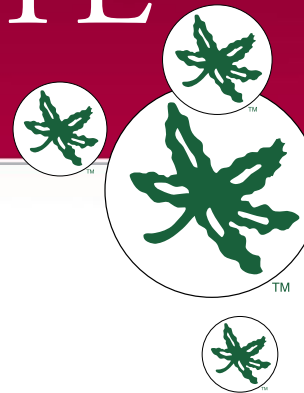


STUDENT-ATHLETE

Marcus Williams



It started out as a joke. While playing flag football during the first quarter of his freshman year, a friend joked to Marcus Williams that he should try to walk on to the Ohio State football team. Williams, who was a first team all-state selection in football at Ironton High School, joked in return that he had retired from the sport.

It then went from joking to hounding until Williams finally was convinced to call the football office and check when tryouts would take place. With luck on his side, he found out they were the next day. And three years later, Williams is a senior tailback on the Ohio State football team and starting on special teams. Who's joking around now?

The Student-Athlete

Marcus Williams on...

Graduating early this winter

"I didn't really plan it, it just happened that way. My first quarter I fell a little behind and the next quarter I added more hours because I felt like I had to catch up. I got in the habit of taking extra classes and adding hours and it progressed from there."

Applying his health sciences major to football

"I'm studying the business side of the industry, and in a lot of ways football is like a business too. You have a bunch of different people from different areas that they work hard to perfect. Everyone then comes together on the field. In business, people have their skills they perfect and then they work together to become productive, profitable and efficient."

Having his inquisitive side

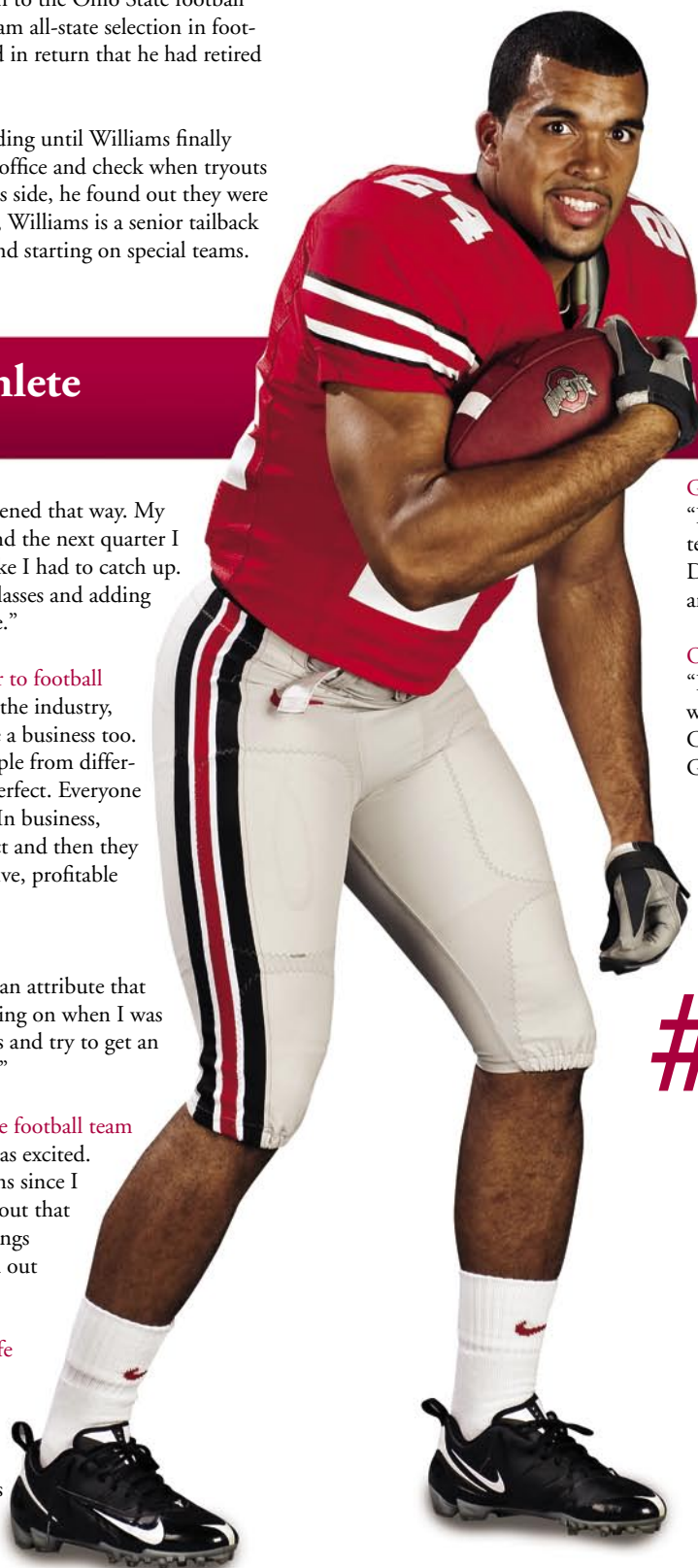
"I always want to learn. I guess I can attribute that to always wanting to see what's going on when I was little. I would always ask questions and try to get an understanding of what's going on."

His family's reaction to making the football team

"It was sweet. The whole family was excited. They've been die-hard Buckeye fans since I was little. I told them after the tryout that I did alright, but I didn't think things would happen so quick. It worked out and was really exciting."

Balancing married life with his wife Ashley with college and football

"It wasn't too much of an adjustment because we have been together for most of our time in college. We adjusted our schedules and really not much has changed. But it's nice to have my No. 1 fan at everything."



Getting away from the field

"I just try to relax. Ashley and I play tennis on the weekends in the offseason. During the season, we try to go for walks and just get out. I watch a lot of movies."

On his Top 5 movie selections

"I have a big movie collection, but I would say my Top 5 would be Identity, Crash, The Prestige, Memento and Gladiator."

#24

Tailback

5-10, 202

Sr./Jr.

Ironton, Ohio

Health Sciences

By Courtney Walerius,
Ohio State Athletics Communications