



LB | 45

SHAQ THOMPSON

BORN: April 21, 1994 | HT: 6-0 | WT: 230 | 11th year

COLLEGE: Washington

ACQUIRED: Free Agent (2025)



ShaqThompson_54



shaqthompson

FIRST-AND-10

SHAQ THOMPSON signed with the Bills on June 10, 2025. Thompson originally entered the NFL as a first round pick of the Panthers in 2015 where he spent the last 10 seasons. Thompson ranks fourth in Panthers history in all-time in total tackles (470).

SHOUTOUTS

- One-of-eight players in the NFL with an active streak of 100+ tackles in at least four straight seasons.
- One-of-10 active players with 500+ tackles, 50+ tackles for loss and 25+ passes defended.
- In 2023 and 2024 Thompson played and started in six games registering 43 tackles and two TFLs.
- Started in all 17 games in 2022 and led the team in tackles while setting a career-high with 135 total tackles (sixth in the NFC).
- With Thompson's 135 tackles in 2022 he joins Jon Beason (4), Thomas Davis (5) and Luke Kuechly (8) as the only Panthers to register 100+ tackles in four straight seasons.
- Has 22 career game with 10 or more tackles, only Luke Kuechly (50), Thomas Davis (27) and Jon Beason (25) have more career games with at least 10 tackles in Panthers history.
- In 2021 he finished second on the team with 104 total tackles and added two interceptions, 2.0 sacks, five passes defended, nine tackles for loss and six quarterback hits.
- Played in 16 games for the Panthers in 2020, tallying 114 total tackles and two forced fumbles.

PERSONAL

Three-year starter and three-time All-Pac 12 honoree at Washington. Earned the Paul Hornung Award in 2014, given to the nation's most versatile player. Attended Grant Union High School in Sacramento, CA. Majored in American ethics at Washington. Drafted by the Boston Red Sox in the 18th round of the 2012 MLB Draft and played one season of rookie-level ball in the Gulf Coast League.

IF YOU HAVEN'T HERD

VERSATILE

The six-foot, 230-pounder who played his college ball for the Washington Huskies could just as easily be completing his 10th season as a pro in another sport, had he chosen to continue to pursue that route. Thompson was drafted by the Red Sox in the 18th round of the 2012 MLB Draft and played for their rookie-level team in the Gulf Coast League in the summer of 2012.

Thompson lettered in football, baseball and track and field at Grant Union High School in Sacramento, California. Even though he only played baseball in his senior year, the Red Sox were opting to take a chance that his versatile athletic skills would translate into making him a big-league prospect on the diamond. Even though he was committed to play football at Washington in the fall of 2012, Thompson decided to give pro baseball a shot and see what the outcome would be. Even with his struggles, the Red Sox wanted Thompson to come back. Working with then Washington head coach Steve Sarkisian, the club sought to map out a two-sport strategy for their protege. They saw potential in this multi-sport athlete who was still quite raw in terms of his baseball acumen.

"He was very coachable," Red Sox assistant hitting coach Victor Rodriguez remembered to MLB.com. "He wanted to get better, he wanted to learn. He put a good effort into everything he did. "He didn't play much baseball. He was a football player trying to compete at a professional level. Even guys who play their whole life have trouble when they become professional."

Nonetheless, his athletic versatility still shone on the football field. At Washington, Thompson would play safety, slot corner, linebacker, and running back. In 2014, he was awarded the Paul Hornung Award, which goes annually to the NCAA's most versatile football player.

(Bob Duff, giveandgosport.ca, Jan. 11, 2025)

THE STAMPEDE

Favorite app: Pinterest

First job: Security guard

Gas station snack: Ranch/BBQ Cornuts

First car: 2005 Green Chrysler 300

