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VIKINGS VS. 49ERS | OCT. 23, 2023 | U.S. BANK STADIUM

FULL PAGE VIKINGS GAMEDAY PLAYBOOK AD DEADLINES AND SPECIFICATIONS

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VIKINGS GAMEDAY PLAYBOOK FULL PAGE AD

The Minnesota Vikings Gameday Playbook Magazine publication is distributed free of charge to all fans at each Vikings home game. Full of game information, interviews, and rich exclusive content, the Minnesota Vikings Playbook is the resource most accessed by fans on gameday.

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expected to do. But yet for some reason, there's no value assigned to that."

"Certainly, he was referring to it as the contractual value of our position, which now has changed and you see these guys getting paid relatively close to what they deserve," Rudolph continued. "But you see these tight ends across the league, obviously the guys that jump out to you are the guys like [J. and Travis] Kiker and George Kittle, and the value that's assigned to them for their team - if you remove them, that team is not the same."

"It's really exciting that the whole world is starting to see the value of the tight end position - and how unique it is. Because for so long, it was kind of just an afterthought," he added. "You put your guy that's not big enough to be an offensive lineman or not fast enough to be a receiver, that was your tight end. And now it's kind of the opposite. You're finding that elite-type player to be your tight end."

Angelichio said the observation of National Tight Ends Day is "great."

"I mean, those guys deserve - for what they're asked to do - we expect them to block like a tackle in the protection and go win a route on a safety or a nickel in the pass game," Angelichio said. "I think it's good for the position and, even more important, I think that position deserves to get recognized."

The requisite knowledge base is having a bit of camyover to television broadcasts, as well, with Olson enjoying success and Rudolph launching his foray into work as an analyst.

"You're involved in everything. You have to know everything," Rudolph said. "You can't, 'Oh, I'll just know the pass routes,' or 'I'll just know the run game,' or 'I'll just know the protections.' You literally have to know every aspect of the offense. And then on the flip side when you're studying, what position,

aside from the quarterback, studies the front, the linebackers and the DBs? You're going to go against all of them at some point throughout the course of the game."

STILL CONNECTING

Tonight's game will be the second time Kittle's team has faced Hockenson's in the NFL.

In Week 1 of the 2021 season, Kittle caught four passes for 78 yards on five targets for San Francisco, and Hockenson posted eight catches for 97 yards and a touchdown on 11 targets for Detroit.

While both are ultracompetitive and want to win, they'll also appreciate their individual successes.

The matchup will expand a relationship that has developed over the years and grows stronger each offseason.

Hockenson spends most of his offseason in Bol Meade, Tennessee, nestled about 15 minutes from the neon that lights Lower Broadway in Nashville. Even more alluring, however, is that it's also 15 minutes from Kittle's place in Bellevue, which features a 50-yard field, a weight room "and stuff like that," as well as an open invitation to train together.

They also conveniently have formed their own offseason, semiformal yet prestigious, "Tight End U" conference at Vanderbilt, along with Kelce, Olson and others.

"We're all kind of the same personality types, I guess, fun-loving people, so it was kind of one of those things that was a no-brainer," Hockenson said.

"There's so many good, talented players, and everybody's, 'On this, why would you do that?' Everybody watches each other's tape throughout the year, scouting defenses, so you see the tight ends. You watch everyone's tape, and it's fun to get together and know the person behind the helmet and get to know everybody in the league. It's kind of a blast."



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