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JALEN VIRGIL

BORN: July 13, 1998 | HT: 6-1 | WT: 210 | 4th year

COLLEGE: Appalachian State

ACQUIRED: Free Agent (2024)

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FIRST-AND-10

JALEN VIRGIL originally joined the Bills after signing to the practice squad on August 29, 2024. He entered the league as an undrafted free agent with the Broncos in 2022, spending two years in Denver (2022-23).

SHOUTOUTS

- Made his Bills debut at SEA (10/27/2024).
- Spent the 2023 season on injured reserve.
- In 2022, appeared in nine games (1 start) with the Broncos after signing with the team as a college free agent, tallying two catches for 75 yards with one touchdown along with five special-teams stops.
- Became the 26th Broncos college free agent in team history to make the active roster out of training camp for Week 1 of the regular season.
- Caught one pass in his NFL debut, taking it 66 yards for the touchdown at Ten. (11/13/22). His score was the second-longest touchdown from scrimmage by a Bronco in his NFL debut, behind WR Rick Upchurch's 90-yard reception in 1975.
- Appeared in 61 career games (13 starts) over five seasons (2017-21) with Appalachian State, recording 98 receptions for 1,436 yards (14.7 avg.) with 11 touchdowns, and added 16 rushes for 55 yards (3.4 avg.) with one score. Also tallied 37 kick returns for 1,142 yards (31.7 avg.) with three touchdowns during his career.
- Selected to the All-Sun Belt Conference second team as a return specialist and kick returner in 2021. Returned 25 kicks for 781 yards (31.2 avg.) and two scores.

PERSONAL

Attended Mountain View High School in Lawrenceville, Ga., where he played football and ran track. Is the son of Yvette and Tracy Virgil. Has one sister, Bria. His dad, Tracy, played basketball at Clarke University in Iowa. Has a son, Kylan.

IF YOU HAVEN'T HERD

BREAKING FREE

It was dark, and finally quiet, when Jalen Virgil got back to his apartment late Sunday after his NFL debut in Tennessee earlier in the day. It finally let what happened all soak in. The Broncos lost, but Virgil won. The undrafted rookie receiver hauled in a 66-yard touchdown on his first target in the NFL, showcasing his game-breaking speed.

"When I finally got back to my apartment, I sat down and I put my phone down for a second because there was a lot of action going on on my phone," Virgil said. "I just sat there and thought about how amazing that play was and how amazing (my journey) has been."

Virgil's life has been in hyperdrive since the Broncos signed him in May (2022) as an undrafted free agent out of Appalachian State. He lasted with the team through the summer and into training camp. From there, he impressed coaches during practice and in preseason action, when he had nine catches for 180 yards across three games.

Virgil was inactive for the first seven games, biding his time as a scout team player. Earning a jersey against the Titans, Virgil broke free for a 66 yard touchdown. "When I saw the ball in the air, I just told myself, 'Man, just make sure you catch this ball,'" Virgil said. "It felt like it was in the air for so long. I knew I had a lot of open field in front of me, but I had to make sure I caught it before turning on the jets."

"All my emotions just poured out and it was just like, 'Damn, I'm here,'" Virgil said. "I felt passion, I felt a weight off my shoulders after finally getting in there. (The dance) went out the window." (Kyle Newman, Denver Post, November 19, 2022)

THE STAMPEDE

Favorite movie: Varsity Blues

Favorite food: Chicken parm

Favorite gas station snack: Watermelon Sour Patch Kids

First athlete growing up: Usain Bolt

Go-to breakfast spot: Waffle House