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WANDE OWENS

BORN: March 26, 2001 | HT: 5-10 | WT: 205 | Rookie

COLLEGE: New Hampshire

ACQUIRED: UDFA (2025)

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FIRST-AND-10

WANDE OWENS was signed by the Bills as an undrafted free agent in 2025. Finished his collegiate career at New Hampshire after transferring from Yale in 2023. Hicks is the first player the Bills have drafted out of New Hampshire since selecting T John Driscoll in 1988.

SHOUTOUTS

- In his lone season at New Hampshire he appeared in 13 total games in 2024 and finished 2nd on the team in tackles (111.0) and 6th in the CAA. He also forced a fumble and had a fumble recovery to go along with three TFLs and hauled in an interception which he returned for a touchdown.
- In 2023 at Yale he was named to Phil Steele Ivy League First Team and was an All-Ivy League First Team. The 2023 William V. Campbell Trophy semifinalist he ranked second on the team in tackles (55). Made one of the biggest plays of the season, knocking away a pass on fourth down in the second overtime to secure Yale's win over Princeton and help Bulldogs go on to league championship and was a team captain.
- He was a first team All-Ivy selection in 2022 and was tied for the team lead with 63 tackles. Had one sack and six tackles for a loss. Earned All-Ivy Second Team for the 2021 season. Placed third on the Bulldogs with 26 solo tackles and fourth with 47 total tackles. Finished a strong year as Yale's top corner with eight pass breakups and two picks.

PERSONAL

(Pronounced WAHN-day). Son of Earl and Lorilyn Owens. Brother to Bruce Richardson, Blake Richardson, Brent Richardson, Bisi Owens and Abiola Owens. Father was a triple jumper at Brown University. Brother, Brent, played football at Towson University. Brother, Bisi, plays football at University of Pennsylvania. At Yale, Owens graduated as a computer science major. In the summers of 2022 and 2021, he interned at GoDaddy, where he developed a front-end web application using JavaScript and created CI/CD pipeline leveraging AWS, Kubernetes, Helm and Docker. Attended Glenlg HS in Maryland and lettered in basketball and track & field.

IF YOU HAVEN'T HERD

WHAT YOU KNOW ABOUT STEM

Wande Owens '23, a defensive back majoring in computer science, had his start in computer science in high school. Owens credits his decision to major in STEM to his passion for problem-solving. Yale students already regularly face restrictive schedules and burnout. Football players have an even more restrictive schedule due to practice, workouts, team meetings and other commitments that they have to meet.

"This season, we lift in Payne Whitney [Gymnasium] twice a week," Owens said. "Because of class, I lift at 6:00 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. We have meetings right after that in [Linsly-Chittenden Hall] from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and after that, I've got class. Practice usually starts at 3:15 p.m. and goes on to 5:45 p.m."

Despite having busy schedules, football players have managed to strike a cautious balance between athletics and academics by seeking support from different sources. Lee has sought the help of "friends and teammates who are also computer science majors," whom he describes as his "main support group." Owens shares Lee's approach, but has also sought help from older football players who have shown him "how they've managed their time" and "which sessions or TAs can help out." For these players, the lessons they learn from the field can be applied to the classroom too. Both Owens and Lee see a connection between their experiences in football and computer science.

"Anything can go wrong at any moment on the football field and with your work, in computer science specifically, one bug, one tiny error can take hours to figure out," Lee said. However, when faced with bugs in programming, Owens stated that the virtue of pushing through adversity, which football instilled in him, inspires him to "keep going, push through and [not] be afraid to reach out for help." (Po Eic Quah, yaledailynews.com, Nov. 16, 2022)

THE STAMPEDE

Hobbies: Chess and Ping Pong

Best concert: Young Nudy

Favorite artist: J-Cole

Dream sporting event: World Cup

