



DT | 51

ELI ANKOU

AGE: 29 (June 8, 1994) | HT: 6-3 | WT: 325

COLLEGE: UCLA

NFL EXP: 6 Years

HOMETOWN: Orleans, Ontario, CA

ACQUIRED: Free Agent (2024)

eliankou

gravitytrain

FIRST-AND-10

ELI ANKOU signed a Reserve/Future contract to remain in Buffalo in 2024. He originally entered the NFL as an undrafted free agent out of UCLA to the Texans following the 2017 draft. In addition to the Bills, he has also played for the Texans, Jaguars, Browns, Colts, Cowboys and Falcons.

SHOUTOUTS

- Since entering the league in 2017, Ankou has appeared in 34 games, registering 44 tackles, three QB hits, three TFLs and 2.5 sacks.
- Played in both postseason contests for the Bills in 2022, recording four tackles.
- Recorded his first sack as a Bill vs. TB (12/12/21), raising his career total to 2.5.
- Saw action in seven games in 2020, logging 5 tackles and 1 QBH.
- Played in 9 games, while starting in two during the 2019 season.
- Earned his first career start while playing for the Browns in 2019 (vs. Mia. 11/24/19).
- Posted a career-high 15 tackles and 1.5 sacks for the Jaguars during the 2017 season.
- Had first career solo sack at the Titans (12/31/17).
- During his four-year career at UCLA, he posted 49 tackles, 8.0 tackles for loss, 1.5 sacks, 3 passes defended and 1 fumble recovery.

PERSONAL

Name is pronounced 'ee-LEE ON-koo.' Prior to attending Red Lion Christian Academy in Delaware during his senior year of high school, he played for three seasons at St. Peter Catholic High School in Orleans, Ontario, where he is originally from. In his free time, he is an avid car enthusiast.

IF YOU HAVEN'T HERD

DREAM CATCHER FOUNDATION

There was a time when Eli Ankou thought he would one day be a pilot in the Royal Canadian Air Force. He was riding along, flying in gliders with 17- or 18-year-olds who had just gotten their licenses. He liked to fly, and he liked to bike. But football called, setting the now 6-3, 325-pound defensive tackle on a different path.

Ankou is not necessarily a household name for NFL fans. The fifth-year lineman grew up in Ontario and has played for six other NFL teams. He made a splash earlier this month when he tallied his first sack as a Bill, and on none other than Tom Brady, bringing the future Hall of Famer to the ground for a loss of 2 yards in Tampa. But even without the platform of a weekly starter, Ankou, of the Ojibwe tribe, and his fiancée, Shayna Powless, a professional cyclist with ties to the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, are making a point to give back to their communities. In 2019, the couple founded the Dream Catcher Foundation, a 501c3 with a multifaceted approach to empowering Native American women and children.

"We just felt like, 'Why wait years down the road?' " Powless said. "Why? When we can just do this now? When we can start having a significant impact on our communities now."

There was also an urgency to start because the statistics are grim. The number of missing and murdered women and girls (MMIWG) disproportionately affects Indigenous people in the United States and Canada. "The statistics are horrible," Ankou said. "And this is something we felt like we needed to address publicly and put out there."

(The Buffalo News, Katherine Fitzgerald, January 1, 2022)

THE STAMPEDE

Favorite TV show: Interstellar

Favorite movie: Naruto

Favorite food: Fufu

Hobbies: Cars, archery and planes

Bucket list item: Fly in an old War Bird

Fun fact: Can split a pencil with a bow and arrow