WASHINGTON

COMMANDERS

GANEDAY MAGAZINE



5 TAKEAWAYS FROM THE COMMANDERS VS LIONS JAHAN DOTSON REFLECTS ON TWO TOUCHDOWN DEBUT

PRESENTED BY

A LOOK BACK ON THE LIFE OF JERRY SMITH MEET MANDO, The Commanders' Team Dog



<section-header>



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ORS ART DIRECTION & DESIGN

Will Misselbrook Roman Shuman Aaron Mullen

PHOTOGRAPHY

Emilee Fails Joseph Noyes Xavi Dussaq Kourtney Carrol



Scan for Full Player Roster



PLAYBOOK

WEEK 03

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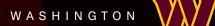


WAS		PHI
87	WINS VS EACH OTHER	82
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MEMORABLE GAME

Jan. 3, 2021: Washington 20, Philadelphia 14

The NFC East division crown was on the line in the 2020 season finale. Washington had put together a four-game surge earlier in the season to set up the "win and in" scenario, and Alex Smith, who had previously come back from a horrific leg injury, led the Burgundy & Gold to a 10-0 run and threw for two touchdowns in the 20-14 road victory.



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CO-OWNER AND CO-CEO

Dan Snyder is Co-Owner and Co-CEO of the Washington Commanders. A self-made man and an entrepreneur at heart, Dan Snyder's life is marked by an enduring passion for the people, the team and the community he loves. He has been a key member of the leadership team since he and his wife Tanya Snyder acquired the team in 1999. A D.C.-area native, Dan Snyder is a lifelong Washington fan who grew up attending Washington Commanders - then Redskins games with his father Gerald. His childhood and adolescence were shaped and inspired by his devotion to the team. To Snyder, football is family. He has put his passion into action since purchasing the team 23 years ago, consistently leading the franchise to new prominence in the community, in business and across the National Football League.

Dan Snyder continues to be one of Washington's most engaged and impactful community leaders and philanthropists. Shortly after purchasing the franchise, one of Dan and Tanya Snyder's first actions was to create the Washington Commanders Charitable Foundation, which launched in 2000, to bring together the team and its corporate and community partners to make a positive and measurable impact on area youth across the Washington, D.C.-Maryland-Virginia area. Under Dan and Tanya Snyder's leadership, the Washington Commanders Charitable Foundation has contributed more than \$31 million to the local community and grown to impact more than 178,000 area youth each year.

Beyond the team's expansive Charitable Foundation efforts, Dan and Tanya Snyder have identified numerous ways to support and contribute to communities in-need around the world, primarily through contributions to disaster relief, COVID-19-related relief, social justice, Children's National Hospital and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). Dan and Tanya Snyder have donated hundreds of thousands of dollars and mobilized widespread resources to support Ukrainian response efforts, hurricane relief efforts across the U.S. and internationally in the Caribbean, Haiti, Indonesia and Thailand. As a longtime supporter of the Children's National Hospital Foundation, Dan Snyder's support enabled construction of the Snyder Family Emergency Medicine and Trauma Center. He also funded construction of the Daniel M. Snyder and Family Communication Center at the NCMEC. Each day, the Center fields hundreds of calls from around the nation from law enforcement organizations, parents of missing children, runaways seeking help and people responding to the Center's well-known awareness campaigns on behalf of missing children. Dan and Tanya Snyder were honored with the Charles B. Wang International Children's Award in 2014. Dan Snyder's support has also extended to the military community. Under his leadership, the organization created Salute, the team's official military appreciation club which coordinates the team's decades-long military appreciation initiatives into one comprehensive, year-round platform. This first-of-its-kind program in the NFL serves, supports and thanks the military community by hosting a variety of events, including pre game parties for military members, re-enlistment ceremonies at both team headquarters and FedExField, military appreciation events and more. Snyder also contributed to the construction of the

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7



USO Warrior and Family Center at Fort Belvoir.

Under his leadership, the Washington Commanders remain at the forefront of marketing and business operations in the NFL. The organization has evolved to be innovative with an entirely new, best-in-class leadership team at the Senior Vice President level and above, including Tanya Snyder as Co-CEO and Jason Wright as Team President, making the Commanders leadership team the most diverse in the National Football League. As part of this cultural and business transformation, Dan and Tanya Snyder led the organizational rebrand. The pair also hired a first-of-its-kind Chief Creative & Digital Officer to oversee the organization's storytelling and brand marketing strategies while also developing engaging new content to drive even greater value for fans and team sponsors. In addition to their collaborative work around the team's rebrand, Dan and Tanya Snyder worked closely with senior leadership to launch an in-house content studio. Dan Snyder also leads the team's active stadium search.

During the Snyder's 23 season tenure, 30 different Washington players have earned a total of 62 Pro Bowl appearances, 14 have been named All-Pro per the Elias Sports Bureau and 20 draft picks have been selected to the PFWA All-Rookie Team. In addition, five players – Darrell Green, Bruce Smith, Deion Sanders, Champ Bailey and Jason Taylor – have been inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

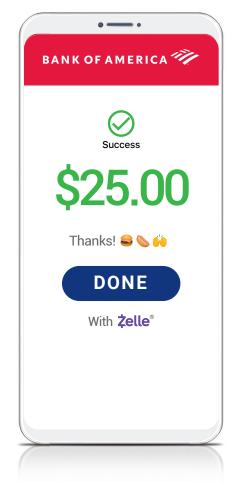
Prior to acquiring the Washington Commanders, Dan Snyder founded and acted as Chairman and CEO of Snyder Communications, Inc., making him the youngest CEO of a New York Stock Exchange company at the time. From its launch in 1985, Snyder Communications, Inc. grew to a global organization of 12,000 employees with 77 offices across 17 countries and more than \$1 billion in annual revenue. The company's client base included 200 of the Fortune 500, to which it provided targeted marketing solutions, including advertising and marketing services. It was acquired by Havas in 2000 for more than \$2.3 billion, at the time the largest such merger in the history of the advertising and marketing industry. Snyder is also Founder and Chairman Emeritus of inVentiv Health and Founder and Managing Member of the Board of Red Zebra Broadcasting, LLC, which operates radio stations across the Washington, D.C.-Maryland-Virginia area. Snyder is active in a variety of other private business ventures, both as an investor and as an advisor to management. He is a frequent invitee to share his experiences and views with business organizations nationwide, and he is enshrined in the Greater Washington Jewish Sports Hall of Fame.

Dan Snyder is the proud father of three children and a beloved dog, Tackle. Dan and Tanya Snyder reside in Virginia.

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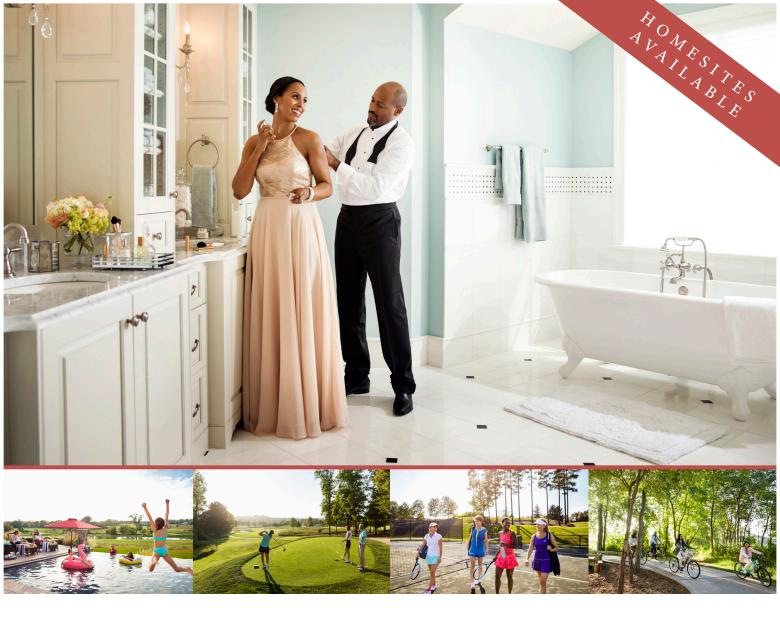
CO-OWNER AND CO-CEO

Tanya Snyder is Co-Owner and Co-CEO of the Washington Commanders. She has been an integral part of the executive team since Dan and Tanya Snyder acquired the team in 1999, spearheading the launch and continued commitment of the Washington Commanders Charitable Foundation and expanding her role over the years into various aspects of the organization. Since 2000, Tanya has led "the team behind the team" and guided social and community efforts across the organization. Under her stewardship, the Charitable Foundation has contributed more than \$31 million to the local community and grown to impact more than 178,000 area youth each year.

In 2021, Tanya Snyder was named Co-CEO, becoming a catalyst for the evolution of the Washington Commanders into a franchise of the future. Under her leadership, the Commanders have undergone a cultural and business transformation that includes a new, innovative leadership team at the Senior Vice President level and above, as well as an organizational rebrand. The Commanders have assembled a best-in-class leadership team – the most diverse in the National Football League – with Tanya at the helm. A breast cancer survivor and longtime advocate for cancer awareness and research, Tanya Snyder and Zeta Tau Alpha co-founded the THINK PINK® campaign for breast cancer awareness within the NFL in 1999 by passing out 8,000 handmade pink ribbons at FedExField to remind fans that early detection saves lives. This gesture launched a pink movement each October throughout the league and across the nation, and what started at FedExField has resulted in nearly 10 million pink ribbons pinned leaguewide and millions of lives touched around the world to date. Tanya's community impact, especially her breast cancer awareness and advocacy efforts, has been recognized by a number of organizations including the American Cancer Society with "Mother of the Year" honors (2013), Men Against Breast Cancer with the Gloria Heyison Inspiration Award (2012), and Zeta Tau Alpha Foundation with the ZTA THINK-PINK!® Ambassador Award (2008).

An Atlanta native, Tanya Snyder is the proud mother of three children and a beloved dog, Tackle. Dan and Tanya Snyder reside in Virginia.





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WASHINGTON COMMANDERS



10TH NFL SEASON (7 PLAYING/3 EXECUTIVE) / 3RD WITH COMMANDERS

As President of the Washington Commanders, Jason Wright is responsible for leading the organization's business divisions, including operations, finance, sales, and marketing. In addition to leading a historic transformation of a sports franchise, he is the first Black team president in the history of the NFL and currently is the youngest team president in the League. He is the fourth former NFL player to become president of a team.

Prior to joining the Washington Commanders, Jason was a partner in McKinsey & Company's Washington, D.C. office. His work focused on expanding the value of large, complex organizations through operations and culture transformations. Jason specialized in steering companies through their toughest moments - in crisis and turnaround scenarios. From systemic personnel misconduct to financial distress to COVID-19 response, Jason's tenure at McKinsey supported a range of multi-national, corporationspecific challenges, while also leading the company's global inclusion and anti-racism strategies. His deep passion for intentional change that profoundly expands opportunities for historically marginalized populations resulted in his work cofounding McKinsey's Black Economic Institute. A research entity that analyzes the racial wealth gap, the Institute today serves as a prominent voice in public discussions regarding racial equity in corporate America. This advocacy, combined with his data- and results-oriented approaches, have been sought out by leading organizations, such as The Greater Washington Partnership, where Jason helps lead its Inclusive Growth Strategy Council as co-chair. The Inclusive Growth Strategy Council is a regional collaborative that dissects and identifies a blueprint for the region to address long-standing gaps in income, services, employment, and access to capital for lower-income populations.

Jason's commitment to faith, family, and community is marked by his service on the Board of Trustees at Union Theological Seminary, where he is helping the institution better equip a changing student body focused on community organizing and social entrepreneurship. His leadership, passion for community change, and business acumen have been noted nationally and regionally, with Jason being awarded as a "Top 40 under 40" by Black Enterprise magazine, Sports Business Journal's "Best Hire of 2020," and standing as a member of The Economic Club of Washington D.C., where he serves alongside DCbased executives supporting a range of initiatives in the DMV.

Jason spent seven years as a running back in the NFL and was team captain and NFLPA player representative for the Arizona Cardinals during the 2011 NFL lockout. He has a B.A. in psychology from Northwestern University, where he was an Academic All-American student athlete, a two-time All-Big Ten football selection, and the president of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He received his M.B.A. in Operations and Finance with honors, from the University of Chicago-Booth School of Business.



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NRIVERA HEAD COACH

35TH NFL SEASON (9 PLAYING/26 COACHING) / 3RD WITH COMMANDERS

Ron Rivera enters his 26th season coaching in the NFL and his third as Washington's head coach in 2022.

He was named the 30th head coach in franchise history on Jan.1, 2020 and led Washington to its first division title since 2015. During the 2020 season Rivera was diagnosed with Squamous Cell Carcinoma (SCC) located in a lymph node and detected from a self-care check. Rivera continued to coach through his treatments and on January 28, 2021, he was declared cancer free. Rivera was selected as the NFC Coach of the Year by the Committee of 101 following the 2020 season.

A friend of legendary head coach Joe Gibbs, Rivera is a passionate and skilled leader who has earned the respect of his players, coaching staff and the community. He most recently served as the head coach of the Carolina Panthers for nine seasons, where he led the team to three straight divisional titles and an appearance in Super Bowl 50. Rivera was also recognized twice as the NFL Coach of the Year by the Associated Press in 2013 and in 2015.

Rivera inherited a 2-14 Carolina Panthers team as

a rookie head coach in 2011 and guided it back to an NFC force with four playoffs appearances since 2013, tied for the second-most playoff berths in the NFC over that six-year period. In that span, the Panthers recorded 58 wins, tied for the most in any six-year period in their franchise history and fifth-most in the NFL. In 2015, Carolina won its second NFC Championship in franchise history, third consecutive NFC South division title and appeared in Super Bowl 50. Carolina finished the season with a franchise-best 17-2 record, including home playoff victories over Seattle in the divisional round and Arizona in the NFC Championship game.

Hired by the Panthers for his defensive expertise, Rivera did not disappoint as the Panthers put together five top-10 finishes in total defense in seven seasons from 2012-18. Like Rivera, the Panthers' rebound has been steady and solid, starting with six wins in his first season in 2011 and seven victories in 2012 before registering three consecutive division championships starting in 2013 when he earned his first Associated Press NFL Coach of the Year award. Laying a foundation that included back-to-back Rookie of the Year

award winners in quarterback Cam Newton and linebacker Luke Kuechly, Rivera blended veteran and young talent into productive units on both sides of the ball.

Rivera helped lead a Panthers team that finished among the league's top 10 rushing offenses, including top-five finishes in 2011, 2015, 2017 and 2018. The Panthers recorded 30 consecutive regular season games with at least 100 rushing yards from Week 6 of 2014 to Week 3 of 2016, the longest streak in the NFL since Pittsburgh tallied 43 from 1974-77.

Carolina's run defense ranked in the top 10 of the NFL in 2013, 2015, 2016 and 2017. Starting in Week 14 of 2016 through Week 1 of 2018, the Panthers went 21 consecutive games without allowing a 100-yard individual rusher, setting a franchise record. In 2018, Rivera coached two players to All-Pro selections. Panthers running back Christian McCaffrey earned AP All-Pro second- team honors as he helped the Panthers lead the NFL in rushing yards per carry (5.1). McCaffrey also recorded 107 receptions, the most by any running back in



a season in NFL history and broke Steve Smith's franchise record for single-season receptions by any player. He ran for 1,098 rushing yards, becoming the third player in NFL history with over 100 receptions and 1,000 rushing yards in the same season. McCaffrey accumulated a franchise-record 1,965 scrimmage yards, ranking third in the NFL.

Linebacker Luke Kuechly earned his sixth-straight Pro Bowl selection and fifth AP All-Pro first-team honor, tied for the most among active players. Kuechly tied for third in the NFL with 20 tackles for loss. In 2017, the rushing attack helped propel the team to an 11-5 record and a Wild Card berth by averaging 131.4 yards on the ground, good for fourth in the league.

In 2015, Rivera was named NFL Coach of the Year for the second time in three seasons as his team earned its third consecutive NFC South title and claimed the top seed in the NFC for the first time in Panthers franchise history. The Panthers became just the seventh team in the Super Bowl era to post a 15-1 or better record in the regular season. Carolina started 2015 with 14 consecutive victories, which, combined with four wins to close the 2014 regular season, gave the Panthers an NFC-record 18-game winning streak.

Rivera's Panthers went 12-4 and won the NFC South in 2013, Carolina's first division title since 2008. The Panthers then recovered from a 3-8-1 start in 2014 to win four in a row and capture a second consecutive NFC South crown. Prior to Rivera's arrival, Carolina had never reached the postseason in consecutive years, and no team had captured the NFC South twice in a row. Rivera arrived in Carolina with a reputation for hard work, attention to detail and preparation. Those were also the qualities he exhibited in his first campaign as the Panthers tripled their win total from the previous season. Rivera did not even meet his team until they reported to training camp and, despite a slow start, held it together to finish with four wins in the final six games. Rivera has shined as a coach and player during his 30-plus years in the NFL, serving as defensive coordinator for the San Diego Chargers' top-ranked defense in 2010 and playing linebacker for the Chicago Bears' topranked defense and Super Bowl XX championship team in 1985. In 23 seasons as a coach and nine as a player, he has been with teams that have reached the playoffs 19 times, including nine conference championships and three Super Bowls. The mentality of the Chargers defense that Rivera coached and the Bears defense on which he played has stuck with the head coach, and he has transferred it to his teams.

Rivera's character has been influenced by two innovative defensive coordinators. As a player, Rivera was coached by the late Buddy Ryan, the architect of the "46 Defense," which involved blitzing on nearly every down. As a coach, Rivera toiled under the late Jim Johnson, a highly regarded defensive coordinator renowned for his aggressive approach.

Rivera's identity also has been shaped by his family. The son of a U.S. Army officer and the second youngest of four boys, Rivera learned from a young age about chain of command and many of the principles he teaches and expects from his players. "I come from a military family where discipline isn't taught, it's lived. It's expected from day one. I have a philosophy that every player, every coach, everyone who works for this organization, they'll know it day one," Rivera said in his introductory press conference with Washington on Jan. 2.

Rivera worked with the Chargers from 2007-10. He coached inside linebackers before taking over as the team's defensive coordinator midway through the 2008 season. Under Rivera's guidance, the pass defense steadied itself - intercepting nine passes and yielding 229.6 passing yards per game and 11 touchdown passes over the final eight games. Those numbers contrasted to the first half of the season when San Diego notched just seven picks and was victimized for 265.1 yards per game and 14 touchdowns through the air. In Rivera's first full season leading the defense in 2009, the Chargers ranked 16th in total defense and 11th against the pass. Those rankings improved in 2010 as San Diego led the NFL with an average of 271.6 total yards allowed per game and gave up a league low 177.8 passing yards per game. From 2004-06, Rivera oversaw the Chicago Bears defense, engineering the unit to two top-five finishes in the league. Under Rivera's direction, five different defensive players went to the Pro Bowl: linebacker Lance Briggs, safety Mike Brown, defensive tackle Tommie Harris, linebacker Brian Urlacher and cornerback Nathan Vasher.

In his first season as a defensive coordinator in 2004, Rivera presided over a defense that produced nine more takeaways and 17 more sacks than the previous year and scored a franchiserecord and NFC-high six defensive touchdowns. The Bears also thrived on third down and buckled down inside their own 20-yard line, ranking first in the NFL in third-down efficiency (30.5 percent) and topping the NFC in red zone defense (42.6



percent). The following year, Chicago continued to build on the foundation Rivera laid in 2004. The Bears won their first of two consecutive NFC North titles and stood second in the NFL in total defense. In surrendering the fewest points in the league, Rivera's defense went 43 consecutive quarters without allowing more than seven points – the longest streak in the NFL since 1969. During Rivera's last season with the Bears in 2006, the defense paced the NFL with 44 takeaways and finished fifth in the league in total defense and third in scoring defense, helping propel Chicago to the NFC Championship and an appearance in Super Bowl XLI.

Prior to becoming a defensive coordinator, Rivera spent five seasons from 1999-2003 as the linebackers coach for the Philadelphia Eagles, who advanced to the NFC Championship game in each of his final three seasons. Twice during Rivera's tenure with the Eagles, the team finished second in the NFL in scoring defense and in 2001 held all 16 of its opponents to fewer than 21 points – making them just the fourth team in NFL history to do so.

Rivera gained his first coaching experience with the Bears as a defensive quality control coach from 1997-98. He is just the third Latino head coach in NFL history, joining Tom Flores with the Oakland Raiders from 1979-87 and Seattle Seahawks from 1992-94 and Tom Fears with the New Orleans Saints from 1967-70.

Following retirement from his playing career, Rivera went into broadcasting. He covered the Bears and college football as a television analyst for WGN and SportsChannel Chicago for four years from 1993-96. Selected in the second round of the 1984 NFL Draft by Chicago, Rivera played all nine of his pro seasons with the Bears. Primarily an outside linebacker, he appeared in 149 games with 62 starts (including 12 postseason contests with six starts) and posted 392 tackles, 7.5 sacks, five forced fumbles, four fumble recoveries, nine interceptions and 15 passes defensed. Rivera was a member of six NFC Central division title teams and a Super Bowl XX championship team in 1985.

As a player, Rivera was known for both his skill and determination on the field and his dedication of time and energy to the community. As a result, he was named the Bears' Man of the Year in 1988 and earned the club's Ed Block Courage Award in 1989. He has carried that same community commitment to coaching, sponsoring a bowling tournament to benefit the Ronald McDonald House, USO and Humane Society. He was a finalist for the 2017 Salute to Service Award, an annual award presented to NFL players, coaches, personnel and alumni who demonstrate an exemplary commitment to honoring and supporting the military community.

Rivera, who lost his brother Mickey to pancreatic cancer in 2015, also serves as a spokesman for the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network. He has twice been the honorary starter for the organization's PurpleStride 5K in Charlotte. An All-American at the University of California, Rivera finished his career as the school's all-time leader in sacks with 22 and tackles with 336. As a senior in 1983, he set the Bears' single-season record for sacks with 13 and tackles for loss with 26.5.

Born Jan. 7, 1962, in Fort Ord, Calif., Rivera lived in Germany, Panama, Washington and Maryland before his family settled in Marina, Calif. He attended Seaside High School in Seaside, Calif., and was a three-sport star in football, basketball and baseball. Rivera and his wife, Stephanie, have two children, Christopher and Courtney. Stephanie is a former assistant coach for the WNBA's Washington Mystics.



BARBARA ALLEN Coaching Staff Assistant // NFL Experience: 35 Years



NATALIA DORANTES Coordinator of Football Programs // NFL Experience: 2 Years

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SCOTT TURNER

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR 11TH NFL SEASON / 3RD WITH WASHINGTON

Scott Turner is entering his third season as the offensive coordinator of the Commanders after being hired on Jan. 8, 2020. He will be entering his 11th NFL season and has held positions with the Carolina Panthers, Cleveland Browns and Minnesota Vikings during his NFL career.

In 2021, Turner aided several players in reaching significant milestones, including wide receiver Terry McLaurin and running back Antonio Gibson, both of whom reached the 1,000 receiving and rushing yard plateau respectively. Washington had a 1,000-yard rusher and receiver in the same season for the first time since 2014.

McLaurin has recorded 1,000 yards in each of his first two seasons under Turner, becoming the first receiver to record two straight 1,000-yard seasons in Washington since Henry Ellard did so in 1994-96.

Turner led an offense that recorded the sixth-most rushing yards and the sixth-most rushing yards per game in the NFC. Washington averaged 30:44 minutes of offensive possession, the 10th-most in the NFL.

In Turner's offense, running back J.D. McKissic recorded the second-most receptions [80] and fifth-most receiving yards [589] for a running back in a season in franchise history.

Washington started four different quarterbacks during the 2020 season, combining for the secondmost completions in a single season in franchise history [389]. Under Turner's tutelage, two players amassed 1,000 yards in 2020. Running back Antonio Gibson became the first Washington rookie to gain 1,000 scrimmage yards since Alfred Morris in 2012, as Terry McLaurin became the first Washington wide receiver with 1,000 yards in a season since 2016.

The offense in Washington took leaps in the second half of last season, registering 2,916 second-half scrimmage yards. It marks the seventh-most in a single season in club history and most since 2016 [3,635], since the stat was officially recorded in 1991.

Turner came to Washington from Carolina, where he served as quarterbacks coach as well as interim offensive coordinator in 2019.

In 2018, Turner helped quarterback Cam Newton post a franchise-record 67.9 completion percentage, despite playing through injury. The Panthers finished 10th in the league in net yards [373.3], the second-highest season average in club history.

Turner served as quarterbacks coach with the Minnesota Vikings from 2014-16, helping quarterback Sam Bradford to set a then-NFL record in completion percentage [71.6].

In 2014, he assisted Teddy Bridgewater in setting virtually every franchise rookie passing record, and producing the third-best completion percentage [64.6] and seventh-highest passer rating [85.2] in NFL history for a rookie.

In 2013, Turner coached wide receivers for the Cleveland Browns, helping Josh Gordon to the best receiving season in Browns history. Despite appearing in just 14 games, he became the first player in Browns history to lead the NFL in receiving yards (1,646).

Turner entered NFL coaching with two seasons as offensive quality control coach for the Panthers in 2011 and 2012. The Panthers recorded two of the top four seasons in franchise history in terms of net yards, setting the all-time mark with 389.8 yards per game in 2011 and 360.7 in 2012. Newton was named NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year in 2011. His 14 rushing touchdowns broke the NFL record for rushing touchdowns by a quarterback and were just one shy of the NFL record of rushing touchdowns by a rookie.



JIM HOSTLER SENIOR OFFENSIVE ASSISTANT NFL EXPERIENCE: 23 YEARS



RANDY JORDAN RUNNING BACKS NFL EXPERIENCE: 19 YEARS



DREW TERRELL WIDE RECEIVERS NFL EXPERIENCE: 5 YEARS



KEN ZAMPESE QUARTERBACKS NFL EXPERIENCE:

24 YEARS



TODD STORM ASST. TIGHT ENDS NFL EXPERIENCE: 5 YEARS



JUAN CASTILLO TIGHT ENDS NFL EXPERIENCE: 26 YEARS



LUKE DEL RIO ASST. QUARTERBACKS/ OFFENSIVE QUALITY CONTROL NFL EXPERIENCE: 3 YEARS

18



JOHN MATSKO OFFENSIVE LINE NFL EXPERIENCE: 31 YEARS



JENNIFER KING ASST. RUNNING BACKS NFL EXPERIENCE: 5 YEARS



TRAVELLE WHARTON ASST. OFFENSIVE LINE NFL EXPERIENCE: 15 YEARS



TYRAE REID JR. OFFENSIVE ASST. NFL EXPERIENCE: 1 YEAR

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ISIVE COOF 35TH NFL SEASON (24 COACHING/11 PLAYING) / 3RD WITH WASHINGTON

Jack Del Rio enters his 24th season coaching in the NFL and his third as the Commanders defensive coordinator in 2022 after being named to the position on Jan. 2, 2020.

In 2021, Del Rio oversaw a defense that featured defensive tackle Jonathan Allen, who set careerhighs in sacks (9.0) and quarterback hits (30). Washington's defense allowed the eighth-fewest rushing yards per game and recorded the best defensive tackle team grade in the NFL according to Pro Football Focus.

In 2020, Del Rio helped lead a defense that ranked in the top 10 in total yards per game (6th), passing vards per game (5th), interception rate (8th), red zone percentage (3rd) and total points per game (7th).

Del Rio has accumulated 35 combined seasons of NFL experience, including 24 as a coach and 11 as a player. He has held head coaching roles with the Oakland Raiders, Denver Broncos (interim) and Jacksonville Jaguars. He has also coached 29 players to a total of 57 Pro Bowl selections.

From 2015-17, Del Rio was the head coach of the Oakland Raiders. In 2016, he guided the Raiders to a 12-4 record, marking the franchise's first 12-win season since 2000. The Raiders earned a postseason berth for the first time since 2002 and landed an NFL-high seven players on the AFC Pro Bowl squad. Del Rio was selected as the recipient of the Maxwell Club's Greasy Neale Professional Coach of the Year Award, becoming the sixth Raiders coach to earn NFL Coach of the Year honors. In addition, he was named the AFC Coach of the Year by Kansas City's Committee of 101.

As defensive coordinator with the Denver Broncos from 2012-14, Del Rio was part of three-straight AFC West titles and helped lead Denver to an AFC Championship and appearance in Super Bowl XLVIII following the 2013 campaign. It marked his second stint under Head Coach John Fox, as the two also spent the 2002 season together in Carolina.

Prior to joining the Broncos in 2012, Del Rio spent nine seasons at the helm in Jacksonville. During his head coaching tenure (2003-11) with the Jaguars, the club ranked sixth in the NFL in yards per game allowed (317.3) and eighth in points per game allowed (20.3).

Under Del Rio, the Jaguars made two playoff appearances in 2005 and 2007, highlighted by the club's first postseason win in eight seasons with a 31-29 road victory against the Pittsburgh Steelers in the 2007 AFC Wild Card Game.

During his lone season as a defensive coordinator with Carolina in 2002, he inherited the NFL's worst defense statistically (371.4 yards per game allowed) and turned it into the league's second-ranked unit (290.4 yards per game allowed). Additionally, the 2002 Panthers squad led the NFL in rushing average against (3.7 avg.) and ranked second in third down efficiency (32.9 percent) and sacks (52).

As linebackers coach for the Baltimore Ravens from 1999-2001, Del Rio tutored a talented group that included Peter Boulware, Ray Lewis and Jamie Sharper. Baltimore's 2000 team set the NFL 16-game record by allowing only 165 points while recording four shutouts and forcing a leaguebest 49 turnovers. Lewis was named the NFL's

Defensive Player of the Year and the MVP of Super Bowl XXXV that season after a playoff run in which the defense surrendered just one touchdown in four games.

Del Rio began his coaching career with the New Orleans Saints under Head Coach Mike Ditka, serving as an assistant strength coach in 1997 before moving on to coach the linebackers in 1998.

A veteran of 11 seasons as an NFL linebacker, he was selected in the third round (68th overall) of the 1985 NFL Draft by New Orleans and went on to make the NEL's All-Rookie Team and earn the Saints' Rookie of the Year award.

Del Rio was a four-year starter at the University of Southern California, where he earned consensus All-American honors as a senior and was runnerup for the Lombardi Award, given to the nation's best lineman or linebacker. Named co-MVP of the 1985 Rose Bowl, Del Rio recorded 340 career defensive stops, including 58 tackles for a loss. A standout catcher on the USC baseball team, Del Rio was drafted by the Toronto Blue Jays in 1981. He was inducted into the USC Athletic Hall of Fame in May 2015.

Del Rio was a three-sport star in football, baseball and basketball at Hayward (Calif.) High School. He earned a degree in political science from the University of Kansas while playing for the Chiefs.

Del Rio and his wife, Linda, have three daughters, Lauren, Hope and Aubrey, and a son, Luke, who also works for Washington as an offensive quality control coach and assistant quarterbacks coach.



JEFF ZGONINA DEFENSIVE LINE NFL EXPERIENCE: 24 YEARS



RVAN KERRIGAN ASST. DEFENSIVE LINE NFL EXPERIENCE: 12 YEARS



CHRIS HARRIS DEFENSIVE BACKS NFL EXPERIENCE: 17 YEARS

BRENT VIESEI MEVER

ASST. DEFENSIVE BACKS

NFL EXPERIENCE:

5 YEARS



LINEBACKERS NFL EXPERIENCE: 11 YEARS



VINCENT RIVERA ASSISTANT LINEBACKERS/ DEFENSIVE QUALITY CONTROL DEFENSIVE QUALITY CONTROL NFL EXPERIENCE: 6 YEARS



RICHARD ROGERS ASST. DEFENSIVE BACKS NFL EXPERIENCE: 10 YEARS



CRISTIAN GARCIA NFL EXPERIENCE: 2 YEARS



SPECIAL TEAMS COORDINATOR

15TH NFL SEASON / 4TH WITH WASHINGTON

Nate Kaczor (pronounced Kat-sir) enters his fourth season as special teams coordinator with Washington in 2022. He will be entering his 15th NFL season and has held positions with the Jacksonville Jaguars, Tennessee Titans and Tampa Bay Buccaneers during his NFL career.

In 2021, Kaczor led a special teams unit that finished with the sixth-most total return yards in the NFL which was the most by the organization since 2015. The unit also allowed 643 kickoff return yards, the seventh fewest in the NFL. Washington punted for an average of 47.4 yards, the seventh-most in the league.

In 2020, Kaczor helped standout punter Tress Way record the highest single season net punting average [44.3] in franchise history. Way broke his own record from 2019 [44.1], also under the direction of Kaczor. Way also set a franchise record for most punting yards in a single game, punting 10 times for 511 yards against the Rams in Week 5. Washington led the league in net punting yards in 2020 with 3,325.

In 2019, Kaczor helped guide punter Tress Way to his first Pro Bowl selection. Way was also named to the Associated Press All-Pro Second Team. Way finished the season No. 2 in net average (44.1) and No. 2 in punt yardage (3,919) and No. 7 in punts inside the 20 yard line (30). Under Kaczor's guidance, Washington ranked No. 4 in the league in kickoff return average (25.2) and No. 5 in kickoff return yardage (833) despite fielding one of the league's youngest rosters.

Under Kaczor's guidance, Tress Way became the first Washington punter since Matt Turk in 1997 to

be named to the Pro Bowl. Steven Sims Jr. (NFC Special Teams Player of the Week in Week 12) and Tress Way (NFC Special Teams Player of the Week in Week 13) were also the first players in the history of the franchise to receive the honor of NFC Special Teams Player of the Week in consecutive weeks.

During Kaczor's three seasons with Tampa Bay, the Buccaneers were one of the top punt coverage units in the NFL, allowing only 6.6 yards per return, the fourth-lowest mark in the league during that span.

Punter Bryan Anger was a standout during Kaczor's tenure with the Buccaneers. In his first year with the team, Anger set Buccaneers records for both punts inside the 20 (37) and net punting average (42.7), with both of those ranking in the top five in the NFL in 2016. In the three seasons that Anger spent under Kaczor's tutelage, Anger ranked top 15 in the league in punts inside the 20 and net average while only recording 14 touchbacks.

Kaczor came to Tampa Bay having spent the previous four seasons with the Tennessee Titans, the final three as the teams' special teams coordinator (2013-15) after being hired as the assistant offensive line coach in his first season (2012). In 2015, the Titans tied for the NFL lead in special teams takeaways, while in 2013 Kaczor's unit ranked third in the league in opponent punt return average and eighth in kickoff return average.

Kaczor entered the NFL as an assistant special teams coach with the Jacksonville Jaguars, working there from 2008-11. During those four years, Jacksonville had one of the league's top special teams coverage units, allowing the lowest punt return average in the NFL (6.5 avg.) and the eighthlowest kickoff return average (21.8 avg.). In each of Kaczor's final two seasons, Montell Owens earned Pro Bowl recognition as a special teams player.

Prior to joining the NFL, Kaczor spent 17 years coaching in college, the final two working as cooffensive coordinator (2007) and tight ends coach (2006) at Louisiana-Monroe. In his only season as co-offensive coordinator, the team ranked second in the Sun Belt Conference in rushing offense and averaged its most points scored since 1993.

Before his time at Louisiana-Monroe, Kaczor spent two seasons (2004-05) as the co-offensive coordinator/tight ends coach at Idaho and four seasons as offensive coordinator/quarterbacks coach at Nebraska-Kearney (2000-03). Kaczor began his coaching career as an offensive assistant at his alma mater, Utah State, working as an offensive assistant for nine seasons (1991-99), helping the team win three conference championships.

A center at Utah State, Kaczor was a team captain, who earned all-conference honors in 1989. A native of Scott City, Kansas, he and his wife, Angie, have two children, Kaylee and Micah, who is currently a pitcher in the Colorado Rockies organization.



BEN JACOBS ASST. SPECIAL TEAMS NFL EXPERIENCE: 12 YEARS





DOUG WILLAMS SENIOR ADVISOR TO THE PRESIDENT

26TH NFL SEASON

Doug Williams is Senior Advisor to Washington Commanders President Jason Wright. In his role, Doug leverages his vast experience with the team as a player, ambassador, and executive to provide counsel on all matters pertaining to the establishment of a new, modern identity for the team.

Previously, Doug served as Washington's senior vice president of player development. In that role, one of the most celebrated athletes in franchise history helped lead and guide the efforts of the team's player development department.

Doug, a member of the "Inaugural 70 Greatest Washington Players" and franchise's Ring of Fame, played with the team from 1986-89 and led Washington to a Super Bowl XXII title, which was a 42-10 rout of the Denver Broncos. The first African-American quarterback to play in a Super Bowl, he completed 18-of-29 passes for 340 yards with four touchdown passes to earn Super Bowl XXII MVP honors.

Doug is a veteran of 21 NFL seasons, including nine as a player and 12 in scouting/personnel roles. He spent five seasons as Personnel Executive with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers from 2004-08 before being named the team's Director of Pro Personnel for the 2009 season.

Doug joined the Buccaneers' front office in 2004 following a successful tenure as head coach at his alma mater, Grambling State, and one of the most storied playing careers in league and team history. His responsibilities in Tampa included coordinating the scouting and recruiting of all NFL players, while also monitoring NFL transactions and overseeing player tryouts. In addition, he was in charge of Tampa Bay's evaluating efforts of all other professional football leagues, including the Canadian Football League.

A first-round pick by Tampa Bay in the 1978 NFL Draft (17th overall), he led the Buccaneers to the

first three playoff appearances in team history. He propelled the team to three winning seasons (10-6 in 1979, 9-7 in 1981 and 5-4 in 1982). They were the only campaigns in franchise history with a winning record until more than 15 years later, in the 1997 season. He started 67 career games for the Buccaneers and was a two-time team MVP in 1980 and 1981. He ended his Tampa Bay career in 1982 as the all-time franchise leader in touchdown passes, passing yards, attempts and completions.

In 1986, Washington traded for Williams' rights following two seasons with the USFL's Oklahoma Outlaws. In his Super Bowl XXII MVP performance following the 1987 season, he set or tied several Super Bowl passing records, including most TD passes (four), most yards passing (340), longest pass completion (80 yards) and longest TD pass (80 yards).

In six seasons during his first tenure (1998-2003) at Grambling State, Doug brought one of the most storied programs in college football history back to prominence, compiling a 52-18 record as head coach after succeeding the legendary Eddie Robinson, who was at the helm for 57 years from 1941-97 and re-wrote the record books as the winningest coach in the history of college football with 408 career wins.

Williams led the Tigers to three consecutive Southwestern Athletic Conference titles from 2000-02, as they were named National Black College Champions during the same three-year span. He was also named SWAC Coach of the Year in each of those three seasons. Williams was a two-time finalist for The Sports Network Eddie Robinson (Division I-AA) National Coach of the Year. He rejoined the program for three seasons from 2011-13, including earning the SWAC title in his first season back in 2011.

Doug started his college head coaching career at Morehouse College in 1997. He also has previous NFL experience as a scout for the Jacksonville Jaguars in 1995 and as offensive coordinator for the Scottish Claymores of the World League in 1995 and tutoring running backs for Navy in 1994. He also excelled on the high school level as head coach and athletic director at Point Coupee H.S. in New Roads, La., in 1991. In 1993, he was head coach at Northeast H.S. in his hometown of Zachary, La., where he guided the team to a 13-1 record and the state semifinals, including a win over Peyton Manning's Isidore Newman squad in the 1993 state quarterfinals.

As Grambling's quarterback from 1974-77, he had a spectacular college career as he passed for more than 8,000 yards and 93 touchdowns, leading the Tigers to three Black College National Championships and two SWAC titles. He posted a 35-5 record as a starter and finished fourth in voting for the 1977 Heisman Trophy.

In 2005, Doug and Shack Harris established The Shack Harris & Doug Williams Foundation with the function of providing grants for afterschool initiatives, leadership development, mentoring programs and minority higher education assistance for economically disadvantaged youth. In March of 2009, the foundation put on its first annual Washington Football Legends for Charity in Washington, D.C. In 2010, the foundation established the Black College Football Hall of Fame, which will move to its new home in Canton, Ohio in 2018.

After Super Bowl XLII, the NFL honored the 20th anniversary of his Super Bowl XXII victory as Williams was chosen to present the Lombardi Trophy to the New York Giants following their victory over the New England Patriots.

Doug and his wife, Raunda, have eight children: Ashley, Adrian, Carmeleta, Doug, Jr., Jasmine, Laura, Lee and Temessia.



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ARTIN MAYHEW

33RD NFL SEASON (24 FRONT OFFICE/9 PLAYING) / 6TH WITH WASHINGTON



Martin Mayhew enters his second season as General Manager of the Washington Commanders after being hired by the organization on January 22, 2021.

Mayhew joined Washington with 22 seasons of NFL experience as an executive, including eight seasons as the general manager of the Detroit Lions. He returns to the franchise that he played for from 1989-92 and was a member of the Super Bowl XXVI team.

"Martin is a proven general manager who will bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the organization," said head coach Ron Rivera. "He will be an integral part of running the daily football operations and will allow me the opportunity to focus more on coaching. He impressed both myself and Mr. Snyder during the interview process and we both believe he will be a tremendous fit here. He is a man of high character and integrity and was part of the rich history and tradition of this great franchise as a member of the Super Bowl championship team in 1991."

Mayhew spent the previous four season with the San Francisco 49ers, most recently as the club's vice president of player personnel. He held the position of senior personnel executive for the franchise from 2017-18. Mayhew assisted first-time general manager John Lynch and was a major contributor to a personnel department that was vital in the team's Super Bowl appearance in 2019.

Prior to joining San Francisco, Mayhew spent the 2016 season as the director of football operations/ special projects with the New York Giants. In his role with the Giants, he worked on all aspects of the salary cap, CBA compliance and player contract negotiations.

Prior to his time in New York, Mayhew spent 15 years (2001-15) in the Detroit Lions organization, including the final seven as the team's general manager. He took over as the general manager following Detroit's winless season and oversaw the building of a roster that resulted in a 10-win season in 2011 and an 11-win season in 2014.

During Mayhew's tenure as Lions general manager, he was responsible for the draft selections of Pro Bowlers QB Matthew Stafford, DE Ezekiel Ansah and DT Ndamukong Suh. Suh was a four-time Pro Bowler and three-time First Team All-Pro selection with Detroit and was the 2010 NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year. Mayhew was also responsible for signing WR Golden Tate and S Glover Quin in free agency, both of whom went on to earn Pro Bowl honors in Detroit. Mayhew first joined the Lions organization in 2001 as the senior director of football administration/staff counsel and was promoted to senior vice president of football administration/staff counsel in 2003. Mayhew was appointed senior vice president and assistant general manager in 2004. In 2008, Mayhew was promoted to general manager.

Mayhew played nine seasons in the NFL and was originally selected by the Buffalo Bills in the 10th round (262nd overall) in the 1988 NFL Draft. During Mayhew's nine-year career, he appeared in 118 games (107 starts) for Buffalo (1988), Washington (1989-92) and Tampa Bay (1993-96) and notched 473 tackles, 21 interceptions, 1.0 sack and four forced fumbles. He started at cornerback for the Super Bowl XXVI champion Washington Redskins.

Mayhew is a native of Tallahassee, Fla. and graduated from Florida State University with a degree in business management and also holds a law degree from Georgetown University. At Florida State, he lettered in both football and track. Mayhew interned for Washington's personnel department in 1999 while in law school at Georgetown. He also held labor and legal department internships with the NFL League Office before joining the Detroit Lions.



ROB ROGERS

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF FOOTBALL ADMINISTRATION 28TH NFL SEASON / 3RD WITH WASHINGTON

Rob Rogers enters his 28th season in the NFL and third with the Washington Commanders in the role of Senior Vice President of Football Administration. In this role, Rogers works for the football senior leadership team on the development of player budget parameters, roster management, contract proposals, negotiation strategies and salary cap management. Rogers also oversees the club's football analytics department along with being one of the main liaison's between the football and business operations.

Prior to coming to Washington, Rogers held the title of executive director of player finance and football research. In this role, he worked closely with the Panthers general manager on the development of player budget parameters, roster management, contract proposals, negotiation strategies and salary cap management. He also oversaw the Panthers football analytics department and worked on research and analysis of player contracts and statistics. He directly conducted the majority of contract negotiations with player representatives during his time in this role.

Before gaining the title of executive director of player finance and football research, Rogers was the director of football administration for 11 years (2008-18). He negotiated contracts for all of the Panthers first round and other draft selections during a 16-year span (2003-19) along with numerous free agents. He also worked with the front office on issues dealing with the NFL Collective Bargaining agreement and as the club's liaison to the NFL Management Council, he kept the Panthers in compliance with all NFL personnel, contract and labor-related issues.

Starting in 2013, Rogers worked on developing efforts in analytics, football research in personnel, opponent analysis and self-scouting along with sports science and next gen statistics. He developed the in-house salary cap management database and also designed the current pro scouting system in Carolina and in the mid 90s worked with in-house developers to design and implement the initial opponent analysis and selfscouting system. Rogers worked extensively with Coach Rivera in Carolina on on-going efforts to develop game management analysis and practices.

Rogers is also a member of the NFL Club Services Committee, which is a group made of various front office executives from around the league, tasked with providing guidance and feedback on technology integration initiatives to the development staff of the NFL Management Council. He has served on the committee since 2002.

Rogers joined the Carolina Panthers in 1995 and worked as a quality control assistant along with helping out on the in-house business analytics team. He is a 1993 graduate of Harvard University and holds a degree in government.

Rogers and his wife Clair have two children: daughter Emma and son Brady.



MARTY HURNEY

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT OF FOOTBALL/PLAYER PERSONNEL 31ST NFL SEASON / 2ND WITH WASHINGTON

Marty Hurney enters his second season as Executive Vice President of Football/Player Personnel of the Washington Commanders after being hired by the organization on January 22, 2021.

Hurney joined Washington with 29 seasons of NFL experience as an executive and will rejoin the franchise where he started his NFL career as a member of the team's public relations department.

"Marty Hurney is an excellent evaluator of talent and someone whom I trust and have worked with in the past," said head coach Ron Rivera. "He knows the amount of hard work it takes to operate a successful personnel department. Marty has a proven track record as a successful scout and general manager and will be a vital part of shaping our roster. Both myself and Mr. Snyder agreed that he would bring an enormous amount of experience to our operation. It is also fitting that Marty started his career here working for the legendary Bobby Beathard. I look forward to collaborating with both Marty and Martin in the years to come."

Hurney was named the Carolina Panthers General Manager in 2002 and held the position until 2012. He was then brought back as the club's interim general manager in 2017 and maintained the official role from 2018-2020. During Hurney's tenure as general manager, the Panthers appeared in the postseason four times, with two NFC South titles, two trips to the NFC Championship game and an appearance in Super Bowl XXXVIII.

Hurney has had a strong number of draft selections in the first round. Most notably, he selected both QB Cam Newton and LB Luke Kuechly in the first round of consecutive drafts in 2011 and 2012. Newton went on to win NFL Rookie of the Year in 2011, NFL MVP in 2015 along with setting nearly every passing and rushing record in franchise history. Kuechly won NFL Rookie of the Year in 2012 and NFL Defensive Player of the Year in 2013 and was a seven-time Pro Bowl selection. Carolina was just the fourth team in NFL history to have consecutive players win rookie of the year honors since the awards inception in 1967.

Hurney's other notable first round selections include DE Julius Pepper (2002), T Jordan Gross (2003), CB Chris Gamble (2004), LB Thomas Davis Sr. (2005), RB DeAngelo Williams (2006), RB Jonathan Stewart (2008), WR DJ Moore (2018) and DE Brian Burns (2019). Peppers was selected to the Pro Bowl nine times, was the NFL Rookie of the Year in 2002 and is the Panthers' all-time leader in sacks. Gross started at tackle for the Panthers for 11 consecutive seasons, made three Pro Bowls and is the Panthers' all-time leader in games started. Gamble started at cornerback for the Panthers for nine seasons and is the all-time franchise leader in interceptions. Davis Sr. was selected to three Pro Bowls along with gaining First Team All-Pro honors in 2015 and is the Panthers all time leader in tackles. Stewart and Williams went on to compile 7,318 rushing yards and 6,846 rushing yards, which is No. 1 and No. 2 in Panthers' history, respectively. Moore has led Carolina in receiving and posted 1,000-plus receiving yards in consecutive seasons and was selected to the PFWA All-Rookie Team in 2018. Burns ranked No. 4 among rookies in sacks in 2019 and led the Panthers with 9.0 sacks in 2020.

During Hurney's tenure as Panthers GM, he also had considerable success in free agency and through trades. Hurney executed trades for TE Greg Olsen and long snapper J.J. Jansen who were both Pro Bowlers. Olsen holds the franchise record for receiving yards among tight ends and ranks No. 3 overall in receiving yards in franchise history. He also acquired RB Stephen Davis, QB Jake Delhomme, LB Mark Fields and G Mike Wahle via free agency. All four players were named to Pro Bowls during their time with Carolina. Delhomme ranks second behind only Cam Newton as the franchise's leader in passing yards and passing touchdowns.

Prior to being named general manager of the Panthers in 2002, Hurney held the position of coordinator of player operations from 1999-2001 and director of football administration in 1998.

Before joining the Carolina Panthers organization, Hurney held the role of coordinator of football operations with the San Diego Chargers under Pro Football Hall of Fame and Washington Ring of Fame executive Bobby Beathard. Hurney began his career as a reporter covering Washington in the 1980s. After developing relationships with Owner Jack Kent Cooke, General Manager Bobby Beathard and Head Coach Joe Gibbs, Hurney joined Washington's public relations department in 1988.

Hurney is a native of Wheaton, Md. and attended Catholic University in Washington D.C. Before joining Washington's public relations department, he worked for the Montgomery Journal, Washington Star and Washington Times.





SENIOR DIRECTOR OF PLAYER DEVELOPMENT

28TH NFL SEASON / 16TH WITH WASHINGTON

Malcolm Blacken is entering his third season as Senior Director of Player Development after serving seven seasons as Director of Player Development for Washington. Blacken was named to the elevated position on Jan. 9, 2020.

Blacken's hiring served to start his third stint with Washington after having previously served as a strength and conditioning coach for Washington on two occasions (1996-2000 and 2010). In his last season in Washington in 2010, Blacken was responsible for assisting with all aspects of the Redskins' strength and conditioning program.

In his current role, Blacken guides the development and education of Washington players as it pertains to both their personal and professional lives. His guidance covers topics including but not limited to: financial education; healthy and unhealthy relationships; total wellness and mental health; league policies on substance abuse, performance enhancing drugs and personal conduct; social responsibility; social media; decision making; stress and time management; team history and tradition; and the expectations of being a player in the National Football League.

In addition, Blacken works hand-in-hand with Washington 's Charitable Foundation and was a principal figure in instituting the team's Rookie Community Club, which annually takes the team's rookies and immediately integrates them into the Washington, D.C. area community through a series of service efforts. He also provides assistance with continuing education and offers guidance for players' academic pursuits.

From 2011-12, Blacken served as Director of Speed, Strength & Conditioning for the University of Colorado. He worked directly with the football program on a day-to-day basis while overseeing the speed, strength and conditioning needs of all 16 of Colorado's varsity programs.

In between his first two stops in Washington, Blacken spent nine years as the Detroit Lions' strength and conditioning coach from 2001-09. Blacken was an assistant strength coach for the University of Virginia's football program in 1995 and worked with all other sports in the Cavaliers' athletic department as well. For three years (1992-94), Blacken served as the head strength and conditioning coach for George Mason University, where he oversaw the program for all of the university's varsity sports.

Blacken began his coaching career at the University of South Carolina in 1990-91 as the football program's assistant strength and conditioning coach.

Blacken graduated from Virginia Tech in 1989 with bachelor's degrees in art and physical education.

He was a Hokies running back from 1984-88 and was a four-time letter winner. While at Virginia Tech, Blacken was a two-time winner of the Super Iron Hokie Award (1987-88), which is given yearly to the football program's strongest player at each position.

Off the field, Blacken is an accomplished artist whose paintings have been displayed across the country. Recently, he participated in the 2016 NFLPA Smocks and Jocks art auction in Houston for Super Bowl LI and the 2019 NFLPA Smocks and Jocks art auction in Atlanta for Super Bowl LIII, with proceeds donated to the retired players fund. More about Blacken's art can be accessed by visiting BlackXGallery.com.

Blacken currently resides in Ashburn, Virginia, with his wife, Marcy. The couple has two children, Maya and Bo.



ALEXIS DOTSON SEASONAL PLAYER DEVELOPMENT HBCU INTERN NFL EXPERIENCE: 1 YEAR





ERIC STOKES SENIOR DIRECTOR OF PLAYER PERSONNEL

25TH NFL SEASON (21 FRONT OFFICE/2 PLAYING) / 3RD WITH WASHINGTON

Eric Stokes is entering his third season with Washington and his second as Washington's senior director of player personnel after serving as the director of pro personnel in 2021. In this role, he oversees the day-to-day operations of the personnel department.

Stokes brings 25 combined years of NFL experience to the role. He joined Washington after spending five seasons with the Carolina Panthers in a variety of roles, including director of college scouting, regional director of college scouting and southwest area scout.

As the director of college scouting for the Panthers, Stokes oversaw a college scouting staff that was tasked with targeting and tracking drafteligible prospects, as he worked with area scouts. He was responsible for the pre-draft evaluation process at the NFL Combine, pro days and visits by draft-eligible players.

Prior to joining Carolina, Stokes spent two seasons (2014-15) as the assistant general manager of the Miami Dolphins. In his role, Stokes assisted in all aspects of player evaluation and acquisitions at the professional and collegiate levels, including the daily management and makeup of the Dolphins roster as well as guiding the team's preparation for the annual NFL Draft.

From 2012-13, Stokes was the director of college scouting for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Prior to joining the Buccaneers, Stokes spent 12 seasons as a member of the Seattle Seahawks scouting staff, working as an area scout (2000-01, 2005-09) and pro personnel assistant (2002-04) before serving as assistant director of college scouting from 2010-11. In that role, Stokes was instrumental in bringing in defensive standouts safeties Earl Thomas and Kam Chancellor, linebacker Bobby Wagner and cornerback Richard Sherman.

Stokes played two seasons as a safety for the Seahawks after being selected in the fifth round of the 1997 NFL Draft. He was selected by the Cleveland Browns in the 1999 expansion draft before an injury cut his career short.

Stokes graduated from the University of Nebraska with a degree in sociology. He and his wife, Tisa, have three daughters, Erisa, Payton and Madison.

PLAYER PERSONNEL STAFF

BRENT CAPRIO

PRO SCOUT

PETER PICERELLI COLLEGE SCOUT

PAUL SKANSI

CONNOR BARRINGER

PRO SCOUT

CHUCK COOK

COLLEGE SCOUT

DAVID WHITTINGTON

HARRISON RITCHER COLLEGE SCOUT

TYLER CLAYTOR BLESTO SCOUT **JEFF BEATHARD**

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Tim Gribble is entering his 23rd season in the NFL (21st with Washington) and his second as the Director of College Personnel. He was promoted to his current role on Jan. 14, 2020.

Gribble oversees the organization's evaluation of collegiate talent and manage scouting efforts at both the area and national levels.

Gribble previously assisted Kyle Smith and Washington's personnel staff by providing evaluations of collegiate talent at the national level.

DIRECTOR OF COLLEGE PERSONNEL 23RD NFL SEASON / 6TH WITH WASHINGTON

Prior to his promotion to assistant director of college scouting in 2017, Gribble spent the previous 11 seasons as an area scout for Washington. He originally joined Washington in 2002 and served as a pro personnel assistant, later adding responsibility as the team's Northeast scout in 2003. He also covered the South and Midwest regions at various points during his first 16 years with the organization.

Before coming to Washington, Gribble spent two seasons with the Pittsburgh Steelers as an assistant in the scouting department. Prior to joining the NFL, he was an assistant coach for his alma mater, Duquesne University. He served as the Dukes' special teams coordinator (1996-2000), defensive line coach (1996-98) and running backs coach (1998-2000).

Gribble was a four-year starter (1992-96) at fullback and team captain at Duquesne. He also played baseball for the Dukes and earned dual degrees in psychology and sociology. He is married to his wife, Jennifer.



CHARS POLIAN DIRECTOR OF PRO PERSONNEL 26TH NFL SEASON / 2ND WITH WASHINGTON

Chris Polian enters his 26th season in the NFL and second as Washington's director of pro personnel in 2022. He joined Washington with 24 seasons of NFL experience as an executive and scout, including three seasons as vice president and general manager of the Indianapolis Colts.

Polian was most recently the director of pro personnel with the Jacksonville Jaguars from 2013-2019. He played a major factor in the team's free agency signings in 2017 of DE Calais Campbell, DT Malik Jackson and CB A.J. Bouye who were all Pro Bowl selections during their tenures in Jacksonville. In that offseason, he also helped target S Barry Church who along with Campbell, Jackson and Bouye helped anchor a defense that was ranked No. 2 in the NFL in 2017 and helped Jacksonville capture an AFC South title and appearance in the AFC Championship game.

Prior to his seven seasons with the Jaguars, Polian was an executive scout with the Atlanta Falcons in 2012 and also spent three seasons as vice president and general manager of the Indianapolis Colts from 2009-11. He started his career with Indianapolis in 1998 as the director of pro scouting from 1998-2000. Polian then held the position of assistant director of football operations from 2001-03 and was promoted to assistant general manager/football operations in 2004 and spent five seasons as the vice president of football operations from 2005-09. Prior to joining the Colts, Polian worked with the Carolina Panthers for four years (1994-97) as a personnel assistant.

During Polian's tenure in Indianapolis from 1998-

2011, the Colts had a regular season record of 143-81 with playoff appearances in 10 of 14 seasons including seven division titles and a Super Bowl championship in 2006. The franchise also became the only team to win 12-plus games in seven consecutive seasons during that timeframe.

Polian is a native of New York, N.Y. and earned a bachelor's degree in communications from John Carroll University in 1993. His father, Bill, a 2016 Pro Football Hall of Fame Inductee was a general manager of the Buffalo Bills, Indianapolis Colts and Carolina Panthers. His brother, Brian, is the special teams coordinator at Notre Dame and his brother, Dennis, was the associate athletic director, football at the University of Arizona. He and his wife, Debbie, have three children, Jack (18), Caroline (16) and Kate (13).



AD ATHLETIC TRAINER 26TH NFL SEASON / 14TH WITH WASHINGTON

Al Bellamy enters his second stint in Washington after spending the last nine seasons as the director of athletic training for Temple University. While working directly with the football team, he also oversaw all 19 of Temple's intercollegiate sports and also managed the sports medicine staff.

Prior to arriving at Temple, Bellamy spent 25 years in the NFL, including 12 seasons with the Detroit Lions and 13 seasons in Washington. With Detroit, Bellamy helped manage the team's athletic training staff and worked closely with the team's physicians.

Bellamy started his NFL career as an assistant trainer in Washington in 1988. He was a member of Washington's medical staff when the team won

Super Bowl XXVI at the end of the 1991 season. Bellamy worked with 21 members of the Pro Football Hall of Fame including Morten Anderson, Champ Bailey, Bobby Beathard, Fred Dean, Edward DeBartolo, Joe Gibbs, Darrell Green, Russ Grimm, Charles Haley, Michael Irvin, Ronnie Lott, Bobby Mitchell, Art Monk, Joe Montana, Jerry Rice, Charley Sanders, Deion Sanders, Bruce Smith, Charley Taylor, Emmitt Thomas and Bill Walsh.

Prior to joining Washington for his first stint, he served as an assistant athletic trainer with the University of Miami (FL) football team from 1986-87. He was a member of the 1987 National Championship medical team.

Bellamy earned his master's degree in health

education in 1984 from Syracuse University. As an undergrad, he attended Michigan State and received his bachelor's degree in health education in 1984. While at MSU, he began working in the NFL when he served training camp internships with both the St. Louis Cardinals and San Francisco 49ers.

Prior to attending Michigan State, Bellamy attended Archbishop John Carroll High School in Washington, D.C.

Bellamy and his wife, Sharon, have two children -son Chase, and daughter Ashley.



CHAD ENGLEHART HEAD OF STRENGTH & CONDITIONING NEL EXPERIENCE. 13 YEARS



KAVAN LATHAM ASST. STRENGTH & CONDITIONING NEL EXPERIENCE 10 YEARS



JAKE SANKAL ASST. STRENGTH & CONDITIONING/NUTRITION NEL EXPERIENCE 7 YEARS



RYAN VERMILLION JR. ASST. STRENGTH & CONDITIONING NEL EXPERIENCE 2 YEARS



BRETT NENABER NFL EXPERIENCE: 10 YEARS

MARK MCCRACKEN DIR. PLAYER PERFORMANCE ASST. HEAD ATHLETIC TRAINER NFL EXPERIENCE: 7 YEARS



MASAHIRO TAKAHAGI ASST. ATHLETIC TRAINER NFL EXPERIENCE: **5 YEARS**



JEFF RUIZ DIR. OF REHABILITATION & PHYSICAL THERAPIST NFL EXPERIENCE: 2 YEARS

ANDREW PARKER. MD TEAM PHYSICIAN AND ORTHOPEDICS

MICHAEL ANTONIS, MD TEAM PHYSICIAN PRIMARY SPORT CARE MEDICINE

KEITH SMITHSON, OO TEAM OPTOMETRIST



DR. BARBARA ROBERTS DIR. WELLNESS & CLINICAL SERVICES NFL EXPERIENCE: 25 YEARS

DR. HIRAD NAJAFBAGY

TEAM CHIROPRACTOR

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SID CHANDELA, MD
  TEAM NEUROLOGIST
     CONSULTANT
```

TONY CASOLARO. MD

CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER INTERNAL MEDICINE

DAVID NOVAK, MD TEAM PHYSICIAN AND ORTHOPEDICS



DR. JESSALYNN ADAM TEAM PHYSICIAN PRIMARY SPORT CARE MEDICINE

TEAM DENTIST



WIKE BRACKEN

24TH NFL SEASON / 24TH WITH WASHINGTON

Mike Bracken is entering his 24th season with Washington and his 20th as the head of the video department in 2022. His responsibilities include overseeing the daily operations, including assisting the coaching and scouting staffs with game tape and player highlights. Bracken conducts the editing of video from all practices and games, produces "cut-ups" of upcoming opponents, and creates highlight tapes for use in meetings throughout the season. He is also in charge of purchasing and maintaining video and digital equipment.

Bracken joined Washington after serving as video coordinator for the University of South Carolina men's basketball team for the 1999-2000 season and the University of Southern California men's basketball and football teams in 1998. He originally entered the National Football League as a video intern with the Philadelphia Eagles (1997-98). Bracken graduated from Lycoming College where he played defensive back and helped his team to two conference titles. A native of Clifton Heights, Pennsylvania, Bracken and his wife, Dawn Marie, have three children: daughter, Erin Marie, and sons,Tripp and Aidan. The family resides in Leesburg, Virginia.



MIKE ADAMS ASST. VIDEO DIRECTOR NFL EXPERIENCE: 13 YEARS



WILL KROM VIDEO ASSISTANT NFL EXPERIENCE: 8 YEARS



AARON CLEM VIDEO ASSISTANT NFL EXPERIENCE: 1 YEAR





Bryan Porter is in his 20th season in the NFL and second in Washington as director of football operations after being hired by the team in 2021. In his role, Porter directs the football operations team travel, budget, and supports the day-to-day logistics in the department.

Porter was the football operations manager from 2011-17, where he planned and executed all travel, including bus and hotel contracts, while also managing training camp operations.

Prior to his promotion to manager, Porter was the Panthers' football operations coordinator from 2006-11 and operations assistant from 2003-06. He worked as a team equipment intern in 2001 and 2002 after starting as an intern with the public relations department in the spring of 2001.

Porter played football at Guilford College from 1996-99. He earned his undergraduate degree from N.C. State in business management in 2001. Porter and his wife, Nicki, have two children, Davis and Henry.



MATT PETERSON FOOTBALL OPERATIONS ASSISTANT NFL EXPERIENCE: 3 YEARS



DREW CURLS ASST. EQUIPMENT MANAGER NFL EXPERIENCE: 7 YEARS



JUSTIN BROOKS EQUIPMENT ASSISTANT NFL EXPERIENCE: 6 YEARS



JERELLE LEVERITTE EQUIPMENT ASSISTANT NFL EXPERIENCE: 1 YEAR

A LOOK BACK AT WEEK 1

PASSING								
NAME	COMP	ATT	COMP%	YARDS	TD			
Carson Wentz	27	41	65.9	313	4			
RUSHING								
NAME	ATT	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD			
Antonio Gibson RB	14	58	4.1	13	0			
Curtis Samuel WR	4	17	4.3	11	0			
Carson Wentz QB	6	12	2	8	0			
J.D. McKissic RB	3	8	2.7	5	0			
Jahan Dotson WR	1	-10	-10	-10	0			

RECEIVING								
NAME	REC	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD			
Antonio Gibson RB	7	72	10.3	26	0			
Terry McLaurin WR	2	58	29	49	1			
Curtis Samuel WR	8	55	6.9	13	1			
Logan Thomas TE	3	45	15	27	0			
Jahan Dotson WR	3	40	13.3	24	2			
Armani Rogers TE	1	23	23	23	0			
J.D. McKissic RB	3	20	6.7	10	0			

PUNTING					KICKING				
NAME	PNT	AVG	IN 20	LONG	NAME	FGA	FGM	LONG	FG%
Tress Way	147	49	0	57	Joey Slye	0	0	0	0%

A LOOK BACK AT WEEK 1 DEFENSIVE**STATS**

DEFENSE								
NAME	SOLO	AST	TOT	SACK	FF	FR	INT	TD
William Jackson III CB	8	1	9	0	0	0	0	1
Darrick Forrest S	4	1	5	0	1	0	1	0
Cole Holcomb LB	2	3	5	0	0	0	0	0
Benjamin St-Juste CB	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Kendall Fuller CB	3	1	4	0	0	0	0	0
Jamin Davis LB	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	1
Montez Sweat DE	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Bobby McCain S	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Daron Payne DT	2	1	3	1	0	0	0	0
Jonathan Allen DT	3	0	3	1	0	0	0	0
James Smith-Williams DE	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Jeremy Reaves S	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0
Jonathan Williams RB	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Jahan Dotson WR	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Percy Butler S	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Casey Toohill DE	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Carson Wentz QB	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Efe Obada DE	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0







WASHINGTON COMMANDERS





WK3





JOHN BATES 87 | TIGHT END



HA JON BOSTIC 53 | LINEBACKER



DYAMI BROWN 2 | WIDE RECEIVER



PERCY BUTLER 35 | SAFETY



TARIQ CASTRO-FIELDS 40 | CORNERBACK



SAAHDIQ CHARLES 77 | TACKLE



CAMARON CHEESEMAN 54 | LONG SNAPPER



SAM COSMI 76 | TACKLE





JAMIN DAVIS 52 | LINEBACKER



JAHAN DOTSON 1 | WIDE RECEIVER



MILO EIFLER 46 | LINEBACKER



DARRICK FORREST 22 | SAFETY



KENDALL FULLER 29 | CORNERBACH



ANTONIO GIBSON 24 | RUNNING BACK



TAYLOR HEINICKE 4 | QUARTERBACH



COLE HOLCOMB 55 | LINEBACKER



CHRISTIAN HOLMES 34 | CORNERBACK



SAM HOWELL 14 | QUARTERBACK



WILLIAM JACKSON III 3 | CORNERBACK



JOHN RIDGEWAY 91 | DEFENSIVE TACKLE



CHARLES LENO JR. 72 | TACKLE

CORNELIUS LUCAS 78 | TACKLE







WASHINGTON COMMANDERS





DAVID MAYO 51 | LINEBACKER



BOBBY MCCAIN 20 | SAFETY



J.D. MCKISSIC 23 | RUNNING BACK



TERRY MCLAURIN 17 | WIDE RECEIVER



DAX MILNE 15 | WIDE RECEIVER



ANDREW NORWELL 68 | GUARD



EFE OBADA 97 | DEFENSIVE END



CHRIS PAUL 75 | GUARD





JEREMY REAVES 39 | SAFETY





CHASE ROULLIER 73 | CENTER



CURTIS SAMUEL 10 | WIDE RECEIVER



WES SCHWEITZER 71 | GUARD



CAM SIMS 89 | WIDE RECEIVER



JOEY SLYE 6 | KICKER



JAMES SMITH-WILLIAMS 96 | DEFENSIVE END



BENJAMIN ST-JUSTE 25 | CORNERBACK



MONTEZ SWEAT 90 | DEFENSIVE END



LOGAN THOMAS 82 | TIGHT END



SHAKA TONEY 58 | DEFENSIVE END



CASEY TOOHILL 95 | DEFENSIVE END



COLE TURNER 85 | TIGHT END





TRESS WAY 5 | PUNTER

PLAYERS



CARSON WENTZ 11 | QUARTERBACK



RACHAD WILDGOOSE 37 | CORNERBACK



JONATHAN WILLIAMS 41 | RUNNING BACK



DANIEL WISE 92 | DEFENSIVE END

TRAI TURNER 53 | GUARD



WR

TERRY McLAURIN DYAMI BROWN

LT

CHARLES LENO JR. CORNELIUS LUCAS

LG ANDREW NORWELL CHRIS PAUL

ß WES SCHWEITZER WES MARTIN

RG

TRAI TURNER WES SCHWEITZER RT SAM COSMI SAAHDIQ CHARLES

LOGAN THOMAS JOHN BATES COLE TURNER ARMANI RODGERS

WR CURTIS SAMUEL DAX MILNE

WR JAHAN DOTSON CAM SIMS

OB

CARSON WENTZ TAYLOR HEINICKE SAM HOWELL

RB

ANTONIO GIBSON J.D. MCKISSIC JONATHAN WILLIAMS

[1]]

MONTEZ SWEAT CASEY TOOHILL

 $|1\rangle$ DARON PAYNE DANIEL WISE JOHN RIDGEWAY

JONATHAN ALLEN EFE OBADA

ŊF

JAMES SMITH-WILLIAMS SHAKA TONEY

OLB

JAMIN DAVIS JON BOSTIC MILO EIFLER MLB

COLE HOLCOMB DAVID MAYO

GB

KENDALL FULLER RACHAD WILDGOOSE

GB WILLIAM JACKSON III CHRISTIAN HOLMES

GB BENJAMIN ST-JUSTE

55

KAMREN CURL TARIQ CASTRO-FIELDS DARRICK FORREST

FS BOBBY MCCAIN PERCY BUTLER JEREMY REAVES









K







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PLAYERS INVATCH



WK3

JALEN HURTS 1 | OUARTERBACK



DEVONTA SMITH 6 | WIDE RECEIVER



A.J. BROWN 11 | WIDE RECEIVER



QUEZ WATKINS 16 | WIDE RECEIVER



DALLAS GOEDERT 88 | TIGHT END



MILES SANDERS 26 | RUNNING BACK



ISAAC SEUMALO 56 | GUARD



LANDON DICKERSON 69 | GUARD



JASON KELCE 62 | CENTER





LANE JOHNSON 65 | TACKLE



FLETCHER COX 91 | DEFENSIVE TACKLE



JAVON HARGRAVE 97 | DEFENSIVE TACKLE

PLAYERS



HAASON REDDICK 7 | LINEBACKER



43 | LINEBACKER



57 | LINEBACKER



BRANDON GRAHAM 88 | DEFENSIVE END



JOSH SWEAT 94 | DEFENSIVE END



DARIUS SLAY 2 | CORNERBACK



JAMES BRADBERRY 24 | CORNERBACK



C.J. GARDNER-JOHNSON 23 | SAFETY



MARCUS EPPS 22 | SAFETY

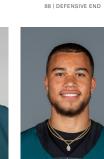




KYZIR WHITE



T.J. EDWARDS











WR

A.J. BROWN ZACH PASCAL

LT

JORDAN MAILATA ANDRE DILLARD

LG LANDON DICKERSON SUA OPETA

Н JASON KELCE CAM JURGENS

RG ISAAC SEUMALO JOSH SILLS

RT

LANE JOHNSON JACK DRISCOLL

TE

DALLAS GOEDERT JACK STOLL GRANT CALCATERRA WR QUEZ WATKINS ZACH PASCAL

WR DEVONTA SMITH ZACH PASCAL

RR MILES SANDERS KENNETH GAINWELL BOSTON SCOTT

OB

JALEN HURTS GARDNER MINSHEW IAN BOOK

1)

FLETCHER COX JORDAN DAVIS

KYZIR WHITE SHAUN BRADLEY

BRANDON GRAHAM

TARRON JACKSON

GB JAMES BRADBERRY JOSH JOBE

GB

DARIUS SLAY

JAVON HARGRAVE

MILTON WILLIAMS

MARLON TUIPULOTU

NGB AVONTE MADDOX JOSIAH SCOTT ZECH MCPHEARSON

JOSH SWEAT

DEREK BARNETT

SAM

HAASON REDDICK PATRICK JOHNSON KYRON JOHNSON

S

MARCUS EPPS REED BLANKENSHIP

S C.J. GARDNER-JOHNSON K'VON WALLACE

MIK

T.J. EDWARDS NAKOBE DEAN







JAKE ELLIOTT

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ARRYN SIPOSS
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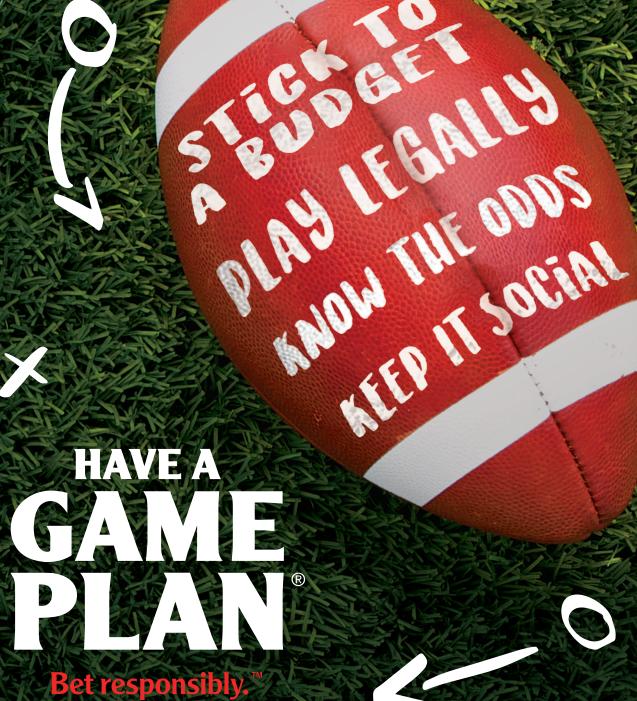
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QUEZ WATKINS KENNETH GAINWELL







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TAKEAWAYS FROM THE COMMANDERS VS. THE LIONS

The Washington Commanders suffered their first loss of the season at the hands of the Detroit Lions, falling to the NFC North opponent in a 36-27 defeat. Here are five takeaways from the matchup.

By Zach Selby

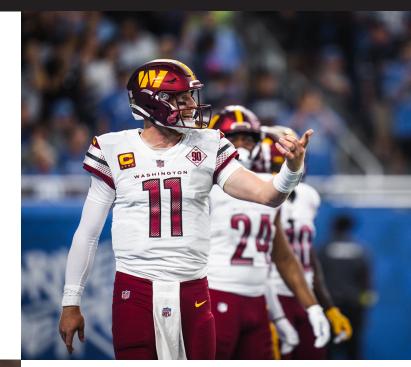
1. CARSON WENTZ WAS CONSISTENTLY UNDER PRESSURE.

Former Michigan Wolverine Aiden Hutchinson served up a reminder as to why he was the No. 2 overall pick.

Hutchinson, who recorded three sacks in the Lions victory, led a pass rush that disrupted and harassed Carson Wentz for most of the game, but particularly in the first half. The Commanders could not pick up a first down until the second quarter, and that was because the Lions were dedicated to smothering Wentz in the pocket, leading to a total loss of 19 yards.

Eagles quarterback Jalen Hurts was able to escape that pressure using his athleticism, and while Wentz eluded that pressure in the second half, it often put the offense in third-and-long situations. It also led to points after Wentz's fumble in the first quarter rolled out of the end zone.

The Commanders' offensive line has faced talented pass rushes in Jacksonville and Detroit. It has another coming up against Philadelphia, which had the best pass-rush win-rate in Week 1.





2. THE RUN GAME STRUGGLED TO ALLEVIATE THAT PRESSURE.

Washington's ground game did not put up eye-popping numbers against the Jaguars, but it did help to ease up some of the pressure that Washington faced from their opponent's front. That was not the case against the Lions.

Antonio Gibson and the Commanders' running backs faced just as many problems as the passing game, as they finished the afternoon with 88 yards, including just 17 in the first half. They averaged just 2.8 yards per carry, whereas the Lions and D'Andre Swift were marching downfield to the tune of 7.8 yards per attempt.

Granted, things did improve in the second half, when Washington was in desperate need of offensive production. Wentz was able to supply some of that, as he scrambled twice for 23 yards with both runs coming on the Commanders' final scoring drive. His second carry, which resulted in a five-yard gain, got Washington down to the Lions' 2-yard line.

Washington must get both facets of its offense going if it hopes to get back on track against the Eagles.



3. WASHINGTON COULD NOT FIND A CONSISTENT ANSWER FOR AMON-RA ST. BROWN.

The Lions ended the game with 425 yards of offense; more than 40% of that came from Amon-Ra St. Brown.

St. Brown was one of the spark plugs that kept the Lions' offense humming throughout the afternoon. He was their top rusher and receiver with 184 yards of total offense, accounting for two scores. It was St. Brown that gave the Lions a jolt after their opening drive ended with a three-andout, turning a wide-open reception on a third-and-3 into a 49-yard gash to the defense.

St. Brown also quelled the Commanders' momentum after dwindling the Lions' 22-0 lead down to seven points. He took a handoff down the right sideline for a 58-yard gain, and three plays later, the Lions added on to their lead again with a 22-yard reception from Swift.

Slot receivers have been a problem in back-to-back weeks for the Commanders, and the secondary's challenges are not going to get easier against the Eagles, who have a group of receivers that includes A.J. Brown and DeVonta Smith.

4. THE DEFENSE COULD NOT TAKE ADVANTAGE OF A DEPLETED LIONS OFFENSIVE LINE.

There was a wave of optimism for the Commanders when the list of Lions inactives was announced. Detroit's starting center and left guard were ruled out of the game, and it seemed like the defensive line was going to have a strong afternoon.

But Swift and the Lions had other plans.

The Lions were careful with Swift, who dealt with an ankle injury throughout the week. He only carried the ball five times, but he made the most of them with 56 yards, a chunk of which came on a 50-yard gain after running through a crease on the right side of his offensive line.

St. Brown also had his moments pacing the Lions with two carries for 68 yards, but it was Jamaal Williams who saw the most work in the backfield with 12 carries that resulted in 53 yards. He consistently put the Lions in ideal downand-distance situations. One of his best stretches came in the second quarter, as his 24 rushing yards helped Detroit take its 22-0 lead.

Like the passing game, Washington's ground defense will not get a break against Miles Sanders, Jalen Hurts and the Eagles. It must quickly find a way to break the habit of allowing teams to rush for 100-plus yards on the ground.





5. THE ROLLERCOASTER MUST LEVEL OUT GOING FORWARD.

Rollercoasters are exciting for a time. They deliver plenty of thrills if they have a satisfying ending.

But all rides must stop eventually, and that's where Washington finds itself heading into Week 3.

The highs and lows from the Jaguars win were back in a much larger form against the Lions. The depression of a 22-0 start was followed by four touchdowns in one half. Jahan Dotson became the first rookie in franchise history to score a touchdown in the first two games of his career since Terry McLaurin in 2019. It was a reminder that the Commanders' offense can be legit when it wants to be and can keep them in games, regardless of the opponent.

However, unlike in Week 1, the thrills were not enough to pull Washington out of the hole it had dug itself into during the first. As encouraging as the fight and resilience was in the second half, those factors on their own do not win games often. Simply put, consistency is what consistently puts teams over the top.

The Commanders have yet to put together a full game this season. They will need to do so against the Eagles in an early division matchup.







REFLECTS ON TWO-TOUCHDOWN DEBUT

BY ZACH SELBY

Call it a rookie mistake, but Jahan Dotson was so excited to see his family after making his regular season debut that he forgot he had to address the media.

It was one of the only miscues the rookie had all afternoon.

After spending OTAs and training camp showing why the Commanders were wise to use their first-round pick on him, Dotson doubled down on that during the team's 28-22 win over the Jaguars with 40 yards and two touchdowns, both of which showed off why his hands were so touted leading up to the draft.

It was about as good of a performance as one can expect from their first NFL game. For Dotson, it was the realization of a childhood dream.

"I knew since I was a little kid that I wanted to do this and excel at the highest level," Dotson said. "I devoted all my time throughout high school, throughout college making sure that I was ready for this moment."

Not that people should be surprised by the way Dotson played in the first game of the Commanders era. The former Penn State Nittany Lion did not get many targets in the preseason, but it was clear from the precise routes and impressive catch radius he showed in practice that Dotson was going to have a positive impact on Washington's offense.

Playing well in the preseason is one matter; carrying that over into the regular season is another entirely. Dotson did not have much trouble proving himself when the game actually mattered, though, and it did not take long for him to show off the difference he can make for his team.

With the Commanders facing a second-and-7 at the Jaguars' 7-yard line, Dotson stuttered his feet to get about a yard of separation on Shaquill Griffin. Carson Wentz lobbed the pass towards the back of the end zone, and Dotson made the leap to secure the pass and got both feet in bounds, giving the Commanders a 14-3 lead.

"It was definitely pretty cool getting that first one under my belt," Dotson said. "Carson just giving me a chance, we've been talking about it ever since I got here. I can make plays for this team and that's what I was able to do."

It was a nice moment for Dotson. He has the ball tucked away in his locker at the team facility and plans to give it to his parents, who rented a party bus with the rest of his family to attend his first game.

"I've just been working all my life for this moment," Dotson said. "To be able to do that, especially in front of my family and friends, it was definitely a cool moment." As great as the play was, it was outshined by the moment that came in the fourth quarter. This time, the Commanders were down by two points and in need of a play on third-and-8 at the Jaguars' 24-yard line.

The play required Dotson to make a double move on cornerback Tyson Campbell before sprinting for the end zone. Dotson knew the play would work; he had lost count of how many out routes he had run in the previous three quarters, and Campbell was squatting low every time. Dotson knew that if he could pull off the move correctly, he would be open.

So, naturally, Dotson was excited for the opportunity to win the game.

"I was ready to put the game to an end come out 1-0 and do something exciting for my team to help us get over that hump."

Dotson did exactly that. The double move worked as he predicted, and he worked his way around Campbell and left his feet to make the touchdown grab to give Washington a six-point lead.

After the game, Wentz called it "a heck of a play."

"I saw him do it all training camp," Wentz said. "I'm just glad that the world gets to see what he can do now, too."

And there is a good chance people will pay more attention to Dotson after his performance, which was the first time a rookie has scored a gamewinning touchdown reception in the final two minutes of regulation or overtime in his first career game since Ernest Wilford did so in Week 1 of the 2004 season, but do not count on him being caught up in that.

Instead, Dotson is already focused on what is coming next for the Commanders and him in his career.

"I'm ready to beat the Lions right now," Dotson said. "Going against my former teammate Amani Oruwariye, I can't come out with an L, so I'm definitely going to have to put [something] on next week, maybe score a couple more touchdowns."



A LOOK BACK ON LIFE OF

BY HANNAH LICHTENSTEIN

Bonnie Smith Gilchrist remembers when her brother got the call that would change his life. It was 1965, and the Smith family had huddled together in their living room waiting for the long cord phone to jump with a ring. When it finally did, Jerry Smith answered and learned that he had been drafted by Washington.

"Jerry was so excited. I mean, here's a 21-year-old guy, going to the nation's capital. That was a real big thing, and it was the first part of a journey," his sister Bonnie Smith Gilchrist said. "He was eager to prove himself."

Prove himself he did. During his thirteen-year career, Smith became a league star and one of the best to ever wear the burgundy and gold. In the '60s and '70s, he electrified as a favorite receiving target of quarterback Sonny Jurgensen. By the time Smith retired, he held the NFL record for most career touchdowns by a tight end, a record that stood for 26 years and was inducted into Washington's Ring of Fame.

As a professional athlete, Jerry Smith lived a life very much in the public eye, excelling at his job to the glee of adoring fans as an integral part of a cherished D.C. institution. However, he held a secret – the kind he feared could ruin everything he had ever worked for and push those he loved away if it ever came to light.

He was gay.

During an era in which being a member of the LGBTQ+ community posed an existential danger

to one's self and family, Smith found comfort and a sense of security within the Washington locker room. He never opened up about being gay to his teammates, and it would be foolhardy to say he would have been embraced wholeheartedly if he had. But, as a member of the Burgundy & Gold, Smith was loved and respected in a way that went far deeper than the game of football.

"They weren't looking at Jerry as the football player or as the guy who might be gay. They looked at Jerry the person, because he was a good person," Smith Gilchrist said. "They took care of him, and he took care of them...If any teammate needed anything, others would drop what they were doing and come help. It was such a tightknit brotherhood."

That brotherhood produced many friendships. Few were as beautiful as that between Smith and safety Brig Owens. The two 1965 draftees became roommates at training camp during the Civil Rights era when it was uncommon for Black and white teammates to share quarters. When Smith was warned that there would be talk, his reply was, "So what?" Facing a society that looked down on them just because of the way they were born was perhaps a point of connection for them.

"We'd sit around talking, trying to solve the problems of the world," Owens told the Chicago Tribune in 1986. "Jerry was a very sensitive guy. He cared a lot about other people."

Conversations about which communities were deserving of rights were happening everywhere

and when Coach Vince Lombardi arrived in Washington in 1969, he did not shy away from them. Although a tough coach, Lombardi, who had a gay brother, was a tolerant person.

"Jerry wouldn't stop talking about Vince," Smith's brother Ed said in an interview for a 2014 episode of the NFL's A Football Life. "Vince was a great coach, great person, loved Jerry and Jerry loved him."

Though he held back from revealing all aspects of himself during his time in Washington, Smith could have felt that he had people in his corner. The sentiment quietly grew with both the everyday humdrum and the extremes of being a professional athlete. For years, he spent countless hours a week with his teammates, traveling, talking, joking together. They experienced the highs and lows of sport on the biggest stage – from winning streaks the city had not seen in decades to losing a Super Bowl.

Smith, to use the words of his sister, was "a consummate teammate." He was the kind of guy to throw himself in front an on-rushing linebacker if that is what the moment required, the type of player who inspired others by pouring himself into perfecting his craft.

The selflessness he displayed during his brightest days did not waver during his darkest. In 1986, nine years after he retired, Smith revealed he was suffering from AIDS, hoping to bring awareness to the ravages of the disease and perhaps draw attention that could spur developments in



research. It was brave of the former athlete to talk about his harrowing plight. At the time, the prevailing belief was that AIDs was an illness that only affected "drug addicts and hairdressers" as Jim Graham, director of the Whitman Walker Clinic, put it in an interview with the Washington Post in 1986.

"It took tremendous courage for Jerry to do what he did," Owens said to the Tribune. "But that's Jerry. He was a team guy right to the end."

The men he had been in the trenches with on the football field showed up for Smith as he battled in the hospital, paying no mind to the implications of Smith having AIDS.

"If you love a guy, you love him. That's all there is to it," teammate Bobby Mitchell said to the New York Times in 1986. "Jerry has been a very dear friend for almost 20 years."

According to a spokesperson at Holy Cross

Hospital, when Smith was there, every third call was for him. Many of them were from former teammates and players then on the team. Brig Owens visited almost every day.

Less than a year after being diagnosed, Smith died of AIDS on Oct. 15, 1986, at the age of 43. Twentythree players from Washington's 1973 Super Bowl team reunited for his funeral. Several, including Sonny Jurgensen, Charley Taylor and Bobby Mitchell, served as his pallbearers.

The saying goes that football is a game of inches, that tiny bits of effort have the power to make a difference. On the field in his prime, Jerry Smith was a member of a team determined to do what they could to set a new standard for Washington football, work that ultimately laid the foundation for the franchise's success in the '80s and '90s. Off the field as he succumbed to his disease, Smith looked at the end of his life with similar eyes. His decision to talk about his experience with AIDS and the legacy his family has carried on was and continues to be part of a larger process of shifting attitudes around the LGBTQ+ community.

Actions like those have helped pave the way for celebrations like the one that will take place at FedExField on September 25 when Washington takes on the Philadelphia Eagles. During the team's second annual Pride Night OUT, Bonnie Smith Gilchrist will take the field in a ceremony honoring her late brother at the end of the first quarter. She wishes he could be there to see the strides made, to feel a different level of support from the franchise that meant everything to him.

"I think he would be joyous and thankful that times have changed," Smith Gilchrist said. "If he could be here to see this, it would just be the best situation ever. He would be smiling from ear to ear."

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PRDEGELEBRATIONS

FROM COMING TOGETHER FOR PRIDE MONTH THIS PAST JUNE TO HOSTING WEEK THREE'S SECOND ANNUAL PRIDE NIGHT OUT, THE COMMANDERS ARE COMMITTED TO RALLYING AROUND LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY

This summer, the Washington Commanders participated in the annual Washington D.C. Capital Pride celebration in the DMV. The festivities started on Saturday, June 11, as approximately 80 of our employees, their families and entertainment team members marched in the parade and distributed Pride swag in downtown D.C. Other marchers that shared the streets with our Commanders included the Washington Mystics basketball team and members of the D.C. Gay Flag Football League.

Celebrations continued into Sunday, June 12th as the Commanders sponsored the official "Sports Village" at the Pride Festival. Fans that celebrated in the Sports Village received additional Commanders' Pride swag and had the opportunity to meet and take photos with alumni in attendance including Fred Smoot, Doc Walker and Brian Mitchell as well as members of the Commanders Entertainment Team.







THE ARTISTS BEHIND WEEK THREE'S RALLYTOWELS

BY HANNAH LICHTENSTEIN

WK3

To celebrate the "We Are All Commanders"-themed game against the Philadelphia Eagles, these three artists were commissioned to design rally towels honoring Hispanic Heritage Month, Pride Night Out and HBCU Night Out. Learn about their designs below.

Katherine Barahona

Hispanic Heritage Month towel

Born to Salvadoran parents, Katherine Barahona uses art as a means of processing her experiences as a first-generation Latina straddling two cultures. Her rally towel design focuses on womanhood, the valiant pursuit of freedom, resilience and how immigration has brought beauty to our country. Inclusion, she notes, sits at the core of this piece. "I wanted to show through my artwork that fans from Central America matter to the Commanders and that there's always room for more fans to join," Barahona said.

Keyonna Jones

Pride Night Out towel

A southeast D.C. native, Keyonna Jones found that art could be a healing outlet for her at a young age. From painting the Black Lives Matter mural in front of the White House to using her creative craft to navigate coming to terms with her sexuality, the mantra "art saves lives" is one that has guided Jones throughout her career. Her rally towel design aims to highlight people of color in the LGBTQ+ movement. "Art is a universal language for much bigger conversations," Jones said.

Brittnee Scott

HBCU Night Out towel

Having attended Cheyney University, the oldest historically Black College and University (HBCU) in the United States, Brittnee Scott is deeply familiar with the ways in which these institutions are both sacred spaces for the Black community and a vehicle for transformation. With its pops of color and college campus drawings, her rally towel design brings attention to the life and energy within HBCUs. Inspired by a song lyric that says, "keep your head to the sky," the clouds symbolize peace and relief and underscore the importance of keeping the mind elevated.





WELGOMENDUD

THE COMMANDERS' TEAM DOG MANDO IS ON A MISSION TO ONE DAY SAVE A LIFE

Mando, a 7-month-old English black Labrador, knows first paw about what it's like to undergo a name change. Born "Buzz", Washington's new team dog made the switch after a process involving multiple stakeholders and has adjusted well so far.

"Listen, he's treat-motivated so you show him

a treat and say the new name, and he's like,

'Sure call me whatever you want. Just don't call me late to dinner,'" K9 For Warriors' director of development Lindsay Snyder said with a laugh.

Mando, whose final name was chosen by Commanders players, will make his debut at

the team's season opener on September 11th against the Jacksonville Jaguars. The black lab has a purpose that goes deeper than being a cute gameday presence. He stands to bring attention to the troubling reality of veteran suicide and the mission of K9s For Warriors. With its innovative programs backed by scientific research, K9s for Warriors provides highly-trained service dogs to military veterans suffering from mental healthrelated issues, including PTSD, traumatic brain injury and military sexual trauma.



A majority of K9s For Warriors dogs come from high-kill rescue shelters, though a portion, such as Mando, are identified as puppies via breeders. When the Commanders learned about Mando during initial conversations with the organization, there was an almost immediate sense that he would be a great team dog candidate.

"He looked like a linebacker. He was just this stout little chubby puppy," Snyder said. "And Mando comes from a winning bloodline. So, when we talked that, they [Commanders Charitable Foundation members] were like, 'Oh my gosh, you know, it goes along with our history and what we're trying to get back to here at the Commanders, he'll fit right in!"

That chubby little puppy is now 70 pounds and has made significant strides in his training – with more than a few naps along the way.

"Think of your best day, and that's Mando's. So, he gets to go to the gym with handler in the morning, and then he's socialized during the day. He gets to come to the K9 for Warriors campus and have playdates. And then he naps as much as possible," Snyder said. "His breed in general is just very mild tempered, so he wants to eat and sleep. He's not going to do anything quickly unless there is a treat involved."

Getting a sense of a dog's temperament is a key part of the phase of the program Mando is in right now. Temperament is one of the most important factors to consider during the Warrior matching process.







"We know that Mando won't go to someone who runs marathons, because that's not his temperament or his strength, but snuggling and loving you and maybe being around children, definitely," Snyder said. "Maybe it's somebody that wants to go on walks and be out in grocery stores and restaurants for the first time."

Finding that right match for Mando involves an intensive process. Veterans from all around the country seek service dogs from K9s For Warriors. For many, this resource is a last hope for normalcy.

"The application is 37 pages long, and that's because we want to learn everything about them from their time of service to their mental health to what they want for their future." Lindsay said. "We want to know where they want to be and give them that life back. So, we sit down with them and our training team and everybody just kind of has some one-on-one time together, and we focus on 'What is it you're wanting to do?'"

The evaluations, training time and all the hard work put in by K9s For Warriors mostly volunteer team eventually results in one of the most rewarding and memorable parts of the journey. The final step of the matching process begins with what volunteers have dubbed "Dog Day". Shortly after arriving

for their 21-day stay as part of the organization's residential program, Warriors meet the dogs they've been paired with for the very first time.

"It's a really bittersweet moment, because this trainer has worked with this dog for many months, but they know their purpose and they get to see that dog go and do what it's been trained to do," Lindsay said, "Ultimately, this Warrior, who's been on a list for two plus years dealing with all kinds of things, finally sees that this is the first day of their new life. And you see grown men fall to their knees and start crying, because it's something they thought was never going to be possible."

The Commanders' partnership will ensure that Mando's training expenses are covered and that he ultimately will go on to be a successful service dog for a veteran in need when he is fully grown.

"Dogs like Mando are ultimately going to save somebody and hopefully put an end to veteran suicide," Snyder said. "These cute little creatures are going to change lives forever."





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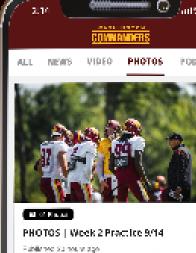




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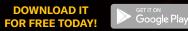


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RING OF FAME

GEORGE ALLEN HEAD COACH, 1971-77

WK3

BOBBY BEATHARD GENERAL MANAGER, 1978-88

DAVE BUTZ DEFENSIVE TACKLE, 1975-88

WAYNE CURRY P.G. COUNTY EXECUTIVE, 1994-2002

JOE GIBBS HEAD COACH, 1981-92, 2004-07

KEN HARVEY

SAM HUFF LINEBACKER, 1964-67, 1969

CHARLIE JUSTICE RUNNING BACK, 1950, 1952-54

DEXTER MANLEY DEFENSIVE END, 1981-89

BRIAN MITCHELL RUNNING BACK, 1990-99

RICHIE PETITBON SAFETY, 1971-72, DEF. COORD., 1978-92 / HEAD COACH, 1993

> CHRIS SAMUELS TACKLE, 2000-09

JOE THEISMANN QUARTERBACK, 1974-85 CLIFF BATTLES RUNNING BACK, 1932-37

JEFF BOSTIC CENTER, 1980-1993

GARY CLARK WIDE RECEIVER, 1985-92

BILL DUDLEY RUNNING BACK, 1950-51, 1953

DARRELL GREEN CORNERBACK, 1983-2002

> LEN HAUSS CENTER, 1964-77

JOE JACOBY TACKLE/GUARD, 1981-1993

BILLY KILMER QUARTERBACK, 1971-78

CHARLES MANN DEFENSIVE END, 1983-93

ART MONK WIDE RECEIVER, 1980-1993

GUARD, 1960-70

JERRY SMITH TIGHT END, 1965-77

LAMAR "BUBBA" TYER HEAD ATHLETIC TRAINER, 1971-2002, 2004-08 **SAMMY BAUGH** QUARTERBACK, 1937-52

GENE BRITO DEFENSIVE END, 1951-53, 1955-58

> **MONTE COLEMAN** LINEBACKER, 1979-94

PAT FISCHER CORNERBACK, 1968-77

GUARD, 1981-91

PHIL HOCHBERG P.A. ANNOUNCER, 1963-2000

> DICK JAMES RUNNING BACK, 1956-63

EDDIE LEBARON QUARTERBACK, 1952-53, 1955-59

END, 1936-41, 1945

MARK MOSELEY KICKER, 1974-86

JOHN RIGGINS RUNNING BACK, 1976-79, 1981-85

> CHARLEY TAYLOR WIDE RECEIVER, 1964-77

DOUG WILLIAMS OUARTERBACK, 1986-89 MIKE BASS CORNERBACK, 1969-75

LARRY BROWN RUNNING BACK, 1969-76

JACK KENT COOKE OWNER, 1961-97

LINEBACKER, 2007-13

CHRIS HANBURGER LINEBACKER, 1965-78

> KEN HOUSTON SAFETY, 1973-80

SONNY JURGENSEN QUARTERBACK, 1964-74

VINCE LOMBARDI HEAD COACH, 1969

BOBBY MITCHELL FLANKER, 1962-68

BRIG OWENS DEFENSIVE BACK, 1966-77

MARK RYPIEN QUARTERBACK, 1986-1993

> SEAN TAYLOR SAFETY, 2004-07





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	#	NAME	ATT.	COMP.	PCT.	YARDS	
CAREER	1	Joe Theismann	3,602	2,044	56.7	25,206	160
PASSING	2	Sonny Jurgensen	3,155	1,831	58.0	22,585	179
LEADERS	3	Sammy Baugh	2,995	1,693	56.5	21,886	187
	4	Kirk Cousins	2,096	1,372	65.5	16,206	99
	5	Mark Rypien	2,207	1,244	56.4	15,928	101
	#	NAME	ATT.	YARDS	1	AVG.	TD
CAREER RUSHING LEADERS	1	John Riggins	1,988	7,472		3.8	79
	2	Clinton Portis	1,667	6,824		4.1	46
	3	Larry Brown	1,530	5,875		3.8	35
	4	Stephen Davis	1,383	5,790		4.2	45
	5	Alfred Morris	1,078	4,713		4.4	29
	#	NAME	REC	YARDS	1	AVG.	TD
	1	Art Monk	888	12,026		13.5	65
CAREER RECEIVING	2	Charley Taylor	649	9,110		14.0	79
LEADERS	3	Gary Clark	549	8,742		15.9	58
	4	Santana Moss	581	7,867		13.5	47
	5	Bobby Mitchell	393	6,492		16.5	49
	#	NAME	POINTS	TD	FG	A/FGA	XPAT/XPA
	1	Mark Moseley	1,206	0		3/397	417/441
CAREER SCORING LEADERS	2	Chip Lohmiller	787	0	17	5/245	262/267
	3	Dustin Hopkins	668	0	16	3/194	179/190
	4	Charley Taylor	540	90		0	0
	5	John Riggins	510	85		0	0
	#	NAME	RET.	YARDS		AVG.	
CAREER PUNT RETURN LEADERS	1	Brian Mitchell	317	3,476		11.0	
	2	Mike Nelms	212	1,948		9.2	
	3	Eddie Brown	111	1,150		10.4	
	4	Rickie Harris	119	1,005		8.4	
		Brandon Banks	100	937		9.4	
	5						
		NAME	DET	VADDE			
	#	NAME Drive Mitchell	RET.	YARDS		AVG.	
CAREER KICKOFF	# 1	Brian Mitchell	421	9,586	:	22.8	
CAREER KICKOFF RETURN	# 1 2	Brian Mitchell Rock Cartwright	421 222	9,586 5,332	:	22.8 24.0	
RETURN	# 1 2 3	Brian Mitchell Rock Cartwright Mike Nelms	421 222 175	9,586 5,332 4,128	:	22.8 24.0 23.6	
	# 1 2 3 4	Brian Mitchell Rock Cartwright Mike Nelms Dick James	421 222 175 155	9,586 5,332 4,128 3,949	:	22.8 24.0 23.6 25.5	
RETURN	# 1 2 3 4 5	Brian Mitchell Rock Cartwright Mike Nelms Dick James Brandon Banks	421 222 175 155 119	9,586 5,332 4,128 3,949 2,856		22.8 24.0 23.6 25.5 24.0	
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JEREMY REAVES GRATEFUL TO EARN ROSTER SPOT

BY ZACH SELBY

The first thing Jeremy Reaves saw when he woke up on roster cut day was his phone blowing up with notifications.

He knew that could mean one of two things: either he was going to be cut, and the fans hated the decision; or he made the roster, and the fans loved it.

It understandably took Reaves a few minutes to see the news for himself -- cut day does not come with a sense of calmness -- and even when he saw the reports that he had made the roster, he still did not believe it. He needed to be in the building to hear the news from the coaches himself.

It was not until head coach Ron Rivera said, "Hey, I just want to let you know, kid, you're in," as they were heading downstairs to the lower portion of the Washington Commanders' facility that reality set in. For the first time, Reaves had made the initial 53-man roster, marking the culmination of all the work he had put in to achieve the milestone.

"I've always kept the mindset of 'delayed, not denied," Reaves said Wednesday. "You get that moment, and it's...full circle."

It is striking to hear that Reaves had never earned an initial roster spot considering how much of a role he has played for the team. A member of the franchise since 2018, Reaves started the final three games of the 2020 season, securing an interception in the regular season finale against the Philadelphia Eagles that helped Washington claim a 20-14 victory and the NFC East division crown. That did not earn him a roster spot the following season, nor did his 29 tackles to close out the 2021 season. But Reaves kept standing out during this year's training camp, as he led the defense with 11 tackles in the preseason while also recording a sack.

"We were sitting down, and all of these coaches felt that this guy came, played, did the things that he needed to do, showed us what he is capable of," Rivera said. "He is a guy that earned his spot. I'm very proud of him."

A wave of emotion washed over Reaves when he heard the news from Rivera. Of course, there were tears, but there was also laughter and joy. He reminisced on all the ups and downs that he had been through over the past four seasons, from



NOT DENIED'

making the playoffs to going back to the practice squad, only to repeat the process the following year.

There was also sadness, because Reaves' mother, who passed away during the 2021 season, was not there to celebrate with him. He believes that she will always be with him, though, and everything he has done over the past year has been for her.

"She was always in my corner," Reaves said Aug. 24. "She supported me through everything, and I know that she's still supporting me now. I was explaining this the other day, out there is when I feel her the most, and I feel her with me the most. And so just being able to share that moment out there on the field and just feel my mom out there... it's an indescribable feeling." learned to get the most out of his experiences. Fellow safety Bobby McCain called him "one of the smartest guys in the back end" and added that Reaves knows how to take advantage of his opportunities.

That kind of praise is something Reaves takes to heart.

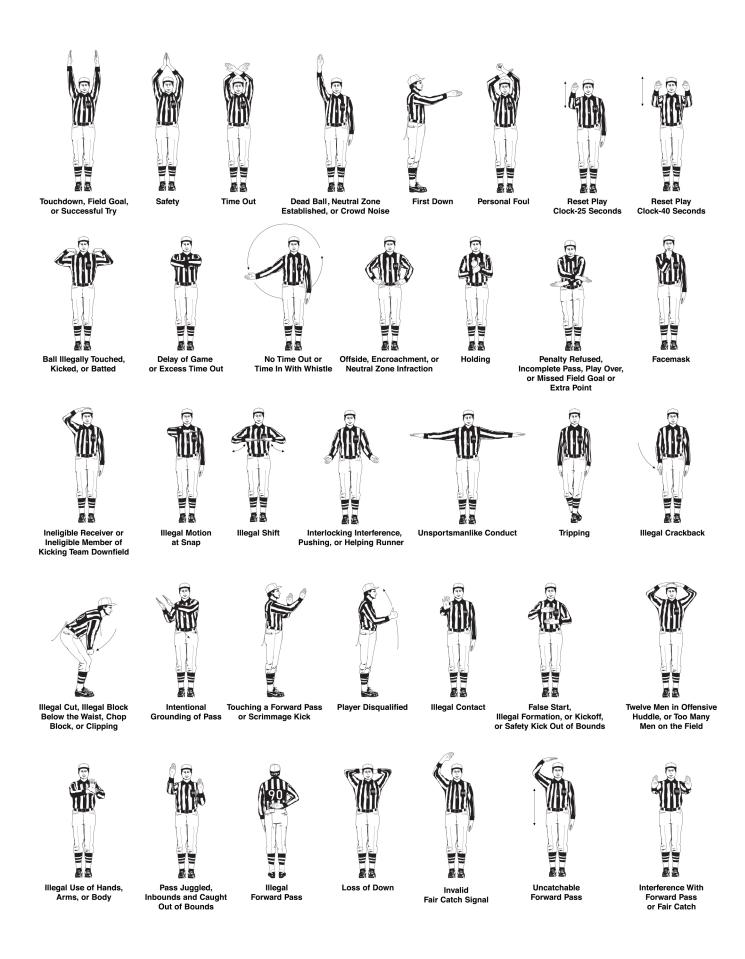
"To hear that from a veteran guy that you look up to in our room, it's awesome, man," Reaves said. "That side of the game really matters. I've prided myself on being very cerebral."

Confidence, Reaves said, is the one area in which he has improved the most. He feels like this past training camp was the moment where he "put it all together" and coupled that with his belief that he belongs on the team. He took that confidence out on the field, and it showed in his play.

"I carried that swagger with me, and I'm gonna continue to," Reaves said.

Reaves has had a turbulent NFL career, but he has

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WASHINGTON COMMANDERS TEAN STORE, A FANATIGS EXPERIENCE

EXCITEMENT AROUND THE COMMANDERS TEAM STORE IS ABOUT MORE THAN JUST MERCHANDISE

BY HANNAH LICHTENSTEIN

From the moment the stadium gates opened at FedExField on Sunday morning, the Commanders Team Store was met with a near-constant stream of fans. The space was buzzing as shoppers were eager to get their hands on new team gear during the season opener.

"I want a hat. I want a shirt. I want a jersey. I want it all," Katherine, a Virginia Beach-native and lifelong Washington fan, said with a laugh while standing in line with her haul.

Debuting in a revamped 6,200 square foot space, the new Team Store offers merchandise options galore in which fans can indulge. The fan engagement with the store following its initial opening provided a glimpse into the energy that filled the wider stadium in Week One. Buying shirts to swap into at their seats and trinkets to commemorate the historic inaugural season, fans were excited as a new era of Washington football kicked off.

To get to the moment in which the glass doors opened on Sept. 11 required months-long collective efforts. Transforming a location that was once just a ticket office into a sleek, modern retail destination meant construction. There were countless meetings with Fanatics and brands such as Nike, New Era and Mitchell & Ness to ensure fan-favorite designs were nailed down. Art boards depicting the space configuration were in a constant state of being presented, tweaked and finalized.

"Getting a store opened is a heavy lift for any organization and bringing a vision to reality is very difficult," Myles Levin, Sr. Director of Merchandise Experience for the Commanders, said. "There's just so many details involved with opening and being ready for business that go into executing a new property, not to mention one that's tied to a specific date."

The building of the space came with a building of anticipation, a feeling reflected in the crowd that formed ahead of the store's opening. Fans started queueing outside the space ahead of the official opening at 11 a.m.

"When we got here we saw the big line, which is a great sign showing that people are embracing the name," said Steve, a fan who drove down from Pennsylvania with his 9-year-old son Noah. "We want to be a part of all the action on opening day, so we were excited to get here before the game starts."

Inside the store, fans were introduced to an elevated brand experience crafted to generate enthusiasm around Commanders football. With an expanded assortment of merchandise, the store gives fans all types of apparel they have craved since the rebrand launch on Feb. 2, 2022. "I think fans were genuinely curious to see the remodeled store...I was so impressed with the new layout. It was so fresh," Izzy, who got herself and her dog some Commanders gear, said. "I also loved the selection of merchandise. I feel like there is something for every Commanders fan."

A handful of that merchandise is exclusive to the team store, a fact that some fans found out with a bit of awe and glee.

"I was very surprised to find t-shirts from my favorite only shop 'Homage' and then mind blown to find a handful of 'Homage' designs truly exclusive to the team store. Stuff I'd never seen online," JP, a fan who bought two shirts, said. "I was truly geeked."

Under the initial layers of curiosity and excitement bubbled profound emotions for many fans perusing shelves and rows of hangers. For some, like Spotsylvania native Pam, picking out Commanders clothes was a step in a journey of accepting change and of reminding herself what the love of the Burgundy & Gold is really about.

For others, like Kansas native Ashley and her two young kids, buying merchandise at the store was about honoring a wish and legacy of her late husband Tony, who passed in 2020 after the switch to the Washington Football Team name.

"This was one of his dreams to get them to a game.

WASHINGTON COMMANDERS



Since daddy passed, we made this happen," Ashley said. "All their old gear, their dad bought them for them before he passed...he wanted to make sure they had some old gear to move on with them."

Her daughter Brittany, 9, wearing the Washington cheerleader outfit her dad gave her, bought some new pom poms at the season opener. Her son Benjamin, 11, picked out an "inaugural Commanders game" shirt. The fandom and its meaning carries on.

Hours later, the crowd trickled out of the stadium following the first win of the Commanders era.

Hundreds stopped by the team store before heading to the parking lot– picking up a piece of history, excited to lean into the momentum of the win.

The opening of the Team Store was a success. Sunday set a gameday franchise record for merchandise sales, beating the previous record which was set during the team's opener in 2012. In addition to the overall record-setting sales, compared to the Week One home opener in 2021, total transactions were up 25% and 50% more unique brands were feature inside the Team Store. For Sr. Director of Merchandise Experience Myles Levin, those numbers are equally important as the smiles he saw all around.

Just like the season for the group that takes the field, Week One for the Team Store is not a time to get complacent. Rather, it is the beginning from which to keep getting better.

"Opening a retail store is an infinite game," Myles said. "It's a constant process of learning how to improve it and the day you say it's done is the day you are late and no longer relevant."



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The revamped entertainment team, renamed the Command Force, is a 44-person team that includes dancers, gymnasts, breakers, b-boys and b-girls and Beat Ya Feet dancers. The Command Force is one of the league's most diverse groups. Performances aim to bring to life the rich culture of D.C.'s world-renowned and iconic dance scene through high-energy, hip hop-based choreography incorporating tricks, stunts, visuals, Beat Ya Feet and elements of street funk.



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