

= Darian Durant =

Darian Bernard Durant (born August 19 , 1982) is a professional Canadian football quarterback for the Saskatchewan Roughriders of the Canadian Football League (CFL) . He played college football at the University of North Carolina . After his college career , he held school records for completion percentage , touchdowns , passing yards , total offense and completions . Durant was signed as a free agent by the Roughriders in 2006 , and became the club 's full @-@ time starting quarterback in 2009 . He was named a CFL West Division All @-@ Star in 2009 and 2013 . His brother Justin plays in the National Football League as a linebacker . Durant was the starting quarterback when the Saskatchewan Roughriders won the 101st Grey Cup in 2013 on their home field .

= = Early life = =

Durant was born on August 19 , 1982 , in Florence , South Carolina to Betty and Israel Durant . He has three brothers and a sister . His younger brother , Justin , plays for the NFL 's Dallas Cowboys , and his older brother , Keyshawn , was a quarterback at South Carolina State .

= = Amateur football = =

= = = High school = = =

Durant attended high school at Wilson High School in Florence , South Carolina . During his senior year of high school , he led the team to South Carolina 's 4 @-@ A state semi @-@ finals . Durant set a school record with 2 @,@ 446 passing yards and tied his own record with 25 touchdown passes , which was set during his sophomore season . He was named a Super Prep All @-@ America , Honorable Mention All @-@ America by USA Today and Prep Star All @-@ Region selection . He also played in the South Carolina All @-@ Star game , where he completed 9 of his 11 passing attempts for 215 yards .

= = = College = = =

Durant signed a letter of intent to play college football at the University of North Carolina in 2000 . In 2001 , during his first NCAA season , Durant established school freshman records with 17 touchdown passes , 142 completions , 1843 passing yards and 1971 yards of total offense . His freshman records for passing yards and completions were broken in 2007 by T.J. Yates . During his freshman season , Durant was named Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) Rookie of the Week five times . He finished second overall in ACC Rookie of the Year voting to Florida State quarterback Chris Rix . As a freshman , Durant split time with Ronald Curry , helping the team to a victory in the 2001 Peach Bowl . He was awarded the Jeffrey Cowell Memorial Award as the team 's top freshman .

After his college career , Durant was one of the most accomplished athletes in the school 's history . He held 51 offensive records at the school . During his sophomore season , Durant set the school 's single game record for passing yards with 417 during a victory against Arizona State . In his junior year , he set single season records with 389 passing attempts , 234 completions and 2 @,@ 551 passing yards . Durant had set UNC records with 1 @,@ 159 passing attempts , 701 completions , 68 passing touchdowns , 8 @,@ 755 passing yards and 9 @,@ 630 yards of total offense . While playing football at the University of North Carolina , Durant completed a degree in African American studies .

= = Professional football = =

== = Baltimore Ravens == =

Durant was undrafted in the 2005 National Football League (NFL) Draft , but signed a free agent contract with the Baltimore Ravens and attended their training camp . Durant was briefly on the team 's practice roster , but was cut during the 2005 season because of concerns about his size .

== = Saskatchewan Roughriders == =

Durant was placed on the Ottawa Renegades negotiation list in 2003 , by future Saskatchewan Roughriders general manager Eric Tillman . After the Renegades folded , his rights were obtained by the Hamilton Tiger @-@ Cats and later dealt to the Roughriders in a trade that included Corey Holmes . Durant signed with the team on May 11 , 2006 . During the 2006 season , he served as the team 's backup quarterback for eight games , completing a single pass for 14 yards and recording a single rushing attempt for 20 yards in a game against Hamilton . Durant was on the team 's practice roster for the remaining ten games .

During the 2007 season , Durant spent the entire season on the active roster , and was available for all of the Roughrider regular season and playoff games , but did not see any game action while serving as the team 's third string quarterback . Durant was on the sidelines as starting quarterback Kerry Joseph led Roughriders to a victory over the Winnipeg Blue Bombers in the Grey Cup .

Joseph was traded to the Toronto Argonauts prior to the 2008 season , leaving the club without an incumbent quarterback . During the season , the Roughriders tried four different starting quarterbacks including Durant , Steven Jyles , Michael Bishop and Marcus Crandell . Durant started four games for the Riders during the season , and played in four others . He had seven passing touchdowns , and one rushing touchdown during the season . Crandell was released during the season and Bishop was also released shortly after the Roughriders season was finished . In January 2009 , Durant signed a new contract with the Roughriders rather than becoming a free agent .

Durant entered the 2009 season as the club 's starting quarterback , but head coach Ken Miller gave backup Jyles significant playing time as well . Durant made the most of his opportunity , becoming the first Roughrider quarterback to start all 18 games since Kent Austin , who last played for the club in 1993 . Durant 's consistency on the field was one of the reasons he earned the Roughriders ' starting quarterback position , along with his ability to run for yards when his pass protection breaks down . Durant was named the Roughriders nominee for CFL Most Outstanding Player , and was selected a West Division All @-@ Star at quarterback . He was also named the Roughriders ' Wireless Age Most Popular Player . Durant led the Roughriders to the Grey Cup , where they were defeated by the Montreal Alouettes on a last second field goal . He finished the 2009 season with 4 @,@ 348 passing yards and 501 rushing yards . Durant threw 24 touchdown passes during the season and also had 21 interceptions , leading the CFL . Heading into the 2010 season , Durant wanted to cut down on his interceptions , although he tried to be optimistic , " I throw 21 picks last year and I guarantee every guy with better stats than me wishes they were in the Grey Cup . "

In a Grey Cup rematch to kick off the 2010 CFL season , Durant and the Roughriders staged a second half comeback to defeat the Alouettes in overtime . Durant threw five touchdown passes and picked up 478 passing yards during the game . For his efforts , he was named the CFL 's Offensive Player of the Week . At the halfway point of the season , Durant had thrown 11 touchdown passes and 14 interceptions , while rushing for another five touchdowns . The CFL named Durant Offensive Player of the Month for September after a month where he passed for 1387 yards and five touchdowns . After Game 17 versus the BC Lions , Durant became only the second Roughrider quarterback to throw for over 5000 yards in a season , with the first being former head coach Kent Austin . Durant was selected as the Roughriders ' nominee for the CFL Most Outstanding Player Award .

The 2011 campaign was a let down year not only for Durant but also for the Roughriders as a whole . The Riders stumbled out of the gate losing seven of their first eight games . Durant 's

production fell significantly through the course of the season . Near the end of the season Durant was playing with a broken bone in his foot , which ultimately lead to him missing the last two games of the regular season . The Riders would finish the year with only 5 wins and 13 loses , placing them in last place in the league . Despite the reduced production in 2011 on April 27 , 2012 the Riders extended his contract through the 2014 CFL season .

The 2013 season was arguably the best season of Durant 's career . He set career highs in touchdowns , with 31 , while limiting his interceptions to only 12 . He began the year having attempted 212 consecutive pass attempts without being intercepted joining Dave Dickenson and later Ricky Ray as the only quarterback in CFL history to start 7 consecutive games without throwing an interception . He also set a career high for passer rating with 95 @. @ 7 (excluding his 2006 season in which he only completed one pass) . He led the Riders to an 11 @- @ 7 record and home @- @ field in the Western Semi @- @ Finals against the BC Lions where several of his rushing plays won the game for the Riders . After beating Calgary in the Western Final , Durant led the Riders to their fourth Grey Cup championship on their home turf at Mosaic Stadium .

Durant was forced out of the 2015 season due to injury when he suffered a ruptured Achilles tendon in the Riders ' first week game against the Winnipeg Blue Bombers . After rehabbing his Achilles tendon all off @- @ season Durant returned as the Roughriders leading quarterback for the 2016 season . Early in the second quarter of the fourth week Durant left the game after BC defensive linemen Mic ? hael Brooks fell into his leg on a passing play . He was taken into the Riders locker room and later appeared on the sidelines using crutches . Following the game the X @- @ Rays revealed no structural damage , and Durant was considered day @- @ to @- @ day with an ankle sprain .

= = Personal life = =

Durant has a tattoo on his left biceps reading " Against all odds ? I 'm gonna shine " , which Durant believes explains his life . Durant 's teammates and coaches describe him as a fierce competitor , who battles through injuries and illnesses . In conjunction with a local Ford dealer , and to commemorate the Roughriders ' 100th anniversary , Durant lent his name to a limited edition Ford F @- @ 150 truck that was sold in Regina . The Durant limited edition featured a Durant license plate , his DD4 logo , Roughriders mud flaps and embossed head rests . There are only four of the trucks available , and \$ 500 from the sale of each truck goes to support Durant 's charity of choice , KidSport .

= = Statistics = =