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JALON KILGORE

BORN: January 27, 2005 | HT: 6-1 | WT: 210 | Rookie

COLLEGE: South Carolina

ACQUIRED: Draft (2026, R5)

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FIRST-AND-10

JALON KILGORE was selected by the Bills in the fifth round in 2026 out of South Carolina. A 2025 All-SEC selection, Kilgore joins DT T.J. Sanders as Gamecocks drafted by the Bills in consecutive years.

SHOUTOUTS

- A three-year starter at South Carolina (2023-25). Appeared in 36 games with 33 starts and registered 178 tackles (109 solo), 4.5 TFLs, eight interceptions, 21 passes defended, two fumble recoveries and a forced fumble.
- Earned Freshman All-America and Freshman All-SEC honors in 2023 and was a second-team All-SEC selection in 2025.
- Named a team captain in 2025.
- Started all 11 games in which he played for the Gamecocks in 2025. Led the team with 10 pass breakups and was one of four players with two interceptions.
- In 2024, led the team and tied for the SEC lead with five interceptions. The mark also tied Jaylan Foster's 2021 total for the most by a Gamecock in the last 20 years.
- As a true freshman in 2023, played in all 12 games, starting the final 11 contests. Finished second on the team with 76 tackles and was credited with 1.5 TFLs, six pass breakups, one interception and a forced fumble.
- Recognized as one of 14 semifinalists for the Shaun Alexander Freshman of the Year Award.
- Served as the Gamecocks' primary punt returner in his first season, returning nine punts for 49 yards with a long return of 15 yards.

PERSONAL

Graduated in December 2025 with a degree in public health. Older brother, Gerald, was also a defensive back for the Gamecocks. Attended Putnam County High School in Eatonton, Ga. where he also competed in track & field and basketball.

IF YOU HAVEN'T HERD

BROTHERLY BOND

The Kilgore brothers [Gerald & Jalon] played together for three years, playing in the same offense for two of them. Jalon Kilgore only played defense as a freshman at Baldwin County, but played wide receiver the next two seasons after transferring to Putnam.

The two played together since they got into football. Their parents tried to keep them in the same age group in each league despite the one-year difference.

"I feel that they really helped," Kilgore said. "Once we got on the football field together, the chemistry clicked instantly. There would be things we both see on the field. The coach would call the play, but we'd see something different on the field and then we'll just flip it. And it always worked."

[Shaun] Pope coached at Putnam County from 2018 until his retirement in 2022. What made the Kilgore brothers special to him, outside of their football talent, was their character as young men. Pope said they were known as leaders in their schools, as well in the community with various service projects.

"They were always there," Pope said. "They're always willing to help others. In the classroom, you walk by, and they're sitting in the front row."

"Just guys that you knew were gonna represent your program very well." (**Jeremiah Holloway, The State, April 25, 2023**)

THE STAMPEDE

Favorite TV show: Martin

Dream musician: Lil Baby

Dream vacation spot: Fiji

Go-to breakfast spot: First Watch

Hobbies: Bowling and trying new foods