

= Mike Junkin =

Michael Wayne Junkin (born November 21 , 1964) is a former American football linebacker who played in the National Football League (NFL) for three seasons with the Cleveland Browns and the Kansas City Chiefs . He played in 20 games over the course of his NFL career .

Junkin played four years of college football at Duke University . In the 1987 NFL Draft , the Cleveland Browns traded up to select him with the fifth overall pick . He played in parts of two seasons for the Browns , both of which ended early due to injury . Junkin was then traded to the Kansas City Chiefs for a fifth @-@ round selection and played in five more games . After his release from the Chiefs , he did not play another game in the NFL . His failure to establish himself in the NFL has caused him to be regarded as a draft bust .

= = High school and college = =

Junkin was born in North Little Rock , Arkansas to Kirk , a United Airlines pilot , and Doris , a substitute teacher . His brother Trey Junkin was an NFL player as well . Junkin attended Belvidere High School in Belvidere , Illinois , and played tight end on the football team . In 1982 , his senior year , he was the team 's MVP and captain . He was named to the Belvidere Bucs Football Hall of Fame in 2013 .

After graduating from high school , Junkin played college football with the Duke Blue Devils . He played in three games for the Blue Devils as a freshman . In one game against North Carolina State , Junkin had 25 tackles en route to a 27 ? 26 Duke victory ; head coach Steve Sloan stated afterwards that it was " one of the best games I have ever seen a freshman play . " Between his freshman and sophomore seasons , Junkin went from 205 pounds to 240 to help get more playing time . As a sophomore , he spent the 1984 season as one of five starting linebackers on a modified Duke defense , which normally would have three or four linebackers . In his junior season , he was again a starting linebacker and finished the season with 162 tackles despite playing on an injured knee . Junkin started off his senior year with 15 tackles against Northwestern despite battling a head cold . Three weeks later in a game against Virginia , Junkin had 18 tackles and was named Atlantic Coast Conference defensive player of the week . Junkin graduated from Duke after the 1986 season as the school record @-@ holder for career tackles with 512 . Due to his performance his senior year , Junkin was named to the Second Team College Football All @-@ American .

= = Professional career = =

Junkin was selected with the fifth overall pick in the 1987 NFL Draft by the Cleveland Browns . To acquire him , the Browns traded Chip Banks along with their first and second @-@ round picks to the San Diego Chargers for their first and second @-@ round picks . In regards to the selection , head coach Marty Schottenheimer stated that scout Dom Anile had watched him play , and compared his playing style to " a mad dog in a meat market . " However , Anile saw him as a second @-@ round talent despite the quote , and felt he was not worth the fifth overall selection , but Schottenheimer overruled his scouts and selected Junkin with that pick . The Browns ' archrival , the Pittsburgh Steelers , were surprised at the pick as they had expected the Browns to select Shane Conlan after trading up for the pick ; the St. Louis Cardinals selection of Kelly Stouffer and the Buffalo Bills selection of Conlan eventually allowed the Steelers to select future Hall of Fame cornerback Rod Woodson , haunting the Browns for years .

Entering the 1987 Cleveland Browns season , Junkin was projected to be the starting outside linebacker opposite Clay Matthews , Jr. despite playing inside linebacker in college , which generated criticism around the league as a transition that would be difficult for him to make . After a 16 @-@ day holdout , the Browns and Junkin agreed to a four @-@ year deal worth nearly two million dollars . After missing the first preseason game against the St. Louis Cardinals , he made his debut against the New York Giants . In that game , he played the second half and failed to record a tackle . By the end of training camp , due to struggles learning the outside linebacker position , he

made the roster , but lost the starting job to Anthony Griggs . After the Browns moved to a 4 @-@ 3 defense for the second game against the Pittsburgh Steelers , Junkin made his debut , and the plan was for him to gradually see more playing time each week . In early November , due to a combination of a players ' strike and an injured wrist , Junkin was placed on the injured reserve list and replaced on the active roster by David Grayson .

Due to a combination of the Browns drafting Clifford Charlton and Junkin 's desire to move back inside , the Browns planned to move him back to inside linebacker for the 1988 season . He spent training camp competing with Eddie Johnson for the second inside linebacker position alongside Mike Johnson , and by the end of preseason play , Junkin had won the starting job . In his first career start against the Kansas City Chiefs , Junkin had six tackles , including the first one of the game in a 6 ? 3 Browns win . A month later , Junkin injured his knee , and was forced to miss several games . He returned to the team in early November , but Johnson had played so well in Junkin 's absence that he spent the next few weeks as the backup inside linebacker . He was given the starting job again to end the season , but missed tackles and a lack of impact plays led to his second season being considered a disappointment .

In early 1989 , Schottenheimer was fired as Browns head coach , and took the head coaching job with the Kansas City Chiefs . He still had faith in Junkin , unlike the Browns , and traded a fifth @-@ round pick to bring him to Kansas City . Two weeks after the trade , a report came out that Junkin had taken steroids provided by a doctor to treat an injured ankle , and had failed a drug test at the scouting combine as a result . Entering the 1989 Kansas City Chiefs season , Junkin competed with Walker Lee Ashley for the second inside linebacker spot alongside Dino Hackett . Ashley won the job , and Junkin played five games before a shoulder injury sidelined him for the rest of the season . He was released from the Chiefs after season 's end , and retired after not being signed by any team through the 1990 season .

Junkin became known as a draft bust due to his unproductive career . An ESPN article in 2008 noted Junkin noted as the eighth biggest draft bust of all time . He was also named one of the Cleveland ' Browns worst three draft picks from 1995 or earlier .