



T | 73

DION DAWKINS

BORN: April 26, 1994 | HT: 6-5 | WT: 320 | 10th year

COLLEGE: Temple

ACQUIRED: Draft (2017, R2)

X DDawkins66

jerzeststar

FIRST-AND-10

DION DAWKINS signed a three-year extension to keep him in Buffalo through the 2027 season. Dawkins will enter his eighth year as a Bill in 2024 after he was originally drafted by the Bills in the second round (63rd overall) in 2017. Dawkins is the only player the Bills have ever drafted out of Temple.

SHOUTOUTS

- Has started 137-of-143 career regular season games played and all 16 playoff games.
- A five-time Pro Bowl selection (2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025), became the first Bills offensive lineman selected to four or more Pro Bowls since G Ruben Brown earned eight selections from 1996-2003.
- Was named to the 2024 PFWA All-AFC Team.
- Appeared in his 100th career regular season game vs. JAX (10/9/23).
- At NE (12/21/19), caught his second career TD. Joined Mitch Frerotte as the only Bills offensive lineman to catch two touchdowns in their career.
- At NYJ (11/11/18), recorded his first career reception and touchdown on a seven yard pass from Matt Barkley. Marked the Bills first receiving TD by an OL since Jason Peters.
- Starting the majority of his rookie season for the Bills at left tackle in 2019. Also started at left tackle in the Bills first playoff game since 1999.

PERSONAL

Is the son of Eric and Lisa Dawkins. Graduated from Temple with a degree in criminal justice. Has two daughters, Dalilah and Dakota, and a son, Dil. Attended Rahway (NJ) High School. Created and attended Shnow University. Hobbies include remote control cars and drifting for Shnow Motor Sports.

IF YOU HAVEN'T HERD

MAN OF THE YEAR X4

For the fourth straight season, left tackle Dion Dawkins has been named the Buffalo Bills Walter Payton Man of the Year nominee. The award is widely regarded as one of the most prestigious honors in the NFL, presented to players who demonstrate excellence both on the field and in the community. "Being available for people that don't have people that are available for them on a consistent basis is my adrenaline," Dawkins said on Thursday. "There's still so much work to be done, and this is a beautiful honor. But believe it, I don't do it for the recognition, you know, even if it wasn't there, I would still be there, but I'm thankful to have it." **(WKBW, Matt Bove, December 4, 2025)**

PROTECTOR OF THE YEAR

Dion Dawkins is credited with launching the campaign that culminated in the NFL creating its Protector of the Year Award, given to the best offensive lineman.

Dawkins broached the subject publicly in January of 2025. He wondered out loud why offensive linemen can't be crowned in some fashion like quarterbacks win passing titles, running backs win rushing titles, edge rushers win sack titles. After all, the most dangerous pass rushers generate beaucoup votes for Defensive Player of the Year, yet the people who are paid to thwart them garner zero attention for Offensive Player of the Year.

"It's very cool that my domino piece makes noise when it falls," Dawkins said. "Just to be a regular kid from Jersey, go to Temple, be a second-round pick to Buffalo, to having a voice so big that it reaches all 32 teams and then some. This is a part of my legacy now, and I stand on it."

(The Athletic, Tim Graham, May 23, 2025)

THE STAMPEDE

Favorite musical artist: Whitney Houston

Favorite gas station snack: Lunchables

Hidden talent: Professional race car driver

Bucket list item: Attend Formula 1 event in Monaco