

Mr. Davis goes to Washington

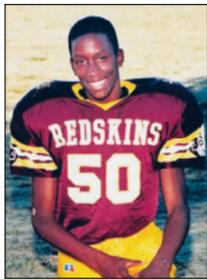


From Toledo to Los Angeles to Washington, to wherever his talent will take him

By DONALD EMMONS
BLADE SPORTS WRITER

One might consider Fred Davis being drafted by the NFL's Washington Redskins a sign of foreseen destiny.

Davis' first exposure to playing organized football took place roughly a dozen years ago when he suited up in a Toledo Pee-Wee football league. Ironically, his first team was the Redskins and he was one of the biggest and best players on the team, if not the biggest and best.



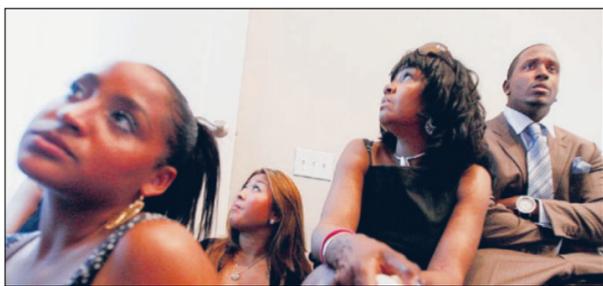
His first Pee-Wee team in Toledo was the Redskins.

Davis, a 6-foot-4, 248-pounder, played big at Rogers High School before spending four years at the University of Southern California where he loomed large in the Trojans' offensive game plan, particularly in his last season.

The pass-catching tight end threat played a significant role in USC's wide-open attack last fall when he grabbed a team-leading 62 receptions for a team-high 881 yards, including a team-best eight touchdowns. His stellar 2007 season-long performance earned him All-American first team honors, as well as the John Mackey Award, which is presented to the year's best college tight end.

Davis, who actually grew up liking the NFL's Dallas Cowboys, heads to Washington, looking to make the same kind of huge impact he's made every step of the way up to this point in his football career. But only time will tell if the 48th pick overall in the recent NFL Draft will make the kind of big splash every NFL rookie hopes for.

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THE BLADE/ANDY MORRISON

Fred Davis watches the NFL draft on TV with friend Mia Clark, left, girlfriend Jean Kuei, and aunt Terri Barnhill.



THE BLADE/ANDY MORRISON

Fred Davis, right, receives congratulations from his brother, Kedran Barnhill, and his girlfriend, Jean Kuei.



WASHINGTON REDSKINS/BILL WOOD

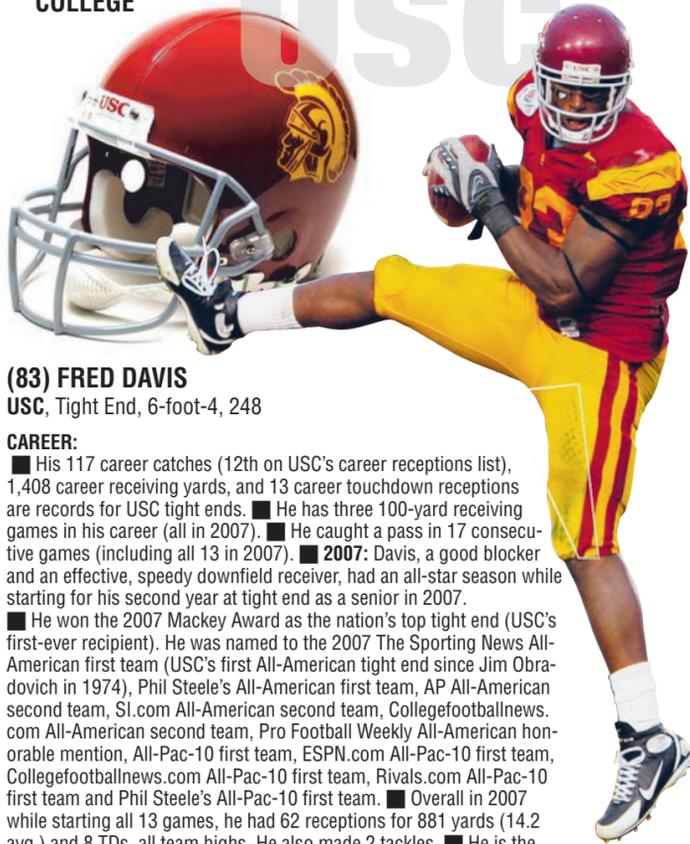
Fred Davis is presented his Washington Redskins' jersey.



THE BLADE/ANDY MORRISON

Former Rogers and USC standout Fred Davis is all smiles after meeting with the media for the first time after being drafted.

COLLEGE



(83) FRED DAVIS
USC, Tight End, 6-foot-4, 248

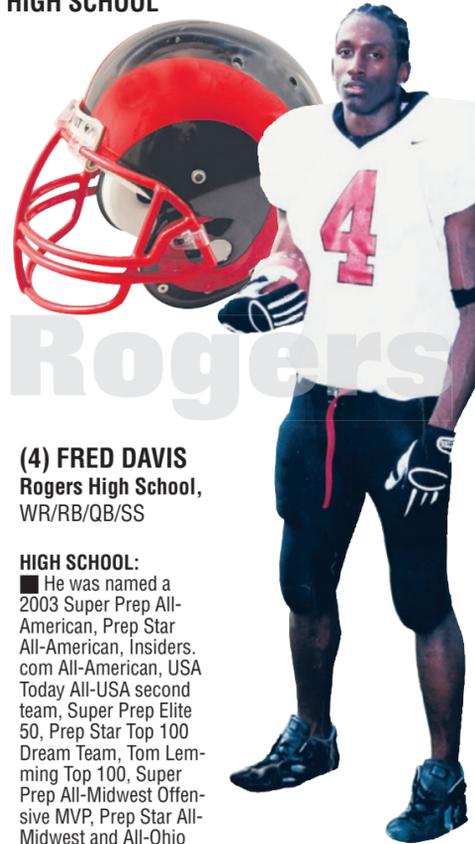
CAREER:

■ His 117 career catches (12th on USC's career receptions list), 1,408 career receiving yards, and 13 career touchdown receptions are records for USC tight ends. ■ He has three 100-yard receiving games in his career (all in 2007). ■ He caught a pass in 17 consecutive games (including all 13 in 2007). ■ **2007:** Davis, a good blocker and an effective, speedy downfield receiver, had an all-star season while starting for his second year at tight end as a senior in 2007. ■ He won the 2007 Mackey Award as the nation's top tight end (USC's first-ever recipient). He was named to the 2007 The Sporting News All-American first team (USC's first All-American tight end since Jim Obradovich in 1974), Phil Steele's All-American first team, AP All-American second team, SI.com All-American second team, Collegefootballnews.com All-American second team, Pro Football Weekly All-American honorable mention, All-Pac-10 first team, ESPN.com All-Pac-10 first team, Collegefootballnews.com All-Pac-10 first team, Rivals.com All-Pac-10 first team and Phil Steele's All-Pac-10 first team. ■ Overall in 2007 while starting all 13 games, he had 62 receptions for 881 yards (14.2 avg.) and 8 TDs, all team highs. He also made 2 tackles. ■ He is the first tight end to lead USC in receptions in a season since Joe Cormier in 1985, in receiving yardage since Hoby Brenner, in 1980 and in TD receptions since Antoine Harris in 2000. ■ His 14.2 average per catch in 2007 was second-best among the nation's tight ends. ■ His 62 catches in 2007 is tied for 13th on USC's season receptions chart and is a record for USC tight ends (as are his 881 yards and 8 TDs). ■ He was USC's Co-MVP.

USC STATS

	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	LG
2004 (Fr.)	4	30	7.5	0	15
2005 (So.)	13	145	11.2	2	24
2006 (Jr.)	38	352	9.3	3	25
2007 (Sr.)	62	881	14.2	8	63
Career	117	1,408	12	13	63

HIGH SCHOOL



(4) FRED DAVIS
Rogers High School,
WR/RB/QB/SS

HIGH SCHOOL:

■ He was named a 2003 Super Prep All-American, Prep Star All-American, Insiders.com All-American, USA Today All-USA second team, Super Prep Elite 50, Prep Star Top 100 Dream Team, Tom Lemming Top 100, Super Prep All-Midwest Offensive MVP, Prep Star All-Midwest and All-Ohio selection as a senior. ■ He had 500-plus receiving yards, 600-plus rushing yards, 100-plus tackles and 4 interceptions while scoring 12 TDs as a wide receiver, running back, quarterback and strong safety in 2003. ■ As a junior in 2002 he made the All-Blade team while running for 1,100 yards and catching 50 passes for 700-plus yards with 26 TDs on offense and getting 80 tackles and 2 interceptions on defense. ■ He also was on the basketball team — averaging 15 points per game — and was a hurdler on the Rogers track team.



To see a slide show of Fred Davis' draft day go to:

toledoblade.com