

PLAYBOOK

08.24.2019



KYLE RUDDOLPH



AT



FAMILY DAY



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Check out page 35 and learn more about Andee and Allee, the chocolate Labs owned by Vikings linebackers coach Adam Zimmer who have a special tie to the family.



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PHOTOGRAPHY: Andy Kenutis, Travis Ellison & the Associated Press

PUBLISHED BY: GameDay Sports; info@gamedaysportsmarketing.com

ADVERTISING INQUIRIES: 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 ISSUES

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

69050

QUESTIONS?

Use the photo app on your smart phone to scan & ask a question.



NFL BAG POLICY

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



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



SMALL CLUTCH BAGS
No larger than 4.5" x 6.5"



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VIKINGS

VS. SEAHAWKS

The Vikings improved to 2-0 on the preseason with a 25-19 defeat of the Seahawks at U.S. Bank Stadium Sunday night.

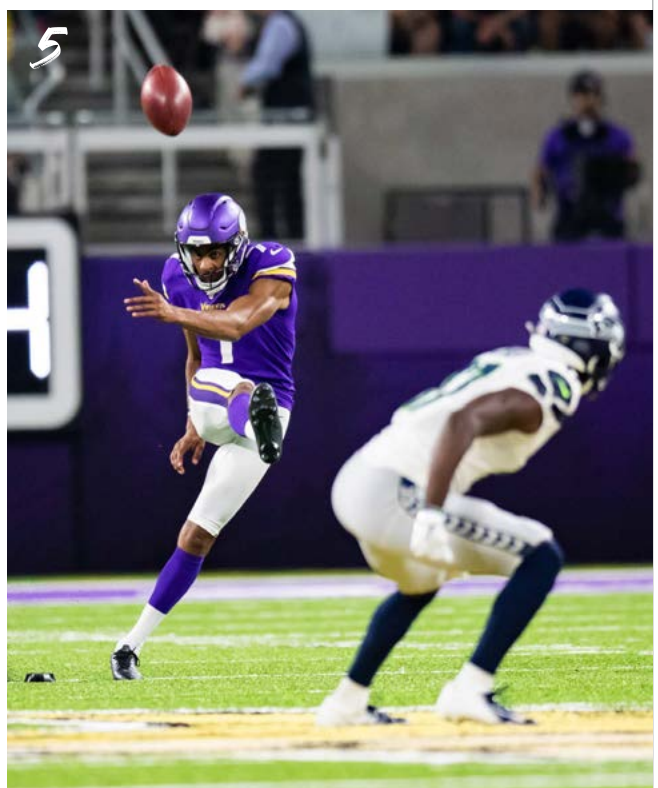
The prime-time game included big outings from several players. Three Vikings – Irv Smith, Jr., Khari Blasingame and Brandon Zylstra – found the end zone, and Mike Boone led Minnesota with 66 rushing yards on 21 carries.

Defensively, the Vikings rallied after allowing the Seahawks a couple of chunk plays and kept Seattle's offense out of the end zone.



1 A wide-open Irv Smith, Jr., hauled in a touchdown pass from quarterback Sean Mannion. The rookie tight end made five catches for 28 yards in his second preseason outing.

2 Vikings safety Jayron Kearsae totaled a team-high three tackles for loss Sunday night, including this takedown of Seahawks running back Rashaad Penny.



3 Adam Thielen pulled in a perfectly placed deep ball from Kirk Cousins, making the catch just beyond Seahawks cornerback Shaquill Griffin. Thielen finished the night with three catches for 45 yards.

4 Harrison Smith thwarted a pass attempt to Seahawks receiver Tyler Lockett. The All-Pro safety totaled one tackle and one pass defended on the evening.

5 A week after joining the Vikings from Baltimore via trade, punter/kicker Kaare Vedvik handled all kickoff duties for Minnesota. The Norway native also punted three times and kicked an extra point.



VIKINGS VS. CARDINALS

Today's game features the Cardinals and the Vikings in the third exhibition contest of 2019 for each team.

This is the 15th preseason meeting between the franchises in a series that began in 1962, Minnesota's second season in the NFL. The Cardinals, who were still based in St. Louis back then, prevailed 24-21 in front of 15,500 at Parade Stadium in Minneapolis.

The franchises have been quite nomadic with preseason contests, meeting in Atlanta in 1964 (before the creation of the Falcons) for a game attended by fewer than 10,000 fans and Memphis in 1969 (50 years ago yesterday).

The attendance for that game was 34,417. The franchises also became the first NFL teams to venture across the pond when they met in front of 32,847 at London's Wembley Stadium.

Minneapolis native Larry Fitzgerald – a former ball boy for the Vikings turned future Hall of Fame receiver – is preparing for his 16th pro season, as is punter Andy Lee. They are only surpassed on the Cardinals roster, in terms of seniority, by Terrell Suggs, who was born in Minneapolis. Suggs leads all active players with 132.5 career sacks heading into his 17th season and first in Arizona.

Defensive end Everson Griffen is the only Vikings player from Arizona. Griffen has 66.5 career sacks and is the longest-tenured Viking as he prepares for his 10th season.



KIDS AND FAMILY DAY

Football brings family and friends together in multiple settings, and today we are pleased to celebrate participants of all ages by hosting Kids and Family Day.

COLOR GUARD

Minneapolis Fire Department Honor Guard



HALFTIME

Today's halftime will feature the annual Mascots-Youth Football scrimmage. Viktor has rounded up his team of mascots who will face the Farmington Tigers.



MINNESOTA VIKINGS JUNIOR MASCOT CHEERLEADERS (JR MVC) PERFORMANCE

Prior to today's contest, participants in the JR MVC program will perform a professional production alongside the Minnesota Vikings Cheerleaders. The JR MVC program is designed specifically to promote self-esteem, pride, hard work and fun among young women 3 - 14 years of age. Visit vikings.com/cheerleaders for more details on the JR MVC.



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HOMETOWN HEROES

During each home game, U.S. Bank and the Minnesota Vikings will recognize individuals who have helped make our community a better place.

Today's Hometown Hero is Mark Graves. 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.



#MINIVIKES MASTERPIECE

We want to see your #MiniVikes masterpieces! Complete your Vikings coloring sheet at home and share your creation on social media by Aug. 28 using #MiniVikes. Tag Twin Cities Orthopedics, and you could win a Vikings coloring set! Need a coloring sheet? Download one at TCOmn.com/MiniVikes.



COIN TOSS CAPTAIN

U.S. Bank is giving you the chance to receive an exclusive experience to be the U.S. Bank Coin Toss Captain at an upcoming Vikings game! Enter to win two tickets, pregame sideline passes and a commemorative game coin. Join Vikings Rewards at Vikings.com/Rewards and enter for your chance to win.



HY-VEE #SKOL

Share a photo at today's game using #SKOL for a chance to see yourself on the video board.



AUGMENTED REALITY SOUVENIR PEPSI CUPS

Scan your Pepsi cup with the Vikings App to unlock some of our best player celebrations! Share yours with #SkolCelebrations #Contest for a chance to win Vikings tickets and other prizes!



OPENING DRIVE CONTEST

Purchase any Pepsi brand product with your Kwik Trip Rewards Card to enter the Vikings Opening Drive Contest. The prize package includes Kwik Trip gift cards, game tickets and sideline passes. Visit Vikings.com/KwikTrip for details.



#VIKINGSHAIRSTYLE

Spalon Montage will be giving away a \$100 gift card at today's game! Show us your game-day hairstyle by tweeting a photo @VikingsPromos using #VikingsHairstyle to enter.





VIKINGS KICKOFF RALLY

SATURDAY, SEPT. 7 | 1-5 P.M. | COMMONS PARK

Come celebrate the start of the Vikings season on Saturday, Sept. 7, at the official Vikings Kickoff Rally presented by Miller Lite.

This free event takes place in the Commons Park outside of U.S. Bank Stadium in partnership with iHeart Media and will feature a live performance by Bret Michaels, along with appearances by Vikings Legends, Vikings Cheerleaders, the SKOL Line, Viktor the Viking and more.

WORKOUT WEDNESDAYS*

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 28

Join Vikings Women once a month during the football season for Workout Wednesdays. Classes will be taught by Life Time instructors for all fitness levels. The first class, MIXX with Michael Blanks, will be held at TCO Stadium on Aug. 28. Register at vikings.com/womensevents.

VIKINGS COUNTRY

SEPT. 3 | 5:30-8:30 P.M.

The popular radio show, *Vikings Country* presented by Miller Lite, returns on Sept. 3 and will be hosted from Tiff's in St. Paul. Host Mike Mussman will be joined each week by a current Vikings player. Join us for a chance to win Vikings tickets and prizes.

FRIDAY FOOTBALL FEAST

SEPT. 6 | 9 A.M. - NOON

Join KFAN each Friday morning from 9 a.m. to noon for a Friday Football Feast presented by Coors Light and KFAN. 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 for a chance to win an MVP experience! The first Friday Football Feast will be at the Buffalo Wild Wings in Oakdale.

TCO VIKINGS 5K

SUNDAY, SEPT. 29

Experience what it is like to be a Minnesota Viking as you conquer the TCO Vikings 5K. Join us Sunday, Sept. 29, as you and your friends finish on the 50-yard line at TCO Stadium at Viking Lakes, home of the Vikings. Register today at Vikings.com/5K.

MADDEN NFL 20 SIGNUP

NOW - OCT. 7

Think you're the best Madden 20 player? Here is your chance to represent the Vikings in the Madden NFL 20 Club Championship. Finalists will play live at EA Studios in California, with a chance to earn a spot and represent the Vikings in the Madden Championship. To qualify, you must sign up now through Oct. 7 and compete as the Vikings. Register at MaddenChampionship.com/register.

FANTENNIAL WEEKEND

The Vikings Fantennial Weekend presented by Courtyard Marriott will include a full slate of fan activities from Friday, Sept. 20 through Sunday, Sept. 22. Friday night will feature our Vikings Prep Spotlight high school football series at TCO Stadium, which is presented by FVP. For Saturday, we will have a family friendly festival at TCO Performance Center celebrating the history of football in Minnesota, and the weekend will conclude on Sunday when the Vikings host the Raiders at U.S. Bank Stadium.



FINISH ON THE 50

AT TCO STADIUM

SUN, SEPT. 29 | 10 AM

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VIKINGS

5K 

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PLAYER TO WATCH:

TE TYLER CONKLIN

CONKLIN IS AN INTRIGUING PLAYER to watch as Minnesota moves forward with its new offense led by Offensive Coordinator Kevin Stefanski with influence from Assistant Head Coach/Offensive Advisor Gary Kubiak and tight ends coach Brian Pariani. In Stefanski's first game as interim offensive coordinator last season (against Miami), Conklin caught two passes for 53 yards. Multiple signs point to the Vikings being, well, multiple, this season in terms of personnel groupings and formations. Conklin's solid hands, as well as his ability to play from different spots, block at the line of scrimmage and run routes should help. Conklin led the Vikings in receiving yards in Minnesota's 2019 preseason opener at New Orleans, totaling 56 yards on two catches. He turned a short toss by Sean Mannion into a 34-yard gain on a tight end screen in the second quarter. Conklin also capitalized on what appeared to be a bust in coverage by the Saints for a 22-yard reception from Kyle Slotter in the third quarter.

FORMER BASKETBALL PLAYER: CONKLIN INITIALLY ENROLLED AT NORTHWOOD UNIVERSITY, A MEMBER OF THE GREAT LAKES INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC CONFERENCE, TO PLAY COLLEGE BASKETBALL. A GUARD FOR THE TIMBERWOLVES, HE PLAYED IN EIGHT GAMES AND AVERAGED 3.3 POINTS, 2.6 REBOUNDS AND 1.6 ASSISTS PER CONTEST. CONKLIN TRANSFERRED TO CENTRAL MICHIGAN AFTER ONE SEMESTER AND FOCUSED ON FOOTBALL.

11 IN

TWO
Mr.

Conklin became the starting tight end for the Chippewas in 2016. He totaled 11 touchdowns in his final two seasons, despite suffering a foot injury in 2017. He finished his college career with 83 receptions for 1,159 yards in 34 games.

2018 SEASON LEADERS

Passing (Yds)	Kirk Cousins	4,298
Rushing (Yds)	Dalvin Cook	615
Receiving (Yds)	Adam Thielen	1,373
Tackles	Eric Kendricks	122
Sacks	Danielle Hunter	14.5
Interceptions	H. Smith, A. Harris	3
KOR (Yards)	Ameer Abdullah	258
PR (Avg.)	Marcus Sherels	12.0

2019 SCHEDULE

PRESEASON (2-0)

P1	8/9	at New Orleans Saints	W 34-25
P2	8/18	Seattle Seahawks	W 25-19
P3	8/24	Arizona Cardinals	
P4	8/29	at Buffalo Bills	



REGULAR SEASON (0-0)

1	9/8	Atlanta Falcons	
2	9/15	at Green Bay Packers	
3	9/22	Oakland Raiders	
4	9/29	at Chicago Bears	
5	10/6	at New York Giants	
6	10/13	Philadelphia Eagles	
7	10/20	at Detroit Lions	
8	10/24	Washington Redskins	
9	11/3	at Kansas City Chiefs	
10	11/10	at Dallas Cowboys	
11	11/17	Denver Broncos	
12	11/24	Bye Week	
13	12/2	at Seattle Seahawks	
14	12/8	Detroit Lions	
15	12/15	at Los Angeles Chargers	
16	12/23	Green Bay Packers	
17	12/29	Chicago Bears	

TOP 25 AGAINST CARDINALS

RUSHING YARDS

165	Adrian Peterson on 28 attempts at Arizona (Dec. 14, 2008)
155	Latavius Murray on 24 attempts in Minnesota (Oct. 14, 2018)

PASSING YARDS

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

RECEIVING YARDS

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

2018 SEASON LEADERS

Passing (Yds)	Josh Rosen	2,278
Rushing (Yds)	David Johnson	940
Receiving (Yds)	Christian Kirk	734
Tackles	Antoine Bethea	121
Sacks	Chandler Jones	13
Interceptions	Tre Boston	3
KOR (Yds)	T.J. Logan	296
PR (Avg.)	Christian Kirk	7.8

2019 SCHEDULE

PRESEASON (1-1)

P1	8/8 Los Angeles Chargers	W 17-13
P2	8/15 Oakland Raiders	L 33-26
P3	8/24 at Minnesota Vikings	
P4	8/29 at Denver	

REGULAR SEASON (0-0)

1	9/8	Detroit Lions
2	9/15	at Baltimore Ravens
3	9/22	Carolina Panthers
4	9/29	Seattle Seahawks
5	10/6	at Cincinnati Bengals
6	10/13	Atlanta Falcons
7	10/20	at New York Giants
8	10/27	at New Orleans Saints
9	10/31	San Francisco 49ers
10	11/10	at Tampa Bay Buccaneers
11	11/17	at San Francisco 49ers
12	11/24	Bye Week
13	12/1	Los Angeles Rams
14	12/8	Pittsburgh Steelers
15	12/15	Cleveland Browns
16	12/22	at Seattle Seahawks
17	12/29	at Los Angeles Rams

TOP 25 AGAINST VIKINGS

RUSHING YARDS

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

PASSING YARDS

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

RECEIVING YARDS

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



PLAYER TO WATCH:

MAXX WILLIAMS

WILLIAMS' NEXT CATCH will be his first in a Cardinals uniform. The Waconia native and former Golden Gophers star signed with Arizona this offseason after spending the first four years of his career with Baltimore. A second-round pick by the Ravens in 2015, Williams caught 32 passes for 268 yards and a touchdown in starting seven of the 14 games he played as a rookie. A knee injury in 2016, however, cost him all but four games. Williams totaled 63 receptions, 497 yards and three touchdowns in 42 games and made an impact as a blocker. He helped the 2018 Ravens produce a team-record 5,999 yards of offense and rank second in the NFL with 152.6 rushing yards per game. Williams' ability as a blocker could lead to some interesting challenges with Vikings defensive ends and linebackers in today's game.

FOOTBALL IS FAMILY: WILLIAMS' FATHER, BRIAN, LETTERED AT MINNESOTA FROM 1986-88 AND PLAYED OFFENSIVE LINE FOR THE NEW YORK GIANTS FROM 1989-99. THE TIGHT END'S GRANDFATHER, BOB, WAS AN ALL-AMERICAN QB AT NOTRE DAME WHO WAS SELECTED NO. 2 OVERALL IN 1951 BY THE BEARS AND INDUCTED TO THE COLLEGE FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME IN 1988.

13 IN

TWO

In just two seasons of playing tight end for the Golden Gophers, Williams totaled 61 receptions for 986 yards. His 13 receiving touchdowns in that span rank 10th in school history. It was an impressive follow-up to a high school career that earned placement on the Vikings 10th annual All-State High School Football Team in 2011.



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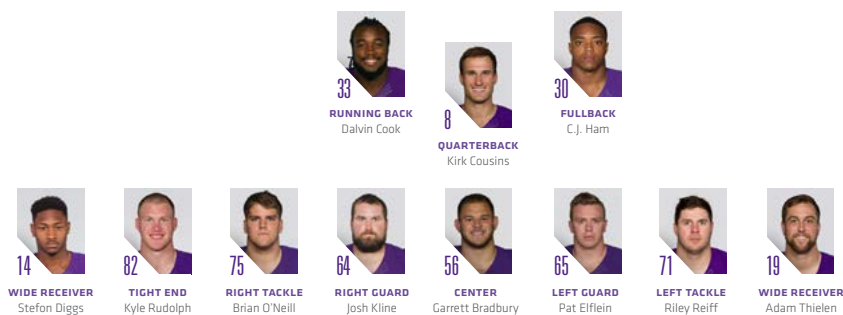


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VIKINGS ROSTER

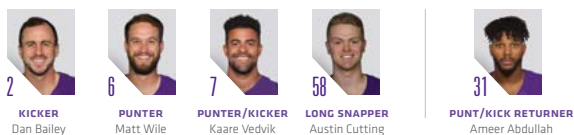
1	Kyle Sloter	QB
3	Jake Browning	QB
4	Sean Mannion	QB
5	Dan Bailey	K
6	Matt Wile	P
7	Kaare Vedvik	P/K
8	Kirk Cousins	QB
11	Laquon Treadwell	WR
12	Chad Beebe	WR
13	Jeff Badet	WR
14	Stefon Diggs	WR
15	Brandon Zylstra	WR
16	Davion Davis	WR
17	Dillon Mitchell	WR
18	Jordan Taylor	WR
19	Adam Thielen	WR
20	Mackensie Alexander	CB
21	Mike Hughes (PUP)	CB
22	Harrison Smith	S
23	Mike Boone	RB
24	Holton Hill	CB
25	Alexander Mattison	RB
26	Trae Waynes	CB
27	Jayron Kearse	S
29	Xavier Rhodes	CB
30	C.J. Ham	FB
31	Ameer Abdullah	RB
32	De'Angelo Henderson	RB
33	Dalvin Cook	RB
34	Duke Thomas	CB
35	Isaiah Wharton	S
36	Craig James	CB
37	Derron Smith	S
38	Kris Boyd	CB
39	Marcus Epps	S
40	Kentrell Brothers	LB
41	Anthony Harris	S
42	Ben Gedeon	LB
43	Reshard Cliett	LB
44	Nate Meadors	CB
45	Greer Martini	LB
46	Bené Benwikere	CB
48	Khari Blasingame	FB
50	Eric Wilson	LB
51	Hercules Mata'afa	DT
52	John Keenoy	C
54	Eric Kendricks	LB
55	Anthony Barr	LB
56	Garrett Bradbury	C
57	Devante Downs	LB
58	Austin Cutting	LS



VIKINGS OFFENSE

CARDINALS DEFENSE

VIKINGS SPECIAL TEAMS



ROSTER AND DEPTH CHART

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

59	Cameron Smith	LB	73	Dru Samia	G	86	Brandon Dillon	TE
60	Tito Odenigbo	DT	74	Stacy Keely	DE	87	Cole Hikutini	TE
61	Brett Jones	C	74	Olisaemeka Udoh	T	89	David Morgan (PUP)	TE
62	Anree Saint-Amour	DE	75	Brian O'Neill	T	90	Tashawn Bower (NFI)	DE
63	Danny Isidora	G	76	Aviante Collins	T	91	Stephen Weatherly	DE
64	Josh Kline	G	78	Dakota Dozier	G	92	Jalyn Holmes	DT
65	Pat Elflein	G	79	Nate Wozniak	T	93	Shamar Stephen	DT
66	Curtis Cothran	DT	79	Karter Schult	DE	94	Jaleel Johnson	DT
67	Cornelius Edison	C	81	Bisi Johnson	WR	95	Ifeadi Odenigbo	DE
68	Ade Aruna	DE	82	Kyle Rudolph	TE	96	Armon Watts	DT
69	Rashod Hill	T	83	Tyler Conklin	TE	97	Everson Griffen	DE
71	Riley Reiff	T	84	Irv Smith, Jr.	TE	98	Linval Joseph	DT
72	Storm Norton	T	85	Alexander Hollins	WR	99	Danielle Hunter	DE

CARDINALS ROSTER

45	Pete Robertson	LB
46	Aaron Brewer	LS
47	Ezekiel Turner	LB
48	Tanner Vallejo	LB
49	Andre Branch	LB
49	Wes Hills	RB
50	Brooks Reed	LB
51	Dante Booker	LB
52	Mason Cole	OL
53	A.Q. Shipley	OL
54	Vontarrius Dora	LB
55	Chandler Jones	LB
56	Terrell Suggs	LB
57	Pita Taumoepeuu	LB
58	Jordan Hicks	LB
59	Joe Walker	LB
61	Coleman Shelton	OL
63	Rees Odhiambo	OL
64	J.R. Sweezy	OL
65	Lamont Gaillard	OL
66	Josh Miles	OL
67	Justin Pugh	OL
68	Jeremy Vujnovich	OL
69	Patrick Lawrence	OL
70	Colby Gossett	OL
71	Sterling Bailey	DL
72	Miles Brown	DL
73	Max Garcia	OL
74	D.J. Humphries	OL
75	William Sweet	OL
76	Marcus Gilbert	OL
78	Parker Ehinger	OL
79	Korey Cunningham	OL
80	Isaac Zico	WR
81	Darrell Daniels	TE
82	Drew Belcher	TE
83	A.J. Richardson	WR
84	Caleb Wilson	TE
85	Charles Clay	TE
86	Ricky Seals-Jones	TE
87	Maxx Williams	TE
89	Andy Isabella	WR
90	Terrell McClain	DL
91	Michael Dogbe	DL
92	Dennis Gardeck	LB
93	Jeff Holland	LB
94	Cameron Malveaux	LB
95	Rodney Gunter	DL
96	Pasoni Tasini	DL
97	Zach Allen	DL



42
LINEBACKER
Ben Gedeon



41
SAFETY
Anthony Harris



54
LINEBACKER
Eric Kendricks



22
SAFETY
Harrison Smith



55
LINEBACKER
Anthony Barr



26
CORNERBACK
Trae Waynes



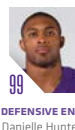
97
DEFENSIVE END
Everson Griffen



98
NOSE TACKLE
Linval Joseph



93
DEFENSIVE TACKLE
Shamar Stephen



99
DEFENSIVE END
Danielle Hunter



29
CORNERBACK
Xavier Rhodes

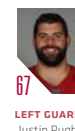
VIKINGS DEFENSE



11
WIDE RECEIVER
Larry Fitzgerald



74
LEFT TACKLE
D.J. Humphries



67
LEFT GUARD
Justin Pugh



52
CENTER
Mason Cole



53
CENTER
A.Q. Shipley



64
RIGHT GUARD
J.R. Sweezy



76
RIGHT TACKLE
Marcus Gilbert



85
TIGHT END
Charles Clay

CARDINALS OFFENSE



1
QUARTERBACK
Kyler Murray



31
RUNNING BACK
David Johnson



13
WIDE RECEIVER
Christian Kirk



18
WIDE RECEIVER
Kevin White

CARDINALS SPECIAL TEAMS



5
KICKER
Zane Gonzalez



4
PUNTER
Andy Lee



46
LONG SNAPPER
Aaron Brewer



13
PUNT RETURNER
Christian Kirk



22
KICK RETURNER
T.J. Logan

ROSTER AND DEPTH CHART

ARIZONA CARDINALS



1	Kyler Murray	QB	17	Hakeem Butler	WR	31	David Johnson	RB
2	Ryan Winslow	P	18	Kevin White	WR	32	Budda Baker	S
3	Drew Anderson	QB	19	KeeSean Johnson	WR	33	Byron Murphy	CB
4	Andy Lee	P	20	Tramaine Brock, Sr.	CB	34	Dontae Strickland	RB
5	Zane Gonzalez	K	21	Patrick Peterson	CB	35	Deionte Thompson	S
6	Charles Kanoff	QB	22	T.J. Logan	RB	36	D.J. Swearingen, Sr.	S
7	Brett Hundley	QB	23	Robert Alford	CB	37	D.J. Foster	RB
10	Chad Williams	WR	25	Chris Jones	CB	38	Jalen Thompson	S
11	Larry Fitzgerald	WR	26	Brandon Williams	CB	39	Tyler Sigler	S
12	Pharoh Cooper	WR	27	Josh Shaw	DB	41	Nate Brooks	CB
13	Christian Kirk	WR	28	Deatrick Nichols	CB	42	Jonathan Owens	S
14	Demiere Byrd	WR	29	Chase Edmonds	RB	43	Haason Reddick	LB
16	Trent Sherfield	WR	30	Rudy Ford	S	44	Hayes Pullard	LB

HAPPY HOMECOMING

BY ERIC SMITH

IRV SMITH, JR., WALKED INTO HIS FAVORITE RESTAURANT IN NEW ORLEANS, EAGERLY ANTICIPATING A DINNER WITH HIS IMMEDIATE FAMILY TO CELEBRATE A MILESTONE WEEKEND.



The Vikings rookie tight end was in his hometown and preparing for the first NFL game of his career, a preseason date with the Saints that also fell on his 21st birthday. But when he walked into the restaurant, his father, a former first-round pick of the Saints, told him his mom and grandma were running late. Irv Smith, Sr., then led his son to a private room on the third floor of the Palace Café, telling him they'd just wait for the others to arrive.

Smith, Jr., had little idea what was in store for him.

"We go on the elevator, and I just thought there were two stories [in the restaurant]," he explained. "But we go to the third floor and I'm like, 'Where are we going?' I see this room, but I couldn't see anything in there, but they opened the

SWIMMING

door and everybody yelled, 'Surprise!'

"It was special. All birthdays are special, but I feel like your 21st is a big one," added the rookie who was taken aback by the 14 friends and family members, including his mom and grandma, in attendance. "Then with it being my first NFL game, having all that time together, especially in my home city, it's something special and something I'll never forget."

His mom, Rose Matamoros, added: "The fact that he's home in New Orleans and playing against the team his dad used to play for and he's turning 21 in his hometown ... it's crazy how it all came together like this."

Smith, Jr., was born in New Orleans but moved to Phoenix soon after. He returned to the Big Easy for his high school years, where he was a prep star at Brother Martin High School.

The Smith family has a special connection to the city; the Saints selected Irv Smith, Sr., with the 20th overall pick in the 1993 NFL Draft after his standout career at Notre Dame.

The elder Smith's first preseason game also was in New Orleans, and at the same stadium (the Superdome), but 26 years before his son's debut.

The homecoming weekend was a big deal for the family, who likes to say that New Orleans is all about family, food and football.

"Some people just think it's Bourbon Street and it's fun and all that," Smith, Jr., said. "But it also has a lot of culture, and

it's something special. The people are so welcoming and open. It's a place like no other. It shaped me to the man I am."

The festive atmosphere of the city was on display on the night of April 26, when the Smith family had a crawfish boil with more than 50 pounds of the popular Southern food, and the Vikings picked Smith, Jr., with the 50th overall pick of the 2019 NFL Draft.

"His mom and his aunt, they all put on the event and did an amazing job. They really blessed him and blessed everybody that came," Smith, Sr., said. "We ate crawfish until we couldn't eat crawfish anymore."

Smith, Jr., may have a special connection to the Bayou, but the Land of 10,000 Lakes is where he is expected to make an impact in the Vikings offense.

A shifty mismatch in college, he recorded 58 receptions for 838 yards (14.4 yards per reception) and 10 touchdowns in 38 games for Alabama. He had 33 receptions that gained a first down or scored a touchdown in college.

In Minnesota, he will complement veteran tight end Kyle Rudolph and hopefully provide quarterback Kirk Cousins with another weapon in the passing game.

The tight end is known for his athleticism. He tied for the third-fastest time in the 40-yard dash (4.63 seconds) at the 2019 NFL Scouting Combine.

According to his mom, his athleticism goes back a long ways. While most kids were learning to walk around a year old,

her son already was dribbling a basketball.

"I remember him getting his swimming lessons when he was 2 ½ and the swimming instructor was like, 'I've never seen anything like him.' By Day 2, he was diving off the diving board and swimming the length of the pool," Matamoros said. "And when his sister played basketball, he was the first kid on the court at halftime. He's 2 ½ years old, and he's shooting on a 10-foot basket and making them."

The 6-foot-2 tight end was 22 inches long when he was born.

"He was like an alien," Matamoros said with a laugh.

Smith, Jr., said he has just enjoyed the competition of athletics throughout his life, whether it was roller-skating in the street as a kid or helping the Crimson Tide win a national title in 2017.

He plans on bringing that same mentality to his new home in Minnesota, where he scored his first NFL touchdown against the Seahawks last weekend.

"Each level of sports I've played – whether it was grade school, middle school, high school or college – I feel like I've progressed well, and I think I'll do that here, too. High school to college is a bigger [physical] jump because in high school, you're basically the top guy," said Smith, Jr. "But going to Alabama, going against the top players on my team at practice, it was tough. But once that's instilled in you, I feel like it prepared me. The jump from college to the NFL is more mental and more detailed-oriented."

"I just want to go out there and play fast on every play," he added. "I know if I can play fast, that I'm going to be confident I can go out there and make plays. If I can do that, then the sky is the limit."



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TIMEOUT WITH BROTHERS

KENTRELL BROTHERS' PREGAME ROUTINE IS QUITE THE THROWBACK.

BY CRAIG PETERS

The Vikings linebacker and key special teams core player can be seen catching passes in the end zone, often plucking pigskins from the air with one hand, making it look as easy as picking a ready apple.

"I really do it just to get my shoulders loose, and I get to run up and down the field after we do our stretches," Brothers said. "Really, it's because I miss doing that in high school, playing receiver and getting to catch the ball. Now I get the opportunity to do it, so I'm going to keep it up."

Brothers played defensive end and receiver at Guthrie High School (Oklahoma), becoming the first 1,000-yard receiver in school history.

"I did that twice, and it's crazy because I played both sides of the ball, which I don't see happening now. I don't know how I did that," Brothers said. "Junior year, I think I had 1,100 yards of receiving and 18 sacks. My senior year, I had 1,300 yards receiving and 16 or 17 sacks."

Brothers' prowess in football took him to Missouri. He overlapped with the Tigers final season in the Big 12, but was redshirted with an injury, and first four in the SEC. Mizzou began SEC play with consecutive appearances in the conference title game and had an upset win at No. 7 Georgia, a place he identified as his favorite college venue.

Vikings General Manager Rick Spielman was

in attendance the night that Brothers recorded 14 tackles, forced a fumble and blocked a punt against Mississippi State in 2015 on the way to leading FBS with 152 tackles. The Vikings selected Brothers in the fifth round in 2016.

"I remember him being there," Brothers recalled. "That was a crazy game, actually, because they had some weapons. They had [Dallas QB] Dak [Prescott]."

The first time that Brothers stepped into an NFL venue was Jan. 3, 2014, when he helped Mizzou beat an Oklahoma State team that didn't offer him a scholarship at AT&T Stadium.

"Seeing that big ol' screen and that brand-new stadium at the time, it was just unbelievable," Brothers said. "I got here, and my first year here was the first year in the new stadium. That was one of the greatest things I think I've ever been a part of, knowing I could get a locker in there, get to play in there in a stadium like that. I got to see the doors open and the SKOL Chant, and I was like, 'Man, these are some crazy things happening right now.' I'm thankful because this stuff is not easy. We might make it look easy, but it's hard to get here. I'm thankful for still being able to be here."

So while Brothers is incredibly grateful for all the places that football has taken him, he still loves to reminisce about the glow on Friday nights after going from fullback to halfback to receiver to defensive end before becoming a linebacker.



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"That's something I miss every day, those Friday night lights," Brothers said. "You don't really think about it when you're in high school, but you get here and you miss those days."

Brothers said he enjoys working with youth of all ages and would like to be a counselor/coach when he wraps his playing career.

"I like making them smile, I like making them happy, so anything I can do to work with kids once I am done with football, I would be glad to do," Brothers said.

WE CAUGHT UP WITH BROTHERS FOR A TIMEOUT

Q: How did the new special teams rules on kickoffs affect you last year?

A: "At first, they were kind of difficult to, not really understand, but just get used to. You get used to doing things a certain way for two years and being really successful with it and then turn around and switch it up. But they're trying to keep the game safe, which I understand completely. A lot of injuries can happen, and you've seen some really bad ones that people don't make the best recoveries from, so I respect the decision to keep players safe. It's on us to get used to them."

Q: You also played high school basketball and tennis. There's usually not much overlap between tennis and football. What drew you to tennis?

A: "I liked playing ping pong and had a lot of friends who played tennis. I was also out of football and wanted to play another sport. I was thinking about track, but I wasn't fast enough, and I also didn't think I would be very good at it. [Tennis] was fun. I played in a couple of tournaments. I only played one season, but I learned a lot. Footwork is crazy, and serving is the hardest thing I think I've ever done in my life."

Q: Do you know more about *The Office* than anyone on the team?

A: "Definitely. I started *The Office* in November of 2017, and I don't think I go two days without watching at least one episode. I might have watched every episode at least 50 times."

Q: Do you have a favorite episode or character?

A: "Dwight. It would be Michael Scott, before he left, but after that, it's definitely Dwight. My favorite episode is probably the CPR episode. That's hands-down the funniest thing. It's so random; the most random things happen and make me laugh."

Q: If you could award yourself or a teammate a Dundie Award, what would you pass out?

A: "Probably give it to [Eric Kendricks] for best hair. I still don't understand how he doesn't have a Head & Shoulders sponsorship. He actually cut it a little bit. It looks nice now. I would probably give Jayron [Kearse] the Whitest Shoes like they gave Pam."

Q: Do any teammates compare to characters in the show?

A: "I would say Jim would be [Anthony Barr], just for the sarcasm. I would call myself Michael Scott, just because I'm random with all of the things that I say. Dwight, I don't know if there would be a Dwight. There's not a Creed, definitely not a Creed. Ben [Gedeon] is probably mad at me, but sometimes I feel like Ben and Kevin are similar. I don't know why. Sometimes I feel that way. I told him that, too, but Kevin is one of my favorite characters."

Q: Have you and Kirk Cousins bonded over your love for the show?

A: "He overheard me talking about it one day, and I found out that he watched it all of the time, so we would take quizzes on his phone, talk about episodes and look at clips. I tried to get [Kendricks and Barr] to watch it. Ben [Gedeon] loves it."



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TIGHT END

KYLE RUDOLPH



DOWN HOME UP NORTH ↗

BY LINDSEY YOUNG

KYLE RUDOLPH SPOTTED THE SPIRAL FIRST AND WENT UP ABOVE THE CROWD IN THE END ZONE.

The 44-yard Hail Mary grab by Rudolph, thrown by Kirk Cousins all the way from the Minnesota 45-yard line, helped the Vikings take a 14-9 lead at halftime and ultimately defeat Detroit 27-9.

"It was like when I turned, the ball was on its way down," Rudolph recalled. "It's kind of a scrum in that situation, and I was able to turn and just use my big body, jump as high as I could and catch it."

Earlier that game, Minnesota's offense had gotten off to a slow start and held little-to-no momentum after four consecutive three-and-outs. The Vikings trailed by 9, but Rudolph pointed out that if they could put points on the board (and knowing they would have the ball to start the second half), back-to-back scores would take back the lead.

The Vikings did that and then some. After a Stefon Diggs touchdown inside the 2-minute warning, Minnesota forced Detroit to punt and had 36 seconds to make something happen.

"YOU CAN'T LOSE SIGHT OF THE FLOW OF A GAME. THERE'S GOING TO BE UPS AND DOWNS, AND SOMETIMES IT STARTS DOWN BEFORE IT GETS UP."

- KYLE RUDOLPH

Thanks to the heave by Cousins and "rebound" by Rudolph, the Vikings got on a roll and never slowed.

"Points can happen so quickly in this league," he said of encouraging his teammates to keep at it. "You can't lose sight of the flow of a game. There's going to be ups and downs, and sometimes it starts down before it gets up."

Rudolph's experiences in the NFL have enabled him to keep a level head in a variety of game situations over the years. He's been part of a 3-13 team as a rookie and a 13-3 squad that began 2017 with a 2-2 mark through four games.

There was some external speculation about his future with the Vikings this offseason, but the tight end signed a multiyear extension in June. Fans from all over reached out to Rudolph after he inked his new deal. From social



**"IT'S BEEN REALLY FUN
FOR ME TO SEE THEM GROW UP
AROUND THIS ORGANIZATION."**



- KYLE RUDOLPH

media messages to random run-ins and planned player events, he felt "overwhelming support" from across Minnesota.

He recalled an appearance at Twin Cities Orthopedics Performance Center in which he and Vikings Head Coach Mike Zimmer signed autographs and hosted a Q&A for fans.

"The first 'question' was just a statement telling Coach Zimmer they were glad that he kept me," Rudolph said.

For the 29-year-old, the showing of love from fans validated his philosophy of "doing things the right way" on and off the field. He explained:

"On the field, I take pride in, no matter what my assignment is, whether it's glamorous or not, trying to execute it so that the 10 other guys on offense always know, 'We don't have to worry about Rudy. His assignment's going to be taken care of.'"

BUILDING MEMORIES

Away from the gridiron, Rudolph is thrilled to be calling Minnesota "home" for good.

Kyle and his wife, Jordan, have welcomed three children – twin daughters, Andersyn and Finley, and son, Henry – here. The family is deeply connected to the University of Minnesota Masonic Children's Hospital, in which they opened Kyle Rudolph's End Zone as a space of respite for young patients and their families.

And on July 30, the Rudolph family broke

ground on a forever home that will keep them embedded in the community.

Kyle and the three kids took turns posing for photos in the front seat of the large, yellow excavator, and Jordan operated the machine and actually moved the first chunk of soil.

Rudolph explained that he purchased the land a year ago, before his future with the Vikings was "necessarily certain."

"No matter where football was to take me, we want to come back here. We want our kids to grow up here," Rudolph said. "Now having broken ground, you start to see that future come to life."

After a Vikings training camp practice this summer, Rudolph laughed as the twins took turns lugging his heavy purple helmet and trying on his yellow gloves. Henry sat in the grass nearby, taking it all in.

A few days later, the family stood on the field of TCO Stadium after the annual night practice and watched fireworks sparkle across the sky. Rudolph stood and held Finley, who wore a custom 82 shirt with a purple-and-gold DADDY in place of a nameplate.

Family moments at the facility are fatherhood favorites for Rudolph.

He smiled and reflected on watching Henry experience his first visit to TCO Performance Center and the girls' innocent excitement about Viktor the Viking and endless Gatorade at "Daddy's football camp."

"It's been really fun for me to see them grow up around this organization," Rudolph said.

MAKE-A-PLAY MENTALITY

The Vikings win at Detroit was longtime assistant coach Kevin Stefanski's second game as interim offensive coordinator.

Now heading into the 2019 campaign, Rudolph is excited for Stefanski to continue calling the plays.

Rudolph recalled first meeting Stefanski in 2011, who at the time served as the Vikings assistant quarterbacks coach, and realizing early on he was a "really, really sharp offensive mind."

In 2014, Stefanski began a two-season stint as the tight ends coach and worked directly with Rudolph.

"A guy that played safety in college, that had never played the tight end position before ... he didn't try to coach us or teach us like he knew what playing the position was like," Rudolph said. "Instead, he always prepared us so well mentally that we could just let our athleticism and our intuition of playing the position take over."

Stefanski has led three different position groups under the direction of six different offensive coordinators. Add the influence this year of Assistant Head Coach/Offensive Advisor Gary Kubiak, and it's seven.

But as his coaching prowess his increased, his ego hasn't.

"I feel like most first-time coordinators would [say], 'Now I'm the coordinator, and we're going to do things my way. I finally earned the way to do things my way.' And



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that couldn't be more opposite of Kevin," Rudolph said. "He just wants to put us in situations to be successful. If that means taking something from the Pat Shurmur offense, great. If that's something that Coach Kubiak's been doing for the last 18 years, great. If that's something that Kirk's comfortable doing, great."

It's no secret that the Vikings 2019 offense plans to be "more multiple," as Stefanski puts it.

It's likely that fans will see the use of heavier personnel groupings, which would certainly benefit Rudolph. But it's more than the potential of 12 personnel that has him geared up for Season No. 9.

"The thing that excites me most about this offense is utilizing everyone," Rudolph said.

"With the talent that we have on offense – when we utilize both receivers, the tight end, the running back – who are you going to defend? It's not possible to defend everyone.

"Everybody knows we've got to get back to running the football, and once we run the football and we have our whole playbook open, you can't defend it," he continued.

"There are just too many guys that can make a play on any given down. That's what excites me most."

In addition to helping bolster the ground game, Rudolph also hopes to continue making plays through the air – although not necessarily via Hail Marys.

Cousins' trust in Rudolph has grown, and the quarterback acknowledged this summer that he wishes he would have given him more opportunities last season.

"I think our comfort level has come from playing together for a whole year," Rudolph said. "People don't realize that I didn't practice a whole lot last season coming off ankle surgery. ... I took a few reps in the spring but really didn't get going until training camp."

"Your first year [with a team] as a quarterback, you kind of get comfortable

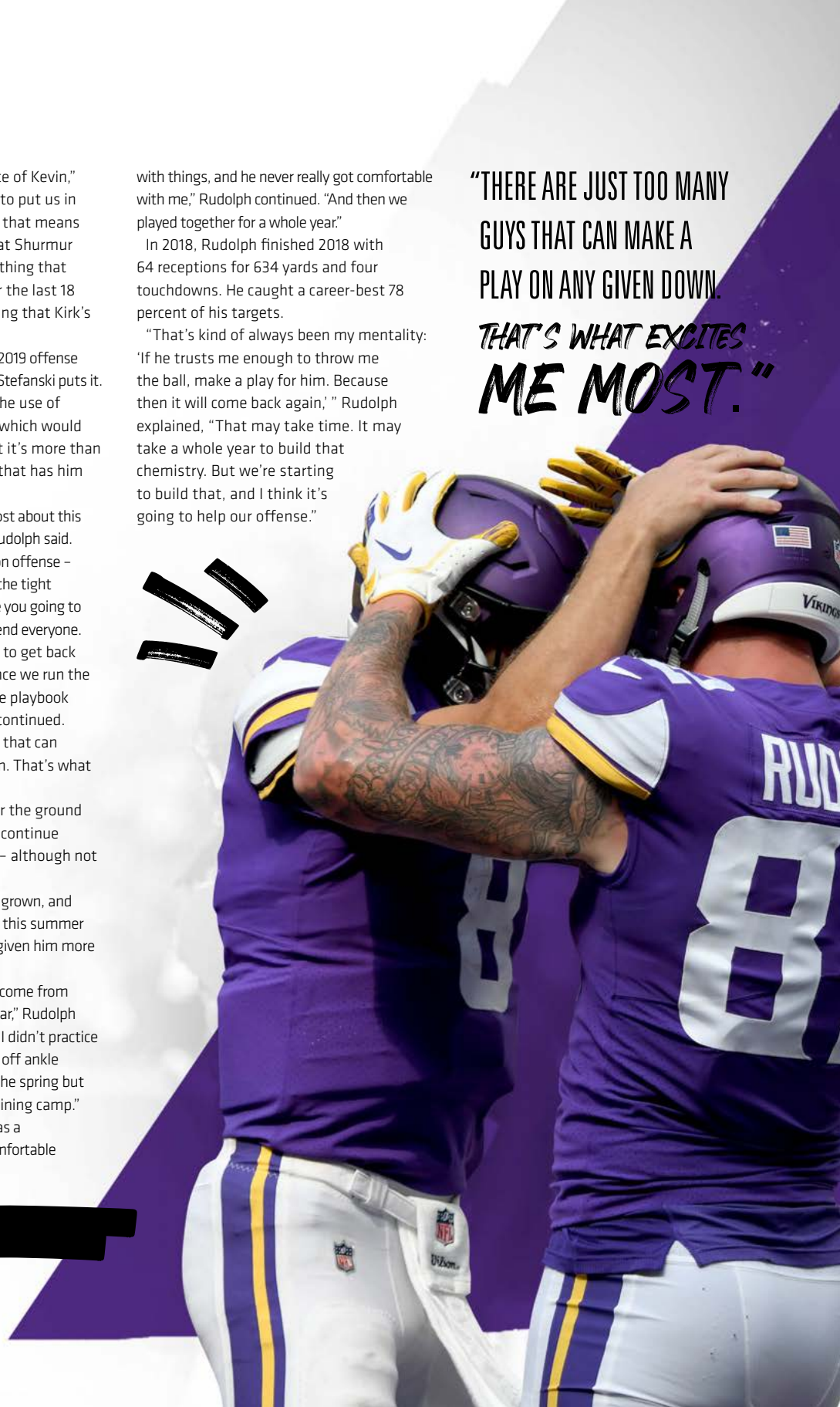
with things, and he never really got comfortable with me," Rudolph continued. "And then we played together for a whole year."

In 2018, Rudolph finished 2018 with 64 receptions for 634 yards and four touchdowns. He caught a career-best 78 percent of his targets.

"That's kind of always been my mentality: 'If he trusts me enough to throw me the ball, make a play for him. Because then it will come back again,'" Rudolph explained, "That may take time. It may take a whole year to build that chemistry. But we're starting to build that, and I think it's going to help our offense."

"THERE ARE JUST TOO MANY GUYS THAT CAN MAKE A PLAY ON ANY GIVEN DOWN.

THAT'S WHAT EXCITES ME MOST."



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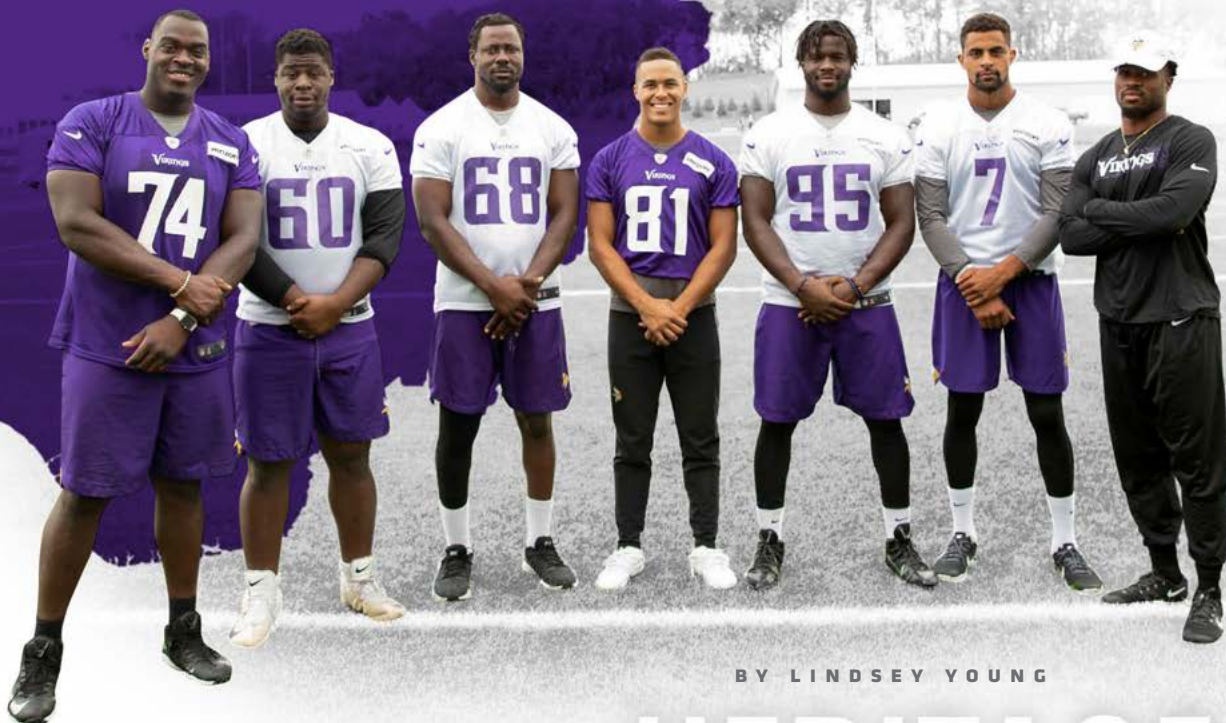
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BY LINDSEY YOUNG

SHARED HERITAGE

7 VIKINGS CONNECT THROUGH CULTURE AND CUSTOMS

WHEN ADE ARUNA WALKS THROUGH THE EXPANSE OF THE VIKINGS LOCKER ROOM, HE SCANS THE PURPLE NAMEPLATES MOUNTED ABOVE LOCKERS AND BREATHE EASY.

THIS IS COMFORTABLE.

Ade moved from Nigeria to the United States at the age of 16, making the international journey by himself. He has no immediate family here in Minnesota, yet it's come to feel like home.

And while it's fair to say that the Vikings roster is a family all its own, six individual nameplates particularly catch Ade's eyes – and his heart.

Counting Ade, seven players of Nigerian heritage are on Minnesota's 90-man roster. He is joined by draft picks Bisi Johnson and Olisaemeka Udoh, Bené Benwikere, Kaare Vedvik, and brothers Ifeadi and Tito Odenigbo.

"Just seeing their names when I walk across

the locker room, it kind of gives me peace of my mind, like I'm home," Ade said. "I don't feel like the odd man out."

Bené, whose father emigrated from Nigeria to attend college in the States, appreciates the connection he's felt with players around the league who share his heritage. The veteran has spent time with several teams and referred to an "open arms" experience, no matter the locker room.

"You go in and it's like, 'Oh, you're Nigerian?' It's almost like you get a hug, pretty much, like 'I got you,'" Bené explained. "It's almost like, I guess, a little fraternity. So that's been something that's been pretty cool from team to team."

TITO AND IFEADI ARE
BOTH PART OF THE
DEFENSIVE LINE.



Kaare, who signed with Minnesota on Aug. 11, shared a similar experience.

"I walked in here, and the first two people who come up to me are Nigerian – Ade and Ife (Ifeadi)," he said. "And Bisi gave me a ride [to work]. I think that's pretty cool.

"It's just funny to see how their journeys have gone, how my journey has gone and how we all ended up in the same place," Kaare added.

Ade often fields questions about Nigeria from the other six, who appreciate learning more about their heritage and culture.

"We talk and just relate with each other since we have the same roots," he added. "Even though they weren't born there, I still see them as my brothers."

BACK & FORTH BETWEEN CULTURES

Ask the teammates, and they will tell you that challenges and advantages alike come with "straddling cultures," per se.

Bisi grew up in Colorado and noticed many differences between the families of his father, who is Nigerian, and his mother, an Iowa native. Even daily meals reflected the stark contrast between cultures.

"I would go to my dad's house and have a bunch of Nigerian food. And then I would go to my mom's and have Iowa pea salad," Bisi said with a laugh. "She's really big on that."

Childhood friends couldn't understand his Nigerian family members who spoke in thick accents, and he remembers realizing that it hadn't been a natural part of their upbringing the way it was his.

For Tito, attending school in Dayton, Ohio, was like "going back and forth" between cultures.

"You're not fully Nigerian ... and you know that very quickly," he said. "But you're not fully American. We have a little bit of an accent, too, and we're clearly so much darker than anyone else.

"We knew that we were kind of different," Tito added. "It's just something that we've always noticed and had to adapt to quickly."

Several players spoke of realizing at a young age that their parents were much more serious and stricter – a common thread for Nigerian households – than, in general, those of their friends.

LIFE LESSONS

From housework to homework, the bar was set high for all seven. But by and large, the rigid upbringings have been not only respected but appreciated.

Kaare is grateful for his father's "life lessons," understanding that the teaching is based on personal experience and motivated wholly by love.

"He's trying to help us move ahead and to not make the same mistakes that he saw in his own life. He grew up in a harsher reality than I did," Kaare explained of his father, who was raised along with seven siblings by his grandmother. "He had it tough. A lot of it

was, 'Everything you do, you have to fight to survive. You find a way for yourself – there's nobody holding your hand.' "

Now living 4,000 miles away from his family, Kaare often finds himself revisiting fatherly advice and encouragement he's received over the years.

"When he talks, we have to listen," Kaare said. "It's helped me, throughout when I was pretty much on the sideline for a whole year [in Baltimore]. Certain things that my dad talked about, that's when you apply those things. It keeps you pushing ahead. ... If anything's going to defeat you, it's not you. You have to have your own back."

Ifeadi added that he doesn't take his unique background for granted, and he prides himself on the work ethic his parents ingrained in him from a young age.

"I grew up in a household where it's kind of the norm to work hard, and you didn't always get that validation," he explained. "At the end of the day ... you're working hard because it feels good to work hard."

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PURPLE Pups

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MEMORIAL HEALTH

When **Vikki Zimmer** took her children to pick out a puppy in 2003, the decision proved harder than expected.

Only two wiggling puppies remained in the litter when the group of four arrived to choose Vikki's Christmas present.

"Me and Corri wanted one of them, my sister Marki wanted the other, and my mom said, 'I can't leave [either one];' " recalled Vikings linebackers coach Adam Zimmer. "So we came home, and my dad said, 'I said you could get a Lab, not two.' But we ended up with the two girls."

It didn't take long, however, for Mike Zimmer to warm up to the pair of dogs that his wife named Andee and Allee. Adam still smiles over the unique spelling that Vikki chose.

Mike Zimmer has previously owned Labs trained to be hunting dogs, but Andee and Allee weren't part of that club.

"These were my mom's pets and babies," Adam said. "So, they were really very spoiled and pampered, for lack of a better word."

The Labs lived with the Zimmers until 2008, when Mike Zimmer accepted the Bengals defensive coordinator position and he and Vikki moved into a Cincinnati apartment. Adam at that point worked as the Saints assistant linebackers coach and had a home – and backyard – in New Orleans, so Andee and



ANDEE & ALLEE

BREED:

CHOCOLATE LABS

SISTER SISTER:

LAST 2 PUPPIES OF
THEIR LITTER

UPTOWN GIRLS:

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BOTH VERY SMART

2019 PRESEASON

COACH ADAM ZIMMER

BY LINDSEY YOUNG

"These were my
mom's pets and
babies... She raised
them and trained
them, so a part of
her is still here, and
that's kind of neat."

—ADAM ZIMMER ON
ALLEE AND ANDEE

Allee moved in with him.

And when Vikki tragically passed away in 2009, the pups that she loved held an even greater place in the family's heart.

"She raised them and trained them, so a part of her is still here, and that's kind of neat," Adam said, a hint of emotion cracking his voice.

Now 16 years old, Andee and Allee remain loyal companions to each other and to Adam.

What once was sleek, brown fur has turned mostly white around their muzzles and eyes. Joints now stiffen quickly, and energetic runs have become slow, methodical walks through Adam's Uptown apartment building, where neighbors say hello.

But the inner puppy in both hasn't disappeared, their spunky spirits and affectionate personalities still very evident beneath the age.

Adam describes Andee and Allee as "loving, pleasing" dogs with a knack for know-how.

"They want to do whatever you want them to. And they're really smart, extremely smart dogs," Adam said. "We were living in this apartment for probably two weeks, and by

that time they knew where they were going – I could let them off the leash, and they could go right to my door.

"They love to swim," Adam adds of the well-traveled canines. "Allee, when she was younger, you couldn't keep her out of our pool in Texas. She would jump in over and over again, and she wouldn't stop unless you made her stop."

Up until a short time ago, they still enjoyed playing together in the cool waters of Bde Maka Ska, where a little competition floated to the surface.

"Everyone thinks it's really funny when they go swimming together and chase a stick," Adam said. "They will not let the other one bring it back by herself, so they're swimming along in the water, one end of the stick is one dog's mouth, and the other end is in the other's, and they're fighting each other for it. It's pretty funny."

While they share many of the same qualities, the sisters' personalities also differ in some areas.

"Allee was always the sneaky one. She would sneak and try to find food or get into the trash," Adam said, laughing. "Andee was always more of the one who did what she was supposed to – most of the time. Every once in a while, if I leave some trash around or if it's open, she'll be eating something."

Andee craves more attention and human contact; Allee has an independent streak.

"They're different ... but they mesh together pretty well," Adam said.

On a large cushion that perfectly fits into a square of sunshine near the window, Andee and Allee can often be found intertwined together, difficult to tell where one dog ends and the other begins.

"They're good companions for each other when I'm working," Adam said. "I have a dog walker during the [NFL] season that comes twice a day, and there's a nice little dog park here that the apartment built."

"If they were younger and more rambunctious, I think a yard could be better, but they pretty much eat and sleep now," he added with a laugh.



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VIKINGS AND MARK ROSEN

PARTNER ON NEW CONTENT INITIATIVES

The Minnesota Vikings and Minnesota Hall of Fame broadcaster Mark Rosen are teaming up this season to create exclusive programming.

Rosen and the Vikings Entertainment Network will bring fans behind-the-scenes content through two weekly multimedia series – *Under Center with Kirk Cousins* and *Skol Stories*.

Additionally, Halftime Update will feature Rosen in a new in-stadium segment for fans attending Vikings home games.

“I’m thrilled to partner with the Vikings to bring fans quality, behind-the-scenes stories and to be involved in the game-day atmosphere at U.S. Bank Stadium,” Rosen said. “The Vikings have a vision of generating content that can’t be found anywhere else, and I can’t wait to be a part of that. I’m very excited to sit down with Kirk Cousins each week during the season and welcome the fans into our conversations.”

Rosen, a long-time sports broadcaster at WCCO-TV, retired from television in January 2019 after 50 years at the station.

Over the course of his career, he was front and center for monumental sports moments, including the “Miracle on Ice” in the 1980 Olympics, the 1987 and 1991 World Series titles claimed by the Minnesota Twins, the introduction of the Minnesota Timberwolves and the “Minneapolis Miracle” in the NFC Divisional Playoffs after the 2017 NFL season. At the time of his retirement, Rosen was the longest-tenured sports broadcaster in any major U.S. market.

“Mark has a passion for storytelling that aligns with our goal of producing valuable content and experiences for Vikings fans,” said Vikings Vice President of Content & Production Bryan Harper. “His impressive career, along with his credibility in the market and extensive knowledge of the team, made this a natural partnership.”



UNDER CENTER WITH KIRK COUSINS

Vikings quarterback Kirk Cousins will team up with Rosen to deliver unique content via a weekly 60-minute series featuring current Vikings players, prominent Minnesotans and guests with personal connections to Cousins. Other segments will focus on game reactions with sound from press conferences, the locker room, game highlights and NFL Network. Cousins and Rosen will also answer fan questions and voicemails on a regular basis. The series will feature both video and audio components and will be available across multiple platforms.

Tune-in: KFAN-FM 100.3

Hosts: Kirk Cousins and Mark Rosen

Time: 6-7 p.m. on Tuesdays (first episode to air Tuesday, Sept. 3)

Vikings Platforms: Vikings.com, Vikings App, Vikings Now Connected TV App and YouTube

Audio Podcast: KFAN iHeart Radio App, Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, Spotify, etc.

SKOL STORIES

A program as momentous as Rosen’s career, the broadcaster will use his decades of connections to the Vikings organization to tell the stories of Vikings Legends. Co-hosted by Vikings.com’s Mike Wobschall, the 30-minute weekly audio broadcast will voyage through Vikings history.

Tune-in: KFAN-FM 100.3

Hosts: Mark Rosen and Mike Wobschall

Time: 6:30-7 p.m. on Thursdays (first episode to air Thursday, Sept. 5)

Vikings Platforms: Vikings.com, Vikings App

Audio Podcast: KFAN iHeart Radio App, Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, Spotify, etc.

“MARK HAS A PASSION FOR STORYTELLING THAT ALIGNS WITH OUR GOAL OF PRODUCING VALUABLE CONTENT AND EXPERIENCES FOR VIKINGS FANS.”

- BRYAN HARPER

HALFTIME UPDATE

Designed to deliver expanded broadcast-style football analysis to the in-stadium audience, the live Halftime Update will highlight key storylines from the Vikings first half and touch on pertinent updates and scores from around the NFL. Rosen will team with a guest analyst to present the segment, which will serve as a companion piece to the live entertainment taking place during each halftime at U.S. Bank Stadium.

Tune-in: U.S. Bank Stadium, KFAN-FM 100.3

Host: Mark Rosen

Time: Halftime of Vikings Home Games

Get to know Dani

HOMETOWN: APPLE VALLEY, MN

OCCUPATION: COMMERCIAL
CONSTRUCTION COST CONSULTANT
AND PROJECT ENGINEER



FAVORITE APPEARANCE?

My favorite appearance was being a part of the 2019 MN Football Honors Awards Ceremony. It was inspiring to see high school athletes being recognized for their outstanding character.

FAVORITE GAME-DAY HIGHLIGHT?

My best experience as an MVC was the first home game where the National Anthem was accompanied by a full-field American flag. As I stood facing the field and watched the red-and-white stripes wave, I felt an overwhelming feeling of pride. In that moment, I could not help but be so grateful for the opportunities I have been given in my life and truly valued the mantra of living in the moment.

« CHECK OUT DANI IN THIS YEAR'S CALENDAR OR ON THE VIKINGS APP

GET YOUR 2019-2020 VIKINGS CHEERLEADER CALENDAR FEATURING ALL 33 CHEERLEADERS AT TODAY'S GAME OR ONLINE AT VIKINGSLOCKERROOM.COM. FOR EXCLUSIVE VIKINGS CHEER PHOTOS, DOWNLOAD THE OFFICIAL VIKINGS APP BY GOING TO MNVKN.GS/APPDOWNLOAD ON ANY DEVICE.



VIKTOR'S

MASCOT GAME PLAYBOOK

Viktor has all of his friends in town for the Mascots vs. Peewees Football Game, and he needs your help drawing up plays! Draw your most creative play, snap a picture of it and tag @ViktorthViking on social media, and you might see the mascots run your play at halftime!



50

X X

X X

X X X X X X X



FREDDIE
FALCON



PK



PROWL



GOLDY
GOPHER



SWOOP



SOURDOUGH
SAM

40



STOMPER



VIKTOR THE
VIKING



MILES

30

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The Minnesota Vikings Kids Club offers the younger generation of Vikings fans a unique opportunity to engage with their favorite team.

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The Vikings Kids Club also offers members exclusive opportunities to meet players on the field at Verizon Vikings Training Camp, as well as special Kids Club events held throughout the year at TCO Performance Center and U.S. Bank Stadium. Each month, one lucky member receives an autographed item, and all members receive an e-newsletter with games, event information and special player and member features.

Join the Kids Club today by
emailing kidsclub@vikings.nfl.net
or visit vikings.com/kidsclub



TEAM UP TO

GIVE BACK

BY LINDSEY YOUNG

VIKINGS PLAYERS SWAPPED THEIR HELMETS FOR HAIRNETS THIS SPRING.

Following an Organized Team Activity practice, the entire team – in addition to coaches and training staff – loaded buses at Twin Cities Orthopedics Performance Center and traveled to the Southside Village Boys & Girls Club.

There, they joined 80 students from the Richard R. Green Central Park Elementary School. The students, who were selected for the experience based on attendance, behavior and academic excellence, were divided into stations with Vikings players and coaches, where they packed food as part of the Feeding Children Everywhere program.

Vikings cornerback Xavier Rhodes represented Boys & Girls Clubs during the team's "My Cause, My Cleats" game last season and was excited once again connect

with local youth.

"It's great just being here and doing this event with the kids, seeing them smile and have fun, and helping to feed the [community]," Rhodes said.

Rhodes, his teammates and coaches, and the young people worked quickly to sort, scoop, seal and package 35,000 meals in just under an hour.

A large portion of those meals will benefit Boys & Girls Clubs across the Twin Cities, while the additional meals will be distributed to Twin Cities families with the help of Second Harvest Heartland and other community partners that focus on food insecurity.

Teammates hollered challenges to one another across the gymnasium, motivating an even faster pace. Even Vikings Head

Coach Mike Zimmer got in on the fun, joking that he had his table moving the most efficiently.

"It's really fun for us to get a chance to interact with the community and be able to come and give back," Zimmer said during a brief break in the action. "And quite honestly, it's good bonding for us. Each table has its own competition with one another."

Zimmer said he is proud of the community-centric culture that the Vikings organization has fostered.

"A lot of it has to do with the players we bring in," he added. "[Vikings General Manager Rick Spielman] and myself are very specific about the types of guys we want to have here, and I think it just kind of shows with off-the-field activities, as well."

Vikings quarterback Kirk Cousins also enjoyed the afternoon of calling out food items rather than play calls.

Cousins said he especially values initiatives that involve personal interaction.

"[My favorite charity efforts will] always be face-to-face with people," Cousins said. "When you're able to hear stories of how giving your time and resources has made a difference, it really does touch your heart."

Prior to the team's arrival, Vikings staff members – along with U.S. Bank employees and members of HandsOn Twin Cities – spent the morning onsite working on various projects.

From organizing and cleaning the attic, to deep-cleaning the kitchen and bathrooms and repainting numerous rooms, to creating artwork to place throughout the facility, it was all hands on deck.



THE TEAM UP TO GIVE BACK EVENT WAS PART OF THE NFL'S HUDDLE FOR 100, A LEAGUEWIDE PHILANTHROPIC INITIATIVE THAT IS ACCOMPANYING THE CELEBRATION OF THE 100TH NFL SEASON. AS PART OF THIS INITIATIVE, THE NFL HAS SET A GOAL OF FANS ACROSS THE COUNTRY DONATING 100 MILLION MINUTES OF THEIR TIME TO MAKE AN IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY. VIKINGS FANS, STAFF AND U.S. BANK EMPLOYEES TEAMED TOGETHER TO HAVE THE MOST MINUTES OF ANY NFL TEAM IN JULY WITH A WHOPPING 870,800 TOTAL VOLUNTEER MINUTES TO WIN A \$5,000 GRANT THAT WILL BENEFIT THE COMMUNITY.

LEARN MORE

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MINNESOTA VIKINGS FOUNDATION

BY CRAIG PETERS

The Minnesota Vikings Foundation advances the well-being of youth through engaging health and education initiatives. We enlist the support of the Vikings players, staff, fans and community to help make a measurable impact in the lives of youth in our community who need it most.

GAME-DAY AUCTIONS

There are multiple ways to support the Minnesota Vikings Foundation, including through participating in gameday auctions.

You can bid on unique memorabilia and unforgettable experiences every home game. Use bidpal.net/vikings2019 to register. Bidders do not need to be present to win.

Go to vikings.com/foundation to learn more about our commitment to this community.



VIKINGS TABLE

Vikings Table, a custom-built food truck, serves healthy meals and provides nutritional education to youth across the Greater Twin Cities. Vikings Table funds its programming through selling meals and catering events. Check out the truck on The Commons on game days. Email: contact@vikingstable.com; Twitter @VikingsTable

This week, Vikings Table partnered with YouthLink to provide meals to youth in need. The group loved the turkey tacos served in blue corn tortillas and learning more about the importance of nutrition.



COMMUNITY PARTNER OF THE GAME

Thank you for your support of Tackle Cancer! The Minnesota Football Coaches Association is proud to be partnered with the Randy Shaver Cancer Research and Community Fund on this important initiative. Help us achieve our fundraising goals in 2019. Visit randyshavercancerfund.org/events/tackle-cancer for more information.



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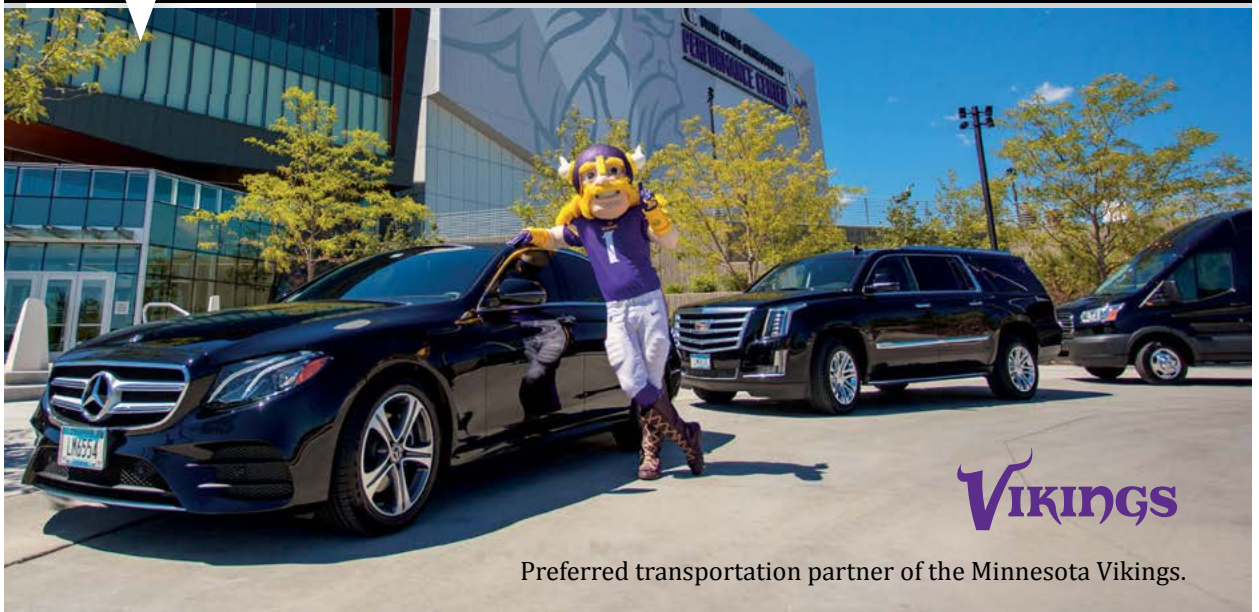
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SKOL SERVICE

SPOTLIGHT ON GENETHER THORNTON

GENETHER THORNTON

WAS A SUPERSTAR working for Whelan Event Staffing Services at Verizon Vikings Training Camp.

"This is my first year that I have worked training camp, but it is definitely not my last," Genether said, adding that her favorite part about the experience was interacting with a lot of different people and seeing how positive and engaged fans were at Twin Cities Orthopedics Performance Center.

HAVE YOU WITNESSED

A SKOL SERVICE TEAM

MEMBER GOING ABOVE

AND BEYOND?

E-MAIL YOUR STORY TO

GUESTSERVICES@VIKINGS.NFL.NET



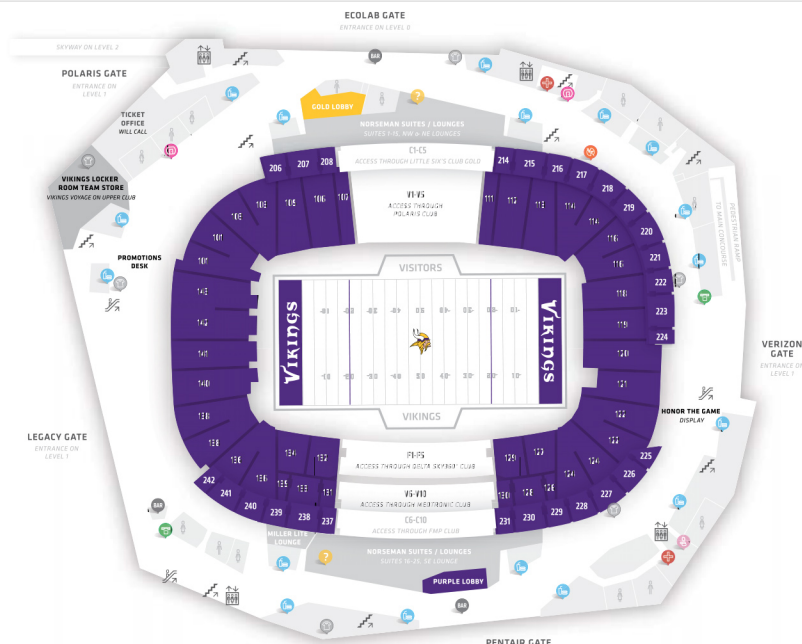
Genether explained a memorable moment from training camp, when Stefon Diggs took the time to autograph one of his gloves and gave it to a fan.

"The fan he gave the glove to was a little boy, and he left camp that day glowing and beyond excited," Genether said. "That's what it's all about!"

When she is not working, Genether is often hanging out with her 13 grandchildren or walking her Australian Shepherd. She also

loves to discover new restaurants, movies and online games.

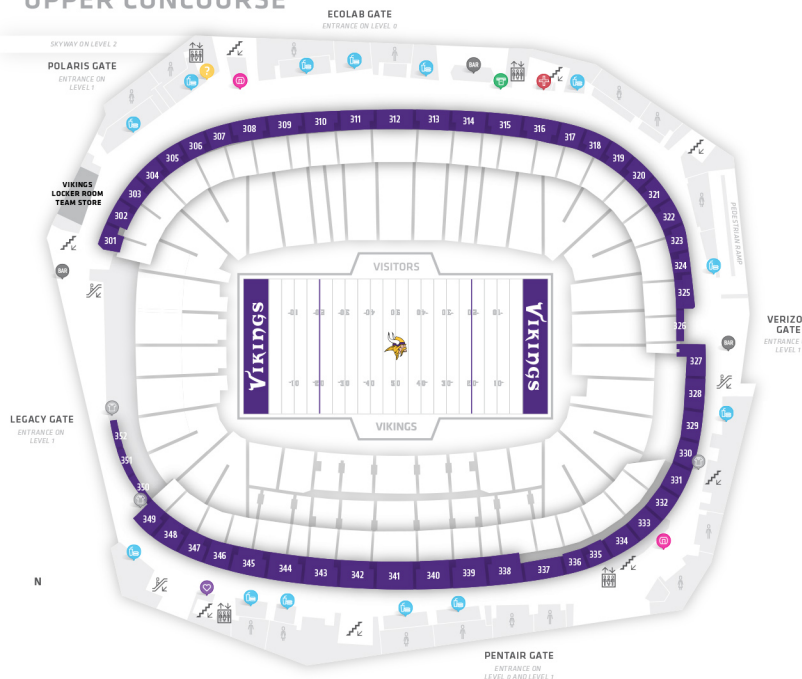
Genether enjoyed adding camp to her role on game days at U.S. Bank Stadium, where she works to provide fans with a safe and positive experience. If you spot her, make sure to give her a high-five and say hello. Thank you, Genether, for your help in keeping fans safe and engaged. We appreciate all of your hard work!



STADIUM KEY

- CONCESSIONS
- U.S. BANK ATMS
- GUEST SERVICES
- VIKINGS REWARDS
- 3M FIRST AID STATIONS
- NORTH MEMORIAL MAMAVA LACTATION SUITE
- MOTHERS NURSING ROOM
- 3M SENSORY ROOM
- MERCHANDISE STAND
- STAIRS
- ELEVATOR
- ESCALATOR

UPPER CONCOURSE



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- LITTLE SIX'S CLUB GOLD
- MYSTIC LAKE'S CLUB PURPLE
- NORTSEMAN SUITES 1-15
- NW/NE NORTSEMAN LOUNGES
- LOFT SUITES 1-27
- TRUSS BAR
- CENTURYLINK LODGE
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- NORTSEMAN SUITES 16-27
- SE NORTSEMAN SUITES
- LOFT SUITES 28-46
- MILLER LITE LOUNGE



HAVE QUESTIONS?

USE THE PHOTO APP ON YOUR SMART PHONE TO SCAN & ASK A QUESTION.

CONCESSIONS | U.S. BANK STADIUM

FAVORITES

BUBBLE WAFFLE

111, Upper Concourse Legacy Gate

CHEESE CURDS

114, 129, 143

DIPPIN DOTS

129, 307

MAC & CHEESE

108, 111, 116, 310

MINI DONUTS

111, 318

NACHOS

105, 106, 112, 113, 117, 122, 130, 131, 310, 311, 317, 341, 344, 349, Endzone Grill West Endzone

PIZZA

114, 134, 307

FOOD

BRISKET SANDWICHES

324

CHEESEBURGERS

103, 106, 112, 118, 124, 130, 131, 132, 304, 313, 328, 339, 345, Endzone Grill West Endzone

CHICKEN TENDERS

103, 118, 124, 129, 132, 143, 304, 313, 328

CUBAN SANDWICHES

324

FRENCH FRIES

103, 106, 112, 118, 124, 129, 130, 131, 132, 304, 313, 328, 345

FRIED CHICKEN

111

GRILLED CHEESE

108

HOT DOGS

103, 105, 106, 111, 112, 113, 114, 118, 124, 129, 130, 131, 132, 143, 304, 311, 313, 317, 328, 336, 341, 345, 349, Endzone Grill West Endzone

BRATS

103, 106, 112, 118, 124, 130, 131, 132, 304, 311, 313, 317, 328, 336, 341, 345, 349, Endzone Grill West Endzone

PEANUTS

All concession stands & portables

POPCORN

105, 113, 122, 124, 304, 311, 313, 328, 341, 349

PRETZELS

110, 114, 118, 124, 134, 307, 311, 341, 346, 349, Endzone Grill West Endzone

PULLED PORK SANDWICHES

121, 122, 324

SALAD/WRAPPS

124, 329

STEAK SANDWICHES

107, 325, 334

TACOS

105, 113, 122, 132, 310, Upper Concourse Legacy Gate

TATER TOT HOT DISH

118

WILD ROASTED TURKEY SANDWICHES

124, 329

WINGS

106, 112, 130, 131, 134, 347, Endzone Grill West Endzone

DESSERTS & TREATS

BOMBOLINI

121, 344

FROZEN HOT CHOCOLATE

121

A LA MODE ICE CREAM

124, 329

BEVERAGES

ALL CONCESSION STANDS & FOOD PORTABLES

Bottled Water, Bottled Soda

ALL CONCESSION STANDS

Fountain Soda, Gatorade, Draft Beer

ALL BEER PORTABLES

16oz Canned Beer

CRISPIN HARD CIDER

124, 329

HENRY'S HARD SPARKLING WATER

124, 318, 328

CRAFT BEER WALL & COCKTAILS ON TAP

101, 130

STANDS

1ST & FRY 129, 143

612 BURGER KITCHEN 339

AZ CANTEEN 344

AZ CANTEEN ROTISSERIE 121

MARKET BBQ 324

CARIBOU COFFEE 138

CURDS & CAKES 114

ENDZONE GRILL WEST

ENDZONE (Event Level)

MILL CITY CLASSICS 311, 317, 341, 349

MINNEAPOLIS COCKTAIL 101, 130

NORTH STAR GRILL 103, 118, 124, 132, 304, 313, 328, 345

REDZONE GRILL 106, 112, 130, 132

REVIVAL 111

RUSTY TACO 105, 113, 122, 310

FRESCETTA PIZZA 114, 134, 307

PORTABLE STANDS

THE KERNEL 103, 318

STEAK AND CHEESE 107

O'CHEEZE 108

AREPAS 131

M ARTISAN PRETZEL 110, 311, 346

BUBBLE WAFFLE 111, Upper Concourse Legacy Gate

MINI DONUTS 111, 318

GOURMET HOT DOG 111, 130 & West Endzone

MAC N CHEESE 116

NACHOS 117

IKE'S 119, 336

MARKET BBQ 122

BE GRACEFUL 124, 329

DIPPIN DOTS 129, 307

DORITOS WALKING TACO 132, Upper Concourse Legacy Gate

HERITAGE TEA HOUSE 134

AZ BRAT 317

LOLA'S 334

KRAMARCZUK'S 336

FONG'S CHINESE 347

BE GRACEFUL



A local minority-owned and operated business by Robert Grace, Be Graceful Café was founded in 2013 and has expanded its base catering business to include U.S. Bank Stadium. Be Graceful Café offers delicious gluten-free, vegan and vegetarian options along with gluten free beer and Henry's Hard Sparkling Water. You can find these healthy options, at Section 124 and 329.



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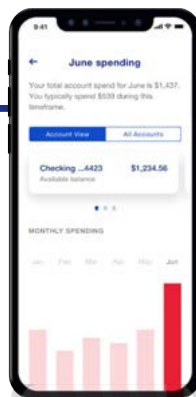


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