



WR | 1

# MECOLE HARDMAN JR.

BORN: March 12, 1998 | HT: 5-10 | WT: 187 | 8th year

COLLEGE: Georgia

ACQUIRED: Free Agent (2025)

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## FIRST-AND-10

**MECOLE HARDMAN JR.** originally signed to the Bills practice squad on November 11, 2025. He entered the NFL with the Chiefs as a second round pick in 2019. Hardman has played for the Chiefs (2019-22, 23-24) and Jets (2023).

## SHOUTOUTS

- In his Bills debut vs. TB (11/16), recorded a 61-yard kickoff return.
- During his first seven NFL seasons, played in 82 career games with 28 starts and has posted 178 receptions for 2,302 yards (12.9 avg.) and 16 TDs along with 91 punt returns for 823 yards (9.0 avg.) and a TD and 46 kickoff returns for 1,134 yards (24.7 avg.) and a TD.
- Was the only player in the NFL to post 10-plus receiving TDs, a punt return for a TD and a kickoff return for a TD from 2019 to 2024.
- Caught a game-winning 3-yard TD pass with three seconds remaining in overtime in the Kansas City Chiefs' 25-22 win over the San Francisco 49ers in Super Bowl LVIII.
- Earned second-team All-Pro honors from The Associated Press at kick returner as a rookie in 2019, also taking home Pro Bowl honors that season as a return specialist.
- Became the first player in NFL history to average 20.0-plus yards per catch (min. 25 rec.) and 26.0-plus yards per kickoff return (min. 25 returns) as a rookie.
- Earned first-team All-America honors from ESPN.com at the University of Georgia as a kick returner in 2018 after returning 14 kickoffs for 353 yards (25.2 avg.) and 16 punts for 321 yards (20.1 avg.) and a TD.

## PERSONAL

First name is pronounced muh-COLE. Has a son, Mecole III, and a daughter, Cianna. Majored in sport management at Georgia. Played both quarterback and defensive back at Elbert County (Elberton, Ga.) High School.

## IF YOU HAVEN'T HERD

### GIVING BACK

In 2023, Hardman visited the Aetos Center for the Performing Arts, part of the Nixa High School campus. The event raised money for Nixa's Care to Learn program, which meets the health, hunger and hygiene needs of students. Hardman took the stage in front of an enthusiastic crowd of roughly 300, many of whom were clad in Chiefs shirts and jerseys, and was interviewed by local sports icons Art Hains and Ned Reynolds. There were a lot of parents who attended with their children.

Hardman was asked what advice he'd impart to student athletes in the audience who want to play at the college or professional level. He encouraged them to start by taking an unvarnished look at their skill level. "First is be honest with yourself, are you really good enough to actually play in college, make it to that level? I never thought that I would make it to the college level until I got around college-ready athletes that had offers," he said. He told the students: "Set goals, where you want to be at, what you want to do, what you want to accomplish and really stand by those goals. And you've got to make sacrifices, too."

Hardman said there will be times when student athletes must train or practice rather than hanging out with friends. "Work hard, be a good student in the classroom because your grades have to be up to par, for sure, to actually get into a big college because they are going to ask for your transcripts," he said. Hardman grew up in an athletic family in Bowman, Georgia — with less than 1,000 residents — and started playing football, and many other sports, at age 5. Hardman said his dad focused on sports and his mom focused on school. He said in an effort to "make both of them happy," he practiced long hours and became a straight-A student in high school. He said they taught him "your character will take you a long way," that nothing is free, and to just "be yourself" and work hard.

(Springfield News-Leader, Claudette Riley, April 22, 2024)

## THE STAMPEDE

**Bucket list item:** See the Egyptian pyramids

**Post-career plans:** FBI special agent

**Fun fact:** Is an avid bowler, having previously bowled a 290



WR | 1

## MECOLE HARDMAN JR.

## MECOLE HARDMAN JR.'S NFL REGULAR SEASON RUSHING/RECEIVING STATISTICS

|        |         |    |    | RECEIVING |       |      |     |    | RUSHING |      |      |     |    |
|--------|---------|----|----|-----------|-------|------|-----|----|---------|------|------|-----|----|
| DATE   | TEAM    | GP | GS | NO.       | YDS.  | AVG. | LG  | TD | NO.     | YDS. | AVG. | LG  | TD |
| 2019   | Chiefs  | 16 | 5  | 26        | 538   | 20.7 | 83† | 6  | 4       | 17   | 4.3  | 9   | 0  |
| 2020   | Chiefs  | 16 | 8  | 41        | 560   | 13.7 | 49† | 4  | 4       | 31   | 7.8  | 20  | 0  |
| 2021   | Chiefs  | 17 | 8  | 59        | 693   | 11.7 | 53  | 2  | 8       | 46   | 5.8  | 24  | 0  |
| 2022   | Chiefs  | 8  | 5  | 25        | 297   | 11.9 | 36  | 4  | 4       | 31   | 7.8  | 25† | 2  |
| 2023   | Jets    | 4  | 0  | 1         | 6     | 6.0  | 6   | 0  | 0       | 0    | 0.0  | 0   | 0  |
| 2023   | Chiefs  | 6  | 2  | 14        | 118   | 8.4  | 37  | 0  | 1       | 3    | 3.0  | 3   | 0  |
| 2023   | TOTAL   | 10 | 2  | 15        | 124   | 8.3  | 37  | 0  | 1       | 3    | 3.0  | 3   | 0  |
| 2024   | Chiefs  | 12 | 0  | 12        | 90    | 7.5  | 17  | 0  | 5       | 62   | 12.4 | 20  | 1  |
| 2025   | Packers | 0  | 0  | 0         | 0     | 0.0  | 0   | 0  | 0       | 0    | 0.0  | 0   | 0  |
| 2025   | Bills   | 2  | 0  | 0         | 0     | 0.0  | 0   | 0  | 0       | 0    | 0.0  | 0   | 0  |
| 2025   | TOTAL   | 2  | 0  | 0         | 0     | 0.0  | 0   | 0  | 0       | 0    | 0.0  | 0   | 0  |
| TOTALS |         | 81 | 28 | 178       | 2,302 | 12.9 | 83T | 16 | 26      | 190  | 7.3  | 25T | 3  |

## MECOLE HARDMAN JR.'S NFL POSTSEASON RUSHING/RECEIVING STATISTICS

|        |        |    |    | RECEIVING |      |      |    |    | RUSHING |      |      |     |    |
|--------|--------|----|----|-----------|------|------|----|----|---------|------|------|-----|----|
| DATE   | TEAM   | GP | GS | NO.       | YDS. | AVG. | LG | TD | NO.     | YDS. | AVG. | LG  | TD |
| 2019   | Chiefs | 3  | 1  | 4         | 29   | 7.3  | 13 | 0  | 1       | -6   | -6.0 | -6  | 0  |
| 2020   | Chiefs | 3  | 1  | 8         | 66   | 8.3  | 42 | 1  | 2       | 54   | 27.0 | 50  | 0  |
| 2021   | Chiefs | 3  | 1  | 8         | 121  | 15.1 | 44 | 1  | 6       | 55   | 9.2  | 25† | 1  |
| 2022   | Chiefs | 1  | 0  | 2         | 10   | 5.0  | 11 | 0  | 2       | 7    | 3.5  | 5   | 0  |
| 2023   | Chiefs | 4  | 1  | 5         | 62   | 12.4 | 52 | 1  | 2       | -5   | -2.5 | -1  | 0  |
| 2024   | Chiefs | 0  | 0  | 0         | 0    | 0.0  | 0  | 0  | 0       | 0    | 0.0  | 0   | 0  |
| 2025   | Bills  | 1  | 0  | 1         | 4    | 4.0  | 4† | 1  | 0       | 0    | 0.0  | 0   | 0  |
| TOTALS |        | 15 | 4  | 28        | 292  | 10.4 | 52 | 4  | 13      | 105  | 8.1  | 50  | 1  |

## MECOLE HARDMAN JR.'S NFL REGULAR SEASON RETURN STATISTICS

|        |         | KICKOFF RETURNS |       |      |      |    | PUNT RETURNS |    |      |      |     |    |
|--------|---------|-----------------|-------|------|------|----|--------------|----|------|------|-----|----|
| DATE   | TEAM    | RET.            | YDS.  | AVG. | LG   | TD | NO.          | FC | YDS. | AVG. | LG  | TD |
| 2019   | Chiefs  | 27              | 704   | 26.1 | 104† | 1  | 18           | 6  | 167  | 9.3  | 36  | 0  |
| 2020   | Chiefs  | 9               | 184   | 20.4 | 31   | 0  | 25           | 13 | 176  | 7.0  | 67† | 1  |
| 2021   | Chiefs  | 2               | 35    | 17.5 | 20   | 0  | 13           | 5  | 157  | 12.1 | 31  | 0  |
| 2022   | Chiefs  | 1               | 4     | 4.0  | 4    | 0  | 6            | 2  | 55   | 9.2  | 22  | 0  |
| 2023   | Jets    | 0               | 0     | 0.0  | 0    | 0  | 0            | 0  | 0    | 0.0  | 0   | 0  |
| 2023   | Chiefs  | 1               | 14    | 14.0 | 14   | 0  | 7            | 5  | 61   | 8.7  | 50  | 0  |
| 2023   | TOTAL   | 1               | 14    | 14.0 | 14   | 0  | 7            | 5  | 61   | 8.7  | 50  | 0  |
| 2024   | Chiefs  | 5               | 132   | 26.4 | 32   | 0  | 20           | 9  | 203  | 10.2 | 55  | 0  |
| 2025   | Packers | 0               | 0     | 0.0  | 0    | 0  | 0            | 0  | 0    | 0.0  | 0   | 0  |
| 2025   | Bills   | 1               | 61    | 61.0 | 61   | 0  | 2            | 0  | 4    | 2.0  | 4   | 0  |
| 2025   | TOTAL   | 1               | 61    | 61.0 | 61   | 0  | 2            | 0  | 4    | 2.0  | 4   | 0  |
| TOTALS |         | 46              | 1,134 | 24.7 | 104T | 1  | 91           | 40 | 823  | 9.0  | 67T | 1  |



## MECOLE HARDMAN JR.

## MECOLE HARDMAN JR.'S NFL POSTSEASON RETURN STATISTICS

| DATE   | TEAM   | KICKOFF RETURNS |      |      |    |    | PUNT RETURNS |    |      |      |    |    |
|--------|--------|-----------------|------|------|----|----|--------------|----|------|------|----|----|
|        |        | RET.            | YDS. | AVG. | LG | TD | NO.          | FC | YDS. | AVG. | LG | TD |
| 2019   | Chiefs | 13              | 286  | 22.0 | 58 | 0  | 2            | 2  | 8    | 4.0  | 7  | 0  |
| 2020   | Chiefs | 1               | 26   | 26.0 | 26 | 0  | 2            | 2  | 8    | 4.0  | 8  | 0  |
| 2021   | Chiefs | 0               | 0    | 0.0  | 0  | 0  | 3            | 2  | 70   | 23.3 | 48 | 0  |
| 2022   | Chiefs | 0               | 0    | 0.0  | 0  | 0  | 0            | 0  | 0    | 0.0  | 0  | 0  |
| 2023   | Chiefs | 0               | 0    | 0.0  | 0  | 0  | 0            | 0  | 0    | 0.0  | 0  | 0  |
| 2024   | Chiefs | 0               | 0    | 0.0  | 0  | 0  | 0            | 0  | 0    | 0.0  | 0  | 0  |
| 2025   | Bills  | 1               | 22   | 22.0 | 22 | 0  | 0            | 1  | 0    | 0.0  | 0  | 0  |
| TOTALS |        | 15              | 334  | 22.3 | 58 | 0  | 7            | 7  | 86   | 12.3 | 48 | 0  |

## SINGLE-GAME HIGHS: RUSHING/RECEIVING

**Rush Attempts** 2 at Carolina Panthers, Nov 24, 2024  
**Rushing Yards** 38 at San Francisco 49ers, Oct 20, 2024  
**Longest Runs** 25t at San Francisco 49ers, Oct 23, 2022  
**Rushing TDs** 2 at San Francisco 49ers, Oct 23, 2022  
**Receptions** 9 vs. Buffalo Bills, Oct 10, 2021  
**Receiving Yards** 103 at Denver Broncos, Jan 08, 2022  
**Receiving Average** 20.3 at Baltimore Ravens, Sep 28, 2020  
**Longest Receptions** 83t vs. Baltimore Ravens, Sep 22, 2019  
**Receiving TDs** 1 vs. Tennessee Titans, Nov 06, 2022  
**All-Purpose Yards** 168 vs. Los Angeles Chargers, Dec 29, 2019  
**Kickoff Returns** 4 at Tennessee Titans, Nov 10, 2019  
**Kickoff Return Yards** 117 vs. Los Angeles Chargers, Dec 29, 2019

**Longest Kickoff Return** 104t vs. Los Angeles Chargers, Dec 29, 2019  
**Kickoff Return TDs** 1 vs. Los Angeles Chargers, Dec 29, 2019  
**Fair Catches** 3 vs. Miami Dolphins, Nov 05, 2023  
**Punt Return Yards** 67 at Miami Dolphins, Dec 13, 2020  
**Longest Punt Return** 67t at Miami Dolphins, Dec 13, 2020  
**Punt Returns** 4 vs. New Orleans Saints, Oct 07, 2024  
**Punt Return TDs** 1 at Miami Dolphins, Dec 13, 2020  
**Punt Return Average** 10.5 vs. Tennessee Titans, Nov 06, 2022  
**Kickoff Return Average** 25.3 vs. Minnesota Vikings, Nov 03, 2019  
**Most TDs** 3 at San Francisco 49ers, Oct 23, 2022  
**Miscellaneous Tackles** 1 vs. Los Angeles Chargers, Oct 22, 2023  
**Scrimmage Yards** 113 at Denver Broncos, Jan 08, 2022