



CHICAGO BEARS  
VS WASHINGTON COMMANDERS



WK5 THURSDAY 8:15PM  
OCT. 5 FEDEXFIELD



# GAMEDAY MAGAZINE



WASHINGTON  COMMANDERS

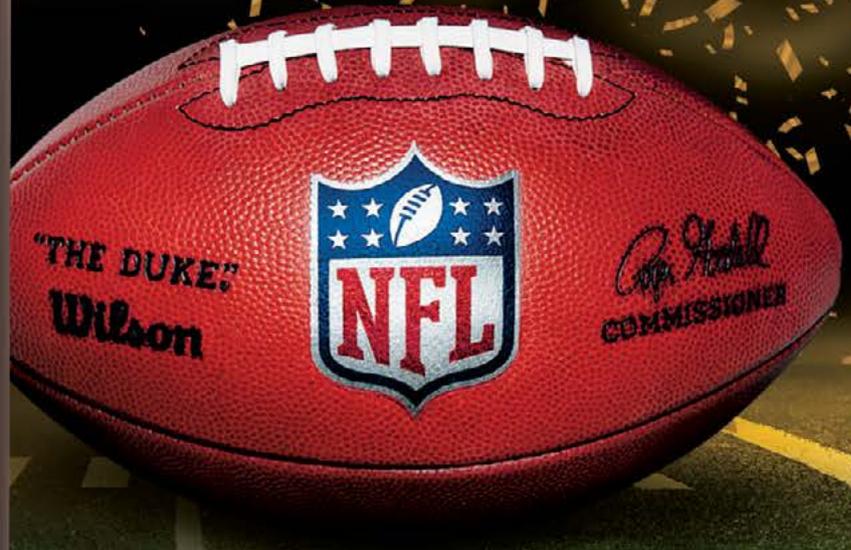
THE PLAYERS' POST:  
BRIAN ROBINSON JR.

DOUG WILLIAMS  
RECEIVES  
"ICON OF DC" AWARD

PRESENTED BY  


ALUMNI  
HOMECOMING  
RECAP

A LOOK BACK AT THE  
2022 GAME AGAINST  
THE BEARS



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Scan for Full Player Roster



# GAMEDAY PLAYBOOK

## WEEK 5

CHICAGO BEARS AT  
WASHINGTON COMMANDERS

## PRESENTING SPONSOR



## GAME THEME



## NATIONAL ANTHEM

CALY BEVIER

## COLOR GUARD

PG COUNTY DEPT. OF CORRECTIONS

## LEGENDS PLAZA

IHEART RADIO DJ, BACKYARD BAND, AND MARIACHI BAND



# TODAY'S MATCHUP

**WAS**

**CHI**

**23**      **WINS VS  
EACH OTHER**      **21**

**W7**      **LONGEST  
STREAK VS  
EACH OTHER**      **W6**

**8-8-1**      **2022  
RECORD**      **3-14**

**12**      **LAST MATCHUP:  
OCT. 13, 2022**      **7**

## MEMORABLE GAME

Oct 31, 1999: Washington 48, Chicago 22

It was a career day for the Washington franchise as the team jumped out to a dominating lead and left Jack Kent Cooke Stadium with a convincing 48-22 lead. Both sides of the ball got in on the scoring action, as Washington took a 45-0 lead in the fourth quarter. Stephen Davis, who finished with 143 yards on 12 attempts, rushed for two scores, and quarterback Brad Johnson also had two scores to go with 204 yards. The Bears tried to make it competitive with 22 points in the final 20 minutes of regulations, but by then, it would have taken a miracle for the Bears to pull off a comeback. It was the second largest margin of victory Washington had all season.

# 2023 SCHEDULE

PRESEASON



**OCT 15**



**NOV 23**



**SEP 10**



**OCT 22**



**DEC 3**



**SEP 17**



**OCT 29**



**DEC 17**



**SEP 24**



**NOV 5**



**DEC 24**



**OCT 1**



**NOV 12**



**DEC 31**



**OCT 5**



**NOV 19**



**TBD**



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# JOSH HARRIS

## MANAGING PARTNER

1ST NFL SEASON / 1ST WITH WASHINGTON



Josh is the Managing Partner of the Washington Commanders and the Founder and Managing General Partner of Harris Blitzer Sports & Entertainment (HBSE).

In connection with the HBSE portfolio, he is the Managing Partner of the Philadelphia 76ers and the Co-Managing Partner, Vice Chairman, & Alternate Governor of the New Jersey Devils. Under his leadership, the HBSE platform has grown to include Top-10 venue, the Prudential Center in Newark, N.J., the \$82 million mixed-use Training Complex in Camden, NJ, the Delaware Blue Coats, the Utica Comets, renowned esports franchise Dignitas, and HBSEv, a venture fund investing in early stage sports technology companies, among other franchises. Additionally, Josh is a General Partner of the Crystal Palace Football Club in the Premier League.

Passionate about strengthening the communities in which the teams operate, Josh, in connection with the Sixers Youth Foundation and Devils Youth Foundation, supports Newark, Camden and Philadelphia by partnering with local hospitals, youth centers, schools and food distribution centers for civic growth and relief.

Outside of HBSE, in 2022, Josh founded 26North, a next-generation alternatives platform. Prior to founding 26North, Josh co-founded Apollo Global Management and spent over thirty years building the firm into the world's second-largest alternatives and largest alternative credit manager. Harris was responsible for some of the firm's most successful private equity investments, including the historic Lyondell Basell transaction.

Additionally, Josh and his wife, Marjorie, founded Harris Philanthropies in 2014 to advocate for youth and community development. Across their charitable platform, they have become one of the largest supporters of after-school sports programs, helping 15,000 youth annually across the country.

The Harris family is committed to using a blend of philanthropic giving and impact investment to improve outcomes for underserved groups in areas where they have a deep connection, with a focus on sports and academic programming, championing equity and sustainable wealth creation in Black and other diverse communities and enhancing health, wellness and educational outcomes.

Josh serves on the Boards of Mount Sinai Medical Center, Harvard Business School, the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, the NBA, and the NHL. He holds an MBA from Harvard Business School, where he was named a Baker Loeb Scholar, and graduated summa cum laude from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business with a B.S. in Economics.

Josh and Marjorie have been married for 25 years and live in Miami with their five children. A former college wrestler, Josh remains an active athlete, competing in numerous marathons and triathlons.



WASHINGTON  
**COMMANDERS**

**COMMANDERS**

# JASON WRIGHT

## PRESIDENT

11TH NFL SEASON (7 PLAYING/4 EXECUTIVE) / 4TH WITH WASHINGTON

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 DC 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, corporation-specific 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 co-founding 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 DC-based 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.



# RON RIVERA

## HEAD COACH

36TH NFL SEASON (25 COACHING/11 PLAYING) / 4TH WITH WASHINGTON

He was named the 30th head coach in franchise history on Jan. 1, 2020 and led Washington to their 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.

Through three seasons in Washington, Rivera has accumulated 22 wins and one playoff appearance. His teams have also gone 8-3 in the month of November and oversaw a defense that finished third in the NFL in yards per game and fourth in the NFL in passing yards per game.



Rivera eclipsed 100 total career wins (regular and postseason) with a victory against the Atlanta Falcons in Week 12 of the 2022 season. He eclipsed 100 regular season wins in Week 2 of the 2023 season against the Denver Broncos, becoming the eighth active head coach and the 44th coach in NFL history to accomplish the feat.

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 and is the all-time leader in wins for the Panthers franchise.

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 playoff 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.

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. 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.

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' top-ranked 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 franchise-record 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, 8.5 sacks, five forced fumbles, six fumble recoveries, nine interceptions and 15 passes defended. 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.

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*Ron Rivera, Head Coach  
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# ERIC BIENIEMY

**ASSISTANT HEAD COACH/OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR**

25TH NFL SEASON (24 COACHING/11 PLAYING) / 1ST WITH WASHINGTON

Eric Bieniemy was hired as the team's assistant head coach/offensive coordinator on February 18, 2023.

Bieniemy enters his 25th NFL season and first with Washington after serving as the Kansas City Chiefs offensive coordinator the past five seasons. Prior to being named the offensive coordinator, Bieniemy served as the Chiefs running backs coach from 2013-17.

In 2022, Bieniemy helped lead the Chiefs and their offense to their second Super Bowl championship in four seasons and helped quarterback Patrick Mahomes earn his second MVP in five seasons. The Chiefs led the NFL in total yards per game (413.6), passing yards (5,062), scrimmage touchdowns (59) and total points per game (29.2).

In 2021, Bieniemy continued to lead the Kansas City Chiefs offense to finish in the top five in multiple NFL categories including, third down conversion percentage (1st, 52.2), fourth down conversion percentage (T-1st, 66.7), first downs (1st, 419), yards per game (3rd, 396.8), yards after catch (1st; 2,494), offensive touchdowns (5th, 53) and points per game (4th, 28.2) en route to the team's sixth-straight AFC West title. Quarterback Patrick Mahomes continued to add to his NFL resume, adding 4,839 passing yards on 436 completions and 37 touchdowns. Mahomes has 31 career games with 300+ passing yards, which is the most such games by a player in his first five seasons in NFL history.

In 2020, the Chiefs offense led the NFL in multiple categories including, net passing yards per game (303.4), yards per game (415.8), first downs (397), yards after catch (2,254) and plays of at least 20 yards (79) en route to the club's fifth-straight AFC West title and second-straight Super Bowl appearance.

In 2019, the Super Bowl Champion Chiefs offense finished in the top 10 in total yards per game

(379.2), pass yards per game (281.1), yards per play (6.22) and total points scored (28.2). Mahomes became the fastest QB in NFL history to reach 9,000 passing yards and 75 touchdowns, doing so in only 30 games.

In his first year as offensive coordinator, Bieniemy oversaw one of the most prolific offenses in Chiefs history as the club finished 12-4, earned its third-consecutive AFC West Championship and a No. 1 seed in the playoffs en route to hosting the first AFC Championship Game in team history. Mahomes was named the NFL MVP as he passed for 5,097 yards and 50 touchdowns in his first season as a starting quarterback. Tight end Travis Kelce ranked second among NFL tight ends with 1,336 receiving yards, and WR Tyreek Hill's 1,479 single season receiving yards ranked first in Chiefs history.

In 2017, the Chiefs had a 1,000-yard rusher, with the group logging a combined 1,903 yards on the season. From 2013-15, Bieniemy mentored running back Jamaal Charles. In 2014, Charles recorded 1,000 yards for the fifth time in his career. Charles became the all-time leading rusher in franchise history and finished his Chiefs career with 7,260 career rushing yards. His 5.5 yards per carry average is also the best in Chiefs history.

In 2013 under Bieniemy, Charles led the NFL in touchdowns (19) and first downs (104) and ranked second in yards from scrimmage (1,980 yards). He recorded the most receiving yards by a running back in Chiefs history and led the AFC in rushing (1,287 yards).

Prior to returning to the NFL coaching ranks, Bieniemy spent two seasons (2011-12) at his alma mater Colorado after coaching the running backs for five seasons with the Minnesota Vikings (2006-10). In those five seasons, the Vikings produced a 1,000-yard rusher each year while his stable of running backs broke the 100-yard mark 31 times in

80 regular season games.

In 2006, he coached Chester Taylor, who rushed for 1,216 yards; the next season, Taylor and Adrian Peterson combined for 2,185 yards (1,341 by Peterson, who was All-Pro as a rookie). Peterson set a then-Vikings record with 1,760 yards in 2008, earning the Bert Bell Award as the Pro Football Player of the Year. Overall, Peterson totaled 5,782 rushing yards and 52 touchdowns in four seasons under Bieniemy's guidance.

Bieniemy made the move to the professional ranks after three seasons as the running backs coach at UCLA (2003-05). While at UCLA, Bieniemy tutored former NFL RB Maurice Jones-Drew for three seasons. Jones-Drew earned Freshman All-America honors in 2003, rushed for 1,007 yards in 2004 and was a consensus All-America selection as a kick returner in 2005.

Following his nine-year NFL playing career, Bieniemy served as an assistant at Thomas Jefferson High in Denver prior to securing his first job as running backs coach with Colorado. In his first two seasons coaching the position, CU ranked in the top-10 in rushing. He was a second-round draft pick (39th overall) of the San Diego Chargers in the 1991 NFL Draft. He enjoyed a nine-year pro career with three teams: San Diego (1991-94), Cincinnati (1995-98) and Philadelphia (1999), where he played for Chiefs Head Coach Andy Reid. In 142 career NFL games, he rushed for 1,589 yards and 11 touchdowns while catching 146 passes for 1,223 yards. He appeared in Super Bowl XXIX in his final season with the Chargers.

A letterwinner from Bishop Amat High School in La Puente, Calif., Bieniemy earned second-team All-America honors in football as a senior when he rushed for 2,002 yards and 30 touchdowns.

A native of New Orleans, Bieniemy and his wife, Mia, have two sons Eric III and Elijah.



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GAME MANAGEMENT



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# JACK DEL RIO

**DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR**

36TH NFL SEASON (25 COACHING/11 PLAYING) / 4TH WITH WASHINGTON



Jack Del Rio enters his fourth season as the Commanders Defensive Coordinator in 2023 after being named to the position on Jan. 2, 2020.

In 2022 Del Rio led a defense that finished third in the NFL in yards per game and fourth in the NFL in passing yards per game. Del Rio's defense held opponents to a 31.9 percent conversion rate on third down, the lowest in the league and finished eighth in the NFL allowing opponents to convert 51.9 percent of the time in the redzone. Washington held opponents to a 26:57 time of possession mark, the lowest in the NFL. Del Rio's defense also recorded 15 games allowing 25 or fewer points, the most in the NFL.

In 2021, Del Rio oversaw a defense that featured defensive tackle Jonathan Allen, who set career-highs 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 yards per game (5th), interception rate (8th), redzone 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 league-best 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 NFL'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 runner-up for the Lombardi Award, given to the nation's best lineman or linebacker.

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



**BRENT VIESELMAYER**  
DEFENSIVE BACKS



**STEVE RUSS**  
LINEBACKERS



**RICHARD ROGERS**  
SR. DEFENSIVE ASST./  
SAFETIES



**RYAN KERRIGAN**  
ASST. DEFENSIVE LINE



**VINCENT RIVERA**  
ASST. LINEBACKERS/  
DEFENSIVE QUALITY CONTROL



**CRISTIAN GARCIA**  
ASST. DEFENSIVE BACKS/  
NICKELS



**REGGIE HOWARD**  
DEFENSIVE QUALITY CONTROL





# NATE KACZOR

**SPECIAL TEAMS COORDINATOR**

16TH NFL SEASON / 5TH WITH WASHINGTON



Nate Kaczor (pronounced Kat-sir) enters his fifth season as special teams coordinator with Washington in 2023. Prior to Washington, Kaczor held positions with the Jacksonville Jaguars, Tennessee Titans and Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

In 2022, Kaczor led a unit that produced two Pro Bowl players including punter Tress Way and special teamer Jeremy Reaves. Way became the first Washington punter since Matt Turk in 1998 to be selected to the Pro Bowl. Way now joins Turk (1996-98) as the only other punter in franchise history to be selected to multiple Pro Bowls. Way punted 83 times and recorded 3,885 yards and pinned 37 punts inside the 20 yard line. Reaves was selected as a primary special teamer for the NFC. It was Reaves' first Pro Bowl selection and the selection marks the first time that Washington has sent a special teamer to the Pro Bowl since Lorenzo Alexander in 2012.

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, 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) and the eighth-lowest kickoff return average (21.8). 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 co-offensive 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.

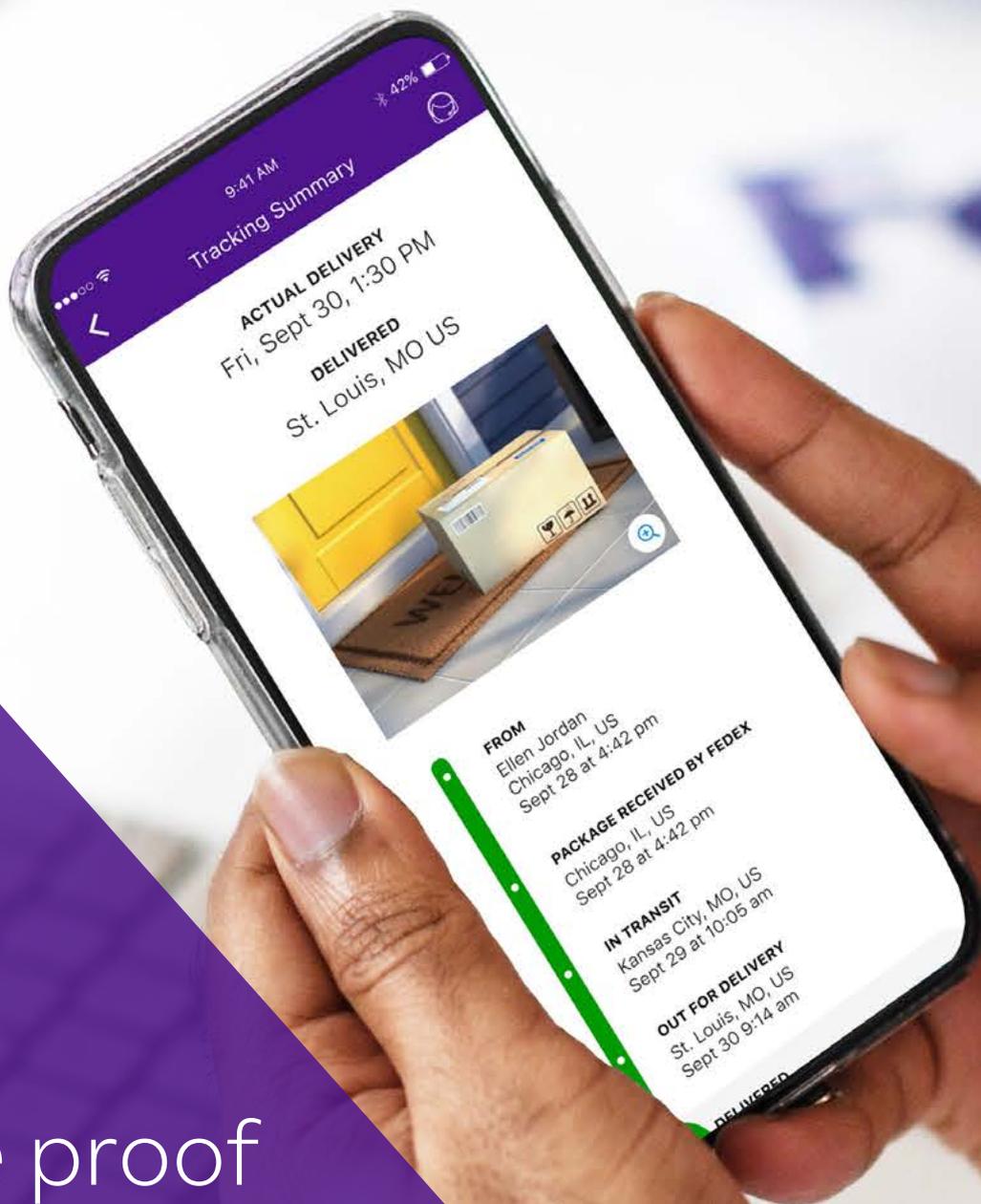
Before his time at Louisiana-Monroe, Kaczor spent two seasons (2004-05) as the co-offensive coordinator/tight ends coach at Idaho and four seasons as offensive coordinator/quarterbacks coach at Nebraska-Kearney (2000-03). Kaczor began his coaching career as an offensive assistant at his alma mater, Utah 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, Kaczor is an avid college basketball fan and he and his wife, Angie, have two children, Kaylee and Micah, who had a stint as a pitcher in the Colorado Rockies organization.



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# CHAD ENGLEHART

**HEAD OF STRENGTH & CONDITIONING**

14TH NFL SEASON / 7TH WITH WASHINGTON



Chad Englehart is entering his 14th season with Washington and his seventh as the team's head strength and conditioning coach in 2023 after being promoted to the role during the 2017 offseason. He initially joined the team as an assistant strength and conditioning coach on February 26, 2010.

Prior to joining Washington, Englehart served as the head strength and conditioning coach with the Florida Tuskers of the United Football League in 2009.

In 2008, Englehart served as director of strength and conditioning at Xcel Sports Performance

in Louisiana. Before that, he was head strength and conditioning coach in 2007 at HS2 Athletic Performance in Mandeville, La., and at the University of New Orleans in 2006.

Englehart holds a Master's degree in human movement with a concentration in corrective exercise from A.T. Still University. He also holds a bachelor's degree in kinesiology with a concentration in exercise science from Southeastern Louisiana University. He is a certified strength and conditioning specialist with the National Strength and Condition Association and is a Performance Enhancement Specialist and

Corrective Exercise Specialist with the National Academy of Sports Medicine (NASM).

Englehart also holds certifications with USA Weightlifting and USA Track and Field, Functional Movement Screen and TRX Suspension Training certifications as well as a Fitness Nutrition Specialist certification from the NASM and a 3DMAPS (3D Movement Analysis and Performance System) certification from Gray Institute.

Englehart and his wife, Lyndsey, have two daughters, Blair and Elise.



**KAVAN LATHAM**  
ASST. STRENGTH & CONDITIONING



**JAKE SANKAL**  
ASST. STRENGTH & CONDITIONING/NUTRITION



**RYAN VERMILLION JR.**  
ASST. STRENGTH & CONDITIONING





# DOUG WILLIAMS

SENIOR ADVISOR TO THE PRESIDENT

27TH 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 90 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 after-school 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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# MARTIN MAYHEW

**GENERAL MANAGER**

34TH NFL SEASON (25 FRONT OFFICE/9 PLAYING) / 7TH WITH WASHINGTON

Martin Mayhew enters his third 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.

Mayhew spent the previous four seasons 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**

29TH NFL SEASON / 4TH WITH WASHINGTON

Rob Rogers enters his 29th 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 for the Carolina Panthers. 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 self-scouting 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

32ND NFL SEASON / 3RD WITH WASHINGTON



Marty Hurney enters his third 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 rejoined the franchise where he started his NFL career as a member of the team's public relations department.

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 alltime leader in tackles. Stewart and Williams went on to compile 7,318 rushing yards and 6,846 rushing yards, which are 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.





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# ERIC STOKES

**SENIOR DIRECTOR OF PLAYER PERSONNEL**

26TH NFL SEASON (22 FRONT OFFICE/4 PLAYING) / 4TH WITH WASHINGTON



Eric Stokes is entering his fourth season with Washington and his third 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 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 draft-eligible 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

### CONNOR BARRINGER

PRO SCOUT

### DAVID WHITTINGTON

NATIONAL SCOUT

### JEFF BEATHARD

NATIONAL SCOUT

### PETER PICERELLI

COLLEGE SCOUT

### CHUCK COOK

COLLEGE SCOUT

### HARRISON RITCHER

COLLEGE SCOUT

### RONALD ROSE

COLLEGE SCOUT

### PAUL SKANSI

COLLEGE SCOUT

### ROGER TERRY

COLLEGE SCOUT

### TYLER CLAYTOR

BLESTO SCOUT

### ASHLEY COHRS

PLAYER PERSONNEL ASSISTANT

# FOOTBALL ANALYTICS



### DOUG DREWRY

FOOTBALL ANALYTICS COORDINATOR



### PRESTON BIRO

FOOTBALL DATA SCIENTIST





# MALCOLM BLACKEN

SENIOR DIRECTOR OF PLAYER DEVELOPMENT

29TH NFL SEASON / 17TH 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 January 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 ArtByMalcolm.com.

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



ALEXIS DOTSON  
PLAYER DEVELOPMENT ASST.



# BRYAN PORTER

DIRECTOR OF FOOTBALL OPERATIONS

21ST NFL SEASON / 3RD WITH WASHINGTON

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.

## FOOTBALL OPERATIONS

**BARBARA ALLEN**  
COACHING STAFF ASST.

**MATT PETERSON**  
FOOTBALL OPERATIONS ASST.

**SARAH SZABO**

FOOTBALL ADMINISTRATION COORDINATOR

## FOOTBALL SOLUTIONS

**SEENU TULLURI**  
DIRECTOR OF FOOTBALL SOLUTIONS

**GAYANTRI NAMBIAR**  
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# TIM GRIBBLE

**DIRECTOR OF COLLEGE PERSONNEL**

23RD NFL SEASON / 7TH WITH WASHINGTON



Tim Gribble is entering his 23rd season 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.

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.



# CHRIS POLIAN

**DIRECTOR OF PRO PERSONNEL**

27TH NFL SEASON / 3RD WITH WASHINGTON



Chris Polian enters his third season as Washington's director of pro personnel in 2023. 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, 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, Caroline and Kate.



WEEK 3 | BUF VS WAS

PHOTO GALLERY

#TTC

FEDEXFIELD



WEEK 3 | BUF VS WAS

PHOTO GALLERY

#TTC

FEDEXFIELD







# AL BELLAMY

**HEAD ATHLETIC TRAINER**

27TH NFL SEASON / 15TH WITH WASHINGTON



Al Bellamy enters his second season and stint in Washington after spending 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 1986-88. He was a member of the 1987 National Championship medical team.

Bellamy earned his master's degree in health education in 1987 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.



**BRETT NENABER**  
DIR. PLAYER PERFORMANCE



**MARK MCCRACKEN**  
ASST. HEAD ATHLETIC TRAINER



**MASAHIRO TAKAHAGI**  
ASST. ATHLETIC TRAINER



**LINDSAY GATELY**  
ASST. ATHLETIC TRAINER/  
PHYSICAL THERAPIST



**DOUG QUON**  
ASST. ATHLETIC TRAINER



**DR. BARBARA ROBERTS**  
DIR. WELLNESS &  
CLINICAL SERVICES



**JEFF RUIZ**  
DIR. OF REHABILITATION  
& PHYSICAL THERAPIST

## TONY CASOLARO, MD

CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER  
INTERNAL MEDICINE

## CHRIS ANNUNZIATA, MD

HEAD TEAM PHYSICIAN AND  
ORTHOPEDICS

## ANDREW PARKER, MD

TEAM PHYSICIAN AND  
ORTHOPEDICS

## SID CHANDELA, MD

TEAM NEUROLOGIST  
CONSULTANT

## JOHN BERNARD, MD

TEAM PHYSICIAN AND  
ORTHOPEDIST

## JESSALYNN ADAM, MD

TEAM PHYSICIAN  
PRIMARY SPORT CARE MEDICINE

## MICHAEL ANTONIS, MD

TEAM PHYSICIAN  
PRIMARY SPORT CARE MEDICINE

## KEITH SMITHSON, OD

TEAM OPTOMETRIST

## HIRAD BAGY, DC

TEAM CHIROPRACTOR

## CHAD KASPEROWSKI, DMD

TEAM DENTIST



A promotional image for FOX 5's DMV Zone. On the left, Marina Marrago, a woman with long dark hair, is smiling and wearing a dark blue V-neck top. On the right, Joe Clair, a man with a beard and a black hat, is smiling and wearing a dark jacket over a plaid shirt. They are standing in a news studio with multiple monitors in the background, some displaying the 'DMV ZONE' logo. The text 'Stay Ahead with FOX5' is overlaid in large white letters across the middle of the image.

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JOE CLAIR

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# MIKE BRACKEN

**VIDEO DIRECTOR**

25TH NFL SEASON / 25TH WITH WASHINGTON



Mike Bracken is entering his 25th season with Washington and his 21st as the head of the video department in 2023. 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



**WILL KROM**  
VIDEO ASST.



**AARON CLEM**  
VIDEO ASST.

## EQUIPMENT STAFF



**DREW CURLS**  
CO-EQUIPMENT MANAGER



**JUSTIN BROOKS**  
CO-EQUIPMENT MANAGER



**JERELLE LEVERITTE**  
EQUIPMENT ASST.



**NATHANIEL KU**  
EQUIPMENT ASST.



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# 53 MAN ROSTER

\*AS OF 9/27



**JONATHAN ALLEN**  
93 | DEFENSIVE TACKLE



**ABDULLAH ANDERSON**  
92 | DEFENSIVE TACKLE



**CODY BARTON**  
57 | LINEBACKER



**JOHN BATES**  
87 | TIGHT END



**JACOBY BRISSETT**  
12 | QUARTERBACK



**DYAMI BROWN**  
2 | WIDE RECEIVER



**PERCY BUTLER**  
35 | SAFETY



**SAAHDIQ CHARLES**  
77 | GUARD/TACKLE



**CAMARON CHEESEMAN**  
54 | LONGSNAPPER



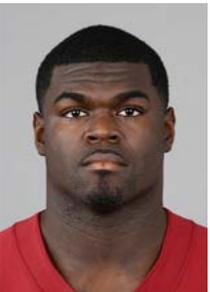
**SAM COSMI**  
76 | TACKLE



**JAMISON CROWDER**  
83 | WIDE RECEIVER



**KAMREN CURL**  
31 | SAFETY



**JAMIN DAVIS**  
52 | LINEBACKER



**JAHAN DOTSON**  
1 | WIDE RECEIVER



**EMMANUEL FORBES JR.**  
13 | CORNERBACK



**DARRICK FORREST**  
22 | SAFETY



**KENDALL FULLER**  
29 | CORNERBACK



**NICK GATES**  
63 | CENTER



**ANTONIO GIBSON**  
24 | RUNNING BACK



**KJ HENRY**  
55 | DEFENSIVE END



**CURTIS HODGES**  
80 | TIGHT END



**CHRISTIAN HOLMES**  
34 | CORNERBACK



**SAM HOWELL**  
14 | QUARTERBACK



**KHALEKE HUDSON**  
47 | LINEBACKER





**DANNY JOHNSON**  
36 | CORNERBACK



**ANDRE JONES JR.**  
48 | DEFENSIVE END



**TYLER LARSEN**  
69 | CENTER



**CHARLES LENO JR.**  
72 | TACKLE



**CORNELIUS LUCAS**  
78 | TACKLE



**JARTAVIUS MARTIN**  
20 | DEFENSIVE BACK



**DAVID MAYO**  
51 | LINEBACKER



**TERRY McLaurin**  
17 | WIDE RECEIVER



**CHRIS PAUL**  
75 | GUARD



**DARON PAYNE**  
94 | DEFENSIVE TACKLE



**BYRON PRINGLE**  
3 | WIDE RECEIVER



**JEREMY REAVES**  
39 | SAFETY



**JOHN RIDGEWAY III**  
91 | DEFENSIVE TACKLE



**BRIAN ROBINSON JR.**  
8 | RUNNING BACK



**CHRIS RODRIGUEZ JR.**  
23 | RUNNING BACK



**CURTIS SAMUEL**  
4 | WIDE RECEIVER



**TRENT SCOTT**  
73 | TACKLE



**JOEY SLYE**  
6 | KICKER



**JAMES SMITH-WILLIAMS**  
96 | DEFENSIVE END



**BENJAMIN ST-JUSTE**  
25 | CORNERBACK



**RICKY STROMBERG**  
53 | CENTER



**MONTEZ SWEAT**  
90 | DEFENSIVE END



**LOGAN THOMAS**  
82 | TIGHT END



**MITCHELL TINSLEY**  
86 | WIDE RECEIVER



**CASEY TOO HILL**  
95 | DEFENSIVE END



**COLE TURNER**  
85 | TIGHT END



**TRESS WAY**  
5 | PUNTER



**ANDREW WYLIE**  
71 | GUARD/TACKLE



**CHASE YOUNG**  
99 | DEFENSIVE END



# OFFENSIVE DEPTHCHART



## WR

TERRY McLAURIN  
DYAMI BROWN

## LT

CHARLES LENO JR.  
CORNELIUS LUCAS

## LG

SAAHQIQ CHARLES  
RICKY STROMBERG

## C

NICK GATES  
TYLER LARSEN  
RICKY STROMBERG

## RG

SAM COSMI  
CHRIS PAUL

## RT

ANDREW WYLIE  
TRENT SCOTT

## TE

LOGAN THOMAS  
JOHN BATES  
COLE TURNER  
CURTIS HODGES

## WR

CURTIS SAMUEL  
DYAMI BROWN  
JAMISON CROWDER

## WR

JAHAN DOTSON  
BYRON PRINGLE  
MITCHELL TINSLEY

## QB

SAM HOWELL  
JACOBY BRISSETT

## RB

BRIAN ROBINSON JR.  
ANTONIO GIBSON  
CHRIS RODRIGUEZ JR.

# DEFENSIVE DEPTHCHART

## DE

MONTEZ SWEAT  
CASEY TOOHILL  
ANDRE JONES JR.

## DT

DARON PAYNE  
JOHN RIDGEWAY III

## DT

JONATHAN ALLEN  
ABDULLAH ANDERSON

## DE

CHASE YOUNG  
JAMES SMITH-WILLIAMS  
KJ HENRY

## OLB

JAMIN DAVIS  
KHALEKE HUDSON

## MLB

CODY BARTON  
DAVID MAYO

## CB

KENDALL FULLER  
JARTAVIUS MARTIN

## CB

BENJAMIN ST-JUSTE  
CHRISTIAN HOLMES

## CB

EMMANUEL FORBES JR.  
DANNY JOHNSON

## SS

KAMREN CURL  
JEREMY REAVES

## FS

DARRICK FORREST  
PERCY BUTLER

# SPECIAL TEAMS DEPTHCHART

## P

TRESS WAY

## K

JOEY SLYE

## H

TRESS WAY

## LS

CAMARON CHEESEMAN

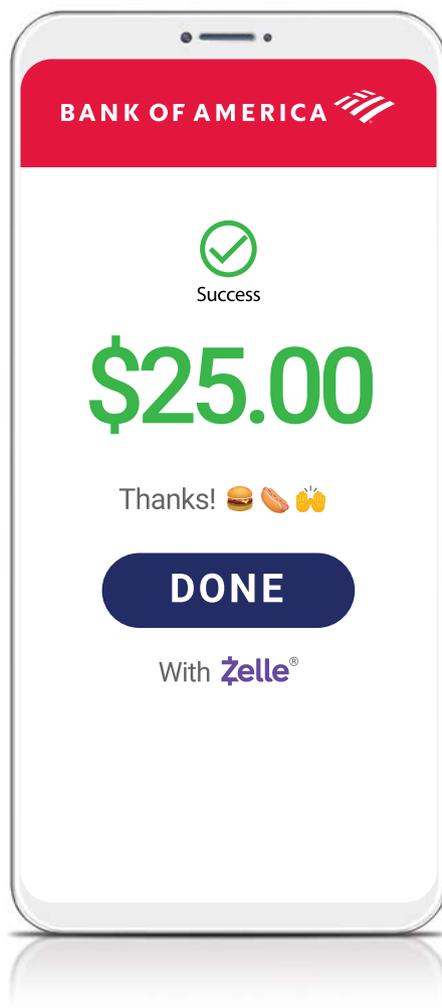
## PR

JAMISON CROWDER  
JAHAN DOTSON

## KR

ANTONIO GIBSON  
BYRON PRINGLE

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# PLAYERS TO WATCH



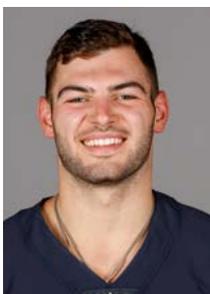
**ANDREW BILLINGS**  
97 | DEFENSIVE TACKLE



**CHASE CLAYPOOL**  
10 | WIDE RECEIVER



**CODY WHITEHAIR**  
65 | GUARD



**COLE KMET**  
85 | TIGHT END



**DARNELL MOONEY**  
11 | WIDE RECEIVER



**DARNELL WRIGHT**  
58 | TACKLE



**DEMARCUS WALKER**  
95 | DEFENSIVE END



**DJ MOORE**  
2 | WIDE RECEIVER



**EDDIE JACKSON**  
4 | SAFETY



**JAQUAN BRISKER**  
9 | SAFETY



**JUSTIN FIELDS**  
1 | QUARTERBACK



**JUSTIN JONES**  
93 | DEFENSIVE TACKLE



**KHALIL HERBERT**  
24 | RUNNING BACK



**LARRY BOROM**  
75 | LEFT TACKLE



**LUCAS PATRICK**  
62 | CENTER



**NATE DAVIS**  
64 | GUARD



**T.J. EDWARDS**  
53 | LINEBACKER



**YANNICK NGAKOUE**  
91 | DEFENSIVE END



# OFFENSIVE DEPTHCHART



## WR

DJ MOORE  
VELUS JONES JR.  
TRENT TAYLOR

## LT

BRAXTON JONES  
LARRY BOROM

## LG

CODY WHITEHAIR  
JA'TYRE CARTER

## C

LUCAS PATRICK  
DAN FEENEY

## RG

NATE DAVIS  
JA'TYRE CARTER

## RT

DARNELL WRIGHT  
LARRY BOROM

## TE

COLE KMET  
ROBERT TONYAN  
MERCEDES LEWIS

## WR

DARNELL MOONEY  
EQUANIMEOUS ST. BROWN

## WR

CHASE CLAYPOOL  
TYLER SCOTT

## QB

JUSTIN FIELDS  
NATHAN PETERMAN  
TYSON BAGENT

## RB

KHALIL HERBERT  
D'ONTA FOREMAN  
ROSCHON JOHNSON

## FB

KHARI BLASINGAME

# DEFENSIVE DEPTHCHART

## DE

DEMARCUS WALKER  
DOMINIQUE ROBINSON

## DT

JUSTIN JONES  
GERVON DEXTER SR.

## DT

ANDREW BILLINGS  
ZACCH PICKENS

## DE

YANNICK NGAKOUE  
RASHEEM GREEN  
KHALID KAREEM

## LB

T.J. EDWARDS

## LB

TREMAINE EDMUNDS  
DYLAN COLE

## LB

JACK SANBORN  
NOAH SEWELL

## CB

JAYLON JOHNSON  
TYRIQUE STEVENSON  
JAYLON JONES

## CB

KYLER GORDON  
TERELL SMITH  
JOSH BLACKWELL

## S

EDDIE JACKSON  
ELIJAH HICKS

## S

JAQUAN BRISKER  
QUINDELL JOHNSON

# SPECIAL TEAMS DEPTHCHART

## P

TRENTON GILL

## K

CAIRO SANTOS

## H

TRENTON GILL

## LS

PATRICK SCALES

## PR

TRENT TAYLOR  
VELUS JONES JR.  
TYLER SCOTT

## KR

VELUS JONES JR.  
TYLER SCOTT  
KHALIL HERBERT



**WEEK 3 | BUF VS WAS**

PHOTO  
GALLERY



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**T44**

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EN EL TIEMPO**

TRABAJANDO PARA TI



**DOUG KAMMERER**  
CHIEF METEOROLOGIST



**JOSEPH MARTÍNEZ**  
T44 METEORÓLOGO CERTIFICADO

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## PLAYERS' POST:

# BRIAN ROBISON

I remember staying up that whole night in the hospital, wondering what was going to happen next, good or bad.

I couldn't help but feel disappointed, because I had worked so hard to get to this point in my life. From playing high school football in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, to waiting my turn to show what I could do in college and getting the call from Coach Rivera, I had dreamt about playing in the NFL from the first time I was able to put that jersey on with my name on it. I realized that dreams are real if you put together the right habits and you know you have the right work ethic.

Now, that dream was close to being done.

I knew I was lucky to be alive. We're talking about gunshots. People die from gunshots. One shot. Anywhere. It can be in the strangest place on your body, and you can die from it. So, to take two, there's no way I can think that I'm not blessed to make it out of there. I can't help but think about how blessed I am to make it out of that.

I still felt that disappointment right before the doctor told me the results, but I was also trying to stay positive about what could happen. Then he told me that there had been no structural damage, and I just felt relieved. I still didn't know how well that would go for me at the time, but I did have some moment of relief. At least I'd be able to walk again. At least I'd be able to run again.

Hopefully, I'd be able to return and play ball again.

Not even a week after the doctor told me the news, I decided I wasn't going to let what happened

stop me from playing again. I didn't know how long it would take. I didn't put a timeframe on it or anything. I just went straight into my process, and I was determined and focused every single day on getting better. I felt like I was blessed, and I was rewarded for all the energy and work that I had put into my recovery. God gave me a chance to come back a whole lot earlier than I was really expecting to.

It was still a process. We still had ups and downs, and we're still going through it. I remember trying to hop up and down the stairs on my crutches while my mom was taking care of me. I'm a very ambitious, self-motivated person, and very independent. If I feel like I can do it, I'm gonna go for it. I wait so long to ask for help, and I try to put everything on my back, even when it's super heavy.

I knew I was gonna have to get back on my feet one way or the other. I didn't really want my mom or really nobody to be feeling sorry for me and feeling like they had to pull me back up. I wanted to show them that I had enough strength at the time to be strong.

But the people around me helped me get to the point I'm at today. My mom knew when to allow me to help and when not to. I appreciate her for just staying on me and just making sure I was doing stuff the right way.

And I appreciate how much my teammates were there for me. I needed them more than they needed me at the time. When I showed up to the practice facility with the Oreos in my hand, I wanted them to know that I was still open to what

we had started working on, what we had started building and that I was still committed to the relationships that we had started forming over the summer. I didn't want to put my head down, because I was determined to get back on my feet. That's the type of energy I needed around me. That's the type of energy I give out. I want people to feel like I'm happy and I'm excited, even when sometimes I'm not, because that's the energy that's gonna reflect around you, and that was the energy that I needed.

I appreciate everybody in that building that works with me every day. Like Mr. Al Bellamy in the training room. I got to spend a lot of very trying times with him and his staff, and it was great for me. Not only was he very helpful with my recovery, but he also has a great personality that really helped me mentally go through what I went through.

I remember standing in the tunnel at FedExField six weeks later getting ready for my NFL debut. That was a special moment for me. I almost got everything taken away from me before I even started. Even if I didn't gain one yard that day, it wasn't about that. It was about my presence, being able to live through what I had just gone through and also still live my dream of playing in the NFL.

Moments like that, the ones you get to share only with yourself, are moments that only you feel special about. Only you know how you feel and what you went through and why you feel the way you feel. But the moments with everybody else, like when I ran out of the tunnel with my teammates and the fans around me, everybody else around

# BINSON JR.

you feel it and acknowledges it. That's what makes you feel comfortable around your teammates. That's what makes you feel respected by everyone who's rallying around you at that moment. You see how many people care about you and your presence.

A few days later, I was told that I was going to be the starting running back against the Bears. I knew it was going to be a tough game, and at the time, I didn't really know if I was ready or not. I didn't know if I could make certain moves and cuts or make certain people miss based on how I felt at the time. But I was going to go out there and play my best.

I actually went out there and did a lot better than I was expecting to. That was a perfect moment for me to show what I was bringing to the table for our team. I even scored my first touchdown, which helped us win the game. That was probably the most exciting part about it. I got my first start, and we got our first win.

That was just enough for me to continue to gain confidence, and as the season went on, I got to show more of who I am. One of my favorite moments of the year was wearing the big hat after our game against the Falcons. While I was still working hard, competing and running for my first 100-yard game, I was able to enjoy life and show my personality and connect with people around the world just off doing something that I thought was funny.

During that game, it just felt like I was growing. I was coming back into my own. Plays like the

touchdown I had early in the game just sparked me up and got me rolling for the rest of the day.

Getting back to my old self is still a process. If anybody knows what it's like to get shot through your knee, it's very traumatizing. I feel a lot better today than I felt a month ago, two months ago, last year. And I'm continuing to take strides. It's all gonna come back together. Everything, slowly but surely. I can still go out and play ball. There's a lot of things you'll see me do that will make you say, "Oh, I thought he couldn't do that."

I'm a warrior. I feel like I can stand my ground against anything I'm up against. If the battle finds me, I can fight it. That's just my mindset playing running back in the NFL. I want to be the best, so I have to continue creating the right habits on and off the field, investing my time correctly and sticking to my script.

Everybody has their way of being who they are. I have to stick to my script and what makes me who I am.

And to whoever is the first defender I see this season, remember this: don't run.



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## HOGFARMERS WARRIOR KENNEDY KEENE CELEBRATES END OF LEUKEMIA TREATMENT WITH VISIT TO COMMANDERS PRACTICE

By Hannah Lichtenstein

Kennedy Keene could not stop smiling during her visit to OrthoVirginia Training Center at Commanders Park on Thursday. The joy emanating from the little girl was an emotional scene considering the two-year cancer battle she has endured.

"It's amazing having her here for this," her aunt Susan said. "She definitely deserves it after the two years she's been through. So, I'm just happy that she's having fun, having a great time. I'm thankful for that."

Just last week, Kennedy, 9, finished up her active treatment for Leukemia and had her port removed. The Commanders Charitable Foundation and the Hogfarmers Charitable Foundation coordinated a visit to practice for her family to celebrate the milestone. Thursday also marked the beginning of a new chapter for Kennedy that is filled with many more exciting experiences out in the world.

The Keene family's nightmare began in May 2021. A sense of something wrong began to brew a few months earlier when Kennedy had experienced pain during gymnastics practice. After her pediatrician ran bloodwork following an unexplained fever, they determined Kennedy's hemoglobin levels were dangerously low. Then came the Leukemia diagnosis.

"The day after diagnosis, you're just going, Phase 1. Boom. You're getting wheeled down for surgery to get that first port and spinal tap," Kennedy's

father Donnie said. "Nobody should ever have to go through that."

And though nothing can fully remove the pain and stress of watching a child battle cancer, support of all kinds has helped Kennedy and the Keene family on their journey. One of those crucial sources of support has been the Hogfarmers Charitable Foundation, a pediatric cancer non-profit organization that supports families in Virginia, Washington D.C. and Southern Maryland.

The Hogfarmers got connected to the Keene family, who are Commanders fans, through another family of Commanders fans they had helped. Since earlier in the year, the Hogfarmers have sent her gift cards to her favorite food places, gas cards for her parents, a custom shirt to assist with port access, toys and more.

Though her treatment plan limited her ability to enjoy Hogfarmers' outings, there was hope that one day she would be able to come out with the pig-nose-wearing squad to have some fun. Seeing that day arrive on Thursday brought so much happiness to everyone who had been involved in the visit to Commanders' practice.

"She's come a long way. She's had a pretty extensive treatment plan, and for her to be able to come out her and enjoy something like this and be active, it's what you want. It's what you want the ending to be," said Hogfarmer Chris Bryant. "Sometimes it doesn't go that way, but when it is, it's very nice."

Kennedy looked "back to her old self" according to dad Donnie as she dished out instructions, played

on the sideline and helped close out the session with Coach Rivera. Following practice, she got to spend time with one of her favorite players, KJ Henry. Kennedy, whose mom went to Clemson, is a huge Tigers fan, and she was so excited to watch Henry get drafted by the Commanders in April.

The two played catch, talked about the purple streaks in her hair (Henry's favorite color) and chatted about how they needed to stick together as the only two Tigers fans in the building on the day. He gave her his practice-worn gloves, signed items she had received in her goodie bag and took pictures with her.

"It was real heartwarming," Henry said of Kennedy's visit. "I haven't stepped on the field in this league yet, so it's cool to still see that people appreciate me for me and me for my game. I'm just glad I could put a smile on her face."

Kennedy's visit wrapped up with the news that she and her family would be put up in a suite for the game of their choice this season. Another day full of making memories with the Commanders is already on the books. This one will always hold a special place in the hearts and minds of the Keenes, though.

"To be able to do something like this, it's amazing," Donny Keene said through tears. "There's no words for it. She got to meet some players you'd never thought she'd meet...the experience of a lifetime. Something that we'll remember forever."

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**SALVADORAN AMERICANS  
JUAN ROMERO AND  
MOISES LINARES LOOK AT  
COMMANDERS BROADCAST  
ROLE AS HONOR,  
RESPONSIBILITY**



# MOISES LINARES



# JUAN ROMERO

By Hannah Lichtenstein

The ping from Moises Linares came in the day before Washington's preseason finale against Cincinnati.

"Would you be willing to do this interview over lunch? That way you can see a little more of my culture?" he wrote.

The place we go, a hole-in-the-wall spot in Arlington, Virginia, called Atlacatl, is Salvadoran. A blue and white flag greets customers at the door, and the menu has a section dedicated entirely to pupusa options. It's here, between bites of yucca and sips of coffee, that Linares outlines the journey to where he is today as a radio broadcaster for the Commanders.

Many elements of this story are shared by his co-broadcaster and fellow Salvadoran American Juan Romero. Both of their parents left El Salvador for a better future. Linares and Romero grew up figuring out how to straddle a Spanish-speaking home and English-speaking school life. Both fell in love with sports at a young age and found it as a means to connect to the society around them. The kid from Los Angeles and the kid from Takoma Park, Maryland, are now living a dream calling plays for their local NFL team in an area that has a higher Salvadoran population than any other in the country.

Romero's local NFL team also happens to be the team he has followed his whole life. As the only one of his siblings born in the United States, he has a connection to his Salvadoran heritage that sprung from very specific circumstances.

"My family is from Intipuca, and for a little bit of background on that, that city is famous for having a lot of immigrants here to [the DMV] area," Romero said.

And that is not just talk; it's observed fact. As a 2018 story from AP News noted, "In Intipuca, immigrating to the U.S. -- and particularly Washington, D.C. -- has been a way of life for 50 years. Going to D.C. is a rooted part of the community's habits, beliefs and customs. Half the town's population is there..."

That unique kind of presence of Salvadoran community was not quite the same for a young Linares growing up 3,000 miles away. It was not really until Linares got older that he felt pulled to dig into his ethnic and cultural background.

"We [Moises and his siblings] started to understand we're not just American, because you start getting that common question of, 'Where are you from? No, where are you really from?'" Linares said. "As I got older, I started appreciating where my family came from, what they were about and the sacrifices they had made for me to have an education and a better opportunity."

Like many first-generation Americans, a large theme of Romero and Linares' childhoods was the dance between two cultures. That reality came with a lot of enrichment. Romero and Linares became bilingual at a young age and felt the joys of being immersed in values focused on family, hard work and an intense love for sport.

This upbringing also, however, came with distinct struggles. Right up through when he was a baby, for example, Romero's dad bounced between the El Salvador and the U.S.

"He would come here, make money, go back. Either by choice or not by choice," Romero said.

Romero's dad worked in restaurants. His mom worked in cleaning. Linares' mom and her siblings left El Salvador in the early 1980s during the civil war and traveled an arduous journey through Guatemala and Mexico to come to L.A. His mom, who raised Moises and most of his siblings on her own, also worked in restaurants and out of food trucks.

"That relentlessness is something that I grabbed from her, and I saw it and I said, 'Well if you did that, then I'm gonna make you proud,'" Linares said. "I said, 'I can't waste this opportunity. I gotta take advantage.'"

Linares and Romero's paths first crossed at the Spanish language radio station "El Zol," where Romero worked as a producer and Linares had worked on-air for D.C. United broadcasts. The decision to start an official Spanish radio broadcast for Washington football came from El Zol's parent company in the lead up to the 2018 NFL season. Linares, who had started to establish himself as a leading Spanish sports voice in the DMV, was a no-brainer for the on-air role.

Romero, on the other hand, did not have that background. He did know radio, though, and significantly, he was a lifelong Commanders fan. It would be hard for anyone working in his vicinity at El Zol to not know that.

"That's all I talked about. My office was full of Washington stuff," he said with a laugh. "For me, I would have been excited to just produce it and worry about the behind-the-scenes, but then the opportunity came to be actually analyzing and making comments about the game, that was really cool for me."

So, the Romero-Linares partnership was set, and they've never looked back. 2023 marks the duo's sixth season as the official Spanish language radio broadcasters for the Commanders. Since the beginning, the two have looked to provide their Spanish-speaking listener base a product that is both entertaining and informative, with a little bit of familiarity sprinkled in.

"The game kind of has to be explained a little deeper as far as if someone is listening on the radio, especially if someone is Spanish-speaking or maybe new to the country and just doesn't understand the game. So, you kind of have to be teachers in a way, but at the same time make it engaging and exciting with the calls," Romero said. "I think Moises does a fabulous job of bringing a little bit of soccer style to our broadcasts when he calls touchdowns or when there are exciting plays."

Their work is enhanced by the fact that they have a strong friendship. Linares describes Romero as someone who he "has a ton of respect for" and looks at their bond as "a brotherhood."

"Our banter and our conversations on-air are pretty much how we'd converse off the mic," Romero added.

They love striving to better their work gameday after gameday and being the voice of special Burgundy & Gold moments for so many (how can you not get goosebumps listening to Linares' call of the Heinicke pylon dive?)

"There's like nothing like yelling a touchdown...I think that creates lifetime memories," Linares said. "And I feel like sometimes when people have long days or a long week, you come to sports for an escape...So for a certain amount of time, during the week, I can be the person who provides a time to relax, time to smile."

For both Salvadoran Americans, the fact that their voice is hitting the ears of thousands just like them is never far from their mind.

"I feel like here we have that duty, we have the honor to represent somewhere where Salvadorans are a major force," Romero said. "You feel special feeling like your story can be the story of the next person whose family has come here from El Salvador. They can grow up watching football and be the same thing as us."

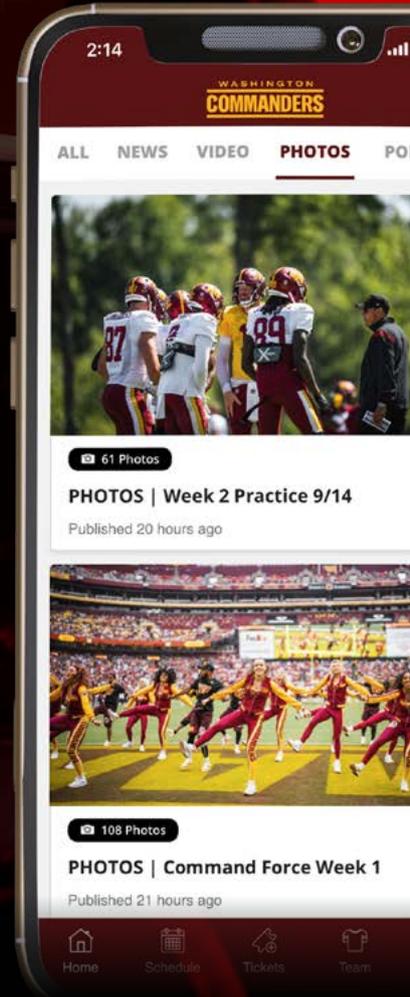
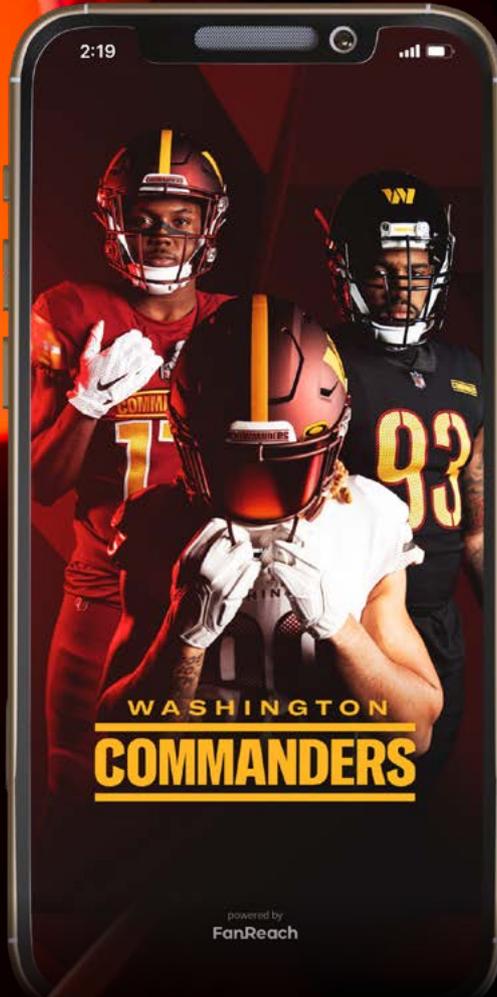
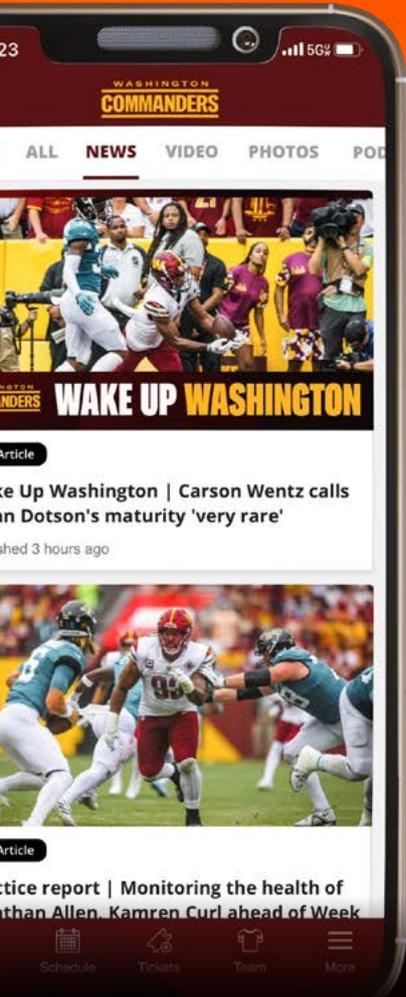
Together, they are making their communities proud and hope that the work ethic, passion and dedication to their craft they exemplify reverberates across generations.

"The goal is that one day if Juan and I are no longer here, we've built something for the next people to come in and say, 'Oh they already have this foundation,'" Linares said. "I kind of want to pave the way."

To listen to Romero and Linares on gameday, download the iHeartRadio app.

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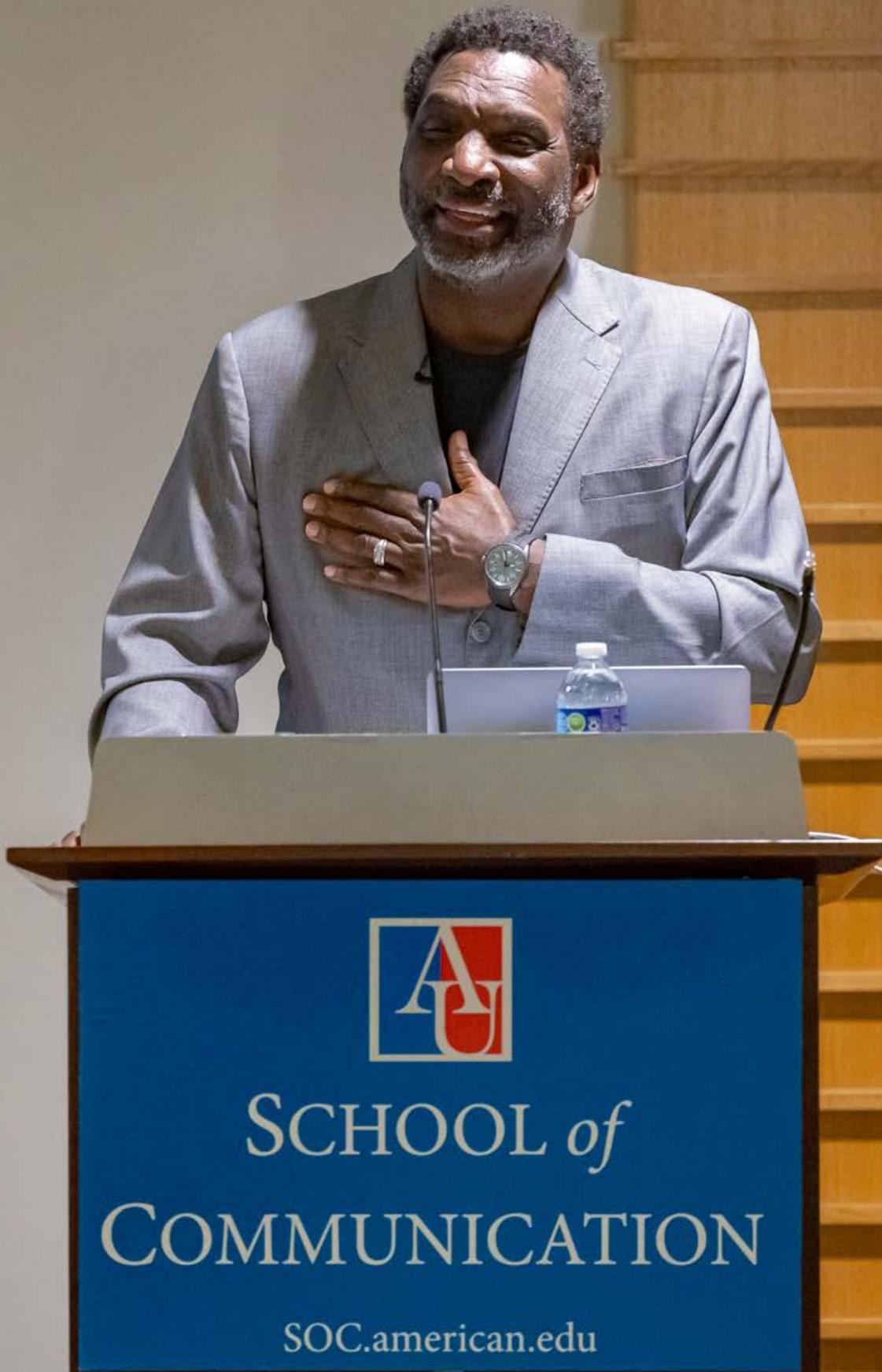
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# DOUG WILLIAMS HONORED WITH 'ICON OF D.C.' AWARD BY AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

Jeff Watts/© 2023 American University

By Kyra Benzing-Plourde

For the last 35 years, the legacy of Doug Williams and his impact on the Washington franchise continues to be widely celebrated, as have the racial barriers he broke in major league sports. He was recognized by American Universities Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA), Kennedy Political Union (K.P.U.), and Phi Sigma Pi Honor Society in receiving the "Icon of D.C." award.

The "Icon of D.C." award is presented annually to recognize someone who has profoundly impacted the area and embodies important lessons for college students. And this year, Williams was chosen not just for his ability to play football, but for his undying efforts of giving Black athletes voices and the continuing work he maintains to bring more diversity to the NFL's front office.

It was 1988 when Williams stepped off the field with his helmet held high after making history by being the first Black quarterback to start and win a super bowl -- moment he recounts as one of the best in his career.

"That moment of walking off with my helmet held high...there were so many things going through my mind," Williams said. "And I was thinking about how I got there, the road traveled to get there. And I said to myself, 'No matter what happened yesterday, no matter what happens tomorrow: it was all about that moment.'"

That moment continues to be celebrated even today. While most American University students either aren't from D.C. or weren't alive for Williams' Super Bowl win, his impact is understood, which drew in guests that evening.

Among the crowd were college students and faculty that have laid their roots in D.C. and were there during Williams's time with the football team.

N. Jeremi Duru, Professor of Law and Director of the Sport and Society Initiative at American University's Washington College of Law, cited the significant change in Washington, D.C., a predominantly Black city after Williams joined the team.

"Before, Washington was no one's team," Duru said. "But then we had Doug."

Throughout Williams's interview with ESPN Fellow Julia Mouketo, he was asked about the progress, status and future of where sports are headed in terms of opportunity for Black athletes and professionals.

"Overcoming racism has to be bigger than on the field, the court, or the diamond," Williams said. "I think the younger generation has got to make it happen. If we want Americans to bend, we also have to find a way to keep it that way."

Greeted by his primarily young audience, Williams was asked questions from the audience about how opportunity for Black men has changed since his time in the league and how it looks going into the future. He has hope that the audience before him can enact some of the change that he, too, sets his sights on.

Gemma Puglisi, the advisor to the organization that named Williams as this year's recipient, was honored to have him join and create an opportunity for students to hear from him.

"Doug is an icon, and we picked him because of that fact," Puglisi said. "And he proved that again today at this event in sharing his story and about what being in D.C. means to him."

However, being an icon was never something Williams imagined would come, and for many years, he fought for the opportunity just to be recognized for who he is.

The meaning of quarterback has changed for Williams since 1990. Williams' book titled "Quarterblack" is an autobiography taking readers through his journey from Louisiana into a starting quarterback position. In the book, Williams wrote that, "My one desire was to be known as a quarterback like the Terry Bradshaws, Joe Montanas, Dan Fouts, and many others in the N.F.L."

And in 2023, Williams has more to say on what he once experienced versus what athletes face today.

"In 1990, if it was like it was today, I wouldn't have had any reason to write that book", Williams said. "That's why the book is called 'Quarterblack'; because no matter what I did when I was in Tampa, they never referred to me as Doug Willams. It was either 'Tampas Black quarterback' or 'the Black quarterback of Tampa Bay.'"

Prior to his professional career, Williams attended Grambling State University and led the Tigers to a 36-7 record and three Southwestern Athletic Conference championships. Williams led the NCAA in several categories during the 1977 season, including yards from scrimmage, passing yards and touchdown passes. It's for those reasons that Grambling University has decided to name their field after him.

"This is so surreal for me. This is such a humbling honor to have James "Shack" Harris and my name plastered on a field in Eddie Robinson stadium," Williams said in the Sacramento Bee. "This is something that will stand time for my kids and grandkids to see. I would like to thank President Rick Gallot and Athletic Director Trayvean Scott for having the vision for such a beautiful and wonderful honor. I also want to say this for all the guys I have had the pleasure of playing with and to let them how much a part that they played."

Williams led Washington to a Super Bowl win, debunked myths about a Black athlete's ability to lead a team and pioneered meaningful change for athletes to come. In the future, William hopes similar work will continue to bring more Black sports executives into the room.

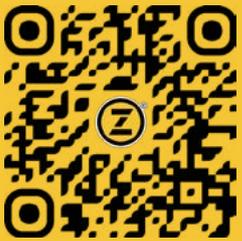
Williams' talk at American University allowed students to connect with someone who has enacted real change through sports and will always be an "Icon of D.C." for that.





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# COMMANDERS HONOR DECADES OF HISTORY DURING ALUMNI HOMECOMING

By Hannah Lichtenstein

Legends Plaza at FedExField lived up to its name in a unique way during Week 3 as Washington alumni spanning six decades gathered at the stadium for a fun tailgate with family and fans ahead of kickoff.

"I'm always excited coming back to D.C. It's always fun to be around those guys who put in the same effort and hard work that we did years after years," said former Washington wide receiver Pierre Garçon. "And I love being out here with the fans because they really support us even after our playing days are over, which means real love."

One hundred and seventy-five Washington Legends returned to their old stomping grounds for this year's alumni homecoming weekend. The three days of celebration, which included fun, educational and community-focused events, put the power of Washington's history on display and underscored yet another important meaning behind the team's "Welcome Home" 2023 season theme.

Former linebacker Brian Orakpo no doubt felt that message on another level during his visit to the DMV as this was the first Washington alumni homecoming weekend he had ever been to.

"Oh, I love it. I've gotten to see a lot of faces I haven't seen in years," Orakpo said. "Even a lot of the guys I didn't play with, who I admired and seen from afar, the true legends, the one who set the ground level for us, it's fun to see a little bit of everybody."

For others, like former cornerback Mike Bass, the 2023 alumni homecoming wasn't a first but distinctly came with an energy not felt at others

before. This edition conjured up sacred memories of the glory days for the Ring of Fame member.

"This weekend feels like a weekend we had with George Allen, with the closeness of the fellas from all the different eras ... We're seeing fellas that we haven't seen in 50 years, and it's absolutely great," he said.

Starting on Friday, alumni in attendance were treated to a diverse set of offerings, including a golf tournament, tour of the National Museum of African American History and Culture and a dinner with the NFL Players' Association. They were also given gift bags full of items from local Black-owned businesses at their hotels.

A little bit of competition here, a little bit of education there and add in several sprinkles of fun, the alumni homecoming slate was created to help foster a sense of connection and enrichment that would have guys excited all weekend long.

"I've heard just about everybody talk about how good they feel about what's going on right now ... It's definitely changed," said Super Bowl champion and 1982 MVP Mark Moseley. "It's just a nice atmosphere. There's a good vibe that's out there from everybody."

That good vibe was enthusiastically displayed at the tailgate event in Legends Plaza which also featured a "cook off" with four local BBQ food trucks. Here, under the tents, Legends could be seen hugging, taking pictures with each other, laughing, hanging out with each other's families and more.

Meanwhile, a countless number of fans were clamoring to meet their favorites and take pictures. With fan desires in mind, the Commanders gave out Legends posters at ingress so that alumni would have something easy to sign during meet-and-greets.

Season ticket member Jennifer Brun was so excited to see all the Legends in attendance interacting with the fans, describing the scene as like a "whole big family" coming together. Brun, who has a habit of buying Sean Taylor jerseys, got a memorable add-on to her gameday swag as Jackie Taylor signed her jersey.

The legacies of standout men, great teams and a distinguished franchise were highlighted during this special three-day occasion. Alumni homecoming overall served as a reminder of the importance of creating re-connection opportunities for those who wore the burgundy and gold.

"It's always good to kind of commemorate and share stories and just catchup, see how everybody's doing," Orakpo said. "Once the game is gone, it's a lot of people going their separate ways and then you've got that one event annually that everybody can come back, meet family, meet friends, meet old coaches, it's a great weekend."



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# LOOKING BACK ON THE COMMANDERS' THRILLING WIN OVER THE BEARS IN 2022

By Zach Selby

The Washington Commanders play the Chicago Bears tonight, making it a rematch of last year's primetime matchup. The 12-7 victory for Washington was a slog and not the prettiest of games at times, but also represented a turning point for the team.

That victory helped launch Washington on a 6-1-1 stretch in the middle of the season that not only helped it climb back to .500, but also put them squarely in the playoff discussion for the final stretch of the season. So, let's take a look back at the dramatic finish that led to Washington leaving Soldier Field with their first win in almost a month...

Benjamin St-Juste saved the game for the Commanders.

After Joey Slye's 48-yard field goal was sent sailing wide right, the Chicago Bears nearly handed the Commanders their fifth straight loss. Justin Fields, who had been relatively contained for most of the primetime matchup, broke loose on a 39-yard scamper that put his offense at the Commanders' 5-yard line.

But the defense, which had held strong for the entire night, did not break with the game on the line, and with the Bears facing a fourth-and-goal, Darnell Mooney could not secure a bobbling pass with St-Juste wrapped around him before stepping out of bounds.

And with a lunge forward by Carson Wentz after a turnover on downs, the month-long losing skid ended for Washington with a 12-7 victory.

The game pitting Washington (2-4) and Chicago (2-4) was a slog with offensive production coming in spurts. It wasn't until the third quarter that either team found the end zone, and both teams combined for just seven third-down conversions.

But the deciding factor ended up being an area where Washington has struggled all season. For the first time in 2022, the Commanders, who had given away the ball eight times in the past five games, won the turnover battle with an interception on a deflected pass off Efe Obada's helmet that landed in the arms of Jonathan Allen and a muffed punt recovered by rookie Christian Holmes.

The muffed punt could not have come at a more opportune time. The Bears took a 7-3 lead with a 40-yard shot to Dante Pettis. The Commanders had chipped away at the lead with a 28-yard field goal, but with the way the game was going, they needed a break.

Holmes gave them that, and two plays later, Brian Robinson Jr., who led Washington's rushing attack with 60 yards on 17 carries, crossed the goal line for the first time in his career, marking another accomplishment for the rookie who had been shot twice less than two months ago.

From there, the defense did what it had done well all night, and that was keep Fields corralled in the backfield. It might not have seemed like it, based on the 238 rushing yards the unit allowed, but it did a solid job of controlling the Bears' offense, as the home team was held to 38% on third downs and five straight scoreless drives in the first half.

Fields was sacked five times by the Commanders' defensive line, which now has 19 for the season. They are currently tied with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers for the third-most in the league.

A Chicago turnover on downs, followed by 22 yards from the Commanders' offense, set the team up for Slye's 48-yard field goal attempt, but the miss paved the way for the final theatrics of the matchup. The tackle by St-Juste left the Bears scoreless on three trips to the red zone.

After dropping four straight frustrating losses, the Commanders were back in the win column heading into the long weekend. They had the Green Bay Packers up next, and as they prepared for the 2021 NFC North champion, there were signs that the Burgundy & Gold could get the season back on track.



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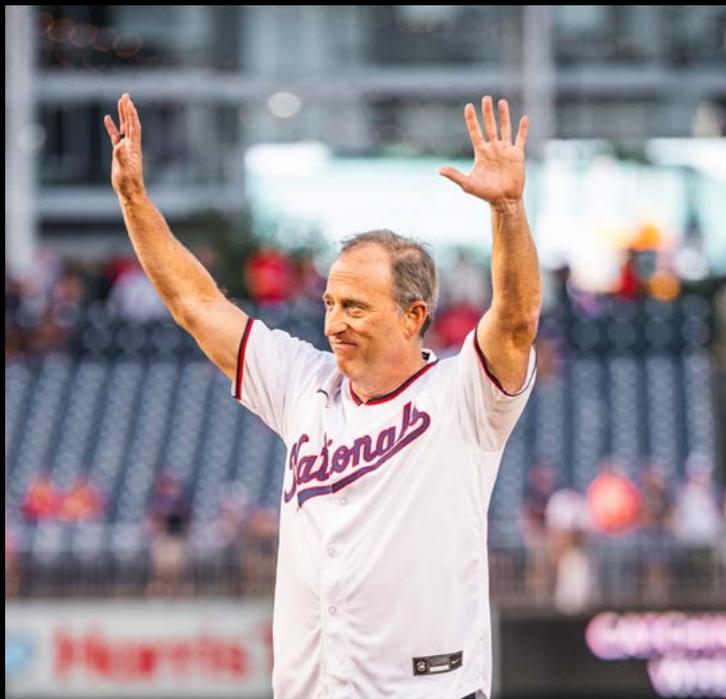


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# CAPITAL CROSSOVER



# AT NATIONALS PARK, FIRST GAME IN CAPITAL CROSSOVER SERIES IS A HOME RUN

By Hannah Lichtenstein

In what he described as a “a true bucket list” moment, Commanders Managing Partner Josh Harris threw out the first pitch at Nationals Park on Thursday night.

“I knew it was going to be a fun night, but at the same time I wanted to make sure the pitch went over. No one’ll ever accuse me of not [doing that],” Harris said with a laugh. “I had been throwing the baseball around with my kids a lot. I haven’t played baseball since ninth grade, and it was just great to get back into it.”



There was nothing out of left field about Harris’ approach to his moment on the mound. Just as he does with his philanthropic work and business endeavors, he prepared with care and intention.

“A couple of weeks ago he told me, ‘Alex, we need to go to a baseball field and start practicing throwing a ball,’” Harris’ fitness trainer recalled. “At the end of the day, he cares so much that he wants to do it really well ... That’s why he was emphasizing practicing over and over.”

From that first pitch and interviews with Washington Legends to the running of the mascots and a charitable donation with a Commanders spin, the night at Nationals Park was full of enthusiasm, fun and pride around a special collaboration. The Sept. 21 game formally kicked off the Capital Crossover: Diamonds and Gridiron series, an initiative between the Nationals and Commanders that aims to celebrate two of the area’s premier sports franchises and their fanbases.

The beauty of this union was colorfully embodied by fans around the stadium on Thursday who opted to pay tribute to the two teams in their gameday outfits.

“I love this idea, and I think it’s representative of the wonderful things new ownership is bringing to the table” said Debbie Francisco, donning a Commanders shirt and Nationals hat. “We’re also going to the Commanders game on Oct. 5 for the Nats part of the crossover. I can’t wait.”

Fellow lifelong Washington sports fans Cesar and Felipe Navas underscored that love of the link-up. For the two brothers with Nicaraguan roots, the festivities at Nats Park on Thursday honored not only their sport interests but important parts of their cultural identity. Both “hosting parts” of the crossover for the teams happen to fall during Hispanic Heritage Month.

“It’s great that Commanders Night lines up with Latino Heritage Night, and it’s really cool to see the teams honoring Latino communities” Felipe Navas said.

The Nationals and the Commanders have been vocal about the influence of Latino culture on their team and their appreciation for their Latino fanbase. As part of Thursday’s slate of events,

the Nationals released a video produced by the two clubs highlighting Nationals manager Davey Martinez and Commanders head coach Ron Rivera who both identify as Latino. Also, in a pregame moment, members from the Latino employee resource groups, called Somos, from both organizations were able to connect and then stand together on the field.



“To me the collab represented coming together with the fans of both teams, along with our counterparts at the Nationals, to celebrate Hispanic culture, through the music, cultural awareness activities and initiatives, and love for both sports,” said co-chair of Somos Commanders Kelly Torres.

The evening overall offered an incredible example of the many diverse experiences made possible by these two iconic franchises. Just as there was space held on the night for community and social justice-oriented initiatives there was also time for silly amusement. In the fourth inning, for example, Major Tuddy put on a great show in the traditional Presidents’ Race, flattening Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Teddy Roosevelt before sprinting to the finish line.

When asked for comment about his dominating performance, Tuddy merely flexed.

The Nationals clearly kicked off the Capital Crossover in awesome fashion and now it is up to the Commanders to close it out with a bang on Thursday Night Football.



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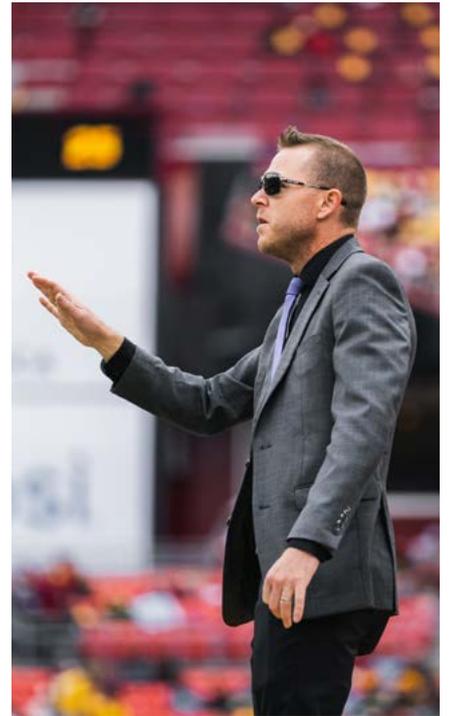
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PHOTO  
GALLERY



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**ALEX**



**ALYSSA**



**AMY**



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**CINCO**



**ERICA**



**GABRIELLA**



**HAIYA**



**HANNAH**



**HOLLY**



**JACKIE**



**JADA**



**JESSIE**



**JOJO**



**JONATHAN**



**JORDAN C.**



**JORDAN F.**



**JULES**



**KATE**



**KAYLA**



**KELSEY**





**KYLA**



**LEGIT**



**LINDSEY**



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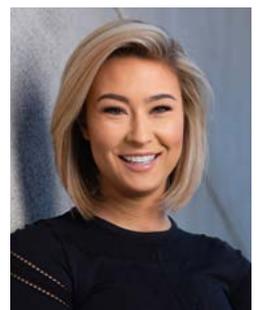
**ZAY**



**JADE -  
DIRECTOR, ENTERTAINMENT**



**CHRISTIE - HEAD COACH**



**ASHLEY - ASST. COACH**





# FORCES OF THE WEEK



## KAYLA

**YEARS ON THE TEAM:** 4 YEARS  
**HOMETOWN:** FREDERICK, MD  
**COLLEGE:** JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY  
**3 WORDS THAT DESCRIBE YOU:** KIND, HARDWORKING, COMPASSIONATE  
**SOMETHING YOU CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT:** MY FAMILY AND A STRONG CUP OF COFFEE  
**WHAT IS YOUR TOUCHDOWN DANCE:** STANKY LEGG  
**FAVORITE PART OF BEING ON COMMAND FORCE:** THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE INVOLVED WITH AND GIVE BACK TO THE DMV COMMUNITY



## JADA

**YEARS ON THE TEAM:** 3 YEARS  
**HOMETOWN:** JACKSONVILLE, FL  
**COLLEGE:** HOWARD UNIVERSITY  
**3 WORDS THAT DESCRIBE YOU:** ANGELIC, RELIGIOUS, LOVING  
**FAVORITE PART OF BEING ON THE COMMAND FORCE:** ENTERTAINING THE FANS OF THE DMV AND MEETING THEM!  
**SOMETHING MOST PEOPLE DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU:** I'M THE YOUNGEST ON THE TEAM!  
**DREAM ARTIST TO PERFORM WITH:** BEYONCE OR CARDI B



## AMY

**YEARS ON THE TEAM:** ROOKIE  
**HOMETOWN:** HOWELL, NJ  
**COLLEGE:** TOWSON UNIVERSITY  
**3 WORDS THAT DESCRIBE YOU:** OPTIMISTIC, AMBITIOUS, ENERGETIC  
**SOMETHING YOU CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT:** "EXTRA HOT" HOT SAUCE  
**AN EXPERIENCE ON YOUR BUCKET LIST:** SKYDIVING  
**FAVORITE PART OF BEING ON THE COMMAND FORCE:** THE CAMARADERIE AND ENERGY OF THE TEAM!  
**FUN FACT OR HIDDEN TALENT:** I HAVE COMPLETED MULTIPLE HOT FOOD CHALLENGES



# ENTERTAINMENT TEAM



## GENIENNE SAMUELS

Hey Commanders Fans! I am thrilled to be your In-Game Host for another season, cheering on our favorite NFL team with the BEST fans in the NFL!

I'm no stranger to the Burgundy & Gold. I first stepped foot in FedExField as a Redskinette and then Redskins Cheerleader, for eight amazing seasons. As a cheerleader, I was a Head Captain for four years, Co-Captain for two years, and had the honor to represent the team at the 2004 Pro Bowl game in Honolulu, Hawaii.

After retiring from the NFL, I become a Wizard Girl for the NBA's Washington Wizards for three seasons. In the middle of my third season, I took on the role as the In-Arena Host for the Wizards and WNBA's Washington Mystics for four years. I was also the In Game Host for the AFL's Baltimore Brigade and In-Match Host for the NWSL's Washington Spirit.

But I finally made it back home to FedExField in 2019 as the In-Game Host for the Burgundy & Gold!

In addition to sports hosting, I have been in the entertainment and broadcasting industry for over two decades, and it is an honor to now be the prime-time evening anchor of WTVR CBS in Richmond, VA, my hometown.

Before moving back home, I was a freelance anchor, reporter and producer for Prince George's County CTV-News. I have also hosted other shows such as "SchoolScene" in Fairfax and Montgomery Counties and "The Sound" of Washington DC. I was also the host of "Operation Rising Star", the United States Army Morale, Welfare and Recreation's annual singing competition for service members and their families for 10 years.

I founded two businesses. Sideline Prep provides individual counseling to young women and men auditioning for professional dance and cheerleading teams. I'm also the owner and lead consultant for GS Consulting & Communications, Inc., which is a BPR (Business Process Reengineering), quality and process improvement company.

And as if that isn't enough, I'm Aunt Nienne to three nieces, two nephews, and seven godchildren.

I would love to connect. Be sure to say Hi or "Hail Yeah" at a Commanders event or on gameday, and please connect with me at GeNienneSamuels on Facebook, X @GeNienneWithaG, or GeNienneWithaG on Instagram.



## DJ PREMONITION

DJ Premonition is a 20+ year staple in the DMV area with his energetic mixing style and creative music curation. After getting his start while attending Howard University, DJ Premonition elevated his craft in DC night clubs while also expanding his client base by performing for numerous corporate brands. He became the Washington Commanders GameDay DJ in the 2018

season. He was honored to be selected to represent the NFC DJs in the 2022 NFL Pro Bowl. He also performed as one of the main stage DJ's for the NFL Draft in 2022 (Las Vegas) and 2023 (Kansas City).

@djpremonition





# MARK FRATTO

Mark Fratto has been a live sports announcer for 20 years with more than 3,000 live events, sports promos and commercial spots under his belt.

Fratto's experience behind the microphone includes serving as a public address announcer at Capital One Arena for the Washington Wizards, at Madison Square Garden for New York Knicks, college basketball and New York Liberty games, at Yankee Stadium for New York City FC Major League Soccer contests, at Pocono Raceway for NASCAR, at MetLife Stadium in the 2018 preseason for the New York Football Giants, at the Westchester County Center for Westchester Knicks NBA Development League games, at MCU Park in Coney Island for Brooklyn Cyclones Baseball and Brooklyn Bolts Football, at Rutgers University for Sky Blue FC women's professional soccer, and as the announcer for a variety of NCAA Division I intercollegiate contests at the University of Maryland, St. John's University and for a number of other colleges, universities and professional teams.

In 2019, Fratto began announcing Army Football at Michie Stadium and served as the announcer for the historic 2020 Army-Navy game. Fratto has been one of the voices of the popular NBA2K video game for the past three editions.

Fratto was a NCAA National Champion as part of Maryland Basketball's back-to-back Final Four runs in 2001 and 2002, and he served as the lead communications director during the Terrapins' 2004 ACC Title Season. As an announcer, Fratto has a 2021 MLS Championship ring with New York City FC and a 2019 New York-Penn League title with the Brooklyn Cyclones. Fratto was tabbed by the National Basketball Association to announce the 2015 NBA Development League All-Star game, slam dunk contest and 3-point shootout, as well as the FDNY-NYPD-NBA Legends charity game at Barclays Center as part of NBA All-Star Weekend in New York City. He returned to his 13th NCAA Final Four in Houston in April 2023, where he again served as news conference moderator.

Fratto was cast as the MMA main event announcer in the Halle Berry movie "Bruised" and has served as ring announcer for boxing events at Madison Square Garden; The Hard Rock, the Monte Carlo and Thomas and Mack Center in Las Vegas; Boardwalk Hall, the Ocean Resort and the Showboat in Atlantic City; Encore Boston Harbor, House of Blues Boston and MGM Springfield, Mass.; Mohegan Sun and Foxwoods in New England; MGM National Harbor, the Washington D.C. Armory and the ESA in Our Nation's Capital; Turning Stone Resort in

Verona, N.Y.; Fantasy Springs Resort and the Pechanga Resort and Casino in Southern Cal; New York City's Hammerstein Ballroom, Webster Hall, B.B. King's Blues Club and Grill and SONY Hall; the 2300 Arena, the Met and Sugar House Casino in Philadelphia; and Wild Horse Pass Casino in Chandler, Arizona, among others.

He has announced for Golden Boy Promotions, Matchroom Boxing, Mayweather Promotions, DiBella Entertainment, K2 Promotions, GGG Promotions, Roy Jones Jr. Promotions, Evander Holyfield's Real Deal Promotions, King's Promotions, Joe DeGuardia's Star Boxing, Murphy's Boxing, Salita Promotions, Hard-Hitting Promotions, Hitz Boxing, Rising Star Promotions, Uprising Promotions, Petra Nemcova's Happy Hearts Fund, the NYPD and FDNY and has called fights on HBO, HBO PPV, Showtime, HBO Latino, ESPN, ESPN2, ESPN Deportes, CBS Sports Network, MSG Network, Facebook and Ring TV.

He has been behind the mic for cards and events featuring Roy Jones Jr., Saul "Canelo" Alvarez, Bernard Hopkins, Gennady "GGG" Golovkin, Miguel Cotto, Gervonta Davis, Ryan Garcia, Michael Buffer, Jimmy Lennon Jr., "The Miracle Man" Daniel Jacobs, Jaime Munguia, Luis "King Kong" Ortiz and Amir "King" Khan, just to name a few.

Fratto - who was a collegiate athletics administrator in the communications departments of St. John's University and the University of Maryland for 15 years from 1999 to 2014 - founded Linacre Media, a full-service digital/social media, production services and public relations consulting firm, in the Fall of 2014. Linacre Media is an official broadcast partner of the NBA and serves as the primary production partner for the Westchester Knicks of the NBA G League, in addition to packaging numerous other pro/college/high school athletics events for platforms like ESPNU, CBS Sports Network, the Madison Square Garden Network, Comcast Sports Networks, Facebook and Facebook FIGHTNIGHT LIVE, ESPN+, ESPN3 and the Campus Insiders Network/Stadium. Linacre Media has produced events for the NBA, the BIG EAST Conference, Nike, Jordan Brand, Army, Navy, the American Athletic Conference, the Atlantic 10 Conference, the Ivy League, the Patriot League, the Northeast Conference, the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference, professional boxing and MMA promoters, the ABA, the FXFL, St. John's University and the CUNYAC.

Fratto lives in Edgewater, MD, with his wife Kristin and their sons, Jackson and Mason.



# MARK WRIGHT

Now in my 52nd season as field manager, my primary responsibility is to ensure the entertainment elements - team intros, performers, honorees, and equipment - are safely in place while also starting and finishing on time. Over the years this has involved working with A-list celebrities, elephants, fire trucks, dinosaurs, helicopters, and Frisbee catching dogs. But as a fan my favorite games are when I get to work with Washington legends, our alumni.

I was born into Washington football. My father worked with the marching band for 50 years, first as a drum major and later becoming the band and entertainment manager. I was honored to work by his side for 17 years and took over as field manager when he retired in 1988. The family tradition continues for a 3rd generation as my son, Todd, is now in his 18th year working by my side as a field manager.



# RING OF FAME

**GEORGE ALLEN**

HEAD COACH, 1971-77

**CLIFF BATTLES**

RUNNING BACK, 1932-37

**SAMMY BAUGH**

QUARTERBACK, 1937-52

**MIKE BASS**

CORNERBACK, 1969-75

**BOBBY BEATHARD**

GENERAL MANAGER, 1978-88

**JEFF BOSTIC**

CENTER, 1980-1993

**GENE BRITO**

DEFENSIVE END, 1951-53, 1955-58

**LARRY BROWN**

RUNNING BACK, 1969-76

**DAVE BUTZ**

DEFENSIVE TACKLE, 1975-88

**GARY CLARK**

WIDE RECEIVER, 1985-92

**MONTE COLEMAN**

LINEBACKER, 1979-94

**JACK KENT COOKE**

OWNER, 1961-97

**WAYNE CURRY**

P.G. COUNTY EXECUTIVE, 1994-2002

**BILL DUDLEY**

RUNNING BACK, 1950-51, 1953

**PAT FISCHER**

CORNERBACK, 1968-77

**LONDON FLETCHER**

LINEBACKER, 2007-13

**JOE GIBBS**

HEAD COACH, 1981-92, 2004-07

**DARRELL GREEN**

CORNERBACK, 1983-2002

**RUSS GRIMM**

GUARD, 1981-91

**CHRIS HANBURGER**

LINEBACKER, 1965-78

**KEN HARVEY**

LINEBACKER, 1994-98

**LEN HAUSS**

CENTER, 1964-77

**PHIL HOCHBERG**

P.A. ANNOUNCER, 1963-2000

**KEN HOUSTON**

SAFETY, 1973-80

**SAM HUFF**

LINEBACKER, 1964-67, 1969

**JOE JACOBY**

TACKLE/GUARD, 1981-1993

**DICK JAMES**

RUNNING BACK, 1956-63

**SONNY JURGENSEN**

QUARTERBACK, 1964-74

**CHARLIE JUSTICE**

RUNNING BACK, 1950, 1952-54

**BILLY KILMER**

QUARTERBACK, 1971-78

**EDDIE LEBARON**

QUARTERBACK, 1952-53, 1955-59

**VINCE LOMBARDI**

HEAD COACH, 1969

**DEXTER MANLEY**

DEFENSIVE END, 1981-89

**CHARLES MANN**

DEFENSIVE END, 1983-93

**WAYNE MILLNER**

END, 1936-41, 1945

**BOBBY MITCHELL**

FLANKER, 1962-68

**BRIAN MITCHELL**

RUNNING BACK, 1990-99

**ART MONK**

WIDE RECEIVER, 1980-1993

**MARK MOSELEY**

KICKER, 1974-86

**BRIG OWENS**

DEFENSIVE BACK, 1966-77

**RICHIE PETITBON**

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

**VINCE PROMUTO**

GUARD, 1960-70

**JOHN RIGGINS**

RUNNING BACK, 1976-79, 1981-85

**MARK RYPIEN**

QUARTERBACK, 1986-1993

**CHRIS SAMUELS**

TACKLE, 2000-09

**JERRY SMITH**

TIGHT END, 1965-77

**CHARLEY TAYLOR**

WIDE RECEIVER, 1964-77

**SEAN TAYLOR**

SAFETY, 2004-07

**JOE THEISMANN**

QUARTERBACK, 1974-85

**LAMAR "BUBBA" TYER**

HEAD ATHLETIC TRAINER, 1971-2002, 2004-08

**DOUG WILLIAMS**

QUARTERBACK, 1986-89



**CAREER  
PASSING  
LEADERS**

#	NAME	ATT.	COMP.	PCT.	YARDS	TD
1	Joe Theismann	3,602	2,044	56.7	25,206	160
2	Sonny Jurgensen	3,155	1,831	58.0	22,585	179
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

**CAREER  
RUSHING  
LEADERS**

#	NAME	ATT.	YARDS	AVG.	TD
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

**CAREER  
RECEIVING  
LEADERS**

#	NAME	REC	YARDS	AVG.	TD
1	Art Monk	888	12,026	13.5	65
2	Charley Taylor	649	9,110	14.0	79
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

**CAREER  
SCORING  
LEADERS**

#	NAME	POINTS	TD	FG/FGA	XPAT/XPA
1	Mark Moseley	1,206	0	263/397	417/441
2	Chip Lohmiller	787	0	175/245	262/267
3	Dustin Hopkins	668	0	163/194	179/190
4	Charley Taylor	540	90	0	0
5	John Riggins	510	85	0	0

**CAREER PUNT  
RETURN  
LEADERS**

#	NAME	RET.	YARDS	AVG.
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
5	Brandon Banks	100	937	9.4

**CAREER KICKOFF  
RETURN  
LEADERS**

#	NAME	RET.	YARDS	AVG.
1	Brian Mitchell	421	9,586	22.8
2	Rock Cartwright	222	5,332	24.0
3	Mike Nelms	175	4,128	23.6
4	Dick James	155	3,949	25.5
5	Brandon Banks	119	2,856	24.0

**CAREER  
INT.  
LEADERS**

#	NAME	INT.	YARDS	TD
1	Darrell Green	54	621	6
2	Brig Owens	36	686	3
3	Sammy Baugh	31	491	0
4	Mike Bass	30	478	3
5	Joe Lavender	29	338	1

**CAREER  
OFFICIAL SACK  
LEADERS**

#	NAME	GAMES	SACKS
1	Ryan Kerrigan	140	95.5
2	Dexter Manley	125	91.0
3	Charles Mann	163	82.0
4	Monte Coleman	215	43.5
5	Ken Harvey	74	41.5



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**DOUG KAMMERER**  
CHIEF METEOROLOGIST



**JOSEPH MARTÍNEZ**  
T44 METEORÓLOGO CERTIFICADO

A white FedEx Ground truck is parked on a street. The truck has the FedEx logo on its side and front. The number 410225 is visible on the front of the truck. In the background, there is a large, classical building with many columns, and a tall, thin monument is visible on the left side of the image. A purple and orange diagonal graphic is overlaid on the bottom left of the image.

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