



DT | 98

T.J. SANDERS

BORN: July 30, 2003 | HT: 6-4 | WT: 297 | 2nd year

COLLEGE: South Carolina

ACQUIRED: Draft (2025, R2)

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FIRST-AND-10

T.J. SANDERS was selected by the Bills in the second round in 2025 out of South Carolina. A 2024 All-SEC selection, Sanders is the first Gamecock drafted by the Bills since CB Stephon Gilmore in 2012.

SHOUTOUTS

- Played in 12 games (2 starts) during his rookie season in 2025. Recorded his first career sack vs. NYJ (1/4/26). Made his NFL debut vs. Bal. (9/7).
- Spent all of his college career with South Carolina (2021-24), appearing in 39 games over four seasons with 16 career starts.
- In his final college season in 2024, appeared in all 13 games making nine starts. College Football Nation tabbed him as a first-team All-SEC performer and a third-team All-American while selecting him as the SEC's Interior Defender of the Year. Named to the second-team All-SEC squad by the AP and Phil Steele. Finished fifth on the squad and led the defensive lineman with 50 tackles including 7.0 tackles for loss and 4.0 sacks. Also credited with six quarterback hurries and one pass breakup.
- In 2023, earned third-team All-SEC honors from College Football Network and was a fourth-team all-league performer according to Phil Steele. Played in all 12 games starting seven contests at defensive tackle. Recorded 43 tackles, most among the defensive linemen, with a team-leading 9.5 tackles for loss and a team-high 4.5 sacks.
- In 2022, appeared in 12 games and was credited with 16 tackles including 1.0 sack, a pass breakup and two quarterback hurries.

PERSONAL

Full name is Tanaeri J. Sanders. Majored in criminology and criminal justice. Attended Marion (S.C.) High School, where he also played basketball. The son of Leticia Williams, he has two brothers and a sister. Hobbies include anime and soccer video games.

IF YOU HAVEN'T HERD

HOOPER TURNED GAMECOCK

T.J. Sanders' team was already in commanding position, but the senior for the Marion High School Swamp Foxes was still breaking things down. Coming off the field in the midst of a blowout win to secure a region title, he was animated, talking a teammate through the finer points of a particular blocking scheme.

The 6-foot-5, now-300 pounder quickly went from a player who had to be coaxed from the basketball court to the football field to a future SEC player with the South Carolina Gamecocks.

And he also made another transition: From a player with minimal experience to one who could lead a team in just a second year. "He just became a total leader," Marion coach Randall State said, noting Sanders was in for an extra weightlifting session the day before the game. "He was always the leader on the basketball court. It took him a year to kind of settle in, coming back as a football player. He's always been a vocal guy, on and off the court, and he's smart with it."

That leadership on the basketball court translated to football, and some of the relationships did, too. Marion isn't the biggest school, and the best athletes are playing multiple sports most of the time.

On the sideline, Sanders showed some personality, chatting while also giving teammates a little grief, breaking into a dance as the band played. His squad was dominating a county rivalry with Mullins High in a game rescheduled to a Monday night.

On the field, he showed flashes of why the Gamecocks brought him into their class after just one year on the high school gridiron (**Ben Breiner, The State, October 29, 2020**)

THE STAMPEDE

Favorite meal: Sonic smash burger with chili cheese tater tots

Bucket list item: Play in a celebrity all-star basketball game

Dream sporting event to attend: Champions League match

Gas station snack: Sour Trollis



T.J. SANDERS' NFL REGULAR SEASON DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

			TACKLES									INTERCEPTIONS					FUMBLES				ST				MISC		
DATE	TEAM	GP	GS	TK	S	A	TFL	YDS	SK	YDS	QBH	NO	YDS	LG	TD	PD	FF	FR	TD	YDS	TK	S	A	FF	FR	S	A
2025	Bills	12	2	16	7	9	1	7	1.0	7.0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS		12	2	16	7	9	1	7	1.0	7.0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

T.J. SANDERS' NFL POSTSEASON DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

			TACKLES									INTERCEPTIONS					FUMBLES				ST				MISC		
DATE	TEAM	GP	GS	TK	S	A	TFL	YDS	SK	YDS	QBH	NO	YDS	LG	TD	PD	FF	FR	TD	YDS	TK	S	A	FF	FR	S	A
2025	Bills	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS		2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

SINGLE-GAME HIGHS: DEFENSIVE

Total Tackles3 at Cleveland Browns, Dec 21, 2025

Solo Tackles1 vs. New York Jets, Jan 04, 2026