

QB/ATH

DARRELL "HOUSH" DOUCETTE #7



HOMETOWN: New Orleans, La.

RESIDENCE: New Orleans, La.

AGE: 36

HEIGHT: 5-7

YEAR ON U.S. NATIONAL TEAM: 5th

PRONUNCIATION:

Darrell DOUCETTE (Doo-sett)



ALL I DO IS WIN

Doucette, one of the most widely-known flag football players in the world, has been a member of USA Football's U.S. Men's Flag National Team since 2021. The U.S. Men's Flag National Team has not lost during an international tournament since Doucette joined the team.

With Doucette at quarterback, and sometimes all over the field on both sides of the ball, the U.S. National team has won gold medals at the 2021 IFAF World Championship in Jerusalem, Israel, The World Games 2022 in Birmingham, Ala., the 2023 IFAF Americas Championships in Charlotte, N.C., where he was named MVP of the gold medal match, and the 2024 IFAF World Championships in Lahti, Finland.

"It's a surreal feeling [to represent the United States] because I grew up watching track – Tyson Gay, Usain Bolt, Michael Johnson – and the basketball Dream Teams, so I never thought that I'd be in a similar situation, representing my country," Doucette told IFAF's Michael Preston in 2023. "It's just amazing to know I'm doing the same thing those men and women I looked up to were doing."

Despite being only 5-7, Doucette has never let his stature limit him between the white lines.

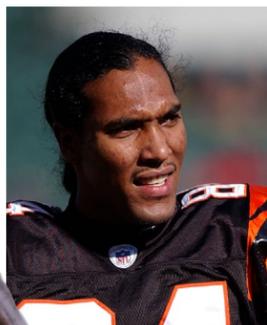
"The quarterback position is size-less in flag because you don't have to look over a big offensive line," Doucette told Preston. "Height doesn't matter. There are no big, tall rushers, and having a mobile quarterback is an advantage to elude the rushers. A mobile passer who can do everything is the best."

Doucette played intramural flag football at Xavier University of Louisiana from 2007-11 and returned to help coach the school's women's flag football program in 2021.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Doucette is known by his nickname, "Housh." The nickname came to him after college when friends and fellow flag football players noted his resemblance to the then Cincinnati Bengals wide receiver T.J. Houshmandzadeh, with his hair in a similar ponytail.

"When I first started playing, I went out there and I had long hair in a ponytail," said Doucette. "At the time, Chad Johnson, Chris Henry and T.J. Houshmandzadeh were receivers with the [Cincinnati] Bengals, and I was playing receiver. Everyone said 'Man, he looks like Housh! We're gonna call him Housh!' It just stuck with me ever since I first started playing."



IF I HAD A MILLION DOLLARS...

In 2018, Doucette helped take home a \$1 million prize as quarterback of team Fighting Cancer in the American Flag Football League (AFFL) Ultimate Final.

Doucette's Fighting Cancer team defeated team Godspeed 26-6 in the championship game to earn the payday. Godspeed featured several former NFL players, including quarterback Seneca Wallace, running backs Jahvid Best and Justin Forsett, wide receivers Jason Avant, Andrew Hawkins and Jacoby Jones and defensive backs Alan Ball, James Ihedigbo and Josh Wilson. Doucette passed for 242 yards and two touchdowns and ran for 88 yards on his way to earning game MVP honors.

"It was a dream come true to be on the same field with pro players that I grew up watching, and it was an even greater feeling to win and know we could compete at a high level against some of the best players in the world," said Doucette. "It was a mission of mine to make sure that people would respect the game of flag football and for them to know it's not as easy as you may think!"

Doucette has continued to participate in events aimed at increasing the mainstream awareness of elite flag football, including **Celebrity Sweat's Celebrity Flag Football Challenge** and the **NFL's celebrity flag football game**, in the week leading up to Super Bowl LIX in his hometown of New Orleans. Doucette earned game MVP honors in the Celebrity Sweat game.

OVERCOMING ADVERSITY

A New Orleans native, Doucette and his family were displaced by the devastating effects of Hurricane Katrina, a Category 5 hurricane that made landfall in New Orleans and the surrounding area in August 2005.

Doucette's family relocated to Atlanta, Ga., and he finished high school at Druid Hills High School, where he was the MVP of the track and field team as a senior.

Doucette returned to New Orleans in May 2007 after his high school graduation and is a proud New Orleanian to this day.

BOWL THEM OVER

Before he entered the flag football ranks, Doucette won a Louisiana state championship in bowling with St. Augustine High School in New Orleans, La. during the 2004-05 school year.

"My first love was bowling," Doucette said. "I grew up in the bowling alley because my mom, dad, uncles and cousins bowl."

Doucette has bowled multiple perfect 300-score games and still bowls a couple times per week.

"Bowling involves being a team and making adjustments," Doucette said. "If you're not doing well, your teammates are there to tell you the adjustments you need to make. It's really about being accurate and consistent with each roll."

"Who do you think you are? I am!"

