

DB/WR

# JAMIE KENNEDY

#21



**HOMETOWN:** Pompano Beach, Fla.

**RESIDENCE:** Jacksonville, Fla.

**AGE:** 28

**HEIGHT:** 5-10

**YEAR ON U.S. NATIONAL TEAM:** 3rd



### TACKLE FOOTBALL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Kennedy grew up playing tackle football and attended Blanche Ely High School in his hometown, Pompano Beach. He played defensive back for the varsity team, contributing as a hard-hitting defender, ball hawk and special teams gunner. Kennedy was his team's defensive MVP in 2014 and 2016.

Kennedy continued his playing career at Warner University in Lake Wales, Fla. He primarily contributed as an outside and slot corner, using his vision to anticipate and jump routes for interceptions and pass break ups. Kennedy's ability to read the quarterback and closing speed made him a constant threat to undercut throwing lanes.

Kennedy won a conference championship with Warner University during his two years with the program. Afterward, he briefly spent time with the Jacksonville Sharks indoor football team.

### CLEATS AND TRACK SHOES

Kennedy's speed and explosiveness made waves on his high school track team, winning awards as the program's best long, high and triple jumper in 2016. He was also the team's Most Improved athlete for that season when he posted a 22'7.5" long jump, a 6'4" high jump and a 45'2" triple jump.

His athletic traits translate to the flag football field, helping him suddenly accelerate to match receivers and leap to contest passes at the catch point.

### ADMIRING THE GREATS

Kennedy's favorite athlete growing up was NFL All-Pro safety and Miami native Sean Taylor. Taylor stayed home for college, earning All-American and Big East Defensive Player of the Year honors for the local Miami Hurricanes. He later reached star status in the NFL after being drafted fifth overall by Washington.

Drawn to speed, Kennedy's current favorite athlete is Sha'Carri Richardson. Richardson won a silver medal in the 100-meter dash at the 2024 Olympics and propelled the U.S. to gold as the anchor in the women's 4x100 relay. She ran a championship record 10.65 100-meter dash in the 2023 World Athletics Championships in Budapest, Hungary.

"Those two individuals shared that DAWG in them!" Kennedy said. "Sean Taylor became legendary after his short few years. Sha'Carri continues to show up and out. She could have given up and let the people bring her down a few years ago, but she didn't. She kept her head up and has showed up ever since!"



### LIFE IN FLAG FOOTBALL

Kennedy started playing in flag football games about four years ago when U.S. National Team quarterback Laderrick "Pablo" Smith brought him to a game. The two met in little league football and played together their whole lives.

The childhood friends are undefeated in international play and have five total gold medals to their names. Despite his successful stints in high school and college, Kennedy believes winning the 2023 IFAF Americas Continental Championship was the greatest football moment of his career. The U.S. defeated Mexico 40-36 in a close gold medal match as the sun set on a capacity crowd in Charlotte.

"The thing that made that special was my mom coming to my game," Kennedy said. "It was only a couple of days after my dad passed. There was a lot going on leading up to the championship, but I'm truly grateful that I was a part of it and that was a wonderful feeling."

Kennedy gives back to football by helping the next generation fall in love with the sport. Since college, he has coached several boys and girls teams in seven-on-seven and five-on-five flag football.

"The reason I coach is to give back, and I enjoy doing it," he explained. "Teaching the kids new things and watching them display their hard work brings tears to my eyes!"

