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Levon Kirkland



Levon Kirkland was born February 17, 1969 in Lamar South Carolina. He was a massive inside linebacker standing 6'1" and weighing anywhere from 275-300 lbs during his career. His great speed and agility for a big man gained him recognition as one of the top inside linebackers in the NFL. Kirkland excelled as a member of the Clemson University football team from 1988-1991, receiving All-American honors in 1990 and 1991, three-time First Team All-ACC selection, semifinalist for the 1991 Lombardi Award, finalist for the 1990 Butkus Award. He was a prime reason Clemson was number one in the nation in total defense and rushing defense in 1990. Kirkland was MVP of the 1989 Gator Bowl victory over West Virginia and inducted into the Clemson Hall of Fame in 2001. 2008 brought Kirkland yet another honor as he was inducted into the South Carolina Athletic Hall of Fame.

The Pittsburgh Steelers selected Kirkland in the second round of the 1992 NFL draft. He went on to play 11 seasons in the NFL including 9 seasons with the Steelers and one each with the Seattle Seahawks and the Philadelphia Eagles. His honors include two-time MVP with the Steelers in '98-'99, Pro Bowl appearances and All-Pro selection in '96-'97 and voted to the NFL All-Decade 1990's Team. His outstanding career entails over 774 tackles, 19.5 sacks, 11 interceptions and 9 fumble recoveries.

Following his retirement from the NFL, Kirkland returned to Clemson and earned his degree in Sociology in 2004. He now coordinates minority recruitment in admissions for the University and educates student-athletes across the country on the college recruiting process as an Educational Speaker for the National Collegiate Scouting Association. He also works as a linebacker coach at Wade Hampton High School in South Carolina.

Levon is a dedicated husband and father. His wife Keisha is a beautiful, talented, modern day renaissance woman who enjoys working as a Weather Anchor for WYFF Channel 4 - NBC Affiliate in Greenville, SC. A healthy non smoker, Keisha was diagnosed with stage 3A non-small cell lung cancer in 2008. In 2009, the Kirkland's launched "Tackling Lung Cancer: The Keisha and Levon Kirkland Fund" to raise awareness and funds for lung cancer research, treatment and a cure. Together this amazing husband and wife team are spreading a message of hope, faith, and perseverance and tackling lung cancer.



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