



The 2017 Minneota Vikings football team includes (front) Manager Adam DeVlaminck. Second Row: (left to right) Brant Buysse, Landon Abraham, Alex Pohlen, Tyler Myhre and Skylar Gilbertson. Third Row: Tanner Sik, Lucas Bot, TJ Esping, Isaac Hennen, Ethan Krier and Amos Tu. Fourth Row: Alex Lacek, Ty Lipinski, Logan Sussner, Cole Sanow, Tanner Sterzinger, Josh Laleman and Ryan Vlamincik. Fifth Row: Justin Johnson, Layne Lozinski, Austin Sorensen, Thomas Hennen, Landon Rolbiecki, Mitchell Rost, Shawn Buysse, Joseph Rybinski and Tate Walerius. Sixth Row: Grady Moore, Dylan DeSmet, Blake Reiss, Austin Kloos, Zach Van Keulen, Cole VanOverbeke, Jacob Hennen, Alex Saltzer, Beau Banish and Bronson Lozenski. Seventh Row: Manager Jackson Esping, Manager Cole Myhre, Eric Carrasco, Kaden Culver, Trey Gronke, LaShad Smith, Jacob Citterman, and Manager Brady Gifford. Back Row: Coaches Jordan Fink, Les Engler, Steve Sussner, Matt Buysse, Chad Johnston, Brian Rodas, Tony Esping, Matt Myrvik and Ryan Koopman. Staff photo by Byron Higgin.

Viking football

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Lipinski will get inside linebacker duties much of the time as the big boys move around in the line.

Cornerbacks are Thomas Hennen, Pohlen, Gilbertson, Sterzinger, Brant Buysse and Alex Saltzer. "There are a lot of buys fighting for spots," the coach said.

Rolbiecki will handling the kicking chores and his point after kicking has vastly improved.

"Landon is the guy. He's doing a nice job of kicking at about 80 to 90 percent on point after's. He will also kickoff. And Pohlen will return as the team's punter."

Minneota opens on Thursday, Aug. 31 at home against Sleepy Eye and play their second game during Bug Days at home against Dawson-Boyd.

When asked if the annual tussle with Dawson-Boyd is coming too early, the coach said, "It will be nice to know where we are at. Our cupboard isn't bare and we see this game as giving us some

bearing for the future."

There are four teams on the schedule Minneota hasn't seen at all lately. They are Sleepy Eye, Springfield, Yellow Medicine East and Lac qui Parle Valley.

Keying off the only loss Minneota has had in three years, the coach said, "It was when we found out you can't take anyone for granted. You've got to keep getting better."

Wabasso, "Made the plays when they had too. Hopefully that will be our motivator."

He added, "We're going in with high expectations."

The coaching staff will utilize Isaac Hennen in a variety of ways, running, blocking, pass receiving.

"He's one of our best blockers and he has speed on sweeps," the coach said. "Hopefully they won't be able to key on him in the backfield," the coach added.



Viking quarterback Alex Pohlen hopes to build on his 4,799 career passing yards and his 59 touchdown passes. File Photo by Byron Higgin.

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