

12.08.2019

DANIELLE HUNTER

MY CAUSE MY CLEATS



AT



PLAYBOOK





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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"



ONE GALLON BAG
Clear plastic freezer bag



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VIKINGS AT SEAHAWKS

The Vikings fought hard in the fourth quarter but fell short against the Seahawks in a 37-30 loss in Week 13 on *Monday Night Football*.

A strong first half gave way to a trouble-filled third quarter that kept Minnesota from winning its third consecutive game.

01

Anthony Harris intercepted a Russell Wilson pass that was tipped at the line of scrimmage by rookie Armon Watts and batted by Wilson. Harris returned the football 20 yards for his first career pick-six.

02

Kyle Rudolph secured a 3-yard touchdown pass from Kirk Cousins with his left hand. It was Rudolph's fourth consecutive game with at least one score.

03

Stefon Diggs rushed for a career-long 27 yards on a sweep during Minnesota's first possession. The run set up a 2-yard rushing touchdown by Dalvin Cook.



01



02



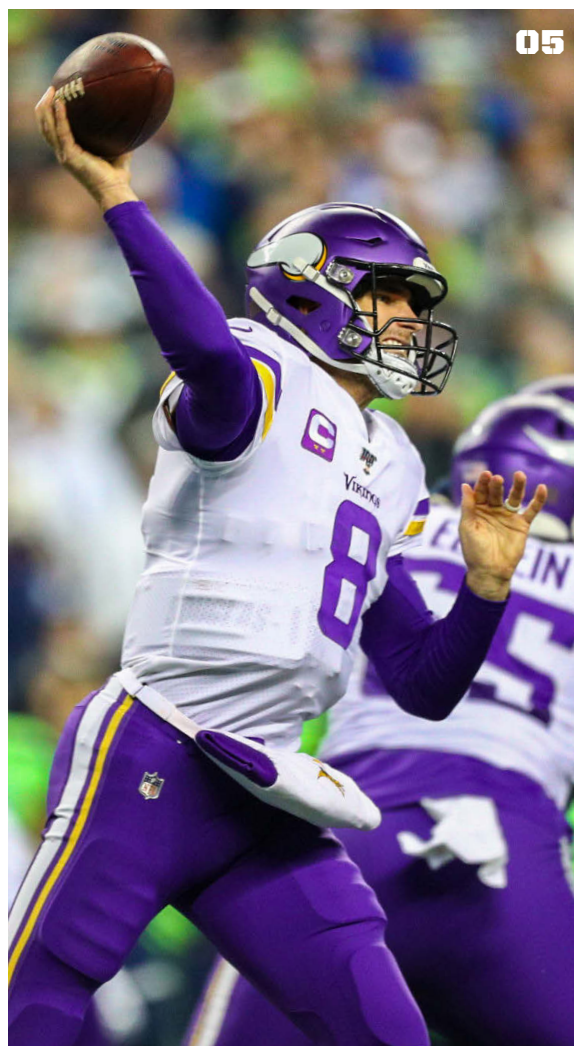
03

WANT MORE?

Check out 'Through the Lens' presented by Andersen Windows and Doors on vikings.com or follow Official Team Photographer Andy Kenutis @vikingsphotog on Instagram.



04



05



06

04 Ifeadi Odenigbo sacked Wilson for a loss of 13 yards in the fourth quarter. It was the fourth sack of the season for Odenigbo.

05 Cousins tried to rally an offense that was without Cook and left tackle Riley Reiff in the second half. He finished 22-of-38 passing for 276 yards with two scores and an interception on a deflection. The pick ended a franchise-record stretch of 202 consecutive attempts without an interception.

06 Laquon Treadwell found an opening in the defense, and Cousins connected with him on a 58-yard touchdown pass that gave Minnesota a spark in the fourth quarter.

WHETHER
IT'S YOUR FAVORITE
TEAM
OR YOUR FAVORITE CAR,
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Football fans understand the importance of having power when you need it. Your car battery isn't so different. Colder temps seriously compromise a battery's ability to start your car. To make sure you're not left out in the cold, get your battery tested at a shop near you or visit fvpparts.com. FVP - a brand of Factory Motor Parts. Power you can trust.



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Today's game is the 117th meeting between the Detroit Lions and Minnesota Vikings.

Minnesota holds a 75-39-2 edge, having recorded more wins against Detroit than any other opponent. The franchises have met twice each season, except in the strike-shortened 1982 campaign.

The Vikings are aiming for their fifth

consecutive win, a streak that began with a 30-23 victory by Minnesota on Thanksgiving Day in 2017.

Since then, the Vikings have outscored the Lions 93 to 48, which includes a 42-30 decision in the Motor City on Oct. 20. The teams have been on different trajectories since Week 5. Minnesota has claimed six victories in eight games, and Detroit has dropped seven of eight since its bye.

MY CAUSE MY CLEATS

For the third consecutive season, the NFL and Vikings are celebrating the My Cause My Cleats campaign, which allows players to wear custom cleats in support of causes and charities that have been selected by the players. A special ceremony during today's halftime will feature individuals that are representing the charities and causes that players are supporting through My Cause My Cleats.



**THE VIKINGS HAVE
57 PLAYERS
PARTICIPATING,
REPRESENTING 47
CAUSES & CHARITABLE
ORGANIZATIONS.**

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Multi-platinum songwriter and Minnesota native Caitlyn Smith will perform the National Anthem.

COLOR GUARD

Members of the United States Marines will present the colors during the National Anthem.

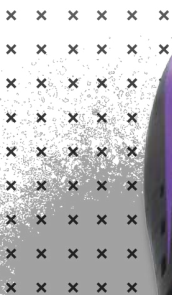
HONORARY CAPTAIN

Jerry Reichow, a receiver on the Vikings first four teams (1961-64), will be the honorary captain. Reichow began his career with the Lions in 1956. He has worked for decades in Minnesota's personnel department and is retiring.

EVERY CLEAT TELLS A STORY

**CHECK OUT ALL OF THE CLEATS
AND LEARN ABOUT THE CAUSES**

Scan this code using the photo app on your smart phone or go to vikings.com/mcmc.





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 5-year-old Tucker Forrester, who was born with a very rare chromosome abnormality called Supernumerary Ring Chromosome 1. Tucker is a patient who has been served by Crescent Cove Respite and Hospice Home for Kids. Pat Elflein has visited Crescent Cove, which is represented on his cleats this weekend. If you would like to nominate a Hometown Hero, visit Vikings.com/fans/promos/hometown-hero.



CENTURYLINK BOOSTBOX

CenturyLink Boostbox is your connection to the Vikings. CenturyLink has teamed up with quarterback Kirk Cousins to connect you to the Vikings all season long. Enter to win an exclusive fan experience including VIP tickets and sideline passes, engraved tablet, signed gear and more! Visit Centurylink.com/Vikings to enter.



OPENING DRIVE SWEEPSTAKES

Today's Kwik Trip opening drive contestant is Jana Skrtic from Waconia. Jana will win a \$25 for every yard earned on the Vikings opening drive plus a \$500 bonus for a field goal or \$1000 for an opening drive touchdown. To enter, see your neighborhood Kwik Trip today!



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. Visit Vikings.com/Rewards to join Vikings Rewards and enter for your chance to win.



#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.



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!



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, fans score a free shareable with a minimum purchase of \$5. Offer is valid for three days after each eligible game. Visit Vikings.com/bww for your digital coupon and offer details.



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!



'ASK ME ANYTHING'

IN THE APP

OPEN THE VIKINGS APP AND CLICK THE BUTTON TO FIND POINTS OF INTEREST LIKE YOUR FAVORITE GAME DAY FOOD AND BEVERAGE OPTIONS AT U.S. BANK STADIUM.



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Spend the holidays with your favorite
Vikings fans... at the Vikings Museum
located at Viking Lakes in Eagan, MN.

GET YOUR TICKETS AT [VIKINGS.COM/MUSEUM](https://vikings.com/museum)



VIKINGS & KFAN'S ANNUAL TOYS FOR TOTS DRIVE

DEC. 10 | 5:30 A.M. - 5:45 P.M.

Join KFC and the Minnesota Vikings at the Fleet Farm in Lakeville for our annual Toys for Tots drive on Dec. 10 from 5:30 a.m. - 5:45 p.m. Donate an unwrapped toy for your chance to win Vikings tickets, autographed items and more!

Fleet Farm

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE

**TODAY'S MY CAUSE MY CLEATS
HALFTIME WILL INCLUDE A
SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO TOM
SCHULTZ**

Schultz was a statistician for the Minnesota Vikings for 25 years who suffered a fatal brain aneurysm in 2014 at age 56.

In his death and through his decision to become an organ donor, Tom provided the miracle of life for Quinton Jones, a native of Bermuda who traveled to the Mayo Clinic in

hopes of receiving a life-saving heart and liver transplant.

Quinton was in the final stages of his life when he learned that Tom's organs were a match. Quinton became a Vikings fan to honor the life of the man whose heart beats inside him, and they are here today with Tom's family.

VIKINGS COUNTRY

DEC. 10 | 5:30-8:30 P.M.

Join Mike Mussman along with Rashod Hill for *Vikings Country* presented by Miller Lite on Tuesday, Dec. 10, at Drkula's in Inver Grove Heights. You could win great prizes, including tickets in the Miller Lite Lounge at U.S. Bank Stadium! For more information, visit vikings.com/vikingscountry.

WORKOUT WEDNESDAYS*

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 11

Join Vikings Women for the final Workout Wednesday of the season. SURRENDER Yoga with Holly Bustle, will be held at Training HAUS. Register now at vikings.com/womensevents.

FRIDAY FOOTBALL FEAST

DEC. 13 | 9 A.M. - NOON

Join KFC each Friday morning from 9 a.m. to noon for a Friday Football Feast presented by Coors Light and KFC. 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 next Friday Football Feast will be at the Buffalo Wild Wings in Lakeville.

*Women ages 18 and up are welcome.

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PLAYER TO WATCH:

LB ERIC KENDRICKS

THE SECRET TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD – Eric Kendricks is good and Pro Bowl worthy – is starting to spread. Kendricks entered Week 14 with the second-highest grade of any linebacker (90.9) by Pro Football Focus in 2019. That trails only Denver's Alexander Johnson (91.1). Kendricks leads the Vikings and all NFL linebackers with 12 pass breakups this season, setting a career high and tying a team record set by Matt Blair in 1981 and equaled by Ben Leber in 2008. The Vikings have credited Kendricks with 113 tackles on the season, and the league has those numbers at 96, bringing his career total to 518, which is sixth in the NFL since 2015. Take note of the ways that Kendricks shows his expertise within the Vikings defense and the way he connects all levels of the defense and delivers impact plays. And, don't forget to vote to send Kendricks and teammates to the 2020 Pro Bowl between now and Dec. 12. Fans can vote at nfl.com/probowlvote or by tweeting: @ErickKendricks54 #ProBowlVote. Votes cast on Twitter will count double Dec. 11-12.

2019 SEASON LEADERS

Passing (Yds)	Kirk Cousins	3,032
Rushing (Yds)	Dalvin Cook	1,046
Receiving (Yds)	Stefon Diggs	905
Tackles	Eric Kendricks	113
Sacks	Danielle Hunter	9.5
Interceptions	Anthony Harris	4
KOR (Yds)	Ameer Abdullah	258
PR (Avg.)	Mike Hughes	4.2

2019 SCHEDULE

PRESEASON (3-1)

P1	8/9	at New Orleans Saints	W 34-25
P2	8/18	Seattle Seahawks	W 25-19
P3	8/24	Arizona Cardinals	W 20-9
P4	8/29	at Buffalo Bills	L 27-23

REGULAR SEASON (8-4)

1	9/8	Atlanta Falcons	W 28-12
2	9/15	at Green Bay Packers	L 21-16
3	9/22	Oakland Raiders	W 34-14
4	9/29	at Chicago Bears	L 16-6
5	10/6	at New York Giants	W 28-10
6	10/13	Philadelphia Eagles	W 38-20
7	10/20	at Detroit Lions	W 42-30
8	10/24	Washington Redskins	W 19-9
9	11/3	at Kansas City Chiefs	L 26-23
10	11/10	at Dallas Cowboys	W 28-24
11	11/17	Denver Broncos	W 27-23
12	11/24	Bye Week	
13	12/2	at Seattle Seahawks	L 37-30
14	12/8	Detroit Lions	
15	12/15	at Los Angeles Chargers	
16	12/23	Green Bay Packers	
17	12/29	Chicago Bears	

TOP 2 AGAINST LIONS

RUSHING YARDS

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

PASSING YARDS

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

RECEIVING YARDS

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

* Vikings regular-season record

THE SHERIDAN STORY

Kendricks will wear cleats that represent The Sheridan Story, which combats youth food insecurity.



2019 SEASON LEADERS

Passing (Yds)	Matthew Stafford	2,499
Rushing (Yds)	Kerryon Johnson	308
Receiving (Yds)	Kenny Golladay	950
Tackles	Tracy Walker	69
Sacks	T. Flowers, D. Kennard	6.0
Interceptions	Darius Slay	2
KOR (Yds)	Jamal Agnew	454
PR (Avg.)	Jamal Agnew	5.9

2019 SCHEDULE

PRESEASON (0-4)

P1	8/8	New England Patriots	L	31-3
P2	8/17	at Houston Texans	L	30-23
P3	8/23	Buffalo Bills	L	24-20
P4	8/29	at Cleveland Browns	L	20-16

REGULAR SEASON (3-8-1)

1	9/8	at Arizona Cardinals	T	27-27
2	9/15	Los Angeles Chargers	W	13-10
3	9/22	at Philadelphia Eagles	W	27-24
4	9/29	Kansas City Chiefs	L	34-30
5	10/6	Bye Week		
6	10/14	at Green Bay Packers	L	23-22
7	10/20	Minnesota Vikings	L	42-30
8	10/27	New York Giants	W	31-26
9	11/3	at Oakland Raiders	L	31-24
10	11/10	at Chicago Bears	L	20-13
11	11/17	Dallas Cowboys	L	35-27
12	11/24	at Washington Redskins	L	19-16
13	11/28	Chicago Bears	L	24-20
14	12/8	at Minnesota Vikings		
15	12/15	Tampa Bay Buccaneers		
16	12/22	at Denver Broncos		
17	12/29	Green Bay Packers		

TOP 2 AGAINST VIKINGS

RUSHING YARDS

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

PASSING YARDS

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

RECEIVING YARDS

207	Calvin Johnson on 12 catches in Minnesota (Nov. 11, 2012)
165	Terry Barr on seven catches at Detroit (Nov. 22, 1964)



PLAYER TO WATCH:

WR MARVIN JONES, JR.

MARVIN JONES, JR., HAS CAUSED THE VIKINGS plenty of problems before and after joining the Lions in 2016. Although he had just one game against Minnesota while with Cincinnati, the California native totaled six catches for 85 yards in 2013. Jones has played six games against the Vikings since becoming a Lion and has had six or more catches in each of the past three meetings, totaling 22 receptions for 278 yards (12.6 yards per catch) and six scores in that span. In Week 7, Jones, Jr., racked up a career-high 10 receptions for 93 yards on 13 targets. He also matched his career best with four receiving touchdowns on the day. Jones, Jr., led NFL receiving qualifiers with a per-catch average of 18.0 yards in 2017. He enters today's game with 59 receptions on 84 targets for a catch percentage of 70.2 that is by far the highest of his career, but his yards per catch of 12.6 is tied for the second-lowest of his career.

FAB FOUR: THE FOUR TOUCHDOWNS BY JONES, JR., AGAINST THE VIKINGS IN OCTOBER TIED A LIONS SINGLE-GAME RECORD HELD BY CLOYCE BOX (AT BALTIMORE COLTS ON DEC. 3, 1950). HE ALSO SET A BENGALS FRANCHISE RECORD WITH FOUR RECEIVING SCORES IN ONE GAME (VS. JETS ON OCT. 27, 2013).

⁹
WITH **100+**

Jones, Jr., has recorded nine games in his career with 100 or more receiving yards. Eight of those have been with the Lions, and one of those occurred against the Vikings (Nov. 23, 2017).

THE BEST USE THE BEST

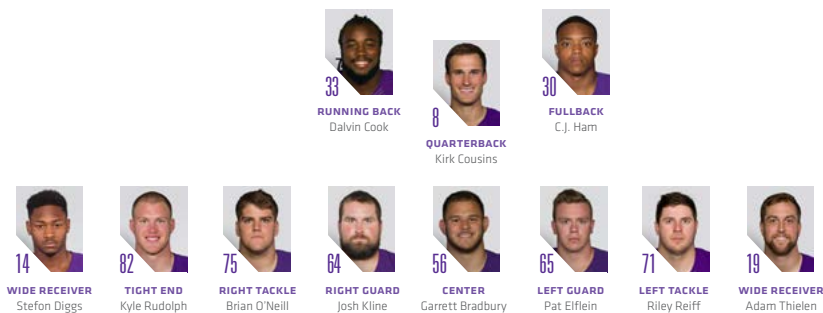


OFFICIAL SPORTS DRINK OF THE MINNESOTA VIKINGS

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VIKINGS ROSTER

2	Britton Colquitt	P
4	Sean Mannion	QB
5	Dan Bailey	K
8	Kirk Cousins	QB
11	Laquon Treadwell	WR
14	Stefon Diggs	WR
15	Alexander Hollins	WR
19	Adam Thielen	WR
20	Mackensie Alexander	CB
21	Mike Hughes	CB
22	Harrison Smith	S
23	Mike Boone	RB
24	Holton Hill	CB
25	Alexander Mattison	RB
26	Trae Waynes	CB
27	Jayron Kearsae	S
29	Xavier Rhodes	CB
30	C.J. Ham	FB
31	Ameer Abdullah	RB
33	Dalvin Cook	RB
34	Andrew Sendejo	S
38	Kris Boyd	CB
40	Kentrell Brothers	LB
41	Anthony Harris	S
50	Eric Wilson	LB
51	Hercules Mata'afa	DT
54	Eric Kendricks	LB
55	Anthony Barr	LB
56	Garrett Bradbury	C
58	Austin Cutting	LS
59	Cameron Smith	LB
64	Josh Kline	G
65	Pat Elflein	G
69	Rashod Hill	T
71	Riley Reiff	T
73	Dru Samia	G
74	Olisaemeka Udoh	T
75	Brian O'Neill	T
76	Aviante Collins	T
78	Dakota Dozier	G
81	Bisi Johnson	WR
82	Kyle Rudolph	TE
83	Tyler Conklin	TE
84	Irv Smith Jr.	TE
91	Stephen Weatherly	DE
92	Jalyn Holmes	DT
93	Shamar Stephen	DT
94	Jaleel Johnson	DT
95	Ifeadi Odenigbo	DE
96	Armon Watts	DT
97	Everson Griffen	DE
98	Linval Joseph	DT
99	Danielle Hunter	DE



VIKINGS OFFENSE



CORNERBACK
Justin Coleman



DEFENSIVE END
Romeo Okwara



DEFENSIVE TACKLE
A'Shawn Robinson



DEFENSIVE TACKLE
Damon Harrison Sr.



DEFENSIVE END
Trey Flowers



CORNERBACK
Darius Slay



LINEBACKER
Devon Kennard



STRONG SAFETY
Tavon Wilson



LINEBACKER
Jarrod Davis



FREE SAFETY
Tracy Walker



LINEBACKER
Christian Jones

VIKINGS SPECIAL TEAMS



KICKER
Dan Bailey



PUNTER
Britton Colquitt



LONG SNAPPER
Austin Cutting



PUNT RETURNER
Mike Hughes



KICK RETURNER
Ameer Abdullah



ROSTER AND DEPTH CHART

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

OFFENSE

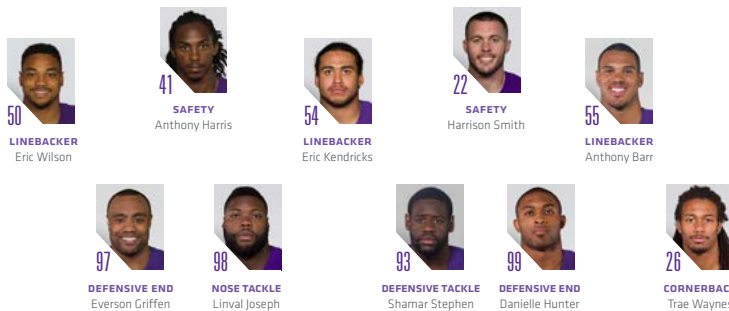
WR	Diggs	B. Johnson	Treadwell
LT	Reiff	R. Hill	Collins
LG	Elflein	Dozier	Samia
C	Bradbury	Elflein	
RG	Kline	Dozier	
RT	O'Neill	R. Hill	Udoh
TE	Rudolph	I. Smith Jr.	Conklin
WR	Thielen	B. Johnson	Hollins
QB	Cousins	Mannion	
FB	Ham		
HB	Cook	Mattison	Abdullah

DEFENSE

LDE	Hunter	Weatherly	
NT	Joseph	J. Johnson	Watts
DT	Stephen	Holmes	Mata'afa
RDE	Griffen	Odenigbo	
WLB	Wilson	Brothers	
MLB	Kendricks	Brothers	
SLB	Barr	C. Smith	
LCB	Waynes	Alexander	Boyd
RCB	Rhodes	Hughes	H. Hill
SS	H. Smith	Kearsae	
FS	Harris	Sendejo	

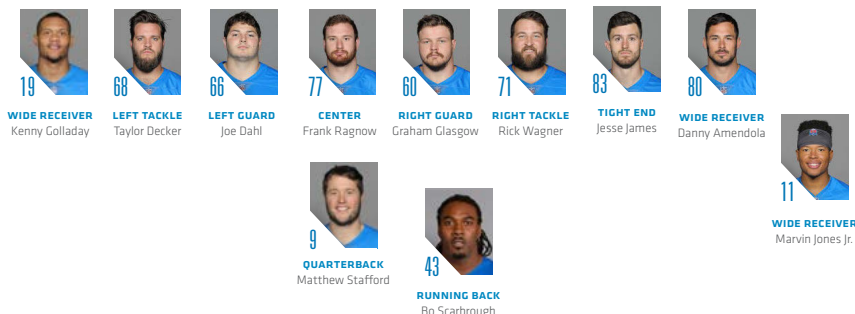
LIONS ROSTER

1	Kyle Sloter	QB
5	Matt Prater	K
6	Sam Martin	P
9	Matthew Stafford	QB
10	David Blough	QB
11	Marvin Jones Jr.	WR
15	Chris Lacy	WR
19	Kenny Golladay	WR
21	Tracy Walker	DB
23	Darius Slay	CB
24	Amani Oruwariye	CB
25	Will Harris	S
27	Justin Coleman	CB
28	Michael Jackson	CB
29	Rashaan Melvin	CB
30	Dee Virgin	CB
31	Ty Johnson	RB
32	Tavon Wilson	S
35	Miles Killebrew	S
38	Mike Ford	CB
39	Jamal Agnew	CB
40	Jarrad Davis	LB
41	J.D. McKissic	RB
42	Devon Kennard	LB
43	Bo Scarbrough	RB
44	Jalen Reeves-Maybin	LB
48	Don Muhlbach	LS
49	C.J. Moore	S
51	Jahlani Tavai	LB
52	Christian Jones	LB
53	Jason Cabinda	LB
54	Steve Longa	LB
60	Graham Glasgow	C/G
63	Beau Benzschawel	G
65	Tyrell Crosby	OL
66	Joe Dahl	G
68	Taylor Decker	T
71	Rick Wagner	T
76	Oday Aboushi	OL
77	Frank Ragnow	OL
79	Kenny Wiggins	G
80	Danny Amendola	WR
82	Logan Thomas	TE
83	Jesse James	TE
89	Isaac Nauta	TE
90	Trey Flowers	DE
91	A'Shawn Robinson	DT
93	Da'Shawn Hand	DL
94	Austin Bryant	DE
95	Romeo Okwara	DE
96	Mike Daniels	DT
98	Damon Harrison Sr.	DT
99	John Atkins	DT



VIKINGS DEFENSE

LIONS OFFENSE



LIONS SPECIAL TEAMS



ROSTER AND DEPTH CHART

DETROIT LIONS



OFFENSE

WR	M. Jones Jr.		
LT	Decker	Crosby	
LG	Dahl	Wiggins	
C	Ragnow	Benzschawel	
RG	Glasgow	Aboushi	
RT	Wagner		
TE	James	Thomas	Nauta
WR	Amendola		
WR	Golladay	Lacy	
QB	Stafford	Blough	Sloter
RB	Scarbrough	Johnson	McKissic

DEFENSE

DE	Flowers	Hand	
DT	Harrison Sr.	Daniels	
DT	Robinson	Atkins	
DE	Okwara	Bryant	
OLB	Kennard	Reeves-Maybin	
MLB	Davis	Tavai	
OLB	C. Jones	Longa	Cabinda
CB	Slay	Melvin	Ford
CB	Coleman	Agnew	Virgin
SS	Wilson	Harris	
FS	Walker	Killebrew	Moore

*Depth charts are unofficial



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KFAN
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TIMEOUT WITH ERIC WILSON

BY ERIC SMITH



VISITED JAPAN THIS OFFSEASON
HAS THE WILSON LOGO TATTOOED ON HIS CHEST
IS NOT LIZZO'S MAN ON THE MINNESOTA VIKINGS

**ERIC WILSON HAS A HISTORY
WITH — AND AGAINST — DETROIT.
THE VIKINGS LINEBACKER GREW
UP IN REDFORD, MICHIGAN,
WHICH IS FEWER THAN 20
MILES FROM THE LIONS HOME
STADIUM OF FORD FIELD.**

But he wasn't a big fan of the team.

"I never grew up a Lions fan ... more of a Tigers fan," Wilson said. "More just fans of good players ... a lot of respect for Barry Sanders and Calvin Johnson."

Now in his third season with the Vikings, Wilson has made seven career starts — with three of them against the Lions.

He started both games against Detroit in 2018 and was also a starter in Week 7 of the 2019 season when the Vikings earned a 42-30 win. (Wilson has made six of his seven starts against NFC North opponents).

"I was just excited. Excited to be out there, especially in my hometown," Wilson said of the games he's started in Detroit. "I had about 30 people there, just family and friends watching. I was just excited to go make plays."

"I think last year I started both Lions games and both Bears games," Wilson added. "Those are big, important games — division games — and it was great to get experience in those."

Wilson said he likes how his game has improved since arriving as an undrafted free agent from the University of Cincinnati in the spring of 2017.

But he also emphasized the importance of providing depth for the Vikings defense at a moment's notice.

"I think I've been doing a good job. I've been steadily trying to get better in any way that I can," Wilson said. "Just improve on the details and the fundamentals of the game. Those are important, especially at this time of the year."

"And anywhere you look, you have to have guys ready to play and step up," Wilson added. "Even if it's only for one play, or for a whole game, you have to be ready and know the game plan even if you're not listed as starting that week. You have to know all the intricacies and stay ready during the week."

Wilson has 4.0 sacks in his career, two of which came in Week 3 against Oakland in September. Another occurred against the Bears in Week 11 of the 2018 season.

The fourth, naturally, happened at Ford Field against the Lions in Week 16 last season.





WILSON IS WEARING CLEATS THAT REPRESENT PEOPLE SERVING PEOPLE, MINNESOTA'S LARGEST AND MOST COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY SHELTER FOR FAMILIES EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS.



WE CAUGHT UP WITH ERIC TO TALK ABOUT THE VIKINGS LINEBACKERS GROUP, VISOR SPONSORSHIPS AND WHETHER OR NOT HE HAS TIES TO LIZZO:

Q. Your position group seems especially close. What's the vibe like in the linebackers room?

A. "It's great. Our linebackers ... we're a family, we're a tight group. We hang out a lot off the field and have a lot of fun on the field, so it's a great room."

Q. You traveled with Eric Kendricks and Anthony Barr last offseason ... anything planned for 2020?

A. "We went to Japan, and that was awesome. Not only to see Japan and everything it had to offer, but to bond with the guys. We don't have a concrete plan [for 2020], but we were maybe thinking about Australia. But to get there, we might have to make a couple stops along the way. We have to talk more about it."

Q. You blocked a punt in Week 1 that left your helmet visor with blood on it. Did you ever get the Oakley sponsorship you wanted?

A. "I didn't get the sponsorship. Last year, too, I got smashed in the face and had an Under Armour imprint on my face. I didn't get a sponsorship from that, either. I don't know what's going on with these visor sponsorships ... I need to talk to them."

Q. I noticed you have the Wilson Sporting Goods logo tattooed inside of a football on your left chest. What's the story behind that?

A. "I got that back when I was 16 or 17, in high school. I thought it was pretty unique that dang near every football had Wilson on it. That is one of my passions, so why not put that on and represent? It's on my left chest, along with my football numbers over the top of it."

Q. Is that every number you've worn?

A. "That I've worn so far for a good period of time. I was a couple different numbers in high school, but the number I was most was 11. And then 23 was my number in college. I don't have 50 [tattooed] yet, though."

Q. Time for the most serious question on here. We all know Lizzo sings about the "new man on the Minnesota Vikings" in her song "Truth

Hurts." She recently said he is from the Detroit area. You are from the Detroit area ... is it you?

A. "I did hear about that, and a lot of people hit me up asking if I'm the new man or have any type of connection. But I don't. My mom actually hit me up last [month] asking me questions about that ... my uncle, a whole bunch of friends. But it's not me. I need to do some more investigating."

Q. I'm guessing a lot of your teammates razz you about that?

A. "Oh, yeah. Kirk [Cousins] and Adam [Thielen] were asking me if that was me. It's not."

I'VE BEEN STEADILY TRYING TO GET BETTER IN ANY WAY THAT I CAN. JUST IMPROVE ON THE DETAILS AND THE FUNDAMENTALS OF THE GAME. THOSE ARE IMPORTANT, ESPECIALLY AT THIS TIME OF THE YEAR.

- ERIC WILSON





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**STACKING
SACKS**

BY: LINDSEY YOUNG

DANIELLE HUNTER IS QUIETLY BUT QUICKLY TAKING THE NFL BY STORM.

Hunter's 49.5 sacks entering today's game rank as the third-most by a player in his first five seasons with the Vikings, trailing only Jared Allen (74) and Keith Millard (51). And now, he stands poised to be the youngest player in league history to record 50 QB takedowns.

True to form, Hunter humbly credits those around him for helping him reach milestone after milestone thus far. He's grateful to those who believed in him.

"When I came in, I'm pretty sure not many people expected me to do what I'm doing right now. But I couldn't control that," Hunter said. "The only way I can control what people think is by going out on the field and applying what I've learned."

As he approaches a benchmark that hasn't before been reached, I sat down with the defensive end and asked him to go through a list of his favorite career sacks thus far.

WANT MORE?

AN EXTENDED VERSION OF
THIS STORY AND LIST IS
AVAILABLE ON VIKINGS.COM

First Solo Sack | Jay Cutler | Nov. 1, 2015

Situation: Third-and-3 | 4:27 Q1 | Beat RT Kyle Long and cut up the middle to take down Cutler

🏈 *It was a good feeling. ... It's kind of one of those things where you expect it to be either Griff' (Everson Griffen), B-Rob (Brian Robison) or Tom [Johnson] with the sack, and then I ended up getting it."*

First Sack at U.S. Bank Stadium

Aaron Rodgers | Sept. 18, 2016

Situation: Third-and-7 | 0:44 Q1 | Out-muscled Packers RT Bryan Bulaga for first career sack of Rodgers and forced a fumble recovered by LB Eric Kendricks

🏈 *This was a memorable one. ... That was actually the first sack in that stadium. That's why they've got the picture on the wall over there. ... I was wondering why the photo was so significant. I think [Vikings Communications Manager Sam Newton] told me one day, [and] I was like, 'Cool.' That was pretty awesome."*

Safety Down (NFC) South | Cam Newton | Sept. 25, 2016

Situation: Second-and-9 | 1:51 Q1 | Got past the Panthers left tackle and left guard to sniff out Newton in the Carolina end zone for a safety

🏈 *That was one of my top five sacks – probably between my No. 1 and No. 2. ... I was going against Michael Oher, and I remember being star-struck by two people. Cam Newton, he was my idol in high school, so the game started, this was my first time going against the Panthers, and I was like, 'Man, that's Cam Newton.' And I'm like, 'Damn, this is Michael Oher, the guy [portrayed in] The Blindside.' I was at right end, and I guess I beat [Oher], and then there was another guy, the guard [Andrew Norwell], and I beat him, and Cam was right there, and I sacked him for a safety. That was pretty cool. And then Coach [Patterson] was like, 'Man, that safety that you got, that was big-time.' He was happy about that."*

Ramming the Door Down | Jared Goff | Nov. 19, 2017

Situation: Third-and-10 | 2:31 Q1 | Hunter reached over the top of Rams RT Rob Havenstein to sack Goff for a loss of 9 before bringing out his "kick-the-door-down" celebration for the first time

🏈 *This is when I ran over the tackle. That was intense. I was like, 'Oh, man.' I couldn't go around him, I couldn't go [to the] inside of him, so just had to go through him.*

🏈 *This is when I first did the little door thing. I almost kicked Griff' in the face because he was going to go in front of me."*

Q: I've heard you got the celebration idea from former Vikings RB Jerick McKinnon?

🏈 *Yeah, he did it coming out of the tunnel, so I said, 'Ooh – I'm stealing this.' "*

Gazelle-ing Garoppolo

Jimmy Garoppolo | Sept. 9, 2018

Situation: First-and-10 | 1:24 Q3 | Gets around the outside of 49ers RT Garry Gilliam to take down Garoppolo from behind for a loss of 5

🏈 *I like this one because sometimes I tend to do a leap. I don't know how I do it. Sometimes I leap, and I'm like, 'Wow.' I don't even realize I do it. L.J. (Linval Joseph) is always the one to point that out to me, whenever I leap. He calls it 'gazelle-ing.' He says I 'gazelle' the quarterback."*

Sacking a Scrambler | Carson Wentz | Oct. 7, 2018

Situation: First-and-10 | 5:18 Q3 | Hunted down an on-the-move Wentz and managed to drop the powerful passer for a loss of 8

🏈 *Wentz is pretty hard to get down ... I remember this one, I got to him and tried to swat at the ball, because I knew he was going to try to throw it while going down. He always does that. Whenever he's going down, he tries to do Superman stuff."*



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Career Day Against Detroit

Matthew Stafford | Nov. 4, 2018

Situation: Third-and-13 | 5:27 Q2 | Able to corral Stafford, who had been slowed up by DT Sheldon Richardson, for the second sack in three plays

Note: Hunter ended the day with career-high 3.5 sacks

👂👂 *It's a screen. Sheldon got in his face and helped me out, and then I got that sack. ... Everybody was getting sacks. Everybody was happy after this game. This is when I got [a postgame call from Deion Sanders]; you know, 'When you ball, you get the call'? And I got [NFC] Defensive Player of the Week. It was pretty fun."*

40 in 4 | Ryan Tannehill | Dec. 16, 2018

Situation: Second-and-19 | 11:39 Q2 | Cut back inside and up the middle to reach Tannehill for a loss of 8, just one play after he was sacked by Anthony Barr

Note: Hunter recorded 2.0 sacks to reach 40 in his first four seasons, more than any other Viking in that time frame except for Jared Allen

👂👂 *I went on the inside right here. [Vikings DL Coach Andre Patterson] actually told me to do this. I told him, 'He's setting from my outside, outside,' and he's like, 'The next rush, go on the inside.' So I did exactly that, and then I got him.*

Leaping at Lambeau

Aaron Rodgers | Sept. 15, 2019

Situation: Third-and-7 | 6:26 Q3 | Easily wins a 1-on-1 matchup with Packers TE Jimmy Graham, runs and leaps to sack Rodgers for a 10-yard loss

👂👂 *Here it is. The leap. I got off the ball, beat the tight end. When we watched this in the room, everybody was laughing. L.J. was dying, and Stacy [Keely] was crying-dying. Because they say, 'It's the damn leap.' That was pretty funny. I didn't even realize I did that.*

👂👂 *It's always a good feeling when you get a sack against them, because their tackles are really good. The only reason why we have a chance is because he holds the ball. We go to our second move sometimes and win."*

48 by 25 | Case Keenum | Oct. 24, 2019

Situation: First-and-10 | 9:04 Q1 | Won his matchup with Redskins TE Hale Hentges to circle around and strip sack former teammate Case Keenum; fumble was recovered by DT Shamar Stephen

Note: Hunter set the NFL record for sacks before age 25 at 48. He celebrated his 25th birthday five days later.

👂👂 *It was kind of weird. It's always weird when you sack someone you used to play with."*

POLICE ACTIVITIES LEAGUE

Hunter is repping Police Activities League, which encourages community building through character development.





MY CAUSE

MY CLEATS

FEATURED CLEATS

My Cause My Cleats allows players to express their commitment to the causes that are most important to them. Here are a few of their stories.



AMEER ABDULLAH

PICK A RANDOM TUESDAY during the season, and it's likely that Ameer Abdullah is giving back to the Twin Cities community.

The Vikings running back has already spent time this season at the Hennepin County Juvenile Detention Center. He also spent an afternoon at the Southside Boys & Girls Club in Minneapolis and is on the Vikings Social Justice Committee.

Abdullah's cleats will support the Black Youth Project, which aims to empower young African American. According to the Black Youth Project's website, the group focuses on "attitudes, resources and culture of African American youth ages 15 to 25."

Abdullah said he hopes those impacted by the Black Youth Project will see his cleats and be inspired to "create and be more than what is expected of them."

"Just set a new standard for themselves every single day," Abdullah said. "I'm a guy who didn't come from much but has accomplished quite a bit in my young life."

"I feel like everyone has that opportunity, it's just how you apply yourself and apply your mind in certain circumstances," he added.



**BLACK YOUTH
PROJECT**

“

**I'M A GUY WHO
DIDN'T COME
FROM MUCH**

**BUT HAS ACCOMPLISHED
QUITE A BIT IN MY
YOUNG LIFE.”**



C.J. HAM

PANCREATIC CANCER ACTION NETWORK

WHEN C.J. HAM LACED UP HIS CLEATS this morning, he felt a little extra motivation – and emotion – ahead of taking the field at U.S. Bank Stadium.

It's not because today's game is a divisional matchup and a hopeful bounce-back for Minnesota after a tough loss to Seattle on *Monday Night Football*.

Rather, C.J.'s custom-designed kicks for the NFL's *My Cause, My Cleats* game feature a portrait of his mother, Tina, who currently is fighting pancreatic cancer.

C.J. surprised Tina with the cleats after a recent Saturday morning walk-through. Sharing the first look, mother and son each were taken aback by the detail as they lifted the box's lid and picked up the shoes.

On one, Tina is painted with a wide smile and in Vikings gear, a photograph snapped before at the Crucial Catch game in October; ***You are the strongest person in the world*** is written in white across the toe. The other reads, ***I love you, Mom.*** A purple ribbon for pancreatic cancer wraps across the outside panel of each cleat.

"These are made specifically for you," C.J. told Tina. "I know you've been through a lot in this past year, and I just wanted to make these special for you."

"They're so cute," she said, breaking into a matching smile.

C.J.'s cleats represent the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, which is dedicated to fighting "the world's

toughest cancer" through research, clinical initiatives, patient services and advocacy.

Tina was diagnosed in March 2018 initially with Stage 2 pancreatic cancer, but surgery revealed that it actually was Stage 4.

C.J. has been inspired by his mother and felt strongly about dedicating today's game to her ongoing battle.

"With everything she's been through, staying strong this entire time, I just wanted to honor her," he explained. "I love my mom, and I just want to do all I can for her."

He gave Tina a hug and kiss and then was joined by his wife, Stephanie, and daughters, Skylar and Stella.

"That's Granny!" Skylar exclaimed excitedly, pointing to the portrait.

"It's way better than I even imagined. Words can't even really explain," C.J. said. "Just the portrait itself – there's so much strength in that picture."

"She truly is the strongest person I know, and I know when I'm wearing these cleats, it's going to help me," he added, his voice wavering.

As the family continued to admire the uniquely designed cleats, Tina reiterated how much she loved them.

"But I don't get to wear them," she said, laughing.

"No, you don't get to wear them," C.J. agreed with a smile. "But I get to wear them **for** you."

**"SHE TRULY IS THE STRONGEST PERSON I KNOW,
AND I KNOW WHEN I'M WEARING THESE CLEATS, IT'S GOING TO HELP ME."**



BRIAN O'NEILL

BRIAN O'NEILL COMES FROM A TIGHT-KNIT FAMILY.

The 24-year-old is the youngest of four siblings and is honoring one of his sisters, Lorraine, 30, and Autism Speaks with his cleats.

Autism Speaks promotes solutions for the needs of individuals with autism and their families. The organization provides advocacy and support for people with autism and works to increase understanding and acceptance.

An estimated one-third of people with autism are nonverbal, including Lorraine, which prevents Brian from staying connected across the miles through phone calls.

"The only time I can [communicate] with her is when I'm at home, but I try to get back home as much as I can," he said. "It's a different relationship, but it's a unique one and a special one for sure."

Brian said Autism Speaks does "a lot of great things for a lot of people," and he appreciates the opportunity to increase awareness.

"I think the more that people do talk about autism and understand it, the better it is for the families who go through it because more people have an idea of what it's like," Brian said. "I hope that process of people learning and continuing to expand their knowledge continues."

SEAN MANNION

TEAM GLEASON

SEAN MANNION will be wearing customized cleats for the first time in his NFL career. And he's picked a cause that is near and dear to him and his family.

The Vikings quarterback is honoring Team Gleason, an organization that supports those with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), a neuromuscular disease that causes neurons in muscles to die. Steve Gleason, a former player with the New Orleans Saints, was diagnosed with ALS in 2011.

"Anything I can do to bring attention to that and bring attention to what Steve is doing for people with ALS, it's the smallest gesture I can make," Mannion said. "I'm proud to be wearing these cleats."

Mannion's father-in-law, Mike Lopez, passed away in January of 2003 after being diagnosed with the

disease in 1996. He was 49 years old.

Lopez was a defensive back at Oregon State from 1982 to 1985 and earned All-Pac-10 Conference honors as a senior in 1985 with six interceptions.

Mannion, who also played at Oregon State, later married Lopez's oldest daughter, Megan.

"I was only able to meet him once before he passed ... me and Megan had just started dating," Mannion said. "But he was just a really, really great guy. A great man."

"Just a great father to Megan and her sister. It's unfortunate I wasn't able to get to know him better. But I just know from the way Megan talks about him that he was a tremendous father."

Team Gleason has raised more than \$10 million for ALS research and support since 2011.



"ANYTHING I CAN DO TO BRING ATTENTION TO WHAT STEVE IS DOING FOR PEOPLE WITH ALS,

IS THE SMALLEST GESTURE I CAN MAKE. I'M PROUD TO BE WEARING THESE CLEATS."

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Vikings safety Anthony Harris

signed up for a Humane Society event to help change the lives of animals.

What he didn't realize, however, is how much those animals would change his life.

Harris joined Vikings teammates in November 2018 as a way to draw more community members into the animal shelter and promote animal adoption. While there, something caught his eye.

Harris noticed a kitten interacting playfully with a woman before crawling up onto her shoulders and lying down across her coat's large collar.

When Harris inquired about the cat, he was told by a shelter staff member that she had recently been adopted by the woman, but one of their other cats had a similar personality.

"The lady pulled [Ella] out. She was sleeping, so I was like, 'I don't know if her personality is how I like,' but once they woke her up, she was super into me, and I was like, 'All right, she's social,'" Harris recalled with a smile.

He reserved the tabby mix and planned to pick her up a few days later. Unfortunately, Harris was notified that Ella had been exposed to an illness that, if she contracted it, would likely be fatal.

While the shelter held Ella for observation, Harris was introduced to a dark gray-and-cream-colored Siamese mix, Cookie, whom he decided to adopt in the meantime. Then he received a phone call that Ella



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CITY SISTERS
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LIVING

ANTHONY HARRIS

BY LINDSEY YOUNG



"I like the fact that, together, they're not too overwhelming. The fact that [Ella] craves a lot of attention and [Cookie] doesn't, it's nice for me. Having both of them on my lap at the same time can get a little heavy."

- ANTHONY HARRIS

would be OK, and he faced a decision.

"I kind of felt bad," Harris said. "I really liked Ella, and I was like, 'You know, I don't know if I want two cats yet. I've only had one for a week.' But then I started talking to people who had cats, and they were saying they're better in twos, and I thought it would be pretty neat just to have somebody to play with. So I went back, picked her up, and they've been hanging since."

"They didn't have a great relationship [starting out]," Harris added with a laugh. "They both looked at each other and had their backs up, they kind of made a little fighting noise, and I was like, 'Hey! Ya'll gotta figure it out, or somebody's gotta go back.' So I gave them a couple of days, and they adjusted. Now they cuddle on each other and lick on each other and all that other cat stuff."

Cookie and Ella are happy and comfortable in their forever home.

The two felines dash daily around Harris' Minneapolis apartment, hiding beneath and behind furniture, playing with their toys and climbing the cat scratcher tower.

And like the "siblings" they are, Cookie and Ella's personality differences are less than subtle.

While Ella will hurry to introduce herself to a visitor, Cookie scurries to the darkness of a nearby bedroom. Harris describes Ella "like a little kid."

"She wakes up early, and she'll cry at the door, and she knows how to get in. She just puts her paw in there and opens it up," Harris

said. "Ella is super social. She likes me to pick her up and hold her."

"And then the Siamese, Cookie, she's kind of like a little diva," he continued. "She's the one that everybody sees and [wants to pick her up] – and she lets you hold her for a while, then she just jumps down."

Both cats will lie on Harris' lap, but he chuckles at what he believes to be their different motivations for affection: "Ella enjoys the company. Cookie uses me as a pillow."

Harris doesn't shy away from showing off the cats that have become a big part of his life. In fact, they have their own Instagram account, @hooscoolcats, with more than 3,300 followers.

Harris initially posted about them on his own account, @hoosdatdude, and joked that people more enjoyed the photos of the cats than of the NFL safety.

"I had a few people who have literally commented out of humor – and maybe some seriousness – 'Hey, I'm just here to see the cats,'" Harris said. "So, I kind of wanted to give the people what they wanted and made them an [Instagram account]."

"I try to post about them equally. I try to be a good parent and not have any biased opinions about them or treat them differently," he added with a smile.

Not everyone is a cat lover, though, and Harris admitted that he gets ribbed on a regular basis by some of his teammates, particularly dog owners.

"It's like, 'What kind of guy gets a cat,

man?'" Harris said. "Or if we're in the weight room or something and they're talking about who's stronger, it's like, 'He's not stronger than me' or 'He's not faster than me – he's got cats.' Stuff like that."

But he also proudly added that there's been an increase of intrigue from teammates about cat ownership.

"I'm not going to say it has anything to do with me and my two cats, but that's just what I've been getting," Harris said. "I always recommend, 'You should get your cat from an animal shelter, because that way you change a cat's life.'"

Harris is grateful that he chose pet adoption, even though it wasn't something he initially planned.

And if you ask him, he now has the perfect pair of pets.

"I like the fact that, together, they're not too overwhelming. The fact that [Ella] craves a lot of attention and [Cookie] doesn't, it's nice for me. Having both of them on my lap at the same time can get a little heavy," Harris quipped.

"When I get home and put my feet up and am on the couch, I feel bad when I fall asleep, they're sleeping on me, and then I wake up and [startle them] and they don't know what's going on," he continued.

Harris paused to look down at Ella, cuddling in his arms, and at Cookie, chasing a beam of light on the floor: "They kind of balance each other out."

ANIMAL HUMANE

SOCIETY

Viktor the Viking's shoes will feature Harris' cats in honor of the Animal Humane Society.



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I N M E M O R I A M

FRED COX

1938 - 2019

BY CRAIG PETERS

The life of Fred Cox — affectionately referred to as “Freddy the Foot” by Vikings fans and lovingly known as a husband, father, brother and uncle — was celebrated during a funeral service last month at Buffalo Covenant Church.

Former teammates attended the ceremony, along with friends that met Cox well after his 15 seasons in Purple that landed him among the 50 Greatest Vikings.

Cox, who passed away on Nov. 20, is the franchise's all-time leading scorer with 1,365 points. To put that in perspective, he has 62 more career points than the next two Vikings — Cris Carter (670) and Ryan Longwell (633) — combined.

A native of Monongahela, Pennsylvania, Cox was inducted to the Ringgold High School sports hall of fame in 2006 along with Joe Montana, Stan Musial and Ken Griffey, Sr.

Cox enjoyed a successful chiropractic business that he launched while a member of the Vikings, and he also happened to co-invent the NERF football, an innovation that has helped youth connect with the sport at early ages.

But for those who were able to attend, it was crystal-clear that Cox's commitments to his Christian faith and family were never compromised by football, fame or fortune. He used athletics to reach others by helping launch the Minnesota chapter of Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Here are three excerpts from an interview with Cox from 2018 (visit Vikings.com for his full story on the NERF football):

Q: I don't know of too many kickers who can say they've had a Hall of Fame snapper and holder.

A: “Not many of them. You probably haven't met many kickers, either, that only had one guy that ever snapped a ball to him in 15 years. Mick Tingelhoff was the only guy that ever snapped the ball

that I kicked. Paul Krause held every ball for 10 years, and the other five, Francis [Tarkenton] held. I had three Hall of Fame guys — how do you think they got there?

“I tell Paul that all of the time: ‘Man, you'd have never gotten in if you hadn't held for me.’ ”

Q: What was it like when the Vikings finally put everything together in 1969?

A: “You have to look at Bud [Grant] for a lot of the stuff that made this team jell. He knew how to get the most out of players better than any coach I ever knew. He just had that ability to know what each guy needed. Some guys needed a push, and some guys needed an arm on their shoulder.”

Q: What type of guy were you?

A: “I was a guy that just needed to be left alone, and he knew that. ... I can still remember his [first] year here, we were playing Detroit, and I missed three field goals in a row and then made one. After the game, I was sitting in front of my locker and throwing things in it — not gently. He walked over, put his arm around me and said, ‘Bet you've never had a game like that before.’ Now that was Bud Grant. He turned around and walked away. That was all he said.”



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2019 VIKINGS ALL-STATE TEAM

THE VIKINGS ARE PROUD TO RECOGNIZE THE 2019 ALL-STATE FOOTBALL TEAM AND COACH OF THE YEAR AT TODAY'S GAME.

COACH OF THE YEAR

Lambert Brown, Wayzata
Class AAAAAA State Champions

NAME SCHOOL POSITION

(LISTED ALPHABETICAL BY LAST NAME)

Matthias Algarin Pierz HB/WR/CB
Yahya Black Marshall T
Kaleb Blaha Fridley QB/S
Aiden Bouman Buffalo QB
Thai Bowman Robbinsdale Armstrong WR/S
Russell Corrigan Hutchinson QB/TE/DE
Josh Fobbe Becker QB
Jack Foster Mankato West QB
Marcus Holasek Chaska MLB
Quientrail Jamison-Travis Minneapolis North DT
Kaden Johnson SMB TE/OLB
Randy Keumongne Tartan TE/DE
Jonathan Kieren St. Anthony HB

Noah King Caledonia QB/S
Cody Lindenberg Anoka S
Terry Lockett SMB WR/CB
Chad Maddock Redwood Valley DT
Jonathan Mann Rosemount WR
T.K. Marshall Minneapolis Southwest HB
Mason Miller Ada-Borup T
Raja Nelson Lakeville North QB/HB/CB
Pierce Oppong Bloomington Jefferson DE
Craig Orlando Verndale TE/DE
Loshiaka Roques Wayzata OLB
Jordan Sagedahl BOLD QB/S
Wyatt Schroeder St. Francis WR
Adam Stoesz Mountain Lake Area QB/S
Danny Striggow Orono DE/FB
Jalen Suggs SMB QB/S
Jalen Travis DeLaSalle T
Aaron Witt Winona DE
Hunter Zenzen Barnesville TE/DE



MINNESOTA HIGH SCHOOLS PROVIDE EARLY PLAYERS

The Vikings currently have two homegrown players – Adam Thielen and C.J. Ham – who starred on high school fields here before advancing to college and their home-state NFL team.

Ham's alma mater, Denfeld High School in Duluth, was one of several that supplied players to the Minneapolis Marines (1921-24), Duluth Kelleys (1923-25), Duluth Eskimos (1926-27) or Minneapolis Marines (1929-30) in the NFL's first decade.

According to pro-football-reference.com, Denfeld had five alumni that were involved with those teams, including Dewey Scanlon, who was a head coach for the Kelleys (5-1 in 1924, 0-3 in 1925), Eskimos (6-5-3) and Chicago Cardinals (6-6-1 in 1929) and appeared in one game in 1926. Scanlon is pictured below.

Russ Method (1923-25 Kelleys, 1926-27 Eskimos, 1929 Chicago Cardinals), Dick O'Donnell (1923 Kelleys, 1924-30 Green Bay Packers, 1931 Brooklyn Dodgers), Wally Gilbert (1923-25 Kelleys, 1926 Eskimos) and Bill McNelis (1927 Eskimos) also attended Denfeld High School.

Duluth Central provided seven players, and Duluth Cathedral provided six to Minnesota's early NFL teams. Minneapolis Central and Two Harbors each had four alums that played professionally in state, and Roosevelt in Virginia supplied three (brothers Bill, Joe and Cobb Rooney).





FRIDAY FOOTBALL FEAST

9 AM - NOON

AT BUFFALO WILD WINGS

VS

ATL

09.06

OAKDALE

8346 3RD ST N

AT

GB

09.13

EDINA

2685 SOUTHDAL CTR

VS

OAK

09.20

CHAMPLIN

11580 THEATER DR. N

AT

CHI

09.27

CHANHASSEN

550 W 79TH ST

AT

NYG

10.04

MONTICELLO

9221 CEDAR ST.

VS

PHI

10.11

COON RAPIDS

3395 RIVER RAPIDS DR.

AT

DET

10.18

CRYSTAL

5590 WEST BROADWAY

VS

WAS

10.24

ST. PAUL

80 N MN-51

AT

KC

11.01

BLAINE

1540 109TH AVE. NE

AT

DAL

11.08

ELK RIVER

778 FREEPORT AVE.

VS

DEN

11.15

APPLE VALLEY

14658 S CEDAR AVE.

AT

SEA

11.29

ROSEVILLE

1777 W COUNTY RD B2

VS

DET

12.06

PLYMOUTH

3505 VICKSBURG LANE

AT

LAC

12.13

LAKEVILLE

18425 ORCHARD TRAIL

VS

GB

12.20

SAVAGE

7551 EGAN DRIVE

VS

CHI

12.27

EAGAN

1280 PROMENADE PLACE





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COUSINS, RHODES & SMITH SURPRISE COMMUNITY CAPTAINS

BY CRAIG PETERS

Kirk Cousins made sure he got a selfie with everybody who made the trek from Detroit Lakes.

Xavier Rhodes jokingly proposed a pillow fight, and Harrison Smith double-checked to make sure there was no “bad blood” between schools before hopping in a group photo with five players from different high school programs who were named 2019 Vikings Community Captains in a special surprise last month at U.S. Bank Stadium.

The five players – Carson DeKam (Owatonna), Spencer Eil (Bethlehem Academy), Gabe Hanninen (Detroit Lakes),

Jovan Northington (Edison) and Hunter Zenzen (Barnesville) – were told they had been selected for a tour of the venue that’s in its fourth season as the Vikings home.

Moments after the five high school players were informed of their selection as Community Captains, they were led into the locker room where Cousins, Rhodes and Smith were waiting, along with personalized lockers with footballs and customized cleats.

Jaws dropped, and thoughts perhaps intended to be internal were whispered.

“It’s surreal, walking in and seeing all of them there,” said Zenzen, who has played in multiple prep games at U.S. Bank Stadium and is committed to play at Iowa State. “It was a moment of awe.”

DeKam also used “surreal” to describe the meet-and-greet and set-up in the locker room.

“I didn’t expect Vikings players to be here ... I was watching the Vikes [the previous day] and now I’m meeting some of the guys,” DeKam said. “Wow, it’s amazing.”

The five then found out they’d be receiving free Sleep Number 360® smart beds, the same type that Cousins, Rhodes and Smith credit for improving their sleep.

“The opportunity to recognize these student athletes that do a great job as leaders on and off the field is such a great fit for us as a company,” Sleep Number Vice President of Brand Partnerships Patrick Champion said. “A big push for us is improving the well-being of youth through better sleep, so this is perfect. We’re bringing together our partnership with the Vikings and that commitment to youth.”

“It’s great that they can see an example from people like Kirk, Xavier and Harrison

that wellness matters, and having them learn the habits at this age, they'll understand that as they [progress] past high school and college, this is going to help them, no matter what they do. If they're still playing sports or have a job, they'll have more energy, and learning these habits right now is great for them."

The prep stars were able to chat with the pros on a variety of topics, ranging from the importance of getting good rest, to the atmosphere on game days and the grind in between.

"It's a thrill to meet them. They're such sharp kids," Cousins said. "I see myself in them, being high school football players and having so much ahead of them. It's great to honor these kids and celebrate the way that they've carried themselves throughout the years and the way they've made a difference in their schools and communities. They should be honored in this way. It was great to see them light up when they saw their names on the lockers and the custom cleats.

"I enjoy talking to young people because I feel like I've walked where they are walking right now and where they're going to walk," he added. "I would just say, 'Stay humble and stay hungry, keep working and good things will happen.' Adversity is going to be part of the journey. I'm sure they've already faced some."

Cousins pointed out that Northington was in a walking boot but showing "great spirit."

"It feels good because to hear that from people like him," Northington said. "It's like, 'Wow, that's stand-up.' People recognize the presence I bring, so that's a good feeling."

Smith said he enjoyed the opportunity to thank the high school players for being great people in their communities. The interaction, he said, was one of mutual admiration.

"It's something that you can sometimes forget, kind of how great it is to be playing in the NFL and playing for an organization like the Vikings," Smith said. "In your daily grind, you're watching film and getting ready for the next opponent. Sometimes you lose sight of those things, so you try to be a role model for the people looking up to us but also appreciate them for what they're doing."

The three Vikings are part of a locker room that continuously commits to supporting young people in a variety of ways. Rhodes said he's become more involved over the course of his time with the Vikings and that he is excited to see the young people so dedicated at an early age.

"I can remember when I was in high school, I wasn't thinking like that until I became an NFL player and realized the true meaning of being a football player and how big football is to some people," Rhodes said. "I feel honored to be around these kids because they're great kids, willing to help and put others before themselves and realize how big of a platform they have."

Cousins said he began taking his sleep "seriously" about five years ago and "it's made a big difference."

Most nights, he aims for nine hours of sleep and said doing so helps him go through all that he must process to prepare each week and within the game.

"Because I'm always thinking, I need nine hours of sleep. Once I'm up and going, the engines are revving," Cousins said. "There are nights, like after [the Denver] game, I wake up in the middle of the night,

thinking about big plays. Even in a win, I'm thinking about what we did or didn't do. I try to calm myself and get back to sleep."

2019 VIKINGS COMMUNITY CAPTAINS

Carson DeKam

MLB/TE Senior, Owatonna High School

Nominated for: involvement in various organizations such as Feed My Starving Children and The Salvation Army

Spencer Eli

WR/CB/P, Senior, Bethlehem Academy

Nominated for: preparing young students for future success through the planning of "Future Cardinals" night

Gabe Hanninen

RB/FB/LB, Senior, Detroit Lakes High School

Nominated for: volunteer efforts in multiple youth-focused organizations such as Crew Link and Lego Club

Jovan Northington

RB, Senior, Edison High School

Nominated for: leadership within the Office of Black Male Student Achievement and efforts to develop educational opportunities for young men of color

Hunter Zenzen

LB, Senior, Barnesville High School

Nominated for: extracurricular involvement in sporting activities and youth camps



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Dalvin Cook for the third consecutive year is repping the Minnesota Vikings Foundation in today's My Cause My Cleats game.

Cook has been heavily involved with the foundation since joining the Vikings as a second-round draft pick in 2017. Nicknamed "The Chef," the running back especially has embraced the Vikings Table charity food truck, which has provided hundreds of nutritious meals to local community members since its launch this summer.

Cook, who grew up in Miami, Florida, is passionate about helping combat food insecurity – particularly when it

pertains to young people.

"I just want to thank the Minnesota Vikings organization for putting [Vikings Table] together, because it truly means a lot to me, with my upbringing," Cook said earlier this year. "I didn't know the true things to put in my body. Sometimes we skipped meals and didn't have it all of the time.

"Speaking for some of the guys in the locker room, we didn't always have a great upbringing and things weren't OK, so this truly means a lot to me," he added. "I'm a thousand-percent behind it."

In addition to his specific partnership with the Minnesota Vikings Foundation, Cook also hosted a charity cookout in August to raise money for Second Harvest Heartland, a food bank serving the Minneapolis-St. Paul area.



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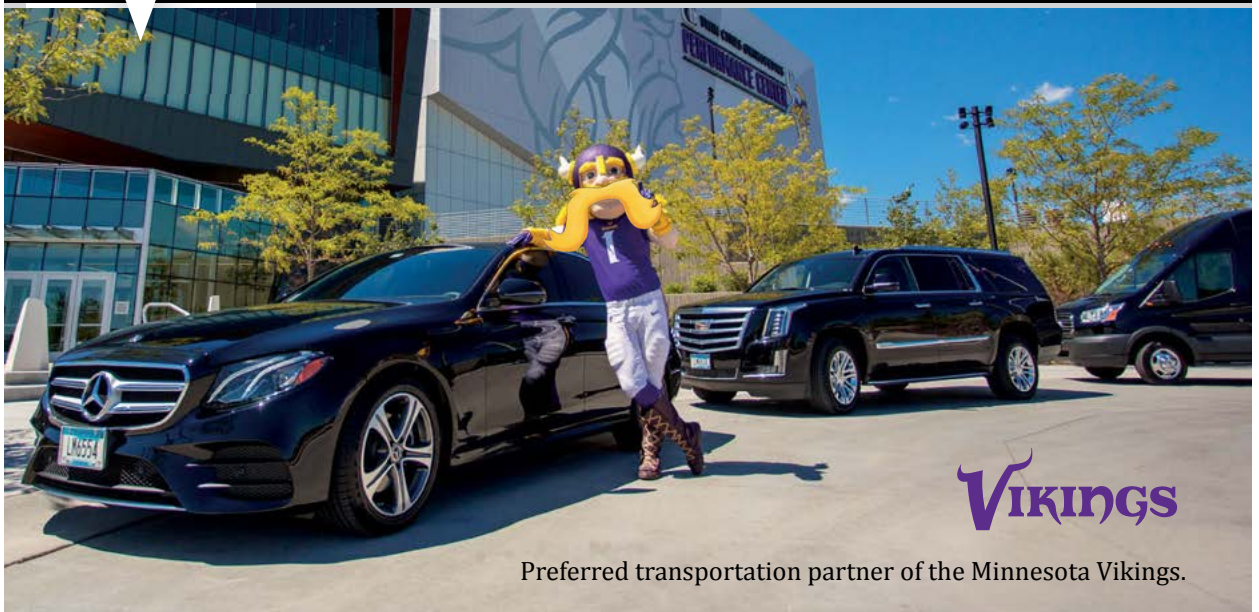
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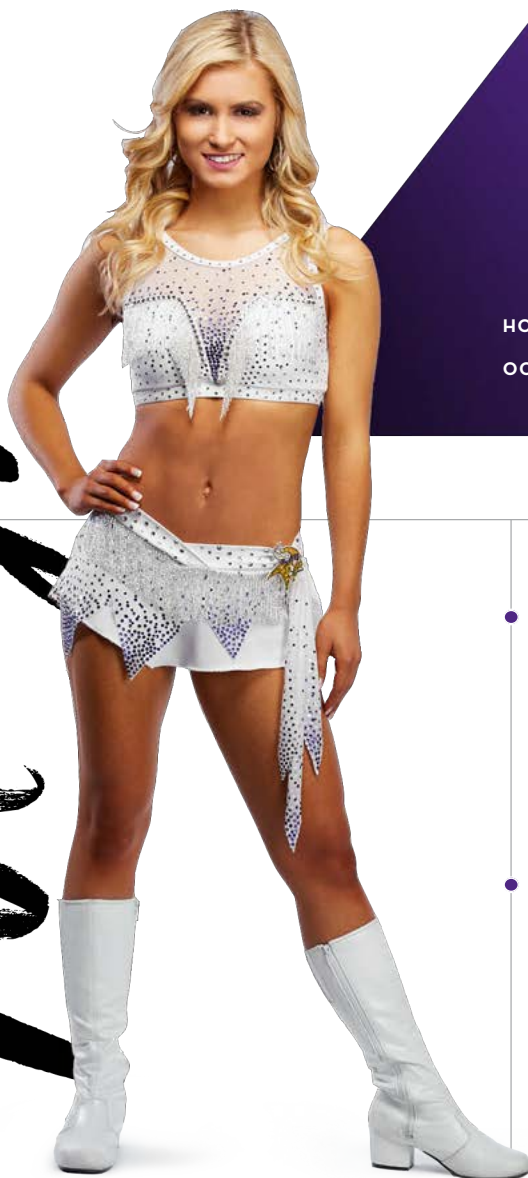
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Meghan



Get to know Meghan

HOMETOWN: BLAINE, MN

OCCUPATION: STUDENT

CHARITY YOU ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT?

One charity that I am passionate about is Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure. My grandmother was diagnosed with cancer a few years back, so I really look forward to cheering on the participants and survivors with the MVC every year at the race.

FAVORITE QUOTE?

"IF YOUR GOALS DON'T SCARE YOU, THEN THEY AREN'T BIG ENOUGH."

« CHECK OUT MEGHAN 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.



WHERE'S VIKTOR'S MUSTACHE

Viktor's signature 'stache is missing! Can you find the five mustaches hidden in this week's *Playbook*? Write the page numbers of where you find each mustache below.

MY CAUSE

MY 'SNEAKS'

x x x
 x x x
 x x x x x
 x x x x x
 x x x x x
 x x x x x



KEEP AN EYE TODAY OUT FOR VIKTOR'S CUSTOM KICKS AT TODAY'S GAME

Viktor will be sporting different custom sneakers each quarter supporting some of his favorite causes - Crescent Cove, Special Olympics (Unified Flag Football), U of M Masonic Children's Hospital, Vikings Foundation and the Animal Humane Society. You can see photos of all the shoes on Viktor's instagram.



Answers: Page 3: Man on the far right; Page 12: Penguin bag; Page 22: lower right; Page 46: on Viktor's face; and Page 50: On the back mural in the photo.

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VIKTOR**

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Official Viktor
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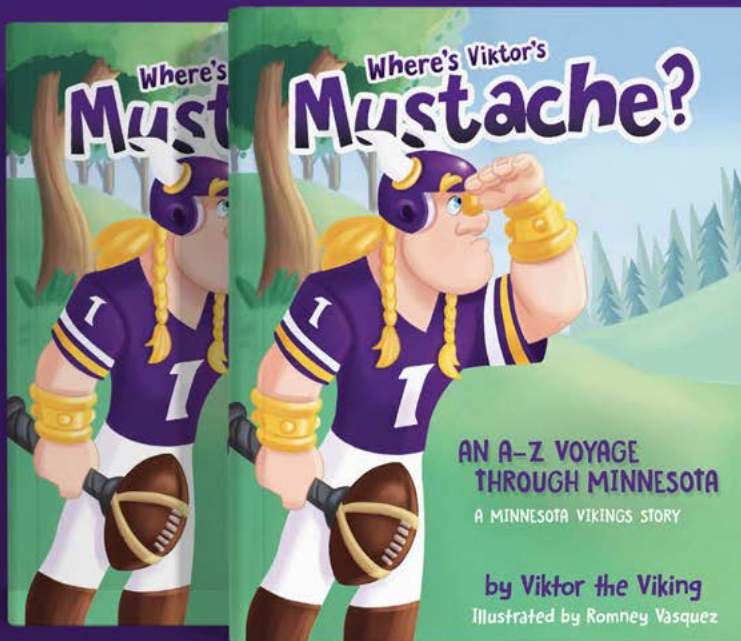
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SKOL SERVICE

SPOTLIGHT ON KELLY SWENSON

BY DAY, KELLY SWENSON IS A FREELANCE COURT REPORTER

for different types of cases. The stenographer takes down testimonies in pretrial discovery depositions held at attorneys' offices throughout the greater Twin Cities area. During the warmer months when she is not working, Kelly is an avid river kayaker and camper, kayaking on the Brule River in Wisconsin and the mighty St. Louis River in Northern Minnesota.

A Minnesotan, born and raised in Coon Rapids, Kelly also spends many weekends up at her family's Lake Mille Lacs cabin. Now she resides in Shoreview with her husband, Mark, and her two sons, Joe and Jack. Kelly



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A SKOL SERVICE TEAM
MEMBER GOING ABOVE
AND BEYOND?

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also grew up a Vikings fan, getting together with her whole family in their living room to watch games on Sundays.

After Kelly's husband and son were hired to work in catering services at U.S. Bank Stadium, as "fun" part-time jobs, they encouraged her to apply, thinking it would be an opportunity for family bonding time.

Kelly is now in her fourth season and mainly caters for staff in the ticket office on game days and supports various stadium events on non-game days. Her favorite aspect about being a part of the team specifically on game

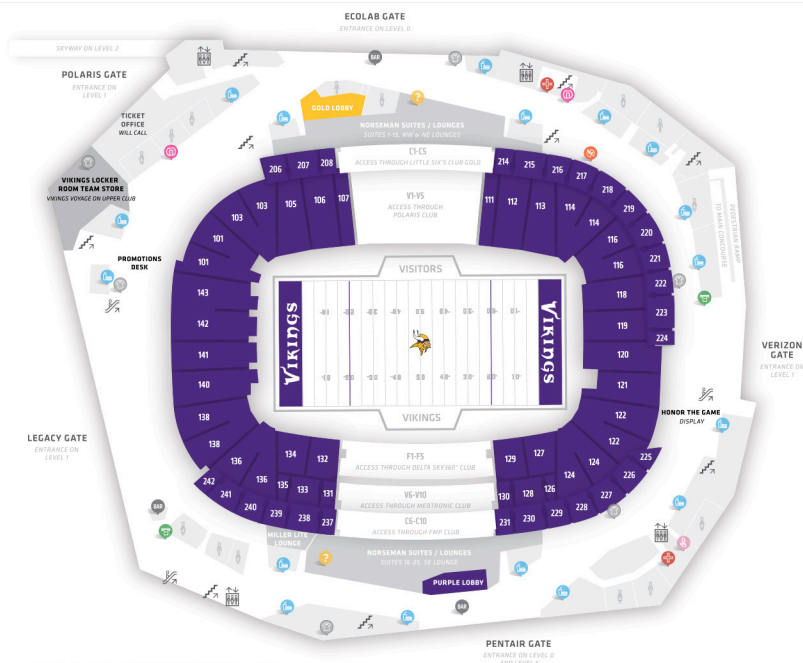
day is being around all of the people, saying, "It puts a smile on my face every game day!"

One of her favorite memories from a game day is when a young man's sole of his shoe started to come apart from the upper, and it made it difficult for him to walk around.

"I saw him struggling and found some duct tape," Kelly recalled. "Together, we fixed his floppy sole!"

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MAIN CONCOURSE





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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

GLUTEN FREE

124, 329

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

103, 113, 122, 124, 304, 311, 318, 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

BLOODY MARYS

109, 110, 128, 301, 314, 326, 332

CRAFT BEER WALL & COCKTAILS ON TAP

101, 130

CRISPIN HARD CIDER

124, 329

HENRY'S HARD SPARKLING WATER

124, 318, 328

WINE

110, 130, 138, 301, 314, 325

STANDS

1ST & FRY 129, 143

612 BURGER KITCHEN 339

AZ CANTEEN 341

AZ CANTEEN ROTISSERIE 121

MARKET BBQ 122, 324

CARIBOU COFFEE 138

CURDS & CAKES 114

ENDZONE GRILL WEST

ENDZONE (Event Level)

HEGGIE'S PIZZA 114, 134, 307

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

PORTABLE

STANDS

AREPAS 131

AZ BRAT 317

BE GRACEFUL 124, 329

BUBBLE WAFFLE 111, Upper Concourse Legacy Gate

DIPPIN DOTS 129, 307

DORITOS WALKING TACO 132, Upper Concourse Legacy Gate

FONG'S CHINESE 347

GOURMET HOT DOG 111, 130 & West Endzone

HERITAGE TEA HOUSE 134

IKE'S 119, 336

THE KERNEL 103, 318

KRAMARCZUK'S 336

LOLA'S 334

M ARTISAN PRETZEL 110, 311, 346

MAC N CHEESE 116

MARKET BBQ 122

MINI DONUTS 111, 318

NACHOS 117

O'CHEEZE 108

STEAK AND CHEESE 107

RESTAURANT

SPOTLIGHT

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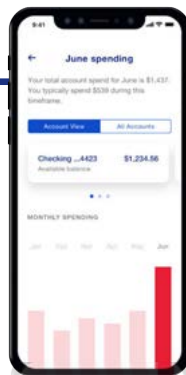
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