

= Mike Kafka =

Michael John " Mike " Kafka (born July 25 , 1987) is a former American football quarterback and current offensive graduate assistant for the Northwestern Wildcats football team . He was drafted by the Philadelphia Eagles in the fourth round of the 2010 National Football League (NFL) draft . He played college football at Northwestern .

Kafka attended St. Rita of Cascia High School in Chicago , Illinois , where he played both football and baseball . Kafka led St. Rita Cascia to three conference championships . He ended his high school football career with 1 @, @ 816 total yards and 16 touchdowns . After his senior season , he moved on to Northwestern University .

In 2007 , Kafka was the backup to C. J. Bachér and played in only two games . Despite being the backup quarterback again in 2008 , Kafka threw for 330 yards and finished second on the team in rushing yards with 321 . Following Bachér 's graduation after the 2008 season , Kafka became the starter for 2009 . Against Syracuse he set the school record for most consecutive pass completions with 16 . In the same game , he became the first Big Ten Conference player to score a passing , receiving , and rushing touchdown since Zack Mills from Penn State in 2004 . He was named Big Ten Co @-@ Offensive Player of the Week for his performance . Kafka received second @-@ team All @-@ Big Ten honors in 2009 . In the 2010 Outback Bowl against Auburn , Kafka set the all @-@ time bowl record with 47 completions and 78 passing attempts . He set Northwestern and Outback Bowl records with 532 passing yards and an Outback Bowl record with five interceptions . During his career at Northwestern , Kafka threw for 4 @, @ 265 yards with a completion percentage of 64 @. @ 1 % , 19 touchdowns and 20 interceptions . He rushed for 891 yards and 11 touchdowns on 268 carries , and caught a pass for 24 yards and a touchdown .

Kafka spent two seasons as a member of the Eagles . In 2010 he was the third @-@ string quarterback behind Michael Vick and Kevin Kolb but did not see playing time . He was mainly the third @-@ string quarterback again in 2011 behind Vick and Vince Young , but saw some playing time in two games early in the season , both of which resulted in losses . He was expected to be the backup quarterback behind Vick in 2012 but a broken hand caused him to miss time in the preseason and was ultimately released in favor of rookie Nick Foles and veteran Trent Edwards . Kafka spent time on offseason rosters with the New England Patriots and Jacksonville Jaguars in 2013 , before he was signed by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in 2014 . He spent the majority of the 2014 season on the Buccaneers ' practice squad , but was not re @-@ signed following the conclusion of the season . He participated in the first NFL veteran combine in 2015 and was subsequently signed by the Vikings . After playing in the preseason , the team released him . He spent one week with the Tennessee Titans ' practice squad in December 2015 , before signing with the Cincinnati Bengals ' practice squad one week later . He was not re @-@ signed following the season .

= = Early years = =

Kafka was born on July 25 , 1987 , in Chicago , Illinois , to Michael and Sandra Kafka . He attended St. Rita of Cascia High School in Chicago where he played football (coached by Todd Kuska) and baseball . He was the team captain for both teams . In football , he led the Mustangs to three conference championships and had a career record of 35 ? 8 . As a senior in 2004 , Kafka completed 75 of 129 passes . In the season @-@ opener against Homewood @-@ Flossmoor High School , Kafka went up against H @-@ F 's quarterback Freddie Barnes and won the game , 52 ? 28 . Against Mt . Carmel High School , he ran for 164 yards and passed for 126 yards . Kafka passed for 1 @, @ 004 yards and 10 touchdowns in 2004 . He ran for 806 yards with a 5 @. @ 6 yards per carry average , and five touchdowns on 144 carries . His career stats at St. Rita were 1 @, @ 816 total offensive yards and 16 touchdowns .

Kafka made the school 's Silver Honor Roll all four years of high school and was an Academic All @-@ State . He was an All @-@ area selection by Tom Lemming 's Prep Football Report and was an honorable mention all @-@ state selection . SuperPrep named him All @-@ Midwest Region

and Rivals.com placed him on the Top 25 dual @-@ threat quarterbacks list . SuperPrep ranked him 25th among players from Illinois at all positions and 50th nationally among quarterbacks . He was ranked 20th in Illinois by Rivals.com and 25th nationally among dual @-@ threat quarterbacks . Kafka was named Team Offensive MVP and Catholic Metro Blue Offensive MVP . He was an honorable mention all @-@ area honoree by Chicago Sun @-@ Times and Daily Southtown .

Kafka committed to Northwestern University on December 10 , 2004 . He also received offers from Florida Atlantic University , the University of Pittsburgh and Stanford University .

= = College career = =

= = = 2005 season = = =

During the 2005 season , his first year , Kafka redshirted in order for him to learn the Northwestern Wildcats ' offensive system .

= = = 2006 season = = =

In his Northwestern career debut on September 1 versus Miami University , Kafka threw for 106 yards and one touchdown on 13 completions out of 17 attempts . His first touchdown was a 19 @-@ yard pass to running back Tyrell Sutton . He led all players with 89 yards rushing on 17 rushing attempts . His passer rating for that game was 148 @.@ 26 as Northwestern went on to win 21 ? 3 . The following week against New Hampshire on September 9 , Kafka went 19 ? 32 and threw for 173 yards along with one interception and a fumble . He rushed for 42 yards . The Wildcats ended up losing the game , 34 ? 17 . Kafka played the first half of the game against Eastern Michigan in the third week of the season and rushed for 33 yards with a 6 @.@ 6 yards per run average , along with his first career rushing touchdown , a 6 @-@ yard run . He passed for 76 yards and completed 10 out of 18 passes with an interception .

Days before Northwestern faced Nevada in the fourth game of the season , head coach Pat Fitzgerald confirmed that Kafka would remain the starter despite his poor prior performances . In the game , Kafka ran for a career @-@ high 111 yards , which included a 13 @-@ yard touchdown rush , and averaged 9 @.@ 2 yards per run . He passed for 122 yards , completing 9 out of 21 passes and three interceptions . His 111 yards rushing were the most by a Northwestern quarterback since Zak Kustok ran for 111 yards in a November 21 , 2001 , game versus Bowling Green . Kafka suffered a hamstring injury during the game , which kept him out of the next three games of the season . One of the games he missed was the biggest comeback in NCAA Division 1 @-@ A history , an eventual 41 ? 38 loss to Michigan State on October 21 . Kafka made his first appearance since the injury against Ohio State on November 11 , in which he passed for 17 yards and completed four out of eight passes .

= = = 2007 season = = =

In 2007 , Kafka was a backup and only played in two games , where he passed for 11 yards on two completions and rushed for eight yards .

= = = 2008 season = = =

Kafka entered the 2008 season as a backup quarterback behind C. J. Bachér . Against Syracuse , Kafka entered the game in the fourth quarter and rushed twice for 18 yards . Against Southern Illinois , he threw two passes , completing one for one yard , in addition to rushing for three yards . He played in the final series at Indiana and completed a pass , which went for nine yards .

Starting in place of the injured Bachér for the game against Minnesota , Kafka ran for 217 yards on 27 attempts , which included a 53 @-@ yard run , and passed for 143 yards and two touchdowns on

12 completions out of 16 throws . His 217 rushing yards set a school and Big Ten Conference record for quarterback rushing yards in a game . The Big Ten record was later beaten in 2010 by Michigan quarterback Denard Robinson on September 11 , 2010 . Kafka began the game by completing his first eight throws , which included a 36 @-@ yard touchdown pass to Jeremy Ebert . He was named the team 's offensive player of the week after that game , along with being named the Big Ten Co @-@ Offensive Player of the Week . Kafka earned an ESPN College Gameday Helmet Sticker and was named an AT & T All @-@ America Player of the Week candidate .

The next week , Kafka started in his second straight game against Ohio State , and passed for 177 yards while completing 18 out of 27 throws . He ran for 83 yards and a touchdown on 29 attempts . He ran for 300 yards in his two starts against Ohio State , which is the most by a Northwestern quarterback in successive contests . He was named the team 's offensive big playmaker for the game .

Against Michigan , he entered the game in Northwestern 's second series on offense and rushed for 20 yards on three carries before he was forced to leave the game after suffering a concussion . He ran for one yard on three carries against Illinois .

Kafka passed for 330 yards during the season along with two touchdowns on 32 completions and 46 total attempts . He finished second on the team in rushing with 321 yards .

= = = 2009 season = = =

Kafka entered his senior season as Northwestern 's starting quarterback after C. J. Bachér graduated . He was named to the Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Award watch list , along with 19 other players nationally , with two others in the Big Ten Conference . Texas quarterback Colt McCoy eventually won the award . In the offseason , Kafka was tutored by offensive coordinator Mick McCall and former Northwestern quarterback Brett Basanez . Kafka was named co @-@ captain for the 2009 season .

At home against Towson on September 5 to start the 2009 season , Kafka threw 15 completions of 20 attempts for 192 yards , setting a career @-@ high for passing yards in a game . He ran for six yards on six carries in a blowout 47 ? 14 win . Against Eastern Michigan at home on September 12 , he threw for 158 yards and one interception on 14 completions out of 24 attempts . He ran for 21 yards on five runs in the close 27 ? 24 win over the Eagles .

During the Syracuse game , Kafka set a school record for consecutive completions in a game with 16 , breaking the 47 @-@ year @-@ old record set by Tom Myers in 1962 . He set a new career @-@ high in passing yards in a game by passing for 390 yards , breaking his previous career @-@ high in the season opener . Kafka also ran for a three @-@ yard touchdown and threw three touchdown passes along with an interception . He caught a receiving touchdown when he tossed a lateral to Andrew Brewer who threw it back to Kafka for a 24 @-@ yard touchdown . Kafka became the first Big Ten Conference player to score at least one passing , receiving and rushing touchdown in a game since Zack Mills from Penn State accomplished it on September 4 , 2004 against Akron . Kafka finished the game with 35 completions on 42 attempts . However , despite his record @-@ breaking performance , the Wildcats lost 37 ? 34 . He was named Big Ten Co @-@ Offensive Player of the Week on September 20 for his performance .

Kafka passed for 309 yards , two touchdowns and an interception against Minnesota . He took four sacks and during a desperation drive to win the game , fumbled the football , which helped end the game and give the Golden Gophers the win . In the Purdue game , Kafka went 28 @-@ of @-@ 44 and threw for 224 yards . He rushed for a season @-@ high 39 yards on 18 carries and ran for the game @-@ winning two @-@ yard touchdown . After leading after the touchdown 25 ? 21 , Kafka threw a successful two @-@ point conversion pass to Drake Dunsmore to increase the lead by six to win the game after Purdue failed to score on the final drive of the game .

Kafka went 15 completions of 31 attempts for 191 yards and one interception to lead Northwestern to a 16 ? 6 win over Miami (OH) in the sixth game of the season . He was the leading rusher for Northwestern , rushing for 53 yards on 15 carries and two touchdowns . In the 24 ? 14 loss at Michigan State on October 17 , Kafka went 34 @-@ for @-@ 47 and threw for 291 yards and two

touchdowns . He was the leading rusher for the second straight week for Northwestern , rushing for 42 yards on 18 carries .

In a come @-@ from @-@ behind win against Indiana , the Wildcats trailed 28 ? 3 during the second quarter before Kafka ran for a one @-@ yard touchdown and later passed for two touchdowns to lead Northwestern to a 29 ? 28 win . The Wildcats overcame a 25 @-@ point deficit , which was the biggest comeback in school history . He went 26 @-@ of @-@ 46 and passed for 312 yards , along with two touchdowns and a career @-@ tying three interceptions . He rushed for 65 yards on 17 carries and one touchdown . Kafka totaled 377 yards of total offense , which was second @-@ best in his career . Against 12th ranked Penn State , Kafka went 14 @-@ for @-@ 18 and passed for 128 yards , along with rushing for 42 yards on eight carries and a touchdown before leaving the game with a leg injury during the second quarter . He was replaced by backup Dan Persa .

Kafka shared time at quarterback with Persa due to his strained hamstring on November 7 against the 4th @-@ ranked , and previously undefeated , Iowa Hawkeyes . Northwestern coming into the game was a 16 @-@ point underdog , but still beat Iowa 17 ? 10 in Northwestern 's first win over a nationally ranked top @-@ ten team since they won against Ohio State in 2004 . Persa had to leave the game early to receive X @-@ rays for a hand injury , which forced Kafka to play more than original planned . He finished as Northwestern ? s leading passer with 72 yards on ten completions .

Against Illinois on November 14 , Kafka threw for 305 yards and went 23 @-@ of @-@ 37 , along with a 28 @-@ yard touchdown pass to wide receiver Zeke Markshausen . He rushed seven times for 12 yards and a one @-@ yard touchdown to beat the Fighting Illini 21 ? 16 . Kafka threw for 300 or more yards for the fourth time that season . Against 16th @-@ ranked Wisconsin on November 21 , Kafka went 26 @-@ of @-@ 40 for 326 yards and two touchdowns , both to converted wide receiver Andrew Brewer . He rushed for 17 yards on seven carries to upset the Badgers with a 33 ? 31 win . Kafka threw for 300 or more yards for the fifth time in the season and for the second straight game . He was named Big Ten Co @-@ Offensive Player of the Week for his performance against Wisconsin .

Kafka ranked third in the Big Ten Conference in passing yards with 241 @-@ 5 passing yards per game and he ranked second in total offense . He finished the season tied for first in the Big Ten in rushing touchdowns by a quarterback with seven . His 65 @-@ 7 completion percentage for 2009 ranked first in the Big Ten . His 414 pass attempts ranked third in the Big Ten and eighth among all quarterbacks nationally .

Kafka was named second @-@ team All @-@ Big Ten following the 2009 season . He was named first @-@ team All @-@ Big Ten by Rivals.com. He finished fourth in the Chicago Tribune 's Silver Football voting , given out to the Big Ten 's Most Valuable Player , behind Brandon Graham , Darryll Clark and John Clay . Hall of Fame quarterback Bob Griese said Kafka " has the three qualities I look for . One , he 's a good decision @-@ maker , he knows when to throw the ball away . Two , he 's accurate . Three , he makes plays . This is where Kafka really jumps out . If he has a playmaker downfield , he gets the ball to him . " Kafka graduated from Northwestern in December .

In the 2010 Outback Bowl against Auburn on January 1 , Kafka set the all @-@ time bowl record with 47 completions and 78 passing attempts . He set Northwestern and Outback Bowl records with 532 passing yards , a career @-@ high . He set an Outback Bowl record with five interceptions . He tied the Outback Bowl record with four touchdown passes . His 98 plays and 566 total yards were also Outback Bowl records . He threw four touchdown passes in the 38 ? 35 loss that went to overtime , with two going to Andrew Brewer (39 and 35 yards) , one to Drake Dunsmore for 66 yards , and one to Sidney Stewart for 18 yards . He finished second in rushing for Northwestern with 20 carries for 34 yards and a two @-@ yard touchdown . He was named to ESPN.com 's All @-@ Big Ten Bowl team as an honorable mention .

Kafka was named Northwestern 's Most Valuable Player on offense following the season . Kafka led the Big Ten in passing yards with 3 @-@ 430 yards , total offense with 286 @-@ 8 yards per game , completions with 24 @-@ 5 per game , and fewest interceptions with 2 @-@ 44 of all passes being intercepted . He was seventh nationally in completions , 16th in passing yards and 12th in

total offensive yards . His 3 @, @ 430 passing yards are third @-@ most in school history . His 3 @, @ 729 total offensive yards are second @-@ most in school history .

In the 2010 East ? West Shrine Game on January 23 , Kafka started at quarterback for the East squad and , despite a slow start , led the East squad to a comeback victory . On the final drive of the game , Kafka threw a two @-@ yard touchdown pass to Penn State tight end Andrew Quarless to win the game for the East squad , 13 ? 10 . After the game , Kafka was named Offensive MVP after he went 18 @-@ of @-@ 27 , passed for 150 yards and threw the winning touchdown pass .

= = = Statistics = = =

His win / loss ratio for his career as the starting quarterback for Northwestern was 11 ? 8 . He finished his career as the third all @-@ time leading quarterback rusher at Northwestern with 887 yards rushing , and as the eighth all @-@ time leading passer with 4 @, @ 265 yards passing .

= = Professional career = =

= = = Pre @-@ draft = = =

Prior to the 2010 NFL Draft , Kafka was projected to be drafted in the sixth round by NFLDraftScout.com and as high as the fourth round . He was rated as the eleventh @-@ best quarterback in the draft . Northwestern head coach Pat Fitzgerald said at the time that 85 NFL scouts , general managers and personnel directors who watched film or came to see a game or a practice said about Kafka was that he " throws a lot better than our No. 3 [quarterback] does right now . " Fitzgerald also said that he would be " shocked " if Kafka was not drafted in the 2010 NFL Draft . After the Outback Bowl loss to Auburn on January 1 , in which Kafka threw 78 passes for 532 yards , Fitzgerald said , " I hope the NFL sees the same thing that I see , a man with a big @-@ time arm . " An NFL general manager said at the 2010 Senior Bowl that Kafka could be drafted as high as the third round .

Kafka was invited to the 2010 NFL Scouting Combine in Indianapolis , which started on February 24 , along with teammates Corey Wootton and Sherrick McManis . Kafka chose Mike McCartney of Priority Sports of Chicago as his agent , who also represents Wootton . Priority hired former Chicago Bears quarterback Erik Kramer and a trainer in Phoenix , Arizona to help Kafka prepare for the NFL Scouting Combine . To prepare for the Combine , Kafka worked out twice a day in Arizona , and held practice sessions with Notre Dame wide receiver Golden Tate . At the Combine , Kafka said , " I want to be an NFL starter . I 'm not going to the league to be a No. 2 . I think my whole game can go to another level . I 'm ready to take it up another notch . "

Kafka chose not to bench press at the NFL Combine . On February 28 , Kafka answered 35 out of the 50 questions on the Wonderlic test , and was " 99 percent sure " that he answered all 35 correctly . Draft analyst Mike Mayock said that Kafka was " a developmental guy " who should stay on a team 's practice squad for a year . Kafka had some of the best measurements in the vertical jump , broad jump , 60 @-@ yard shuttle , and three @-@ cone drill among all quarterbacks .

At Northwestern 's Pro Day on March 11 , Kafka passed to his former teammates Andrew Brewer and Zeke Markshausen , and , according to Gil Brandt , only missed one pass during the entire workout . 25 NFL teams attended the workout , including the Cincinnati Bengals quarterbacks coach Ken Zampese and the Arizona Cardinals quarterback coach Chris Miller .

Northwestern held its second Pro Day workout on March 29 . He passed to his former teammates Brewer , Markshausen , and Brendan Mitchell during the workout . He was reportedly not as accurate on the second Pro Day as he was on the first , but still " very accurate . " 24 NFL team representatives attended the Pro Day .

Kafka worked out for the Cincinnati Bengals , Cleveland Browns , New England Patriots and Oakland Raiders prior to the draft . Mike Mayock called Kafka the " sleeper " of the quarterback class , projecting him to be drafted in the sixth round . Mayock also said , " He 's a really smart kid .

Has a better arm than people think . I don 't even think he 's sleeping anymore . He was a month @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half ago , but he 's on the rise . He 's a kid who could surprise people at the end of the day . " Former NFL quarterback Ron Jaworski concurred , saying that Kafka " knows how to play the quarterback position . There 's a real feel for hitting the open receiver , good anticipation . I can see him being one of those sleeper type guys . " A scout before the draft said that Kafka " throws a lot of picks , but at least he 's willing to pull the trigger . You don 't see that from a lot of young kids . "

= = = Philadelphia Eagles = = =

= = = = 2010 = = = =

Kafka was selected by the Philadelphia Eagles in the fourth round (122nd overall) in the 2010 NFL Draft . He was the fifth quarterback taken in the draft , behind Sam Bradford (1st overall) , Tim Tebow (25th overall) , Jimmy Clausen (48th overall) and Colt McCoy (85th overall) . Kafka was expected to be the team 's third @-@ string quarterback behind Kevin Kolb and Michael Vick . Eagles head coach Andy Reid said of Kafka , " I think once you meet him , I think you 'll see he 's a smart guy . He has some of the intangible things ? the leadership , he 's a tough kid . Inner city , Chicago kid . He 's got a little grit to him . I think that 's important . You have to be wired right to handle you guys and play in the city of Philadelphia . I think he 's wired right . He likes to compete . " Kafka was signed to a four @-@ year contract worth \$ 2 @. @ 256 million with \$ 467 @, @ 000 guaranteed on June 15 , 2010 .

In the final practice of rookie and selected veterans training camp on July 29 , Kafka took all the snaps at quarterback after Kolb and Vick got practice off . After practice , offensive coordinator Marty Mornhinweg said Kafka was " the best rookie that I 've ever had in 15 , 16 , 17 years or something like that . So , he 's really sharp . Now , he 's sharp book @-@ wise , but he 's also very intelligent in a football sense . He 's really picked [the playbook] up very quickly . "

In the first preseason game on August 14 against the Jacksonville Jaguars , Kafka went 3 @-@ for @-@ 7 for 76 yards and threw a 57 @-@ yard pass to wide receiver Chad Hall after taking over for Vick late in the third quarter . Kafka began the second preseason game on August 20 against the Cincinnati Bengals in the fourth quarter . He went 4 @-@ for @-@ 12 for 29 yards and two interceptions (both to cornerback Morgan Trent) with a passer rating of 2 @. @ 4 . He also had one carry for 24 yards . On August 27 against the Kansas City Chiefs , Kafka came into the game in the fourth quarter and went 9 @-@ for @-@ 13 for 93 yards and one touchdown . He led the Eagles on the winning drive with an 18 @-@ yard touchdown pass to Riley Cooper with 23 seconds left in the game to win , 20 ? 17 . In the final preseason game on September 2 , Kafka replaced Vick during the second quarter and played for almost three quarters . He went 9 @-@ for @-@ 27 for 76 yards and an interception against the New York Jets .

During the 2010 regular season and playoffs , Kafka was inactive as the team 's third quarterback for all but five games . In week two Kafka was the backup to Vick against the Detroit Lions after Kolb suffered a concussion in week one against the Green Bay Packers . In week five against the San Francisco 49ers , week six against the Atlanta Falcons and week seven against the Tennessee Titans , Kafka was the backup to Kolb after Vick , who took over as the starting quarterback for the remainder of the season , suffered a rib injury in week four against the Washington Redskins . In the week seventeen game against the Dallas Cowboys , Kafka was the backup quarterback to Kolb in a decision to rest Vick and the team 's starters before the playoffs .

Kafka said of his rookie year that he " learned a lot about football . I learned a lot about being a professional , especially being around [Vick] and [Kolb] . Those guys have been great mentors , and obviously the coaching staff that I have has been really great as far as developing me to learn the west coast system . "

= = = = 2011 = = = =

Following the 2010 season , Kafka said that his goal for the 2011 offseason was to " continue to learn the offense . I haven 't mastered it by any means , the more study and preparation I can get the better . Physically , I can work on my feet , my arm strength , and my timing and rhythm . There 's a bunch of things I can work on , and I 'm really excited to get to it . " Eagles general manager Howie Roseman said Kafka is the hardest working player in the NFL , but needs to get bigger and stronger . The Eagles reportedly received trade offers from other teams for Kafka prior to the 2011 NFL Draft but declined due to his potential . Kafka , in response , laughed and did not believe the rumors .

Because of the NFL lockout , Kafka and his teammates organized informal workouts in Marlton , New Jersey . After one of the workout sessions , Vick said Kafka was " ready for " the backup role and would embrace it should Kolb leave after the lifting of the lockout . Kolb was traded to the Arizona Cardinals on July 28 following the lifting of the NFL lockout , and Kafka was temporarily elevated to the backup behind Vick before the Eagles signed former Tennessee Titan Vince Young on July 29 . Kafka took second @-@ team reps at the start of training camp , but on the first official depth chart that was released on August 9 , Kafka was listed as the third @-@ stringer behind Young .

Against the Baltimore Ravens in the preseason opener on August 11 , Kafka replaced Young at quarterback during the second quarter and played into the fourth quarter . He went 13 @-@ of @-@ 19 for 132 yards with one interception thrown to Ravens safety Bernard Pollard in the game . In the second week of the preseason on August 18 against the Pittsburgh Steelers , Kafka entered the game in the fourth quarter and led the Eagles to two scoring drives in a 24 ? 14 loss . With less than four minutes remaining in the game , he threw a 14 @-@ yard touchdown pass to wide receiver Gerald Jones , and with only 19 seconds left on the following drive , threw a second touchdown pass to Jones for seven yards . He finished the game going 14 @-@ for @-@ 19 for 160 yards along with the two scores . Kafka played in garbage time in the next preseason game against the Cleveland Browns , handing the ball off twice and kneeling down twice . Against the New York Jets in the preseason finale , he filled in for the injured Young , who started the game , to start the third quarter . Kafka had the wind knocked out of him on a sack , but was able to play the rest of the game despite a rib contusion . He finished the game 7 @-@ for @-@ 11 for 76 yards and one interception . He went 34 @-@ for @-@ 49 for 369 yards , two touchdowns , and two interceptions in the preseason overall .

Young suffered a hamstring injury in the final preseason game , and was subsequently inactive for the team 's first two games . Kafka was active as the backup to Vick in both games , but was forced to play in the second game when Vick suffered a concussion in the second half . Kafka went 7 @-@ of @-@ 9 passing for 72 yards in relief during the 35 ? 31 loss to the Atlanta Falcons . Vick broke his hand during a week 3 game against the New York Giants on September 25 , so Kafka again replaced him . Kafka threw for 35 yards and two interceptions as he went 4 @-@ for @-@ 7 passing . Both Kafka and Young were active as Vick 's backups in week 4 , with neither seeing playing time . Kafka was declared inactive for week 5 , but returned as active for weeks 6 and 8 . He was inactive again for weeks 9 and 10 , before he was activated for the rest of the season 's games . Young started at quarterback in weeks 11 , 12 , and 13 in place of an injured Vick , elevating Kafka to backup . Kafka saw playing action in two of the final games of the season with no pass attempts .

== == 2012 == ==

With Young not returning to the Eagles with his contract expiring after the 2011 season , Kafka was expected to be the backup quarterback behind Vick for the 2012 season . Trent Edwards was signed to a one @-@ year contract on February 23 , 2012 , and the team drafted Nick Foles in the third round of the 2012 NFL draft to compete with Kafka for spots on the roster . Kafka was considered the favorite to win the backup job during training camp . According to Adam Caplan from thesidelineview.com , Kafka showed during OTAs that " his arm strength has noticeably improved " since his previous two seasons . In the first preseason game on August 9 against the Pittsburgh

Steelers , Kafka suffered a fracture in his non @-@ throwing hand after passing for 31 yards and an interception . Foles was named the backup quarterback over Kafka and Edwards on August 29 , and Kafka was released in favor of Edwards during final roster cuts on August 31 , having sat out the remaining three preseason games for the Eagles .

= = = New England Patriots = = =

The Kansas City Chiefs and Green Bay Packers reportedly had interest in signing Kafka immediately after his release from the Eagles . The New England Patriots worked Kafka out on September 4 , and the Pittsburgh Steelers worked him out on November 20 . The Patriots signed him to a reserve / future contract on January 4 , 2013 , after he sat out the entire 2012 regular season . Kafka was expected to compete with Ryan Mallett for the backup job behind Tom Brady , but he was released on June 10 in favor of newly signed Tim Tebow .

= = = Jacksonville Jaguars = = =

The Jacksonville Jaguars claimed Kafka off waivers on June 11 , 2013 , one day after his release by the Patriots . The Dallas Cowboys had also put in a claim for him . The general manager for the Jaguars , Dave Caldwell , said on June 13 that Kafka had as good of a chance at being named the starting quarterback as Blaine Gabbert , Chad Henne , or Matt Scott had . Kafka was the third quarterback to play in the first preseason game for the Jaguars on August 9 against the Miami Dolphins after Henne and Gabbert . He went 4 @-@ of @-@ 8 for 19 yards and an interception in the game . In the second week of the preseason , he went 1 @-@ for @-@ 3 for ? 4 yards . He did not play in the team 's third preseason game , but passed for 46 yards and a touchdown in the fourth game . The Jaguars signed Ricky Stanzi on August 27 for additional competition for the team 's third quarterback job . Kafka and Scott were both released in favor of Stanzi during final roster cuts on August 30 , 2013 .

= = = Tampa Bay Buccaneers = = =

After his release from the Jaguars , the Chicago Bears worked out Kafka on October 25 , 2013 , the Tampa Bay Buccaneers worked him out on November 5 , the Atlanta Falcons worked him out on November 19 , and the Dallas Cowboys worked him out on February 6 , 2014 . He signed with the Buccaneers on February 10 . During training camp , Kafka competed against Alex Tanney for the third @-@ string quarterback spot behind Josh McCown and Mike Glennon . Kafka went 2 @-@ of @-@ 7 for 14 yards in the first preseason game , 4 @-@ of @-@ 11 for 55 yards and a touchdown in the second preseason game , and 7 @-@ of @-@ 14 for 86 yards and a touchdown in the fourth preseason game . He was released during final roster cuts with Tanney on August 30 , 2014 , but was subsequently re @-@ signed to the team 's practice squad on August 31 . After spending the first three weeks of the season on the practice squad , Kafka was promoted to the active roster on September 25 due to an injury suffered by starter McCown . He was active but did not play in the first three weeks he was on the active roster . He was declared inactive in week 8 with McCown healthy again , and he was waived on October 28 . He was re @-@ signed to the practice squad on October 30 . At the conclusion of the 2014 NFL season , Kafka 's practice squad contract expired and he was not re @-@ signed by the team .

= = = Minnesota Vikings = = =

Kafka was invited to work out at the first NFL veteran combine on March 22 , 2015 . The veteran combine was created as a way for unemployed players to potentially work their way back into the league by going through drills in front of NFL scouts and coaches . Daniel Jeremiah of NFL Network said that he has " never seen [Kafka] throw it as well as he did on the field " and that he expected Kafka to sign with a team following his workout . The Minnesota Vikings signed Kafka to a one @-@

year contract worth \$ 660 @, @ 000 on April 1 , 2015 . He was expected to compete with rookie undrafted signee Taylor Heinicke for the third quarterback job behind starter Teddy Bridgewater and backup Shaun Hill .

In the 2015 Pro Football Hall of Fame Game , in which the Vikings played the Pittsburgh Steelers , Kafka replaced Bridgewater as a member of the team 's backup offense in the middle of the second quarter . Kafka threw a 34 @-@ yard touchdown pass to rookie tight end MyCole Pruitt , before he was substituted for Heinicke in the third quarter . Kafka did not play in the team 's second preseason game , against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers , and he was the fourth quarterback to play in the third game against the Oakland Raiders . He played one drive in the fourth preseason game , throwing an incomplete pass against the Dallas Cowboys , before suffering a hamstring strain . The Vikings waived / injured him on September 1 , and he was placed on season @-@ ending injured reserve on September 2 after he cleared waivers . He was waived off of the injured reserve list on September 15 .

= = = Tennessee Titans = = =

The Tennessee Titans gave Kafka a workout after week 14 , and he signed with their practice squad on December 16 , as the third quarterback on the roster behind Marcus Mariota and Zach Mettenberger . After Mariota suffered a knee injury in a week 15 game against the Patriots , the team re @-@ signed Alex Tanney to the active roster to serve as the backup quarterback to Mettenberger in week 16 . The Titans released Kafka from the practice squad and signed Bryn Renner in his place on December 22 , 2015 .

= = = Cincinnati Bengals = = =

The Cincinnati Bengals ' starting quarterback , Andy Dalton , suffered a thumb injury in week 14 , and the team 's backup , A. J. McCarron injured his wrist in week 16 , leaving the team with one fully healthy quarterback on the roster , third @-@ stringer Keith Wenning . The team signed Kafka to their practice squad on December 29 , 2015 , one week after his release from the Titans . After the Bengals were defeated in the first round of the 2015 ? 16 NFL playoffs , his practice squad contract with the team expired and he was not re @-@ signed . His acceptance of a college coaching position after the season effectively ended his playing career .

= = Coaching career = =

The Northwestern Wildcats football team hired Kafka as an offensive graduate assistant , with a focus on wide receivers , on March 29 , 2016 .

= = Personal = =

Kafka majored in communication studies at Northwestern University . Mike 's brother , Jason , is a pitcher for the independent Windy City ThunderBolts and attended St. Rita of Cascia High School . Both Kafkas were recruited by Ken Margerum , who is now an assistant at San Jose State . Mike Kafka is married to his wife , Allison .

Kafka worked as an instructor at former Northwestern teammate Brett Basanez 's prep quarterback development camps in Woodbury , Minnesota and Minnetonka , Minnesota , in mid @-@ 2011 . Kafka worked at a Pop Warner Football passing camp , Three5Seven , with former Northwestern teammate Chris Malleo in July 2011 . On November 13 , 2014 , Kafka started a Kickstarter campaign for his product , the Roo Inferno , a type of hand warmer for both athletes and outdoor enthusiasts . The campaign successfully gained \$ 15 @, @ 974 from 124 backers on December 18 , 2014 . With help from the NFL and the University of Miami , Kafka began an executive Master of Business Administration program catered towards NFL players in 2015 .

Kakfa trained at EVO Ultrafit in Phoenix , AZ throughout his career .

