
OFFENSE				DEFENSE			
WR	Thielen	Treadwell	Robinson	LE	Hunter	Bower	
LT	Reiff	Hill		DT	Richardson	T. Johnson	Holmes
LG	Compton	Isidora		NT	Joseph	J. Johnson	
C	Elflein	Jones		RE	Griffen	Weatherly	
RG	Remmers	Isidora		WLB	Gedeon	Wilson	
RT	O'Neill	Hill		MLB	Kendricks	Brothers	
TE	Rudolph	Morgan	Conklin	SLB	Barr	Downs	
WR	Diggs	Beebe	Zylstra	LCB	Waynes	Hill	Sherels
QB	Cousins	Siemian	Sloter	RCB	Rhodes	Alexander	James
FB	Ham			SS	Harris	Kearse	
HB	Cook	Murray	Abdullah	FS	Smith	Iloka	





## VIKINGS DEFENSE

## BEARS OFFENSE



## BEARS SPECIAL TEAMS



## ROSTER AND DEPTH CHART

## CHICAGO BEARS



## OFFENSE

<b>WR</b>	Gabriel	Miller	Bellamy
<b>LT</b>	Leno, Jr.	Sowell	
<b>LG</b>	Daniels	Kush	
<b>C</b>	Whitehair	Daniels	
<b>RG</b>	Witzmann	Kush	
<b>RT</b>	Massie	Coward	
<b>TE</b>	T. Burton	Shaheen	Braunecker
<b>WR</b>	Robinson	White	Wims
<b>FB</b>	M. Burton		
<b>QB</b>	Trubisky	Danial	Bray
<b>RB</b>	Howard	Cohen	Cunningham

## DEFENSE

<b>CB</b>	Fuller	McManis	
<b>DT</b>	Hicks	Williams	
<b>NT</b>	Goldman		
<b>DE</b>	Nichols	Bullard	Robertson-Harris
<b>CB</b>	Amukamara	Toliver II	Williams
<b>OLB</b>	Mack	Lynch	
<b>ILB</b>	Trevathan	Iyiebuniwe	
<b>ILB</b>	Smith	Kwiatkoski	
<b>OLB</b>	Floyd	Irving	Fitts
<b>S</b>	Jackson	Bush	
<b>S</b>	Amos, Jr.	Houston-Carson	

1	Cody Parkey	K
4	Chase Daniel	QB
9	Tyler Bray	QB
10	Mitchell Trubisky	QB
11	Kevin White	WR
12	Allen Robinson II	WR
15	Joshua Bellamy	WR
16	Pat O'Donnell	P
17	Anthony Miller	WR
18	Taylor Gabriel	WR
20	Prince Amukamara	CB
22	Kevin Toliver II	DB
23	Kyle Fuller	CB
24	Jordan Howard	RB
26	Deon Bush	SS
27	Sherrick McManis	DB
29	Tarik Cohen	RB
30	Benny Cunningham	RB
31	Marcus Williams	DB
33	Taquan Mizzell, Sr.	RB
36	D. Houston-Carson	FS
38	Adrian Amos, Jr.	SS
39	Eddie Jackson	FS
44	Nick Kwiatkoski	ILB
45	Joel Iyiebuniwe	LB
46	Michael Burton	FB
47	Isaiah Irving	LB
48	Patrick Scales	LS
49	Kylie Fitts	LB
52	Khalil Mack	LB
58	Roquan Smith	LB
59	Danny Trevathan	ILB
64	Eric Kush	G
65	Cody Whitehair	C
68	James Daniels	OL
69	Rashaad Coward	OL
70	Bobby Massie	T
72	Charles Leno, Jr.	T
78	Bryan Witzmann	G
79	Bradley Sowell	T
80	Trey Burton	TE
83	Javon Wims	WR
84	Ben Braunecker	TE
85	Daniel Brown	TE
87	Adam Shaheen	TE
90	Jonathan Bullard	DE
91	Eddie Goldman	NT
94	Leonard Floyd	OLB
95	Roy Robertson-Harris	DE
96	Akiem Hicks	DT
97	Nick Williams	DT
98	Bilal Nichols	DT
99	Aaron Lynch	LB

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# TIMEOUT

## WITH HARRIS

Anthony Harris has learned that great things can come in pairs.

BY CRAIG PETERS

**THE SAFETY PICKED OFF TWO PASSES** at Chicago in Week 11. He also adopted two kittens after participating in a November adoption awareness event at the Animal Humane Society.

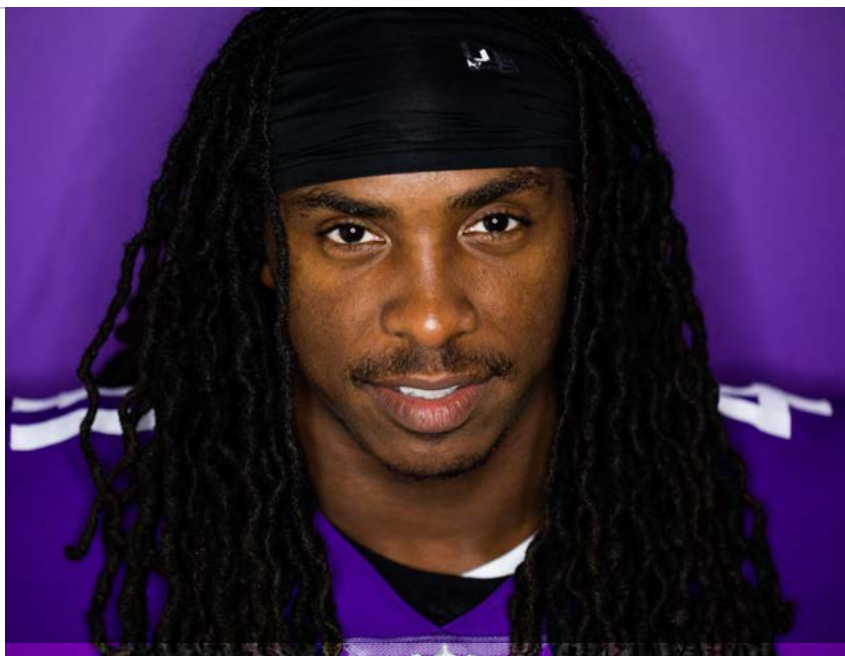
Harris enters today's game with career highs of three interceptions and six passes defended. He has played in 14 games this season and has started eight in place of Andrew Sendejo, who suffered a season-ending groin injury.

After leading the Vikings with two interceptions in the preseason, the 2015 undrafted rookie free agent recorded his first in a regular-season game against Arizona in Week 6. He nabbed two throws by Mitchell Trubisky at Soldier Field — one in the first half and one in the second — and brought his personal collector's items stamped with Chicago's wishbone C to Minnesota.

"It was a nice, cool night, felt like a football atmosphere, so I was ready to go. I was just trying to fly around and be in position to make plays," Harris said. "The first interception, I just felt like I got a good feel for what they were trying to do, got a good break on the ball, and I remember attacking it aggressively, trying to go make a statement. They had made some plays in the game, so in that moment, I was just thinking, 'Make this play, respond and show that we're here to play.'"

The Vikings fell behind by 14 and rallied late before dropping a 25-20 decision.

The footballs are just in a box at his residence and not displayed. The kittens, however, frequently appear on social media in posed and spontaneous photos. Cookie and Ella can be found on their @hooscoolcats Instagram account.



### WE CAUGHT UP WITH HARRIS FOR A TIMEOUT

**Q.** You had come close to interceptions before and even had a couple in the preseason. Were you confident that a pick eventually would happen in the regular season?

**A.** *I think I've always had a good feel for being around the ball. It started back in college. I just had a good feel for the routes, got good breaks, and even fumbles, if I didn't cause it, being there to scoop it up was kind of my thing. Once I got here, the more I learned, the closer I started to get. I got a few in practice and into the preseason, I thought if I had the opportunity to play defensively I would get some pretty good chances to come up with some interceptions, so from there, it was "Keep studying, don't force it, learn more about the defense and the offenses and be in the right position."*

**Q.** You tied Ronde Barber's mark of eight interceptions in a season at Virginia, but your draft stock was hurt because of a shoulder injury. Has every day been about validating that you belong in the NFL?

**A.** *I kind of thought that I had the ability to be a pretty good player at this level. It was one of those things where I believed in myself and just wanted the opportunity to show everybody that I can be the player that I once was at the college level and was projected to be a pretty decent player before the injury. I felt like I kind of had to battle my way back. I felt like I had to get my body back in the position of functioning and executing.*



**HOMETOWN:**  
RICHMOND, VA



**COLLEGE:**  
VIRGINIA  
CAVALIERS



**RECENTLY  
ADOPTED:**  
TWO KITTENS

HARRIS RETURNED HIS SECOND INTERCEPTION AGAINST THE BEARS 33 YARDS TO SET UP A FIELD GOAL BY THE VIKINGS.



**Q.** Speaking of recovery efforts, you are a partner in a cryotherapy business [CryoRVA in Richmond, Virginia]. What prompted you to become involved with cryotherapy and the business?

**A.** *It's been a part of my recovery for about a year now. I started to venture off business-wise after experiencing it as a customer, coming in and trying to figure out how I can better utilize my time and recovery after workouts. I tried a number of different things, massages, acupuncture, and cryo was the new one for me. Originally I tried it post-workouts and then as I went along, if there was soreness, I would utilize it as an off-day thing. I would hop in there to try to get some of the soreness out, and it helped with circulation, so it kind of got me going right away. If I was a little bit stiff or sore, it got me moving pretty good. The more I used it, the more I started to believe in it, and then did more research on it. I feel like it's something that a lot of people can benefit from, not just athletes, whether it's somebody who deals with everyday pain from an old injury or age or maybe even diabetes, I know there's someone who uses it for that, [cryotherapy] is something I'd like to provide for them.*

*We offer a few services. We have a cryo machine that you stand in from your neck down; the height is adjustable. We also have two NormaTec stations to kind of get circulation in your legs. Most recently, we added arms, as well, and then we also purchased an isolation machine that has a hose. If you don't want to get in the full-body machine, if you have a knee or shoulder, we can isolate that area. We also use that machine for facials as well to help with those muscles in the face to help recover and decrease wrinkles over time.*

**Q.** How did you wind up with not one but two kittens after the pet adoption event?

**A.** *It's kind of one of those things that's always been on my mind. I kind of wanted a dog, but honestly I didn't have the time for it, with the requirements of taking care of them and being on my own and having to take them out and different things, so I put it off. After we did the event, I checked out the dogs and took a look at the cats. ... The following Monday I went and was thinking, "I want to get a cat." It's a lot less maintenance, but there's still somebody there to hang with. I tried to get it Monday, and they said they'd*

"I feel like  
it's something  
that a lot  
of people  
can benefit  
from, not just  
athletes."

—HARRIS ON  
CRYOTHERAPY

*have to spay it, so I'd have to come back Thursday. Unfortunately, when I went to pick it up, they said it had gotten sick and gotten a disease that would affect its immune system. ... I [then] saw a Siamese with a light brown coat, so I decided [Cookie] was going home with me. A few weeks later, after I had a great experience with that one, I got a call that the original kitten I wanted was fine and healthy. They asked if I was still interested in adopting, and I felt bad because I still really liked that cat. Another friend told me I should get two because they liked being in pairs.*

**Q.** Are you having a lot of fun posing them for pictures on Instagram?

**A.** *Yeah, some of the stuff is ideas that people give me, and some of the stuff is me walking around the house and trying to capture a moment. When I posted on social media that I was getting them, a lot of people were excited, and a friend said I should make them an Instagram. I had a few people come on my page and specifically say they were following me to check out more cat pictures, so I made them an Instagram and try to keep up with it. It's a lot of fun, a lot of little cute, interesting stuff going on, so I try to share it with the people who like to see it.*

**Q.** What's been the biggest surprise? Are they pretty social with you?

**A.** *Yeah ... there are times when they're sitting there playing with toys and out of nowhere they come kiss me on the face and then go back to playing. "Oh man, this cat really cares for me and wants to show me some affection." I think that's pretty cool. The thing I had to get used to is in the morning times I get woken up because they want to play. When I had one, she would jump up and snuggle on my face to wake me up, or even at night, she would try to go to sleep but the fur brushing against my face didn't work too well.*



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# HARRISON SMITH IN THE SPOTLIGHT

WRITTEN BY ERIC SMITH

“ ”

I THINK HE  
INTERNALIZES A  
BUNCH OF STUFF. HE  
UNDERSTANDS IT, AND  
HE ABSORBS IT. ... HE  
JUST GOES OUT THERE  
AND DOES HIS JOB.

- JERRY GRAY  
VIKINGS DBS COACH

**IN THE SIX-WEEK BREAK** that he had after mini-camp ended in June and training camp started in July, Harrison Smith went to Iceland for just three days.

The Vikings safety hired a tour guide for the quick trip and had a full schedule each day he was in the country of fewer than 350,000 people, which is a smaller population than the city of Minneapolis.

"In and out ... I saw everything I wanted to see in three days. It was cool," Smith said. "I just felt like going, honestly. I thought it'd be a peaceful vacation."

Smith's favorite spot was the Gljúfrabúi waterfall. The name aptly translates to Canyon Dweller because it is obscured by walls of a huge cliff and oft unknown by thousands of visitors who arrive by the busload to walk around Seljalandsfoss less than one-half mile away.

But you're not alone if you didn't know Smith went abroad, as the 29-year-old posted just one simple photo of himself on social media next to the aforementioned waterfall.

It was the perfect getaway for the low-key All-Pro.

"I like to enjoy things in the moment and be present," Smith said. "I like to show people where I went and stuff like that and tell them it's a great spot to go, but I feel like sometimes when you're trying to capture things to show other people, you're kind of cheapening the moment for yourself."

"It's nice to look back and remember some pictures, but I like to enjoy where I'm at," Smith added.

Smith's attitude toward keeping a low profile on vacation also applies to his mindset on the football field.

He is simply more content with putting in a solid day's work on Sunday and then slipping out of the locker room unnoticed while his teammates get the praise for another stout defensive performance.







“ ”

HE'S A VERY INSTINCTIVE  
PLAYER...THE GUY IS  
JUST REALLY SMART AND  
DISGUISES EXTREMELY  
WELL. HE MAKES IT TOUGH  
FOR THE QUARTERBACK.

- COACH ZIMMER

On the field, it seems No. 22 simply makes the play, looks to the sideline for the next call and gets ready to line up and do it again.

"I've always kind of been that way, just because, realistically, I'll get too tired if I'm celebrating all the time," Smith said with a laugh. "And I know there's more games to be played. It's fun to celebrate when teammates make plays and get people going and some of that stuff, but if that's what you're spending the majority of the time on, it's going to be hard to give everything you have in between the whistle.

"If I make a big play, then I'm like, 'Cool, we've got the next play.' If it's a third down and we get off the field, then you can maybe have a little more fun," Smith added. "But first down and second down, it's like, 'Whatever, let's focus on the next play.'"

Added Vikings defensive backs coach Jerry Gray: "I think he internalizes a bunch of stuff. He understands it, and he absorbs it. He doesn't talk a lot, but he talks when he needs to. He's a guy where it's like, 'I'm a good football player, and I don't have to tell you I'm good.' He just goes out there and does his job."

The 2012 first-round pick has made plenty of those big plays in his career in Purple.

Smith ranks 10th in franchise history with 20 career interceptions. But he has returned four of them for touchdowns, which puts him atop the list for Vikings defensive players.

Smith has been at it again in 2018, as he ranks second on the Vikings with 89 total tackles (team stats) and has eight pass breakups, nine tackles for loss, two fumble recoveries and a forced fumble.

Vikings Head Coach Mike Zimmer has been with Smith since the start of the 2014 season.

Zimmer recently explained why he's able to use Smith all over the field rather than having him just patrol the secondary as a regular safety would do.

"He's a very instinctive player. I'm able to put him in positions where I can talk to him during the week," Zimmer said. "A couple weeks ago, I said, 'I want you to do this.' And he said, 'Well, that's usually where [fellow safety] Anthony [Harris] lines up.' I said, 'Not anymore, you're going to line up there.'"

"He went in there and did it a couple times and made some good plays," Zimmer added. "The guy is just really smart and disguises extremely well. He makes it tough for the quarterback."

Gray noted how there are safeties who excel in pass defense, while some are in a different class when stopping the run and others get home to the quarterback on a regular basis.

Smith may not be the best player in the league at a specific category, but add up his complete body of work, and there might not be a better player at his position across the league.

"I think there's a lot of guys that do different things, but he's just a really good football player all-around," Gray said. "He can get the ball out of the air, he can make tackles, be close to the line of scrimmage and he can be in the middle of the field."



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"He's the standard that way of being an all-around player. A lot of guys can't do that because they don't have the range or the ball skills or the smarts," Gray said. "They are good football players, but he's a guy that can separate himself. He's set a standard ... young guys are looking up at the level he plays."

That consistent, yet unflashy, level of play recently earned Smith his fourth consecutive Pro Bowl honor. He is the only safety in the NFL to be named to four straight Pro Bowls in recent years.

Smith said he's honored to represent the team each year and that the annual all-star game is a byproduct of his hard work and performance.

But he also added that his relationship with being recognized in the spotlight is a Catch-22 of sorts.

"I always liked to make plays and I always liked being a playmaker. The spotlight comes from making plays," Smith said. "I don't, like, hate the spotlight."

"I don't mind it, I just don't need to overly celebrate it, I guess. I want to be in the spotlight, if I'm not; it means I'm not making plays," Smith added. "I'm not necessarily going to be [self-promotional]. But I do like to make big plays. Naturally, that attention happens or comes with being in the NFL. I'm fine with that."

Now in his seventh season with the Vikings, Smith has racked up a handful of Pro Bowl appearances to go along with a 2017 First-Team All-Pro honor in which he was a near-unanimous selection.

If the safety can keep up his trademark consistency and high level of play, Smith might just find himself in the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio, in a dozen years or so.

Gray said he believes it could happen if Smith racks up a few more yearly awards that would help elevate his national profile.

Smith naturally wanted no part of that topic, saying he doesn't look at the big picture of his career and that he instead is focused on helping the Vikings win today and earn their third trip to the playoffs in four seasons.

"That's not really for me to determine," Smith said. "I can control what I can control, and that's like so next-level that I don't even think about that."

"I feel like, as a current player, it's probably disrespectful to compare myself to guys that are in there and they've done it. They helped build the game to what it is now," Smith added. "That's not even on my radar."



S U P P O R T I N G

## BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS



*It's not unusual for Harrison Smith to sit quietly at his locker on Fridays before games and take a black marker to his cleats to have an all-black look.*

*But the All-Pro safety sported cleats that featured a purple Big Brothers Big Sisters logo for the My Cause, My Cleats game in Week 15.*

*The annual initiative, which was in its third year, helps players raise awareness for charitable organizations of their choice.*

*Smith has been a longstanding partner of Big Brothers Big Sisters, holding numerous events throughout the year, including dodgeball games for Bigs and Littles at Twin Cities Orthopedics Performance Center earlier this month.*

*In addition to the dodgeball games – where Smith was joined by teammates Anthony Harris, Jayron Kearsse and Storm Norton – the visitors participated in a Q&A and were able to get autographs.*

*Smith said the Littles always try to get the players out.*

*"There's always some guys with some big arms. ... They were going at us pretty hard, but it was fun," Smith said. "I think sometimes they think I'm going to take it easy on them, and then I'll try to throw some heat."*

*After the last out in dodgeball, Smith hosted people who have pledged money toward his Big Tackles fundraising campaign for a special tour of the*

*Vikings headquarters, a group discussion and personalized photo sessions. The Big Tackles campaign has a goal of \$60,000 for this year and is a little shy based on Smith's tackles and pledges so far. Fans can join the support by visiting [pledgeit.org/harrissmith2018](http://pledgeit.org/harrissmith2018).*

*Brandon Wagner, who drove in from Bismarck, North Dakota, brought Smith's previous cleats honoring Big Brothers Big Sisters that Wagner won in a fundraising auction.*

*Kearsse benefited from a mentorship program that helped him when he was growing up in Florida.*

*"It's big to give back to kids and give kids somebody to talk to," Kearsse said, "be around them and try to help them achieve their goal."*

*Kearsse said Smith is "a great guy, a great role model, not just for them, but for me also, somebody to look up to."*

*"It brings me along," Kearsse said. "He gave me the opportunity to go do that, and I found something that I would like to do, as far as being a Big to those kids and being able to talk to them and guide them through certain situations."*

*Big Brothers Big Sisters Twin Cities served more than 3,800 young people this year through traditional 1-on-1 pairings and newer group mentorship initiatives. There are more than 500 Littles, however, on a waiting list.*





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WRITTEN BY ERIC SMITH



WHEN A GROUP OF CHILDREN from the Mt. Airy Boys & Girls Clubs arrived in the right room of the Hy-Vee in Eagan, there was quite the surprise waiting for them.

Not only were the young people going to try their hands in the kitchen, they were also going to do so with “The Chef,” Vikings running back Dalvin Cook.

“I just told them we were going to a grocery store [to cook],” said Anee Thor, who is with the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Twin Cities. “They were quite surprised when they were meeting someone from the Vikings.”

Amaria Zaymon, 10, and 7-year-old Journii Newell had astonished looks on their faces.

“I thought we were just going to cook and then leave,” Amaria said.

Journii added: “I didn’t know it was going to be him.”

Instead, Cook and Anna Heronimus, a registered dietician for Hy-Vee, teamed up to help the kids create a healthy yet yummy meal for the night.

“The kids were excited, and I was excited to get going with them,” Cook said. “I have a little cousin, and I love him and adore him. Just being around them is fun.”

They started out by making the main course, football-shaped calzones stuffed with chicken, broccoli and cheese.

The group then moved on to pita pockets filled

with guacamole and topped with red peppers before whipping up a smoothie that included yogurt, fruit, chia seeds and honey.

They capped off the night by making chocolate-covered strawberries and trail mix.

Thor said the group members chosen for the event like to pretend they are chefs on a regular basis.

“They love cooking, so this was also a plus for them,” Thor said. “They like being in the kitchen ... we do a lot of imaginary playing in the kitchen, so for them to actually cook something is huge.”

Amaria, who said the event was “100 percent” fun, said she enjoyed showing off her skills.

“I never got to actually see a real football player,” Amaria said. “And I’ve never gotten to cook with other people, besides my mom.”

Cook said he enjoyed the dialogue with the group because “kids really don’t have a filter on what they say. You can just freelance and be you with them, and they love that.”

Heronimus said it was important to expose the kids to healthy eating habits at a young age and start on their cooking skills early.

After the cooking was complete, Cook presented each little chef with a swag bag that included a T-shirt, an autographed card, a holiday hat and a wristband for rides and attractions at Nickelodeon Universe at the Mall of America.



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# INSTRUMENTAL

## IN PROGRESSION

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### PIANO PLAYING HELPS STEPHEN WEATHERLY'S FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT

---

It's not uncommon for Stephen Weatherly to bring baked goods in for teammates, coaches and even staff at Twin Cities Orthopedics Performance Center.

Recently, a from-scratch rum cake made an appearance. Weatherly's avocado brownies have also been a hit, perhaps jumping to the leader board.

The Vikings defensive end learned how to cook from his mother and grandmother, both of whom he's extremely close to. Weatherly called them "outstanding chefs" and from time to time will call his grandmother to ask how to make something.

"The best part is that she uses non-traditional measurements. It's not a cup or even 'a pinch,'" Weatherly said. "She'll say, 'Well, throw in this much. Add a fist of this, two shakes of that.'"

"And I'm like, 'What are you saying? Is this metrics?' I mean, seriously," Weatherly laughed. "She'll just tell me, 'You'll figure it out.'"

He usually does figure it out. This fall, Weatherly baked several sweet potato pies and passed them out the following day.

"We told him, 'It's good, bro. Just a little bit more brown sugar,'" quipped teammate Sheldon Richardson. "He has some cupcakes that are pretty good, too. Yeah, he's been doing his thing."

For Weatherly, "doing his thing" has pretty much always been his mantra.

The Georgia native is an only child but avoided boredom growing up via an array of interests that ranged from music, to robotics, to athletics.

Weatherly's elementary school required all students to take an extracurricular course in music, either band or orchestra. He chose band, starting with the flute and excelling at an early age.

His passion for music actually came before his passion for the pigskin.

"I was good at it; I enjoyed it. I liked learning how all the instruments tied together to make one ensemble and things of that nature," Weatherly explained.

He didn't stop at the flute. In the years leading up to college, Weatherly also played clarinet, trumpet, trombone, baritone, tuba and tenor saxophone.

### TURNING ATTENTION TOWARD FOOTBALL

Weatherly graduated from Shiloh High School in Snellville, Georgia, and went on to attend Vanderbilt University, where football took over his focus. He played defensive end for two seasons before moving to outside linebacker when new Commodores Head Coach Derek Mason, a former Vikings assistant, switched to a 3-4 defense.

He first made an impression on the Vikings at the 2016 NFL Scouting Combine in Indianapolis. But interestingly, he may never have ended up in Purple had it not been for the travel schedule of Vikings defensive line coach Andre Patterson.

Patterson hadn't watched a minute of tape on Weatherly. But after defensive linemen worked out, Patterson had time before an evening flight back to Minneapolis and opted to stay to see the linebackers.

There, Weatherly caught his attention.

"I saw this tall, long, athletic guy down there who didn't look right with the linebackers. He ran a fast 40 time, and then I saw him change direction, and I'm like, 'This guy ought to be on the list to be a defensive end,'" Patterson recalled.

Patterson waited until the athletes made their way back to the hotel and caught up with Weatherly in the lobby. Patterson told him that he would study his tape as soon as he got back to Minnesota – and he did, watching

cut-ups from Weatherly's first two seasons.

"I watched him play, and I was like, 'OK, this guy can do it,'" Patterson said. "I was standing on the table to draft him from the fifth round, and we finally got him in the seventh."

Did Patterson have any hesitations drafting a player who had so many other interests and hobbies outside of football?

While he believes that could be a concern for some coaches, Patterson appreciates having players from different backgrounds and experiences in his position room. What he did need to determine, though, was just how important football was to Weatherly.

"If you're only playing football because it happens to be something that you're good at, not something that you love, then that's not a guy you want," Patterson said.

"He hadn't played defensive end in so long. So he had to work on changing his body again," Patterson added. "He had to work on changing his mentality. Would he put in the time and effort to get those things done? And he did."

But even so, his first season didn't go quite the way he had hoped. The rookie spent most of the 2016 campaign on practice squad before being elevated to the 53-man roster in Week 11. He was inactive for all but two games, during which he contributed on special teams.

Weatherly headed into his second year frustrated that things didn't click as quickly as he anticipated.

It was at that point, during the late spring and summer of 2017, that Weatherly went back to his first love: music.

While he had focused mainly on football at Vanderbilt, Weatherly still managed to squeeze in time to learn two more instruments: the steel drums and piano. It was the last instrument he took on that turned into his go-to.

"After a long day, and if I felt like I wasn't being as effective in practice, I would just go and play something I had learned in college, or I'd try to find new things online or on YouTube tutorials and just bury myself in that – get my head off of football for a while," Weatherly said. "Instead of beating myself up, I would [play the piano]. That actually helped tremendously, honestly – being able to take a step back, think about something else for a while. Reset, refocus and then attack the next day on the field."

"That ability to de-stress helped me to become a better football player," Weatherly added.

Weatherly went on to play 15 games in the 2017 season, during which Patterson saw his young student take great strides.

# “ INSTEAD OF BEATING MYSELF UP, I WOULD PLAY THE PIANO... ”

THAT ABILITY TO DE-STRESS HELPED ME TO  
BECOME A BETTER FOOTBALL PLAYER.”

- STEPHEN WEATHERLY

"He learned to just let it go," Patterson said. "At some point, you just have to learn to let it go and just go out there and trust yourself, believe that you've mastered the things you've been taught."

During the 2018 training camp, Patterson had another conversation with Weatherly to remind him: "Just. Let. It. Go. Just go out there and play. Be fast. Be physical."

And it worked. So far this season, Weatherly has started six of 15 games played and has 39 tackles (coaches' tally), 3.0 sacks, a pass broken up, seven tackles for loss, 29 quarterback hurries (coaches' tally) and a forced fumble.

## BEATING TO HIS OWN DRUM

He's improved as a football player, but what he hasn't changed is anything about himself.

Weatherly will have a 20-minute discussion with teammates about Bitcoin or debate with a Vikings.com writer the psychological effects of seeing a Halloween flick during the daytime. He's quick with a Rubik's cube. He still enjoys playing the piano and learning new music, and it's almost a guarantee that he'll bring in home-baked treats for his teammates to enjoy.

To borrow a music analogy, Weatherly beats to his own drum.

He might not fit the stereotypical mold, but one thing is for sure – Weatherly's teammates have embraced him wholeheartedly.

Patterson pointed out that when Everson Griffen was away from the team for five

weeks to focus on a personal matter and Weatherly stepped in to start for him, no one was a bigger supporter of the younger end than Griffen.

"That gives you an idea of how much they care about him," Patterson said. "I think those guys have become a close-knit group. They all come from different places, they all have different things that are important to them, they all have different things that motivate them. But the common goal they share is that football is important to them, and they're willing to put in the hard work to try to be the best player they can be."

Asked about Weatherly's personality and how he meshes with the group, Vikings Head Coach Mike Zimmer smiled.

"Yeah, he's quirky," Zimmer acknowledged. "He's a little bit out there, but he fits in good. He works real hard. I think the rest of the guys like him. He's just a different dude."

Richardson said that Weatherly puts his heart and soul into the defense.

"He puts the same type of energy and effort in as Danielle Hunter," Richardson said. "He watches film just like anybody else. Comes in, he knows his job; Coach trusts him to make the calls on the field for us in games."

When the Vikings signed Richardson as a free agent in March, he had never met Weatherly. Now, he's his biggest fan.

"OK, first impressions? ... He's weird," Richardson said, letting out a laugh.

"But when you get to know him, you just understand him. You have to understand guys' backgrounds, you know?"

"We jam pretty good," Richardson added.

"That's my guy. He turned out to be my guy. I love my guy, you know? For real."





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# 2019 PRO BOWL

The Vikings have a couple of four-timers, a repeat customer and one player set to make his Pro Bowl debut, the NFL and team announced earlier this month.

BY CRAIG PETERS

The four-timers are safety Harrison Smith and linebacker Anthony Barr. Receiver Adam Thielen has garnered his second selection in a row, and Danielle Hunter has been

named to the NFC's all-star squad for the first time.

Pro Bowl voting is determined by a combination of votes by NFL players, coaches and fans.



## LB Anthony Barr

Barr asserted his dominance in Week 15 against Miami when he recorded the first two of Minnesota's nine sacks on the day. Opponents often try to scheme their way away from the fifth-year pro or suffer the consequences.

Despite missing three games with a hamstring injury, Barr has 68 tackles (team stats), eight tackles for loss, 3.0 sacks, two pass breakups and one forced fumble.

Barr said garnering votes from players and coaches of other teams "always makes it a little more special" because they know that the impact of a player goes beyond stats.

"Obviously you've got respect from people that you play with throughout the week and the year, so you're doing something right. If you look at stats, and the stats aren't jumping out at you, you assume he's not playing well, but I think our defense is different. I think we're a very unselfish group and we play together."

- ANTHONY BARR

## S Harrison Smith

Smith is a versatile force, capable of covering passes, blitzing passers and stuffing running backs. He has three interceptions on the year and has tied his career high for sacks in a season with 3.0. Smith ranks second on the Vikings with 89 tackles (team stats), has eight pass breakups, nine tackles for loss, two fumble recoveries and a forced fumble.

Smith was named NFC Defensive Player of the Week for Week 1 after recording seven solo tackles and a game-clinching interception against San Francisco.

*"It's an honor to be voted in, but that's not what it's all about. Normally those things are because you have a lot of good players around you, too, and you play good as a team."*

- HARRISON SMITH



## DE Danielle Hunter

Hunter also recorded 2.0 sacks against the Dolphins, bringing his season total to 14.5, which is a career-high for the fourth-year player. Hunter just pushed his career sacks total to 40, breaking Hall of Famer Alan Page's record for sacks in a Viking's first four pro seasons.

Hunter ranks fourth on the Vikings with 71 tackles and leads Minnesota with 26 tackles for loss (team stats). He returned a fumble 32 yards for a touchdown and had 3.5 sacks against the Lions on Nov. 4 to win NFC Defensive Player of the Week honors.

*"I was honored. I want to thank God and all my coaches, supporters and teammates. It wouldn't have been possible without them."*

- DANIELLE HUNTER

THE 2019 PRO BOWL WILL BE HELD IN  
ORLANDO, FLORIDA, ON JAN. 27, AND  
THE GAME WILL BE BROADCAST BY ESPN.

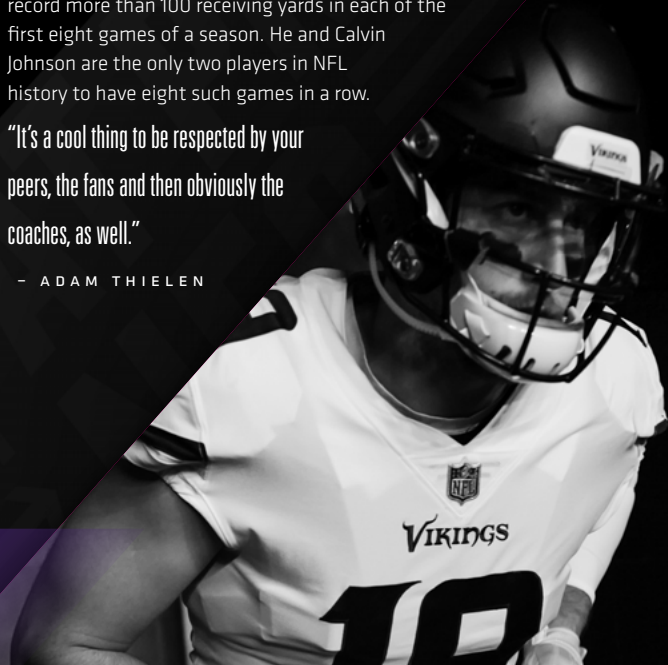
## WR Adam Thielen

Thielen ranks fourth in the NFL with 110 receptions, eighth with 1,335 receiving yards and tied for seventh with nine touchdown catches. He has nine games with at least 100 receiving yards this season, breaking a Vikings record set by Hall of Famer Randy Moss (eight in 2000 and 2003).

Thielen became the first player in NFL history to record more than 100 receiving yards in each of the first eight games of a season. He and Calvin Johnson are the only two players in NFL history to have eight such games in a row.

*"It's a cool thing to be respected by your peers, the fans and then obviously the coaches, as well."*

- ADAM THIELEN







# Tackling Hunger at Home

**In Minnesota, 1 in 11 households struggle to find enough to eat.**

UnitedHealthcare and the Minnesota Vikings have teamed up again this holiday season to fight hunger. Since 2011, we've provided nearly 350,000 meals for our neighbors in need. Together we're Helping Build Healthier Communities.



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# RUDOLPH, VIKINGS BRING HOLIDAY CHEER TO CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

BY LINDSEY YOUNG

Ethan Monroe encountered two major surprises on Dec 18.

Ethan went in to the University of Minnesota Masonic Children's Hospital for what originally was scheduled to be a fairly non-invasive cardiac procedure. When complications arose, the best course of action became open-heart surgery.

The 16-year-old's biggest concern wasn't anxiety over the operation, however. Rather, it was disappointment that he would likely miss out on Vikings tight end Kyle Rudolph's visit to the hospital for his Holiday Huddle.

But Kyle, his wife Jordan, and Eric Kendrick were able to visit Ethan's room. Although the high school tight end was unable to speak, Ethan's eyes lit up as the visit began.

"I think they helped his pain go down a little bit," said Lindsey Monroe, Ethan's mother. "Knowing that Ethan idolizes Rudolph, and the fact that he's here today of all days, on his open-heart surgery day, it's really unbelievable."

Kendricks didn't know what to expect on his first hospital visit but was impacted by each of

the young people he met.

"These kids are so strong," Kendrick said. "I'm just blown away, honestly."

Current Vikings George Iloka, Eric Wilson, Aldrick Robinson, Chad Beebe, Matt Wile, Aviante Collins, Kyle Slotter, Storm Norton and Cole Hikutini joined Viktor the Viking and alumni Stu Voigt, Dave Osborn and Ryan Hoag to brighten days for patients in the lobby.

Kyle and Jordan reconnected with some families they had also seen the previous evening, when they hosted their annual "Rudy's Redeye Express to the North Pole."

Forty-seven children were treated to a special experience where they received "plane tickets," boarded a charter jet on the runway and "flew" to the North Pole.

Kyle said the event is one of his favorites every year.

"To see the kids' faces as they walked through the tinsel into the North Pole where Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus, the elves, reindeer were ... it's pretty magical," Rudolph said before quipping, "The hardest part is telling them that they have to go back to Minnesota."



## DIGGS GIVES BACK

THROUGH GAMING

Stefon Diggs hosted a unique experience of his own at the Masonic Children's Hospital. He teamed up with CenturyLink to compete in *Madden* against several former patients, including 14-year-old Quinn McCullough, who was born with a heart defect and has endured a number of medical challenges.

"This is something that Quinn will remember for a long time, and it's something positive from this year that he can take away from his experience here at the hospital," said Quinn's mother, Vallie.

"It's the holiday season, so it's the season of giving back, and spending time is the biggest thing. Just to see the smile on their faces when I come and hang out for a little while is huge," Diggs added. "Seeing kids light up and parents light up, it's a fun experience."



## JOSEPH CHAMPIONS HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE

Vikings defensive tackle Linval Joseph is passionate about tackling bullying and supporting young people in the Twin Cities community.

Recently, he championed a holiday toy drive that benefited Vikings fans and local youth alike. Joseph teamed up with sports memorabilia store FanHQ for the effort. Fans were asked to donate new, unopened toys; in exchange, they were able to meet Joseph, receive an autograph and take a photo with him.

Joseph's holiday appearance brought in more than 250 toys that were then donated to various local charities, including The Salvation Army and children's hospitals.



## RHODES PURCHASES GIFTS

FOR TWIN CITIES BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS

Earlier this month, Vikings cornerback Xavier Rhodes visited the West Side Boys & Girls Club and unveiled his "My Cause, My Cleats" kicks that represented the organization.

He then followed up two weeks later to spread some holiday cheer.

Rhodes went on a shopping spree at the Mall of America and purchased Xbox's, Bose speakers and an assortment of video games for each of the eight Boys & Girls Clubs locations in the Twin Cities. Rhodes personally delivered items to the West Side Club.



## FAMILY WINS SHOPPING SPREE WITH RUDOLPH, PAYS IT FORWARD

When one Vikings fan heard that she won a holiday shopping spree with Kyle Rudolph, she decided to pay it forward.

Sarah Walsh was randomly chosen from more than 2,400 entries for a shopping spree at the Mall of America with Rudolph. When Sarah was notified about being selected, she told the Vikings that rather than a personal shopping trip, she and her family would like to shop for items to donate to the University of Minnesota Masonic Children's Hospital.

Sarah, her husband Tom, and their children Michael (15), Abby (12) and Joey (9) accompanied Kyle and his wife, Jordan, to the mall just before Christmas, and the group purchased toys, activities, pajama pants and slippers for the children's hospital patients.







## U.S. BANK STADIUM SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM

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U.S. Bank Stadium has made a commitment to minimize its footprint in all areas of operations. You can join our sustainability efforts today in the following ways:

Recycle all cans, plastic bottles, and clean paper (including the Vikings playbook) in a designated recycling bin.

Compost all food containers, beer and soda cups, food waste, napkins, and utensils in a designated compostables bin.





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# THIELEN FOUNDATION HOSTS

## HOLIDAY EVENT FOR 10 FAMILIES

The Thielen Foundation adopted 10 families that are in The Salvation Army Northern Division's Pathway of Hope program.

Adam Thielen and his wife Caitlin, who established The Thielen Foundation this year, purchased a wide array of gifts that addressed needs like clothing and cookware and wants such as toys and televisions.

Adam distributed the gifts, which had all been wrapped and placed under the tree inside the lobby of Twin Cities Orthopedics Performance Center, to families with children ranging from toddlers to teens.

He also handed out plush bears and autographed footballs. One boy literally jumped for joy as he opened a Batman-themed Lego set. A girl glided around the lobby in her shiny new shoes.

"It's why you do this kind of stuff, to help them out at this time," Adam said. "Christmas should be about joy, and we're just trying to help bring joy to these families. This is my wife's favorite time of the year."



## HAM FAMILY



## ADOPTS LOCAL FAMILY

C.J. Ham grew up being part of his local Boys and Girls Club in Duluth, Minnesota, and now is grateful for the opportunity to give back to the organization that so heavily impacted his youth.

Earlier this month, C.J. and his wife, Stephanie, along with their 2-and-a-half-year-old daughter, Skyler, and newborn daughter, Stella, hosted a local family from the Boys and Girls Clubs at Twin Cities Orthopedics Performance Center. The Vikings treated the single mother and her children to a meal upon arrival, and then C.J. and Stephanie gave the group a tour of the locker room and weight room.

"Wow, it's as big as a house!" Exclaimed one young boy as he entered the locker room and immediately raced to find No. 30's locker.

The Ham family then provided gifts ranging from clothing, to household items, to toys and games to the family.

"I didn't really know what type of impact we were making until I saw the kids and the mom open up the presents, and I realized it was really a special thing," C.J. said. "I'm just so glad I was able to help in some type of way."



## VIKINGS ENTERTAINMENT NETWORK

Vikings Entertainment Network (VEN) is the umbrella for all Vikings content and entertainment initiatives including Preseason TV, team TV shows, vikings.com and in-stadium programming. Newly open TCO Studios will set the stage for signature Vikings content this season.



### BIG HEAD MODE GALLERY UNLOCKED

After wins this season, the Vikings photography staff has created special galleries of players in "Big Head Mode," similar to a feature in a video game. Eric Wilson, who grew up near Detroit, had a huge day against the Lions in Week 16 with seven tackles (three for loss), including a sack. Check out the gallery on Vikings.com or the app.



### VIKINGS NOW

Vikings Now is available for Apple TV, Roku and Amazon Fire TV streaming your favorite video content from Vikings Entertainment Network. Watch game highlights, exclusive interviews and TV shows in 1080p on your home television.



*Vikings LIVE*, presented by Miller Lite and Mall of America, continues its first season this Thursday in front of a live audience from TCO Studios inside the Vikings headquarters in Eagan. Vikings Rewards members can redeem their points for tickets. Episodes air at 6 p.m. and last 30 minutes.



*Vikings GameDay LIVE*, the team's one-hour pregame show, is back for its third season. Featuring in-depth analysis and commentary to get you ready for each week's game, *Vikings GameDay LIVE* will bring you live reports from the field each week. *Vikings GameDay LIVE* is produced by VEN in conjunction with FOX 9 KMSP and airs Sunday mornings on FOX 9 KMSP.



*Vikings Connected* is a Vikings fan-centric show driven by digital content and is co-hosted by Chris Hawkey, from the Vikings Radio Flagship KFAN, and Erin Newburg. Fans can interact with the show throughout the season by using #VikingsConnected. *Vikings Connected* is produced by VEN and will air on KMSP, My 29 WFTC and FOX Sports North.



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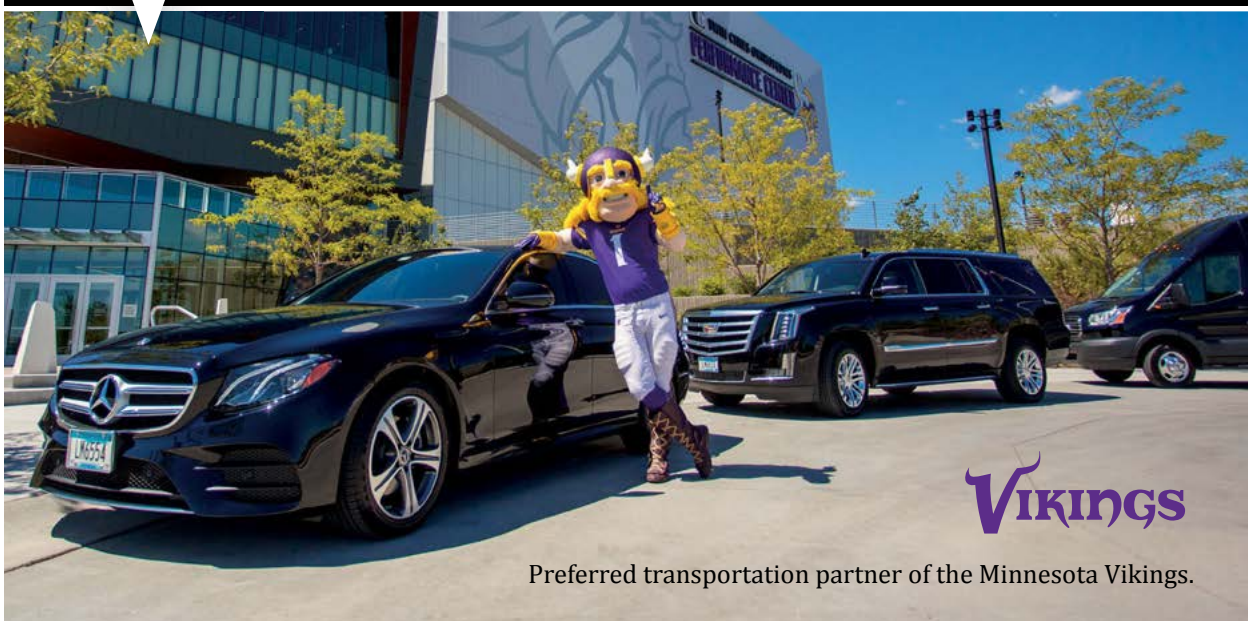
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## GET TO KNOW JENN

HOMETOWN: PLYMOUTH, MN

OCCUPATION: REGISTERED NURSE

### WHAT ARE YOUR HOBBIES?

I love traveling, trying new restaurants and going to concerts.

### WHAT IS YOUR BEST LIFE EXPERIENCE?

My best experience was traveling abroad in college to Thailand. I loved being immersed in a culture completely different than my own, and I got the chance to ride elephants!

### WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF BEING AN MVC?

The best part of being an MVC is the Vikings community engagement. I love that I spend my weekends visiting children's hospitals, spending time with veterans and volunteering with Vikings fans from all around Minnesota. We really do have the best fans in the NFL!



JENN

YEAR 2



### FIND JENN IN THIS YEAR'S CALENDAR OR ON THE VIKINGS APP

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# Viktor's

## MAD LIB

Viktor needs your help finishing a story!  
Grab a friend and have them fill out the  
spaces below, or cover up the story and  
fill it out yourself!

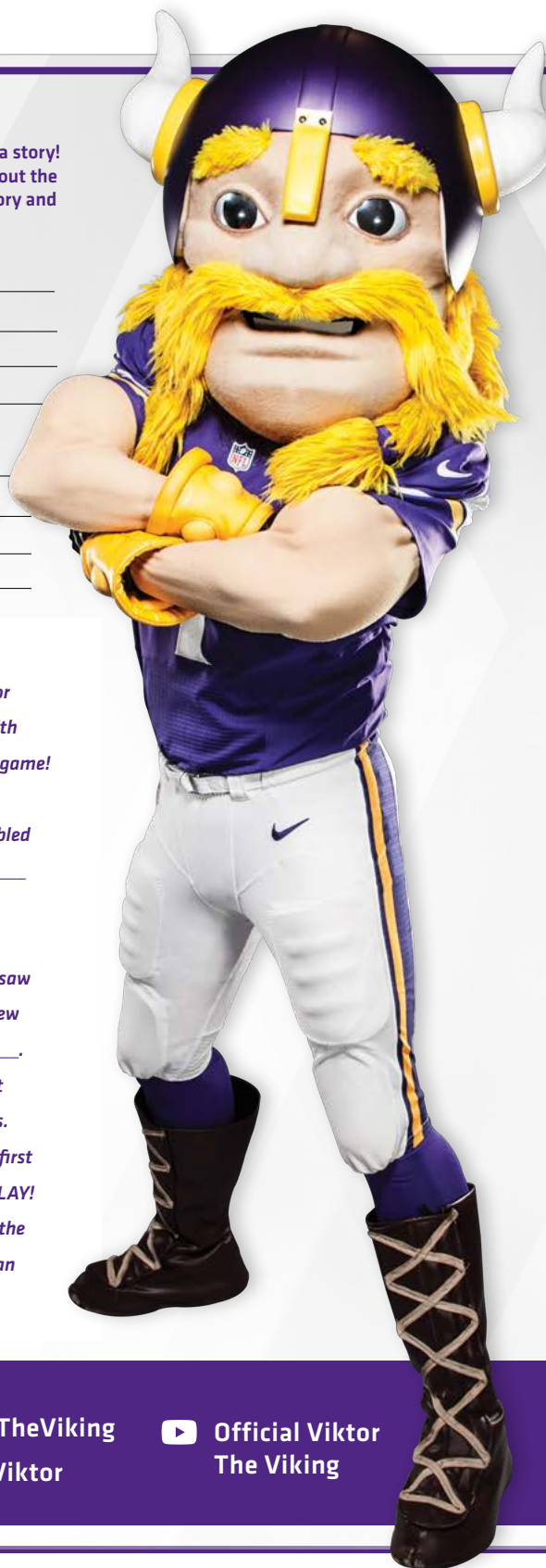
- |                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 1 Time _____                | 10 Vikings Player _____                    |
| 2 Favorite game _____       | 11 Type of vehicle _____                   |
| 3 Mascot (not Viktor) _____ | 12 Game or activity _____                  |
| 4 Number _____              | 13 Type of food _____                      |
| 5 Item of clothing _____    | 14 Favorite Vikings offensive player _____ |
| 6 Type of food _____        | 15 Number _____                            |
| 7 Number _____              | 16 Dance move _____                        |
| 8 Type of vehicle _____     | 17 Your name _____                         |
| 9 Celebrity _____           |  |

*\*BUUHHHHRRROOOOOO\* Viktor awoke to the sound of his alarm clock blaring the Vikings Gjallarhorn. He turned to check the clock... OH NO! It's 1 and Viktor is late for the game! Viktor was up too late playing 2 with 3. Viktor only has 4 minute(s) to get all the way to the game!*

*Viktor jumped out of bed and reached into a pile of clothes to grab his purple 5. Running into the kitchen, Viktor's stomach grumbled as he grabbed 6 out of the fridge. Viktor took 7 bite(s) and his meal was finished. After his tasty meal, Viktor hopped in his purple 8 and sped off to the game.*

*Viktor made it to the game in record time, but as he pulled into the parking lot he saw that 9 had parked in his's spot. Viktor drove off to find a new parking spot and found one right next to 10's 11. Viktor was almost to the game! Running faster than he ever had before, he ran past Vikings fans playing 12 and eating 13 in the tailgate lots.*

*Viktor made it out on to the field just as the game was starting. HE MADE IT! The first play of the game, 14 scored a 15 yard touchdown. WHAT A PLAY! The team celebrated by doing the 16, and they threw the ball up into the stands to 17. Viktor saw you make such an awesome catch and ran up to give you the biggest high five! SKOL!*



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## SKOL SERVICE

### SPOTLIGHT ON CLIFFORD MORSE

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Clifford Morse, who works as a Black Jacket representative on game day, has an interest in creating special experiences that stems from one of his own favorite childhood memories.

Cliff grew up in the Forest Hills neighborhood of New York City as a Jets fan and regularly attended games from the age of 11 with his father, who was a season ticket holder.

In 1969, the Jets made it to Super Bowl III, so Cliff and his father flew down to Florida to witness the Jets defeat the Baltimore Colts 16-7 for the franchise's only Super Bowl win. Cliff was 13 at the time, and the incredible moment primed his interest in helping with Super Bowl LII in Minnesota and helping create lifelong memories for other families.

After becoming a part of the Super Bowl Host Committee, he wanted to serve on Vikings game days, as well, and became a Black Jacket representative in 2017. He is also involved with the planning for the 2019 NCAA Men's Final Four, which will be hosted at U.S. Bank Stadium in April.

"My favorite part is, without a doubt, seeing all the familiar faces," Cliff said. "On game day, we become one giant family. All of the guests make my experience exciting and rewarding. I do this job to honor my dad and his imprint on my life and my values."

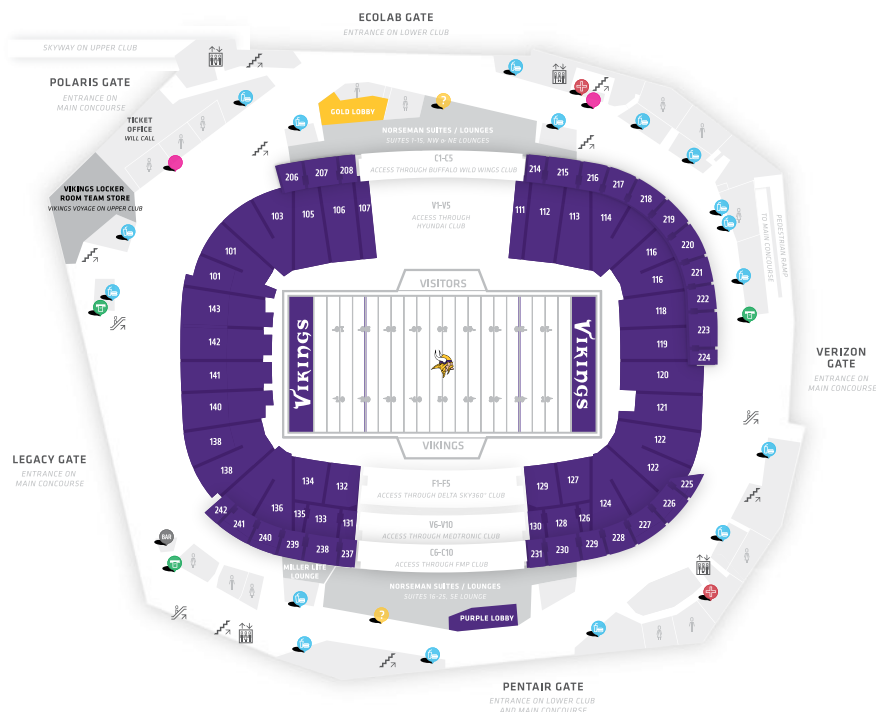
Outside of his game-day role, Cliff works as a Workplace Mortgage Benefits Director for U.S. Bank Home Mortgage. He also serves on the board of The Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless. In Cliff's free time, he is an avid concert-goer and attends Timberwolves games. He also enjoys Minnesota's theaters and museums, as well as the lakes.

Cliff works in the Delta Sky360° Club on game days. If you happen to see his familiar face, feel free to wave and thank him for his hard work.

Thank you, Cliff, for your dedication to the Minnesota Vikings and your desire to give fans the ultimate experience. We are so grateful to have you as a Team Member!



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## UPPER CONCOURSE



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- LOFT SUITES 1-27
- TRUSS BAR
- LODGE BAR
- LODGE CABINS

### PURPLE LOBBY

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- MEDTRONIC CLUB
- FMP CLUB
- TURF & TOUCHDOWN SUITES
- VALHALLA SUITES
- NORSEMAN SUITES 16-25
- SE NORSEMAN SUITES
- LOFT SUITES 28-46



## CONCESSIONS

### FOOD

#### BBQ GRILLED CHICKEN SANDWICHES

Plaza stand

#### BRISKET SANDWICHES

111, 324

#### CHEESE CURDS

114, 118, 129

#### CHEESEBURGERS

103, 124, 132, 143, 304, 313, 328, 339, 345

#### CHICKEN TENDERS

103, 121, 124, 132, 304, 313, 328, 345

#### CUBAN SANDWICHES

348

#### ELOTE CORN

114, 348

#### FRENCH FRIES

103, 121, 122, 124, 132, 304, 313, 328, 345

#### FRIED CHICKEN

111

#### HOAGIES

344

#### HOT DOGS AND BRATS

103, 105, 108, 113, 122, 124, 129, 132, 140, 304, 311, 313, 317, 327, 328, 336, 341, 345, 347, 349

#### MAC & CHEESE

111, 116, 337

#### MEATBALLS ON A STICK

114

### NACHOS

103, 105, 113, 116, 122, 124, 129, 131, 132, 304, 311, 313, 317, 328, 341, 345, 347, 349, 360

### PEANUTS

All concession stands and portables

### PIZZA

134, 307

### POPCORN

103, 105, 113, 124, 129, 132, 304, 311, 313, 317, 318, 328, 341, 345, 349

### PRETZELS

105, 113, 129, 134, 311, 313, 317, 341, 346, 349

### PULLED PORK SANDWICHES

Lola at the Longhouse and Plaza stand, 124, 324, 334

### RIB TIPS

Lola at the Longhouse and Plaza stand, 334

### STEAK SANDWICHES

107

### TACOS

124, 132, 310, 328, 348

### WILD ROASTED TURKEY SANDWICHES

124, 134, 328

### WINGS

Lola at the Longhouse and Plaza stand

### DESSERTS & TREATS

#### BOMBOLINI

121, 344

#### BUBBLE WAFFLE

111, 318

#### DIPPIN DOTS

129, 307

#### FROZEN HOT CHOCOLATE

121, 344

#### ICE CREAM

111, 114, 318

#### MINI DONUTS

318

#### ROASTED ALMONDS

111

### BEVERAGES

#### ALL CONCESSIONS STANDS AND FOOD PORTABLES

Bottled Water, Bottled Soda

#### ALL CONCESSIONS STANDS

Fountain Soda, Gatorade, Draft Beer

#### ALL BEER PORTABLES

16oz Canned Beer

#### CRISPIN HARD CIDER

124, 328

#### HENRY'S HARD SPARKLING WATER

124, 328

#### CRAFT BEER WALL & COCKTAILS ON TAP

130

### CONCESSION STANDS

1ST & FRY 129

612 BURGER KITCHEN 143, 339

AZ CANTEEN HOAGIES 344

AZ CANTEEN ROTISSERIE 121

MARKET BBQ 324

CARIBOU COFFEE 138

CURDS & CAKES 114

ENDZONE GRILL West EndZone (Event Level)

LOLA'S WINGS Delta Vikings Village

MILL CITY CLASSICS 105, 118, 130, 311, 341, 349

NORTH STAR GRILL 103, 124, 132, 304, 313, 328, 345

PRAIRIE DOGS 122

REDZONE GRILL 106, 112, 130, 132

REVIVAL 111

R-TACO 310

STATE FAIR FAVORITES 114, 118, 129

STONE ARCH PIZZA CO. 134, 307

TWIN CITIES FOODIE 101

### PORTABLE STANDS

BE GRACEFUL 124, 328

THE BRAT STAND 140 (Event Level), 317, 347

IKE'S CARVING 119, 329

THE KERNEL 103, 318

KRAMARCZUK'S 108, 336

M-ARTISAN PRETZEL 134, 311, 346

MAC 'N CHEESE 116, 337

NACHO GRANDE 141 (Event Level), 116, 122, 131, 352

LOLA 334

STEAK & CHEESE 108

WALKING TACO 132, 160

GLUTEN-FRIENDLY  
OPTIONS

MILL CITY CLASSICS -  
SECTIONS 113, 317

Gluten-Friendly Hot Dog Buns

BE GRACEFUL -  
SECTIONS 124, 328

Gluten Free-Beer

EVERYWHERE -  
Gluten-Free  
Hot Dogs



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