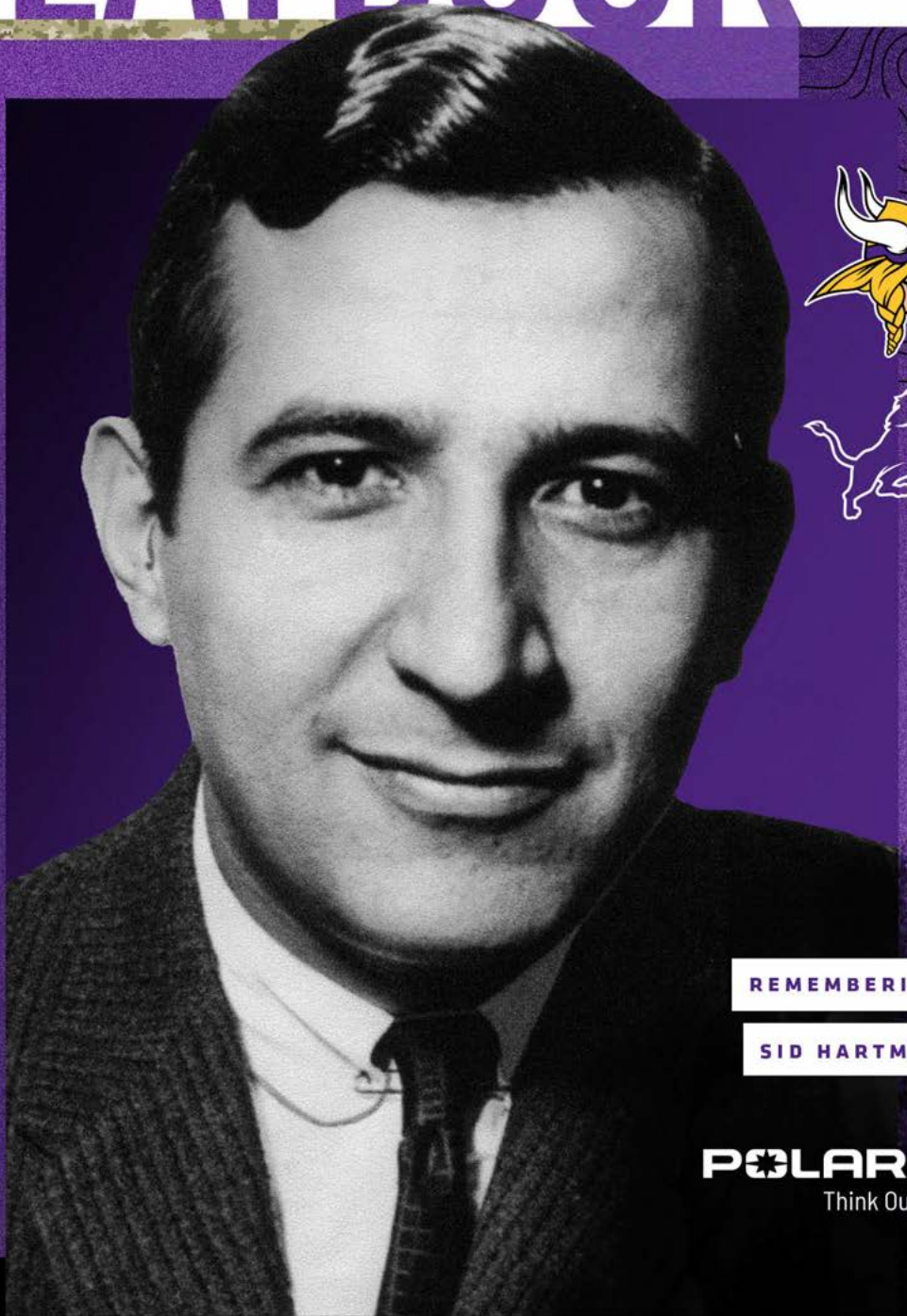


PLAYBOOK

WK 9

SALUTE TO SERVICE | VIKINGS VS. LIONS | NOV. 8, 2020



REMEMBERING

SID HARTMAN

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MINNESOTA
VIKINGS

REMEMBERING

SID

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Use the camera app on your smart phone to scan and get the answers you need.



01

WEEK 8

MIN AT GB

The Vikings upset the Packers 28-22 in Week 8 on a windy day at Lambeau Field. Minnesota's offense protected the football and sustained scoring drives, ending its first four possessions with touchdowns. A short-handed defense delivered key plays at opportune moments.



PHOTO 1

Dalvin Cook escapes a tackle attempt by Vernon Scott during a 50-yard TD on a screen pass. It was Cook's fourth total touchdown of the game. He finished with 226 yards from scrimmage and scored three rushing TDs for the first time in his career.

PHOTO 2

In addition to blocking for Cook, Garrett Bradbury and Dakota Dozier were part of an offensive line's effort that helped Kirk Cousins complete 11 of 14 passes (78.6 percent) on his way to a passer rating of 138.1.



02



03

**PHOTO 3**

Harrison Smith breaks up a pass intended for Equanimeous St. Brown in the end zone. The denial occurred on fourth-and-10 from the Minnesota 37-yard line.

PHOTO 4

Eric Kendricks makes one of the 12 tackles he was credited for on the day. The Vikings limited the Packers to 28 rushing yards on seven carries in the second half.

05

**PHOTO 5**

D.J. Wonnum pursues Aaron Rodgers just before forcing a fumble during a sack on the game's final play. It was Wonnum's second career sack.

ST\$20

VIKINGS

V S L I O N S



This will be the 118th meeting between the Vikings and Lions franchises and fifth at U.S. Bank Stadium.

Minnesota (2-5) enters the game after upsetting division-leading Green Bay (5-2) at Lambeau Field and is seeking its first home win of 2020 in a contest that again will be played without fans in attendance.

Detroit (3-4) lost to Indianapolis in Week 8 after defeating Jacksonville and Atlanta in the two games after its Week 5 bye.

The Lions added former Vikings Adrian Peterson and Jayron Kearshe this offseason and traded to acquire Everson Griffen after his short stint with the Cowboys. Griffen played seven games for Dallas, recording 2.5 sacks. He is expected to make his debut for Detroit against Minnesota, for whom he totaled 74.5 sacks.

FIRST GLANCE

Vikings Defense vs. Lions Offense:

Minnesota's defense found a way to put enough

players on the field and make enough big plays at key moments in the upset win at Green Bay. The unit has allowed an average of 411.7 yards per game (29th in the NFL) but is fifth in the NFL on third downs (allowed success rate of 35.4%) and eighth in the red zone (touchdown rate of 57.7%). In addition to Peterson, it will be important for the Vikings to limit the impact of Matthew Stafford, who ranks 18th all-time in passing yards (42,941) and touchdowns (269).

Vikings Offense vs. Lions Defense:

Dalvin Cook totaled 226 scrimmage yards – the second most by a Viking against the Packers in a game – and became the third Minnesota player to ever score four touchdowns in a game (Chuck Foreman in 1975 and Ahmad Rashad in 1979 were the others). Cook's 10 rushing touchdowns lead the NFL and are a Vikings record through Week 8. He also ranks second in the NFL with 652 rushing yards. Detroit has allowed 130.0 rushing yards per game (which ranks 23rd in the NFL) and ranks 26th in the red zone (has allowed touchdowns on 71.4%).

SUNDAY'S GAME IS
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SALUTE TO SERVICE

The Vikings and Lions players, coaches and staff will wear Salute to Service gear that honors active duty and reserve members of the military, veterans, fallen heroes and their family members for their courage and conviction in protecting freedoms.

This year, a special tribute will be placed in U.S. Bank Stadium to honor 99 Fallen Heroes from Minnesota who have died in combat since the terrorist attacks on 9/11. A seat will be covered in honor of each of those casualties and be joined by the hero's name and a flag for the branch of service.

U.S. Central Command has reported more than 7,000 American military casualties while supporting Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn since Sept. 11, 2001.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

The United States European Command Military Bands will perform the National Anthem in a pre-recorded video. The ensemble includes musicians from the United States Army Europe Band and Chorus stationed in Sembach, Germany; the United States Naval Forces Europe Band in Naples, Italy; and the United States Air Forces Europe Band in Ramstein, Germany.



PREGAME
ALL-ACCESS

usbank

Vikings fans can connect with home games in a new way thanks to *Vikings Pregame All-Access* presented by U.S. Bank, a livestreaming of pregame events and player warm-ups on vikings.com, the team's mobile app and official social media platforms. The livestream is designed to virtually bring fans into U.S. Bank Stadium. It begins an hour before kickoff.



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VIKINGS FANS IN THE STANDS

PRESENTED BY CARIBOU COFFEE

While there are no fans at U.S. Bank Stadium, we still want Vikings Fans in the Stands. Presented by Caribou Coffee, Vikings fans can purchase a cutout of themselves in their game-day gear and be placed in the stands for the entire season! 100% of net proceeds will go to charitable community causes.

HY-VEE FUEL SAVER PROMOTION

THEY score, YOU save! Shop your local Hy-Vee store following game day to receive great fuel savings. Simply spend the same amount that the Vikings scored, and earn a 1¢ credit on your Hy-Vee Fuel Saver + Perks® card. If the Vikings score 14 points, spend \$14 or more the next day and earn 14¢ credit on your Hy-Vee Fuel Saver + Perks® card. SKOL! Promotion valid at all Minnesota Hy-Vee locations; some limitations apply. See store for details.



CENTURYLINK LEGENDS CONNECTION

Don't miss your chance to virtually meet fan-favorite football heroes all season. CenturyLink has teamed up with your Minnesota Vikings for the Legends Connection Meet & Greet Sweepstakes – an opportunity for a 30-minute virtual Meet & Greet with a Vikings Legend. Enter online at vikings.com/fans/centurylink-promo for a chance to win.



KWIK TRIP OPENING DRIVE

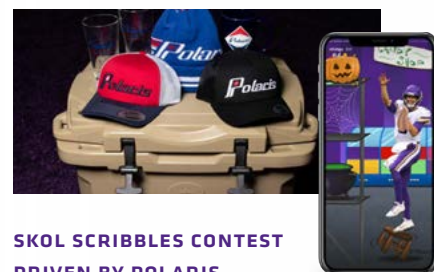
Sunday's Kwik Trip opening drive contestant is April Durant from New Brighton, MN. April will win a \$25 gift card for every yard earned on the Vikings opening drive plus a \$500 bonus for a field goal or \$1,000 for an opening drive touchdown. To enter, see your neighborhood Kwik Trip today!



FRONTLINE FEATURES

PRESENTED BY MILLER LITE

Frontline Features will recognize extraordinary Vikings fans throughout the season who have overcome challenges to make a difference for others during the COVID-19 pandemic. Nominate a deserving frontline worker at [Vikings.com/frontline](https://vikings.com/frontline).



SKOL SCRIBBLES CONTEST DRIVEN BY POLARIS

Enter the Skol Scribbles contest by submitting your idea for weekly photo transformations. You could win one of 16 weekly prize packs from Polaris. Follow the @vikings on Instagram or Snapchat Stories to learn more.



Spalon will be giving away a \$100 gift card during Sunday's game! Show us your game-day look by tweeting a photo @SpalonMontage or tagging @spalonmontage on your IG story for a chance to win!

60 GREATEST VIKINGS FANS PRESENTED BY U.S. BANK

In celebration of 60 seasons of Vikings football, the Vikings are naming 60 of their most passionate supporters to the 60 Greatest Fans Team. If you know someone with unyielding dedication to the Vikings, nominate that fan today at Vikings.com/60Fans.



➔ Check out pages 41-42 to learn about the latest fans to make the team.

ABSOLUT® VIKINGS HOMEGATER

Are you the Absolut® Vikings Homegater? Whatever you do on game day, celebrate your Absolut® best this football season by submitting your photo as the Absolut® Homegater of the week. Fans will have a chance to win a Vikings and Absolut® weekly prize pack, and one super fan will be dubbed the Absolut® Homegater of the Season, winning a co-branded mini-fridge. To enter, go to vikings.com/homegater and submit your fan photo today.

ABSOLUT.®



U.S. BANK HOMETOWN HEROES

The Hometown Heroes for Week 9 are the members of the 34th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade that recently returned to Minnesota after a 10-month deployment to the Middle East. The Minnesota Army National Guard unit supports the 34th Infantry Division and the state of Minnesota by providing aviation capabilities for federal and state missions. Led by Col. Gregory Fix, the 34th supported Operation Spartan Shield and Operation Inherent Resolve. Since January, aviators flew more than 15,000 rotary wing hours throughout 15 different locations. The unit consists of nearly 2,000 members from active duty components, multiple National Guard units across 10 states and additional Coalition service members from Italy and Spain.

BUFFALO WILD WINGS SACKS FOR APPS

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



MYSTIC LAKE PASS OR PLAY

"Pass or Play" is a free game, presented by Mystic Lake, available in the Vikings App that allows users to set weekly rosters. The top three users each week will be eligible for prizes.

Mystic LAKE®

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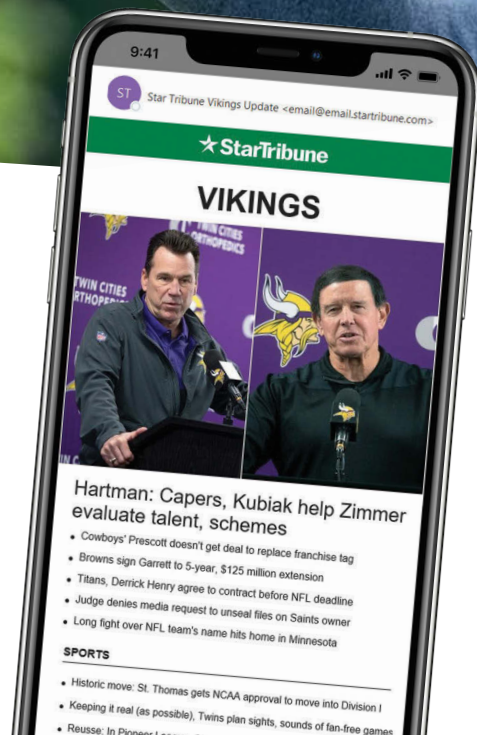




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THE BEST USE THE BEST



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Kendricks embodies a modern-day NFL linebacker capable of defending multiple types of running backs. A sure-handed tackler who has led the Vikings in tackles in each of his first five seasons, he enters Week 9 ranked third in the NFL and on track to tie the franchise record number of seasons set by Pro Bowlers Scott Studwell (1980-85) and Chad Greenway (2008-13). Kendricks also has shown his versatility in being able to defend running backs, tight ends and receivers on passes. He tied for the NFL lead among linebackers in 2019 with 12 pass breakups en route to his first Pro Bowl and First-Team All-Pro selections. Kendricks' first regular-season home game of his career was against the Lions. He recorded five tackles as a reserve in a 26-16 win by Minnesota. He became a starter two weeks later and has manned the middle ever since, wrapping up runners, covering receivers and blitzing or bluffing quarterbacks.

CRANKING OUT THE HITS

Over his first five seasons, Kendricks has played in eight games against the Lions. He has totaled 51 tackles (36 solo), 3.0 sacks, seven tackles for loss, six quarterback hits and two pass breakups, helping Minnesota go 6-2 against Detroit in those games.

In just his sixth pro game and third career start, Kendricks recorded 2.0 sacks of Matthew Stafford in Detroit. It is one of two games in which he's registered more than one sack.

2.0
IN '15

* – Vikings regular-season record

2020 SEASON LEADERS

Passing (Yds)	Kirk Cousins	1,635
Rushing (Yds)	Dalvin Cook	652
Receiving (Yds)	Justin Jefferson	563
Tackles	Eric Kendricks	78
Sacks	Ifeadi Odenigbo	2.5
Interceptions	Eric Wilson	2
KOR (Yards)	K.J. Osborn	210
PR (Avg.)	K.J. Osborn	6.0

2020 SCHEDULE

1	9/13	Green Bay Packers	L 43-34
2	9/20	at Indianapolis Colts	L 28-11
3	9/27	Tennessee Titans	L 31-30
4	10/4	at Houston Texans	W 31-23
5	10/11	at Seattle Seahawks	L 27-26
6	10/18	Atlanta Falcons	L 40-23
7	10/25	Bye Week	
8	11/1	at Green Bay Packers	W 28-22
9	11/8	Detroit Lions	
10	11/16	at Chicago Bears	
11	11/22	Dallas Cowboys	
12	11/29	Carolina Panthers	
13	12/6	Jacksonville Jaguars	
14	12/13	at Tampa Bay Buccaneers	
15	12/20	Chicago Bears	
16	12/25	at New Orleans Saints	
17	1/3	at Detroit Lions	

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)



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Peterson will be leaving the visitors' locker room at U.S. Bank Stadium for the third time ever and in Honolulu Blue for the first time at the venue. Peterson played for the Saints, opening the 2017 season with six carries for 18 yards against the team that drafted him in 2007. He returned last season with Washington and rushed 14 times for 76 yards while adding 27 yards on two catches. The 35-year-old is sure to bring an intensity against his former squad. Peterson joined the Lions this offseason, continuing his climb up the all-time leading rushers list. He is currently fifth with 14,537 and trails Lions Legend Barry Sanders' 15,269 career yards by 732. The only players with more yards than Sanders or Peterson are Emmitt Smith (18,355), Walter Payton (16,726) and Frank Gore (15,687). As a member of the Vikings, Peterson recorded 1,490 rushing yards in 14 games against the Lions, his third-highest yardage total against any team.

NO END TO REACHING END ZONE

Peterson ranks fourth in NFL history with 113 rushing touchdowns. Emmitt Smith is the all-time leader with 164, followed by LaDainian Tomlinson with 145 and Marcus Allen at 123. The Vikings are one of five teams that Peterson has not scored a touchdown against, along with the Ravens, Colts, Jets and 49ers.

25

OF 50+

The breakaway — “He’s LOOSE!” — has been an impressive attribute of Peterson’s career. He has recorded 25 runs that have gained 50 or more yards, including four against the Lions while a member of the Vikings. Those runs include an 80-yarder in Week 3 of 2010 and a 78-yard scamper in Week 1 of the 2013 season.

2020 SEASON LEADERS

Passing (Yds)	Matthew Stafford	1,916
Rushing (Yds)	Adrian Peterson	321
Receiving (Yds)	Kenny Golladay	338
Tackles	Tracy Walker	47
Sacks	Romeo Okwara	5.0
Interceptions	Duron Harmon	2
KOR (Yds)	Jamal Agnew	294
PR (Avg.)	Jamal Agnew	8.6

2020 SCHEDULE

1	9/13	Chicago Bears	L	27-23
2	9/20	at Green Bay Packers	L	42-21
3	9/27	at Arizona Cardinals	W	26-23
4	10/4	New Orleans Saints	L	35-29
5	10/11	Bye Week		
6	10/18	at Jacksonville Jaguars	W	34-16
7	10/25	at Atlanta Falcons	W	23-22
8	11/1	Indianapolis Colts	L	41-21
9	11/8	at Minnesota Vikings		
10	11/15	Washington Football Team		
11	11/22	at Carolina Panthers		
12	11/26	Houston Texans		
13	12/6	at Chicago Bears		
14	12/13	Green Bay Packers		
15	12/20	at Tennessee Titans		
16	12/27	Tampa Bay Buccaneers		
17	1/3	Minnesota Vikings		

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

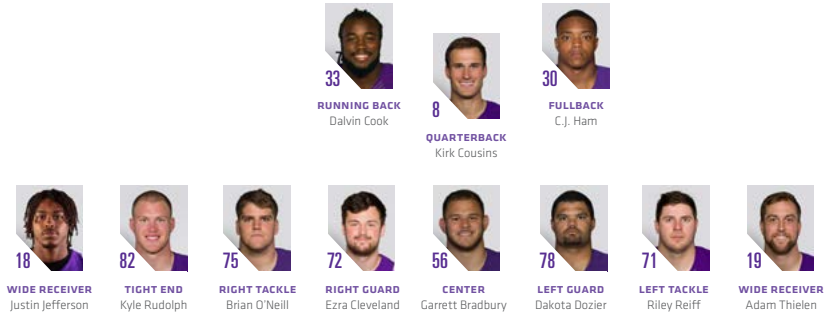
410	Scott Mitchell on 30-of-45 passing at Detroit (Nov. 23, 1995)
378	Matthew Stafford on 32-of-46 passing in Minnesota (Sept. 25, 2011)

RECEIVING YARDS

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

VIKINGS ROSTER

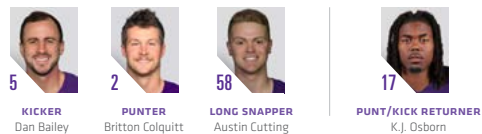
2	Britton Colquitt	P
4	Sean Mannion	QB
5	Dan Bailey	K
8	Kirk Cousins	QB
11	Tajaé Sharpe	WR
12	Chad Beebe	WR
17	K.J. Osborn	WR
18	Justin Jefferson	WR
19	Adam Thielen	WR
20	Jeff Gladney	CB
22	Harrison Smith	S
23	Mike Boone	RB
24	Holton Hill	CB
25	Alexander Mattison	RB
26	Chris Jones	CB
27	Cameron Dantzler	CB
29	Kris Boyd	CB
30	C.J. Ham	FB
31	Ameer Abdullah	RB
32	Mark Fields II	CB
33	Dalvin Cook	RB
37	Curtis Riley	S
38	Harrison Hand	CB
41	Anthony Harris	S
44	Josh Metellus	S
45	Troy Dye	LB
47	Hardy Nickerson	LB
50	Eric Wilson	LB
54	Eric Kendricks	LB
56	Garrett Bradbury	C
57	Ryan Connelly	LB
58	Austin Cutting	LS
67	Jordan Brailford	DE
69	Rashod Hill	T
71	Riley Reiff	T
72	Ezra Cleveland	T
73	Dru Samia	G
74	Olisaemeka Udoh	T
75	Brian O'Neill	T
78	Dakota Dozier	G
81	Bisi Johnson	WR
82	Kyle Rudolph	TE
83	Tyler Conklin	TE
84	Irv Smith Jr.	TE
85	Dan Chisena	WR
90	Jalyn Holmes	DE
92	James Lynch	DT
93	Shamar Stephen	DT
94	Jaleel Johnson	DT
95	Ifeadi Odenigbo	DE
96	Armon Watts	DT
98	D.J. Wonnum	DE



VIKINGS OFFENSE



VIKINGS SPECIAL TEAMS



MINNESOTA VIKINGS DEPTH CHART & ROSTER



OFFENSE


WR	Jefferson	B. Johnson	Chisena
LT	Reiff	R. Hill	
LG	Dozier	Samia	
C	Bradbury		
RG	Cleveland	Samia	
RT	O'Neill	Udoh	
TE	Rudolph	I. Smith Jr.	Conklin
WR	Thielen	Sharpe	Beebe
QB	Cousins	Mannion	
RB	Cook	Mattison	Abdullah
FB	Ham		

DEFENSE


LDE	Odenigbo	Brailford	
NT	Stephen	Watts	
DT	Johnson	Lynch	
RDE	Holmes	Wonnum	
WLB	Wilson	Nickerson	
MLB	Kendricks	Nickerson	
SLB	Dye	Connelly	
LCB	Dantzler	Hand	Fields II
RCB	Gladney	Hill	Boyd
SS	H. Smith	Riley	
FS	Harris	Metellus	

LIONS ROSTER


3	Jack Fox	P
4	Chase Daniel	QB
5	Matt Prater	K
9	Matthew Stafford	QB
10	David Blough	QB
11	Marvin Jones Jr.	WR
17	Marvin Hall	WR
19	Kenny Golladay	WR
21	Tracy Walker	DB
23	Desmond Trufant	CB
24	Amani Oruwariye	CB
25	Will Harris	S
26	Duron Harmon	S
27	Justin Coleman	CB
28	Adrian Peterson	RB
29	Darryl Roberts	CB
30	Jeff Okudah	CB
32	D'Andre Swift	RB
33	Kerryon Johnson	RB
34	Tony McRae	CB
35	Miles Killebrew	S
38	Mike Ford	CB
39	Jamal Agnew	RB/WR
40	Jarrad Davis	LB
42	Jayron Kearse	S
44	Jalen Reeves-Maybin	LB
45	Jason Cabinda	LB/FB
48	Don Muhlbach	LS
49	C.J. Moore	S
51	Jahlani Tavai	LB
52	Christian Jones	LB
58	Jamie Collins Sr.	LB
59	Reggie Ragland	LB
61	Logan Stenberg	OL
65	Tyrell Crosby	OL
66	Joe Dahl	G
67	Matt Nelson	T
68	Taylor Decker	T
71	Danny Shelton	DT
72	Halapoulivaati Vaitai	T
73	Jonah Jackson	OL
76	Oday Aboushi	OL
77	Frank Ragnow	OL
80	Danny Amendola	WR
83	Jesse James	TE
87	Quintez Cephus	WR
88	T.J. Hockenson	TE
89	Isaac Nauta	TE
91	John Penisini	DL
93	Da'Shawn Hand	DL
95	Romeo Okwara	DE
97	Nick Williams	DT
98	Everson Griffen	DE




50
LINEBACKER
Eric Wilson




41
SAFETY
Anthony Harris




54
LINEBACKER
Eric Kendricks




22
SAFETY
Harrison Smith




45
LINEBACKER
Troy Dye




20
CORNERBACK
Jeff Gladney




90
DEFENSIVE END
Jalyn Holmes




93
NOSE TACKLE
Shamar Stephen



94
DEFENSIVE TACKLE
Jaleel Johnson




95
DEFENSIVE END
Ifeadi Odenigbo




27
CORNERBACK
Cameron Dantzler


VIKINGS DEFENSE




19
WIDE RECEIVER
Kenny Golladay




68
LEFT TACKLE
Taylor Decker




73
LEFT GUARD
Jonah Jackson




77
CENTER
Frank Ragnow




72
RIGHT GUARD
Halapoulivaati Vaitai




65
RIGHT TACKLE
Tyrell Crosby




88
TIGHT END
T.J. Hockenson




11
WIDE RECEIVER
Marvin Jones Jr.



9
QUARTERBACK
Matthew Stafford




28
RUNNING BACK
Adrian Peterson




80
WIDE RECEIVER
Danny Amendola


LIONS SPECIAL TEAMS




5
KICKER
Matt Prater



3
PUNTER
Jack Fox



48
LONG SNAPPER
Don Muhlbach



39
PUNT/KICK RETURNER
Jamal Agnew

DETROIT LIONS DEPTH CHART & ROSTER



OFFENSE

WR	Golladay	Cephus	
LT	Decker	Nelson	
LG	Jackson	Dahl	Aboushi
C	Ragnow	Stenberg	
RG	Vaitai		
RT	Crosby		
TE	Hockenson	James	Nauta
WR	Amendola	Agnew	
WR	Jones Jr.	Hall	
QB	Stafford	Daniel	Blough
RB	Peterson	Swift	Johnson

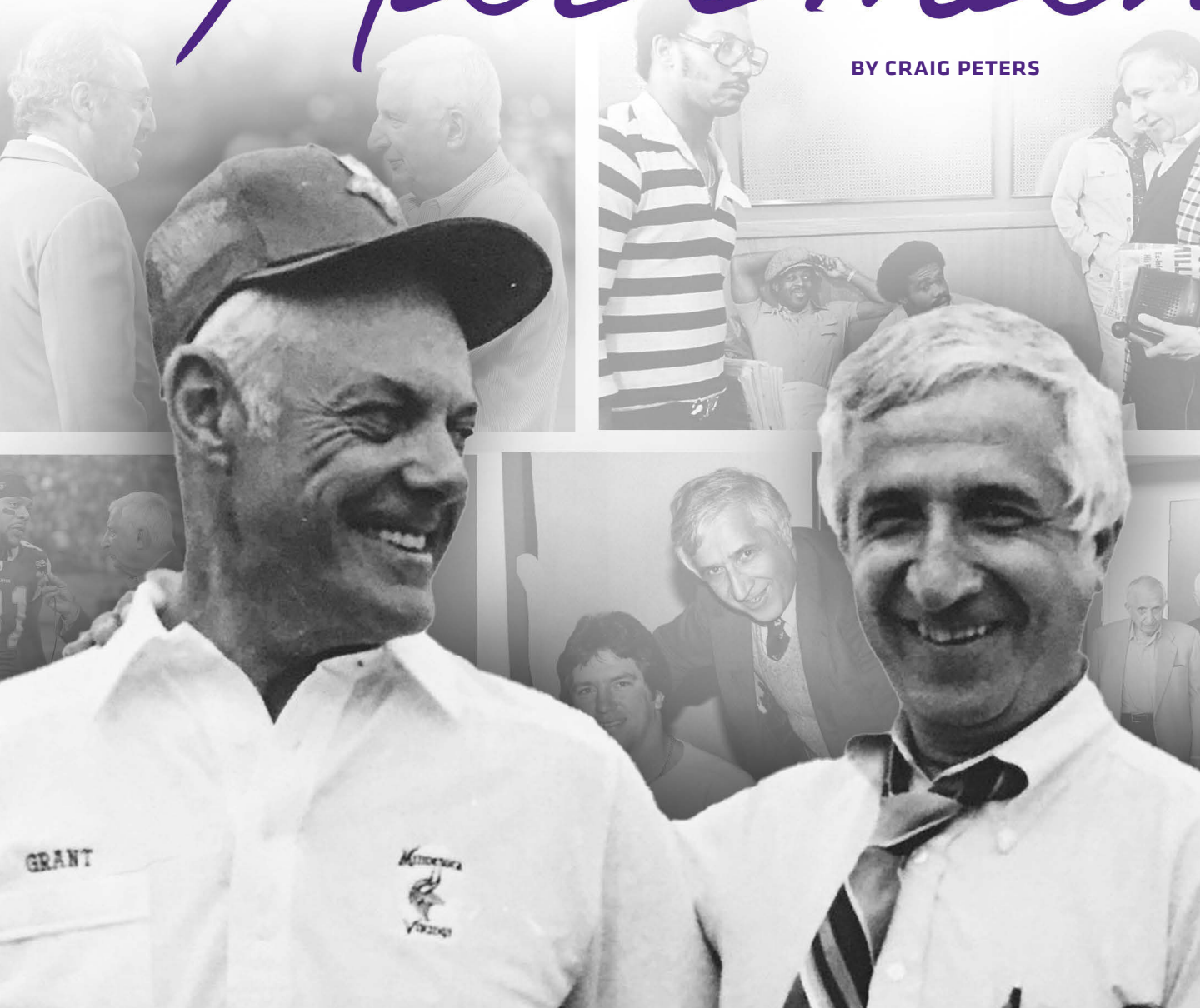
DEFENSE


DL	Williams	Griffen	
DT	Shelton		
DT	Penisini		
DL	Okwara	Hand	
LB	Jones	Reeves-Maybin	
LB	Tavai	Davis	
LB	Collins Sr.	Ragland	Cabinda
CB	Trufant	Coleman	Roberts
CB	Oruwariye	Okudah	McRae
S	Walker	Harris	Killebrew
S	Harmon	Kearse	Moore

FOUNDING
FIGURE

Sid Hartman

BY CRAIG PETERS





Tributes have rolled in on multiple types of media platforms with condolences expressed from coast-to-coast and memories shared with the lamentation that there will never be another Sid Hartman.

The native of North Minneapolis overcame numerous obstacles during his youth and worked his way up the newspaper industry.

He became an instrumental influencer long before Instagram, helping bring big-league sports to the Twin Cities and earning first-name fame.

It was Hartman in 1947 who hand-delivered a \$15,000 check from Ben Berger and Morris Chalfen to purchase the Detroit Gems franchise from Maurice Winston. The franchise was renamed the Minneapolis Lakers.

Max Winter served as team president, but Hartman was effectively general manager and led the team to sign Minnesota Gophers multisport standout Bud Grant, who is the only man to play in the NBA (1949-51) and NFL (1951-52).

The Lakers won league titles in five of their first six seasons, and Hartman was involved with the team until 1957. The franchise moved to Los Angeles in 1960.

Hartman had been on the Gophers beat when Grant arrived in Dinkytown and quickly built a friendship that spanned parts of nine decades. Winter – one of five original Minnesota Vikings owners – and the team's leadership hired Grant to be the second head coach in team history in 1967.

The relationship between Hartman and Grant reached "best friend" status and included multiple high points.

"There are a lot of stories about Sid, and they're all positive," Grant said during an interview by Dave Lee and Mike Max on WCCO Radio hours after Hartman passed away on Oct. 18. "They're all good.

"I've said it many times, and will repeat it: Of all

the people in this world, Sid had more integrity than anybody I've ever known. He was my very best friend," Grant continued. "He would never betray a confidence, and that's why he had so many friends in the sports world. They all could trust Sid. And he never said anything blind, he never put anybody on the spot. He had a way of writing, you bought it, but he never took anybody to task that I know of. He was my best friend, and I loved him dearly."

Grant respected and loved Hartman so much that the stoic coach asked the journalist to present him for the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1994.

Hartman was an epic speaker when "Bud Grant Way" was dedicated outside of U.S. Bank Stadium, and Grant returned the favor when the Sid Hartman Media Entrance was unveiled at the venue.

GOODBYE, CLOSE PERSONAL FRIEND

Sunday is just the third in NFL history without Hartman on the planet.

The legendary columnist passed away peacefully while with family on Oct. 18. The news was announced by his son, Chad Hartman, on Twitter while the Vikings were hosting the Falcons.

Congratulatory words poured in for Hartman in March when he turned 100 on the 15th, just as the sports world and American life as most knew it was upended by the COVID-19 pandemic. A scheduled birthday luncheon full of "close personal friends" – Hartman's trademark term – never happened.

Restrictions and guidelines implemented led to a virtual environment for the NFL Draft and limited visits to Twin Cities Orthopedics Performance Center. Otherwise, Hartman would have kept on working the beat with the gusto he had displayed since Minnesota's inaugural 1961 season.

In the column printed on his 100th birthday, Hartman wrote: "I have followed the advice that if you love what you do, you never work a day in your life. Even at 100, I can say I still love what I do."

Even though in-person interactions stopped, Hartman continued his vocation. His final column that featured fellow Minnesota hero, receiver Adam Thielen, was published on Oct. 18, greeting his avid audience of readers one final time in the *Star Tribune*.

Vikings Legends

Fran Tarkenton

Fran Tarkenton, who was drafted in the third round of the 1961 NFL Draft in December 1960, recalled meeting Hartman on his first trip to Minnesota in February 1961:

"It's like 10-below-zero, and we come down at Wold-Chamberlain Field (now known as MSP) off a Northwest Airlines flight from Atlanta to here, and down at the bottom of the steps was Sir Sidney Hartman. I had never heard of him, didn't know who he was. He had his trusty microphone and out in the 10-below-zero, he gave my first interview. Sid Hartman is as important to the Minnesota Vikings as anybody from Bud Grant, Fran Tarkenton, Jim Marshall, Alan Page, Carl Eller, Adrian Peterson. He's just as big of a part of it as any of us."

Ahmad Rashad

Rashad's first career as an NFL receiver took off when he signed with Minnesota in 1976 and said Hartman made a strong initial impression:

"Sid was as much a part of the Vikings as anybody. He was Minnesota. When I first got to the team, he was one of the first people I met. You read his column every day. There was nothing he didn't miss, and he was one of these guys that knew everybody. I met George Steinbrenner with him. George Steinbrenner would come hang out with Sid. He was kind of a throwback. He carried that little recorder everywhere he went, and no one else was doing that. He was a staunch, real reporter, and there was nobody quite like him in the country."

Rashad said Hartman helped his second career by providing tips and encouragement:

"When I started doing television in Minnesota, he was always a person that would come over and inspire me, you know, ask me what I was trying to do, where I wanted to go with this. 'Maybe you should do a little of this or that.' He was just a wonderful, wonderful man. He was just great. There's so many great things to say about him. After I left Minnesota, I was working for NBC and I was doing Wimbledon. I was there with Johnny Carson. There was one day I wasn't going to go, and Sid called me and told me his son was in town and would like to go to Wimbledon, so I left him tickets, and I

think he ended up sitting with Johnny Carson. Sid never let me forget that. Every time I saw him for a year or 20 years later, he would thank me for that.

"There are certain people in your life that have a certain importance that really leaves a mark on your life, and when you look back at it, you realize how fortunate I was to have had someone like Sid Hartman in my life."

Carl Eller

"The thing that I remember the most about Sid is that he was always around. He was a standard ... it was kind of like if Sid said it, that's the way it was. His word was Gospel. He was definitely the Minnesota sports person. He really had the trust from the public. He was the guy they wanted to hear from.

"Sid was truly dedicated and took all of it seriously. You could always count on him to get something, a scoop. People relied on Sid. Sid could get the story when there was a story to be had."

Jim Marshall

"Sid and I had a lot of fun together. Since I've been here, Sid's been a part of the Minnesota Vikings. He was a lot of fun. You could tease him and see that you were being successful at teasing him.

"I was always the jokester around Sid. I told him one time, 'You're not allowed in our locker room anymore, Sid, because we've heard you've been going out and talking about' – it was just something we made up. Sid would say, 'I never did that. I would never do anything like that.' That would be the impetus that we needed to keep on. It was a lot of fun.

"After a few times of him being around and seeing how he worked with the coaches, we began to notice him and accept him."

Marcus Sherels

"It was always fun seeing Sid around. When I was with the Gophers and Vikings, he would always ask me about my brother and how we were doing before any sports-related questions. Sid was and always will be a legend, and he will be missed greatly."

Vikings Legends took to social media to honor Sid Hartman.

RANDY MOSS

"Thank u for letting me be [a part] of ur journey GENIUS (what he called me)!!LOVED his VIKINGS!! #ripsid #skol❤❤"

JAKE REED

"RIP #SidHartman My prayers go out to the family! I could always count on Sid to write exactly what I said! Trusted him 100%! #greatman #respect"

MATT BIRK

"RIP Sid. Your close personal friends will miss you. All 1 million of them."

TOMMY KRAMER

"Rest In Peace Sid. Nobody did it better. Quick story, on the team ride home, Sid would always fall asleep. One flight Rickey Young cut Sid's tie up by the neck. Sid woke up later, noticed and said.... It was that God Damn Young, I know he did it.😂"

RICH GANNON

"I first met the legendary Sid Hartman when I came to the Vikings in 1987. He was an incredibly hard working journalist who was always so prepared, informed & fair. He genuinely cared about the players he covered & was an incredible ambassador for all sports in Minnesota. #legend"

BRIAN ROBISON

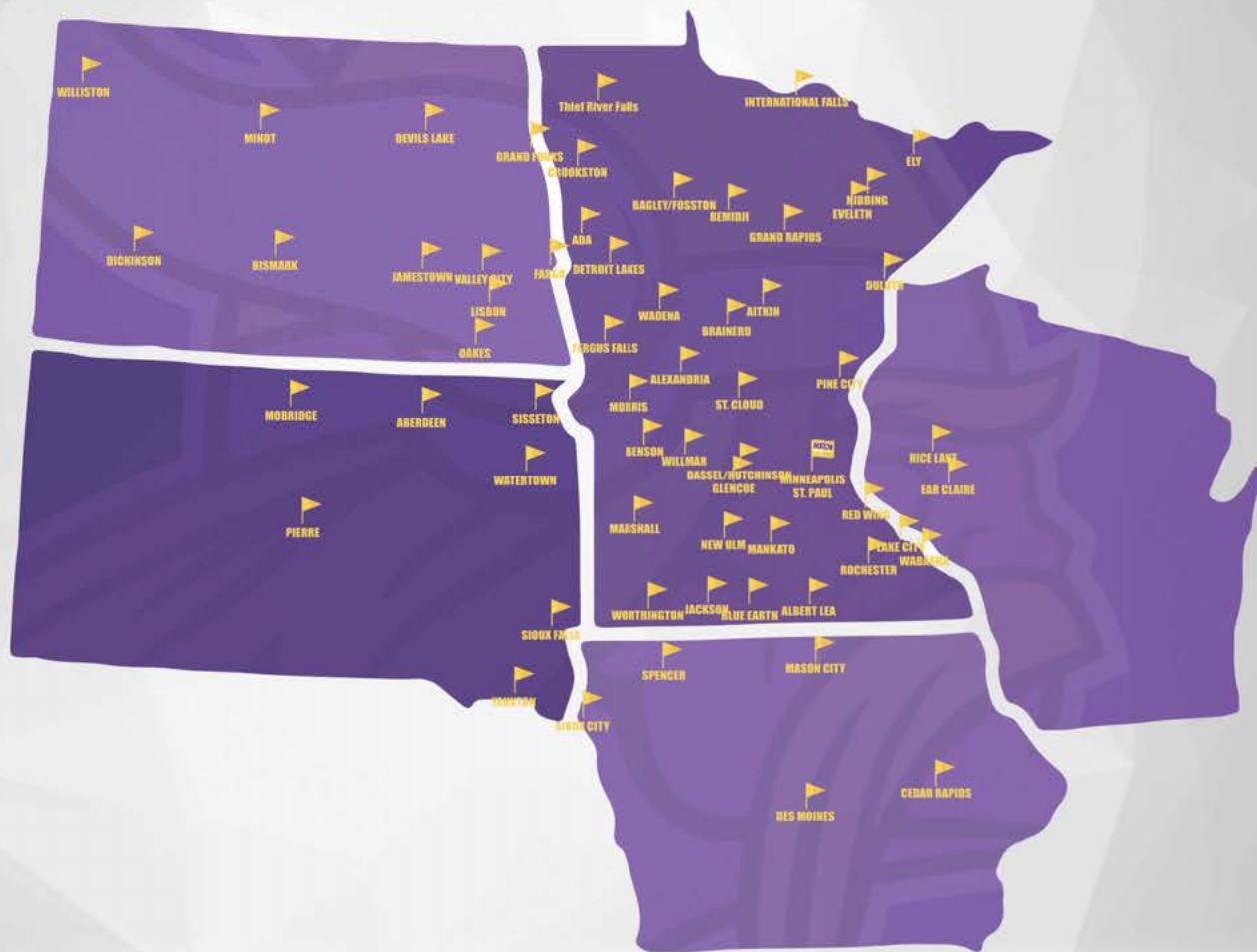
"RIP Sid! If I know you, you're probably having a sit down with the man up there himself😂"

CHAD GREENWAY

"Rest In Peace my close personal friend. What a joy to get to know you and the legend you were. Thank you. #letmeaskyouaquestion"

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Vikings took to social media to honor Sid Hartman.

Current Vikings

RUNNING BACK DALVIN COOK

"Rest In Peace, Sid living to see a 100 was definitely a blessing. We will truly miss you around the team. Thanks for everything over the last four years 💜"

RECEIVER ADAM THIELEN

"I will miss your presence around our team and the way you worked as hard as anyone could for 75+ years. Thank you for doing so much for the state that you and I both love so much. You truly are a legend. Rest in peace, Sid."

TIGHT END KYLE RUDOLPH

"Over my 10 years here it's been an absolute pleasure getting to know the biggest legend in the Minnesota Sports community."

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT OF FOOTBALL OPERATIONS ROB BRZEZINSKI

"I am nobody. He treated me like a son. So sad he never saw the Vikings raise the Lombardi. Sid, we will get it done for you! RIP 💜🥹"

Vikings Owners

Mark and Zygi Wilf

"It is nearly impossible to put into words what Sid meant to the sports world and to Minnesota. He was an iconic sports figure, a tenacious reporter and a tireless advocate for his beloved state. His doggedness and work ethic were unmatched, but it was Sid's ability to nurture relationships that truly set him apart. He was a confidant and a loyal friend to countless athletes and coaches across the country.

"The impact Sid had on collegiate and professional sports can never be replicated and will never be forgotten. His presence and his personality were constants during the Vikings first 60 seasons. Sid welcomed our family to town in 2005, and we will always appreciate his support for us as owners and for the Vikings franchise. Our prayers are with the entire Hartman family."

Head Coach Mike Zimmer

"A couple of my favorite [memories] are when myself and Bud [Grant] were able to go to lunch with him for his birthday. Things like that. Being able to see him in the press conference, walk right up to the front and ask the question. He couldn't hear, so he's always outdueling everybody for the question. But he always saw the good in everybody."

General Manager Rick Spielman

"Sid was such an iconic sports figure, not only here in the state of Minnesota but nationally as well, and listening to all of the stories, hearing Sid, I don't believe that the Minnesota sports landscape as we know it today would be the same if it wasn't for Sid Hartman and everything he contributed."

Quarterback Kirk Cousins

"I'm so grateful that I got to meet him and I got to know him. What a life he lived, what a legacy he left, and I'll be praying for their family in the days ahead."



Scan this code with your smart phone to view the extended version of "100 Tributes to Sid Hartman" on Vikings.com.





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CUTTING

BY ERIC SMITH

Austin Cutting has made a career change. Well, he's made a change in one of his two current careers. Yes, Cutting is still the Vikings long snapper, a role he has held since he was a seventh-round pick in 2019 out of the United States Air Force Academy.

But after being an acquisitions officer during his time at the Academy, Cutting is now focused on a different avenue as an active-duty aircraft maintenance officer.

The 24-year-old spent time at a tech school in Texas from early February to late April, where he received plenty of hands-on training for his new role.

In May, he reported for full-time work at the 934th Airlift Wing in Minneapolis for more on-the-job training in a field that is a bit foreign to him.

"The goal of the Air Force is to have planes in the air, so if they're not, you know something isn't working right," Cutting said. "For me, it's more [checking on] the status of planes, 'What can we do

to fix them, when can they be fixed?' ... Then you get that information and report it to someone who's higher up than you.

"The biggest thing for me is getting to know the planes. Whether it's something like an engine and they found something that needed to be fixed, or seeing how they

replace parts on an airplane ... it's daunting because these aircraft are huge," Cutting said. "You get out there and it's cool to even see them replace a tire and how much goes into that. I've been going to meetings and just doing a lot of learning. But everyone has been there to help me through the process."

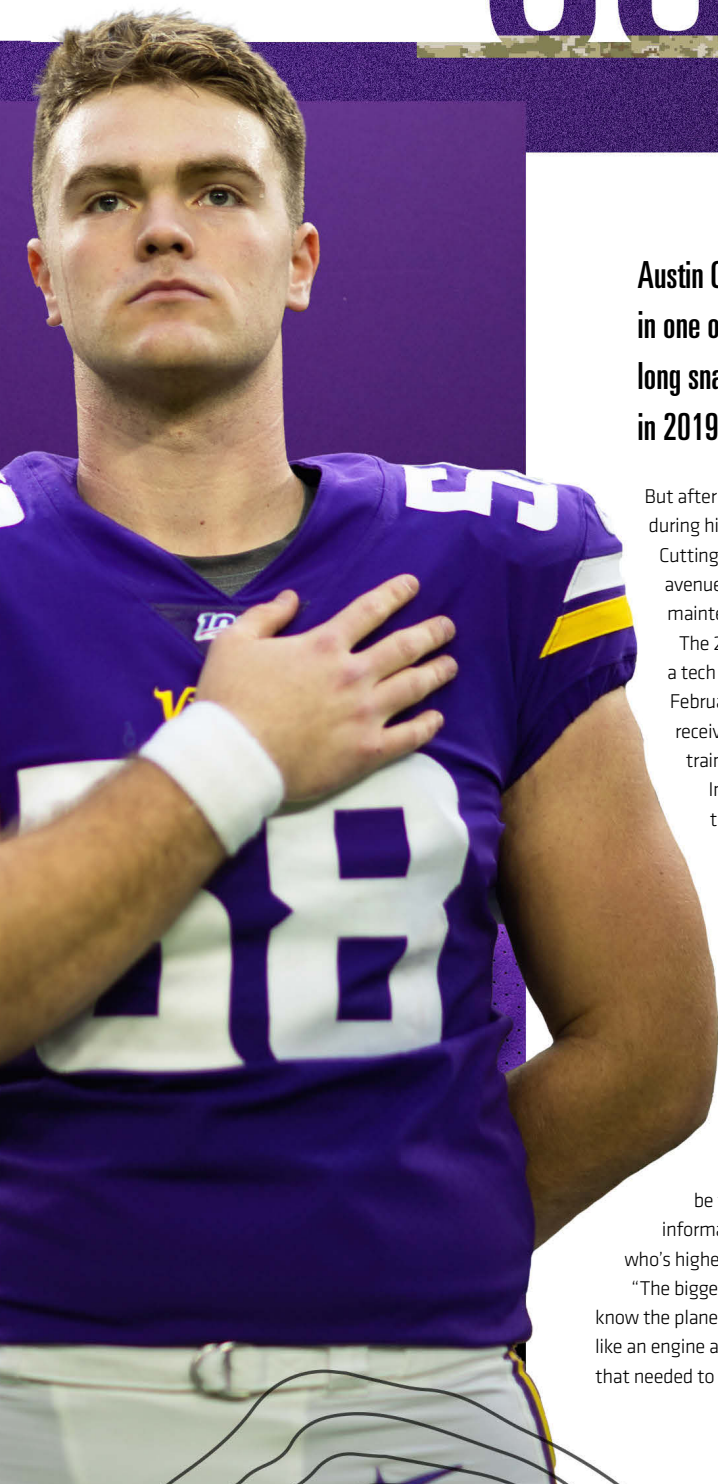
Cutting works at the 934th Airlift Wing each Tuesday during the season, and he will resume his full-time work on the base once the Vikings season is over. Until then, Cutting will remain focused on his special teams role.

November is Salute to Service month, an opportunity throughout the NFL to recognize the sacrifice and dedication of active military members, veterans and their families. The recognition includes nominating a player, coach or staff member for the annual Salute to Service Award.

Cutting, who is this year's nominee by the Vikings, said he always appreciates the league-wide initiative and hears a similar sentiment from those in various military branches.

"I'll go into work on the base and people think it's cool. Where else does that really happen? Sometimes they want to talk about football," Cutting said. "But further outside the base, people reach out to me from the military, or people from the Academy.

"It's pretty cool to be able to represent





AUSTIN CUTTING IS THE VIKINGS NOMINEE FOR THE 2020 SALUTE TO SERVICE AWARD.

the Air Force, and the military as a whole," Cutting added. "Hopefully I'm representing them the way they would anticipate. But I know they appreciate it because it's a whole month dedicated to the military."

We caught up with Austin this week for a Water Break, presented by Crown Royal.

Q. You've now been in the league for a season-and-a-half; what have you learned since Week 1 of your rookie year?

A. "There's been so much ... a lot of it is making sure you're good in the offseason so that you can just roll right into camp. You want to hit the ground running so you don't step back and then have to go forward later. You also have to find a way to make it fun, and make sure you're not always too hard on yourself."

You need to be that, but at the same time, you have to step back and have fun with it because then you'll realize you're making the most out of it."

Q. Long snapper is a unique position, as there are only 32 of you around the league. What's the bond or fraternity like with that specific group of players?

A. "Yeah, you get to talk during the pregame [in a normal year], and it's like they know what you're going through, and you know what they're going through. You kind of click right away. It's been fun to meet guys I've studied and looked at in the past. It's been cool to talk to them and get advice or get a different perspective. It is like a little fraternity, but it's like that for all of the specialists."

Q. How does a long snapper work through a virtual offseason and stay sharp?

A. "I was snapping on my own and working out. The nice thing about snapping is that you can snap to honestly anything. You can snap to a pole, net, anything ... because during the game the punter is just standing there. Honestly, it was as simple as that. Snapping into anything I could find ... a bag or a net, and just working out, too. It was a different offseason, but you make the most of it."

Q. You're back together again with veterans Dan Bailey and Britton Colquitt. Those two seem to have opposite personalities, with Britton as the funny one and Dan as the more serious one. Where do you fit in that trio?

A. "I would favor more on the side of how Dan is, but we all like to have fun. Britton is just the vocal one. I'm quiet. I just hang out, but Britton tries to pull it out of us and makes it fun. That's why with his whole thing with stuffed animals, why he says my animal is a sloth. It fits me and my personality perfectly. Just kind of there and going with the flow."

Q. You lettered in power lifting in high school. Does that background still help you as a long snapper?

A. "Well, it wasn't a lot [of weight] when I look back on it now. My squat was like higher 4s [400-plus pounds], and my bench was mid-3s. The most I ever got on deadlift was right at 500 or a little bit over. But it definitely doesn't hurt because you've got people you're going up against sometimes that are freaks. They're super strong and fast, and you have to do what you can do to stop them, so it definitely helps with more lower-body stuff. That's where your power is going to be coming from."



The 'Water Break' presented by Crown Royal will post on Vikings.com on Wednesdays before home games.

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ALEXANDER
MATTISON

DALVIN
COOK

ON THE RUN

BY ERIC SMITH

There's no secret about what the Vikings intend for their offensive identity.

Running the football is a mindset that has been preached about and harped on since the early days of offseason meetings, back when Vikings Offensive Coordinator Gary Kubiak was laying the foundation for what he wanted the 2020 Vikings offense to look like.

And with running backs Dalvin Cook and Alexander Mattison at his disposal — along with Vikings Head Coach

Mike Zimmer's preference for running the ball – Kubiak has dug into his coaching roots to ensure that the Vikings will rely upon their ground game during the 2020 season.

And at the midway point of this season, it's clear that the Vikings rushing attack is not only the strength of the offense, but perhaps the entire team, too.

"I think it's commitment to running the ball. You can sit there and say, 'This guy was a great player,' or 'That guy was a great player,' and you've got to have them to be successful," Kubiak said this offseason about his offensive philosophy. "But I think anything you do in football, if you're committed to something, then you've probably got a pretty good chance of being successful at it.

"We really start our classroom offensively, we walk into the room and tell our guys, 'We're committed to running the football and being a physical team.' I work for a head coach that talks that same way," Kubiak added. "It's just really a mindset of saying, 'Hey, we're going to be good at doing this and we're not going to find ways not to run the ball. We're going to find ways to run the ball.' I think it just gets back to commitment."

The 2020 season marks Kubiak's 25th season in the league as a coach, with 23 of those spent as either a head coach or offensive coordinator.

In 22 previous seasons in either of those roles, Kubiak's offenses have ranked first or second in rushing attempts six times and have 11 finishes in the top 10. His offenses were in the top five in rushing yards 10 times and top 10 in rushing yards 14 times in those 22 years.

There's a good chance the 2020 Vikings offense could add to those numbers, as Minnesota ranks sixth in



GARY KUBIAK

rushing yards at 144.0 yards per game entering Week 9.

Through the first six games of the season, turnovers and an inability to play with the lead limited Minnesota's overall rushing attempts, but the output on the ground was still productive.

But in windy conditions in Week 8 against the Packers, the Vikings thrived at what they do best. Minnesota put up 173

yards on 34 attempts, with Cook leading the way with 163 yards and three scores on 30 carries [5.43 yards per carry].

"That's Coach Zim' football right there. That's all I can say," Cook said. "That's Coach Zim's identity, and that's the type of football we play in Minnesota."

Cook and Mattison make up a strong 1-2 punch, with ESPN naming them the league's top running back duo back in early October.

That distinction has been easy to see on the field, even if the Vikings have struggled to a 2-5 record so far in 2020.

Cook was a 2017 second-round pick who showed flashes of brilliance in his first two seasons before putting together a Pro-Bowl campaign in 2019 with his first 1,000-yard season and 13 rushing touchdowns.

He signed a multiyear contract extension the day before the start of the 2020 season and has promptly played like one of the game's best all-around backs.

Cook has rushed for 652 yards in six games played, which ranks second in the NFL. And his 10 rushing touchdowns rank first and are a franchise record for the most through Week 8 of a season. Cook garnered NFC Offensive Player of the Week honors for his stellar performance at Green Bay.

"He's a terrific football player, great person, good leader," Zimmer said of his starting running back. "He runs extremely hard, catches the ball well."

Vikings running backs coach Kennedy Polamalu said Cook's evolution as a leader – Cook was named a season-long captain in September – has helped the team on and off the field.

"He has an energy about him. He captures up young men. He lives it," Polamalu said. "He works his tail off, he's a smart football player, he wants [his teammates] to have joy and have fun because he loves the game and he loves being a teammate.

"[Him being named a captain] ... it's well-earned," Polamalu added. "Since he's walked through the doors here, all he's done is work hard and produce. The definition of a leader is to make everybody around him better, and I believe he has."

And in his second season in the NFL, Mattison tries to make sure opposing defenses don't get a break when Cook needs a breather.

Mattison was a 2019 third-round pick who rushed for 462 yards and a score as a rookie. He's been even better in his second season, with 253 rushing yards and a touchdown through seven games.

"I guess the best compliment I can give 'Matt' is that when Dalvin leaves the game, I don't change my mindset at all,"

Kubiak said. "I mean he's a fine, young player, is playing behind a very established player in this league, so he's got a great example in front of him.

"[Mattison] is a three-down player. He understands pass protections, catches the ball really well ... so we're really proud of [his progression]," Kubiak added. "I would say everybody expects it from him, because of watching him work, watching him practice and his preparation as a



KENNEDY POLAMALU ON DALVIN COOK

// Since he's walked through the doors here, all he's done is work hard and produce. The definition of a leader is to make everybody around him better, and I believe he has."

player. [Mattison] has got a very bright future."

Cook said he's enjoyed watching his younger teammate evolve over the past season-and-a-half.

"I try to give him as many tips and everything I can," Cook said. "He sees the field how I see the field, and it's crazy how we see things so similar.

"He's just a bigger version. When he comes in, he's trying to break the home run, too," Cook added. "But he knows what's ahead of him. I do think he is a similar version of me."

It remains to be seen how the final eight games play out for the Vikings as they navigate a unique season.

But with a two-headed monster at running back, plus one of the league's best fullbacks in C.J. Ham, it's clear Minnesota will continue to rely on its successful ground game, both now and in the future.

"I know how we built this roster," said Vikings General Manager Rick Spielman. "We built this roster basically on being able to run the ball, play-action pass ... and that's how we've had the most success."



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CHARLIE & BENTLEY RUDOLPH

BY LINDSEY YOUNG

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Dinnertime at the Rudolph household brings the entire family together.

There's Vikings tight end Kyle Rudolph; his wife, Jordan; 4-year-old twin daughters Andersyn and Finley; almost-2-year-old Henry ... and of course Charlie and Bentley, the English bulldogs.

"As soon as we sit down to eat, they know that a lot of Henry's food is going to end up on the floor, so [that's where they hang out]," Kyle said. "And sure enough, you see him take his food, wipe it off his tray and right down to – usually – Bentley, who's sitting right there to eat it.

"But Charlie hasn't missed many meals, either," he added with a laugh.

The elder – and heftier – of the two, Charlie has a brown-and-white coat, wrinkled face and an expression seemingly even more curmudgeonly than a typical bulldog. He'll turn 9 in February. Kyle and Jordan's first "baby" is named after former Notre Dame Head Coach Charlie Weis, who became a father figure to Rudolph during his time with the Fighting Irish.

"Coach Weis came into my house at 16 years old, started the recruiting process, talked to my parents, 'When I leave high school, he expects me to act as if I would if I'm around my parents, and he's going to treat me like a son.' And that's exactly what he did," Kyle said. "He's somebody that I still talk to, probably, weekly – and if not weekly, every other week.



OWNER:

KYLE RUDOLPH

COACH CHARLIE:

CHARLIE IS NAMED AFTER FORMER NOTRE DAME COACH CHARLIE WEIS

PARENTING PREP:

CARING FOR PUPS READIED THE RUDOLPHS FOR PARENTHOOD

DOGGIE DEMEANORS:

BENTLEY IS THE ENERGETIC, PLAYFUL ONE; HIS BROTHER CHARLIE IS THE GRUMP OF THE BUNCH



“Every day when we come home from work and want to hang out on the couch, they’ll be right there by [our] feet. [We’ll] always have a best friend in them.”

- KYLE RUDOLPH ON CHARLIE & BENTLEY



“Somebody that I’m really, really close to,” added Kyle, who bought, 8-week-old Charlie after his last semester at Notre Dame and shortly before Jordan’s 14-year-old Golden retriever passed away.

Jordan has always been a dog person, Kyle noted, and it wasn’t long after he got Charlie that she began suggesting a puppy playmate.

Her wish came true three years later. Jordan and Kyle often spent time in California during the offseason, and one day on the golf course he received an excited phone call: while shopping, Jordan had come across bulldog puppies at a pet store. She immediately was drawn to the little black-and-white male.

“I got off the golf course and went and met her, and we left the mall that day with Bentley,” Kyle said. “When she called and told me there was an English bulldog at the pet store, I knew there was no chance that she would leave without him.

“Everybody always wants a Bentley,” Kyle added. “It’s just that ours is a little black [and white] bulldog and not a sports car.”

After adding Bentley to the family, Kyle and Jordan were solely dog parents for nearly two years before Fin and Andi came along in October of 2016.

Kyle said that caring for their pups proved to be great parenting practice.

“Dogs are a great way to prepare yourself for kids – especially when you’re getting them as 8-week-old puppies,” he explained. “You’re

potty-training, you’re getting up in the middle of the night, you’re doing the things that you have to do to raise and train puppies. And it does – it prepares you for parenthood.

“I will say it’s almost a little unfair to the dogs, but when you do become parents, they immediately become second fiddle to the kids,” Kyle continued. “But it’s been fun for us over the past four years to see our kids grow up around the dogs and the different personalities between Charlie and Bentley, but just how much the dogs love all three of our kids.”

Of the three kids and two dogs, the two youngest boys have formed a special bond.

“Henry and Bentley are best friends. He tends to rough-house with Bentley a little bit, but like most dogs with toddlers, he kind of just lays around and takes it and lets Henry have his way,” Kyle said. “Charlie’s funny because his whole life, he’s kind of had the personality of a grumpy old man. He’s that way with the kids, too. He’s that grumpy old man that kind of just wants to be left alone. If he’s laying and relaxing, the last thing he wants is Henry running over and jumping on him.

“When the kids do come around, [Charlie is] as sweet as can be with them,” Kyle added. “But he’d much rather be left alone so he can relax and hang out.”

Do Charlie and Bentley’s differing personalities remind Kyle of any current teammates?

He pondered the question for just a moment before nodding decidedly.

“Charlie is a lot like Riley Reiff. Kind of that grumpy old man, ‘Let me do my thing, leave me alone,’ ” Kyle said.

Another few seconds to mull over Bentley’s demeanor ...

“I would say Bentley’s kind of like Adam Thielen, where he’s all over the place all the time and never really shuts up,” Kyle quipped. “Adam’s kind of that way – he’s always gotta be talking, always gotta be in on the action. Bentley’s very much that way and has been since he was a puppy. He’s never really grown out of that puppy energy, whereas Charlie’s the exact opposite.”

The priority ranking of Charlie and Bentley in the Rudolph home may have changed, but the love from their owners certainly hasn’t.

“When we first got them, they were our kids. They slept in our bed, they had free reign of the house, they could get on the couches. Pretty much anything went,” Kyle recalled. “Then once we had kids, it was, ‘You can’t jump up on the couch, definitely not on the bed anymore.’ ... [But now] they’ve kind of become the kings again because the kids are playing with them.

“Both Charlie and Bentley have been best friends of ours since we got them,” Kyle added. “And even though they might have slid down the totem pole a little bit farther because we have humans to take care of, every day when we come home from work and want to hang out on the couch, they’ll be right there by your feet. You’ll always have a best friend in them.”

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VIKINGS, HY-VEE HONOR VETERANS

STS20

BY CRAIG PETERS

Two families – who have given immensely to protect freedoms through military service – recently received a surprise visit by Pete Bercich and the news they will receive free groceries for a year from Hy-Vee and an ultimate tailgating package from the Vikings.

Bercich, the former Vikings linebacker and coach who is now an analyst, connected with the families via video calls moments before ringing doorbells and expressing appreciation while maintaining social distancing guidelines.

The surprise visits on a chilly Oct. 26 were a way to replace the Hy-Vee Veterans Voyage as the coronavirus pandemic continues.

“Obviously this has required a little bit of thinking of how we can help in different ways, given the environment we’re in,” said Carl Haidar, Hy-Vee District Vice President, Northern Region. “So, here we are outdoors, social distancing, trying to find a way to help make a difference and thank our veterans.”

The tailgating packages include a 55-inch television, infrared grill, patio heater and a Vikings-themed tent, tables and chairs, as well as a custom cornhole set and Vikings swag.

“I want to personally thank the Wilf family and entire Vikings organization for making something like this happen,” Bercich said. “I’ve been a Viking for 25 years, and this is probably one of the most amazing things I’ve been able to do.”



‘FOREVER FOR OUR FAMILY’

Bercich surprised 8-year-old Liam Zeigler in-person under the guise of a video call.

Liam lives in Lakeville with his mom Jessica Hansen-Kriesel and her husband Ryan Kriesel. Liam is a big brother to Henry and infant sister Hattie.

Kriesel is an Army veteran who served two tours of duty in Iraq and a Packers fan along with Henry. Liam and his mom, however, are on the “right side of things” in the Border Battle, Hansen-Kriesel explained.

“It’s a lot of fun in our house and something that we all bond over,” Hansen-Kriesel said.

Liam’s biological father is Patrick Zeigler, an Army Staff Sgt. who served two combat tours as a cavalry scout with the 1st Cavalry Division during the 2007 surge of American forces in Iraq.

Zeigler returned to Fort Hood, Texas, and was taking care of affairs on Nov. 5, 2009, not knowing the afternoon would permanently alter his life.

A soldier committed a terrorist attack, slaying 12 soldiers and a civilian employee.

Shots fired wounded more than 30 others.

Zeigler was struck in his head, causing a wound to his right temporal lobe. He also was struck in his shoulder, arm and hip. *Army Times* reported that doctors gave Zeigler a 1-in-10 chance of surviving. A black tag had even been placed on his toe before he started screaming and received medical care.

Grim would be an understatement, but Zeigler showed amazing grit through nine brain surgeries and re-learning to walk three times. Zeigler lives near Daytona Beach, Florida, and continues his rehab.

Liam has never known his father any other way. He grew up around hospitals and rehab facilities.

“It’s really consumed his life and defined his life, taking care of his dad and knowing that sacrifice, so he’s a very mature kid, super compassionate,” Hansen-Kriesel said. “He’s really been struggling lately with what his dad’s injuries mean and that it’s something that’s forever for our family.”

Hansen-Kriesel and Liam have recently discussed how the sacrifices of children in

"It's awesome to see that other people outside of my friends care. The gifts are awesome. The groceries, that's huge."

- ERIK MOSSBERG



military families can go underappreciated.

"Liam said something that really struck me: 'A lot of people make sacrifices, but I'll have to make sacrifices every day for the rest of my life,'" Hansen-Kriesel said. "That's what's so cool about [this surprise], that, 'People see me, they see my loss and respect me and appreciate me.' I know he's really going to take that to heart. Truthfully, it's going to change his life and his outlook on life."

Bercich told Liam that spending time with him – they discussed the Minneapolis Miracle and other topics – is "one of the most memorable days I've ever had."

"[This] family, you talk about the Red, White and Blue and sacrifices for this country, they've done that," Bercich said.

'AT PEACE WITH IT'

The surprise for Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Erik Mossberg, who medically retired in May 2019, occurred at his home in Wyoming, Minnesota, two weeks after having his leg amputated at Mayo Clinic.

The 29-year-old had committed to the Army National Guard in 2008 as a junior in high school. He considered active duty "right away," but his parents hoped he would have the opportunity to attend college.

Mossberg, an infantryman working as a gunner during a deployment to Iraq, intended to serve for 20 years but suffered his life-changing injury when he fell from a military truck.

"I split open my knee and had a bunch of issues, but then six months after coming back from Iraq, I started to develop a lot of pain and having my calf swell up, so I experienced my first blood clot of many to come," Mossberg explained. "Over the last five years I've had over 20 blood clots in my left calf and two in my lung. They could have killed me at any time."

Mossberg began making frequent trips to Mayo Clinic, trying to find a solution about a year-and-a-half ago.

"My leg was going dead at least twice a day," Mossberg said. "Just from standing at work, I'd come home and have to go straight to the bedroom, put a heating pack on and go to sleep. It just wasn't a life to live."

Mossberg and his wife, Zanetah, have a daughter and son. Viviana loves basketball, and Mossberg is hoping that young son Ragnar will be drawn to hockey.

Mossberg will have to re-learn to walk with use of a prosthetic leg, making physical and mental strides along his journey.

"I have a lot of other friends that are amputees, too, that have really pushed me mentally to be in a better place and prepared me for this," Mossberg said. "Fortunately it wasn't directly combat related where I woke up without a leg. It was kind of a long decision of health and future, so it gave me some time to really be at peace with it."

The surprise visit "humbled" Mossberg.

"It's awesome to see that other people outside of my friends care. The gifts are

awesome. The groceries, that's huge," Mossberg said. "There's been so many unexpected costs with this surgery and life that I never thought would be there, so being able to alleviate two hungry kids and everything else brought me to tears."

Mossberg's family has a gofundme page to help with medical bills.





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60 SEASONS

**OF MEETING AT THE
QUARTERBACK**

BY CRAIG PETERS

The Vikings have a rich history of “meeting at the quarterback,” particularly when the player is wearing a Lions jersey.

The phrase was coined and embodied by Carl Eller and Jim Marshall. The defensive ends rank No. 1 and 2, respectively, in team history with 130 and 127 career sacks.

The Vikings recorded 6.0 sacks (2.5 by Eller, 1.5 by Marshall, 1.0 by Alan Page and 1.0 by Gary Larsen) of Greg Landry at Metropolitan Stadium in a 24-10 win on Oct. 26, 1969 (pictured above). Minnesota followed with 7.0 sacks of Landry on Thanksgiving in a 27-0 win in Detroit a month later (one sack was not specified in the official play-by-play, but Eller was credited with 2.5, and Larsen totaled 2.0).

According to Sportradar, the Vikings have recorded more sacks of Lions quarterbacks than against any other team in data that goes back to 1963, which was Minnesota’s third season, and since 1982 when the NFL began considering sacks as official stats.

Minnesota has recorded 360 sacks in 117 games against Detroit since 1963, which includes 29 games with 5.0 or more sacks. The Vikings are 25-4 in such contests, including 3-1 under Head Coach Mike Zimmer. Since 1982, the total is 247 sacks in 75 games.

The Packers have given up the next-most sacks to the Vikings (290 in 119 games since 1963 and 200 in 77 games since 1982). The Bears are third, having allowed 253 sacks in 117 games since 1963 and 162 in 75 games since 1982.

The 1989 Vikings recorded 8.0 sacks in each of their games – played in a three-week span – against the Lions on the way to finishing with a franchise-best 71 sacks that rank second all-time in an NFL season.

Lions quarterback Matthew Stafford has been sacked 366 times in his 156 career starts, including 65 by Minnesota in 19 games and a Vikings single-game-record 10 on Nov. 4, 2018.

No other team has dropped Stafford more than 47 times in his career (Da Bears).

The Vikings, however, won’t have a single player involved in any of those 10 sacks available in Week 9. Danielle Hunter recorded a career-high 3.5 sacks that day but is on Injured Reserve. Tom Johnson also reached peak status that day with 2.5 of his 25.5 career sacks in his final pro season.

Everson Griffen (1.5) just joined Detroit after a seven-game stint in Dallas, Mackensie Alexander (1.0) moved on to Cincinnati, Stephen Weatherly (1.0) headed for Carolina, and Sheldon Richardson (0.5) parlayed his lone season in Minnesota into a lucrative deal with Cleveland.



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FEATURED FAN

DYLAN

ARMY STAFF SGT. DYLAN SHALLENBERGER IS SIMILAR TO AN NFL FOOTBALL COACH TRYING TO GET THE MOST OUT OF A YOUNG PLAYER.

But Shallenberger's stakes are higher.

Shallenberger is a drill sergeant stationed at Fort Jackson in South Carolina. A steadfast supporter of the Purple, Shallenberger molds green newcomers to the U.S. Army into soldiers.

"It's definitely a whole different task [than previous assignments in the Army]," Shallenberger said. "I came into it knowing what I was here to do and everything, but once you start to get new trainees and you mold them into actual soldiers from civilians, it's very gratifying.

"When you actually notice, finally, the difference from when they first got to you and once they're there, it's a good feeling," he added. "The hours are very rough, because we've got to be with them from the time they wake up to the time we tell them to go to sleep, and it makes it worth it, though, because you don't even realize

how long you're there because you're constantly instilling new knowledge and things they've never heard before or done before."

Shallenberger has been named one of the 60 Greatest Fans in honor of the 60th Minnesota Vikings season, a recognition that included a surprise video call from Vikings tight end Kyle Rudolph.

"Thank you for your service," Rudolph said. "I greatly appreciate you and all of our men and women in the Armed Services. I have two cousins that recently served in the Marines, so military history runs deep in our family. I understand that I get to play a game on Sundays because you provide us the freedom to do that."

A native of Beloit, Wisconsin, Shallenberger grew up a Vikings fan, forming a connection he enjoyed with his father (Frederic, who passed away at age 59 in February 2018). He has carried his commitment to the team across the country and globe at multiple stops during his nine years of service and is passing his passion to his two young children.

Shallenberger's assignments include Fort Campbell, Kentucky, a deployment to Afghanistan, followed by Fort Hood, Texas, and then Rose Barracks in Vilseck, Germany.

Rudolph discussed Shallenberger's time in Germany, as well as a visit that the tight end made to Ramstein Air Base in 2018.



Army Staff Sgt. Dylan Shallenberger is instilling discipline in soldiers and his love for the Vikings in his children.

Shallenberger didn't let living several time zones ahead keep him from watching Vikings games, waking up at 3 a.m. Monday to enjoy *Sunday Night Football* appearances. Now, he's in the Eastern time zone, able to capitalize on his only off day of the week.

"Our trainees get Sundays to rest and recuperate, so therefore, the drill sergeants do too, so I get to watch the games on Sundays," Shallenberger said.

Shallenberger won a Polaris off-road GENERAL last year. When he designated his mother to receive the GENERAL because he was still stationed in Germany, Polaris was able to bring Shallenberger home for the holidays, a moment captured on video:

POLARIS
Think Outside





DEB TAUER

Deb lives and breathes purple. As a nurse, she's worked every other weekend for the last 46 years, which can overlap with game-day festivities. A while ago, she took it upon herself to make sure there's a tailgate potluck with Vikings décor and treats every time she works during a game. The Vikings are everywhere in Deb's life – even her home is decorated in purple and gold!

CURRENT CITY:
NEW ULM, MN

**FAVORITE
ALL-TIME VIKING:**
TOMMY KRAMER



RICK CONKLIN

Rick has been a faithful fan of the Vikings his whole life. He's a member of a Vikings fan club, the Derby City Norsemen, where he is known as the "Hype Man." The joy that he gets out of watching football every fall and watching his team brings everyone around him so much joy. As a member of the Kentucky National Guard, Rick has had to make many sacrifices, but he still always finds time to celebrate the Vikings.

CURRENT CITY:
RINEYVILLE, KY

**FAVORITE
ALL-TIME VIKING:**
RANDY MOSS



RICHARD JANTZ

While he was stationed in Okinawa, Japan, Richard used to wake up at 2 a.m. to watch the Vikings games live despite the 15-hour time difference. Vikings football was his way of staying connected to his home while deployed to Afghanistan multiple times, as well. Not wanting to miss a moment, Richard had a special satellite cable package so that he could watch all the Vikings games between missions. He even has a Vikings tattoo.

HOMETOWN:
ST. PAUL, MN

**FAVORITE
ALL-TIME VIKING:**
RANDY MOSS



LISA UDY

Lisa was nominated by her husband Jeff, who moved to the Twin Cities in the '90s. His youngest child needed a home health care aide after a surgery, and Lisa came to care for her. Lisa's compassionate nature was joined by a calm demeanor that stirred to enthusiasm while cheering on the Vikings every Sunday. She even got his young daughter excited about the team. Lisa and Jeff are now Season Ticket Holders and have been married since 1997.

CURRENT CITY:
LITTLE FALLS, MN

**FAVORITE
ALL-TIME VIKING:**
CRIS CARTER



NEAL WILLIAMS

CURRENT CITY: HAMDEN, CT
FAVORITE ALL-TIME VIKING:
ALAN PAGE

Living in Connecticut never stops Neal Williams from cheering on his Vikings. He is known as "Vikingman" by those closest to him, which is evident by his daily purple and gold apparel and his vast knowledge of team stats and history. Neal was nominated by his wife Maxine, who is the ultimate Vikings spouse – she gifted him season tickets for their wedding present!

Pierre
NOUJAIM

Ron
JOHNSON

Hobie
ARTIGUE

Jim
RICH

Dawn
MITCHELL



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A FINAL ACT OF VALOR

BY CRAIG PETERS

AN ACT OF VALIANCE INTERSECTED WITH IRREVERSIBLE TRAGEDY.

Timothy K. Ebert, Jr., and a co-worker were driving to work at Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport on Aug. 9 when an erratic motorist wrecked on the interstate, her car coming to a rest in the roadway.

Ebert stopped on the side of the road and checked on the motorist.

"He has such a big heart, I can see him stopping – I can see him doing it right now in my head, he would have beaten himself up all day if he had known he hadn't stopped for that pregnant lady who had wrecked," Lindsay Ebert said.

Everything was going to be OK until another motorist fatally struck her husband of seven years as he was returning to his vehicle.

When police knocked on her door that Sunday morning, she "just kept thinking, 'You don't have the right person.'"

Lindsay said the blood results of the driver who struck her husband came back positive for alcohol, but the incident remains under investigation; proceedings have been slowed by the coronavirus pandemic.

Timothy was just 34 years old. He leaves behind 6-year-old daughter Tinley and stepsons Bryce and Brayden that he loved

as his biological children. Bryce has become a huge Vikings fan – his favorite player is Adam Thielen – from Timothy's influence, an unrelenting love for the Vikings passed to Timothy by his father and grandfather, who both grew up in Minnesota.

Timothy served more than 13 years in the Marine Corps, including on tours of duty in Iraq (August 2008 to March 2009) and Kuwait (March 2016 to October 2016). Honorably discharged in 2017, he went to work as a civilian air traffic controller, continuing to enjoy when military aircraft landed during his shifts.

Timothy was working in a Marine Corps recruiting office near Indianapolis when "kind of a blind date" set up by a mutual acquaintance led to so much more.

When the moment was right, Timothy worked with Bryce and Brayden's father to surprise Lindsay. She came home from a

weekly scheduled late night at work to find her sons, who were holding a "Will you marry me?" sign.

"They're like, 'Turn around! Turn around!' There he is on his knee with a ring," Lindsay recalled. "It was great he involved the kids like that. He was like a father to them. I'm so lucky that he was in their lives because he shaped a lot of who they are now. His values, he's just a humble person, very kind and wished to help everyone, as you can see. My boys are very much like that because of him. Not because of me. Because of him. He instilled that in them."

The shock lingers, and the heartache is permanent. Timothy's memory is everlasting to family, friends and co-workers who are trying to move forward from the tragedy.

"My sister would always say how she loved being around us because she could see the love we have for each other," Lindsay said. "I would have been married to him until the day I died. Unfortunately, I was only married to him until the day he died. Sometimes I don't know what's worse, dying first or living alone."



ONE OF TIMOTHY'S FAVORITE PARTS OF A VIKINGS FOOTBALL SEASON WAS THE ANNUAL SALUTE TO SERVICE RECOGNITION, WITH THE FAMILY PROUDLY DONNING GEAR. TIMOTHY'S PICTURE, IN MARINE CORPS DRESS BLUES, WILL BE FEATURED ON A CUTOUT IN WEEK 9 AT U.S. BANK STADIUM WHEN THE VIKINGS HOLD THEIR SALUTE TO SERVICE GAME.

'Chef Cook' GEAR TO SUPPORT *Table*

DALVIN COOK IS AT IT AGAIN.

The running back has released limited edition signature "Chef Cook" gear featuring his likeness as a celebrity chef on hoodies, T-shirts and winter hats.

The gear can be ordered by scanning the QR code below.

In connection with Cook's No. 33 Vikings jersey, 33 percent of all proceeds will support Vikings Table, the charity food truck launched by the Minnesota Vikings Foundation.

This is the second year in which Cook has released the gear with a commitment to Vikings Table. Last December, he presented a check for \$10,000 to the cause that he's fully supported since its launch in June 2019.

Vikings Table adjusted its plan in March to best respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and has been able to deliver more than 11,000 free meals in partnership with nonprofits that serve youth and families in need.





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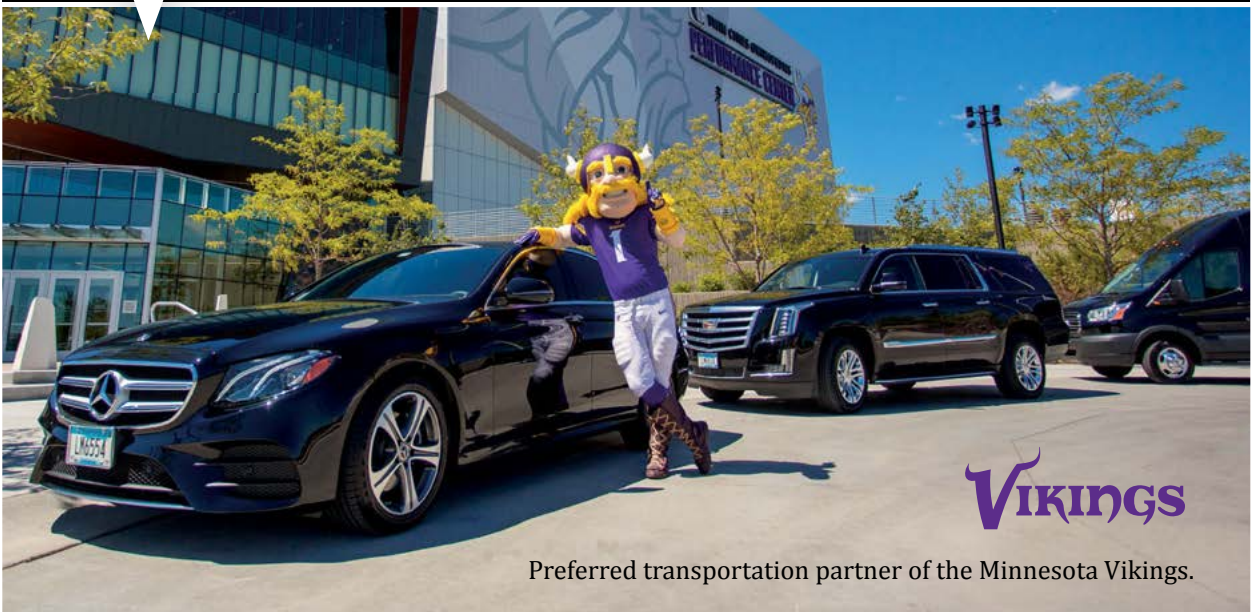
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3RD SEASON

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Being able to continue the legacy that the MVC members before me have created. All of the amazing women over the years, including the ones on the team this year, have been such positive role models for the children who look up to us and others in our community. I'm honored to continue their legacy.

FAVORITE ON-FIELD EXPERIENCE:

Our annual Crucial Catch game honoring those who have been or are currently being affected by cancer. Seeing their faces as they walk across the field and knowing the battles they have fought is something I am proud to help recognize.

FAVORITE OFF-FIELD EXPERIENCE:

MVC Alex and I visited military members in Honduras, Curaçao and Guantanamo Bay. We learned more about the incredible sacrifices they have made for our country. I came back home with an even greater understanding and appreciation for those in uniform and hope that we were able to bring some joy to them during their time there!

DID YOU KNOW?

Shanyn danced in the Super Bowl LII halftime show right next to the MVC the year before she joined the team.



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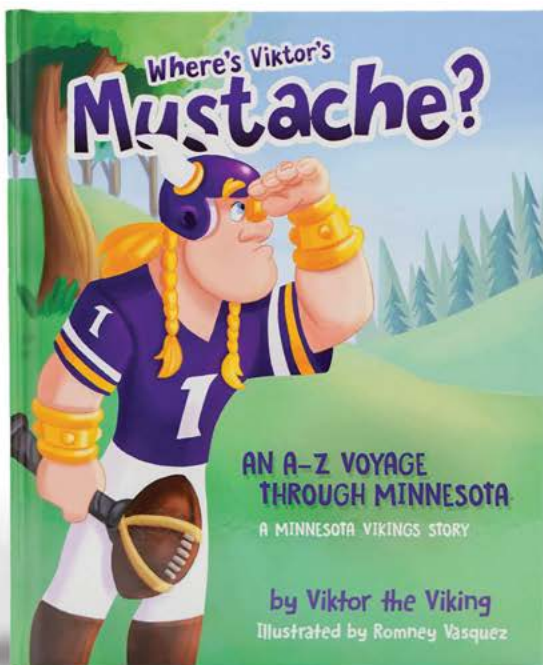
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MARINES

TED BUREK
IAN KETTERLING
MATTHEW KOEP
NOAH LACROIX
ADAM YOUNG

NAVY

CHARLES HYSTAD
JOHN MARSHALL
BILL WEEKS



Where's Viktor's Mustache?

Take an adventure through Minnesota as Viktor the Viking retraces his steps to try to find his missing mustache in *Where's Viktor's Mustache?*

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Check out the new Facebook group "Minnesota Vikings Kids" for your one-stop shop featuring Vikings content geared toward youth. Whether you know a young fan or are simply young-at-heart, our new Facebook group is the perfect place to interact with other Vikings families!

Join the fun and become a group member by visiting www.facebook.com/groups/minnesotavikingskids/



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PRESENTED BY FLEET FARM

RADIO TUNE-IN INFO: 6-7 P.M. TUESDAYS
TV TUNE-IN INFO: WEDNESDAYS AT 8 P.M.
ON WFTC | 10:35 P.M. ON KMSP FOX 9

The Vikings starting quarterback teams up each week with Twin Cities sports anchor Mark Rosen to deliver unique content via a weekly series that features current Vikings players, prominent Minnesotans and guests with connections to Cousins. Other segments focus on game highlights and reactions. Use #AskKirk to submit a question.

VIKINGS REWIND

PRESENTED BY PENTAIR

TUNE-IN INFO: 6:30-7 P.M. MONDAYS

Vikings Rewind takes listeners through a fast-paced recap of the previous day's game. The program features in-game commentary by "Voice of the Vikings" Paul Allen, analyst Pete Berich and sideline reporters Ben Leber and Greg Coleman.

X'S & O'S WITH MIKE ZIMMER

PRESENTED BY U.S. BANK

TUNE-IN INFO: 6-7 P.M. WEDNESDAYS

Paul Allen interviews Vikings Head Coach Mike Zimmer at the midpoint of each week for an in-depth recap of the team's previous game and a look ahead to the upcoming opponent. Allen also connects with an assistant coach for a deeper look at a particular position. The series features both video and audio components and is available across multiple platforms.

SKOL STORIES

PRESENTED BY CENTURYLINK

TUNE-IN INFO: 6:30 P.M. THURSDAYS

Embark on a voyage through Vikings history with Mark Rosen, who covered the team for decades, and Pete Berich, the former linebacker and assistant coach. *Skol Stories* offers rich storytelling that reconnects fans with their favorite memories and links younger listeners to the legacy of the franchise.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS PODCAST

The Minnesota Vikings Podcast features exclusive guests including players, coaches, staff and experts across the NFL. Go behind the scenes for interviews, press conferences, highlights, quotes from the locker room and much more.

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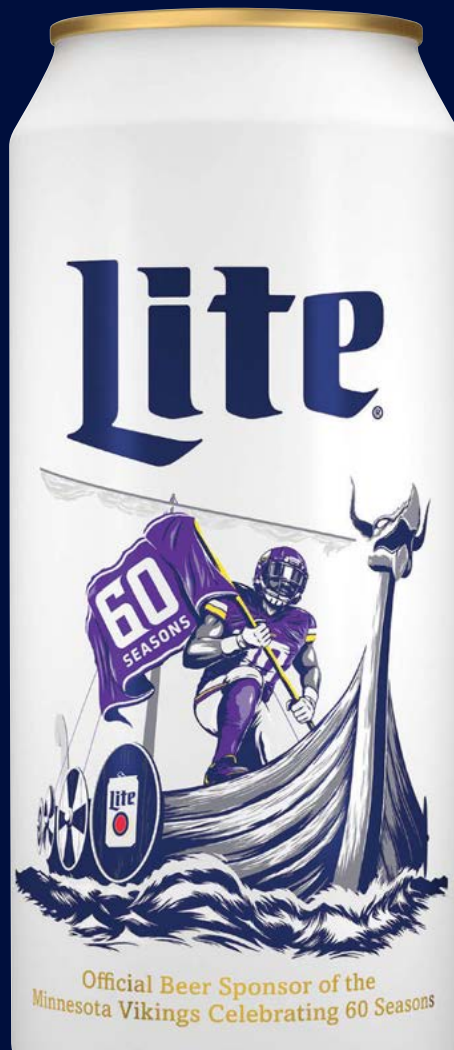


PRESENTED BY PEPSI

TUNE-IN INFO: 6:30 P.M. FRIDAYS

Wind-down your week with *Vikings Vantage* by recapping the week at Twin Cities Orthopedics Performance Center. Vikings.com's Gabe Henderson and Chris Corso co-host the program that includes interviews with current players and media members who cover the team.

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