



Greg Scruggs helping make a highlight in campers' summer at Pro Football Camp!

PFC PRO GREG SCRUGGS PAYS IT FORWARD

At Pro Football Camp, the NFL athletes who are brought in to coach the campers are used to being in the spotlight. Unlike the typical NFL athlete, the coaches at the Pro Football Camp choose to use their platform to give back to the organizations who helped them in their youth, as well as to teach the campers about handling life off-the-field. Even with the immense natural talents each of these players has on the field, the athletes all recognize that their off-the-field dedication, study, respect, and other character traits all play a key role in their success. In particular, Pro Football Coach Greg Scruggs strives to teach the campers about the importance of respect for their coaches, family members, and others.

When he was growing up, Scruggs was a Boys Hope Girls Hope member who lived in the Boys Hope house on his St. Xavier High School Campus in Cincinnati. During his time there, despite the presence of football stars—including future NFL Defensive Player of the Year Luke Kuechly—Scruggs chose to play basketball and play drums for the school marching band. He finally joined the football team as a senior, helping pave the way for him to attend the University of Louisville. During his time there, Scruggs played Defensive Tackle and caught the attention of the Seattle Seahawks, being drafted 232nd overall in the 2012 NFL draft.

During his time with the Seahawks, Scruggs was part of the 2013 champion Seahawks team who defeated the Denver Broncos in Super Bowl XLVIII, before moving on to join the Chicago Bears in 2015. After converting to Tight End in the following off-season, Scruggs signed with the New England Patriots for the 2016-2017 season. In that

season, Scruggs injured his knee and was forced to Injured Reserve, but nevertheless earned the 2nd Super Bowl ring of his career when the Patriots defeated the Atlanta Falcons in Super Bowl LI.

In the midst of all this success, Scruggs was sure to credit those who helped him reach the NFL level, nominating his St. Xavier High School coach, Steve Specht, for the Don Shula NFL High School Coach of the Year Award. Specht won the award that year, and Scruggs continued to give back in hopes of inspiring kids who faced similar challenges as he did during his youth.

For years, Scruggs has attended Pro Football Camp and served as a dynamic speaker who campers return year after year to listen to and learn from. Since his rookie year in the 2012-2013 season, Scruggs has attended camp every year from 2012 through this year's 2018 Pro Football Camp, a total of 7 years. Scruggs has also remained close to Boys Hope Girls Hope and returns to Cincinnati frequently to mentor the children in BHGH houses in Cincinnati.

When asked why he comes to the camp each year, the two-time Super Bowl champion says, "I look forward to making an impact on these kids' lives because I know from personal experience that it really makes a difference. As a kid, I had a pro come and talk to me. He impacted my life so much that I wanted to make sure I came out here to do my part. I want to make an impression on their lives because I know how great a difference it makes."



Greg Scruggs, batting a ball on defense, in his Seahawks days as a DE

Finally, when asked about how he keeps himself humble in his day-to-day life, Scruggs said “Don’t downplay your accomplishments or achievements but don’t boast in them either. Trying to measure where you’re going based on where you’ve gone can leave you coming up short at times.” This perspective is something Scruggs emphasizes in speaking to the campers in Pro Football Camp’s “Off the Field with the Pros” sessions, so that they have lessons to help them deal with life beyond football, in addition to the football skills and drills they learn during the camp day.

For parents looking for a camp to help mold their athletes into not only better football players, but also better people, consider signing up for the 2018 Pro Football Camp, running July 10th-12th, to take advantage of the on- and off-the-field coaching Scruggs and his fellow NFL players, active and retired, offer.