



Pro Football Camp alumni who are playing college football include: 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.

## **PRO FOOTBALL CAMP ALUMNI: USING CAMP LESSONS IN COLLEGE FOOTBALL**

Among the many questions parents ask when searching for a youth sports camp for their children to attend over the summer is “how successful has the camp been in furthering the athletic careers of its campers?” In the case of the Pro Football Camp, no fewer than seven former campers have reached the college football level and play at that level today.

Terrell Jennings will continue his college career at the University of North Dakota this fall, JoJo Domann plays for the University of Nebraska, and Tommy Lazarro is the QB for Central Michigan. Peter Isais and Collin Willis are preferred walk-ons at University of North Dakota State and Troy University, respectively. Finally, Kacin Nowlin plays for Western University and Brock Domann is slated as the starting QB at Ventura College. Given that the Pro Football Camp has only been around for 13 years, expect that number to increase as more campers from the early years of Pro Football Camp reach college age.

Terrell Jennings, CB, University of North Dakota, said “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.” As a camper who attended Pro Football Camp on scholarship, Terrell overcame even greater challenges than normal in rising through the JUCO ranks to earn a scholarship at the University of North Dakota.

Terrell emphasized that the guidance of the NFL athletes coaching at Pro Football Camp helped him earn that scholarship, because they “they made me realize they’re just like us.” This

ability to relate easily with the pros made it easier for Jennings to envision himself in their place, and to pursue his dream in the hopes of becoming an NFL athlete himself someday.

Kacin Nowlin, LB, brings an unmatched level of experience with the Pro Football Camp from all levels, having not only attended camp as a kid and volunteered alongside the rest of these players during their high school years, but also interning with the Pro Football Camp for a summer during college. He did so to work towards the fulfillment of his Sports Management and Business Administration degrees from Western State, in Colorado, but also as a way to give back to the camp that helped teach him how to approach life off the field. Kacin said that the emphasis of the pros and the camp on teaching integrity helped to “[give] me the foundation to be able to pursue the next level. Without the resources that I have been provided throughout the years, I don't think I'd be where I am, or the man I am today.”

Throughout his interview, Kacin made sure to emphasize that his favorite lesson from the Pro Football Camp was being a man of integrity—right until the interview was ended by the sudden arrival of Terrell, Collin, Peter, JoJo, and Brock. The six alumni had not planned to meet up that day, but their run-in prompted a mini-reunion and reflection on how their lives have been influenced by Pro Football Camp. Years after they last attended camp together, the old friends were still closely connected and drawn together by the ties that bind and were created at the Pro Football Camp and from playing football together.

For Collin Willis, a CB for Troy University, he believes that the campers attending this year should focus on understanding and applying the lessons of the Pros, and also should be sure to make friends. Willis said, “Pro Football Camp is just a great experience of family. You can tell everyone involved is there to inform the youth and make lasting relationships. I met MANY of the close friends I will have for life because of the camp, and the connections and skills I have acquired through the camp will, I believe, help me for the rest of my life.”

Collin also noted that the most important on-field lesson for campers to internalize from the camp is understanding “just how important being competitive and resilient is, and that all the success they want in sports will ultimately be decided by how far they want to take it.” As it was for Terrell, competitive fire is a key element of Collin’s ability to succeed at the CB position, on a play-by-play basis.

University of North Dakota State WR Peter Isais said that if he were to coach at the Pro Football Camp today, he would emphasize teaching the campers “The Game of Football as a

whole. I would want for the kids to learn and understand the mental side of the game! I think that if kids learned there are 11 players on the field, and only one ball, they would realize working together is what's going to get the job done." This is so that they have the tools necessary to follow the alumni to the college level and perhaps even further, as well as understanding the importance of teamwork in life beyond football. This is reflected by Peter identifying his biggest camp takeaway as "the friendships and bonds that came with it, and also having the opportunity to meet true NFL players." Additionally, Peter, more so than the other alumni, wanted to recognize on the pros' on-the-field impact—"you'll learn drills and tips that will stick with you your whole life. I still do drills today that I did in PFC"—and how they continue to help him as a college player.

Finally, for the Domann brothers, they have the unique perspective of being not only former campers and current players, but also of being the sons of Teddi and Craig Domann, the founders of Pro Football Camp. Elder brother JoJo is a safety for the University of Nebraska, while Brock is currently the starting quarterback at Ventura College. Given their connection to the NFL players outside the boundaries of camp (father Craig is the agent of the NFL players who coach at camp), they have an even better understanding of the work that goes into creating and maintaining a successful NFL career.

For JoJo, he says that his biggest takeaway from camp and being around the NFL athletes was that seeing a "NFL player that makes millions of dollars to play the game they love, [and] that are so much bigger than you, can be intimidating. But becoming friends with them, receiving coaching from them, realizing they're just like the rest of us, and the difference is they just worked for their dreams, is very encouraging." He believes that this emphasis on hard work and dedication from the pros helps campers to "believe in [themselves] and [their] dreams," whether in the game or not. This message has helped JoJo remain optimistic in rehabbing from two serious knee injuries, and in continuing to play for Nebraska, despite the bad injury luck.

Brock, operating on the same wavelength as his brother, notes that his biggest takeaway from camp is that "the person who is never outworked, who works the hardest, is the one who makes it and walks away with the job at the end of the day." As a QB, he understands the importance of "using football as a metaphor for life" in teaching young campers better than anyone. "As a QB, my job is to communicate with the other players, make sure everyone is in the right spot at the right time, and be prepared for every situation. But it doesn't have to be

football, everything I learned from camp applies to life, whether it's communicating with my family, friends, and teachers or being prepared for school." When campers are able to look past the football applications of the NFL athletes' lessons and apply them to life, they gain the ability to handle any situation.

For example, Brock was forced to weather a QB competition against Los Angeles Rams QB Jared Goff in a prank by Red Bull on the Ventura College team—"[TRANSFER PRANK: NFL QB Jared Goff pranks unsuspecting college football team](#)" is the video title. Even when facing competition from a Pro Bowl NFL QB, Brock relied on the lessons he learned at Pro Football Camp to compete and earn the loyalty of his teammates, as seen in the video. At the end of the day, he was able to join the rest of his team in laughing and having fun as the prank was revealed, just like at Pro Football Camp in the end of day touchdown celebrations—Brock's favorite camp memory.

Finally, when asked whether they had any other lingering thoughts or experiences they wanted to share about Pro Football Camp, the athletes were sure to get in their last few lingering thoughts. Brock said "I know the Pro Football Camp holds a lot of weight for a lot of people. Its lasting impact is second to none. I look forward to seeing where it goes in the future." Collin answered, "It's just a great experience of family and you can tell everyone involved is there to inform the youth and make lasting relationships. I met MANY of the close friends I will have for life because of the camp. The connections and skills I have acquired through the camp, I believe, will help me for the rest of my life." Along similar lines, Kacin wrote "PFC has given me the foundation to be able to pursue the next level. Without the resources that I have been provided throughout the years, I don't think I'd be where I am, or the man I am today." Finally, Peter remarked "This is hands down one of the best kids' camps in Colorado Springs. It brings a community together and it also teaches your kids the fundamentals of football."

The profiled alumni, with the diversity of their experiences and background, offer hope to any Pro Football Camp attendee that he or she will be able to follow in their footsteps, and play at the college level. Indeed, perhaps beyond even that, at the NFL level, provided the natural talent to complement the character and mental skills taught at the Pro Football Camp each year.