



RYAN FICKEN

SPECIAL TEAMS COORDINATOR

COACHING EXPERIENCE: 18TH SEASON

NFL EXPERIENCE: 15TH SEASON

VIKINGS EXPERIENCE: 15TH SEASON

Ryan Ficken enters his 15th season with the Vikings in 2021 and 1st as the club's special teams coordinator. Previously, Ficken worked as the assistant special teams coach from 2013-20.

The 2020 Vikings struggled with injuries leading to a number of rookies contributing on special teams, including 5 Josh Metellus who led the team with 12 special teams tackles and a team-high 2 FRs. The Vikings had 5 FRs on special teams for the season.

In 2019, Minnesota saw productivity from a kicking unit that produced 121 points and ended the season (including playoffs) with 22 straight FGs, the longest streak in the NFL to finish up the 2019 season (including playoffs).

The 2018 Vikings were forced to change specialists in-season when veteran Dan Bailey came on to handle the kicking duties starting in the 3rd week of the season.

Veterans led the way for the Vikings special teams units in 2017. Kai Forbath earned NFC Special Teams Player of the Week honors with a career-high 6 FGs vs. Baltimore (10/22/17), the only game in his career with multiple 50+ yard FGs. Forbath also kicked the game-winning 26-yard FG at Chicago (10/9/17). His 53-yard FG in the NFC Divisional Playoff vs. New Orleans (1/14/18) was the longest playoff FG in team history. Punter Ryan Quigley tied an NFL record with allowing 0 touchbacks on any of his punts during the regular season.

The 2016 Vikings special teams units had 3 return TDs and KR Cordarrelle Patterson earned his 2nd Pro Bowl honor of his career. Patterson led the NFL with a 31.7 return avg., becoming the 1st NFL player to lead the league in average 3 times in a career. He scored on a 104-yard KOR vs. Arizona, his 5th career return score, matching the Vikings career record. Shereels notched 2 PR TDs- 54 yards at Carolina and 79 yards vs. Houston- becoming the 1st player in Vikings history to score 2 in a season and giving him a Vikings-record 5 career PR TDs. Punter Jeff Locke tied the Vikings record by landing 34 punts inside the 20 and became the 1st punter in team history to boot a pair of 70+ punts in a season.

In 2015, the Vikings special teams units were once again among the NFL's best. For the 2nd time in 3 years, the Vikings led the NFL in kick return average. Patterson led the way with a 31.8 kick return average. He also tied for the NFL lead in KR TDs with 2. Patterson was selected as an All-Pro by the PFWA. Shereels took back his franchise-best 3rd PR for a TD when playing at Chicago (11/1/15) and he earned NFC Special Teams Player of the Week honors for the game.

In 2014, the Vikings kick return unit ranked 2nd in the NFL in starting position at the 25.1 yard line. The opponents' kickoff return average was 4th-lowest in the league with only a 20.7 kick return average. During Week 13 vs. Carolina (11/30/14), the Vikings punt block unit moved into the NFL record books for becoming just the 5th team in NFL history to block 2 punts and return both for TDs in the same game. It was the 1st time in team history with 2 blocked punt TDs and the 1st blocked punt TD since 1986. Thielen blocked the 1st punt and returned it 30 yards for the TD, becoming only the 4th Viking to block, recover and score in team history and the 1st since 1973. 2 drives later, LB Jasper Brinkley blocked another punt and DE Everson Griffen scooped up the ball and returned it 43 yards for the TD, the longest blocked punt return TD in team history. Thielen won NFC Special Teams Player of the Week honors for his performance.

Ficken's 1st season as the special teams assistant, 2013, was a record-breaking year. The Vikings showcased the #1

KR man in the NFL, Patterson, and the #2 PR man, Shereels. Patterson was named 1st-team All-Pro and selected to the Pro Bowl after his record-breaking season. Patterson was also named NFC Special Teams Player of the Month for September and NFC Special Teams Player of the Week for Week 8 vs. Green Bay. The rookie broke the Vikings single-season kick return record with 1,393 kick return yards, on 43 returns, and a 32.4 return average with 2 KR TDs, leading the NFL in all categories. The 32.4 KR average is 4th-highest in the NFL since the 1970 merger and highest since 1985. Patterson's 109-yard KR TD (10/27/13 vs. GB) was the longest kick return in NFL history. Shereels set the team record with a 15.2 PR average, good for 2nd in the NFL. Shereels returned 22 punts for 335 yards with a long return of 86 yards for a TD against the New York Giants (10/21/13), the 2nd PR TD of his career. Shereels recorded 119 punt return yards against the Giants, a Vikings record.

The 2012 Vikings battled injuries to the receiving corps throughout the season but Ficken helped the team go 10-6 and earn a Wild Card playoff berth. Leading receiver Percy Harvin missed the final 7 games of the season with injury but hauled in 62 catches in 9 games for a 6.9 receptions per game average.

In 2011, Harvin set career highs in receptions with 87, receiving yards with 967, and tied a career high with 6 receiving touchdowns. His 87 receptions was also ranked 6th in the NFL.

Harvin improved on his rookie season in 2010. He became the youngest player in franchise history to lead the team in receiving with 871 yards on 71 catches and 5 TDs.

In 2009, WRs Sidney Rice and Harvin had breakout seasons for the Vikings. Both players were honored as Pro Bowlers, and Harvin became the 2nd Viking in 3 seasons to be named NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year. Rice developed as a playmaker and became only the 3rd Vikings WR to post a 1,300-yard receiving season. Harvin tied for the NFL lead among rookies in receptions and yards and ranked 2nd in team history with 60 catches as a rookie.

In 2008, Adrian Peterson led the NFL with 1,760 yards rushing and Chester Taylor led all NFL RBs with 25 catches on 3rd down. Peterson became the 1st Vikings RB to lead the NFL in rushing, and Taylor's 45 catches were a career high.

The 2007 Vikings offense ranked #1 in the NFL in rushing offense. Peterson had a legendary rookie year, including breaking the NFL's single-game rushing record over going for 296 yards against San Diego on 11/4/07 and earning NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year. Peterson finished with 1,341 yards, 12 TDs and was named the Pro Bowl MVP.

Ficken served as an offensive graduate assistant with UCLA in 2006. He worked extensively with Jim Colletto and the OL.

Ficken earned his bachelor's degree in business administration from ASU. He was a member of the Sun Devils football team for 2 seasons and received the Scholar-Athlete Award and was a member of Gamma Beta Phi, the National Scholastic Honor Society. Ficken and wife, Andrea, have three children, sons, Wyatt and Jonathan, and daughter, Gianna.

FICKEN'S BACKGROUND

Player	
1998-99.....	Arizona State University // WR
Coach	
2004-05.....	UCLA // Defensive Assistant
2006	UCLA // Offensive Assistant
2007-08	Minnesota Vikings // Assistant RB
2009-12.....	Minnesota Vikings // Assistant WR
2013-20	Minnesota Vikings // Assistant Special Teams
2021.....	Minnesota Vikings // Special Teams Coordinator