



40 WILLIE GAY JR.

ILB | 6'1" | 246 | MISSISSIPPI STATE '20

NFL EXP. 7

DOLPHINS EXP. 2

BORN 02/15/98

ACQUIRED UFA, '25 (NO)

HOMETOWN STARKVILLE, MISS.

NFL CAREER

TRANSACTIONS:

- Signed by Miami as an unrestricted free agent from New Orleans on March 21, 2025.
- Signed by New Orleans on March 13, 2024.
- 2nd-round pick (63rd overall) by Kansas City in the 2020 NFL Draft.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:

- Played in 89 career games with 57 starts.
- 271 tackles (172 solo), 9.0 sacks, 4 interceptions, 24 passes defended, 3 forced fumbles and 6 fumble recoveries; 1 interception returned for a TD.
- 10 special teams tackles (7 solo).
- Started 9 postseason games with Kansas City.
- Won Super Bowl LVII and LVIII with Kansas City.

2025 (MIAMI):

- Played in all 17 games with 2 starts.
- 18 tackles (8 solo), 2.0 sacks and 2 passes defended.
- 2 solo special teams tackles.

AT ATLANTA (10/26): 3 tackles (1 solo); 2 solo special teams tackles.

VS. BUFFALO (11/9): 1 solo tackle and 1.0 sack.

- Sacked QB Josh Allen for a loss of 5 yards on 3rd-and-10 with 5:36 remaining in the game.

VS. NEW ORLEANS (11/30): 1 pass defended.

AT N.Y. JETS (12/7): 3 tackles (2 solo), 1.0 sack and 1 pass defended.

- Sacked QB Brady Cook on 2nd-and-2 with 5:47 remaining in the game.

VS. TAMPA BAY (12/28): 4 tackles (2 solo).

2024 (NEW ORLEANS):

- Played in 15 games with 8 starts.
- Inactive for 2 games.
- 22 tackles (16 solo), 2.0 sacks, 3 passes defended, 1 forced fumble and 2 fumble recoveries.
- 6 special teams tackles (3 solo).

VS. PHILADELPHIA (9/22): 3 solo tackles and 1 fumble recovery; 1 solo special teams tackle.

- Recovered a QB Jalen Hurts fumble forced by DE Carl Granderson and returned it 4 yards in the 2nd quarter.

VS. TAMPA BAY (10/13): 4 tackles (3 solo), 1.0 sack and 3 passes defended.

- Sacked QB Baker Mayfield for a loss of 8 yards to force a 3rd-and-9 in the 3rd quarter.

VS. DENVER (10/17): 2 tackles (1 solo), 1 forced fumble and 1 fumble recovery.

- Forced RB Audric Esteime to fumble and recovered it at the Denver 48-yard line in the 4th quarter.

2023 (KANSAS CITY):

- Played in 16 games with 15 starts.
- Dressed but did not play in 1 game.

- 58 tackles (44 solo), 1.0 sack, 1 interception, 4 passes defended, 1 forced fumble and 3 fumble recoveries.

VS. DENVER (10/12): 6 tackles (5 solo), 1 pass defended and 1 fumble recovery.

- Recovered a RB Samaje Perine fumble forced by CB Trent McDuffie with 1:50 left in the game, sealing a victory for Kansas City.

VS. L.A. CHARGERS (10/22): 5 tackles (3 solo), 1.0 sack and 1 pass defended.

- Sacked QB Justin Herbert for a loss of 13 yards to force a 3rd-and-21 with 2:40 remaining in the 1st quarter.

AT NEW ENGLAND (12/17): 2 solo tackles, 1 interception and 1 pass defended.

- Intercepted QB Bailey Zappe and returned it 24 yards to the New England 6-yard line in the 3rd quarter, setting up a Chiefs TD on the next drive.

POSTSEASON:

AFC WILD CARD VS. MIAMI (1/13): 2 tackles and 1 pass defended.

AFC DIVISIONAL AT BUFFALO (1/21): 3 tackles (2 solo).

AFC CHAMPIONSHIP AT BALTIMORE (1/28): Inactive.

SUPER BOWL LVIII VS. SAN FRANCISCO (2/11): 4 tackles (3 solo).

2022 (KANSAS CITY):

- Started 13 games.
- Missed 4 games on the Reserve/Suspended list.
- 88 tackles (51 solo), 2.5 sacks, 1 interception, 8 passes defended and 1 fumble recovery; 1 interception returned for a TD.

AT SAN FRANCISCO (10/23): 8 tackles (4 solo) and a 0.5 sack.

- Split a sack of QB Jimmy Garoppolo with CB L'Jarius Sneed for a loss of 4 yards to force a 3rd-and-19 in the 2nd quarter.

AT L.A. CHARGERS (11/20): 11 tackles (7 solo) and 1.0 sack.

- Sacked QB Justin Herbert for a loss of 6 to force a 3rd-and-18 with 4:32 left in the game.

AT DENVER (12/11): 5 solo tackles, 1 interception and 1 pass defended; 1 interception returned for a TD.

- Intercepted QB Russell Wilson and returned it 47 yards for a TD with 7:16 remaining in the 2nd quarter.
- It was his 1st career TD.

POSTSEASON:

AFC DIVISIONAL VS. JACKSONVILLE (1/21): Played but did not record any stats.

AFC CHAMPIONSHIP VS. CINCINNATI (1/28): 1 tackle and 0.5 sack.

- Split a sack of QB Joe Burrow with DE Frank Clark for a loss of 6 yards and forced a 3rd-and-13.



SUPER BOWL LVII VS. PHILADELPHIA (2/11): 8 tackles (6 solo).

2021 (KANSAS CITY):

- Played in 12 games with 11 starts.
- Missed the first 4 games of the season after being placed on injured reserve on Sept. 2 and activated on Oct. 9.
- Missed 1 game on the Reserve/COVID-19 list.
- 48 tackles (26 solo), 0.5 sack, 2 interceptions and 4 passes defended.

AT TENNESSEE (10/24): 2 tackles, 1 interception and 1 pass defended.

- Intercepted QB Ryan Tannehill on 3rd-and-2 with 3:46 remaining in the 3rd quarter.
- It was his 1st career interception.

VS. N.Y. GIANTS (11/1): 9 tackles (5 solo), 1 interception and 1 pass defended.

- Intercepted QB Daniel Jones and returned it 13 yards to the New York 13-yard line, setting up a WR Tyreek Hill TD on the ensuing drive.
- Became the first Kansas City LB to record an interception in consecutive games since Derrick Johnson in 2013.

VS. DENVER (12/5): 8 tackles (4 solo), 0.5 sack and 1 pass defended.

- Split a sack of QB Teddy Bridgewater with LB Melvin Ingram III for a loss of 7 yards on 3rd-and-2, forcing the Broncos to punt on their opening possession.

POSTSEASON:

AFC WILD CARD VS. PITTSBURGH (1/16): 2 tackles and 1 forced fumble.

- Forced RB Najee Harris to fumble and was recovered by DE Frank Clark, leading to a WR Tyreek Hill TD on the ensuing possession.

AFC DIVISIONAL VS. BUFFALO (1/23): 4 tackles (2 solo).

AFC CHAMPIONSHIP VS. CINCINNATI (1/30): 5 tackles (3 solo) and 2 passes defended.

2020 (KANSAS CITY):

- Played in all 16 games with 8 starts.
- 37 tackles (27 solo), 1.0 sack, 3 passes defended and 1 forced fumble.
- 2 solo special teams tackles.

VS. HOUSTON (9/10): 1 solo special teams tackle.

- Made his NFL debut.

VS. NEW ENGLAND (10/5): 2 tackles (1 solo).

- Made his 1st NFL start.

VS. LAS VEGAS (10/11): 6 tackles (5 solo) and 1.0 sack.

- Sacked QB Derek Carr for a loss of 1 with 10:18 remaining in the 1st quarter.
- It was his 1st career sack.

VS. ATLANTA (12/27): 9 tackles (7 solo) and 1 forced fumble.

- Forced WR Brandon Powell to fumble and was

recovered by LB Darius Harris with 10:50 left in the game.

- It was his 1st career forced fumble.

POSTSEASON:

AFC DIVISIONAL VS. CLEVELAND (1/17): Inactive.

AFC CHAMPIONSHIP VS. BUFFALO (1/24): Inactive.

SUPER BOWL LV VS. TAMPA BAY (2/7): On injured reserve.

BEFORE THE NFL

COLLEGE (MISSISSIPPI STATE):

- 3-year letterman (2017-19).

CAREER: Played in 31 games with 6 starts; 99 tackles (46 solo), 6.0 sacks, 3 interceptions, 7 passes defended, 2 forced fumbles and 3 fumble recoveries; 1 interception returned for a TD.

JUNIOR (2019): Played in 5 games; 28 tackles (18 solo), 1 interception, 1 pass defended, 1 forced fumble and 2 fumble recoveries; 1 interception returned for a TD.

- Had a 52-yard interception return for a TD against Kentucky in his first play of the season.

SOPHOMORE (2018): Played in all 13 games with 6 starts; 48 tackles (20 solo), 5.0 sacks, 2 interceptions, 1 pass defended and 1 fumble recovery.

- Helped the Bulldogs to the No. 1 ranked defense in the NCAA.

TRUE FRESHMAN (2017): Played in all 13 games; 23 tackles (8 solo), 1.0 sack, 2 passes defended and 1 forced fumble.

HIGH SCHOOL (STARKVILLE HS – STARKVILLE, MISS.)

- Played linebacker.

SENIOR (2016): 83 tackles, 1.0 sack, 9 tackles for loss and 1 interception; 565 rushing yards and 9 TDs.

- Mississippi 6A Defensive Player of the Year.
- Played quarterback for the final 2 games of the season, helping his team make a playoff push.
- Played in the U.S. Army All-American Bowl.

JUNIOR (2015): 84 tackles, 6.0 sacks 17 tackles for loss and 4 interceptions.

- Led team to state championship.
- 2nd-team all-state.

OFF THE FIELD

COMMUNITY:

2024:

- Held his 1st annual free Juiceman Youth Camp for more than 200 children in June in his hometown of Starkville, Miss.

PERSONAL:

- **MAJOR:** Psychology.
- Owns a farm in Starkville, Miss.



WILLIE GAY JR.'S NFL REGULAR SEASON DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

DATE	TEAM	GP	GS	TK	S	TACKLES					INTERCEPTIONS					O. FUMB					ST				MISC		
						A	TFL	YDS	SK	YDS	QBH	NO	YDS	LG	TD	PD	FF	FR	TD	YDS	TK	S	A	FF	FR	S	A
2020	Kansas City	16	8	37	27	10	3	9	1.0	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
2021	Kansas City	12	11	48	26	22	1	0	0.5	3.5	1	2	14	13	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2022	Kansas City	13	13	88	51	37	9	24	2.5	8.0	4	1	47	47t	1	8	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2023	Kansas City	16	15	58	44	14	4	25	1.0	13.0	3	1	24	24	0	4	1	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2024	New Orleans	15	8	22	16	6	2	15	2.0	8.0	1	0	0	0	0	3	1	2	0	4	6	3	3	0	0	0	0
2025	Miami	17	2	18	8	10	3	14	2.0	5.0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
NFL TOTALS		89	57	271	172	99	22	87	9.0	38.5	12	4	85	47t	1	24	3	6	0	5	10	7	3	0	0	0	0

WILLIE GAY JR.'S NFL POSTSEASON DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

DATE	TEAM	GP	GS	TK	S	TACKLES					YDS	QBH	INTERCEPTIONS				O. FUMB				ST				MISC	
						A	TFL	YDS	SK	NO			YDS	LG	TD	PD	FF	FR	TD	YDS	TK	S	A	FF	FR	S
2020	Kansas City	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2021	Kansas City	3	3	11	7	4	1	2	0.0	0.0	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2022	Kansas City	3	3	9	6	3	2	2	0.5	3.0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2023	Kansas City	3	3	9	5	4	1	2	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NFL TOTALS		9	9	29	18	11	4	6	0.5	3.0	2	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

SINGLE-GAME HIGHS: DEFENSIVE

Total Tackles	11 at L.A. Chargers, Nov 20, 2022 ...1 more at 11.
Solo Tackles	7 at L.A. Chargers, Nov 20, 2022 ...1 more at 7.
Sacks	1.0 at N.Y. Jets, Dec 07, 2025 ...7 more at 1.0.
Passes Defensed	3 vs. Tampa Bay, Oct 13, 2024
Forced Fumbles	1 vs. Denver, Oct 17, 2024 ...2 more at 1.
Fumble Recoveries	1 vs. Denver, Oct 17, 2024 ...5 more at 1.

Tackles For Loss	2 at L.A. Chargers, Nov 20, 2022 ...1 more at 2.
Interceptions	1 at New England, Dec 17, 2023 ...3 more at 1.
Interception Return Yards	47 at Denver, Dec 11, 2022
Special Teams Tackles	2 at Atlanta, Oct 26, 2025 ...1 more at 2.
Longest Opp Fumble Return	4 vs. Philadelphia, Sep 22, 2024