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DeSHAWN WILLIAMS

AGE: 31 (December 29, 1992) | HT: 6-1 | WT: 292

COLLEGE: Clemson

NFL EXP: 6 Years

HOMETOWN: Central, SC

ACQUIRED: Free Agent (2024)

 iamDeShawnW

 iamdeshawnw

FIRST-AND-10

DeSHAWN WILLIAMS joined the Bills on a one-year deal on March 28, 2024 after spending last season with the Carolina Panthers. After signing with the Cincinnati Bengals as an undrafted free agent in 2015, he has also spent time with the Indianapolis Colts, Miami Dolphins and the Denver Broncos.

SHOUTOUTS

- Made 44 starts in 66 appearances in his NFL career. Totaled 148 tackles (72 solo), 11 tackles for loss, nine sacks, nine passes defended and one interceptions.
- Started 10 games in 16 appearances with the Panthers in 2023. Recorded 33 tackles, two tackles for loss, one sack and a pass defended.
- Set career highs in games played (17), starts (15) and sacks (4.5) with the Broncos in 2022. Also added 37 tackles and three passes defended.
- Notched a career-high 2.5 sacks along with five tackles against Arizona in Week 15 (12/18/22).
- Appeared in 15 games (eight starts) in 2021, recording a career-high 39 tackles, one sack and two passes defended.
- Played in 14 games (11 starts) for the Broncos in 2020. Totaled 37 tackles, two sacks, one interception and three passes defended.
- Competed on practice squads with Denver, Miami and Indianapolis after spending training camp with the Broncos in 2018.
- Spent the 2017 season on Cincinnati's practice squad.
- Played four games for the Bengals in 2016, posting two tackles and a half sack.
- Made his NFL debut against Philadelphia (12/4/16).
- Spent his entire rookie season on Cincinnati's practice squad.

IF YOU HAVEN'T HERD

WAITING FOR THE CALL

Just cataloging his transactions can be exhausting — before you even get to the long hours spent loading boxes into trucks in a Denver warehouse.

Cut 10 times — including once by Frank Reich in Indianapolis — and six times by the Broncos. Never stopping, even when it appeared his football journey might have ended during the pandemic, when he was signed by the Calgary Stampeders but released when the 2020 CFL season was canceled because of COVID-19.

To make ends meet, he worked in an Amazon warehouse, waiting for another chance — one which came in 2020 when the Broncos brought him back for a third time. He was still getting up at 7 a.m. to work out, would then pull shifts of real work (the doubles would last from 1 p.m. to 11 p.m.) with at least a 35-minute commute each way if there was no traffic, before doing it again every day. Just waiting for that phone to ring.

"They had me doing the heavy lifting, pallets, warehouse stuff, putting stuff on trucks, so I got to work out," he laughed when he recalled those days when he never knew if another team would give him another chance. "Just not knowing when you're going to get that call. I'm at work checking my phone. Did it vibrate? This (is) my call. And I'm just like pressing, just pressing, trying to make some happiness, but it was out of my control.

"And I think I learned, if it's not in your control, then don't sweat over it for all those hours, man."

(Panthers.com, Darin Ganit, August 7, 2023)

PERSONAL

His first name is pronounced duh-SHAWN. Attended Daniel High School in Central, SC. He and his wife, Ashlee, have a son named Titan. Former Bills DE Shaq Lawson is his cousin.