

= Jamaal Westerman =

Jamaal Akeem Westerman ( born February 21 , 1985 ) is an American football defensive lineman for the Winnipeg Blue Bombers of the Canadian Football League ( CFL ) . He was signed by the New York Jets as an undrafted free agent in 2009 . He played college football at Rutgers and was named to the Second ? team All ? Big East team two times . Westerman played high school football in Fort Lauderdale , Florida , at St. Thomas Aquinas High School before moving to Brampton , Ontario and attending Notre Dame Secondary School .

He has also been a member of the Miami Dolphins , Arizona Cardinals , Indianapolis Colts , Buffalo Bills , Pittsburgh Steelers and Cleveland Browns .

= = Early years = =

Westerman was born in Brooklyn , New York , on February 21 , 1985 . He and his family moved to Fort Lauderdale , Florida , where Westerman began his high school career at St. Thomas Aquinas High School . Following his freshman season , he moved , this time to Brampton , Ontario , and enrolled at Notre Dame Secondary School . Westerman started every year he was there and led both the team and league in tackles and sacks . After graduating from Notre Dame in 2004 he was considered a two @-@ star prospect by Rivals.com. Rutgers , Boise State and Central Michigan all recruited him and all offered him scholarships . He eventually accepted Rutgers ' scholarship offer .

= = College career = =

Westerman received three scholarship offers from National Collegiate Athletic Association ( NCAA ) colleges before accepting one from Rutgers .

After redshirting in 2004 , Westerman made a quick impression on the Rutgers coaching staff after recording six tackles in two games to begin 2005 . In the Cincinnati game , Westerman recorded a sack on quarterback Dustin Grutza which forced a fumble .

Before the 2006 season , Westerman was involved in a car accident with teammates Willie Foster and Corey Hyman . Westerman and Foster were uninjured while Hyman required two stitches in his forehead . On September 29 , against South Florida , Westerman sacked quarterback Matt Grothe for a five yard loss . After the month of September , Westerman had eight tackles and two and a half sacks . Through eight games , Westerman was the team leader in sacks with six . Against Connecticut , Westerman blocked a punt and recovered a fumble by Connecticut quarterback D. J. Hernandez . Both the punt and fumble recovery were returned for a touchdown . Westerman also recorded two and a half sacks in the game . By the final game in the season , Westerman and defensive end William Blackford had a combined 59 tackles , 16 tackles for a loss with 10 sacks . In the Texas Bowl against the Kansas State Wildcats , Westerman sacked quarterback Josh Freeman twice and recovered a Freeman fumble . Westerman was named second ? team All ? Big East following the season along with teammates Brian Leonard , Cameron Stephenson , Pedro Sosa , Jeremy Ito , Ramel Meekins , Devraun Thompson , Ron Girault and Courtney Greene .

During spring practice , Westerman and two other starter defensive linemen missed the annual intersquad scrimmage due to injuries . In Rutgers ' 59 ? 0 win over Norfolk State , Westerman recorded one sack on quarterback Casey Hansen . Against Syracuse and South Florida , Westerman recorded two sacks which gave him six for the season . Following the season , Westerman and Rutgers earned a bid to play in the International Bowl against Ball State . The game was played in his hometown of Toronto . According to Westerman he received numerous questions from teammates about Toronto , including " What 's the weather like ? "

Beginning in March 2008 , Rutgers attempted to convert Westerman to defensive tackle , so he could replace the departed Eric Foster . However , Westerman ended up playing defensive end during the season . Against Morgan State , Westerman blocked a punt and recovered the loose ball . Westerman suffered a torn biceps against Louisville and was forced to sit out the rest of the season which included a bowl game . Despite his injury , he led Rutgers with six sacks on the

season .

Westerman ended his collegiate career with 26 sacks , 141 tackles and 45 tackles for a loss . His career sack total ranked him third highest in Rutgers school history .

= = Professional career = =

= = = New York Jets = = =

Westerman was signed by the New York Jets as an undrafted free agent on April 27 , 2009 . On June 9 , 2009 , Jets head coach Rex Ryan said that he expected Westerman to make the team 's final roster . He ended up making the final roster as an outside linebacker and recorded two tackles and a sack in his debut against the Houston Texans on September 13 . On October 9 , 2011 , Westerman recorded 5 tackles along with 2 sacks against the New England Patriots but in a losing effort while the Jets lost 30 ? 21 .

= = = Miami Dolphins = = =

Westerman signed with the Miami Dolphins on March 15 , 2012 . He was waived during the final cuts before ever playing a regular season game for the Miami Dolphins .

= = = Arizona Cardinals = = =

On September 1 , Westerman was claimed off waivers by the Arizona Cardinals . After making just one tackle in five games for the team , he was waived on November 20 .

= = = Indianapolis Colts = = =

On December 4 , Westerman signed with the Indianapolis Colts .

= = = Buffalo Bills = = =

On August 14 , 2013 , Westerman was signed by the Buffalo Bills . After appearing in 12 games with the Bills in 2013 , Westerman was waived on December 10 , 2013 .

= = = Pittsburgh Steelers = = =

Westerman signed with the Pittsburgh Steelers on December 17 , 2013 , after a season @-@ ending injury to linebacker LaMarr Woodley . He appeared in one game for the Steelers during the 2013 NFL season .

= = = Cleveland Browns = = =

On July 24 , 2014 Westerman signed with the Browns . He was released by the Browns on August 30 , 2014 , as they trimmed their roster down to 53 players .

= = = Winnipeg Blue Bombers = = =

On May 7 , 2015 the Westerman signed with the Winnipeg Blue Bombers of the Canadian Football League . He appeared in 17 games in 2015 , registering 17 sacks and receiving the Western nomination for Most Outstanding Canadian . Unfortunately for Westerman , Ottawa receiver Brad Sinopoli would end up winning the award for Most Outstanding Canadian .

= = Personal = =

Westerman 's brother , Jawann , walked onto the Rutgers football team as a wide receiver after Westerman encouraged him to do so . His other brother , Jabar Westerman , was a first round draft pick of the BC Lions in the 2012 Canadian Football League college draft and is currently a starter at defensive end for the team .