

= Captain Munnerlyn =

Captain Munnerlyn (born April 10 , 1988) is an American football cornerback for the Minnesota Vikings of the National Football League (NFL) . He played college football at South Carolina for three years . He was drafted by the Carolina Panthers in the seventh round , 216th overall of the 2009 NFL Draft .

Munnerlyn played high school football at Murphy High School in Mobile , Alabama , where he was named All @-@ region three times . Following high school , he chose to play college football for the South Carolina Gamecocks after receiving scholarship offers from two other teams . As a freshman in 2006 , he played in 11 games and recorded a season high five tackles in two . In 2007 , Munnerlyn was both a nickel back and return specialist for the Gamecocks . Following the season he was named All ? Southeastern Conference (SEC) . In 2008 , he was elevated to starting cornerback while also returning kicks and punts . Against Kentucky , he returned a kickoff 84 yards and a blocked field goal 81 yards . On the second day of the 2009 NFL Draft , Munnerlyn was selected by the Carolina Panthers in the seventh round (216th overall) .

= = Early years = =

Munnerlyn was born three months premature and at birth weighed three pounds , eight ounces . He grew up in Happy Hills , which was a crime @-@ infested part of Mobile . While living there , he attended the Josephine Allen branch of Boys & Girls Clubs of South Alabama .

When he was growing up , his father was murdered and both of his brothers sold drugs . His oldest brother , Timothy , was convicted in 1996 of murder and was sentenced to life in prison . After the shooting , Munnerlyn 's mother converted to Christianity and he eventually did the same . Munnerlyn eventually said of the conversion and his mother 's prayers that he would stay out of trouble , " Without her prayers , I don 't think I could be here in the NFL right now " .

= = High school career = =

Munnerlyn attended Murphy High School in Mobile , Alabama , where he starred in both football and track . In football , he was a three @-@ time All @-@ region selection and participated in the Junior All ? Star Game . He helped lead Murphy High to a 10 @-@ 2 record and a 6A Regional runner @-@ up finish his senior year , earning a spot on the Alabama Sports Writers Association All @-@ State team . He graduated from Murphy in 2006 .

During high school , Munnerlyn was also a standout track & field sprinter . He competed in the 100 @-@ meter dash and long jump at the 2004 Junior Olympics . In 2006 , he earned a second @-@ place finish in the long jump event at the AHSAA State T & F Meet , recording a career @-@ best leap of 6 @-@ 85 meters (22 ft , 4 @-@ 75 in) . He clocked personal @-@ best times of 10 @-@ 53 seconds in the 100 @-@ meter dash and 22 @-@ 39 seconds in the 200 @-@ meter dash as a senior .

= = College career = =

After high school , Munnerlyn was recruited by South Carolina , West Virginia and Kansas State . He chose South Carolina on January 13 , 2006 . As a freshman , Munnerlyn was not redshirted and played in 12 games . He missed one game due to an infection in his forearm . For the season , he recorded 36 tackles with his season high of five coming against Tennessee and Houston . Munnerlyn also recorded two interceptions and five pass deflections .

In 2007 , as a sophomore , Munnerlyn split time at cornerback and kick returner and was called a " shut down corner " on Rivals.com. Against Vanderbilt , to whom South Carolina lost 17 ? 6 , Munnerlyn returned a punt 46 yards and also forced a fumble . In the same game , South Carolina wide receiver Kenny McKinley fielded a punt and flipped it to Munnerlyn who gained eight yards . Following , the season he was named First ? team All ? SEC .

Head coach Steve Spurrier benched Munnerlyn for the first series against Ole Miss due to Munnerlyn missing class and team weightlifting sessions . Against Kentucky , Munnerlyn returned a kickoff 84 yards before being tackled on the 16 yard line . On the next play quarterback Stephen Garcia completed a touchdown pass to Kenny McKinley . In the same game , Munnerlyn returned a blocked field goal for an 81 yard touchdown .

He declared for the NFL Draft following the 2008 season .

= = Professional career = =

= = = Pre @-@ draft = = =

= = = Carolina Panthers = = =

Munnerlyn was drafted by the Carolina Panthers in the seventh round (216th overall) of the 2009 NFL Draft . He called being drafted by the Panthers , " exciting , because I played college ball at South Carolina , and that 's only like an hour away . It was exciting to hear my name get called . I 'm ready for it , ready to take my game to the next level . " In the 2009 preseason , he was competing with wide receiver Ryne Robinson for the punt returner job . In the Panthers second preseason game against the Miami Dolphins , Munnerlyn returned a punt 58 yards and also fumbled one but recovered it , while Robinson fumbled a punt which the Dolphins recovered .

He eventually won the punt return job as well as the third cornerback job beating out C. J. Wilson and Sherrod Martin for the job by the end of September . On November 30 , Munnerlyn suffered a concussion against the New York Jets but said days later that he planned on playing in the next game despite the NFL 's changing of the concussion policy . Munnerlyn did not play the following week 's game but returned the next week against the New England Patriots . He completed the 2009 season playing in 15 games total as the Panthers finished 3rd in the NFC South with 8 wins and 8 losses .

For his second season , Munnerlyn moved up to starting right cornerback after Richard Marshall was not re @-@ signed .

= = = Minnesota Vikings = = =

March 13 , 2014 , Munnerlyn signed a three @-@ year , \$ 14 @.@ 25 million contract with the Minnesota Vikings . Munnerlyn ended his first year with the Minnesota Vikings with 60 combined tackles , one fumble recovery , 2 interceptions and 4 pass deflections . Munnerlyn got his first pick of 2015 when he intercepted Matt Ryan in week 12 during a 20 @-@ 10 win .

= = Personal = =

When asked why his name is Captain , Munnerlyn said , " My momma promised my grandmomma that she could name the last child . I was the boy of the family , and she named me Captain . Her great grandfather was named Captain , so I got named after my great @-@ great grandfather . My sisters and brothers have normal names . I got the odd name . In the beginning it was kind of rough . Kids used to tease me a little , but it fits my personality , because I feel like I 'm a leader . " Munnerlyn majored in criminal justice while at South Carolina .

Married June 25th 2016

= = Stats = =