

WR/DB

# LONDON JENKINS #3



**HOMETOWN:** Jacksonville, Fla.

**RESIDENCE:** Jacksonville, Fla.

**AGE:** 19

**HEIGHT:** 5-3

**YEAR ON U.S. NATIONAL TEAM:** 1st

## EMERGING IN HIGH SCHOOL

As she progressed through her time at Fleming Island High School, London Jenkins had her mind set on playing basketball in college. She dominated on the hardwood, averaging more than 20 points per game as a junior and was attracting attention from programs at the next level.

At the time, Jenkins had no interest in playing flag football and very limited experience with the sport. However, one of her friends kept asking her to play flag football for the school.

“I didn’t know anything about flag. I played at the YMCA when I was like 7 or 8 years old. But this is when you only could play with boys,” Jenkins told News4JAX. “So, I never even knew this was a sport until I came to Fleming Island. Mykayla, she was like, ‘you got to play for our team.’ And I was like, ‘I’m not even playing flag football.’ But she convinced me.”

Jenkins used the athleticism she developed on the court to take control of the field. Fleming Island’s flag team went 31-2 during Jenkins’s two seasons with the program and finished as the runner-up in the 2023 state championship game.

“I was going to play basketball on the collegiate level. I had scholarships in that sport as well. But with flag football, it was just like a different love,” Jenkins said. “It’s just so much fun. Playing flag is different than basketball. So, I was like, you might as well just go play on the collegiate level. I’m paving the way for girls younger than me.”

Basketball still played a meaningful role in preparing Jenkins for her time in the spotlight. She feels many athletic traits and skills translate to both sports.

“Basketball and flag football are very similar when it comes to movement,” Jenkins explained. “I definitely had to learn to run routes better, but playing basketball helped, even if it’s a different sport.”

As a senior, Jenkins played on both sides of the ball and served as a Swiss army knife on offense. She rushed for 780 yards and 22 touchdowns, made 32 receptions for seven touchdowns, passed for five additional scores and hauled in 13 interceptions. Her exceptional play earned her the All-News4JAX Flag Football Player of the Year award.



## COLLEGIATE DOMINANCE

Jenkins recently completed her freshman year at Florida Gateway College in Lake City, Fla., where she and fellow U.S. Women’s National Team member Alexandra Harris both play flag football. Jenkins joined the powerhouse National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) program at the perfect time to help the Timberwolves win their third consecutive NJCAA Women’s Flag Football National Championship.

“High school I thought was definitely a different level of play. In college, everyone gets better,” Jenkins said. “Everyone has that dog mentality, so you definitely have to learn and adapt to the game.”

Jenkins and the Timberwolves finished the year 18-3 with an undefeated record against their conference opponents. The team cruised through the playoffs with a 67-0 victory over Pratt Community College in the semifinals and a dominant 68-13 win over Daytona State in the championship game.

“My freshman year went great. I won MVP and Defensive Player of the Year. My team and I accomplished a lot. I feel like the season went so fast,” Jenkins said.

Florida Gateway College head coach and three-time NJCAA Flag Football Coach of the Year Ricky Hufty praised Jenkins and Harris for their character and skills when both athletes made it through U.S. National Team Trials and received invitations to Training Camp.

“You do not get to this point without an unrelenting work ethic and a willingness to be coached and grow as people and players,” Hufty said. “The thing I appreciate most about them is the type of competitors they are. It is a skillset and mindset that will serve them well as they move through their lives and is a big reason why an opportunity like this has presented itself.”

## REPRESENTING THE FLAG

Once she realized there was a pathway to play flag football in the Olympics, Jenkins began seeking out more and more opportunities to compete at an elite level and prepare for LA28. Fortunately, she learned about USA Football’s National Team Development Program and found a pathway to represent the red, white and blue.

“I learned about the U.S. National Team a year ago and decided to train for it,” Jenkins said. “I attended a USA Football Talent ID Camp with the Jacksonville Jaguars and ended up getting an invitation to Trials.”

Jenkins told News4JAX that her main goal is to represent Team USA in the Olympics and show other girls what’s possible in flag football.

## LEARNING FROM THE GREATS AND INSPIRING OTHERS

Jenkins met many of her U.S. National Team teammates for the first time during U.S. National Team Trials in March. She picked out quarterback Vanita Krouch as one of the players who could help her continue to develop her game.

“Vanita was an impactful person for me during my first time coming to U.S. National Team Trials. At this level, there aren’t many people you can learn from except for other great players,” Jenkins said. “It was a great opportunity to play on her team, show off my route running and break down defenders.”

Jenkins also noted that U.S. National Team defensive back Ashley Edwards is the toughest opponent she’s faced yet.

Jenkins also wants to serve as a mentor and example for the next generation of girls playing flag football. She hopes her positive attitude and dedication to improving her game will inspire more athletes to dream big and pursue their goals.

“Being one of the best players in the sport, a lot of people look up to you,” Jenkins said. “I just play my game on the field, work hard and show everybody they have to do the same thing to be just as good as me.”

Jenkins is off to a good start. Christina Russo, a wide receiver and defensive back on the 15U U.S. Girls’ Flag National Team, listed the Jacksonville native as her favorite athlete.

