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DEONE WALKER

BORN: March 11, 2004 | HT: 6-7 | WT: 331 | Rookie

COLLEGE: Kentucky

ACQUIRED: Draft (2025, R4)

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FIRST-AND-10

DEONE WALKER was selected by the Bills in the fourth round in 2025 out of Kentucky. A 2024 All-SEC second team selection, Walker joins Ray Davis (2024) and Maxwell Hairston (2025) as Kentucky draft picks on the Bills roster.

SHOUTOUTS

- Started in 36 of 37 career games played, including 35 straight in three seasons (2022-24) with the Wildcats.
- Across his college career, totaled 132 career tackles, 22 tackles for loss and 10.0 sacks along with 13 quarterback hurries, six pass breakups, one forced fumble and one fumble recovery.
- Was a two-time team captain (2023 and 2024)
- Named Second Team All-SEC (AP) in 2024 after playing and starting in 11 games. Had 37 tackles, 5.0 tackles for loss, two pass breakups, 1.5 sacks and a fumble recovery.
- Named First team All-SEC (AP, Phil Steele, PFF) in 2023. Led the team in tackles for loss (12.5), quarterback sacks (7.5) and quarterback hurries (8).
- In 2022, was named a First-team Freshman All-American (CFN) after playing in all 13 games, earning a starting spot in the 11 straight. Totaled 40 tackles, 4.5 tackles for loss, five quarterback hurries (second-most on the team), two pass breakups and a forced fumble.

PERSONAL

Son of Deone Sr. and Sanquanetta Walker. Has one sister, Nikita. Was born in Detroit and attended Cass Tech High School, where he also played basketball and participated in track & field. Majored in communications. Nickname is "D-1". Is an avid bowler, with a top score of 289. Has a dog named Kane.

IF YOU HAVEN'T HERD

ROLE MODEL

JM: Because you're so unique, I'm curious which defensive linemen you study and watch? There aren't a lot of guys that can match your size, but do you tend to watch bigger guys like Jordan Davis or T'Vondre Sweat? Or do you watch all defensive linemen regardless of size?

Deone Walker: My favorite defensive lineman ever is Calais Campbell. I love his game, I love watching his tape. We're around the same size, maybe I'm a little bigger than him. He's shown that you can be 6-foot-6, 6-foot-7 and still play the game at a high level. He's shown that he can use both his hands and his feet to defeat blocks. I do the same thing. It doesn't have to just be brute force all the time.

JM: I swear Calais Campbell is going into his 38th season this year (laughs). He's the definition of longevity. How would you describe your pass rush arsenal? How do you beat offensive linemen?
Deone Walker: Something like that for Campbell, right? (laughs). I play with a ton of finesse. A lot of offensive linemen last season thought I was a straight power guy. They think I'm a power rusher that can only use strength to beat them. A lot of my sacks were the result of finesse though. I have great hands and I'm quick off the ball.

(Justin Melo, *The Draft Network*, July 26, 2024)

COULDN'T WAIT TO PLAY

Walker's athletic journey began at a tender age; he was allowed to join a Little League team at just five years old, but waited two years to officially compete. "He would accompany his older nephew to practices, showing determination even when he wasn't eligible to play. He would cry when he had to leave but ultimately became the last player to leave the field," Walker Sr. recounted with pride. "From day one, he exhibited leadership, guiding the defense for every team he joined."

(Footboom, December 10, 2024)

THE STAMPEDE

Favorite TV show: Family Guy

Bucket list item: Go to Japan

Dream sporting event: LeBron's Lakers vs. Kobe's Lakers