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Jadeveon Clowney: A football Superman with dreadlocks

Jadeveon Clowney, at age 27, will be entering his seventh season with his third team since being the unquestioned number one overall pick in the 2014 NFL draft. He is viewed by every coach and scout across the league as a highly valuable asset to any defensive front. Jadeveon's God-given talent has carried him to the top of every ranking list in football. He has an arsenal of pass-rush abilities developed over years of dedication to the sport, creating his persona as one of the most feared players in the league.

Childhood

Clowney's journey began in Carolina. Clowney's childhood was anything but typical. His childhood includes a portion most don't know, of how his father spent the majority of Clowney's youth in prison until he was 14. Clowney's father was arrested for robbing a cheque-cashing business in 1995. Nevertheless, upon release from jail, the son forgave his father immediately. Ever since his time in jail, the two have become inseparable. They have a bond like best friends and have been catching up on time missed. This bond didn't stop when Clowney went to college, as his father came to all his home games and even most on the road as well. With Clowney's father on his side and family together, he would go on to have one of the most prolific college football careers to date.

National attention

Before entering college, Jadeveon was nationally ranked number one on ESPN's top 100 list. Clowney was considered the next great defensive end before even playing a down of college football. He had the nation's attention, firstly being considered a faster version of Mario Williams. Secondly, a more fearful version of Von Miller. Thirdly, a complete version of Robert Quinn. And finally, the potential to get after the quarterback like Chandler Jones. Bob McNair, a former South Carolina Gamecock, described Jadeveon Clowney as "a once in every 10 years type of physical specimen." When Clowney committed to his hometown Gamecocks on his birthday, the nation was watching. Marcus Lattimore, also committed to South Carolina, said, "Players skipped class to watch. It was like the Gamecocks had added all four of the Beatles."

College

Clowney went on to accomplish great things as a Gamecock. He was the SEC Freshman of the Year and a Second-Team All-SEC selection in 2011. The stats he had were almost unbelievable at only 18 years old. He had 36 tackles with eight sacks, 12 tackles for a loss and five forced fumbles. Clowney was not satisfied with that as his sophomore year, even though it was the biggest of his college career. Clowney was a wrecking ball, accounting for 54 tackles, 23.5 tackles for a loss, three forced fumbles, two passes

batted and 13 sacks. After the remarkable stats Clowney totalled in his first two seasons, coaches from the NFL and college told him to take it easy in 2013, as no one wanted to see him get injured. With NFL scouts and executives telling Clowney he was the sure-fire first overall pick in next year's draft, he limited himself in the 2013 campaign.

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NFL

Clowney would go on to be the number one overall selection in the 2014 NFL draft. The Houston Texans had taken the 6-foot-6, 274-pound defensive end from South Carolina. This meant the beginning of J.J. Watt and Jadeveon Clowney on the same defensive line. Unfortunately, Clowney would have to wait to see the field in his first year. He underwent surgery for a torn lateral meniscus in his knee. Clowney ended up playing four games in his rookie season. His injury complications would linger into his second season. Playing hurt and not 100 per cent had fans around the league calling him a bust. It wasn't until 2016, Clowney's third season, when we saw the physical freak of nature rheem down on NFL o-line men. Clowney was a monster from 2016-2018, making three straight pro bowls and being considered one of the league's best defensive players.

Leaving the Texans

Clowney deserved a new contract, and when unable to reach a long-term agreement with the Texans, he was traded to the Seattle Seahawks with one year left on his deal. In the Seattle defensive scheme, Clowney took on a different role as a run stopper, his stats dropped off and he missed the pro bowl. Clowney would leave the Seahawks after just one year. After a lengthy decision, he joined with old defensive coordinator Mike Vrabel in Tennessee and joined the Titans. In his seventh season, Clowney is hoping to get the league's attention again as the superman with dreadlocks.

Overall

There are so many components to what makes Clowney so great. The six-foot-six shredded build. Clowney's hit against Michigan State at the 2013 Outback Bowl or his massive performance against the Philadelphia Eagles in the 2020 wildcard game helped the Seahawks advance to the next round. The former number one pick and number one recruit. This defensive player is a gifted football player with an emotional childhood that has helped him develop into the man and player he is today. Jadeveon Clowney is a remarkable man and an even better NFL defensive lineman.



