

Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright



With the 2025 NFL season officially over, all 32 teams will begin laying the foundation for 2026 and beyond. Some teams have championship aspirations, some teams are hoping to ascend out of the proverbial basement, and some teams will be somewhere between the two. For the Minnesota Vikings, the quest for that ever-elusive Lombardi Trophy begins as it always does, by looking in the rearview mirror.

Today marks the final article that will examine the 2025 roster to reveal which positions and players can be built around, and which need to be upgraded. This week, we break down the back end of the defense with the cornerback and safety groups.

The Minnesota Vikings' pass coverage was one of the best in the NFL last season, despite the patchwork of players that were cobbled together last offseason. The Vikings only gave up 2,694 yards and 15 touchdowns through the air, which were both second-best in the league. Can Brian Flores duplicate his success in 2026?

Byron Murphy was the Vikings' CB1 last year. After snagging six interceptions and making the Pro Bowl in 2024, Murphy signed a massive extension to remain in Minnesota.

Across from Murphy was Isaiah Rodgers, who signed a two-year contract last offseason. He's in line to start once again, and he'll be looking to play his best in 2026 to parlay that into a big contract in 2027.

Next up on the depth chart is newly acquired James Pierre, who is one of only two free agent signings by the Vikings so far this season (the other being Kyler Murray).

Currently, the Vikings only have two other CBs on the roster, Dwight McGlothern and Zemaiah Vaughn. Expect the team to add a little more depth before training camp, whether that's through the draft or an inexpensive free agent signing.

The last line of defense is the safety position, so it's only fitting

that we break down that group last. The biggest safety-related news is the (potential) retirement of Harrison Smith, who has been the anchor of the defensive backfield since he was drafted in 2012. It's possible the 37-year-old will come back for one last season, but if I had to guess, I'd say we've seen the last of number 22 (until his eventual enshrinement into the Vikings' ring of honor).

Joshua Metellus is the only starting-caliber player left at safety, and he's usually a chess piece for Flores, constantly moving all over the field.

Theo Jackson, who started eight games in 2025, is currently penciled in as the starter next to Metellus. Has the 27-year-old shown enough to warrant the starting role?

Competing with Jackson is Jay Ward, who is entering his fourth season in the NFL. Ward started five games in 2025 but was clearly behind Jackson on the depth chart.

Rounding out the safety group is Tavierre Thomas (who the Vikings just re-signed to provide depth and play special teams) and Kahlef Haillassie, who was on the practice squad last season.

The Vikings' special teams saw a slight shakeup this offseason when punter Ryan Wright signed with the New Orleans Saints. To replace him, the Vikings signed veteran Johnny Hekker, who is entering his 15th year in the NFL. Hekker is a four-time Pro Bowl punter, so he's plenty capable of holding down the spot until the Vikings find a long-term replacement.

Area News from family & friends Call 348-3325

Saturday June Opp, Dorinda opp, Nancy Bittner joined Darwin and Julie Gutknecht of New Salem for supper.

Sunday visitors at the June Opp home were Dorinda Opp, Nancy Bittner, Julie Gutknecht and Ronda Maersbbecker.

Can You Crack the Code?

-University of Mary Launches CyberConnect CTF for High School Students

-Gaming-style cybersecurity competition offers hands-on challenges and cash prizes

High school students who enjoy gaming, puzzles, coding, or exploring technology behind the scenes will soon have a new arena to test their skills.

The University of Mary will host its inaugural CyberConnect CTF (Capture the Flag) cybersecurity competition on April 14, inviting students in grades 9-12 to compete in a fast-paced, gaming-style environment while learning about careers in the rapidly growing cybersecurity field. Hosted by the Gary Tharaldson School of Business, the event runs from 8:15 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Chick's Place in the Lumen Vitae University Center on the University of Mary campus. Sign-in begins at 8:30 a.m.

Students may register either as a team of four or individually. Those without a team will be placed on one by event staff. Participation is free, lunch is provided, and the top teams compete for cash prizes of \$2,000 for first place, \$1,000 for second, and \$500 for third. Teams must register by March 27 at UMary.edu/CyberConnect.

Let us help you with your cleaning.



Sell those unused unwanted items in the Classifieds.
Glen Ullin Times
348-3325

If you're not reading newspapers yet, remember it's never too late to get in on a great thing. And if you're in business and want to reach the masses, there's no better way to reach a large fan base than through America's newspapers.

Join Aging In Community

April 14th

6:30 pm

at 704 East Ash Ave,

Glen Ullin

for a viewing of the

1976 Glen Ullin

Pageant recording

Give Kyla a call at 348-9907 with any questions.



State Class A Boys Basketball Recap

The State Class A Boys basketball tournament held in Fargo over the weekend and finished up with Beulah Miners the State B Champions.

The Division A boys basketball state tournament all-tournament team included:

Braylen Schirado, and Philip Weidner, Beulah;

Kash Lorenz, and Andrew Ziemer, Central Cass;

Easton Peltier, Turtle Mountain;

Marial Deng, Four Winds/Minnewaukan;

Carson Quam, Shiloh Christian;

Mason Palmer, Devils Lake;

Nelson DeCoteau, Dunseith;

Jack Gilbertson, Wahpeton;

The Tournament MVP was Braylen Schirado, Beulah.

2026 NDHSCA Division A Boys Basketball Senior Athlete Of The Year: Braylen Schirado, Beulah.

2026 NDHSCA Division A Boys Basketball Coach Of The Year:

Brandon Schirado, Beulah.

•Quarterfinal scores....

Central Cass 72, Turtle Mountain 58

Shiloh Christian 64, Four Winds/Minnewaukan 57

Devils Lake 68, Dunseith 39

Beulah 56, Wahpeton 51

•Consolation Semifinals...

Four Winds/Minnewaukan 80, Turtle Mountain 63

Wahpeton 71, Dunseith 54

•Semifinals...

Central Cass 63, Shiloh Christian 50

Beulah 60, Devils Lake 51

•Seventh-Place Game...

Dunseith 66, Turtle Mountain 55

•Fifth-Place Game...

Four Winds/Minnewaukan 65, Wahpeton 58

•Third-Place Game...

Devils Lake 63, Shiloh Christian 48

•Championship Game...

Beulah 49, Central Cass 48

The Schirado's of Beulah are former of Glen Ullin with Brandon's parents Dick and Deb Schirado of Glen Ullin.

Honor Flight Network expands flights to Desert Storm Era Veterans

The (National) Honor Flight Network is proud to announce expansion to Gulf War / Operation Desert Storm era Veterans who served through July 31, 1991 (based on Veterans Affairs established dates). The Desert Shield and Desert Storm Memorial - honoring more than 600,000 service members who deployed to help liberate Kuwait in 1991 - will be dedicated this fall. Beginning in the 2027 flying season, Hubs can begin bringing Veterans who served between December 7, 1941, and July 31, 1991. PLEASE NOTE: The Veterans Honor Flight of ND/MN will not be accepting applications at this time.

Due to the high number of Veterans currently on our waiting list, the Veterans Honor Flight of ND/MN will not yet be accepting applications from Veterans of Operation Desert Storm or the Gulf War era. At this time, our priority remains serving the Veterans of World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War to ensure the oldest and most medically fragile Veterans can experience their honor flight first.

When the Veterans Honor Flight of ND/MN is ready to begin accepting applications from Veterans who served during Operation Desert Storm and the Gulf War era, we will release another announcement to notify the public and ensure those Veterans have the opportunity to apply for a future honor flight.

Let's Play Bingo

Everyone is welcome to come play Bingo.

Bingo is sponsored by Women of Sacred Heart and played in the kitchenette area of the church. Bingo will be played on Sunday, April 12, 1:00pm. Coffee and bars are offered.

Morton County Fair Board - Request for Bids

The Morton County Fair Board is accepting bids for a concrete project at the Morton County Fairgrounds in New Salem, ND.

Contractors may request the official bid packet by emailing: info@mortoncountyfair.com

Bid deadline: March 30, 2026.

Morton County Fair Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Glen Ullin Public Transportation Schedule

The Glen Ullin Transportation bus, is public transportation, and any age person may ride.

In April the bus will be going to Bismarck/Mandan April 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29.

The bus will start picking up at 8:00 a.m., unless otherwise notified and a \$10.00 fee is charged for the trip. It is best if possible to make your appointments between 9 and 12. It does not always work but is appreciated.

Please call Myron at 701-880-8256 to schedule a ride and reserve your seat on the bus. Must call by 1 p.m. on the Tuesday to get on the Wednesday bus.

The bus is available for all ages to ride.

Mayer Theatre-Hebron

Fri., Sat., Sun. 7:30 (CT)

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www.mayertheatre.com



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