

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**VIKINGS NAME KARL SCOTT DEFENSIVE BACKS COACH,
PAUL GUENTHER SENIOR DEFENSIVE ASSISTANT**

Eagan, Minn. (February 11, 2021) – The Minnesota Vikings announce **Karl Scott** has been hired as defensive backs coach and **Paul Guenther** as senior defensive assistant.

Joining the Vikings staff as defensive backs coach, Karl Scott most recently spent three seasons at Alabama working with the defensive backs. While with the Crimson Tide, Scott's position group totaled 132 pass breakups and 35 interceptions from 2018 to 2020, while winning two Southeastern Conference (SEC) championships (2018, 2020) and a College Football Playoff National Championship (2020). Scott oversaw the secondary at Texas Tech from 2016-17, helping produce 29 turnovers, including 14 interceptions. Prior to coaching at Texas Tech, Scott had stops at Louisiana Tech (2015), Southeastern Louisiana (2012-14), Tusculum (2008-11) and Delta State (2007), where he started his coaching career.

Paul Guenther joins the Vikings staff as the senior defensive assistant after spending the previous three seasons (2018-20) as the Las Vegas Raiders defensive coordinator. Guenther brings 18 years of NFL coaching experience to the role, spending 13 seasons with the Bengals (2005-17) and two with the Washington Football Team (2002-03). While with Cincinnati, he helped the team win four AFC North titles (2005, 2009, 2013 and 2015) and reach the postseason seven times, including a franchise-record five straight trips to the playoffs from 2011-15. Guenther coached under Mike Zimmer in Cincinnati as a defensive assistant (2008-10), assistant linebackers coach (2011) and linebackers coach (2012-13).

Vikings Head Coach Mike Zimmer has issued the following statement regarding Vikings Defensive Backs Coach Karl Scott and Senior Defensive Assistant Paul Guenther:

"I look forward to working closely with Karl Scott and Paul Guenther as we get ready for the 2021 season. Karl has a National Championship-level background and has coached some of the top college players in the country. His input in the defensive backfield and working with our developing players there will be important. I've worked alongside Paul before and respect his ability to analyze defenses and his innovative techniques. Together, we're all going to get the Vikings defense back to the standard we expect."

Media Availability Update:

Thursday, February 11

2:30 p.m. – Defensive Backs Coach **Karl Scott** and Senior Defensive Assistant **Paul Guenther** available via Zoom.

Please RSVP for the media availability to Rachel Gunia (guniar@vikings.nfl.net) to receive the Zoom link

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