



Terrell Jennings, CB, at Santa Barbara City College

### **THE LASTING IMPACT OF PRO FOOTBALL CAMP: ALUMNUS TERRELL JENNINGS REFLECTS ON HIS MEMORIES**

“Pro Football Camp is what made me fall in love with competition. If you’re fighting and competing with a level head, that’s how you get better,” says former camper Terrell Jennings after reflecting on his years at Pro Football Camp. Terrell noted that he learned many of the traits that allowed him to rise from the JUCO level and get a scholarship at the University of North Dakota at PFC.

The present-day 2018 Terrell Jennings sounds remarkably like the 7<sup>th</sup> grade Terrell Jennings, who in his 2012 scholarship application wrote, “The game of football has taught me many things. Maybe one of the main things I learned is that hard work will pay off...you get out what you put in.” In the last six years, Terrell has relied on football as a valuable learning opportunity, and attending PFC is what allowed him to initially view the sport as more than just a game.



12-year old Terrell Jennings, at the beginning of his football dream

As Terrell attended PFC throughout his middle school years, having professional players as coaches and mentors was invaluable. For Terrell, “The best thing about having the pros at the camp is that they made me realize they’re just like us.” The close interactions with the players helped Terrell to better learn the lessons that the pros offered. Reminiscing on these lessons, Terrell remarked, “99% of success in this game is mental...it’s all about having the fire to compete...and [the players] taught me you have to put in the work and have the right mindset.” Terrell kept these lessons in mind as he excelled in football at Pine Creek High School, then Santa Barbara City College, and now during his transition to the next level—D1 college football.

Despite having the opportunity to play rugby at the University of Oklahoma, Terrell chose to continue his football career, his true passion, even if it meant working through the JUCO level. He played one season at Santa Barbara City College and his outstanding play (26 TKL, 1FF, and 2 INT for 91 yards) caught the eye of the University of North Dakota. He earned a scholarship as a cornerback, and now continues to do what he loves.

Recounting his work to get to his recent success, Terrell said he saw “so many kids who had the talent, but didn’t have the right mindset off the field.” He continued, “Without hard work and doing your schoolwork and other stuff off-the-field, talent means nothing.” A key point of emphasis for Pro Football Camp’s “Off-the-Field with the Pros” sessions is to instill in campers the importance of schoolwork, in order to succeed as both a student and, in Terrell’s case, as an athlete.

Reflecting on his scholarship application essay, Terrell reminisced on how “the scholarship application emphasized the importance of off-the-field work.” Along with the football skills taught by the pros, the focus on character development set Terrell up to stand out amongst other JUCO athletes. Clearly, the off-the-field lessons stuck with Terrell even after Pro Football Camp, enabling him to rise from JUCO football to Division I FCS football.

If I had to choose a quality it would be dedication. Consequently, when you work hard and put all your effort into the one thing your dedicated to the internal reward that comes after is well worth it. Dedication has helped me all through out my life and for sure when it comes to football and school. Even though sometimes it is hard to do, being dedicated is very important in life and sports. So I would love for you to agree with me on why dedication is important.

The conclusion of Terrell Jennings’ 6<sup>th</sup>-grade Pro Football Camp scholarship essay on dedication

When asked about his favorite camp memories, Terrell was quick to say, “My favorite thing about the Pro Football Camp was the scrimmage day. You got to meet different people from different backgrounds all over town, but all that really mattered was your ability to play. It was one of the few times where I felt like I was on a level playing field.” Unquestionably, Terrell Jennings can compete at a high level due to his natural talent, but his hard work, dedication, character and other off-the-field lessons that he learned as a scholarship camper at the Pro Football Camp, have been part of his journey to hard-earned success.

As the then 7<sup>th</sup>-grade Terrell Jennings wrote, “My love for this wonderful game is ever-lasting. Football has also taught me many things. Maybe the most important side of football is that it can help me be a better person later in life.”

Terrell is not the only Pro Football Camp alumni playing college football. JoJo Dommann plays for the University of Nebraska, Tommy Lazarro is the quarterback for Central Michigan. Peter Isais and Collin Willis are preferred walk-ons at University of North Dakota

State and Troy University, respectively. Kacin Nowlin plays for Western University and Brock Domann is slated as the starting QB at Ventura College.



Pro Football Camp alumni (and college players) catch up! From left: Kacin Nowlin, Western University; Collin Willis, Troy University; Brock Domann, Ventura College; Terrell Jennings, University of North Dakota; Peter Isais, University of North Dakota State; and JoJo Domann, University of Nebraska.

For those kids who may be dreaming of following in Terrell's footsteps, but lack the means to attend camp, applying for a scholarship to attend the Pro Football Camp can provide an invaluable opportunity to shape their path as an athlete, or simply be an experience that will build character under the mentorship of the pros, all while having fun and making new friends.

For more information about the Pro Football Camp, scholarships, or registration, go to [www.profootballcamp.com](http://www.profootballcamp.com) or call (719) 266-9308. Also, find and follow us on Facebook, Twitter (@ProFBallCamp), and Instagram (profbcamp).