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CHRISTIAN BENFORD

AGE: 24 (September 21, 2000) | **HT:** 6-2 | **WT:** 205

COLLEGE: Villanova

NFL EXP: 3 Years

HOMETOWN: Randallstown, MD

ACQUIRED: Draft (2022, R6)

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FIRST-AND-10

CHRISTIAN BENFORD was selected by the Bills in the sixth round (180th overall) in 2022. Benford became the first Villanova player to ever be drafted by the Bills.

SHOUTOUTS

- Recorded his first career sack and forced a key fumble at Det. (12/15/24).
- Recorded his first INT of the 2024 season at Mia. (9/12/24). Added a second INT vs. NYJ (12/29/24).
- During his second NFL season in 2023, started 14-of-15 games in the regular season and one game in the playoffs. In the regular season, compiled 54 tackles (43 solo), two interceptions, 10 passes defended, three tackles for loss, two forced fumbles and a fumble recovery.
- Forced a fumble and recovered it vs. NE (12/31/23). Tallied an INT the next week at MIA (1/7/24).
- During his first NFL season in 2022, started five-of-nine games played and accumulated 24 tackles, one INT and five passes defended. Tallied his first career INT vs. MIN (11/13/22). Started in his NFL debut at LAR (9/8/22).
- Finished his four-year career at Villanova, playing in 36 games and accumulating 137 tackles, 14 interceptions and 47 passes defended.
- Named a CAA Football First Team Defense selection in 2021. Earned CAA Football First Team Defense honors for the spring 2021 season. In 2019, was named a CAA Football First Team Defense selection.

PERSONAL

The son of Jewell Benford and the late Christel Perry. Has three sisters (Jewel, Aleasha & Courtney) and a brother (Sammy). Has a son, Calvin Benford. Attended Randallstown High School. In 2020 he earned CAA Commissioner's Academic Honor Roll, as well as Villanova's Athletic Director Honor Roll. Graduated with a degree in psychology, communications & sociology.

IF YOU HAVEN'T HERD

PLAYING FOR MORE

Benford grew up in Randallstown, Md., a suburb of Baltimore. During the spring 2021 season – the Wildcats season was moved from the fall because of the Covid-19 pandemic – Benford's mother, Christel, was hospitalized. Before a game against Stony Brook, Benford texted with his mom and thought she was doing well. Tragically, he found out after the game that she had suffered a medical setback and died. Loss has been a constant in Benford's life, which explains the heart tattoo on his right cheekbone. Half of it is colored in, the other half is not, signifying part of his heart being gone.

When asked how it could be that he didn't appear as a rookie to be afraid of any situation, Benford traced it back to those Maryland roots. "It's from where I grew up, the city," he said. "I'm going to be honest, when I was younger, I had confidence, but it was more so that I just wasn't afraid of anything. As I got older, I learned more about how to be more confident and continue to not be afraid."

"I continuously kept my confidence high. Regardless if you're first round, undrafted, sixth round, your confidence has to stay the same," Benford said. "My mindset (is) going to stay the same. I felt I could ball. I felt I could be the best. Regardless of the situation, my confidence always has me feeling that way." (Buffalo News, Jay Skurski, June 11, 2023)

THE STAMPEDE

Pregame ritual: Eat a Fruit Roll-Ups

Favorite food: Seafood

Favorite movie: Little Giants

Favorite TV show: Good Times

Favorite ice cream: Cookies N' Cream

Favorite musical artist: Drake

Bucket list item: Sky diving

Skill he wants to learn: How to sing

Pets: Has a dog named Faith

Favorite players growing up: Ray Lewis & Ed Reed

