



HOUSTON ROUGHNECKS



GAME EIGHT

MICHIGAN PANTHERS VS
HOUSTON ROUGHNECKS

• MAY 17 • 12PM CT
FOX

TDECU STADIUM
HOUSTON, TEXAS



3-4 (2-2)



5-2 (2-1)

HEAD COACH: Mike Nolan
UFL Record (2nd Season): 5-2
USFL/UFL Record: 16-12

HEAD COACH: C.J. Johnson
UFL Record (2nd Season): 3-4
USFL/UFL Record: 9-18

The Houston Roughnecks head home to face the USFL conference-leading Michigan Panthers for the first time this season. The last time the two faced off was Week 8 of the 2024 UFL season, which saw the Panthers come out on top, 26-22 at Rice Stadium. The Houston Roughnecks are seeking their first-ever win against the Panthers, as C.J. Johnson is 0-4 against the Panthers dating back to the USFL.

POST GAME PRESS CONFERENCE

Link: <https://xfl.zoom.us/j/89485486083?pwd=ERoPGhRKGHNAaWteFpmD6UOUPghTG6.1>

Meeting ID: 894 8548 6083
Passcode: 302053

Week 8 Game Theme: H-Town Proud

Honoring the city we call home

- Slab Festival at Pre-Game Fan Fest
- Halftime performance by H-Town's legendary rapper, Lil' Flip

WHEN THE SAINTS GO MARCHING IN

Houston Roughnecks head coach C.J. Johnson and Michigan Panthers head coach were both members of the New Orleans Saints coaching staff during Sean Payton's tenure in the Crescent City. Johnson held the role as senior offensive assistant during Nolan's time as linebackers coach from 2017-2019.



HOUSTON ROUGHNECKS COMMUNICATIONS

Brittany Rader

Director of Team Communications
brittany.rader@uflroughnecks.com
(346) 525-9796

Colin Spaulding

Communications Assistant
colin.spaulding@uflroughnecks.com
(832) 797-1430

2025 SCHEDULE

1		ST. LOUIS BATTLEHAWKS AT TDECU STADIUM Loss: 31-6 Attendance: 7,124	FOX
2		ARLINGTON RENEGADES AT CHOCTAW STADIUM Loss: 11-9 Attendance: 9,582	ESPN
3		MEMPHIS SHOWBOATS AT SIMMONS BANK LIBERTY FIELD Win: 18-17 Attendance: 4,753	ESPN
4		BIRMINGHAM STALLIONS AT TDECU STADIUM Loss: 23-16 Attendance: 6,613	FOX
5		SAN ANTONIO BRAHMAS AT ALAMODOME Win: 27-3 Attendance: 14,427	ESPN
6		MEMPHIS SHOWBOATS AT TDECU STADIUM Win: 21-20 Attendance: 4,134	abc
7		BIRMINGHAM STALLIONS AT PROTECTIVE STADIUM Loss: 33-25 Attendance: 4,744	abc
8		MICHIGAN PANTHERS AT TDECU STADIUM Saturday, May 17, 2025 12:00 PM CT	FOX
9		DC DEFENDERS AT TDECU STADIUM Sunday, May 25, 2025 3:00 PM CT	FOX
10		MICHIGAN PANTHERS AT FORD FIELD Saturday, May 31, 2025 2:00 PM CT	ESPN

FOX

BROADCAST BOX

CONNOR ONION Play-By-Play
ROBERT SMITH Booth Analyst
DEVIN GARDNER Sideline Analyst



2025 UFL RULES HIGHLIGHTS

NEW KICKOFF FORMATION

- THE UFL'S KICKOFF RULES THIS SEASON WILL BE BASED ON A COMBINATION OF THE KICKOFF USED BY XFL LEGACY DURING ITS 2023 SEASON AND THE NFL DYNAMIC KICKOFF USED BY THE NFL DURING THE 2024 SEASON. THESE CHANGES INCLUDE:
- KICKOFFS WILL NOW START FROM THE 30-YARD LINE AFTER BEING AT THE 20-YARD LINE LAST SEASON.
- THE 10 REMAINING PLAYERS ON THE KICKOFF TEAM WILL LINE UP AT THE RECEIVING TEAM'S 40-YARD LINE. ALL KICKING TEAM PLAYERS WERE AT THE 20-YARD LINE, INCLUDING THE KICKER, LAST SEASON.
- THE RECEIVING TEAM'S SET UP ZONE WILL STRETCH FROM ITS 35-YARD LINE TO THE 30-YARD LINE AND MUST HAVE AT LEAST NINE PLAYERS IN THAT ZONE. LAST SEASON, THE RECEIVING TEAM HAD TO HAVE A MINIMUM OF EIGHT PLAYERS, BUT NO MORE THAN NINE PLAYERS, IN THEIR SET UP ZONE, WHICH WAS THE KICKING TEAM'S 30- TO THE 40-YARD LINES (10-YARD ZONE).
- THE LANDING ZONE WILL BE FROM THE RECEIVING TEAM'S 20-YARD LINE TO THE GOAL LINE.
- THE BALL MUST REACH THE LANDING ZONE OR IT WILL BE SPOTTED AT THE 40-YARD LINE.
- THERE WILL BE TWO TOUCHBACK SPOTS: THE 35-YARD-LINE FOR BALLS KICKED INTO THE END ZONE AND THE 20-YARD LINE FOR BALLS THAT HIT IN THE LANDING ZONE AND THEN ENTER THE ENDZONE. ALL TOUCHBACKS WERE PLACED AT THE 25-YARD LINE LAST SEASON.

HEAD COACH'S CHALLENGE

- THE HEAD COACH'S CHALLENGE WILL BE EXPANDED IN 2025. THIS EXTENSION WILL FEATURE:
- EACH HEAD COACH WILL EARN A SECOND CHALLENGE IF THE FIRST CHALLENGE IS SUCCESSFUL.
- THE HEAD COACH CAN CHALLENGE ANY OFFICIATING DECISION AS LONG AS THE TEAM HAS A TIMEOUT REMAINING.

ONSIDE KICKS

- THE LEAGUE HAS ELIMINATED THIS OPTION. THE KICKOFF TEAM WILL BE ABLE TO RETAIN POSSESSION OF THE BALL WITH A FOURTH DOWN AND 12-YARD SCRIMMAGE PLAY FROM ITS OWN 28-YARD LINE.

NOTEWORTHY RULES RETURNING

- THE FOLLOWING NOTEWORTHY RULES WILL BE RETAINED THIS SEASON:
- TEAMS WILL HAVE THREE SCRIMMAGE PLAY OPTIONS (RUN OR PASS) TO ELECT TO GO FOR ONE, TWO, OR THREE POINTS AFTER A TOUCHDOWN:
- 2-YARD LINE = 1 POINT FOR A SUCCESSFUL TRY
- 5-YARD LINE = 2 POINTS FOR A SUCCESSFUL TRY
- 10-YARD LINE = 3 POINTS FOR A SUCCESSFUL TRY
- OVERTIME WILL CONSIST OF ALTERNATING ATTEMPTS TO SCORE FROM THE OPPONENT'S FIVE-YARD-LINE WITH NO KICKS ALLOWED. IT WILL REMAIN A BEST-OF-THREE FORMAT UNTIL A WINNER HAS BEEN DETERMINED.
- A DOUBLE FORWARD PASS ON ONE PLAY FROM BEHIND THE LINE OF SCRIMMAGE IS LEGAL. IN THESE SITUATIONS, THE BALL CANNOT CROSS THE LINE OF SCRIMMAGE AT ANY TIME PRIOR TO THE SECOND FORWARD PASS BEING THROWN.

GIMME THAT!

Through seven games, the Houston Roughnecks defense currently ranks second in the league with a +5 turnover margin and second in passes intercepted (7).

ALL-AROUND PLAYER

Houston wide receiver Lawrence Keys III has registered 641 all-purpose yards so far this season, which ranks second in the league. Keys III averages 91.6 all-purpose yards per game.

AIRING IT OUT

Despite having only played in four games so far this season, quarterback Jalan McClendon ranks fourth in the league in total passing yards (723), trailing only Michigan's Bryce Perkins, Arlington's Luis Perez and DC's Jordan Ta'amu, all of whom have played all seven games.

CAN'T CATCH ME NOW

During last week's matchup against the Birmingham Stallions, running back ZaQuandre White scored two touchdowns on the ground against one of his former teams. The former Birmingham and DC ball carrier broke off a 52-yard run in his first trip to the endzone, which was the fourth longest touchdown run so far this season. White finished the game with a season high of 69 rushing yards.

EVERYWHERE AT ONCE

Linebacker Marvin Moody continues to put on a defensive display every week. His performance during Week 7's matchup was the second-most single-game tackles totaled so far this season (13).

Player Spotlight Lawrence Keys III

Wide receiver Lawrence Keys III has been a large part of the Roughnecks offensive production through the first seven weeks of the season. The Tulane product is currently third on the team in receptions (15) and receiving yards (137). Keys III has led the team in all-purpose yards with 641.





HEAD COACH C.J. JOHNSON

The United Football League's Houston Roughnecks are led by Head Coach Curtis "C.J." Johnson. Previously, he coached the United States Football League (USFL's) Houston Gamblers.

Johnson brings 40 years of coaching experience, including four as head coach at Tulane and 33 seasons in all as an assistant coach in the NFL, college and high school.

He spent the next decade as wide receivers coach for the Miami Hurricanes, where he went to nine bowl games and won the 2001 National Championship. There, he coached Houston Texans legendary wide receiver and 2024 Pro Football Hall of Fame inductee Andre Johnson, newly elected Pro Football Hall of Famer Devin Hester, Pro Football Hall of Famer Ed Reed, Santana Moss and Reggie Wayne.

Johnson then transitioned to the NFL after being named wide receivers coach for the New Orleans Saints from 2006-2011, winning a Super Bowl with the team in 2009.

In February 2023, Johnson was hired by the Houston Gamblers of the USFL, serving as head coach for the 2023 season. And in 2024, he was named Head Coach for the Houston Roughnecks of the UFL, the premier spring football platform, formed by the merging of the XFL and USFL.



HOUSTON ROUGHNECKS COACHING STAFF



ERIC PRICE*
PASS GAME COORDINATOR

- Eric Price returns to the Roughnecks staff as the pass game coordinator for the 2025 UFL season. Price reunited with Coach Johnson two years ago, having served as the offensive coordinator with the Houston Gamblers during the 2023 USFL season and previously served in the same role with him at Tulane University.



TOM CABLE
RUN GAME COORDINATOR

- Cable joins the Roughnecks staff for the 2025 season with more than thirty years of experience at the FBS and NFL levels. He is most known for his time with the Seattle Seahawks under head coach Pete Carroll. Cable's offensive line helped the Seahawks become one of the most feared rushing attacks in the entire league, which led to win in Super Bowl XLVII versus Peyton Manning's Denver Broncos.



GARRET CHACHERE
SPECIAL TEAMS/RUNNING BACKS

- Garret Chachere returns to the team having coached the running backs under head coach C.J. Johnson for the past three seasons. Chachere brings more than three decades of collegiate experience with him, most recently coaching running backs at Western Kentucky University.



CHRIS WILSON
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR/LINEBACKERS

- Wilson returns to the Roughnecks staff with more than three decades of NFL and college coaching experience under his belt. The former 12th round pick in the 1992 NFL draft was part of the Philadelphia Eagles coaching staff that won Super Bowl LII in 2018.



KWAHN DRAKE
DEFENSIVE LINE

- Kwahn Drake returns as defensive line coach for the Houston Roughnecks for the 2025 UFL season. The Marrero, LA native previously coached under Coach Johnson during the 2014 and 2015 while at Tulane, and was in charge of the Houston Gamblers defensive line during the 2023 USFL season.



JORDAN HIGGINS
QUALITY CONTROL OFFENSE

- Jordan Higgins returns to H-Town after having spent a season as an offensive assistant at Princeton University. Prior to that, Higgins served as offensive line coach for his alma mater Texas Wesleyan.



BRETT MAXIE
SPECIAL TEAMS/DEFENSIVE BACKS

- Maxie returns to Houston having played his college ball at Texas Southern University, before enjoying a productive 12 year NFL career that included stops with the New Orleans Saints, Atlanta Falcons, Carolina Panthers, and San Francisco 49ers. Maxie also brings more than 25 years of experience coaching at the NFL and FBS levels.



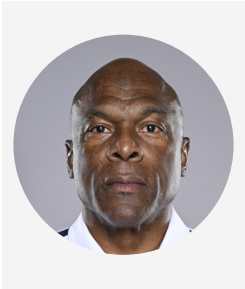
ZACH SHAGI*
QUALITY CONTROL DEFENSE

- Shagi returns as defensive quality control with the Houston Roughnecks during the 2025 UFL season. Prior to his time under Coach Johnson, he has served as running backs coach at Central Connecticut State University.

* - in coaches booth



GENERAL MANAGER



WILL LEWIS

- Will Lewis returns to the Houston Roughnecks, after being named general manager for the 2025 UFL season in July 2024. Lewis played in Houston in the mid-80's with the Houston Gamblers and worked with June Jones as the assistant general manager with the 2020 Houston Roughnecks. Most recently, he worked as the Director of Player Personnel with the XFL's San Antonio Brahmas in 2023.

WEEK 8 DEPTH CHART

ROUGHNECKS OFFENSE			
QB	8 Jalan McClendon	13 Anthony Brown	14 Nolan Henderson
LT	78 Zach Banner	73 Samuel Jackson	
LG	74 Avery Gennesy	54 Avery Jones	
C	65 Jack Kramer	54 Avery Jones	
RG	66 Noah Atagi		
RT	73 Samuel Jackson		
RB	6 ZaQuandre White	27 Lorenzo Lingard	22 Kirk Merritt
WR	3 Keke Chism	18 Emmanuel Butler	
TE	86 Josh Pederson	10 Geor'Quarius Spivey	89 Cam Sutton
WR	11 Justin Hall	7 Cyril Grayson Jr.	
WR	15 Lawrence Keys III	7 Cyril Grayson Jr.	
ROUGHNECKS DEFENSE			
DE	44 Jamir Jones	2 Christopher Allen	
NT	94 Olive Sagapolu	97 Glen Logan	
DT	95 Israel Antwine	92 Darrius Moragne	
DE	43 Rashod Berry	96 T.J. Franklin	
OLB	33 J.T. Tyler	44 Jamir Jones	
ILB	28 Marvin Moody Jr.	20 Drew Lewis	
LB	30 Xavier Benson	20 Drew Lewis	
CB	21 Ja'Quan Sheppard	23 Rayshad Williams	
FS	1 Leon O'Neal Jr.	29 Corn Elder	
SS	31 Markel Roby	12 Shawn Preston Jr.	
CB	26 Damon Arnette	9 Colby Richardson	
ROUGHNECKS SPECIAL TEAMS			
P	47 Mike Rivers	5 Chris Blewitt	
PK	5 Chris Blewitt	47 Mike Rivers	
H	47 Mike Rivers	14 Nolan Henderson	
LS	45 Marco Ortiz	96 T.J. Franklin	
KR	15 Lawrence Keys III	7 Cyril Grayson Jr.	11 Justin Hall
PR	7 Cyril Grayson Jr.	15 Lawrence Keys III	3 Keke Chism



HOUSTON ROUGHNECKS NUMERICAL ROSTER

NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	AGE	LAST COLLEGE	HOMETOWN
1	Leon O'Neal Jr.	S	6'1"	204	26	Texas A&M	Cypress, TX
2	Christopher Allen	DE	6'4"	241	26	Alabama	Baton Rouge, LA
3	Keke Chism	WR	6'4"	214	26	Missouri	Daingerfield, TX
4	Tashawn Bower	DE	6'5"	250	30	LSU	Livingston, NJ
5	Chris Blewitt	K	5'9"	171	29	Pittsburgh	Alexandria, VA
6	ZaQuandre White	RB	6'1"	215	26	South Carolina	Cape Coral, FL
7	Cyril Grayson Jr.	WR	5'9"	183	31	LSU	Kenner, LA
8	Jalan McClendon	QB	6'4"	222	29	Baylor	Charlotte, NC
9	Colby Richardson	CB	6'0"	186	27	LSU	New Orleans, LA
10	Geor'Quarius Spivey	TE	6'5"	238	25	Mississippi St.	Monroe, LA
11	Justin Hall	WR	5'8"	189	26	Ball State	Douglasville, GA
12	Shawn Preston Jr.	S	6'0"	201	25	Mississippi St.	St. James, LA
13	Anthony Brown	QB	6'1"	217	26	Oregon	Cliftwood, NJ
14	Nolan Henderson	QB	5'11"	202	26	Delaware	Smyrna, DE
15	Lawrence Keys III	WR	5'10"	171	25	Tulane	New Orleans, LA
16	Marcus Simms	WR	6'0"	194	27	West Virginia	Bowie, MD
18	Emmanuel Butler	WR	6'3"	221	27	N. Arizona	Phoenix, AZ
19	T.J. Vasher	WR	6'5"	210	26	Texas Tech	Wichita Falls, TX
20	Drew Lewis	LB	6'2"	225	29	Colorado	Sammamish, WA
21	Ja'Quan Sheppard	CB	6'2"	202	25	Maryland	Zephyrhills, FL
22	Kirk Merritt	RB	6'0"	214	27	Arkansas State	Destrehan, LA
23	Rayshad Williams	CB	6'3"	195	25	Texas Tech	Memphis, TN
28	Marvin Moody Jr	LB	6'2"	230	25	Tulane	Bryant, AR
29	Corn Elder	CB	5'10"	183	29	Miami	Nashville, TN
30	Xavier Benson	LB	6'2"	224	24	Oklahoma State	Texarkana, TX
31	Markel Roby	S	6'0"	191	24	Pittsburg State	New Orleans, LA
33	J.T. Tyler	OLB	6'1"	223	26	Princeton	Detroit, MI
43	Rashod Berry	LB	6'4"	255	28	Ohio State	Lorain, OH
44	Jamir Jones	LB	6'3"	237	26	Notre Dame	Rochester, NY
45	Marco Ortiz	LS	6'4"	253	26	Nebraska	Richmond, VA
47	Mike Rivers	P	6'0"	187	24	Troy	Wilmington, NC
54	Avery Jones	C	6'4"	317	25	Auburn	Havelock, NC
65	Jack Kramer	C	6'2"	301	28	Bowling Green	Plainfield, IL
66	Noah Atagi	OT	6'4"	314	26	Weber State	South Ogden, UT
73	Samuel Jackson	OG	6'6"	325	26	Central Florida	Bradenton, FL
74	Avery Gennesy	T	6'4"	321	31	Texas A&M	Southaven, MS
75	T.J. Bradley	OT	6'8"	325	28	Maryland	Southaven, MS
78	Zach Banner	OT	6'8"	335	31	USC	Puyallup, WA
77	Justin Redd	T	6'5"	310	24	East Carolina	Hampton, VA
79	Isaiah Battle	OL	6'7"	310	31	Clemson	Brooklyn, NY
86	Josh Pederson	TE	6'4"	235	27	Louisiana Monroe	Newark, NJ
89	Cam Sutton	TE	6'6"	251	28	Fresno State	Moreno Valley, CA
92	Darrius Moragne	DL	6'5"	295	27	Kansas	Holland, MI
94	Olive Sagapolu	DT	6'2"	341	28	Wisconsin	Pago Pago, American Samoa
95	Israel Antwine	DT	6'3"	309	24	Oklahoma State	Oklahoma City, OK
96	T.J. Franklin	DE	6'5"	265	23	Baylor	Temple, TX
97	Glen Logan	DT	6'3"	298	26	LSU	Kenner, LA

ALPHABETICAL ROSTER

NO.	NAME	POS.
2	Christopher Allen	DE
95	Israel Antwine	DT
26	Damon Arnette	CB
66	Noah Atagi	OT
78	Zach Banner	OT
79	Isaiah Battle	OL
30	Xavier Benson	LB
43	Rashod Berry	LB
5	Chris Blewitt	K
4	Tashawn Bower	DE
75	T.J. Bradley	OT
13	Anthony Brown	QB
18	Emmanuel Butler	WR
72	Cam Carter	OT
3	Keke Chism	WR
29	Corn Elder	CB
96	T.J. Franklin	DE
74	Avery Gennesy	OT
7	Cyril Grayson Jr.	WR
11	Justin Hall	WR
14	Nolan Henderson	QB
24	Keenan Issac	CB
73	Samuel Jackson	OG
54	Avery Jones	C
44	Jamir Jones	LB
15	Lawrence Keys III	WR
65	Jack Kramer	C
20	Drew Jones	LB
27	Lorenzo Lingard	RB
98	Glen Logan	DT
25	Armani Marsh	CB
8	Jalan McClendon	QB
22	Kirk Merritt	RB
28	Marvin Moody Jr	LB
92	Darrius Moragne	DT
1	Leon O'Neal Jr.	S
45	Marco Ortiz	LS
86	Josh Pederson	TE
12	Shawn Preston Jr.	S
9	Colby Richardson	CB
47	Mike Rivers	P
31	Markel Roby	S
94	Olive Sagapolu	DT
21	Ja'Quan Sheppard	CB
16	Marcus Simms	WR
10	Geor'Quarius Spivey	TE
89	Cam Sutton	TE
33	J.T. Tyler	LB
19	T.J. Vasher	WR
33	ZaQuandre White	RB
23	Rayshad Williams	CB



LEON O'NEAL JR.**S**

6-1 • 204

Hometown:
Cypress, TXCollege:
Texas A&M**1**

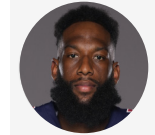
- Former standout at Texas A&M, totaling 161 tackles, a sack, & 6 INT's.
- He's had an NFL stint with the 49ers, and CFL opportunities with the Elks & Roughriders.
- O'Neal played his college football at Texas A&M, serving as a starter for a few years. He immediately made an impact as a freshman, with 14 tackles and an interception. His role grew over the seasons, and Leon ended up posting a solid 58 tackles, five PBU's, and two interceptions as a senior. That year, he had an 85 yard pick six.

CHRISTOPHER ALLEN**DE**

6-4 • 241

Hometown:
Baton Rouge, LACollege:
Alabama**2**

- First signed with the Roughnecks in April 2024, seeing action for six games in the Roughnecks 2024 season, totaling 12 tackles; Re-signed with the Roughnecks in August 2024.
- Signed with the Denver Broncos as an undrafted free agent in 2022, but was later released with an injury.
- During his college career at Alabama, he was named second-team All SEC as a redshirt junior after recording 41 tackles with an SEC-leading 13 tackles for loss and six sacks.

KEKE CHISM**WR**

6-4 • 241

Hometown:
Daingerfield, TXCollege:
Missouri**3**

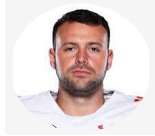
- Was a major contributor for the Roughnecks last season, hauled in 33 passes for 353 yards and a touchdown
- Began college career at Angelo State from 2016-2019, ranks sixth in program history in receiving yards (2,221) and was named to the program's All-Decade team
- Transferred to Missouri and appeared in 22 games from 2020-2021 for the Tigers, collecting 76 receptions for 969 yards and four touchdowns

TASHAWN BOWER**DE**

6-5 • 250

Hometown:
Livingston, NJCollege:
LSU**4**

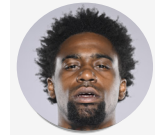
- Spent four years at LSU, logged 60 tackles, 13 tackles for loss, 5.5 sacks, and two forced fumbles under head coach Les Miles
- Signed as an undrafted free agent with the Minnesota Vikings in 2017, spent time with Patriots, Raiders, and Giants

CHRIS BLEWITT**K**

5-9 • 171

Hometown:
Alexandria, VACollege:
Pittsburgh**5**

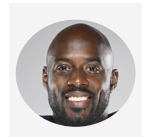
- Play for University of Pittsburgh from 2012-2016, all-time program leader in kick scoring and second in all-time scoring (363)
- 2016 ACC Honorable Mention
- Has spent time in the NFL with Chicago, Washington, and Cleveland
- Tied USFL record for most field goals in a game (5) during the 2023 season with the Pittsburgh Maulers, spent last season with the Birmingham Stallions

ZAQUANDRE WHITE**RB**

6-1 • 215

Hometown:
Cape Coral, FLCollege:
South Carolina**6**

- ZaQuandre White is back in action, signing with Houston – a team that is looking to shake up their backfield in 2025. White has some legitimate spring football experience, spending time with the Birmingham Stallions and DC Defenders across the last two seasons.
- White attended South Carolina University for the majority of his college career, totaling 642 rushing yards (6.2 YPC) and 198 receiving yards (9.4 YPR) in his time at USC. Before South Carolina, White went to Florida State, where he played linebacker prior to transitioning to running back.
- White went undrafted following the 2022 NFL Draft, and was later signed by the Miami Dolphins and added to their practice squad. His time with Miami was brief, as he was later released.

CYRIL GRAYSON JR.**WR**

5-9 • 183

Hometown:
Kenner, LACollege:
LSU**7**

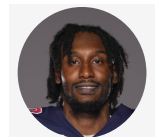
- Spent the 2024 UFL season with the Roughnecks, caught 18 passes for 193 yards receiving.
- Did not play college football, was an All-American sprinter at LSU
- Signed as an undrafted free agent with the Seattle Seahawks in 2017, has spent time on the practice squad for the Colts, Texans, Bears, Cowboys and Browns
- Signed with Philadelphia Stars during 2023 USFL season

JALAN MCCLENDON**QB**

6-4 • 222

Hometown:
Charlotte, NCCollege:
Baylor**8**

- Traded to the Roughnecks from the UFL's DC Defenders in November 2024.
- Selected by the Defenders in the 2024 UFL dispersal draft process, spending the season as Jordan Ta'amu's backup, where he threw for 129 yards in five appearances.
- With the XFL's Vegas Vipers in 2023, he threw for 873 yards and 5 touchdowns.
- Spent time with the LA Wildcats in 2020.

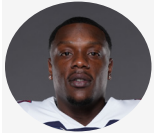
COLBY RICHARDSON**CB**

6-0 • 186

Hometown:
New Orleans, LACollege:
LSU**9**

- Played in all ten regular season games last year for the Roughnecks, recorded 24 solo tackles and an interception
- Transferred to LSU in 2022 after playing at McNeese State from 2017-2021
- Made 69 career tackles with 3 interceptions during collegiate career

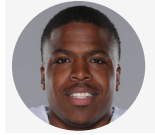


GEOR'QUARIUS SPIVEY**TE**

6-5 • 238

Hometown:
Monroe, LACollege:
Mississippi State**10**

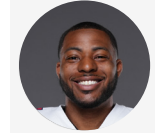
- Selected by the Roughnecks in the ninth round of the UFL College Draft in July 2024.
- Appeared in 52 career games with eight starts, five of them at Mississippi State.
- Racked up 28 career receptions for 298 yards and one touchdown

JUSTIN HALL**WR**

5-8 • 189

Hometown:
Douglasville, GACollege:
Ball State**11**

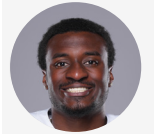
- Led the Roughnecks in all receiving categories in 2024, finished last season third in the league in total receiving yards (603) and average receiving yards per game (60.3)
- Holds Ball State career receptions record with 257 during five seasons as a Cardinal
- Elected Freshman All-American by ESPN.com and Football Writers Association of America in 2017
- Signed with Las Vegas Raiders as undrafted free agent in 2021
- Led Houston Gamblers in receiving yards (515) and touchdown receptions (4) in 2023

SHAWN PRESTON JR.**DB**

6-0 • 201

Hometown:
St. James, LACollege:
Mississippi State**12**

- Preston played all of his college football at Mississippi State, with 206 tackles, 10 TFL's, five interceptions, and 17 PBU's to his name.
- In 2023, Shawn was named to the Phil Steele All-SEC Fourth Team list, with 59 tackles, three interceptions, and six PBU's.
- Preston was invited to the New Orleans Saints mini-camp, but remained a free agent. Now, he'll look to kickstart his pro career in the UFL with the Roughnecks.

ANTHONY BROWN**QB**

6-1 • 217

Hometown:
Cliftwood, NJCollege:
Oregon**13**

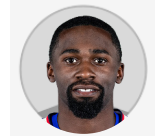
- Spent four years at Boston College before transferring to Oregon
- Appeared in last two games of shortened 2020 season, leading the Ducks to a second consecutive Pac-12 championship. Finalist for the Davey O'Brian Award (Most Outstanding Quarterback) in 2021
- Signed with the Baltimore Ravens as an undrafted free agent in 2022, also spent with the Raiders, Bills, and Cardinals before signing with the Roughnecks

NOLAN HENDERSON**QB**

5-11 • 202

Hometown:
Smyrna, DECollege:
Delaware**14**

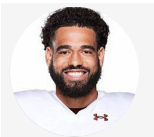
- Made professional debut last year for the Roughnecks and played in five games, finished the season with 531 yards passing and two touchdowns
- Played collegiately for University of Delaware from 2017-2022, where currently ranks second in career passing touchdowns (56) behind Joe Flacco
- Earned 2022 All-CAA Second Team honors in last season with the Blue Hens
- Holds Delaware program record for most pass attempts without an interception to start career (116)

LAWRENCE KEYS III**WR**

5-10 • 171

Hometown:
New Orleans, LA.College:
Tulane**15**

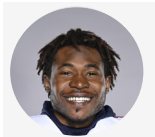
- Began collegiate career at Notre Dame, played there from 2018-2021
- Transferred to Tulane before the 2022 season, played in 22 games where he caught 59 passes for 858 receiving yards and nine touchdowns
- Signed as an undrafted free agent with the Buffalo Bills in 2024

MARCUS SIMMS**WR**

6-0 • 194

Hometown:
Bowie, MD.College:
West Virginia**16**

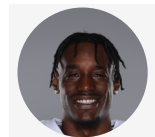
- Saw action in 33 games with 11 starts for West Virginia from 2016-2018
- Made 87 receptions for 1457 yards and eight TDs to go with 992 kickoff return yards in three seasons with the Mountaineers
- Named to All-Big 12 Conference Second-Team (KR/PR) by the coaches in 2017
- Led the team with 426 receiving yards, which ranked 10th in the UFL, on 23 receptions in nine games, including eight starts, and three touchdowns
- Named to the 2024 All-UFL Team

EMMANUEL BUTLER**WR**

6-3 • 221

Hometown:
Phoenix, AZCollege:
Northern Arizona**18**

- Appeared in all ten regular season games last season for the Roughnecks, where he recorded 16 receptions for 238 yards and a touchdown
- Played collegiately for Northern Arizona University, appeared in 45 games for the Lumberjacks from 2014-2018
- Program's all-time leader in touchdown receptions (33) and receiving yards (3,217)
- Named All-Big Sky First Team in 2015 and 2016
- Signed as undrafted free agent with the New Orleans Saints in 2018, spent time with Houston Gamblers during 2023 USFL season

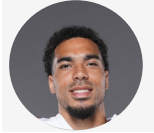
T.J. VASHER**WR**

6-5 • 210

Hometown:
Wichita Falls, TXCollege:
Texas Tech**19**

- Recorded 173 receiving yards and 2 touchdowns with the San Antonio Brahmas in 2023; GM Will Lewis was the GM for the Brahmas during the 2023 XFL season.
- Had a tremendous college campaign with Texas Tech, recording over 1,900 receiving yards and 21 touchdowns.

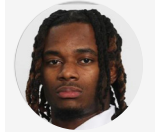


DREW LEWIS**LB**

6'2 • 225

Hometown:
Sammamish, WACollege:
Colorado**20**

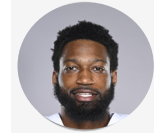
- Signed with the Roughnecks, claiming him off of waivers from the St. Louis Battlehawks.
- It's a homecoming for Drew Lewis, and a rather odd one at that. Lewis began his spring career with the Houston Roughnecks – under completely different management – in 2020. Now, he returns, after Houston claimed him after the Battlehawks let him go earlier this week.
- When it comes to spring football, not many have been around the block more than Lewis. Drew Lewis played in the XFL back in the 2020 season, with the Houston Roughnecks. In five games, he totaled 17 tackles.

JA'QUAN SHEPPARD**CB**

6-2 • 202

Hometown:
Zephyrhills, FLCollege:
Maryland**21**

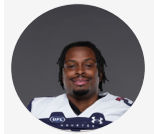
- Played 37 games and led Cincinnati to a College Football Playoff birth in 2021 before using final year of eligibility at Maryland
- 2022 First Team All-AAC
- 2023 Honorable Mention All-Big Ten
- Signed as an undrafted free agent with Las Vegas Raiders in 2024
- Started 2025 UFL season with the Memphis Showboats

KIRK MERRITT**RB**

6-0 • 214

Hometown:
Destrehan, LACollege:
Arkansas State**22**

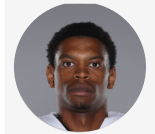
- Appeared in three games for the Roughnecks in 2024, suffered broken arm during Week 2 versus D.C.
- Two-time First Team-All Sun Belt selection while at Arkansas State in 2018 and 2019
- Signed with Miami Dolphins as an undrafted free agent in 2020 and spent season on practice squad, member of New Orleans Saints practice squad in 2023

RAYSHAD WILLIAMS**CB**

6-3 • 195

Hometown:
Memphis, TNCollege:
Texas Tech**23**

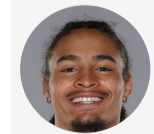
- Selected by the Roughnecks in the 8th round of the UFL College Draft in July 2024, signing with the Roughnecks in January 2025.
- Signed as an undrafted free agent with the Las Vegas Raiders in April 2024.
- In his senior year with the Red Raiders, he demonstrated his skill with 37 tackles, seven pass breakups, an interception and a fumble recovery.

KEENAN ISAAC**CB**

6-1 • 185

Hometown:
Midfield, ALCollege:
Alabama State**24**

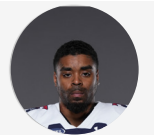
- Appeared in 34 games for Alabama State, registering 111 total tackles and 24 pass deflections for the Hornets
- Signed with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers as an undrafted free agent in 2023, made NFL debut in Week 4 game versus the New Orleans Saints
- Was drafted in the sixth round (42nd overall) of the 2023 USFL Draft by the Houston Gamblers
- Spent time with the Panthers and Raiders before signing with the Roughnecks

ARMANI MARSH**CB**

5-9 • 182

Hometown:
Spokane, WACollege:
Washington State**25**

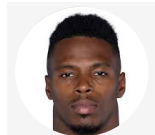
- Signed with the Roughnecks in August 2024.
- Marsh spent the entirety of his college career at Washington State – starting on 31 of 46 games played. He posted 184 tackles, 10 TFL's, two sacks, 13 PBU's, two forced fumbles, and four interceptions across his time there.
- Armani was a Two-time All-Pac-12 Conference Honorable Mention, which ultimately led to him signing as an UDFA with the Tennessee Titans. In the 2023 NFL preseason, Armani totaled 10 tackles. He spent some time on the Titans practice squad, but was released late last year.

DAMON ARNETTE**CB**

6-0 • 195

Hometown:
Fort Lauderdale, FLCollege:
Ohio State**26**

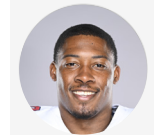
- Signed with the Roughnecks in December 2024.
- A first-round pick (19th overall) of the Las Vegas Raiders in the 2020 NFL Draft, Arnette appeared in 13 games with seven starts over two seasons, where he had three passes defended and 29 tackles, 23 solo.
- Former Ohio State standout, appearing in 53 games during his time with the Buckeyes from 2015-19, totaling 140 tackles (104 solo), five interceptions, including one returned for a touchdown, 27 passes defended, two forced fumbles and one fumble recovery.
- Three-time All-Big Ten selection

LORENZO LINGARD**RB**

6-0 • 209

Hometown:
Orange City, FL.College:
Akron**27**

- Named Gatorade Florida Player of the Year in senior season of high school, where he rushed for 1,701 yards and 26 touchdowns in 2017
- Spent first four years of college career at Miami and Florida, before transferring Akron for red-shirt senior season
- Signed as an undrafted rookie with the Jacksonville Jaguars in 2024, also spent time with the New York Giants during the 2024 season

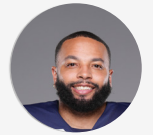
MARVIN MOODY JR.**LB**

6-2 • 230

Hometown:
Bryant, ARCollege:
Tulane**28**

- Played in all ten regular season games last season for the Roughnecks, totaled 14 solo tackles and 14 assists
- Appeared in 59 games from 2017-2021 for Tulane University
- Totaled 143 solo tackles and 100 assists during college career

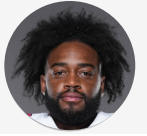


CORN ELDER**CB**

5-10 • 183

Hometown:
Nashville, TNCollege:
Miami**29**

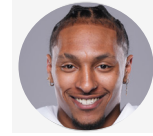
- Started all ten regular season games last year for the Roughnecks, totaling 23 tackles and a 98 yard pick-six in Week 2 versus D.C
- Elder was added to Houston before Training Camp began, quickly earning a roster spot within this defense. He started in all ten games for the Roughnecks in 2024, posting 30 tackles, an interception, and four PBU's. Corn played clean football as well, with only one penalty this season

XAVIER BENSON**LB**

6-2 • 224

Hometown:
Texarkana, TXCollege:
Oklahoma State**30**

- Selected by the Roughnecks in the seventh round of the UFL College Draft in July 2024.
- Started all 27 games during his two years at Oklahoma State under Mike Gundy and was among OSU's leading tacklers both years (2022 and 2023 seasons), totaling 141 tackles, including 11.5 TFL's, 1.5 sacks, and three PBU's.
- His collegiate career also includes Texas Tech in 2018, followed by a stint at Tyler JC in 2021.

MARKEL ROBY**S**

6-0 • 191

Hometown:
New Orleans, LACollege:
Pittsburg State**31**

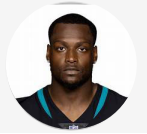
- Started all ten regular season games last season for the Roughnecks, registered 32 solo tackles and tied for most interceptions (3)
- Led team in tackles last season (52)
- Began collegiate career at Briar Cliff University, made 162 career tackles with six interceptions and 11 pass break-ups in three seasons for the Chargers

J.T. TYLER**LB**

6-1 • 238

Hometown:
Detroit, MICollege:
Princeton**33**

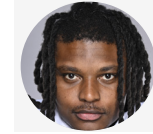
- Appeared in all ten regular season games last year for the Roughnecks, racked up 23 solo tackles and 27 assists
- Attended Princeton University from 2016-2021, where he appeared in 40 games with 102 solo tackles during his career with the Tigers
- Awarded First-Team All-Ivy and Second Team Stats Perform FCS All-America honors in 2021
- Gathered 51 total tackles and an interception for the Houston Gamblers during the 2023 USFL season

RASHOD BERRY**LB**

6-4 • 255

Hometown:
Lorain, OHCollege:
Ohio State**43**

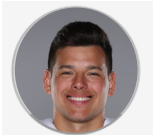
- Spent five years with Ohio State as a tight end, appeared in 40 games
- Signed as an undrafted free agent with the New England Patriots
- Spent time with the Colts, Jaguars, Lions

JAMIR JONES**LB**

6-3 • 237

Hometown:
Rochester, NYCollege:
Notre Dame**44**

- Jamir Jones finds his way to Houston, after being with the San Antonio Brahmas this past season in the UFL. Jones had two tackles and five QB hurries with the Brahmas, prior to getting cut midway through the year. Jamir has plenty of NFL experience, with the Steelers, Rams, and Jaguars.
- He's posted 20 tackles across his NFL career, which includes one start (32 games played).

MARCO ORTIZ**LS**

6-4 • 253

Hometown:
Richmond, VACollege:
Nebraska**45**

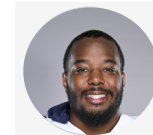
- Signed with the Roughnecks in July 2024.
- Played five seasons of his collegiate career at Florida, before moving to Nebraska for his final season.
- Named a Patrick Mannelly Award Finalist, making him one of just three long snappers in the country to receive such recognition.
- His twin brother, Antonio, plays for the UFL's Arlington Renegades.

MIKE RIVERS**P**

6-0 • 187

Hometown:
Wilmington, NCCollege:
Troy**47**

- Began his career at North Carolina A&T, playing there from 2018-2019. COVID caused him to miss some time, but he landed at Troy for his final season of eligibility. Rivers punted the ball 62 yards for 2,610 yards, averaging 42.1 yards per punt. Just four of his punts were touchbacks, with 24 going inside the 20-yard line.
- Rivers has participated in the XFL Specialist Combines in the past led by Nick Novak, being one of the stronger performers. Now, he'll have an opportunity to prove himself in the UFL.

AVERY JONES**C**

6-4 • 317

Hometown:
Havelock, NCCollege:
Auburn**54**

- Signed with the Roughnecks in January 2025
- The offensive line in Houston continues to see new pieces join the fold for 2025. Avery Jones is the latest of those additions, bringing youth and plenty of talent to the table.
- Played at North Carolina, before transferring to East Carolina. He was a starter at East Carolina for three seasons,
- Jones has played both Guard and Center throughout his career, and will be someone who can fill multiple holes for Houston. He recently spent time with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers as an UDFA this past preseason.

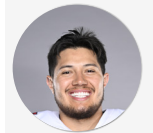


JACK KRAMER**C**

6-2 • 301

Hometown:
Plainfield, ILCollege:
Bowling Green**65**

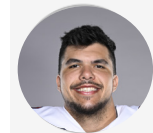
- Started all ten games last season for the Roughnecks
- Appeared in 42 games at Bowling Green State University from 2015-2019
- Named Third Team All-MAC in 2018
- Started all 10 games in 2023 USFL season for the New Orleans Breakers

NOAH ATAGI**OT**

6-4 • 314

Hometown:
South Ogden, UTCollege:
Weber State**66**

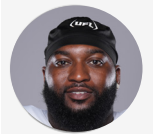
- Spent three years at Weber State during his college career, earning All-Big Sky first-team selections four times, making him just the fourth Wildcat in history to earn first-team honors four times in a career.
- Earned All-American honors twice (2021 and 2022).
- Had a rookie mini-camp opportunity with the Chicago Bears following the conclusion of the 2024 NFL Draft.

SAMUEL JACKSON**OG**

6-6 • 325

Hometown:
Bradenton, FLCollege:
Central Florida**73**

- Jackson played at UCF throughout his college career, starting in almost every game between 2019-2022 (started in 45 games).
- In 2022, he earned First-team All-AAC honors from Pro Football Focus. This led to an UDFA stint with the Jacksonville Jaguars in 2023. Most recently, Jackson was with the Ottawa Redblacks in the CFL.

AVERY GENNESY**OT**

6-4 • 321

Hometown:
Southaven, MSCollege:
Texas A&M**74**

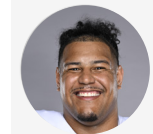
- Started in all 10 games with the Roughnecks in 2024 and 2025.
- After leading East Mississippi CC to a 2013 NJCAA National Championship victory, started every game of 2015 and 2016 at left tackle for Texas A&M
- Named 2015 SEC Fall Academic Honor Roll during his time with the Aggies
- Played for the Houston Roughnecks during the 2020 XFL season

T.J. BRADLEY**OT**

6-8 • 325

Hometown:
Leesburg, VACollege:
Maryland**75**

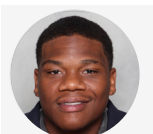
- Played one season of high school football (as a freshman)
- Played his college football at Lackawanna Community College before transferring to University of Maryland for two seasons
- Played for the Orlando Guardians during the 2023 XFL season

ZACH BANNER**OT**

6-8 • 335

Hometown:
Puyallup, WACollege:
USC**78**

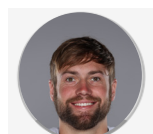
- Spent four seasons with USC from 2013-2016, where he also spent the 2013 season on the Trojan men's basketball team
- Two-time All-American and two-time First-Team All-Pac 12 selection
- Drafted in the fourth round of the 2017 NFL Draft by the Indianapolis Colts
- Made NFL debut with the Cleveland Browns, also spent time with the Panthers and Steelers

ISAIAH BATTLE**OL**

6-7 • 310

Hometown:
Brooklyn, NYCollege:
Clemson**79**

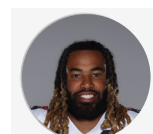
- Played in 22 games with 15 starts over two seasons for the Clemson Tigers
- Selected by the St. Louis Rams in the fifth round of the 2015 NFL supplemental draft, also spent time with the Chiefs, Seahawks, and Panthers
- Played in 2020 XFL season with the Seattle Dragons, also played in the USFL for the Pittsburgh Maulers and the New Jersey Generals

JOSH PEDERSON**TE**

6-4 • 235

Hometown:
Newark, NJCollege:
Louisiana Monroe**86**

- Caught 99 passes for 1,191 yards and 11 touchdowns in his four seasons with the ULM Warhawks
- Signed with the San Francisco 49ers as an undrafted free agent in 2021, spent time with the Saints, Chiefs, and Jaguars
- Had 24 receptions and 325 yards receiving during the 2023 USFL season for the Houston Gamblers

CAM SUTTON**TE**

6-6 • 251

Hometown:
Moreno Valley, CACollege:
Fresno State**89**

- Signed with the Roughnecks in August 2024.
- Played with the XFL's Vegas Vipers in 2023, where he caught 12 passes for 140 yards that season.



DARRIUS MORAGNE

DE



6-5 • 295

Hometown:
Holland, MI

College:
Kansas

92

- Registered 45 tackles and 2.5 sacks in his two seasons with the Kansas Jayhawks
- Help led the Jousters to the 2021 TSL Championship
- Spent time with the Pittsburgh Maulers, compiling 16 tackles and 1.5 sacks in 2022

OLIVE SAGAPOLU

DT



6-2 • 341

Hometown:
Pago Pago, American

College:
Wisconsin

94

- Appeared in games for the Roughnecks during the 2024 UFL season
- Played in 44 games for the University of Wisconsin from 2015-2018, and recorded 61 tackles, 10 tackles for loss, and 6 sacks for the Badgers
- Named 2017 All-Big Ten Honorable Mention
- Signed by the Green Bay Packers as an undrafted free agent in 2019, also spent time with the Lions and Falcons
- Spent 2022 and 2023 USFL seasons with the Pittsburgh Maulers, registered 22 tackles and four interceptions in last season with the team

ISRAEL ANTWINE

DT



6-3 • 309

Hometown:
Oklahoma City, OK

College:
Oklahoma State

95

- Began Played in 11 games his freshman season with the Colorado Buffaloes, before transferring spending three seasons at Oklahoma State under Mike Gundy
- 2019 All-Big 12 Honorable Mention
- Signed as an undrafted free agent with the Jacksonville Jaguars in 2022, spent time on their practice squad

T.J. FRANKLIN

DE



6-5 • 265

Hometown:
Temple, TX

College:
Baylor

96

- Played college football at Baylor, recording 125 tackles and 10.5 sacks.
- Signed as an undrafted free agent with the Las Vegas Raiders in April 2024, seeing action in a few preseason games.

GLEN LOGAN

DT



6-3 • 298

Hometown:
Kenner, LA

College:
LSU

97

- Began his spring career in the XFL, with the Houston Roughnecks in 2023. That year, Logan posted 16 tackles and 1.5 sacks – starting in five of 11 games played.
- In 2024, Logan didn't make any starts, but saw action in every game – finishing with 11 tackles.
- Made 37 starts in 51 games from 2016-2021 while at Louisiana State University

