

# PLAYBOOK

12.16.18



Scan in the Vikings app for  
more on TE Kyle Rudolph





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

### KYLE RUDOLPH'S CLEATS

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA MASONIC CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL | CHILDREN'S HEALTH

In addition to Kyle Rudolph's End Zone at the University of Minnesota Masonic Children's Hospital, the Rudolphys have supported numerous programs and events for hospital patients and families, and frequently visit the hospital, building connections with patients and families.



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**PUBLISHED BY:** GameDay Sports; [info@gamedaysportsmarketing.com](mailto:info@gamedaysportsmarketing.com)

**ADVERTISING INQUIRIES:** [advertising@vikings.nfl.net](mailto:advertising@vikings.nfl.net)

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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**  
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# VIKINGS

## AT SEAHAWKS

THE VIKINGS FELL 21-7 TO THE SEAHAWKS IN SEATTLE ON ESPN'S MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL.

The game was much closer than the score indicated. Minnesota trailed 6-0 until a blocked field goal was followed by the only touchdown drive of the night by Seattle's offense. Chris Carson rushed for a 2-yard score with 2:53 to go, and the Seahawks quickly added a defensive touchdown just 18 seconds later. Minnesota avoided the shutout with a touchdown drive in 1:25, but it was too little, too late.



01 | Dalvin Cook caught a 6-yard touchdown pass from Kirk Cousins and totaled 83 yards from scrimmage.



02 | Stefon Diggs led the Vikings with 76 receiving yards on four catches, including a 48-yarder.

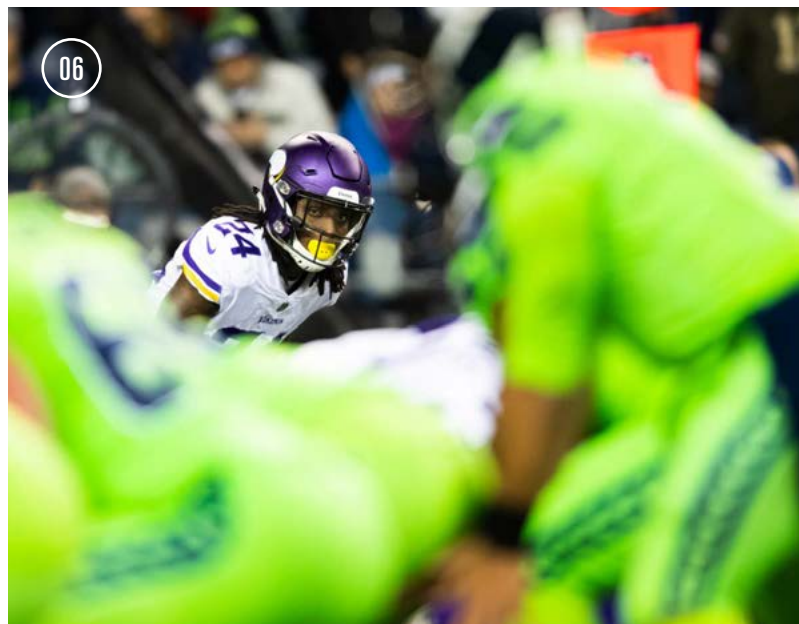
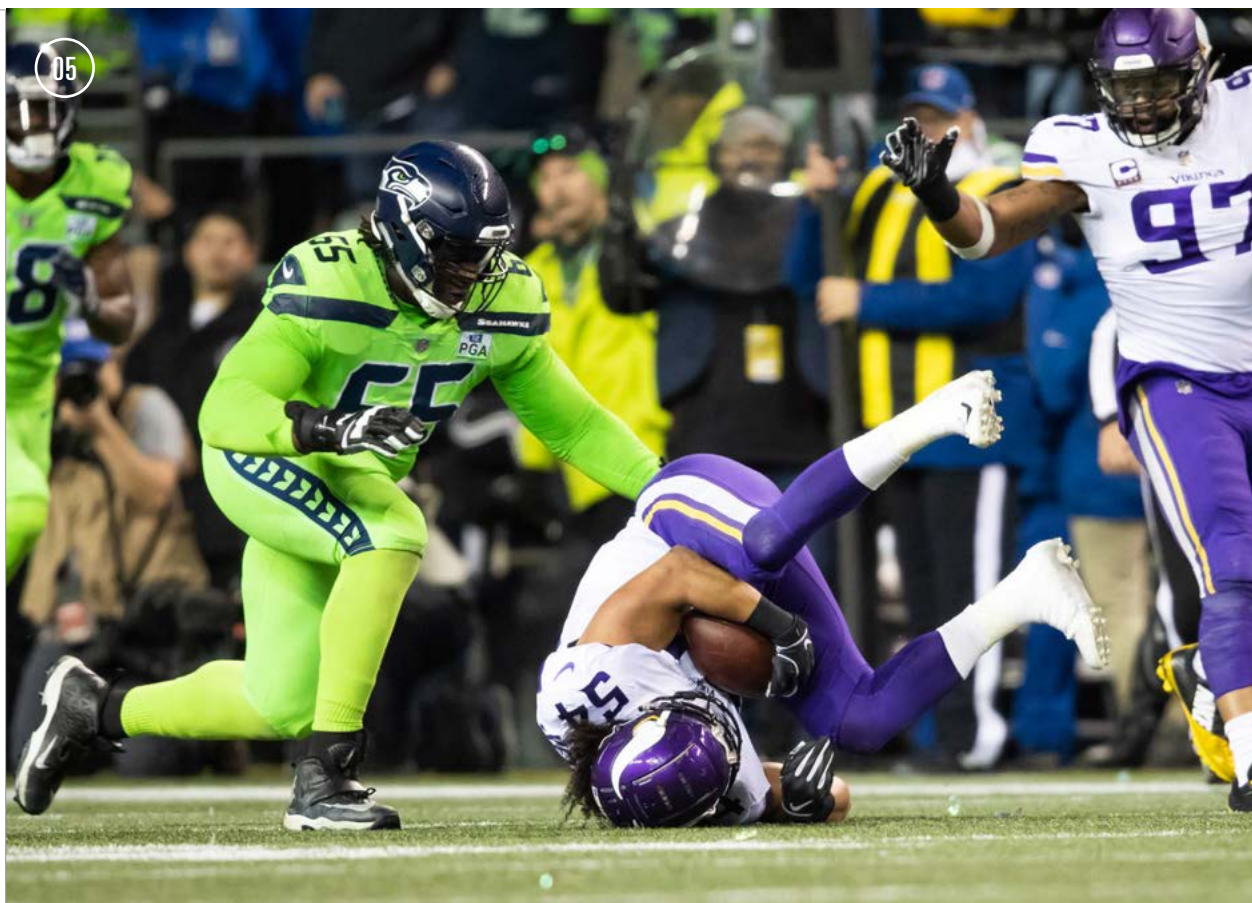




**03 |** Adam Thielen became the first Vikings receiver to have 100 receptions in a season since Randy Moss in 2003. Thielen totaled 70 yards on five catches.



**04 |** Danielle Hunter forced an interception by Russell Wilson on this play. Hunter also sacked the quarterback, padding his season total to 12.5.



05 | *Eric Kendricks reeled in the interception by Wilson, but the ball fluttered and caused him to fall to the ground.*

06 | *Holton Hill started in place of Trae Waynes and helped Minnesota's defense limit Wilson to a career-low 72 passing yards.*



WANT MORE? CHECK OUT THE  
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ON THE VIKINGS APP.



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Verizon Wireless received the highest numerical score among wireless service providers in the J.D. Power 2017 (V1 & V2) & 2018 (V1) U.S. Wireless Network Quality Performance Studies. The 2018 V1 study is based on 38,595 total responses, measuring the network quality experienced by customers with wireless phones, surveyed July–December 2017. Your experiences may vary. Visit [jdpower.com](http://jdpower.com)





M I A  
VS  
M I N



**WELCOME TO TODAY'S** interconference game between the Vikings (6-6-1) and Dolphins (7-6), a matchup with playoff implications in the NFC and AFC. The franchises have met just 12 times (including Super Bowl VIII), and Miami has claimed

eight victories in the series.

Today will be the first time for Vikings offensive plays to be called by Kevin Stefanski, who was promoted this week to interim offensive coordinator. Stefanski has been with the Vikings since 2006.

Eric Wilson will be sporting cleats that represent ACES.



Today, Vikings players will be able support charitable organizations important to them through the annual "My Cause, My Cleats" initiative with customized footwear. Several of those stories are featured in this edition of the *Playbook*.

## NATIONAL ANTHEM

The National Anthem will be performed by country music singer, songwriter and guitarist Lindsay Ell.

Ell is signed to Stoney Creek Records, and her album *The Project* debuted at No. 1 on the Nielsen SoundScan's U.S. Current Country Albums chart last year. *The Project* also debuted at No. 40 on the Billboard 200 chart, No. 4 on the Top Country Albums chart and No. 1 on the Country Album Sales component chart.

## COLOR GUARD

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

## 2018 ALL-STATE TEAM

There will be a special presentation recognizing the 2018 Minnesota High School Football All-State Team. The team is comprised of the state's premier senior prospects and is selected by a committee of sportswriters, broadcasters, Vikings staff, and Minnesota High School Football coaches. The team is:

*Jenson Beachy (Perham), Bryce Benhart (Lakeville North), Latrell Bible (Minneapolis Washburn), Ryan Bieberdorf (Bemidji), Naz Borden (Cooper), Omar Brown (North St. Paul), Quinn Carroll (Edina), Matt Cavanagh (Edina), Drey Dirksen (Willmar), Alex Folz (Spring Grove), Parker Freiberg (Irondale), Sam Fritz (Spring Lake Park), Brandon Gustafson (Becker), Terrell Hall (Winona), Cooper Hansen (R-T-R), Evan Hull (Maple Grove), Blake Johnson (Dassel Kokato), Jason Kaul (Blaine), Cole Kramer (Eden Prairie), Nick McCabe (Caledonia), Brandon McFadden (St. Thomas Academy), Daimarian Nelson (St. Paul Johnson), Code Plath (Chanhassen), David Roddy (Breck), Luke Ryan (BOLD), Marcus Shepley (Burnsville), Aaron Syverson (Minnetonka), Cody Thompson (Pipestone), Treyton Welch (Buffalo), Brandon Westberg (Cambridge Isanti), Jason Williamson (Owatonna), Cole Woodford (Redwood Valley)*



A man and a woman are shown in profile, performing a squat exercise on a gym bench. The woman is in the foreground, wearing a dark tank top and black shorts, with her hair in a ponytail. The man is behind her, shirtless, wearing black fingerless gloves and black sneakers. They are both looking down, focused on their form. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

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## TODAY'S PROMOTIONS

PROMOTIONS TODAY'S GAME



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 Schoenborn Family from Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin. 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**

### COIN TOSS CAPTAIN

U.S. Bank is giving YOU the chance to receive an exclusive experience as the U.S. Bank Coin Toss Captain at an upcoming Vikings game! Enter to win two Vikings tickets, two pregame sideline passes and a commemorative game coin. Visit [vikings.com/coin toss passes](http://vikings.com/coin toss passes).

### U.S. BANK HOMETOWN HERO

During each home game, U.S. Bank and the Minnesota Vikings will recognize individuals who have helped make our community a better place. The program honors individuals who have gone to extraordinary measures to make positive differences in the community. If you would like to nominate someone, visit [vikings.com/fans/promos/hometown-hero](http://vikings.com/fans/promos/hometown-hero).

### 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**

**usbank**

### 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](http://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](http://vikings.com/bww) for your digital coupon and offer details.





## ▶ UPCOMING EVENTS

### TOYS FOR TOTS

**TUESDAY, DEC. 18, 5:30 A.M.**

Join KFAN along with the Vikings as they broadcast live from 5:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 18, from the Fleet Farm in Lakeville. Come watch *The Power Trip*, Paul Allen, The Common Man and Dan Barreiro in action, plus Vikings players and special guests throughout the day. Bring an unwrapped toy for donation, and you will be entered into a raffle for Vikings prizes, including autographs and tickets to the Vikings Museum.

### FRIDAY FOOTBALL FEAST

**FRIDAY, DEC. 21, 9 A.M. - NOON**

Join KFAN each Friday morning from 9 a.m. to noon for a Friday Football Feast. Paul Allen and Paul Charchian will get you set for the weekend's action, including an in-depth preview of the upcoming Vikings game. Use #MVPTablePromo in your tweets and photos for your chance to win an MVP experience! This week's Friday Football Feast will be at the Buffalo Wild Wings in Eagan.

### VIKINGS UNPLUGGED

**TUESDAY, DEC. 18, 6 P.M.**

Vikings fans, join Chris Hawkey on Dec. 18 from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. at the Buffalo Wild Wings in Roseville as he hosts *Vikings Unplugged*. Hawkey will interview a special guest, plus fans have a chance to win Vikings autographs and Buffalo Wild Wings gift cards throughout the night.

### VIKINGS COUNTRY

**THURSDAY, DEC. 20, 6 P.M.**

The popular *Vikings Country* radio show will be broadcast from the Truck Park in St. Paul on Dec. 20. Host Mike Mussman will be joined by a Vikings player. Tune in on KFAN and the Vikings Radio Network or attend the live broadcast.

### DELTA VIKINGS VILLAGE

Opening two-and-a-half hours prior to kickoff, this pregame home base for Vikings fans is all about finding your favorite tailgate fare, ice-cold Miller Lite, Vikings Legends autographs and live music from the Pepsi "Sound The North" stage. Delta Vikings Village is free for Vikings fans with or without tickets and will be open before, during and after Vikings home games. Minnesota Vikings Foundation pregame auctions will occur in the Vikings Longhouse presented by PRIMESPORT. During games, auctions will be held on the west concourse of U.S. Bank Stadium, near sections 101 and 143.



Visit [vikings.com/promotions](https://vikings.com/promotions) or download the Vikings app for full event listings.





VIKINGS



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## PLAYER TO WATCH: LB ANTHONY BARR

BARR IS A DYNAMIC FORCE that opposing teams often try to avoid. The 2014 first-round pick is a substantial part of the reason that Minnesota's defense was able to go from 32nd and 31st in the NFL, respectively, in points against and yards allowed in 2013 to lead the NFL in both categories in 2017. Minnesota enters today's game ranked fifth in yards allowed and 11th in points against, despite dealing with multiple injuries to Vikings defenders, including Barr. His streak of consecutive starts was snapped at 41 because of a hamstring injury he suffered in Week 7. The three-time Pro Bowler allows Vikings Head Coach Mike Zimmer to give teams a considerable amount to worry about, particularly on third downs, and the attention that other teams place on Barr can help free up Vikings teammates. Minnesota enters today's game ranked first in the NFL on third downs, allowing conversions just 29.7 percent of the time.

**RAISE THE BARR:** AS PART OF TODAY'S "MY CAUSE, MY CLEATS" GAME, BARR'S CLEATS REPRESENT THE RAISE THE BARR FOUNDATION, WHICH HE ESTABLISHED IN THE SPRING OF 2016 TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE WITH CHILDCARE AND SCHOLARSHIPS FOR SINGLE MOMS WHO ARE WORKING TOWARD DEGREES. BARR RECENTLY PRESENTED GIFTS TO MOMS AND THEIR CHILDREN AT THE JEREMIAH PROGRAM.

### ANTHONY BARR'S CLEATS

#### RAISE THE BARR FOUNDATION | SUPPORTING SINGLE MOTHERS

Raised by a single mother himself, Barr started his foundation to "break the cycle of poverty for low-income, single-parent families" by providing resources for single parents to access a post-secondary education or certification.



## 2018 SEASON LEADERS

Passing (Yds)	Kirk Cousins	3,698
Rushing (Yds)	Latavius Murray	470
Receiving (Yds)	Adam Thielen	1,236
Tackles	Eric Kendricks	102
Sacks	Danielle Hunter	12.5
Interceptions	H. Smith, A. Harris	3
KOR (Yards)	Ameer Abdullah	182
PR (Avg.)	Marcus Sherels	8.9

## 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 (6-6-1)

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	
16	12/23	at Detroit Lions	
17	12/30	Chicago Bears	

## TOP 2s AGAINST DOLPHINS

### RUSHING YARDS

145	Adrian Peterson on 28 attempts in Minnesota (Sept. 19, 2010)
113	Terry Allen on 15 attempts in Minnesota (Sept. 25, 1994)

### PASSING YARDS

355	Daunte Culpepper on 23-of-37 passing in Minnesota (Sept. 10, 2000)
326	Warren Moon on 26-of-37 passing in Minnesota (Sept. 25, 1994)

### RECEIVING YARDS

168	Cris Carter on nine catches in Minnesota (Sept. 10, 2000)
127	Jake Reed on nine catches in Minnesota (Sept. 25, 1994)

## 2018 SEASON LEADERS

Passing (Yds)	Ryan Tannehill	1,578
Rushing (Yds)	Frank Gore	708
Receiving (Yds)	Kenny Stills	504
Tackles	Kiko Alonso	116
Sacks	C. Wake, R. Quinn	4.5
Interceptions	Xavien Howard	7
KOR (Yds)	Jakeem Grant [IR]	535
PR (Avg.)	Jakeem Grant [IR]	16.3

## 2018 SCHEDULE

### PRESEASON (1-3)

P1	8/9	Tampa Bay Buccaneers	L	26-24
P2	8/17	at Carolina Panthers	L	27-20
P3	8/25	Baltimore Ravens	L	27-10
P4	8/30	at Atlanta Falcons	W	34-1

### REGULAR SEASON (7-6)

1	9/9	Tennessee Titans	W	27-20
2	9/16	at New York Jets	W	20-12
3	9/23	Oakland Raiders	W	28-20
4	9/30	at New England Patriots	L	38-7
5	0/7	at Cincinnati Bengals	L	27-17
6	10/14	Chicago Bears	W	31-28
7	0/21	Detroit Lions	L	32-21
8	10/25	at Houston Texans	L	42-23
9	1/4	New York Jets	W	13-6
10	11/11	at Green Bay Packers	L	31-12
11	11/18	BYE WEEK		
12	11/25	at Indianapolis Colts	L	27-24
13	12/2	Buffalo Bills	W	21-17
14	12/9	New England Patriots	W	34-33
15	12/16	at Minnesota Vikings		
16	12/23	Jacksonville Jaguars		
17	12/30	at Buffalo Bills		

## TOP 2s AGAINST VIKINGS

### RUSHING YARDS

129	Andra Franklin on 28 attempts at Miami (Dec. 5, 1982)
92	Lamar Miller on 19 attempts at Miami (Dec. 21, 2014)

### PASSING YARDS

431	Dan Marino on 29-of-54 passing in Minnesota (Sept. 25, 1994)
396	Ryan Tannehill on 35-of-47 passing at Miami (Dec. 21, 2014)

### RECEIVING YARDS

160	Irving Fryar on six catches in Minnesota (Sept. 25, 1994)
120	Tony Martin on six catches in Minnesota (Sept. 10, 2000)



## PLAYER TO WATCH: RB FRANK GORE

Frank Gore's nickname is "The Inconvenient Truth." He's also seemingly an "ageless wonder." The 35-year-old running back is leading the Dolphins with 708 rushing yards. What is perhaps even more impressive is his efficiency. He enters today's game averaging 4.7 yards per carry, his highest since 2012 when he earned his fourth of five career Pro Bowl selections while with San Francisco (2005-14). Gore set 49ers all-time rushing records in yards (11,073), attempts (2,442) and touchdowns (64) during his 10 seasons in San Francisco. He spent three seasons with Indianapolis, rushing for no fewer than 961 yards in any season with the Colts, and joined Miami this offseason. Gore hasn't missed a game since 2010 and has started all 16 every year since 2012. Gore has 14,734 career rushing yards (fourth in the NFL) and 77 rushing touchdowns, which is tied with Tony Dorsett for 22nd all-time. Gore's next rushing score will be his first of 2018 and tie him with Ricky Watters.

**CARRYING IT HIS WHOLE CAREER:** THE 3,377 RUSH ATTEMPTS BY GORE RANK FIFTH IN NFL HISTORY BEHIND EMMITT SMITH (4,409), WALTER PAYTON (3,838), CURTIS MARTIN (3,518) AND JEROME BETTIS (3,479).

536 FOR 3<sup>RD</sup>

Gore has moved past Curtis Martin (14,101 career rushing yards) for fourth in NFL history. He enters today's game needing 536 to overtake Barry Sanders (15,269) for third all-time.





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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



25  
CORNERBACK  
Xavier Howard



91  
DEFENSIVE END  
Cameron Wake



56  
DEFENSIVE TACKLE  
Davon Godchaux



93  
DEFENSIVE TACKLE  
Akeem Spence



94  
DEFENSIVE END  
Robert Quinn



28  
CORNERBACK  
Bobby McCain




47  
LINEBACKER  
Kiko Alonso



20  
SAFETY  
Reshad Jones



52  
LINEBACKER  
Raekwon McMillan



22  
SAFETY  
T.J. McDonald



55  
LINEBACKER  
Jerome Baker

VIKINGS SPECIAL TEAMS



5  
KICKER  
Dan Bailey



6  
PUNTER  
Matt Wile



47  
LONG SNAPPER  
Kevin McDermott



35  
PUNT RETURNER  
Marcus Sherels



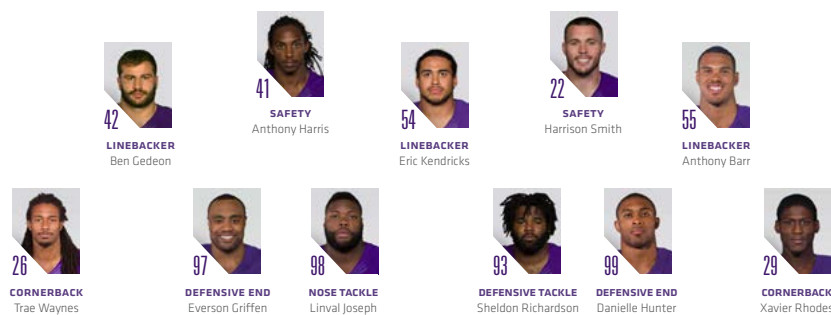
31  
KICK RETURNER  
Ameer Abdullah



# ROSTER AND DEPTH CHART MINNESOTA VIKINGS

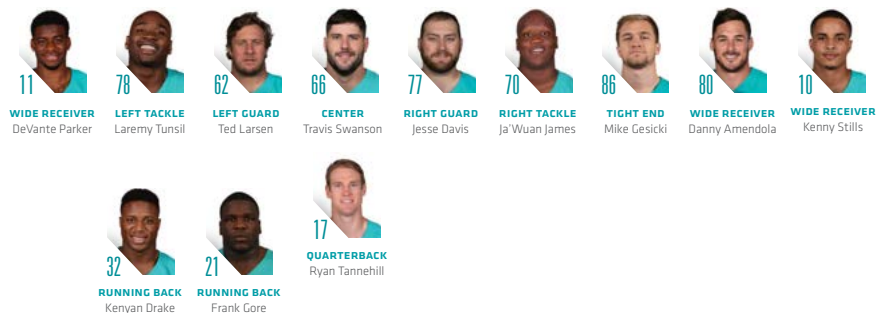
OFFENSE				DEFENSE			
WR	Thielen	Treadwell	Robinson	LE	Hunter	Bower	
LT	Reiff	Hill		DT	Richardson	T. Johnson	Holmes
LG	Compton	Isidora		NT	Joseph	J. Johnson	
C	Elflein	Jones		RE	Griffen	Weatherly	
RG	Remmers	Isidora		WLB	Gedeon	Wilson	
RT	O'Neill	Hill		MLB	Kendricks	Brothers	
TE	Rudolph	Morgan	Conklin	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

DOLPHINS OFFENSE



DOLPHINS SPECIAL TEAMS



# ROSTER AND DEPTH CHART MIAMI DOLPHINS



OFFENSE			
WR	Parker	Butler	
LT	Tunsil	Sterup	
LG	Larsen	Johnson	
C	Swanson	Brendel	
RG	Davis	Asiata	
RT	James	Young	
TE	Gesicki	Smythe	O'Leary
WR	Amendola	Ford	
WR	Stills	Carroo	
QB	Tannehill	Osweller	Fales
RB	Drake/Gore	Ballage	Perry

DEFENSE			
CB	Howard	McTyer	Davis
DE	Wake	Branch	Woodard
DT	Godchaux	Hood	
DT	Spence	Williams	
DE	Quinn	Harris	
CB	McCain	Armstrong	
LB	Alonso		
LB	McMillan	Hull	
LB	Baker	Anthony	
S	Jones	Aikens	
S	McDonald	Fitzpatrick	

2	Matt Haack	P
7	Jason Sanders	K
8	Brock Osweller	QB
9	David Fales	QB
10	Kenny Stills	WR
11	DeVante Parker	WR
14	Brice Butler	WR
17	Ryan Tannehill	QB
20	Reshad Jones	S
21	Frank Gore	RB
22	T.J. McDonald	S
24	Torry McTyer	CB
25	Xavien Howard	CB
27	Kalen Ballage	RB
28	Bobby McCain	CB
29	Minkah Fitzpatrick	S
31	Cornell Armstrong	CB
32	Kenyan Drake	RB
34	Senorise Perry	RB
35	Walt Aikens	CB/S
36	Jalen Davis	CB
38	Brandon Bolden	RB
44	Stephone Anthony	LB
45	Mike Hull	LB
47	Kiko Alonso	LB
50	Andre Branch	DE
52	Raekwon McMillan	LB
55	Jerome Baker	LB
56	Davon Godchaux	DT
62	Ted Larsen	C/G
64	Jake Brendel	C
66	Travis Swanson	C
68	Isaac Asiata	G
70	Ja'Wuan James	T
73	Wesley Johnson	C
74	Zach Sterup	T
76	Jonathan Woodard	DE
78	Laremy Tunsil	T
79	Sam Young	T
80	Danny Amendola	WR
81	Durham Smythe	TE
83	Nick O'Leary	TE
84	Isaiah Ford	WR
86	Mike Gesicki	TE
88	Leonte Carroo	WR
90	Charles Harris	DE
91	Cameron Wake	DE
92	John Denney	LS
93	Akeem Spence	DT
94	Robert Quinn	DE
97	Ziggy Hood	DT
98	Sylvester Williams	DT

**“DRAFT BACKUPS  
FIRST, SO YOU GET  
THE BEST BACKUPS.”**

**FANTASY PLAYERS ARE OFF THEIR GAME WHEN THEY'RE HUNGRY.**



**LIMITED EDITION NFL HUNGER BARS.**



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# TIMEOUT

## WITH COOK

Dalvin Cook has an oversized schedule hanging by his locker, each game designated by a different tagline.

BY ERIC SMITH

**SOME ARE LISTED AS** rivalry games or prime-time tilts, depending on the opponent of the week.

Today's game against the Dolphins?

The Vikings running back, who grew up in Miami, has this one down as a "Popcorn Ready Game."

"I was definitely a Dolphins fan ... my whole family was Dolphins fans," Cook said. "I'm actually going to have like 20 family members coming up for the game."

"This is definitely one of those games that you look forward to in a season," Cook added. "Especially with my family coming out and this being a team I grew up watching, so yeah ... a lot of preparation."

It comes as no surprise to hear that Cook's favorite Dolphins players were running backs.

"There were two ... I had Ricky [Williams] and Ronnie Brown," Cook said. "The whole concept they had running the Wildcat and just the ground game, period."

Williams and Brown combined for 1,575 rushing yards and 14 rushing touchdowns in 2008 when Miami implemented the formation with a running back at quarterback under the direction of the late Tony Sparano.



**HOMETOWN:**  
MIAMI, FL



**COLLEGE:**  
FLORIDA STATE -  
SET SCHOOL RECORDS  
IN RUSH YARDS & TDS.



**NICKNAME:**  
THE CHEF

But things weren't always easy for Cook and his family in Miami, as the 23-year-old said life in the city helped him grow up quickly.

"It helped me mature as fast as possible. It will make you mature more than you want to," Cook said. "It definitely molded me into the person that I am today. It helps me pursue everything with passion. That's how I grew up, and it carried over to the man I am now."

"My mom, she had us young, but she kept up her drive with going to school and pushing us," Cook added. "My oldest brother faced a lot of adversity, so it was just instilled in us to have that drive to not quit and not let things deteriorate."

Cook attended Miami Central High School, where he ran for 4,267 total yards and 64 touchdowns while leading the Rockets to a 52-5 record.

He then had a successful career at Florida State, where he set school records with 4,464 career rushing yards and 46 touchdowns.

The Vikings traded up to snag Cook in the second round of the 2017 NFL Draft with the 41st overall pick. He tore his ACL in Week 4 of the 2017 season and then missed multiple games this season with a hamstring injury.

Cook has 721 rushing yards and four total touchdowns in 12 career games with Minnesota.

Cook recently sat down for a Timeout with vikings.com to discuss how he stayed positive despite injuries, his adventures in the kitchen and the joy he gets from playing football.

**Q.** Did you use that mentality you gained in Miami over the past two seasons when you dealt with your torn ACL as a rookie and then your hamstring injury this season?

**A.** I definitely did. I looked at it as ... if I could get through a lot of things I got through, this ain't nothing but time, and I just have to wait it out. I just put it in that perspective and kept the long-term goal that I was going to be back out there and I would be ready.

**Q.** You have flashed big-time potential when healthy. Is there something inside you that is waiting for a consistent stretch where you can show the league your talents?

**A.** I definitely have that feeling. I've been itching for it, and it's definitely going to come. I just keep stacking my days up and keep coming here with my hard hat on and just keep learning. I know my talent ... once I really step out and do what I do, it's going to be something special.

**Q.** Cameras always catch you dancing in warmups and smiling on the sideline. Where does that joy for the game come from?

**A.** The only way I know how to play the game is loose. That's not doing anything out of my character, it's just having fun and doing it with a smile on my face. If you go out there and are tight, then you're not going to be able to express yourself. I just go out there and show my character.

**Q.** One of your nicknames is "The Chef," so how are your cooking skills?

**A.** I'm in the process of learning. I do a lot of YouTube stuff and going to places and learning how to do stuff. I'm not trying to burn down the house or anything.

**Q.** Where's your favorite place to eat in Minnesota?

**A.** It's a spot by my crib, it's called Jake's [City Grille]. I go there probably two times a week. I go there and get my shrimp and sausage soup, that's what I start it off with. And then I get my chicken alfredo pasta. That's my go-to.



## COOK'S CLEATS

### MINNESOTA VIKINGS FOUNDATION | YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

The Minnesota Vikings Foundation echoes Cook's passion to help the local youth that the foundation serves around Minneapolis and St. Paul. "The Chef" participated in a cooking contest against Stephen Weatherly this year at the Taste of the Vikings fundraiser.

**Q.** What's the vibe like in the running back room?

**A.** It's tight. We're as tight as you get. We stress that so much because guys see things that other people don't see. If you're not a close-knit group, then you're not going to be able to communicate that to each other. We're real tight, and we do a lot of things together.

**Q.** How much do you value Vikings running backs coach Kennedy Polamalu's leadership and wisdom from his extensive coaching experience?

**A.** We love him to death, man. He can relate to us on so many levels — as a brother, too. He knows when to do things and when to say things. He can relate to us on so many levels, and his track record speaks for itself. We love Coach KP.





MINNESOTA VIKINGS  
**LOCKER ROOM**  
OFFICIAL TEAM STORE

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Hooded  
Sweatshirt

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Was \$69

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OFFICIAL GAMEDAY HATPIN!**



DEAR

KYLE



BY CRAIG PETERS







LETTERS EXPLAIN TIGHT END'S

# IMPACT ON LIVES

DEAR KYLE,

*You meant a lot to Anton, which means a lot to me. ... One of the few things that would make his day was you, and mashed potatoes. ... I don't know how to thank you but I will keep trying until I get it right. I can never thank you enough! But I can thank you for being there as a friend to Anton. He really loved you. ... Every day at the hospital was pain for Anton, but he always seemed happy, especially when you walked through the door.*

— Kenya Delgado

The above excerpts are from a letter of thanks written by Kenya Delgado, 12, of Texas, to Kyle Rudolph, who has been selected as the 2018 Vikings Community Man of the Year and the team's nominee for the Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year.

She first met Kyle during a visit by the Vikings tight end to the University of Minnesota Masonic Children's Hospital while her brother was undergoing treatment in 2015.

Kyle didn't know those words – and other heartfelt notes of thanks – were waiting on him when he walked into TCO Studios one morning before the day's meetings started.

The reliably composed tight end sat down and was presented a folder. Nondescript on the outside, the folder's contents were anything but.

Words from Kenya, her 8-year-old brother, Judah, and their mother, Vanessa, reminded Kyle of his small friend who faced such tough challenges and never backed down but passed away at age 5.

There were notes from other patients and their family members, reconnections with people from his hometown of Cincinnati and Elder High School, former Notre Dame Head Coach Charlie Weis, and Kyle's wife, Jordan.

The Rudolphs have twin daughters, 2, and a son on the way, but helping the patients and their families remains a priority. Kyle Rudolph's End Zone, which opened in March 2018 after more than a year of fundraising (\$1.6 million), has provided a place of respite, and the entire Rudolph family brightens spirits during multiple visits throughout the year.

The ink – handwritten or typed – made the

tattooed tough guy tap his feet, shift positions multiple times and tear up.

As the gratitude gushed from page to page, so did he.

"My wife doesn't even see me cry much," Kyle explained, still full of emotion just moments after reading the final note. "She could probably tell you she could count on one hand – we've known each other for almost 10 years. She got mad at me because I didn't cry at our wedding. It's just not something I do, but when you hear from so many people that you love, you hear their appreciation, it means a lot."

---

Time was short, and the outlook was bleak.

It didn't matter that Anton and the Delgado family had been able to attend Minnesota's Nov. 8, 2015, victory against the St. Louis Rams.

A month later, as Kyle and teammates were en

route for a Dec. 10 game at Arizona, Jordan let him know that there was nothing doctors could do to save Anton's life.

"Without any hesitation in his voice, he was like, 'I'll be there.' I don't even know what time they got home [from Arizona]; it was probably 3 or 4 in the morning, and he told me he couldn't sleep. He went and got bagels and donuts and was at that hospital by 7."

In addition to breakfast just hours after returning from a 23-20 loss, Kyle brought the jersey from the 2013 Pro Bowl when he won MVP honors.

Before presenting it to Anton, Kyle wrote:  
*To Anton:*

*From a Pro Bowl MVP to a real life MVP.*

Anton passed away on Dec. 15, 2015. He was buried in a Vikings Kyle Rudolph jersey.

The Delgado family, who is here at today's game, can't stop appreciating Kyle's willingness to be there, with them when death was certain but the timing wasn't known.

"He could have said, 'Hey we're thinking of you, we're praying for you,' but instead he offered to step into this really hard place that I don't think would have been easy for a lot of people to do," Vanessa said.

"Anton, at this point, was sleeping most of the time, and he opened his eyes and looked at Kyle and looked at the Pro Bowl jersey that Kyle gave him," Vanessa added. "It was probably one of the last three smiles, I think, of his life."

The friendship between Kyle and Anton was so natural that Kyle became part of the Delgado family, understanding their grief and sharing their sorrow.

"Kyle offered to be there with us and sit there with us during hard things," Vanessa said. "I think that's one of my memories with Kyle that I'll treasure forever, that he didn't do the easy thing ... he stepped into Anton's room, a place death was coming."

Kyle was grateful that he made it back to visit Anton one final time.

"He couldn't say much, but his smile pretty much said it all," Kyle said.

It's been three years since Anton passed away, but his spirit and courage live on.

In 2016, Kyle used his "My Cause, My Cleats"

platform to display "Anton Tough," a catchphrase that sprouted when it was written by a nurse during the child's final week.

"That was huge for us because he definitely is one of the bravest, toughest people in the world," Vanessa said of the son she and her husband, Jason, adopted from Russia. "His skin condition left him with open wounds all over his body, comparable to third-degree burns, so from the time he was born to the time he was 5 years old, it's a life of pain and narcotics to cope and really hard things, but you never would have known, meeting him.

"He was the happiest, most joyful person in the world and never was down," she added. "So Anton Tough became his catchphrase and slogan, and that has just translated into all of our lives. We can do hard things. We can go through things that we don't want to go through and walk them out with grace because Anton showed us all of that because he was the toughest person we all had met."

Kyle has an innate ability to connect with patients and families. His brother, Casey, survived pediatric cancer. Kyle, who was young at the time, has since learned what it was like for his brother and their parents.

The sincere bonds developed help inspire patients like Nathan Njoroge, who was diagnosed with neuroblastoma in March 2017.

"He's gone through multiple chemotherapy sessions, he's gone through surgery, two transplants, radiation, and now is working to better his immune system," said Nathan's father, Edwin. "He's pushing and charging and doing what it takes to get better and staying positive."

Nathan created a handmade newsletter, complete with photos, to express his appreciation to Kyle.

In planning Kyle Rudolph's End Zone, the Rudolphs met with the hospital's Kids' Council, which is made up of patients, past patients and siblings.

The space includes a basketball hoop, sports simulator, bubble hockey table, sensory space for patients on the autism spectrum, a lounge, video game consoles, space for arts and crafts and a family kitchen.



Those are the visible amenities. The impact of Kyle Rudolph's End Zone, however, runs much deeper.

Ashley Baltzell wrote that the End Zone has made her son, Cooper, "so much happier during hospitalizations."

"It's a place that he can decompress after going through medical procedures, and most importantly, a place he can go to where he actually forgets that he is in the hospital," Baltzell wrote. "Cooper becomes a different kid when he visits; he doesn't have anxiety about which doctor will come in the door next, or which procedure will come next. Cooper is able to just be a kid and PLAY without any fears."

Jade, a 17-year-old, provided ideas for the End Zone and has been inspired by Kyle's commitment to community service to pay it forward with a special project of her own.

Her mother, Shonna Gacke, wrote a note about how the involvement in the End Zone so positively impacted Jade:

*For kids with critical, life-threatening illnesses, they may not feel like they have a voice or say in what is happening; you gave that to her, and I can't thank you enough for that.*

Kyle demonstrated care and concern for others much earlier in life. When he was about Jade's age, he was a multisport standout at Elder High





3



2



1



12



11



4



10

# VIKINGS FANS

## HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE



5



6



7



8



9

- 1. SKOL VIKINGS BLEND**  
CARIBOU COFFEE
- 2. BABY VIKINGS HAT**  
CREATIVE KIDSTUFF | LEVEL 1, EAST
- 3. 1460 PASCAL VELVET**  
DUSTY VIOLET  
DR. MARTENS | LEVEL 1, NORTH
- 4. SOUNDSPORT FREE**  
WIRELESS HEADPHONES  
BOSE | LEVEL 1, WEST
- 5. MN SOCKS**  
HAMMER MADE | LEVEL 1, SOUTH
- 6. XBOX**  
MICROSOFT STORE | LEVEL 1, SOUTH

- 7. VIKINGS SKOL SISTER KNIT HAT**  
VIKINGS LOCKER ROOM | LEVEL 1, EAST
- 8. KANKEN MINI BACKPACK PURPLE**  
FJALLRAVEN | LEVEL 1, SOUTH
- 9. VIKINGS BANGLE BRACELET**  
ALEX AND ANI | LEVEL 1, SOUTH
- 10. ULTIMATE COMFORTFIT PILLOW**  
SLEEP NUMBER | LEVEL 2, SOUTH
- 11. MEN'S MINNESOTA VIKINGS**  
ADAM THIELEN NIKE PURPLE  
GAME JERSEY  
VIKINGS LOCKER ROOM | LEVEL 1, EAST
- 12. MINNESOTA MUG**  
MINNESOT-AH! | LEVEL 1, EAST

School in Cincinnati.

He remains a supporter of the program, providing a major financial donation for the school's athletic facilities, but the connection is even more personal.

Greg Wolber, whose son Jeffrey, now 23, was born with Spina Bifida, is confined to a wheelchair and is developmentally delayed.

Kyle made sure that Jeffrey was included and treated well, from giving Jeffrey a pair of football gloves to simple high-fives and fist bumps.

Kyle has since been able to send the family tickets to attend a Notre Dame game and to see the Vikings. He also still exchanges text messages with Jeffrey.

Wolber's letter included:

*A lot of kids in high school would ignore, snub or walk away from kids like Jeffrey. But not Kyle, he always made it a point to come over and say something to Jeffrey and shake his hand.*

Weis vividly recalled recruiting Kyle to Notre Dame, together taking the first steps of an everlasting bond between the coach and player that went well beyond the gridiron.

Weis considers Kyle an honorary son, and Kyle believes there's been no better second father figure in his life.

Weis wrote with parent-like pride:

*You had already begun a life of community service without even knowing it.*

*As I taught our team's players about community service and the impact they could have off the field, I often used you as an example.*

*Of all the players that I have been involved with in 37 years of coaching, no one has done more for others than you.*

*As a guy who coached in the NFL for 16 years ... I believe you would be the perfect choice to receive the Walter Payton Man of the Year Award.*

Kyle said Weis has been "one of the big role models in my life and someone who taught me a lot about service."

"The way that he lives his life and how he serves others ... his heart never stops. I try to make him proud and do what I can to help others."

#### NFL MAN OF THE YEAR NOMINEE

Vikings Executive Director of Social Impact Brett Taber announced Kyle Rudolph's selection to Twin Cities media members, and Owner/President Mark Wilf presented Kyle with the award for Vikings Community Man of the Year earlier this month.

"I've been with the Vikings for 12 years," Taber said. "In that time, I've seen no player that has embraced this community more, given more of their time, their money, their celebrity to making this community and world a better place, so thank you, Kyle, for that."

As the Vikings Community Man of the Year, Rudolph received \$50,000 to donate to charity. An additional \$50,000 will be donated on his behalf to the United Way's Character Playbook, a digital educational program.

As a nominee, Rudolph will wear a Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year helmet decal through the end of the season in recognition of his accomplishments on and off the field. New this year, all 32 team winners will be highlighted as finalists and recognized for their important work during the weekend leading up to Super Bowl LIII.

The 2018 Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year will be announced during NFL Honors, a two-hour prime-time awards special to air nationally on Feb. 2, the eve of Super Bowl LIII, on CBS. NFL Honors will be at Fox Theatre in Atlanta.

Kyle thanked the Wilf family for setting an example that encourages Vikings players to positively impact the community.

"What you guys have built here from a facilities standpoint, obviously, but from a personnel standpoint is second to none," Rudolph said. "Without your guys' leadership,

“ ”

## NO ONE HAS DONE MORE FOR OTHERS THAN YOU.

- COACH WEIS TO KYLE RUDOLPH

we wouldn't have the drive and the opportunity to do the things that we do in the community, so thank you for that."

He also thanked previous teammates who took a fresh-faced 21-year-old under their wing immediately in 2011, noting the influence of previous Vikings Community Man of the Year winners Steve Hutchinson, John Sullivan and Chad Greenway.

"Jordan and I are extremely passionate about kids, and we do what we can do to help them be just that. They're not in the circumstances they're in for a reason. These diseases and cancers that they're fighting don't discriminate."

Fans are encouraged to participate in Nationwide's fourth-annual Charity Challenge, a social media campaign designed to support and promote team nominees. Fans can vote by using #WPMOYChallenge on Twitter with their favorite nominee's last name somewhere in the post between Dec.

6 and Jan. 13. The player whose unique hashtag is used the most will receive a \$25,000 contribution to his charity of choice, courtesy of Nationwide. Visit nfl.com/manoftheyear for more details.



## VOTE FOR KYLE RUDOLPH

FOR THE 2018 WALTER PAYTON MAN  
OF THE YEAR ON TWITTER USING  
#WPMOYCHALLENGE RUDOLPH



WALTER PAYTON  
MAN OF THE YEAR



ALL THE FLAVOR WITH A  
*SMOOTH FINISH*



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# **MY Cause** **MY Cleats**

BY LINDSEY YOUNG



Linval Joseph picked up a black cleat, turned it on its side and smiled.

There it was – a hand-painted mascot, but perhaps not the one you might expect. “Bully the Bull,” down to the gold nose ring and cheerful expression, had been recreated on Joseph’s cleats.

On the inside panel, a simple yet powerful saying had been meticulously painted in white lettering on a green backdrop: Real players don’t bully.

“It’s starting to become a bigger [message], and that’s all we’re trying to do,” Joseph said. “We’re trying to make the world a safer place.”

Joseph will debut the shoes against the Dolphins in today’s “My Cause, My Cleats” game that allows players to promote causes important to them using custom-designed kicks.

Joining Joseph will be 47 teammates, all using their feet to promote causes close to their hearts.

## **RB AMEER ABDULLAH**

BLACK YOUTH PROJECT |  
SOCIAL JUSTICE

## **CB MACKENSIE**

### **ALEXANDER**

SPECIAL OLYMPICS |  
SPECIAL NEEDS

## **K DAN BAILEY**

MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY  
ASSOCIATION | HEALTH

## **LB ANTHONY BARR**

RAISE THE BARR  
FOUNDATION | SUPPORTING  
SINGLE MOTHERS

## **WR CHAD BEEBE**

FREEDOM FIRM | SEX TRAFFICKING

## **RB MIKE BOONE**

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY | CANCER

## **DE TASHAWN BOWER**

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY | CANCER

## **TE TYLER CONKLIN**

KNOWRESOLVE | YOUTH SUICIDE  
PREVENTION AND AWARENESS

## **RB DALVIN COOK**

MINNESOTA VIKINGS FOUNDATION |  
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

## **QB KIRK COUSINS**

URBAN HOMEWORKS |  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

## **LB KENTRELL BROTHERS**

**CHIARI AND SYRINGOMYELIA  
FOUNDATION | HEALTH**

“Knowing people will be watching us and their favorite players, whether it’s me or somebody else, as long as they see somebody’s cleats and learn about one of the foundations ... I feel like that’s a win-win. These cleats, they mean the world to me and to my family.”







## WR STEFON DIGGS

AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION | HEART DISEASE

"It means a lot. I've had some family members with heart problems; my grandmother passed away, and my dad passed away from it. I try to use my platform now to, in my own way, pay respect to the things that they went through."

## LB DEVANTE DOWNS

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY |  
CANCER

## LB BEN GEDEON

NAVY SPECIAL OPERATIONS  
FOUNDATION | MILITARY

## DE EVERSON GRIFFEN

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY |  
BREAST CANCER

## FB C.J. HAM

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS |  
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

## S ANTHONY HARRIS

ONE LOVE FOUNDATION |  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

## CB HOLTON HILL

PANCREATIC CANCER ACTION  
NETWORK / AMERICAN HEART  
ASSOCIATION | HEALTH

## T RASHOD HILL

STARKEY HEARING FOUNDATION |  
HEARING IMPAIRED

## DT JALYN HOLMES

OPTION2, INC. | STUDENT ATHLETES

## DE DANIELLE HUNTER

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS |  
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

## DT JALEEL JOHNSON

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS |  
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

## C BRETT JONES

BEST BUDDIES |  
SPECIAL NEEDS

## DT LINVAL JOSEPH

BULLY THE BULL | ANTI-BULLYING

## S JAYRON KEARSE

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS |  
YOUTH MENTORING

## LB ERIC KENDRICKS

THE SHERIDAN STORY /  
SACKS FOR KIDS |  
CHILDHOOD HUNGER

## LS KEVIN McDERMOTT

AMERICAN INDIAN COLLEGE FUND |  
POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

## TE DAVID MORGAN

LE SUEUR CO. SHERIFF'S YOUTH  
PROJECT | YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



## C PAT ELFLEIN

CRESCENT COVE | CHILDREN'S  
HEALTH / HOSPICE

"It was an incredible place. The work the people do there and the vibe that they create – I could feel it right when I walked in the door. It's sad and unfortunate situations that the kids are in, but it was an immediate feeling of happiness when you walked into the home. For the people at Crescent Cove to create an environment like that for kids who are at end of life, it was something very special for me to witness, and I'm happy to represent them."



## RB LATAVIUS MURRAY

UNITED HEROES LEAGUE | MILITARY

"It's very important that we support those who are serving our country and help them out in any way, especially with the moving around that they do. I think it's very beneficial that we help these kids, and United Heroes League does a really good job of that."

### T STORM NORTON

RONALD McDONALD HOUSE |  
CHILDREN'S HEALTH

### T BRIAN O'NEILL

SPECIAL OLYMPICS |  
SPECIAL NEEDS

### G MIKE REMMERS

POLICE ACTIVITIES LEAGUE |  
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

### CB XAVIER RHODES

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS |  
DIVERSITY AND EDUCATION

### DT SHELDON RICHARDSON

MINNESOTA VIKINGS FOUNDATION |  
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

### WR ALDRICK ROBINSON

AUTISM SPEAKS |  
AUTISM AWARENESS

### TE KYLE RUDOLPH

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
MASONIC CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL |  
CHILDREN'S HEALTH

### CB MARCUS SHERELS

BEST CHRISTMAS EVER |  
UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES

### QB KYLE SLOTER

BREAKING BOUNDARIES  
FOUNDATION | STUDENT ATHLETES

### WR ADAM THIELEN

THIELEN FOUNDATION |  
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

### RB ROC THOMAS

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS |  
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

### WR LAQUON TREADWELL

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS / FEED MY  
STARVING CHILDREN | YOUTH  
DEVELOPMENT

### CB TRAE WAYNES

GRACE CENTERS OF HOPE |  
SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND  
HOMELESSNESS

### DE STEPHEN WEATHERLY

ONE LOVE FOUNDATION |  
RELATIONSHIP VIOLENCE

### P MATT WILE

THE RESCUED DOG |  
ANIMAL WELFARE

### LB ERIC WILSON

ACES | EDUCATION

### WR BRANDON ZYLSTRA

ADARIUS 4 AUTISM | AUTISM  
AWARENESS

## S HARRISON SMITH

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS |  
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

"Big Brothers Big Sisters Twin Cities is an organization I've been working with since my rookie year. I just really believe in having strong mentors for the youth and helping them grow up."

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# 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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SUPPORTING THE GIFT OF

# HEARING

BY ERIC SMITH



Rashod Hill will be honoring his daughter Codie by sporting cleats that recognize The Starkey Hearing foundation.

## MAYBE THE EMOTIONAL MOMENT

will come when Rashod Hill slips on his cleats in the locker room, or perhaps it will happen sometime during a break in the action.

But at some point during today's game against Miami, the Vikings offensive tackle will surely look down at his feet and take a moment to reflect about the people closest to him and how important they are.

Hill will honor his 3-year-old daughter, Codie, who has partial hearing loss, by sporting purple and black cleats that recognize The Starkey Hearing Foundation. Hill's footwear, which has "The Gift of Hearing" inscribed in silver letters, are a part of the NFL's "My Cause, My Cleats" initiative.

"It's emotional a little bit, but at the same time [I also feel] pride and strong that I can wear them to bring awareness to hearing loss,"

Hill said. "To bring attention to that, it's going to be a blessing to have them on my feet.

"It's amazing the NFL does that because it's gives guys a chance to bring awareness to stuff they believe and they care about. You know more about a guy when he brings stuff like that out," Hill added about the "My Cause, My Cleats" campaign. "It gives me an opportunity to bring awareness to this. People are dealing with different things ... whatever I can do to help bring awareness to this, I'm all in for it."

Codie was born to Rashod and Tara in May of 2015, but was roughly a month premature. It didn't take doctors long to suspect something was amiss regarding Codie's hearing, as test results showed she had profound hearing loss in both of her ears.

"She was diagnosed when she was a baby in the NICU (neonatal intensive care unit)," Tara

Hill said. "[Her hearing loss] went from mild to moderate to severe."

The Hills said their first reaction was one of denial.

"The first sign was that they did some tests and found she couldn't hear anything," Rashod said. "As a parent, the first thing you think is, 'No, my child can hear. She's just like everybody else.'"

"But once we realized that was the problem, my first instinct was, 'Come on, let's jump on this now.' That way in the future she can be like everybody else," he added.

Codie wore hearing aids for six months as an infant, but they had little effect, so she was given a cochlear implant for her right side.

That's the setup Codie had lived with until a week in late November, when the Hills visited the campus of Starkey Hearing Technologies in



We definitely want to

# GIVE BACK

because this impacts our lives.  
We want to see how we can help  
more and learn more from it.

—RASHAD HILL



Eden Prairie and had a life-changing day. Codie received VIP treatment from Starkey Owner and CEO Bill Austin and his staff, as they cleaned out her ears, gave her a hearing test and took an impression of her left ear.

Starkey then made a custom left hearing aid for Codie in less than an hour, with the hope that device will combine with the right cochlear implant and boost her overall hearing.

"Codie, at her age, she's not familiar with sound and doesn't respond well to testing," Austin said. "We're trying to put some energy load into her inner ear and see what her reaction is to that input she's getting."

Rashod said he was awestruck by the kindness and humility of the Starkey staff.

"We didn't know we were going to meet the CEO of this place," he said with a laugh. "That was amazing, and it was a blessing. It was humbling."

Austin, who founded Starkey in 1970, said one of the greatest joys of his job is helping young people improve their ability to hear.

"Working with young children, they have a whole lifetime ahead of them," Austin said. "It's so important for them, but hearing is important for everyone. If you're not connected to your family, you're not connected to life. You need to be connected to your social environment and people ... nobody should be punished [for bad hearing]; they haven't done anything wrong."

"Just like if you don't see so good, you need some glasses. If you don't hear so good, and you

can fix it, it should be fixed," Austin added. "It makes more of a difference than almost anyone realizes. If you look at hearing loss, people adapt to it and put it off, and they start accepting it as normal. It shouldn't be that way."

The hearing aid in Codie's left ear appeared to work right away, as she looked around in wonder, knowing that she was hearing something on her left side.

A few days after the visit, Hill said that Codie was responding well to the device. Codie will also return to Starkey in a few weeks for a checkup.

"It's helped. I called her name ... I said, 'Codie,' ... and she looked at me," Rashod said. "It's making a real difference. She's making sure it stays in. She likes it in and is getting adjusted to it."

It hasn't always been easy for the Hill family to deal with Codie's hearing loss. Both Rashod and Tara mentioned how they have had to gain a sense of understanding about their daughter, such as tapping her to get her attention rather than simply saying her name.

"The thing it taught me is being patient. She can't [hear] like everybody else, but at the same time, I'm not going to let that hinder her," Hill said. "I still treat her like my 8-year-old. The main thing is just being patient."

Added Tara: "Patience is key."

Because of her hearing loss, Codie also has a limited vocabulary and works with a speech therapist because she hasn't been able to learn and decipher verbal language.

But the spunky 3-year-old with a quick smile is on the right path thanks to Austin and the Starkey staff, as well as a set of parents who now want to explore opportunities to give back to other families in similar situations.

"We want to get a chance to talk to different families who are just now getting to the process and getting into the situation," Tara said. "In the beginning, it was in denial for us."

"For some families, it's hard to accept something you cannot control," she added. "One of our biggest things is talking to the families who are dealing with the same issue."

Added Hill: "We definitely want to [give back] because this impacts our lives. We want to see how we can help more and learn more from it."

The Vikings offensive tackle will start by wearing his custom cleats to support his little girl.

Hill saw the cleats for the first time at Starkey with his family sitting beside him, a wide smile crossing his face. After admiring them for a few seconds, Codie reached for them and looked on with curiosity.

"It's been a journey, and I'm pretty sure there's still going to be a lot more to go," Hill said. "But we love her and give her everything she needs."

"It gives us hope. We know she can overcome this," Hill added with Codie nearby. "We're just keeping a positive mind. But I wake up every day smiling to see her because she's my baby."



Lost voice at Vikings game



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## FLEET FARM LAKEVILLE

Join KFAN along with the Minnesota Vikings as they broadcast live from 5:30am-6:30pm on Tuesday, December 18th at the Fleet Farm in Lakeville. Come watch The Power Trip, Paul Allen, The Common Man and Dan Barreiro in action.

---

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# Alan Page

RECEIVES PRESIDENTIAL  
MEDAL OF FREEDOM



## JUSTICE ALAN PAGE HAS QUITE THE LIST OF HONORS TO HIS NAME.

The former Vikings defensive tackle is in the Pro Football Hall of Fame as well as the College Football Hall of Fame. Page was the first African-American judge to serve on Minnesota's Supreme Court. In 2017, a Minneapolis school changed its name to Justice Page Middle School after a student-led campaign.

In November, Page was named one of seven Presidential Medal of Freedom recipients and presented the United States' top civilian honor by President Donald Trump at the White House.

Hall of Fame quarterback Roger Staubach, Sen. Orrin G. Hatch and Miriam Adelson also received awards in-person. Rock-and-roll legend Elvis Presley, Baseball Hall of Famer Babe Ruth and late Supreme Court Associate Justice Antonin Scalia were recognized posthumously.

President John F. Kennedy established the Medal of Freedom in 1963.

In true Page fashion, he deflected the honor from himself and credited many others for their roles in his accomplishments, including his late wife, Diane Sims Page, who passed away Sept. 29.

Page wrote in a letter of response to receiving the Medal of Freedom that his reception of the award includes Civil Rights activists who fought for – and even died for – an expansion of racial equality, his family, former teammates, the Vikings organization, the more than 7,000 Page Scholars who have benefited from the Page Education Foundation (established in 1988) and the students of Justice Page Middle School “who give me hope for the future.”

He wrote:

*Most important, it includes Diane Sims Page, the love of my life and life partner, a woman whose quest for racial, gender, and social justice knew no bounds and who encouraged, lifted, and allowed me to become more than I might otherwise have been.*

Page explained that receiving a phone message about the award “was like a bolt of lightning out of nowhere.”

“It wouldn’t have occurred to me that I would be considered, particularly when you think about the others who have received that recognition,” Page said. “Once I got over the surprise, my thought process was, ‘Why is this important?’ In the end, I concluded that it is important because it’s a recognition of the work that Diane and I have done pretty much from the beginning of our adult lives, to try to establish fairness, to create hope and opportunity through education.

It’s a recognition of the values that we’ve tried to represent.

“It’s a recognition of those people who went before us, whose shoulders we’ve had the privilege of standing on to do the things we’ve done. Opportunity and obligation,” Page added. “Certainly the opportunity presents itself, but beyond the opportunity, I have this deep sense of obligation because of all the good things that happened to me.”

Page was somber as television cameras showed him receiving the medal. He said his emotions that day “were mixed at best” because he was proud to have three of his four children, all four grandchildren and multiple other family members in Washington, D.C., because “their support on that day was very important.”

“Receiving the medal, all I could think about was the fact that Diane wasn’t there. She would have loved to have been a part of it,” Page said. “She would have loved to have had the opportunity, which I did, to meet seven of the nine members of the Supreme Court, have a picture taken with Justice Ginsburg, which is pretty special. You don’t often get the chance to be in the presence of greatness, and Justice Ginsburg, being in her presence is being in the presence of greatness.”

BY LINDSEY YOUNG

# SMITH, O'NEILL & SLEEP NUMBER SURPRISE VIKINGS COMMUNITY CAPTAINS

sleep  number.



BY CRAIG PETERS



After meeting them and talking with them, it's no surprise to us why they're being recognized for the kind of kids they are and what they do in the classroom and community and on the athletic fields."

- BRIAN O'NEILL

SIX HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PLAYERS – AND ACTIVE GOOD CITIZENS IN THEIR COMMUNITIES – DIDN'T KNOW WHERE THEY WERE GOING, WHO THEY'D BE MEETING OR WHAT THEY'D BE GETTING.

The seniors learned on Dec. 4 that they'd be touring Twin Cities Orthopedics Performance Center.

Once inside the auxiliary locker room at the Vikings headquarters, the seniors were surprised by Harrison Smith and Brian O'Neill and found out that they had been selected as Vikings Community Captains for 2018.

Each was invited to today's game, received a \$1,000 scholarship to the school of his choice, a \$1,000 grant for a charity of his choosing and a Sleep Number 360 smart bed.

The auxiliary locker room was set up with personalized nameplates featuring the Norseman logo, footballs and mini helmets for autographs, and bags filled with other gifts.

"I didn't really know what was going on. My parents picked me up and didn't say anything,"

said Max Tibbits of Litchfield. "They said, 'Don't ask questions. You'll know when we get there.' We pulled up, and I thought, 'This is cool. We're touring the facility.' Then, they brought us in here, and I saw Harrison Smith. I was immediately shocked."

The drive from Lakeville was much shorter for tight end Tate Staloch, but the surprise factor was just as high.

"This was amazing," Staloch said. "My coach said, 'You have to come with me to a place that I can't tell you about to receive an award I can't tell you about,' so this was honestly a huge surprise."

Youth Football Development Manager Jeff Robinson announced the benefits from the Vikings, and Sleep Number Senior Director of Partnerships Patrick Campion explained the donation from Sleep Number.

"This is one of our favorite events. It's such a great opportunity to recognize these individuals for their great work on and off the field, and it matches so well with who we are as a company," Campion said. "It's great to see those kids' faces when they learn they're getting a Sleep Number 360 smart bed and



when they start talking to Harrison or Brian about what they're learning about sleep."

The Sleep Number 360 smart bed is adjustable, allowing individuals to find their favorite Sleep Number setting by changing the firmness of the bed. The Sleep Number 360 smart bed uses SleepIQ technology to measure the quality of one's sleep, which is reported each morning via the SleepIQ app.

Multiple Vikings players, including Smith and O'Neill, use the same beds.

"Really, these past two years, once I started doing some things with Sleep Number, they've continued to educate me on how important [sleep] is, and I can tell the benefits, as far as recovery and just getting ready to go every week, how it stacks up over time," Smith said. "I'm still learning, but I'm definitely making strides in an area where I've struggled in the past."

O'Neill, the rookie, had never focused on quality of sleep until arriving in Minnesota.

"Being able to partner with Sleep Number has been unbelievable," O'Neill said. "They've helped, and the resources we have with the Vikings have really kind of upped that level of my game, and I think it's helped my performance."

He enjoyed being part of the surprise and said he can understand why each player was selected.

"After meeting them and talking with them, it's no surprise to us why they're being recognized for the kind of kids they are and what they do in the classroom and community and on the athletic field," O'Neill said. "It's a really cool deal."

## 2018 VIKINGS COMMUNITY CAPTAINS



**Carter Danielson, WR/CB | Goodhue**

Danielson coaches young people in his community in flag football games on Saturdays and has helped Feed My Starving Children, a global program that fights hunger.



**Jack Hendrickson (DE, WR and "sniffer") and Mitch Hendrickson (DE, WR, TE) | Academy of Holy Angels**

The identical twins are captains of the football, hockey and lacrosse teams who are heavily involved in the campus ministry at their school and leading younger players.



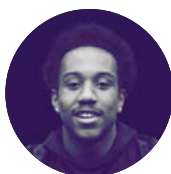
**Tate Staloch, TE | Lakeville North**

Staloch has made multiple mission trips, including one to South Africa, and helps Mobile Loaves & Fishes. He helped Lakeville North go 13-0, which included wins at TCO Performance Center (in the regular season) and U.S. Bank Stadium (state championship).



**Max Tibbits, QB | Litchfield**

Tibbits was diagnosed with glenoid hypodysplasia in January and is now unable to participate in contact sports, but he stayed connected with the Dragons team, attending every game and practice and leading by example. Tibbits has made multiple mission trips to Kansas City and encourages youth to participate in sports.



**Julian Wright, WR/DB | DeLaSalle**

Wright, a multisport star who will run track at Marquette next fall, has done more than 120 hours of community service and is involved with Jack and Jill of America. He said his mom "put it into my brain early to help others, serve others with everything that you can."



### NONPROFIT OF THE GAME - TOYS FOR TOTS

*The primary goal of Marine Toys for Tots is, through the gift of a new toy, to help bring the joy of Christmas and send a message of hope to America's less fortunate children. To learn how you can help, go to [www.toysfortots.org](http://www.toysfortots.org).*



## 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.



### VIKINGS: BEYOND THE GRIDIRON PRESENTED BY CENTURYLINK

*Vikings: Beyond The Gridiron* Presented by CenturyLink recently joined cornerback Xavier Rhodes at the West Side Boys & Girls Club where the cornerback showed off his cleats. C.J. Ham, Danielle Hunter and Laquon Treadwell also visited the club.



### 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.



*Vikings Coverage on*



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## GET TO KNOW ALEX

HOMETOWN: MAPLE GROVE, MN

OCCUPATION: MARKETING ANALYST



ALEX

YEAR 2

### WHAT ARE YOUR HOBBIES?

My hobbies include going to CorePower Yoga Sculpt classes and playing with my Chihuahua, Tico!

### WHAT IS YOUR BEST LIFE EXPERIENCE?

My best experience was representing the MVC in Mérida, Mexico, my rookie season. I was able to teach dance clinics and judge the Copa Cuam 2018, and it truly felt amazing to share my passion for dance with all of the students. It was a life-changing experience that I will never forget!

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

The best part about being an MVC is the amazing, lifelong relationships you build with your teammates, while positively representing such a world-class organization.



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

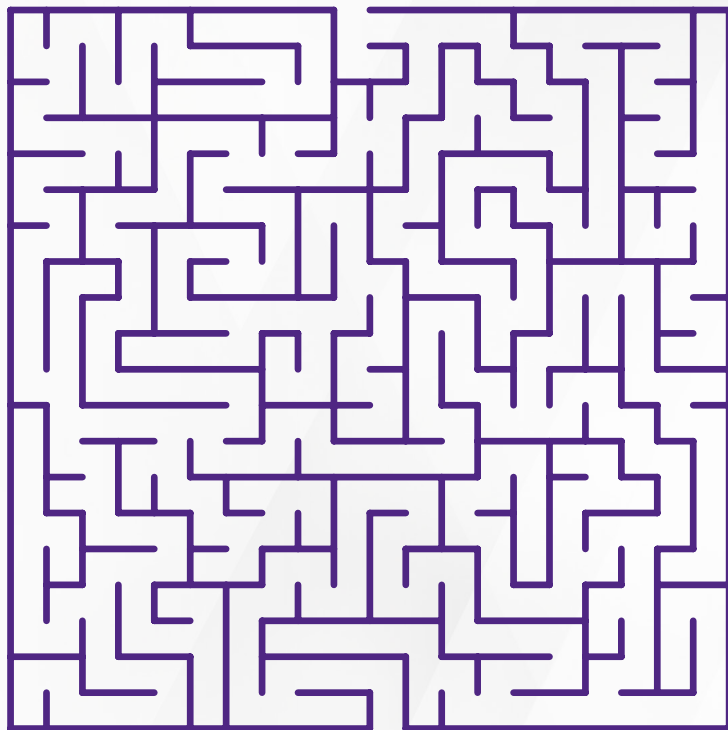
GET YOUR 2018-2019 VIKINGS CHEERLEADER CALENDAR FEATURING ALL 42 CHEERLEADERS AT TODAY'S GAME OR ONLINE AT [VIKINGSLOCKERROOM.COM](http://VIKINGSLOCKERROOM.COM). FOR EXCLUSIVE VIKINGS CHEER PHOTOS, DOWNLOAD THE OFFICIAL VIKINGS APP BY GOING TO [MNVKN.GS/APPDOWNLOAD](http://MNVKN.GS/APPDOWNLOAD) ON ANY DEVICE.

# VIKTOR'S

## STADIUM MAZE

Viktor needs help getting to U.S. Bank Stadium  
for game day. See if you can trace the path to get  
Viktor through the maze to the stadium!

**START**



**FINISH**



**FOLLOW  
VIKTOR**

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 @ViktorTheViking

 @ViktorTheViking  
 VikingsViktor

 Official Viktor  
The Viking





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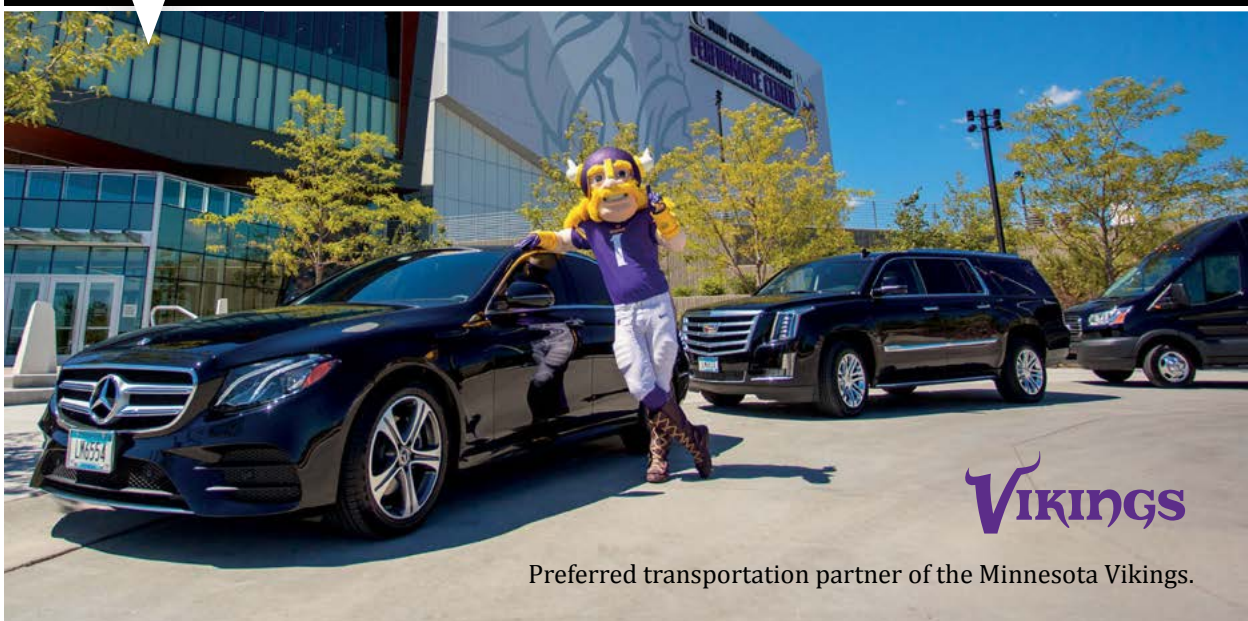
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*The Vikings of Tomorrow program is held every Saturday before a Vikings home game and is hosted at Twin Cities Orthopedics Performance Center.*

*Vikings of Tomorrow allows 45 participants the opportunity to scrimmage for an hour, take a brief tour of the team's headquarters and participate in a Q & A session with a Vikings player.*

*Through a partnership with Life Time Fitness, participants receive a water bottle, free Vikings Kids Club membership, tickets to that weekend's game and a concession voucher for U.S. Bank Stadium.*

*Players and coaches from the South St. Paul Youth Football program participated in the Vikings of Tomorrow program this weekend.*

## THE SOUTH ST. PAUL YOUTH FOOTBALL PROGRAM

The City of South St. Paul Youth Football program is provided as an in-house program to youth in grades 1 – 6, administered by the city's parks & recreation department. The program has three different age groups: 1st-2nd grade Flag, 3rd-4th grade Tackle, and 5th-6th grade Tackle with approximately four teams participating at each level.

Utilizing volunteer coaches and sponsorship from the community partners of the South St. Paul Lions Club and Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 639, the youth football program is able to provide instruction and equipment at a reasonable cost to a wide range of participants and families. A special feature of the South St. Paul program is the involvement of the South St. Paul High School football program and players who act as referees for the league games and assist coaches with the mentoring and encouragement of the youth football players. South St. Paul is a great community who has a tradition of pride and support for our football league.



## SKOL SERVICE

### SPOTLIGHT ON DENNIS WEINBERG

Vikings home games are  
truly a special day for  
many guests.

Dennis Weinberg works as  
an usher on game days in  
the FMP Club.

Have you witnessed a SKOL Service  
team member going above and  
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[GUESTSERVICES@VIKINGS.NFL.NET](mailto:GUESTSERVICES@VIKINGS.NFL.NET)



He always goes above and beyond in hopes to help create a special day for fans that attend Vikings games at U.S. Bank Stadium.

Dennis has been involved in a large part of the franchise's history, working Vikings games at the Metrodome, University of Minnesota and U.S. Bank Stadium.

"It is special for me to provide a great experience for our fans and make their day memorable," Dennis said. "I like the idea of guests telling their friends and neighbors about the great and welcoming experience they had and wanting them to feel drawn to come again with all the passion and excitement we all share at game time. I find the more I give to the fans, the more we bond in that experience."

One fan described Dennis as "excellent"

and added, "He has always extended a warm welcome and has been helpful with our first-time fans to the stadium. He is a huge asset to our game-day experience!"

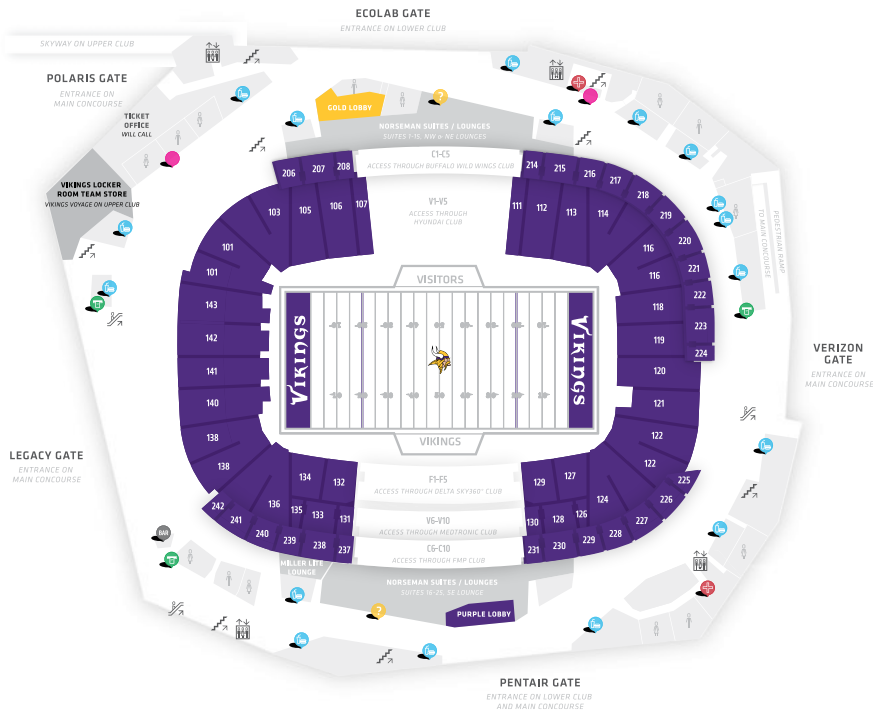
Originally from Dallas, Texas, Dennis currently resides in Chanhassen. When he's not working game days, he enjoys photography, performing magic tricks, playing cards and listening to music.

Dennis ushers in section C7-C8 of the FMP 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, Dennis, 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!



## MAIN CONCOURSE



## UPPER CONCOURSE



## STADIUM KEY

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- NORTH MEMORIAL LACTATION POD
- STAIRS
- ELEVATORS
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- BUFFALO WILD WINGS CLUB
- MYSTIC LAKE'S CLUB PURPLE
- NORSEMAN SUITES 1-15
- NW/NE NORSEMAN LOUNGES
- LOFT SUITES 1-27
- TRUSS BAR
- LODGE BAR
- LODGE CABINS

## PURPLE LOBBY

ACCESS TO THE FOLLOWING:

- DELTA SKY360° CLUB
- MEDTRONIC CLUB
- FMP CLUB
- TURF & TOUCHDOWN SUITES
- VALHALLA SUITES
- NORSEMAN SUITES 16-25
- SE NORSEMAN SUITES
- LOFT SUITES 28-46



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Bottled Water, Bottled Soda

#### ALL CONCESSIONS STANDS

Fountain Soda, Gatorade, Draft Beer

#### ALL BEER PORTABLES

16oz Canned Beer

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#### HENRY'S HARD SPARKLING WATER

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