

Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

Every NFL offseason brings optimism. Every fanbase convinces itself the rookies will hit, the free agents will work out, and this is finally the year everything comes together. But before the season starts and hope takes over, it's worth taking a hard look at the roster as it actually exists today.

Over the next ten weeks, we'll break down every position group on the Vikings' roster and rank them from the group I have the most confidence in to the one I trust the least entering the 2026 season. We'll look at the projected starters, depth pieces, offseason additions, and biggest questions each group faces.

So far we've covered the WR, TE, and RB groups. I didn't expect the offense to dominate the list so far, but it makes sense... There hasn't been much turnover at these spots, and for the most part, the starters are basically set. We know what we're going to get with these groups, leading to high confidence levels.

The offensive theme continues this week with number 7 on the list: offensive line.

Confidence level: 86%

Current projected starters: Christian Darrisaw, Donovan Jackson, Blake Brandel, Will Fries, Brian O'Neill

Competing for a roster or practice squad spot: Henry Byrd, Gavin Gerhardt, Joe Huber, Michael Jurgens, Vershon Lee, Tristan Leigh, Delby Lemieux, Tomas Rimac, Walter Rouse, Caleb Tiernan, and Ryan Van Demark.

Why I'm confident: The Vikings will have (basically) the same starting five from last season, and no position in football relies on continuity more than the offensive line. That alone instills a certain level of confidence. The only change is at center, with Blake Brandel moving to the starting center role after Ryan Kelly retired this offseason. However, this will be year six for Brandel, who started nine games last season, so there is plenty

of familiarity.

Aside from continuity, the Vikings' offensive line is made up of some fantastic players. Darrisaw is an elite left tackle. Brian O'Neill is a Pro Bowl caliber right tackle. Donovan Jackson was a first round pick and is entering year two. Will Fries was a high-priced free agent signing a year ago. Brandel was asked to switch to center in the middle of last season, so theoretically he should perform better with more experience at the position.

Cause for concern: Injuries. Darrisaw is entering year six and has yet to play a full season, missing 17 games in the last two seasons alone. Both Jackson and O'Neill missed three games last season. Ironically, despite a gruesome leg injury in 2024, Fries was the only Vikings' offensive lineman to start all 17 games last season.

The center position is also a question mark. I think Brandel is a great depth piece, but I'm not sold on him as a starter in the NFL. Even going back to college, where he played tackle, he lacked the necessary strength to handle bull rushers. Now he'll be asked to go against defensive nose tackles every single play...

Depth is also a cause for concern. One of the few free agent signings this past offseason was Ryan Van Demark, who will be the team's swing tackle. Caleb Tiernan was a third-round pick who will likely be the backup guard. After that the water gets murky, which is worrisome considering the Vikings' injury woes.

Potential upgrades: Unfortunately, there aren't any centers available who would be an upgrade over Brandel. There are, however, some solid veterans available at tackle (Taylor Decker, Jack Conklin, and former Viking Cam Robinson), and guard (Mekhi Becton, Kevin Zeitler, and James Daniels).

If the offensive line is healthy, they have a chance to be one of the best units in the NFL. That's a big IF though.

Area News from family & friends Call 348-3325

Sunday guests at the Michael and Marie Bittner home to celebrate William's 5th birthday were Tom and Ellen McCabe, Heather Olheiser and Maddix of Bismarck; Ronda Maersbeker, Cory and Andrea Bittner, Owen Bittner of Dickinson; Julie Gutknecht, Shandel Gutknecht of New Salem; Dorinda Opp, Nancy Bittner, Bob and JoAnn Opp.

Dziuk Graduates from NDSU

Area students receive degrees from NDSU are from Glen Ullin, Kathryn Dziuk with a Bachelor of Science in Architecture. She graduated Summa Cum Laude (3.90-4.00), grade point average. Kathryn is the daughter of Shawn and Heather Dziuk of Glen Ullin.

From New Salem is Raegen Rae Miller with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Raegen is the daughter of Dallas and ?? of New Salem.

Call 701-348-3325 or email us at gutimes@westriv.com to place an ad or give us news!

AGC of North Dakota Scholarships Awarded Locally

The Education Foundation of the Associated General Contractors (AGC) of North Dakota is proud to invest in the next generation of construction professionals by awarding 52 scholarships totaling more than \$89,000 for the 2026-2027 academic year. These scholarships recognize outstanding students pursuing careers in the construction industry through post-secondary construction programs at NDSU, UND, U Mary, BSC, NDSU and MSU Moorhead, helping build the skilled workforce that will shape the industry's future. The following area students have been awarded AGC of ND scholarships:

- Scholarships and recipients to Bismarck State College:
 - Paul Hartmann Scholarship - \$1,500: Colter Raab - Carson, ND - Freshman - Heavy Equipment Operator Training.
 - AGC Scholarships - \$750
 - Gage Doe-Repnov - Beulah, ND - Freshman - Power Generation Technology.
 - Shane Schmidt - Beulah, ND - Freshman - Instrumentation & Control Technology;
 - Ryan Schneider - Hebron, ND - Freshman - Electrician Technician.

Public Notice - Morton County Tax Equalization Meeting Minutes

MORTON COUNTY Tax equalization MEETING June 4, 2026

The Morton County Board of Tax Equalization Meeting was called to order on June 4, 2026, at 6:00PM by Chairman Boehm at the Morton County Courthouse, 210 Second Avenue NW, Mandan, North Dakota. Others present were Commissioners Zachmeier, Buckley, Morrell and Tokach, Auditor Rhone Sheriff Kirchmeier and States Attorney Kopp.

Public Hearing for the City of Almont was opened.

Marshall Feland who owns property in Almont expressed a concern with the rise in valuations.

Public Hearing for the City of Almont was closed.

Morrell moved and Tokach seconded to approve the 2026 City of Almont valuations of residential = \$3,647,900; commercial = \$986,300; ag = \$551,100. On a roll call vote, all voting aye, motion carried.

City of Mandan Assessor Markley presented an overview of the valuation for the City of Mandan.

Public Hearing for the City of Mandan was opened.

Ben Kappel of 1712 14th Ave SE appealed his value.

Zachmeier moved the Buckley seconded to adjust the value of the property located at 1712 14th Ave SE to \$490,333.50. On a roll call vote, all voting aye, motion carried.

Tori Meyer of 3103 Bayshore Bend appealed her value.

Morrell moved and Buckley seconded to deny the appeal for the property located at 3103 Bayshore Bend. On a roll call vote, all voting aye, motion carried.

Public Hearing for City of Mandan was closed.

Morrell moved and Buckley seconded to approve the 2026 City of Mandan valuations of residential = \$2,276,419,000; commercial = \$979,289,200; ag = \$284,900. On a roll call vote, all voting aye, motion carried.

Public Hearing was opened for appeals for the City of New Salem.

Public Hearing for City of New Salem was closed.

Morrell moved and Tokach seconded to approve the 2026 City of New Salem valuations of residential = \$59,653,000; commercial = \$12,909,400; ag = \$210,500. On a roll call vote, all voting aye, motion carried.

Public Hearing for the City of Hebron was opened.

Public Hearing for the City of Hebron was closed.

Morrell moved and Zachmeier seconded to approve the 2026 City

of Hebron valuations of residential = \$37,576,800; commercial = \$10,729,700; ag = \$228,400. On a roll call vote, all voting aye, motion carried.

Public Hearing for the City of Glen Ullin was opened.

Public Hearing for the City of Glen Ullin was closed.

Buckley moved and Tokach seconded to approve the 2026 City of Glen Ullin valuations of residential = \$28,435,700; commercial = \$7,179,100; ag = \$48,100. On a roll call vote, all voting aye, motion carried.

Public Hearing for the City of Flasher was opened.

Public Hearing for the City of Flasher was closed.

Morrell moved and Zachmeier seconded to approve the 2026 City of Flasher valuation of residential = \$8,210,400; commercial = \$3,741,700; Ag = \$0. On a roll call vote, all voting aye, motion carried.

Chair Boehm recessed the meeting at 8:08PM and reconvened at 8:16PM.

Public Hearing for Captains Landing Township was opened.

Public Hearing for Captains Landing Township was closed Morrell moved and Zachmeier seconded to approve the 2026 Captains Landing Township valuation of residential = \$291,680,000; commercial = \$405,600; Ag = \$0. On a roll call vote, all voting aye, motion carried.

Public Hearing for rural Morton County property was opened.

Dustin Fleck of 4380 Pleasant Valley Rd South asked questions about the increase in his value. Paige Larson of 2838 County Rd 139A appealed his value.

Morrell moved and Zachmeier seconded to adjust the land value at 2838 County Rd 139A to \$32,500. On a roll call vote, all voting aye, motion carried.

Marshall Feland spoke to the Commission regarding his house located in the City of Mandan.

Debbie Kruckenberg of 228 Lake Street spoke to the Commission regarding the increase in her value over the past several years.

Keith Suchy of 4750 Highway 1806 questioned the increase in the value of his property.

John Boehm of 4540 Spring Creek Drive asked why his value increased and Tax Director Lefleur explained the change in grade that took place and was offered the opportunity to have the Tax Director visit the property to verify characteristics.

Tokach moved and Morrell seconded to approve the grant modifier for parcels 30-0292500 in the amount of \$900 and 29-0088000 in the amount of \$500. On a roll call vote, all voting aye, motion carried.

Public Hearing for rural Morton County was closed.

Morrell moved and Buckley seconded to approve the 2026 Morton County valuations of residential = \$961,359,700; commercial = \$419,205,500; Ag = \$417,905,500.

Morrell moved and seconded to amend the motion to residential = \$961,384,700. On a roll all vote, all voting aye, amendment passed.

On a roll call vote on the amended motion, all voting aye, motion carried.

Buckley moved and Zachmeier seconded to approve the Morton County Total valuations of residential = \$3,404,495,500; commercial = \$1,434,946,500; Ag = \$419,228,500. On a roll call vote, all voting aye, motion carried.

Morrell moved and Tokach seconded to adjourn the meeting at 11:04PM.

Nathan Boehm, Chairman, Morton County Commission

Dawn R Rhone, County Auditor

Glen Ullin Public Transportation Schedule

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

In July the City bus will go to Bismarck/Mandan July 8, 15, 22, 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. It is recommended to 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
THERE WILL BE NO MOVIE July 3-4-5.

Help Wanted

Farmers Union Oil Co. in Glen Ullin is currently looking for someone to fill the position of Fuel/Gas Truck Driver at our location. The position is part-time; 25 to 30 hrs., the majority of the year with possibly more hours during fertilizer/planting season as well as during harvest.

Applicant must have a Class B CDL with a Hazmat endorsement or be willing to get one, pay will be based on experience.

Applications are available at our Glen Ullin and Hebron locations and you can call Brian at 701-648-3101 with any questions.

Storage Units For Rent or Sale

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GLEN ULLIN SCHOOL BOARD POSITION OPEN

Glen Ullin Public School announces an official notice of an immediate vacancy on the Glen Ullin School Board for the remainder of the 26-27 School Year.

All interested persons for this school board vacancy will be required by ND CC to fill out an application: School Board Application and a School Board statement of Interests

The completed application and statement of interests should be returned to the Glen Ullin School Board by July 21, 2026 by 4:00 pm.

Paper copies of the School Board Application and School Board Statement of Interest can be picked up at the Glen Ullin School front office and electronic applications are available on the school website. Completed applications can be dropped at the school or e-mailed:

Glen Ullin Public School
C/O Ms. Kayla Schumacher, Business Manager
P.O. Box 546, 6508 HWY 49, Glen Ullin, ND 58631

On or after July 21, 2026 a designated Glen Ullin School Board Committee will review all applications and make a recommendation to the full Glen Ullin School Board to consider an applicant by roll call vote to fill the vacant position for the remainder of the 26-27 School Year, at the Regular School Board meeting on August 12, 2025.

If you have any questions or need any assistance with the School Board Application or School Board Statement of Interests, please contact Martin Bratrud, Superintendent at 701-348-3590 or via e-mail at: Martin.Bratrud@k12.nd.us.



EVERY YEAR FOURTH OF JULY REMINDS US OF THE CHALLENGES WE FACED IN BECOMING AN INDEPENDENT COUNTRY LET US ALWAYS VALUE THIS INDEPENDENCE Happy 4th of July from everyone at

The Union Bank

WE WILL BE CLOSED ON FRIDAY, JULY 3RD HAVE A SAFE AND FUN WEEKEND!



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PO Box 789
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Beulah, ND 58523
701-873-2900

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Beulah, ND 58523
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HAZEN
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222 7th St NW
Hazen, ND 58545
701-748-2900

GLEN ULLIN
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