

= Marquise Walker =

Marquise Walker ( born December 11 , 1978 ) is a former professional American football wide receiver and punt returner who signed to play in the National Football League ( NFL ) . He played college football at the University of Michigan where he set many of the school 's receiving records and became an 2001 College Football All @-@ American . In 2001 , he led the Big Ten Conference in receptions . In 2004 , Braylon Edwards surpassed most of his school records . In high school , Walker set several important New York State Public High School Athletic Association ( NYSPHSAA ) football records for receptions and reception yardage . All of these records have since been broken . Walker is remembered for a pair of spectacular one @-@ handed catches during the 2001 NCAA Division I @-@ A football season .

He was selected by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers with the 86th overall pick in the third round of the 2002 NFL Draft . He was injured during his first year with Tampa Bay and had several brief stints with several other NFL teams over the next two seasons . Walker has yet to succeed as a professional football player . Several scouts have noted that he is not fast enough to dominate at the professional level the way he did at lower levels using other skills such as balance , strength , and size . He had signed to play in the Arena Football League in 2006 , but did not play .

= = High school = =

Walker was born in Syracuse , New York , and was a high school football All @-@ American for Henninger High School in Syracuse . He was also a standout basketball player who averaged over twenty points a game as a sophomore and junior , but abandoned the sport for football . In high school , he established numerous NYSPHSAA football records : career receptions ( 181 ) , single @-@ season receptions ( 80 ) , and career receiving yards ( 3352 ) . In addition , he recorded the second highest single @-@ season yardage total ( 1190 ) . His 13 single @-@ season touchdowns was third in state history , and he totaled thirty @-@ five career touchdowns for Henninger . He played defensive back and accumulated two hundred tackles and fourteen interceptions . Walker was named as the Gatorade High School Football Player of the Year for New York State , and he was named to the 1997 USA Today All @-@ USA high school football team . He was ranked as the ninth best high school football prospect in the country in 1998 by the Sporting News .

Walker 's career high school records were broken in 2004 by Bruce Williams out of Syracuse 's Christian Brothers Academy , who played for the Syracuse Orange football team from 2005 through 2008 . Williams took four years to break Walker 's record which was set during only three years . Walker 's single season receptions record was broken in 2001 by Anthony Morat of Rome , New York 's " Free Academy " who later played Division III football at State University of New York at Cortland from 2003 ? 2006 and earned 2006 first team All @-@ conference honors . Harold Jasper , whose career receiving yards record Walker broke , later played for the Iowa Hawkeyes football team and two Arena football teams . Jasper also was the only receiver to have had more single @-@ season yards in New York State history than Walker .

= = College career = =

Walker is best remembered for a pair of one @-@ handed catches he made in 2001 . Prior to the 2002 NFL Draft , Baltimore Ravens Senior vice president of football operations , Ozzie Newsome referred to Walker 's collegiate catches as some of the best catches he has seen in college in a long time . One of the one @-@ handed catches was a touchdown catch in the back of the end zone against the Iowa Hawkeyes football team in a 32 ? 26 comeback from a 21 ? 7 deficit on October 27 , 2001 . The Post @-@ Standard , Walker 's hometown newspaper , described his grab in the Iowa game this way : " There he was in the corner of the end zone , as two Iowa defensive backs stalked him like sentries . The ball , delivered high and wide , seemed an improbable stretch , an impossible goal . And yet , as it spiraled toward him , Marquise Walker leaped and lifted his right arm . His fingertips grazed the leather and tipped it skyward . And then , as he tumbled back to earth , he

wrapped his hands around the ball and caressed it to his chest . Touchdown Michigan . "

Walker seriously considered playing for Syracuse University of the Big East Conference , but Syracuse Orange quarterback Donovan McNabb only had one more year remaining . McNabb , who was the Big East Conference offensive player of the decade for the 1990s , was not likely to be replaced by a quarterback of equal skill . Thus , Walker went on to wear # 4 at Michigan . Walker played football at Michigan from the 1998 NCAA Division I @-@ A football season through the 2001 season , finishing his career with 176 receptions for 2 @,@ 269 yards and 17 touchdowns . During his career he played on two Big Ten Championship teams ( 1998 , 2000 ) , but neither team went to the Rose Bowl . During his career , the two teams that he compiled the most total single @-@ opponent receiving yards against were Michigan 's fiercest conference opponents : He had 256 yards against Ohio State and 251 yards against Michigan State . His highest career single @-@ opponent touchdown and single @-@ opponent reception totals were also in the Michigan ? Ohio State football rivalry games and his Paul Bunyan Trophy game totals were tied for second in both of these statistics .

Playing at Washington on September 8 , 2001 , Walker set the Michigan record for the most receptions in a game with 15 , surpassing Tai Streets and Brad Myers . He tied his mark later in season against Ohio State . This record continued to stand through the 2009 NCAA Division I FBS football season . Both of Walker 's 15 @-@ reception efforts came in losses . He first recorded 15 receptions against the Washington Huskies football team in a 23 ? 18 loss where he accumulated 159 yards and two touchdowns from quarterback John Navarre . On that day he added a 13 @-@ yard run and a 15 @-@ yard punt return . Then on the November 24 , 2001 day that he surpassed Carter as the career receptions leader , he totaled 15 receptions in a 26 ? 20 loss to the Ohio State Buckeyes football team while accumulating 160 yards and two touchdowns . These two games with 160 and 159 yards receiving were Walker 's career highs . His other 150 yard game came against the Michigan State football team during the same season on November 3 , 2001 with nine receptions . Walker had two touchdowns in each of his three 150 @-@ yard reception games .

Walker set several other records at Michigan that have been surpassed . His career reception total surpassed that of Anthony Carter as the most in school history . During his senior year in 2001 , Walker set Michigan single @-@ season records with 86 receptions and 1 @,@ 143 receiving yards , surpassing Jack Clancy ( who still holds the record for receptions for ten games ) and David Terrell , respectively . Walker also broke Mercury Hayes ' school record for most consecutive games with a reception ( 32 games ) . These marks were all surpassed by Braylon Edwards in 2004 . He also set the single @-@ season 100 @-@ yard games record with six . This mark has been surpassed by both Edwards and Mario Manningham .

During his time at Michigan he blocked a total of four punts . One block set up a field goal in Michigan 's 2001 20 ? 17 victory against Wisconsin at Camp Randall Stadium . The NCAA Division I @-@ A career record was seven when he completed his eligibility and is now ten , and the Big Ten record was five and is now six based on the NCAA record book . The total continues to be a Michigan record by virtue of the fact that the NCAA record book does not recognize any Michigan player as having recorded more than four . However , some press reports credit Ed Frutig with five punt blocks during the eight @-@ game 1940 season .

Walker 's statistics ranked him highly in Big Ten Conference history . Both his single @-@ game reception total of 15 and his single @-@ season reception total of 86 were sixth in Big Ten history at the end of his career although both were ninth all time through the 2006 NCAA season . Walker won both the Big Ten Conference games and Big Ten all games receptions titles in 2001 . He ranked sixth in the nation in receptions per game with 7 @.@ 36 and 17th in reception yards per game with 94 @.@ 82 . During the 2001 season , his 1177 yards from scrimmage ( 1143 yards receiving and 34 rushing ) edged out B. J. Askew 's 1138 yards ( 236 yards receiving and 902 rushing ) for the team lead in yards from scrimmage . In addition , he threw a 51 @-@ yard pass completion to Jermaine Gonzales , and he compiled 206 yards as a punt returner . As a result , he also led the team in All @-@ purpose yards . In a game against the Purdue Boilermakers on October 13 , 2001 he totaled 249 yards of total offense , including 134 yards on seven receptions and 112 yards on seven punt returns . Walker earned team MVP honors for the 2001 season . He was a Biletnikoff

Award finalist . Among his All @-@ American recognitions were a first @-@ team selection by the American Football Coaches Association , a second @-@ team selection by the Associated Press , and an honorable mention by CNNSI.com.

= = Professional career = =

Scouts for the professional football teams described Walker as a " Big physical receiver , who uses his size to muscle the ball away from defenders ... Lacks explosive speed , but has exceptional body control and balance . " In another scouting report he was described as a " Striding @-@ type runner who is not quick or sudden . Dominates average defensive backs but has a hard time getting separation vs. a good corner " In direct questioning during interviews , Walker confessed that he never had run a 40 @-@ yard dash and did not practice straight line speed . Thus , there was some consensus that he did not have the speed to play wide receiver in the National Football League and that he did not work on his speed . It was also said that he " Lacks soft hands and will do a lot of double @-@ catching and body @-@ catching . Has a lot of drops for a featured No. 1 receiver . "

When Jon Gruden took over the head coaching job of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers from Tony Dungy , he made Walker his first draft selection in the 2002 NFL Draft with the 86th overall selection that came in the third round of the draft . Although Walker was property of the Buccaneers for the 2002 NFL season he did not appear in any games . Walker had been behind Keyshawn Johnson , Joe Jurevicius and Keenan McCardell on the Buccaneer 2002 depth chart . Then , he injured his ankle in August and was inactive for the first four games of the season . He was injured in September with torn ligaments in his thumb and had season ending surgery , which caused the Buccaneers to place him on injured reserve in October . Thus , he was not on the game roster for the Super Bowl XXXVII Champion Buccaneers . He was traded to the Arizona Cardinals for running back Thomas Jones prior to the 2003 NFL season after the Cardinals lost their top three wide receivers ( including David Boston and Frank Sanders ) to free agency . He was cut by the Cardinals on August 23 , 2003 and picked up by the Cincinnati Bengals on August 25 , 2003 who released him on August 27 , 2003 . The Tennessee Titans briefly placed him on their practice squad while trying to convert him to tight end later during the season , and the Miami Dolphins worked him out at different times during the season .

Walker , who had signed with the Super Bowl Champion New England Patriots in February prior to the 2004 NFL season for the league minimum \$ 305 @, @ 000 , was released by the Patriots on July 21 , 2004 . Walker signed with the Orlando Predators of the Arena Football League to play wide receiver and linebacker for Predator head coach Jay Gruden during the 2006 Arena Football League season . Gruden was also an offensive assistant coach with the Super Bowl XXXVII champion Buccaneers . Walker was waived by the Predators , and he has yet to play in the Arena Football League .