

WR/DB VELTON BROWN JR. #13



HOMETOWN: Orlando, Fla.
RESIDENCE: Orlando, Fla.
AGE: 29
HEIGHT: 5-9
YEAR ON U.S. NATIONAL TEAM: 3rd



FAMILY OF LIONS

Brown grew up playing football and saw action for Oak Ridge High School in Orlando. He played alongside his cousin, former Illinois Fighting Illini star and current Detroit Lions safety Kerby Joseph.

“We went to the same high school at Oak Ridge in Florida,” Brown explained. “Eventually he transferred to Jones High School, and that’s where college teams really started to see him.”

Joseph, who was a third-round pick in 2022 and has 17 interceptions and an All-Pro selection through three NFL seasons, is more than aware of Brown’s success as a flag football player. The safety regularly supports his cousin on social media and even attended a flag football tournament in Texas with Brown during his spare time.

TRANSITIONING FROM TACKLE TO FLAG

After his high school career ended, Brown continued to pursue tackle football. He played for the Orlando Phantoms from 2015 to 2018 as a wide receiver and return specialist.

During his time with the team, Orlando reached three championships, winning two. In 2017, Brown set the team record for receptions in a game.

Brown didn’t want to stop playing the sport he loved when his tackle career ended, so he began looking into playing flag football at a more competitive level.

“The AFFL caught my eye shortly before quarantine,” Brown said. “I had a mentor, Nate Webster, who played with the club team Fighting Cancer. He’s the one who really let me know that things were bigger than just the city when it came to flag football. I started traveling. I flew on a plane for the first time. I saw thousands of people like me out there playing flag. That’s when I realized this was something I wanted to do.”

Brown’s nickname is “Boomin” because of the big plays he creates on the field. That elite level of play put him on the U.S. National Team radar several years ago.

“About two years ago, there was a tournament in Charlotte in the spring. They were looking at my close friend Deven Turner, but I was on the same team. Boomin stood out from everything on offense and defense. That’s when I first met [U.S. Men’s Flag National Team Assistant Coach] Pat [Alley]. We spoke a little bit, and that following December of the same year I got an invite to U.S. National Team Trials.”

As a member of the 2023 Men’s U.S. National Team, Brown contributed to the U.S. winning the first-ever IFAF Americas Continental Flag Football Championship by defeating Mexico 40-36 in the gold medal game. Brown added to his medal collection in 2024, as he helped the U.S. National Team earn gold at the IFAF Flag Football Championships in Lahti, Finland, emerging at the top of a 32-team field, the largest ever in World Championship history.

IMPRESSING THE STARS

Brown has done more than impress U.S. National Team coaches and scouts during his flag football career. He also earned praise from former NFL All-Pro and Pro Bowl cornerback Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie. The two met while playing in the AFFL as opponents and later became teammates.

“I was playing flag for an Orlando team, and Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie was playing for the competition,” Brown said. “I was starstruck, but I knew I had a game to play. He walked up to me and said, ‘Man, you’re young, fast and all that.’ Time passed, and eventually DRC was on our team. The hype was amazing.”

Brown eventually won an AFFL title with his club team, Kings of Florida.



VISION AND ADVICE

Devin Hester and Michael Vick were two of Brown’s favorite athletes growing up, but he admired much more than their pure speed.

He attempts to emulate their football IQ and understanding of the sport on the flag football field.

“Besides the agility, speed and physical traits, they really had the vision and mentality for the game,” Brown explained. “When you’re lining up and analyzing the field thinking, ‘My guys are going to do this. If they don’t do this, what else is open? If I run this way, things become crowded so let’s go this way instead.’ All of that, I kind of see similarly in my game. I’m always looking around, whether I’m playing quarterback, receiver or any other position.”

Brown’s favorite jersey number is No. 13. It was originally just the first number he wore at a tournament, but he now embraces it as a symbol of his style, citing Friday the 13th and his finishing mentality. Having played both tackle and flag football at high levels with and against NFL-caliber athletes, Brown has taken quite a few lessons away from the sport, but one stands out to him.

“Never give up. Don’t be down on yourself, no matter how hard you want to be great. Never give up,” Brown said in 2024. “It’s the next play every single time. You can’t dwell on anything. You can drop a ball on first down and second down, but you might score on third down. For example, today [at Training Camp], I dropped a pass or two, but I scored a touchdown afterward.”