

= Garry Williams (gridiron football) =

Garry Williams (born August 20 , 1986) is a gridiron football offensive tackle who is currently a free agent . He previously played for the Carolina Panthers of the National Football League (NFL) , who signed him as an undrafted free agent in 2009 . He attended the University of Kentucky , where he played college football for the Wildcats while studying community communications and leadership development .

Williams dealt with repeated injuries while playing for the Carolina Panthers . His injuries prevented him from being a consistent starter despite multiple opportunities . In 2012 , Williams played a complete season and contributed to a team record 29 first downs in a single game .

= = High school career = =

Williams played high school football at Seneca High School MCA for the Red Hawks , where he started at the defensive tackle position as a freshman before switching to offensive tackle . The Red Hawks competed in the playoffs each year that Williams played . In his senior year , he was named a 2003 first @-@ team all @-@ state player by the Associated Press and the Courier @-@ Journal after leading his team to a 10 ? 2 record and the second round of state playoffs . The Red Hawks were also ranked first in the state for the first time in school history that season . Williams also played track and field at Seneca , and he was ranked second in the state at shot put in 2003 .

= = College career = =

In early 2004 , Williams committed to play football at the University of Kentucky , but he did not join the team that season . He later recommitted to Kentucky in 2005 and enrolled that year . In the 2005 season , Williams played in five games before starting in the final three matches of the season at left tackle . He started 12 games in his sophomore year and was named the Most Outstanding Offensive Lineman by the team . In early 2007 , Williams was indefinitely suspended from the Wildcats for academic reasons , but his suspension was later lifted prior to the start of the season .

In 2007 , Williams started in all 13 games and was named a second @-@ team All @-@ SEC player . The Wildcat 's offense also broke the team record for most points scored in a season with 475 points in Williams ' junior year . Williams was named the SEC 's offensive lineman of the week for his play against the Florida Atlantic Owls on September 29 . As a senior , Williams was again named to the All @-@ SEC second @-@ team after starting in 11 games . He was also named the team 's most outstanding offensive lineman after allowing only a single sack the entire season . A knee injury caused Williams to miss two games as a senior . He finished his career at Kentucky with 45 games played and 39 starts .

= = Professional career = =

= = = Carolina Panthers = = =

Williams was eligible for the 2009 NFL Draft but went undrafted . He was later signed by the Carolina Panthers as a free agent , and was the only undrafted rookie to make the active roster of the Panthers following training camp . Williams made his NFL debut in Week 11 of his rookie season against the Miami Dolphins . He went on to play in seven games in 2009 , where he was utilized mostly on special teams . In 2010 , Williams played in all 16 regular season games , while starting in 11 . He started for the first time against the San Francisco 49ers in Week 7 , and remained a starter for the rest of the season . In Carolina 's final preseason game of 2011 , Williams suffered a broken ankle , causing him to miss the entire season . Head coach Ron Rivera later said the Panthers had planned on Williams taking on the role of a starter prior to his injury .

In 2012 , Williams played in all 16 games and started in nine . In Week 15 against the San Diego

Chargers , Williams started and contributed to the Panthers breaking a team record with 29 first downs . Williams also started on the offensive line that helped reach 273 rushing yards and 530 total offensive yards in Week 17 against the New Orleans Saints , both the second highest values in team history . Prior to the 2013 season , the Panthers released right guard Geoff Hangartner and announced Williams as the likely starter . He started against the Seattle Seahawks in the regular season opener , but was injured and left the game . He was later diagnosed with a torn ACL and MCL in his left knee , ending his season . Williams played in the 2014 season opener against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers , but left practice later that week with coaches citing a sore hip . He was later placed on injured reserve with a back injury , ending his season . Williams became a free agent in 2015 and the Panthers did not resign him .

= = = Calgary Stampeders = = =

The Calgary Stampeders signed Williams as an international free agent on May 28 , 2015 . Williams made the Stampeders ' active roster following preseason and made his CFL debut on July 18 against the Winnipeg Blue Bombers . He started three games at left tackle before being forced to leave the August 1st game against the Montreal Alouettes with an arm injury . After Williams reportedly had X @-@ rays of his elbow taken , he was diagnosed with a hyperextended right elbow . He suffered multiple injuries during the rest of the regular season , causing him to sit out several games . He returned in time to play in both playoff games for Calgary .

= = Personal life = =

Williams was born in Atlanta , Georgia to Garry Williams Sr. and Angela Williams . While playing college football and studying public service and leadership at the University of Kentucky , he was involved in community service . He helped with a " Breakfast with Santa " event at the University of Kentucky Children 's Hospital and rang bells to collect donations for the Salvation Army .