

# PLAYBOOK

WK 13

VIKINGS VS. JAGUARS | DEC. 6, 2020 | NOON | MY CAUSE MY CLEATS



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# KIRK

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//////////////////// PAGE 26

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01

WEEK 12



## MIN VS CAR

The Vikings overcame an 11-point deficit in the fourth quarter by closing the game with a pair of touchdowns that bookended a key defensive stop in a 28-27 victory over the Panthers.



## PHOTO 1

Minnesota's defense didn't sack Teddy Bridgewater in his first start against his former team, but the unit did pressure the QB multiple times, limiting him to 19-of-36 passing.



## PHOTO 2

Justin Jefferson secures the first of his two touchdown catches on the day.





**PHOTO 3**

*Eric Kendricks recorded his third interception in four games to preserve an early 7-0 lead. All three of his takeaways have occurred in the red zone.*

**PHOTO 4**

*D.J. Wonnum blocked a 28-yard field goal attempt to keep Minnesota's deficit at 21-10 in the third quarter.*

**PHOTO 5**

*Bisi Johnson, Tyler Conklin and teammates hustle to congratulate Chad Beebe after the third-year receiver caught a 10-yard pass to tie the game at 27. A Dan Bailey extra point followed for the winning margin.*

04



# VIKINGS

V S J A G U A R S



This will be the just the seventh regular-season meeting between the Vikings and Jaguars franchises and first at U.S. Bank Stadium.

Minnesota is seeking its third home victory of 2020 after defeating Carolina 28-27 with a clutch comeback to improve to 5-6 on the season. The Vikings have won four of their past five games.

Jacksonville (1-10) enters the Week 13 contest trying to snap a 10-game losing streak. Five of the Jaguars losses have been by eight or fewer points. Jacksonville's near wins in the past four weeks include a 24-20 loss at Green Bay and a pair of 27-25 defeats at the hands of the Texans and Browns.

## FIRST GLANCE

### Vikings Defense vs. Jaguars Offense:

Minnesota's defense was able to affect Carolina quarterback Teddy Bridgewater early and is now turning its attention toward a Jacksonville team that started Mike Glennon in Week 12 against Cleveland. Glennon completed 20 of 35 passes for 235 yards with two scores and a passer rating of 96.7. Gardner Minshew II has missed the past four games with an injured throwing

hand. In between the second-year pro and Glennon, Jacksonville started rookie Jake Luton. Minnesota ranks second in goal-to-go defense having allowed touchdowns on just 56 percent of possessions. Jacksonville is tied for 12th, having scored touchdowns on 80 percent of its goal-to-go situations.

### Vikings Offense vs. Jaguars Defense:

The Vikings managed to fill the void of not having Adam Thielen last week by spreading the ball around effectively. Minnesota had four different players catch seven passes and each player total more than 60 yards. Bisi Johnson had 74 yards, and Justin Jefferson added 70 with two scores. Kyle Rudolph totaled 68 yards, and Chad Beebe added 63 that were highlighted by his 10-yard touchdown catch with less than a minute to go. It was the second time in NFL history a team has had four players make at least seven catches and gain more than 60 yards apiece (Saints on Dec. 23, 2012). Jacksonville enters Week 13 ranked last in the NFL with 6.35 yards allowed per play and 8.15 yards allowed per pass play.

## SERIES RESULTS

- Vikings W-L vs. Jaguars: 5-1
- Vikings Home: 3-1; Vikings Away: 2-0

SUNDAY'S GAME IS  
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## PREGAME ALL-ACCESS

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.



**PREGAME**  
ALL-ACCESS  
**usbank**

## HOMETOWN HEROES

The U.S. Bank Hometown Heroes program honors individuals who have gone to extraordinary measures to make positive differences in the community. If you would like to nominate someone, visit [Vikings.com/fans/promos/hometown-hero](https://vikings.com/fans/promos/hometown-hero).







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EXCITING PROMOTIONS

## FAN CAM PRESENTED BY U.S. BANK

Add your virtual selfie to U.S. Bank Stadium, enter to win a football autographed by Eric Kendricks, play trivia, get to the know the players and more at [vikings.fancam.com](http://vikings.fancam.com).



## 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](http://vikings.com/fans/centurylink-promo) for a chance to win.



## KWIK TRIP OPENING DRIVE

Sunday's Kwik Trip opening drive contestant is Keith Lepinski from Woodbury, MN. Keith 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](http://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!

### 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 2.0 or more sacks in a game, all fans score a free appetizer with a minimum purchase of \$20. Offer is valid beginning 1 hour after the conclusion of the game, and runs through 3 days after the game. Visit [Vikings.com/bww](http://Vikings.com/bww) for more details



### 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](http://vikings.com/homegater) and submit your fan photo today.

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### WIN A VIKINGS HOMEGATING PRIZE PACK FROM PEPSI

Simply scan your commemorative 60th Anniversary cup (available at Hy-Vee gas stations) with the Vikings app OR select 'Augmented Reality' within the Vikings app to unlock Vikings photo filters. Share yours using #VikingsGameFace for your chance to win! For full contest rules, visit [Vikings.com/VikingsGameFace](http://Vikings.com/VikingsGameFace).



### 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.

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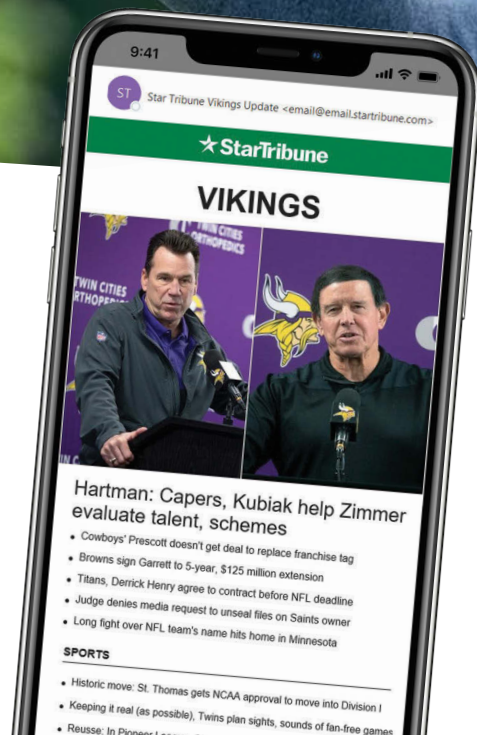




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# ERIC WILSON



## 2020 SEASON LEADERS

Passing (Yds)	Kirk Cousins	2,768
Rushing (Yds)	Dalvin Cook	1,130
Receiving (Yds)	Justin Jefferson	918
Tackles	Eric Kendricks	107
Sacks	E. Wilson/D.J. Wonnum	3.0
Interceptions	H. Smith, E. Wilson, E. Kendricks	3
KOR (Yds)	K.J. Osborn	289
PR (Avg.)	K.J. Osborn	1.5

## 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	W 34-20
10	11/16	at Chicago Bears	W 19-13
11	11/22	Dallas Cowboys	L 31-28
12	11/29	Carolina Panthers	W 28-27
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 JAGUARS

### RUSHING YARDS

101	Robert Smith on 19 attempts in Minnesota (Dec. 20, 1998)
84	Adrian Peterson on 17 attempts in Minnesota (Sept. 9, 2012)

### PASSING YARDS

292	Sam Bradford on 24-of-34 passing at Jacksonville (Dec. 11, 2016)
266	Christian Ponder on 20-of-27 passing in Minnesota (Sept. 9, 2012)

### RECEIVING YARDS

101	Adam Thielen on four catches at Jacksonville (Dec. 11, 2016)
88	Cris Carter on seven catches in Minnesota (Dec. 23, 2001)

Wilson is one of two linebackers in the NFL with three interceptions this season. The other is teammate Eric Kendricks, who just recorded his third on the season last week against Carolina. Wilson's picks – at Indianapolis, at Seattle and against Detroit – are the first three of his career and have been in response to increased playing time on defense. Undrafted out of Cincinnati in 2017, Wilson didn't play a defensive snap in his rookie season, but he was a demon on special teams. After playing roughly a third of Minnesota's snaps on defense in 2018 and 2019, Wilson has been in for 715 (95 percent) of the Vikings plays on defense this season. He's answered the bell in filling in for Anthony Barr, who suffered a season-ending injury in Week 2, and worn the communications device normally in Barr's helmet to receive the play calls from the sideline and relay them to the rest of the defense.

## IN COVERAGE

Through the first 10 games of 2020, Wilson had allowed a combined passer rating of 62.9 by opposing quarterbacks, according to Sportradar. Opponents were a combined 28-of-40 passing for 244 yards with one score and the three interceptions on passes in Wilson's coverage area.

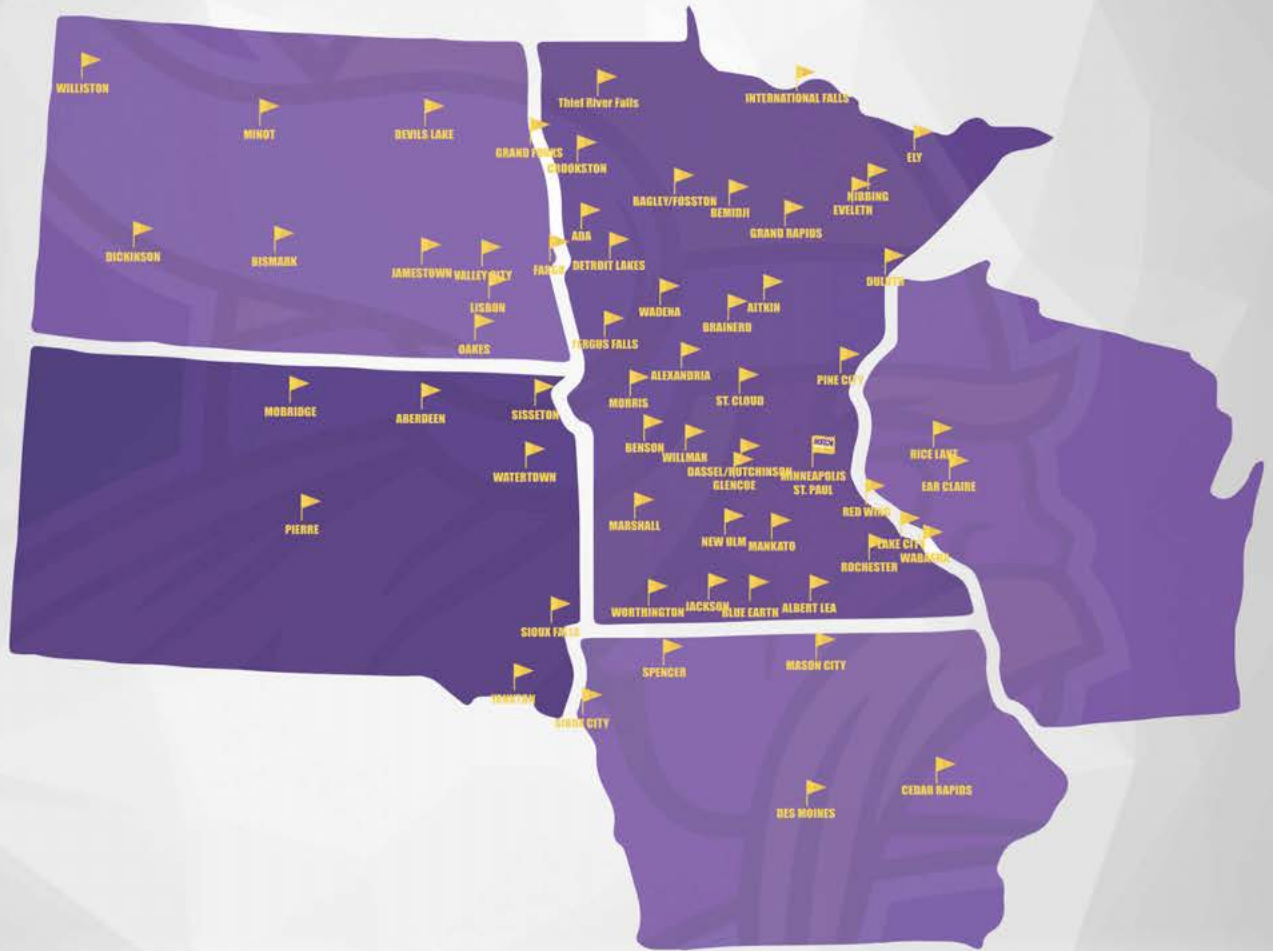
Wilson is the only player in the NFL in 2020 with three interceptions and 3.0 sacks. He's also recovered two fumbles and forced another fumble through 11 games this season (10 starts).

3

AND 3.0



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Robinson enters Week 13 on a roll, having recorded 90 or more scrimmage yards in five consecutive games. His 159 scrimmage yards in Week 12 against Cleveland are the most of his young career. Robinson leads all rookies with 1,170 scrimmage yards and 890 rushing yards. Undrafted out of Illinois State, Robinson has scored six of Jacksonville's eight rushing touchdowns this season and leads the Jaguars with 50 points. The native of Rockford, Illinois, appeared in 46 games for the Redbirds, totaling 46 touchdowns (44 rushing) and 4,444 yards on the ground. Robinson was named a consensus First-Team FCS All-American after leading the Missouri Valley Football Conference with 1,899 rushing yards and 16 touchdowns in 2019. He was invited to the East-West Shrine Bowl where he totaled 136 yards (80 rushing, 56 receiving) in the college all-star game.

### THIRD AND CLIMBING

In the Common Draft era, only five undrafted rookies have posted 1,000-plus scrimmage yards. Robinson has 1,170 and has passed 1,021 by LeGarrette Blount (2010) and 1,124 by Clark Gaines (1976). He trails Phillip Lindsay (1,278 in 2018) and Dominic Rhodes (1,328 in 2001).

4

WITH 100+

Robinson has posted four games with 100 or more rushing yards this season, including last week's career-best 128 against the Browns. He also topped the century mark against the Titans in Week 2, the Chargers in Week 7 and the Packers in Week 10.

### 2020 SEASON LEADERS

Passing (Yds)	Gardner Minshew II	1,855
Rushing (Yds)	James Robinson	890
Receiving (Yds)	DJ Chark Jr.	534
Tackles	Joe Schobert	93
Sacks	Dawuane Smoot	2.5
Interceptions	Sidney Jones IV	2
KOR (Yds)	Chris Claybrooks	191
PR (Avg.)	Keelan Cole Sr.	21.2

### 2020 SCHEDULE

1	9/13	Indianapolis Colts	W 27-20
2	9/20	at Tennessee Titans	L 33-30
3	9/24	Miami Dolphins	L 31-13
4	10/4	at Cincinnati Bengals	L 33-25
5	10/11	at Houston Texans	L 30-14
6	10/18	Detroit Lions	L 34-16
7	10/25	at LA Chargers	L 39-29
8	11/1	Bye Week	
9	11/8	Houston Texans	L 27-25
10	11/15	at Green Bay Packers	L 24-20
11	11/22	Pittsburgh Steelers	L 27-3
12	11/29	Cleveland Browns	L 27-25
13	12/6	at Minnesota Vikings	
14	12/13	Tennessee Titans	
15	12/20	at Baltimore Ravens	
16	12/27	Chicago Bears	
17	1/3	at Indianapolis Colts	

### TOP 2 AGAINST VIKINGS

#### RUSHING YARDS

147	Fred Taylor on 22 attempts in Minnesota (Nov. 28, 2004)
111	Stacey Mack on 27 attempts in Minnesota (Dec. 23, 2001)

#### PASSING YARDS

286	David Garrard on 27-of-45 passing at Jacksonville (Nov. 23, 2008)
242	Blaine Gabbert on 23-of-39 passing in Minnesota (Sept. 9, 2012)

#### RECEIVING YARDS

122	Jimmy Smith on eight catches in Minnesota (Dec. 23, 2001)
113	Marqise Lee on five catches at Jacksonville (Dec. 11, 2016)
113	Maurice Jones-Drew on nine catches at Jacksonville (Nov. 23, 2008)

## 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
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
33	Dalvin Cook	RB
37	Curtis Riley	S
38	Harrison Hand	CB
39	Dylan Mabin	CB
40	Todd Davis	LB
41	Anthony Harris	S
42	Andrew DePaola	LS
44	Josh Metellus	S
45	Troy Dye	LB
50	Eric Wilson	LB
51	Hercules Mata'afa	DE
54	Eric Kendricks	LB
56	Garrett Bradbury	C
57	Ryan Connelly	LB
61	Brett Jones	C
67	Jordan Brailford	DE
69	Rashod Hill	T
71	Riley Reiff	T
72	Ezra Cleveland	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



**33**  
RUNNING BACK  
Dalvin Cook



**8**  
QUARTERBACK  
Kirk Cousins



**30**  
FULLBACK  
C.J. Ham



**19**  
WIDE RECEIVER  
Adam Thielen



**82**  
TIGHT END  
Kyle Rudolph



**75**  
RIGHT TACKLE  
Brian O'Neill



**72**  
RIGHT GUARD  
Ezra Cleveland



**56**  
CENTER  
Garrett Bradbury



**78**  
LEFT GUARD  
Dakota Dozier



**71**  
LEFT TACKLE  
Riley Reiff



**18**  
WIDE RECEIVER  
Justin Jefferson

### VIKINGS OFFENSE



**37**  
CORNERBACK  
Tre Herndon



**96**  
DEFENSIVE END  
Adam Gotsis



**90**  
DEFENSIVE TACKLE  
Taven Bryan



**52**  
NOSE TACKLE  
DaVon Hamilton



**45**  
DEFENSIVE END  
K'Lavon Chaisson



**35**  
CORNERBACK  
Sidney Jones IV



**55**  
STRONGSIDE  
LINEBACKER  
Kamalei Correa



**42**  
STRONG SAFETY  
Andrew Wingard



**47**  
MIDDLE LINEBACKER  
Joe Schobert



**26**  
FREE SAFETY  
Jarrod Wilson



**44**  
WEAKSIDE  
LINEBACKER  
Miles Jack

### VIKINGS SPECIAL TEAMS



**5**  
KICKER  
Dan Bailey



**2**  
PUNTER  
Britton Colquitt



**42**  
LONG SNAPPER  
Andrew DePaola



**17**  
PUNT/KICK RETURNER  
K.J. Osborn

## MINNESOTA VIKINGS DEPTH CHART & ROSTER



### OFFENSE

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

### DEFENSE

<b>LDE</b>	Holmes	Wonnum	
<b>NT</b>	Stephen	Watts	
<b>DT</b>	J. Johnson	Lynch	
<b>RDE</b>	Odenigbo	Mata'afa	Brailford
<b>WLB</b>	Wilson		
<b>MLB</b>	Kendricks		
<b>SLB</b>	Dye	Davis	Connelly
<b>LCB</b>	Dantzler	Jones	Hand
<b>RCB</b>	Gladney	Boyd	Mabin
<b>SS</b>	H. Smith	Riley	
<b>FS</b>	Harris	Metellus	



## JAGUARS ROSTER

2	Mike Glennon	QB
3	Chase McLaughlin	K
6	Jake Luton	QB
9	Logan Cooke	P
10	Laviska Shenault Jr.	WR
15	Gardner Minshew II	QB
17	DJ Chark Jr.	WR
18	Chris Conley	WR
19	Collin Johnson	WR
22	Devine Ozigbo	RB
24	Josiah Scott	CB
26	Jarrod Wilson	S
30	James Robinson	RB
31	Nathan Cottrell	RB
33	Dare Ogunbowale	RB
34	Greg Mabin	CB
35	Sidney Jones IV	CB
36	Luq Barcoo	CB
37	Tre Herndon	CB
40	Brandon Rusnak	S
42	Andrew Wingard	S
43	Joe Giles-Harris	LB
44	Myles Jack	LB
45	K'Lavon Chaisson	DE/LB
46	Ross Maticcik	LS
47	Joe Schobert	LB
52	DaVon Hamilton	DT
53	Dakota Allen	LB
55	Kamalei Correa	LB
56	Quincy Williams	LB
58	Doug Costin	DT
59	Aaron Lynch	DE/LB
60	A.J. Cann	OL
62	KC McDermott	OL
65	Brandon Linder	OL
68	Andrew Norwell	OL
69	Tyler Shatley	OL
74	Cam Robinson	OL
75	Jawaan Taylor	OL
76	Will Richardson Jr.	OL
78	Ben Bartch	OL
80	James O'Shaughnessy	TE
84	Keelan Cole Sr.	WR
85	Eric Saubert	TE
86	Ben Ellefson	TE
87	Tyler Davis	TE
88	Tyler Eifert	TE
90	Taven Bryan	DL
94	Dawuane Smoot	DL
96	Adam Gotsis	DE
99	Daniel Ekuale	DT



50  
LINEBACKER  
Eric Wilson



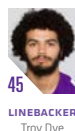
41  
SAFETY  
Anthony Harris



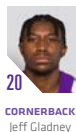
54  
LINEBACKER  
Eric Kendricks



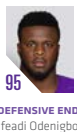
22  
SAFETY  
Harrison Smith



45  
LINEBACKER  
Troy Dye



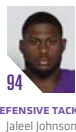
20  
CORNERBACK  
Jeff Gladney



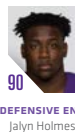
95  
DEFENSIVE END  
Ifeadi Odenigbo



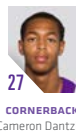
93  
NOSE TACKLE  
Shamar Stephen



94  
DEFENSIVE TACKLE  
Jaleel Johnson



90  
DEFENSIVE END  
Jalyn Holmes



27  
CORNERBACK  
Cameron Dantzler

### VIKINGS DEFENSE

### JAGUARS OFFENSE



17  
WIDE RECEIVER  
DJ Chark Jr.



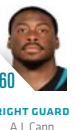
74  
LEFT TACKLE  
Cam Robinson



68  
LEFT GUARD  
Andrew Norwell



65  
CENTER  
Brandon Linder



60  
RIGHT GUARD  
A.J. Cann



75  
RIGHT TACKLE  
Jawaan Taylor



80  
TIGHT END  
James O'Shaughnessy



10  
WIDE RECEIVER  
Laviska Shenault Jr.



15  
QUARTERBACK  
Gardner Minshew II



30  
RUNNING BACK  
James Robinson



84  
WIDE RECEIVER  
Keelan Cole Sr.

### JAGUARS SPECIAL TEAMS



3  
KICKER  
Chase McLaughlin



9  
PUNTER  
Logan Cooke



46  
LONG SNAPPER  
Ross Maticcik



84  
PUNT / KICK RETURNER  
Keelan Cole Sr.

## JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS DEPTH CHART & ROSTER



### OFFENSE

WR	Chark Jr.	Johnson
LT	C. Robinson	Richardson Jr.
LG	Norwell	Bartch
C	Linder	Shatley McDermott
RG	Cann	Bartch
RT	Taylor	Richardson Jr.
TE	O'Shaughnessy	Eifert Ellefson
WR	Cole Sr.	
WR	Shenault Jr.	Conley
QB	Minshew II	Glennon Luton
RB	J. Robinson	Ogunbowale Ozigbo

### DEFENSE

DE	Chaisson	Lynch
NT	Hamilton	Costin
DT	Bryan	Ekuale
DE	Gotsis	Smoot
WLB	Jack	Allen Williams
MLB	Schobert	Giles-Harris
SLB	Correa	Lynch
LCB	Herndon	Barcoo Mabin
RCB	Jones IV	Scott
SS	Wingard	
FS	Wilson	Rusnak



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WATER BREAK  
PRESENTED BY *Crown Royal*

# JALYN HOLMES

BY ERIC SMITH

**Some people have used the extra time at home in 2020 to read, watch their favorite show or work on a skill. Jalyn Holmes helped start a trucking company back in his hometown of Norfolk, Virginia.**

The Vikings defensive end and his business partner launched Beast Coast Trucking in July as a way to provide trucking services and job opportunities for the region.

"I had some family that was in it at first, so I was interested in the industry for about two years," Holmes said. "My business partner and I put our heads together [in the offseason] and created the company. I learned the industry for two years and finally pulled the trigger on it this past offseason."

"I have an uncle who was in it [on the business side], and I know a couple guys just from family and friends who were truck drivers," Holmes added. "It's whatever our carriers need us to move around. It could be food, furniture, whatever is on the load. We just pick it up and move it."

The business has been in operation for nearly five months, and Holmes said it's a balancing act. Most days he wears a Purple helmet for his job, but he puts on his metaphorical business suit at times to get updates on his trucking business.

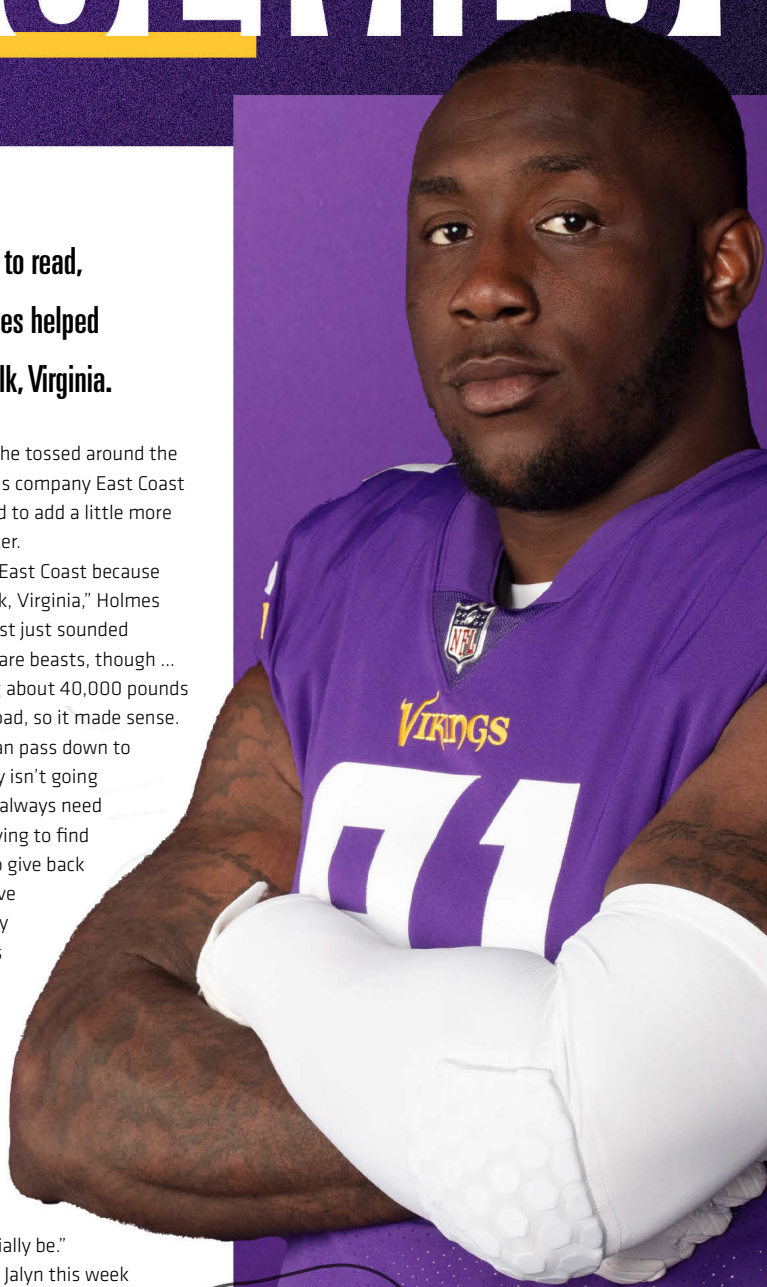
"I have a great business partner who handles the day-to-day [operations], but we have weekly meetings," Holmes said. "You'd never think I'm in-season when I'm in those meetings, just asking questions and making sure we're on the up."

Holmes joked that he tossed around the idea of just calling his company East Coast Trucking, but decided to add a little more muscle to the moniker.

"We wanted to do East Coast because it's located in Norfolk, Virginia," Holmes said. "But Beast Coast just sounded cooler. These trucks are beasts, though ... 18-wheelers carrying about 40,000 pounds when we get a full load, so it made sense."

"It's something I can pass down to my son. The industry isn't going anywhere, and we'll always need trucking, so I was trying to find an innovative way to give back to my community. I've hired people from my community," Holmes added. "The NFL is 'Not for Long,' that's one of the things I do know. But we're growing fast, and in about five to 10 years, there's no telling what this business can potentially be."

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







▲ Holmes is representing the National Alliance on Mental Illness with his cleats.

**Q:** You mentioned your son (Jalyn Holmes II is a year-and-a-half old). How has fatherhood changed you as a person?

**A:** "For the good. A lot of things mean more. I've thought about life after football more since I had him. He was kind of the inspiration behind my trucking company. Everything I do now, I do it for two people. He's like my best friend, my little shadow. He definitely gave me a different perspective on life in a good way. I learn from him every day."

**Q:** You recently posted on Twitter that you wanted Kyle Rudolph's cleats from Week 11. You later tweeted you were able to snag the Kobe Bryant-inspired cleats with his Mamba logo. How did that transaction work?

**A:** "I tweeted that I needed them before the game [laughs]. Then I went to him and asked, and Rudy was like 'All right, cool.' I asked him [a few days later] after practice and got them. Kobe is my favorite player of all-time. The whole mindset Kobe had, I try to emulate that. So seeing [Rudolph] with those cleats was a big deal for me."

**Q:** Describe the impact and influence that Kobe had on you.

**A:** "Man, [his death in January] was tough. He was an idol of mine, someone I grew up looking

up to. The Lakers are my favorite basketball team. I didn't want to believe it for a long time. Just seeing how he carried himself on the court, as a father and as an entrepreneur ... he's just somebody to look up to. He even motivated me with the trucking company, because Kobe was doing things on and off the court. I wanted to show people you could be more than an athlete."

**Q:** You were drafted as a defensive end in 2018 out of Ohio State. You spent time as a defensive tackle in 2019 but are now back to defensive end full-time. How has that transition gone?

**A:** "It's going great. Defensive end is what I've always played ... so it's natural. Like learning how to ride a bike again. The main thing is that I feel like I'm more focused than ever, more detailed than ever. I'm back having fun, and when I have fun, I play well."

**Q:** You've been around Vikings Co-Defensive Coordinator and defensive line coach Andre Patterson for three seasons now. What's the best piece of advice he's given you?

**A:** "Man, there's so much. But really, just him always saying, 'Do what makes you unique.' Just stick to who you are. I feel like I've done that this season. Part of me being me was playing defensive end, playing my game and just having fun. He always talks about just being yourself and what makes you good. That advice has helped my game tremendously."



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



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# MY CAUSE MY CLEATS

ROOKIES STEP INTO CAMPAIGN

BY LINDSEY YOUNG



**When Minnesota hosts Jacksonville at U.S. Bank Stadium in Week 13, the Vikings will be using their feet to promote causes close to their hearts.**

Even though the COVID-19 pandemic has limited the in-person appearances and community events players have been able to participate in this year, nearly the entire team is making an impact through the NFL's annual My Cause My Cleats campaign.

Players will don custom-designed cleats that recently were unveiled to the athletes. The footwear is painted to represent respective causes the players have chosen to raise awareness and support for.

Among the organizations represented this season are some of the players' personal foundations or charities, including Raise the Barr Foundation and Thielen Foundation.

Other players are again shining light on organizations close to their heart: Big Brothers Big Sisters Twin Cities (Harrison Smith), University of Minnesota Masonic Children's Hospital (Kyle Rudolph), Boys & Girls Clubs (Kirk Cousins) and the Minnesota Vikings Foundation (Dalvin Cook), among others.

Twelve rookies also have stepped enthusiastically into the league initiative.

Despite their first NFL season certainly looking different than expected, the young players have embraced the community in whatever ways they can.

From military support to social justice issues and combatting gun violence, here's a look at some of the causes Vikings rookies will be representing on game day.



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# ✕ JUSTIN JEFFERSON + ✕ CAMERON DANTZLER

✕ NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE

**Drafted by Minnesota 22nd overall**, Jefferson has been a rookie phenom, racking up 52 catches for 918 yards and six touchdowns in his first 11 games. The Vikings tabbed Dantzler out of Mississippi State with the 89th overall selection, and the 22-year-old has battled through injuries to record 34 tackles and a pass defended in seven games (six starts).

Jefferson and Dantzler are committed to making an impact off the field, as well. Their cleats are designed differently, but both represent National Urban League, a civil rights organization dedicated to economic empowerment, equality and social justice.

National Urban League's mission is to help African Americans and others in underserved communities achieve their highest true social parity, economic self-reliance, power and civil rights.



# ✕ D.J. WONNUM

✕ EVERYTOWN FOR GUN SAFETY

**A fourth-round draft pick by Minnesota**, Wonnum has already made his presence felt in the NFL through standout plays that include a game-sealing sack of Aaron Rodgers at Green Bay and a blocked field goal against the Panthers last week.

Wonnum's cleats rep Everytown for Gun Safety, America's largest gun violence prevention organization. To date, nearly 6 million mayors, moms, teachers, survivors, gun owners, students and everyday Americans have come together to promote firearm safety in their communities.







# JEFF GLADNEY

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS



The Vikings selected Gladney 31st overall in April, and the former TCU standout has notched 57 tackles, two passes defended and a forced fumble in 11 games (10 starts).

A Texas native, Gladney grew up as a Boys & Girls Clubs member, and the program is close to his heart. The national organization does "whatever it takes to build great futures" for young people by focusing on providing safe and fun places for children to thrive, life-enhancing programming and caring mentors who guide, coach and motivate youth to succeed.

The Vikings have a long-standing partnership with Boys & Girls Clubs Twin Cities, which operates 10 locations in the metro area.

## JAMES LYNCH+ EZRA CLEVELAND

PAT TILLMAN FOUNDATION

The Vikings grabbed Cleveland (Boise State) and Lynch (Baylor) in the second and fourth rounds of the NFL Draft, respectively. The teammates have contributed early for Minnesota, with Cleveland in Week 6 stepping in to start four games at right guard. He played through an ankle injury at Chicago that sidelined him the next two weeks. Cleveland and Lynch play on opposite sides of the line of scrimmage but live under the same roof.

The roommates each chose to raise awareness for the Pat Tillman Foundation, which gives military servicemembers, veterans and spouses the educational tools and support they need to reach their fullest potential as leaders.

The foundation honors the legacy of former Cardinals safety Pat Tillman, who left his NFL career to enlist in the U.S. Army in 2002 after the previous year's Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Tillman was killed in action on April 22, 2004, in Afghanistan.





ALEXANDER MATTISON:

# I AM SUPPORTING MENTAL HEALTH

BY LINDSEY YOUNG

**The Boise State-Washington State game on Sept. 9, 2017, is a memorable one for Alexander Mattison.**

The running back scored in the first quarter of what became a 47-44 win by the Cougars in triple overtime.

Tyler Hilinski, Washington State's backup QB at the time, came in during the third quarter and threw for 240 yards and three touchdowns. Mattison recalled being impressed by the opposing passer's talents.

"After playing a game like that, I think you just kind of leave room for there to be a connection," Mattison said. "Whether that's down the line with them as a teammate in the NFL, or just running into them in life and being able to chop it up about that game, whatever it might be – there's just a connection left in the air when you pour that type of emotion onto the football field."

But Mattison never had the opportunity to rehash the epic contest with Hilinski. Rather, he and his Broncos teammates received the news – along with much of the sports world – on Jan. 16, 2018, that Hilinski had taken his own life.

"That took a toll on our team," Mattison said. "You could just feel it in the room that everyone's hearts were heavy."

Unlike a few of his teammates, Mattison had no personal relationship with Hilinski; nonetheless, he felt connected to the fellow athlete who grew up just 30 miles from Mattison's hometown of San Bernardino, California, and also was an older brother.

The tragedy motivated Mattison to learn more about depression, suicide and mental health in general, both within the athletics community and beyond. In addition to self-educating, he engaged in conversations with health professionals who gave presentations and talks at Boise State.

"I was always the one to kind of push off, fight off [things that are hard] and let it get to a boiling point where you can't handle it anymore," he reflected. "I've



learned a lot about how unhealthy that is for you, as far as your emotions, your mind, trying to navigate through day-to-day life – it just makes things harder. And then you start to get to a place of negative thoughts and just negative feelings."

Mattison became increasingly passionate about suicide prevention and raising awareness for mental health. When the Vikings drafted him in the third round of the 2019 NFL Draft, he didn't take for granted the incredible platform.

Following his rookie season, Mattison branded and launched I AM GIFTED, a clothing line he's using to be a positive light and share hope.

"Everyone was born with a gift," he said of the message behind I AM GIFTED. "Find it. Embrace it. Use it to shed light into this world! Life is what you make of it – so what are you going to make of it?"

Mattison will don custom-designed I AM GIFTED kicks in Sunday's My Cause My Cleats game. He currently is working on establishing an official foundation and in the future plans to dedicate proceeds of sales to suicide prevention, as well as to support youth causes and military veterans experiencing homelessness.

Especially in a 2020 that's brought hardships such as the COVID-19 pandemic, economic challenges and racial injustices, Mattison hopes to change things for the better.

"It's definitely the year to bring this to the forefront – letting people know that their life is precious and they are worthy," Mattison said. "It's something that's been even heavier on my heart."



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# READY STEADY





## KIRK COUSINS' first choice on last week's game-winning touchdown pass wasn't Chad Beebe, to be perfectly honest. Take their word for it.

"From my perspective, I believe that when we broke the huddle, you were the least likely person to get the ball," Cousins said to Beebe during this week's episode of the *Under Center with Kirk Cousins* podcast presented by Fleet Farm. "You probably know that, knowing how I'm supposed to read that play."

Beebe replied: "It's funny you said that, because I kind of had the same thought, but I knew coming out of the huddle, it was supposed to be a 'clear' route, but you still want to win on this route instead of running aimlessly."

Minnesota moved the ball from its own 25-yard line to the Carolina 10 with five consecutive completions. The Panthers increased their pressure on the first-and-goal play that followed, and Cousins avoided trouble with a purposeful incompleteness that left 50 seconds on the clock.

On second down, four Vikings ran underneath routes, and only Beebe headed for the end zone.

Beebe's job on the play from the left slot is to run a "clear" route that draws defenders away from an intended target.

The third-year receiver noticed defensive back Corn Elder was shaded toward Beebe's left. He sold a fake to the outside and smoothly transitioned to a skinny post, getting depth behind safety Juston Burris.

Cousins saw this from the shotgun and fired the ball to Beebe. One of the smallest Vikings (he's listed at 5-foot-10 and 183 pounds) went up, secured the catch, absorbed a hit by Elder and landed in bounds for his first career touchdown.

The six-pointer tied the score at 27, and Dan Bailey's extra point provided the final margin in a game Minnesota (5-6)

needed to move to eighth in the NFC Standings, one back of the seventh playoff spot held by Arizona (6-5).

The play, as well as other catches during the possession, followed an impressive stop by the Vikings defense that limited the Panthers to a short field goal after Carolina recovered a punt that Beebe had muffed at the Minnesota 9-yard line.

The turnaround was befitting a movie script for Beebe, who is possibly a little more Hallmark Channel than HBO.

But just drift for a second and indulge. Hear the Foo Fighters' "There Goes My Hero" in a crescendo as cinematic slow-mo makes its way through close-ups of Beebe and Cousins before the snap.

How about a clip that makes an offensive lineman's block look more dramatic than it seemed in this case? The release of the football from Cousins' hand, the leather spiraling through the air as Beebe goes up to secure it, then a signal by the refs (if a movie, Beebe would have landed closer to the end line than he did) and cheers by thousands.

"It sounds weird and maybe a little clichéd, but it did feel like that movie moment or that video game moment where time slows down and you hear the heart beat," Beebe said. "That's kind of how it was for me. Everything slowed down, and I just tried to win the route, and you put it exactly where it needed to be. Long story short, we made the play happen."

The pair of players who began their NFL careers as longshots — yes, Beebe's father Don played nine NFL seasons, and Cousins succeeded at Michigan State before his selection in the fourth round of the 2012 NFL Draft by Washington — can point to their preparation and work ethic.





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"I wasn't quite certain that he was going to come to me, but it's just about always being prepared like he could and would," Beebe added. "So I just ran the route like he was going to throw it to me, and sure enough, he did. It was a great pass. I think the relief came after the dropped punt and trying to make up for what we thought was lost."

#### CONNECTING WITH TEAMMATES

Cousins used part of the episode to dig further into Beebe's gridiron journey, from being coached by his father in high school to overcoming injuries at that level, in college at Northern Illinois and being sidelined in his first two pro seasons in Minnesota. The quarterback also shared that he had attended Don Beebe's House of Speed Camp during his youth in Chicagoland.

It's the kind of casual but informative conversation that Cousins has come to enjoy so much with teammates in two seasons of hosting the podcast with KFAN's Mark Rosen and help from Vikings.com's Chris Corso.

"I really enjoy two parts of the podcast: 1) being able to debrief about the previous game, win or loss, after having the time to watch the film, and being able to talk about it with a little more time and detail than what postgame press conference allows; and 2) I really enjoy being able to bring in teammates or people who are notable names around Minnesota to be able to get to know

them better and ask some questions and take some time to have other listeners get to know them better.

"I've learned a lot more about my own teammates just by being able to do this podcast and bring them on," Cousins added.

Depending on the teammate, the talk could cover the previous week's game, the teammate's backstory to becoming a Minnesota Viking and/or off-field interests, ranging from Eric Kendricks' enjoyment of skateboarding to Ezra Cleveland's love of LEGOs.

Alexander Mattison explained the pride he has for family members who have served in the military (his father Darrell and grandfather James served in the Air Force, and his uncle Lawrence served in the Army).

Other guests have included broadcaster Dan Patrick, retired tennis pro and huge Vikings fan Mardy Fish, 2009 MLB MVP Joe Mauer and Gophers Head Coach P.J. Fleck.

Patrick, who grew up a fan of Ohio sports and attending Cincinnati Reds and early Bengals games, explained that he realized during the 1990 World Series (won by Cincy in a sweep of Oakland) that he needed to switch from pulling for specific teams in favor of the most compelling storylines.

"I don't root anymore. It's the hardest thing that ever happened. I miss the high, but I miss the hurt, too," Patrick explained. "When you lose a game, I

don't feel anything, but I miss the feeling of watching as a fan.

"I root for a great storyline, no matter what it is. If you say Pittsburgh is going undefeated, I'll say, 'Great storyline,'" he added. "You get a surprise team that makes the playoffs ... that's what I root for because it's easy to tell that story over and over."

Patrick explained how he didn't get a weekend sports job in Dayton but wound up working for CNN for 5.5 years. Unable to get a \$5,000 raise for his next contract, he headed to ESPN, eventually becoming a longstanding anchor on the network's *SportsCenter* flagship program and encouraging the iconic "This is *SportsCenter*" commercials.

He later went independent for *The Dan Patrick Show*, building one of the best fan caves in all of sports that doubles as a studio.

"You've got to be lucky, but you have to be ready when you are lucky," Patrick explained.

Which brings us back to Cousins' preparations. Even in a season with so much uncertainty caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the quarterback has tried to maintain his weekly in-season process that he's developed over time.

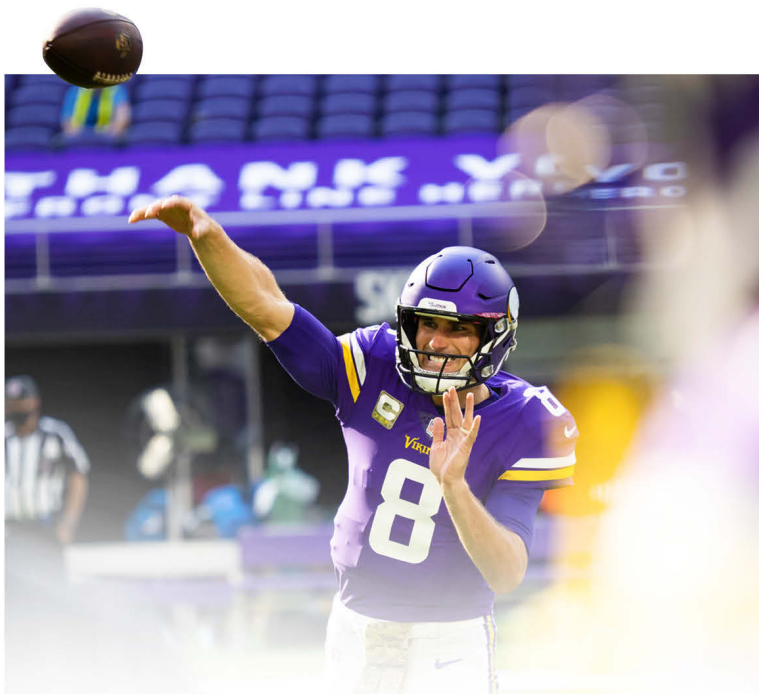
"Whether you're coming off of a win or a loss, you go right back to your routine, and I believe that having that routine – that I've continued to sharpen over my years of playing – is something that I lean on so that I can be consistent

# "I'VE LEARNED

a lot more about my own teammates just by being able to do this podcast and bring them on."

KIRK COUSINS





week-in and week-out to the best of my ability," Cousins said. "I do think in pro football that consistency is a big part, an underrated part of being in this league."

In five games since Minnesota's bye, Cousins has completed 105 of 145 passes (72.4 percent) for 1,293 yards with 12 touchdowns against one interception (passer rating of 124.3, the NFL's best this November). He's had a passer rating of 100 or higher in each game, helping the Vikings win four of five.

Regardless of how sharp the preparation is, a defense could still do something unexpected. Carolina was quite "multiple" for much of the game but then utilized just a three-man rush on four consecutive defensive snaps during Minnesota's winning drive.

"NFL defenses these days are pretty multiple, so even if you get a certain look on a play or two of a 2-minute drive, if it's a seven-play, eight-play drive, they're going to vary their looks," Cousins said. "They played big zones initially, rushed three guys, but then down in the red zone, they played tight man coverage. ... I thought they had good scheme all game long and kept us off balance. We just had to be ready for whatever they were going to throw at us."

Cousins credited Offensive Coordinator Gary Kubiak's play calls and response as the game situations dictated a change in approach.

"Once we got behind and were running

out of time, we had to be a little bit more of throwing the ball and into drop-back mode, but kind of just play the game that we have to play based on the situation and our plan," Cousins said. "I thought our offensive line did a great job, knowing that we had to drop back and throw late in the game, of being able to protect and slow down their pass rush, which gave us a great chance to hold on to the football a little longer in the pocket and find the open guy down the field."

#### MY CAUSE MY CLEATS

For the second consecutive My Cause My Cleats game, Cousins is supporting Boys & Girls Clubs. The youth mentorship program is one that the Julie and Kirk Cousins Foundation has strongly supported since launching in October 2018.

Cousins visited the Mt. Airy Boys & Girls Club in St. Paul in-person last year and did so again last month virtually with help from a robot and rookie Justin Jefferson (recap on page 45).

"I do believe young people are our future and are very impressionable. You want to provide a positive example and provide a voice of encouragement," Cousins said. "I think there's a lot of voices speaking to young people today that are telling them lies and sending the wrong messages. I want to come against that and be a voice to young people that speaks truth to them and encourages them

and challenges them to set their sights high and be goal-oriented and really try to have a positive impact on others."

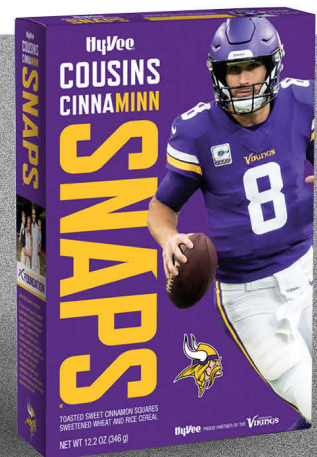
Fans in Minnesota can help Cousins' support of Boys & Girls Clubs with a simple cereal purchase at local Hy-Vee stores.

Cousins CinnaMINN Snaps, a limited-edition cereal, was released in October. All proceeds will be donated by the Julie and Kirk Cousins Foundation to Boys & Girls Clubs of the Twin Cities, which operates 10 sites throughout the Twin Cities.

"I love cereal to begin with. Hy-Vee asked me what I would prefer, and I said a cinnamon-type cereal would be my favorite," Cousins said. "I've been having my fair share of cereal bowls because I have a few boxes at my house, too. I say the flavor is a cross between Cinnamon Toast Crunch and Golden Grahams. I like those two cereals, so it's good by me."

Even before increasing his support of Boys & Girls Clubs, Cousins has focused on youth mentorship with football camps geared toward middle school boys.

"We chose middle school because we do feel it's an important age, an often overlooked age," Cousins said. "We really feel good about doing the camp for seven years, seeing the fruits of working with that age and hoping to speak truth and encouragement into their lives at a time when they're very impressionable."



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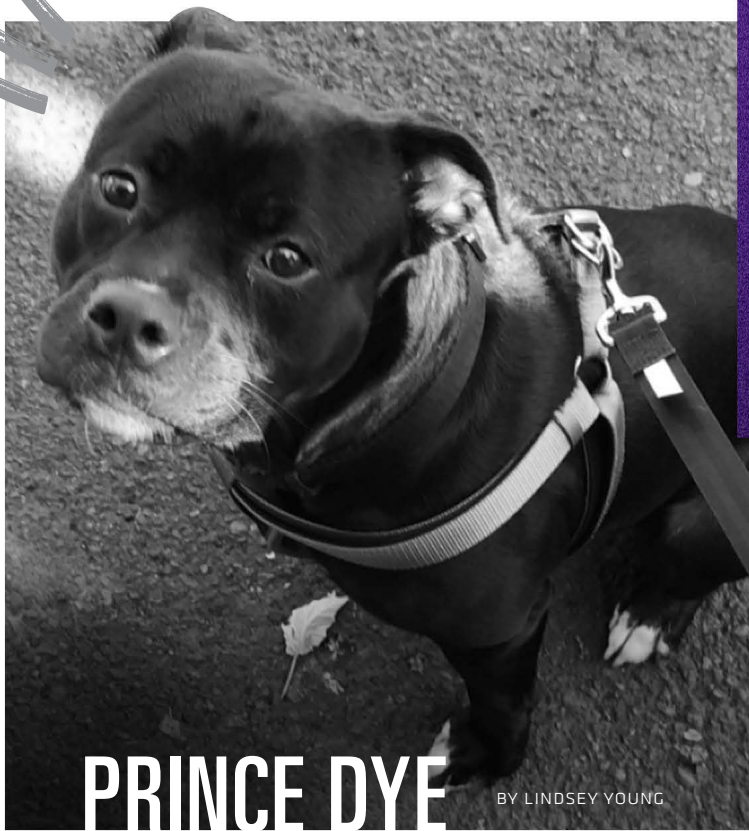


MINNESOTA  
**VIKINGS**

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11



# PRINCE DYE

BY LINDSEY YOUNG



**OWNER:**  
**TROY DYE**

**OWNER SWAP:**  
PRINCE WAS ORIGINALLY  
THE PET OF FORMER  
VIKINGS RECEIVER AND  
DYE'S ROOMMATE  
DILLON MITCHELL.

**BIG BROTHER:**  
PRINCE IS PALS WITH DYE'S  
INFANT SON TY, WITH WHOM  
HE LIKES TO NAP.

**CANINE KISSES:**  
PRINCE IS KNOWN  
FOR GIVING OUT AN  
ABUNDANCE OF PUP KISSES.

# PURPLE Pups

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MEMORIAL HEALTH

*Prince didn't start out as Troy Dye's dog, but the pit bull-Lab mix and Vikings linebacker are practically inseparable.*

In college at Oregon, Dye roomed with Ducks teammate and former Vikings receiver Dillon Mitchell, who owned Prince. Minnesota drafted Mitchell in the seventh round of the 2019 NFL Draft, and he asked Dye to watch Prince while he settled in a new home.

"So Prince stayed with me in the apartment, and we just grew a bond over the next couple of months," Dye said.

"'Sorry, there's no way you're about to get this dog back. He's mine for good now,'" Dye told his friend. 'Dillon was OK with it because he knew Prince was in a great home, great spot, and he gets all the love and attention.'

Prince certainly gets plenty of affection from Dye, his girlfriend Makenzie and the couple's son, Ty, who was born on April 7.

An expanding family initially threw Prince for a loop, but he quickly warmed to the infant and assumed the protective "big brother" role.

"When Ty first came home ... any little movement or sound that Ty would make, [Prince's] ears popped up, on-guard, ready to go, wasn't really sure what this little human was," Dye recalled earlier this year. "When the baby would cry, Prince would look at you like, 'What's going on? Are you going to do something?'"

"Now he kind of gets the feel of the baby and understands certain cries. It'll



"Respect is earned and respect is given when it comes to animals, and I think that's the biggest thing for me. If you love an animal the right way, they'll love you back. It's always awesome to have a partner and a best friend that's not a human."

- TROY DYE

*Dye's cleats promote The Leela Project, a nonprofit that works with foster and underrepresented boys throughout Southern California.*



be like 3 in the morning, and the baby will be crying, and here comes Prince to just sit next to you, give you some comfort and let you know it's all good," Dye continued.

Ty and Prince have been known to nap together, and Dye looks forward to the two becoming best friends.

The growing relationship isn't surprising to Dye, who described Prince as an incredibly loving dog.

"If [you come] over ... you won't be able to get him off you," Dye laughed. "He'll try to jump in your face, sit on you like he's a 10-pound dog, but he's really 50 pounds. It's like, 'OK, my guy, you can't be on the couch with me; you're a little too big for that.'"

Dye and Makenzie have prided themselves on teaching Prince a series of tricks, including

"giving paws" or high-fives and rolling over.

"The rolling over was probably our biggest accomplishment," Dye said. "It was complicated at first, but he got it. It's been fun ever since. If you come out with a bone, he just goes straight to rolling over – you don't even have to tell him."

There's one thing that Prince hasn't been taught but is absolutely known for: licking.

"That's his go-to thing. If he sees you in the house and there's any open skin, prepare to get licked," Dye said. "Kisses in bundles, man – he just loves to give them out."

"I'm not opposed to it, though. I'd rather have a super nice dog than an aggressive dog," he added. "And he loves playing with other animals. He goes to the dog park and is very friendly with other animals and with humans.

It's been a blessing to have a dog like that."

Dye has always been an animal lover, having grown up with a variety of pets. From horses, to cats and dogs, and even fish and turtles, the California native loves them all.

One animal he's never owned?

"I'm not a snake person. I don't like the way they move. I don't like the way they operate," Dye quipped.

"But I'm a big animal person. I love to be around them – I love the compassion and the care that they can give," he said. "It's a two-way street. Respect is earned and respect is given when it comes to animals, and I think that's the biggest thing for me. If you love an animal the right way, they'll love you back. It's always awesome to have a partner and a best friend that's not human."





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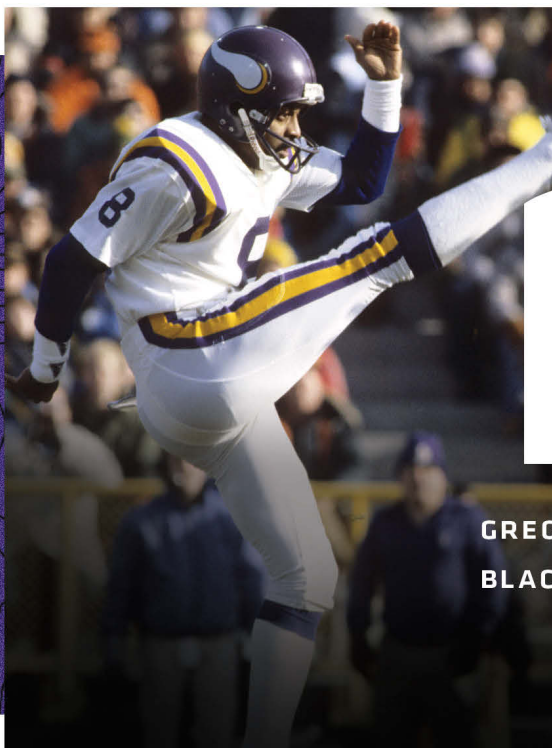
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# HEADED TO THE HALL

GREG COLEMAN SELECTED TO  
BLACK COLLEGE FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME

BY ERIC SMITH

## Back when he was a senior in high school, Greg Coleman penned some lofty expectations for himself.

“You know in your high school yearbook when you put your name, your hobbies, your ambitions ... I wrote years and years ago that I wanted to be a punter in the National Football League,” Coleman said. “My teammates and classmates laughed and said, ‘Man, you’re out of your mind. There’s no Black punters in the NFL.’ And I said, ‘That ain’t my problem.’ ”

Coleman accomplished that dream during a 12-year professional career, spending 10 of those seasons in Purple with the Vikings, and recently was announced as a member of the 2021 Class of the Black College Football Hall of Fame.

The moment was one to savor, reminding Coleman of entries to the Pro Football Hall of Fame by Vikings connections.

“I’m going to try and hold it together here,” Coleman said. “I’m reminded of what [Pro Football Hall of Fame President] David Baker

does when he knocks on the door [to inform players of their selection] ... when Randy Moss went in, John Randle went in, Randall McDaniel, Cris Carter ... a few great Vikings.

“When they called me, it was emotional,” Coleman added. “A range of emotions from left to right thinking back to the struggles of African-American men.”

Coleman lived through multiple types of discrimination during his youth in Jacksonville, Florida. His all-Black PeeWee football team won the city championship in its division, earning the right to play in the Gator Bowl, but the young men were denied the opportunity.

He bounced back from that pain and punted at Florida A&M University from 1972-75, before becoming the first Black punter selected in an NFL Draft (Cincinnati tabbed him in the 14th round in 1976).

Coleman said the skill he became known for – pinning opponents deep in their territory with precision kicks – was developed in college where special teams coach Costa “Pop” Kittles suggested to “kick ‘em where they ain’t.”

“I started crafting the skill of kicking it to the corners,” said Coleman, who was enshrined

in the FAMU Sports Hall of Fame in 1985. “I’ll never forget one of my first *Monday Night Football* games when Howard Cosell coined me, ‘Coffin Corner Coleman.’ ”

Although he was drafted by Cincinnati, Coleman didn’t play a down for the Bengals. Also a track star in the hurdles with strong speed, coaches kept suggesting he try positions other than punter.

But Coleman was insistent. He punted in 14 games for Cleveland in 1977 but was released after the preseason in 1978.

He had a few tryouts, hoping to land with a team when he turned on a Vikings-Rams game on Oct. 15, 1978. The man of faith prayed that he’d eventually play for the Vikings.

Minnesota called the next day, and Coleman punted in 138 regular-season games in Purple.

“Never give up and don’t lose hope,” Coleman said. “No matter how many doors get closed in your face ... I believe that when a door is closed, God will open a window.”

Coleman and fellow class members are scheduled to be inducted in June at the College Football Hall of Fame in Atlanta.



# JEFFERSON REACHING FOR ELITE COMPANY

BY ERIC SMITH

Justin Jefferson has shown the NFL he's a star since the rookie wide receiver was taken with the 22nd overall pick in the 2020 NFL Draft. But the former LSU standout isn't the first Minnesota player to take the league by storm in his first pro season. Jefferson is following in the footsteps of a handful of Vikings Legends, too, whether it be Randy Moss, Sammy White, Anthony Carter or Paul Flatley.



Jefferson was able to pass the receiving totals by Flatley, the 1963 NFL Rookie of the Year, in just his 11th pro game. Flatley caught 51 passes for 867 yards and four touchdowns over the course of 14 games in Minnesota's third season.

Even though Carter had played three seasons in the USFL (1983-85) before joining Minnesota in 1985, we also took a look at Carter's first season in the NFL. He recorded 43 catches for 821 yards and eight scores.

White (1976) and Moss (1998) each claimed NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year honors, and Jefferson has placed himself in the running for that award. Here's how he stacks up against those two Vikings Legends.

## SAMMY WHITE, 1976

White's rookie season included 51 catches for 906 yards and 10 scores to help the Vikings win the NFC Central. The second-round pick out of Grambling made a big initial splash with a 210-yard performance against the Lions, which still stands as the single-game record in Minnesota. White also had a pair of scores in that game, which was one of two multi-score games for him as a rookie. He also hauled in three touchdown catches in the regular-season finale against the Dolphins.

## RANDY MOSS, 1998

The 21st overall pick in 1998 seemingly couldn't be stopped. Moss tied a franchise single-season record with 17 touchdown catches, which is also an NFL rookie record. The former Marshall standout scored twice in his first NFL game and took off from there.

The Hall of Famer's biggest performances occurred in Green Bay (five catches for 190 yards and two scores) and in Dallas on Thanksgiving (three catches for 163 yards and three scores) on national broadcasts. He had four total multi-score games, and set a franchise record with four 100-yard performances as a rookie. Moss ended his rookie season with 69 catches for 1,313 yards as the Vikings went 15-1 and reached the NFC title game.

## JUSTIN JEFFERSON, 2020

The Vikings tabbed Jefferson with the first of two first-round picks, taking the LSU star who had 111 catches for 1,540 yards and 18 scores in his final college season. And although the Vikings had a virtual offseason, Jefferson has made quite the splash in 2020. He leads the team in receptions (52) and yards (918). His six touchdowns include two in Week 12 against Carolina for the second multi-score game of his career. The 21-year-old has also tied Moss' rookie record with a quartet of 100-yard games so far this season. Jefferson's blend of speed, athleticism and big-play ability (he averages 17.7 yards per catch) should be a focal point for Minnesota's offense for years to come. And Jefferson's rookie season could potentially be capped off with the same hardware White and Moss earned as the league's best offensive rookie. Jefferson is trying to become the first Vikings receiver to win NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year since Percy Harvin (60 catches, 790 yards, six touchdowns and two kickoff return touchdowns) in 2009.





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## FEATURED FAN

# NATHAN

### NATHAN NJORGE SHOWED HIS LOVE FOR THE VIKINGS EVERYWHERE.

Diagnosed with neuroblastoma at age 12 in March 2017, Nathan underwent two bone marrow transplants at the University of Minnesota Masonic Children's Hospital, along with chemotherapy and radiation treatments.

Nathan's hospital room had a view of U.S. Bank Stadium, and he was visited there by Kyle Rudolph. Nathan created a handmade newsletter to express his appreciation to Kyle, whose younger brother, Casey, battled pediatric cancer during Kyle's youth.

Nathan's newsletter was featured in the "Dear Kyle" series of letters written on behalf of the three-time Vikings Community Man of the Year honoree when he was nominated in 2018 for the Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year award.

Nathan and his family were among honorees at Minnesota's Crucial Catch game in 2019 where cancer patients, survivors, caregivers and those who had died from the disease were recognized and remembered during halftime.

Despite the challenges Nathan faced, he never wavered in his support for the Vikings or his Christian faith. He attended Des Moines Christian School in Iowa, where he inspired classmates, teachers and staff, hanging tight to his favorite Bible verse, Joshua 1:9: "Have I not commanded you to be strong and courageous? Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

Nathan's courageous battle ended with his passing on July 4, 2020.

The Des Moines Christian School Student Council dedicated a Friday in October to Nathan, with everyone wearing purple — his favorite color — and raising funds for a donation in his honor to Ronald McDonald House Charities.



*Kyle Rudolph's cleats rep the U of M Masonic Children's Hospital, where the Vikings tight end and Nathan built a bond.*







## ANDREW DOOYEMA

Described by his sister Naomi as the Vikings No. 1 fan, Andrew never misses a game. Andrew doesn't let Down syndrome define him. He has a larger-than-life personality and loves to talk to people about the Vikings, Twins or his dog, who passed away earlier this year. Naomi said Andrew's inclusion as one of the Vikings 60 Greatest Fans will be the highlight of his year.

**CURRENT CITY:**

LUVERNE, MN

**FAVORITE**

**ALL-TIME VIKING:**  
"THE WHOLE TEAM"



## DAKOTA JACOBSEN

Dakota is a lifelong Vikings fan. Growing up, his favorite player was Randy (or "Wandy," as he pronounced it) Moss. He can answer any piece of team trivia and owns more Vikings apparel than all other clothing. Dakota loves his team so much that he named his son after it. Nikolai Viking Jacobsen was born Aug. 4, 2020.

**CURRENT CITY:**

TAMPA, FL

**FAVORITE**

**ALL-TIME VIKING:**  
RANDY MOSS



## JOE FOGLIA

Joe fell in love with the Vikings at age 6. According to his wife Tracie, he's been a "superfan" for 49 years, passing along his passion throughout his family. Joe and Tracie's Hawaiian home is decked-out in Vikings memorabilia. In 2019, he attended his first NFL game at U.S. Bank Stadium.

**CURRENT CITY:**

KONA, HI

**FAVORITE**

**ALL-TIME VIKING:**  
JOHN RANDLE



## BARBARA AUD

**CURRENT CITY:**

McKINNEY, TX

**FAVORITE ALL-TIME VIKING:**  
"CAN'T PICK JUST ONE"

Barbara's father served as a U.S. Army Colonel in Hawaii, and the family would watch delayed re-played Vikings games on a black-and-white TV. Barbara became a Vikings fan during the second game of the 1969 season when Minnesota defeated the Baltimore Colts 52-14. Although she and her dad weren't very close, he invited her to watch that game with him – it was a special moment for Barbara and started her lifetime love of the Vikings.



## MATTIE KASTENGREN

Mattie is a special girl who has defied the odds. Having special needs and being non-verbal, Mattie was predicted to never walk or live a full life – but at 15 years old she is walking and thriving! Maddie attended her first Vikings game in 2019 and completely fell in love with the team. She is always watching Vikings videos and putting together her Vikings helmet-shaped puzzle.

**CURRENT CITY:**

ABERDEEN, SD

**FAVORITE**

**ALL-TIME VIKING:**  
ADAM THIELEN



## DAN REHOME

When Dan founded the Inland Empire Viking Club (IEVC), it had 12 members; the Vikings fan club has now grown to nearly 200 thanks to his enthusiastic commitment to recruiting. In 2019, The IEVC raised \$6,000 for the Minnesota Vikings Foundation. Dan truly bleeds Purple.

**CURRENT CITY:**

REDLANDS, CA

**FAVORITE**

**ALL-TIME VIKING:**  
FRAN TARKENTON



## TANNER MAROHN

Born into a family of Vikings Season Ticket Members, Tanner has attended every Vikings home game in his 16 years of life. He prides himself on attending numerous team events throughout the year, including Vikings Training Camp, and never misses catching the road games on TV.

**CURRENT CITY:**

ANNANDALE, MN

**FAVORITE**

**ALL-TIME VIKING:**  
ADAM THIELEN



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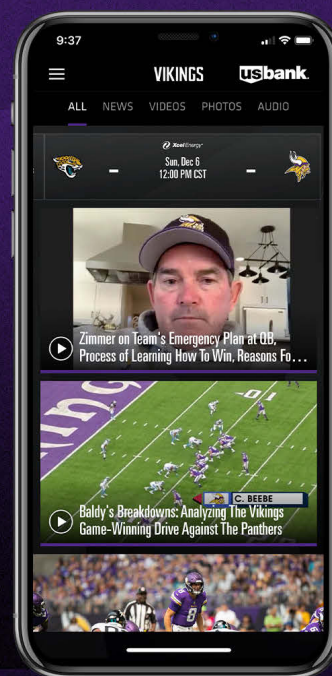


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SCAN TO WATCH VIDEO  
OF JEFFERSON &  
COUSINS AS ROBOTS



BY ERIC SMITH

## JEFFERSON & COUSINS USE ROBOTS TO CONNECT WITH YOUTH

The initial plan was for Justin Jefferson to appear on a robot's video screen for a virtual conversation with Mt. Airy Boys & Girls Club members.

Jefferson did that, but the fun-loving Vikings rookie also turned the afternoon into a virtual dance party.

The first-round pick put smiles on dozens of kids' faces on a recent Tuesday afternoon when he and Vikings quarterback Kirk Cousins took part in the event.

Jefferson taught the young people his signature "Griddy" dance and then was eager to learn some dance moves from the kids, too.

"It was a lot of fun. I've always seen the Boys & Girls Clubs over commercials and everything, but to actually be a part of it and see the smiling faces on kids, it's a great feeling to have," Jefferson said. "Them doing the dance and being that figure in their eyes

and the person that they look up to, the person that they see on a high level, that's a good feeling to have.

"I remember when I was like that, looking up to the players that were in the NFL when I was younger," Jefferson added. "It's definitely a long time for me to see this moment, and I'm grateful to be where I am."

Cousins – who visited the club in 2019 – directed his robot by a handful of classrooms to check on schoolwork. As Cousins and Jefferson weaved in and out of rooms, kids ranging from kindergarteners to teenagers were buzzing that a pair of Vikings were saying hello.

"It's something different from their normal routine," said Boys & Girls Clubs Twin Cities Senior Director of Corporate and Public Relations Tim Schober. "It's been challenging times for our young folks with distance learning.

"We're able to take some kids here at the club on a daily basis, but it's far fewer kids than we normally serve so we can make sure

we're safe," Schober added. "They're working hard, so having the Vikings here to recognize that is really special. We're here to make sure the kids are able to log in for classes with their schools and assist teachers."

Schober said in normal times, the club would have upwards of 150 kids on an average afternoon. On this day, there were 30.

They were treated to a tasty, healthy lunch that was provided by Vikings Table – the Minnesota Vikings Foundation's charity food truck – as cups of chili provided warmth on a brisk day.

Representatives from Xcel Energy, which presents Vikings Table, were on hand to pass along energy efficiency tips and set up free in-home visits to help families reduce energy costs.

"We live and work in the communities that we serve," said Xcel Energy Senior Director of Customer Experience and Brand Strategy Megan Scheller. "For us, it's so important to give back to those communities so everyone has an opportunity to succeed.

"We know that saving energy and money is important to our customers, and now more than ever," Scheller added. "We're offering tips and tools, but also free services with our home energy squad."

A warm meal, an educational experience and an awesome dance party with one of the league's top rookies made for a day the kids won't soon forget.



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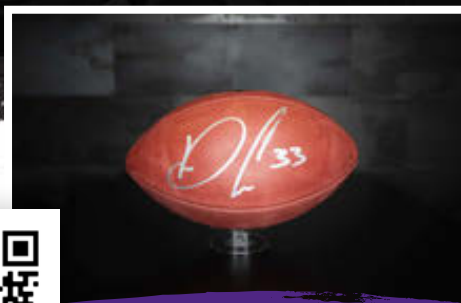


DALVIN COOK IS REPRESENTING THE MINNESOTA VIKINGS FOUNDATION'S VIKINGS TABLE FOOD TRUCK FOR THE THIRD CONSECUTIVE MY CAUSE MY CLEATS GAME.

Off the field, Cook supports the Vikings Table food truck program to address childhood hunger in our community. More than 16,000 meals have been delivered to youth and families who need it most since the launch of the program in 2019.



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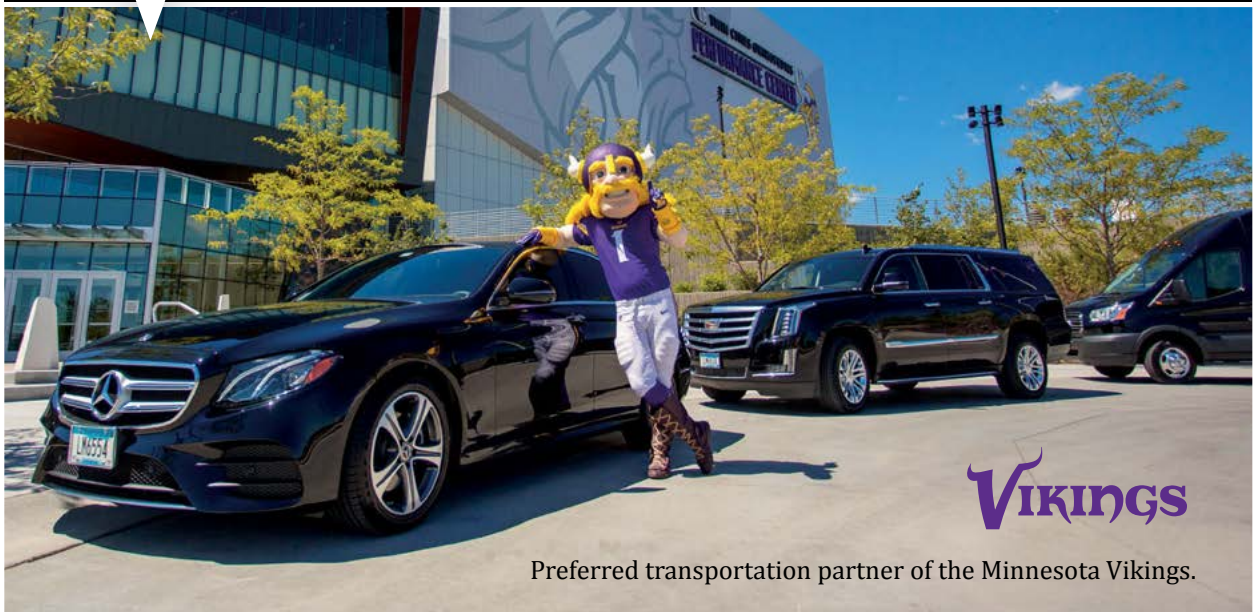
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# ANDREA



## 4TH SEASON

### WHAT DOES BEING A CAPTAIN MEAN TO YOU?

I am ecstatic to be named a captain of the MVC, and this is a responsibility that I never take for granted. It is an incredible honor to be recognized for all my hard work and dedication to this program over the past four years. I am truly humbled by the opportunity to help lead these amazing women.

### FAVORITE ON-FIELD EXPERIENCE:

The Minneapolis Miracle against the Saints. Being part of Vikings history is truly something I will cherish forever.

### FAVORITE OFF-FIELD EXPERIENCE:

Getting to be a part of Kyle Rudolph's End Zone unveiling at the University of Minnesota Masonic Children's Hospital. I'll never forget the children's reactions.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Andrea is one of the cheerleaders who emcees the "Viktor's Quest to Stop Bullying" school program.

SPALON  
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# VIKINGS KIDS CLUB



VIKINGS KIDS CLUB MEMBERS WERE INVITED TO DESIGN CUSTOM CLEATS TO RAISE AWARENESS FOR THE SLOTH CONSERVATION FOUNDATION AS PART OF THIS YEAR'S MY CAUSE MY CLEATS GAME.

There were many awesome entries, but the design by 8-year-old Bryson L., who loves to draw and color, was selected as the winner. Bryson will receive a prize pack that includes a replica of his design (the plan is for the original to be auctioned as a fundraiser). When Bryson's mom delivered the news that his design had been chosen, he was "surprised, speechless and excited!"

"For me to be speechless is not normal either, because I always have something to say," Bryson said.

Bryson and his younger brother have enjoyed becoming members of the Vikings Kids Club and like to play football.

Visit [vikings.com/KidsClub](https://vikings.com/KidsClub) for more info on the Vikings Kids Club or to purchase a membership today.



## CLEAT DESIGN





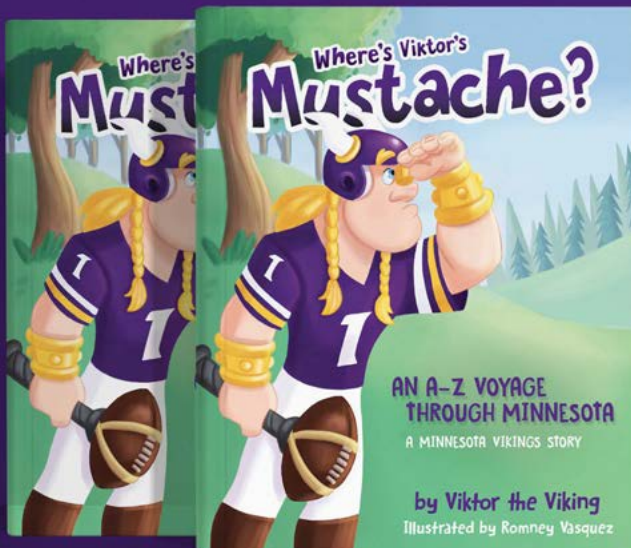
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#### **X'S & O'S WITH MIKE ZIMMER PRESENTED BY U.S. BANK**

**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.



#### **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 Bercich and sideline reporters Ben Leber and Greg Coleman.

## **UNDER CENTER WITH KIRK COUSINS**

**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 VANTAGE**

**PRESENTED BY PEPSI**

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

Wind-down your week with *Vikings Vantage* by recapping the week that was 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.

## **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 Bercich, 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**

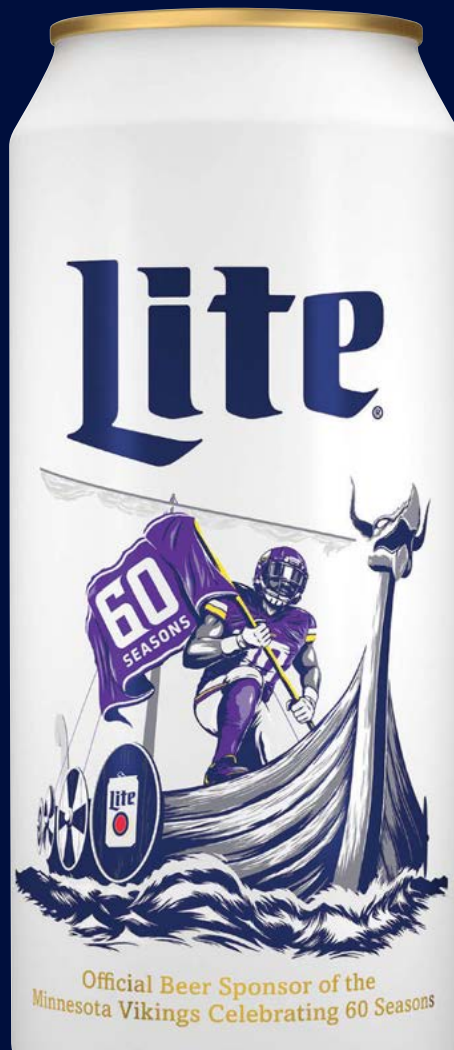
The *Minnesota Vikings Podcast* features exclusive guests including players, coaches, staff and experts across the NFL. Go behind the scenes for interviews, press conferences, highlights, quotes from the locker room and much more.

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