

Frisco Liberty Product Jay Ajayi Takes Aim at British History

By NICK WALTERS - Jan 18, 2018

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Eagles RB, British native Jay Ajayi (36) celebrates in the end zone. (Photo: CBS Sports)

The Philadelphia Eagles have the world's attention. Especially Britain's.





@TheOldCoach

Jay Ajayi taking aim at history

Frisco Liberty product can become first Super Bowl offensive player from UK.

: 247sports.com/high-school/te...

: @NickWaltersTV, Rory Jones (UK)

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Jay Ajayi taking aim at history????

Frisco Liberty product can become first Super Bowl offensive player from UK.

?: <https://t.co/Vqw8mnMshg>

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— The Old Coach (@TheOldCoach) January 19, 2018

From an NFL-best 13-3 record to the emergence of star quarterback **Carson Wentz**, the first-place Eagles have been borderline unstoppable.

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The [@Eagles](#) hang on to beat the Falcons to advance to their first NFC Championship Game since 2008.

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The @Eagles? hang on to beat the Falcons? to advance to their first NFC Championship Game since 2008. pic.twitter.com/iOe1mA2rxs

— FOX Sports: NFL (@NFLonFOX) January 14, 2018

With a win over Minnesota on Sunday, Philly will punch its ticket to the Super Bowl, marking the team's first trip since 2005.

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As a British native, I've taken it upon myself to bring one fact to everyone's attention.

This year we could see the first British running back to ever play in a Super Bowl.

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His name? **Jay Ajayi**.



London-born **Jay Ajayi** would join a very small list of British born players to win a Super Bowl, consisting of Kicker Lawrence Tynes and Defensive End **Osi Umenyiora**.

As a London boy, Ajayi's dream was always to play for local football (NOT SOCCER) club Arsenal.

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Arsenals fan Jay Ajayi in front of the Emirates in London. (Photo: Dave Shopland / NFL)

However, after moving to the U.S. in 2000 at 7 years old, Ajayi would discover another kind of 'football'.

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Later playing for Frisco Liberty High School (Frisco, TX), Ajayi would run for an incredible 2240 yards and 35 touchdowns in his senior year



Former Frisco Liberty star Jay Ajayi speeds past reach of a defender. (Photo: Dallas Morning News)



Jay Ajayi
Frisco, TX (Liberty)
RB 6-0 • 200 • CLASS OF 11

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A composite profile card for Jay Ajayi. It features a black and white photo of him in a football uniform on the left. To the right, his name "Jay Ajayi" is written in bold, followed by "Frisco, TX (Liberty)" and "RB 6-0 • 200 • CLASS OF 11". At the bottom, it shows "247Sports Composite®" with five yellow stars and the number "0.8528".

Advancing to Boise State University, Ajayi tore up defenses in his junior year with over 1800 rushing yards and 32 touchdowns.



Former Boise State RB Jay Ajayi leaves defenders in the dust. (Photo: CBS Sports)

Following his breakout on the Broncos, it was clear that Ajayi was destined for NFL glory.

After sliding down draft boards thanks to recurring knee issues, the Boise State product was drafted in the 5th round of the 2015 NFL draft by the Miami Dolphins.

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Former Dolphin Jay Ajayi celebrates a score at Miami's Hard Rock Stadium. (Photo: CBS Miami)

Despite a successful sophomore campaign in Miami in 2016, rushing for 200 yards in back to back games, the Dolphins shipped their Pro Bowl rusher to Philly.



Ian Rapoport ✓
@RapSheet

Blockbuster: The [#Dolphins](#) are trading RB Jay Ajayi to the [#Eagles](#).

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Blockbuster: The [#Dolphins](#) are trading RB Jay Ajayi to the [#Eagles](#).

— Ian Rapoport (@RapSheet) October 31, 2017

An already dominant Eagles team landing one of the league's premier up-and-coming backs made Halloween especially scary for NFC competition.

Not to quote my British compatriot Ed Sheeran but one can only ask, "*oh why, oh why, oh why, oh why?*"



Matt Lombardo ✓
@MattLombardoNFL

[#Eagles](#) RB Jay Ajayi made no effort to hide the fact that he's been motivated to avenge the [#Dolphins](#) decision to trade him

this season: nj.com/eagles/index.s...

♡ 376 1:33 AM - Jan 14, 2018



Eagles' Jay Ajayi: My 'redemption' will be th...

Despite winning his first playoff game in an Eagles uniform, Ajayi is neither satisfied nor has he avenged being cast off by the Dolphins, and nj.com

💬 70 people are talking about this



#Eagles RB Jay Ajayi made no effort to hide the fact that he's been motivated to avenge the #Dolphins decision to trade him this season: <https://t.co/NQz17JwLtr>

— Matt Lombardo (@MattLombardoPHL) January 14, 2018

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Miami would go on to miss the playoffs as Ajayi would proceed to average 5.8 yards a carry for the now NFC Championship bound Eagles.



JJ Zachariason ✓

@LateRoundQB



Since Jay Ajayi became an Eagle in Week 9, among backs with 50 or more carries during this span (includes playoffs), only Alvin Kamara has a higher yards per attempt average.

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Since Jay Ajayi? became an Eagle in Week 9, among backs with 50 or more carries during this span (includes playoffs), only Alvin Kamara? has a higher yards per attempt average.

The proud Englishman and avid tea drinker may make history this weekend.

A win on Sunday vs the Vikings would make Ajayi the first British offensive player to ever play in a Super Bowl.



The Bitter Birds
@AdrianFedkiw



Feed Ajayi!!

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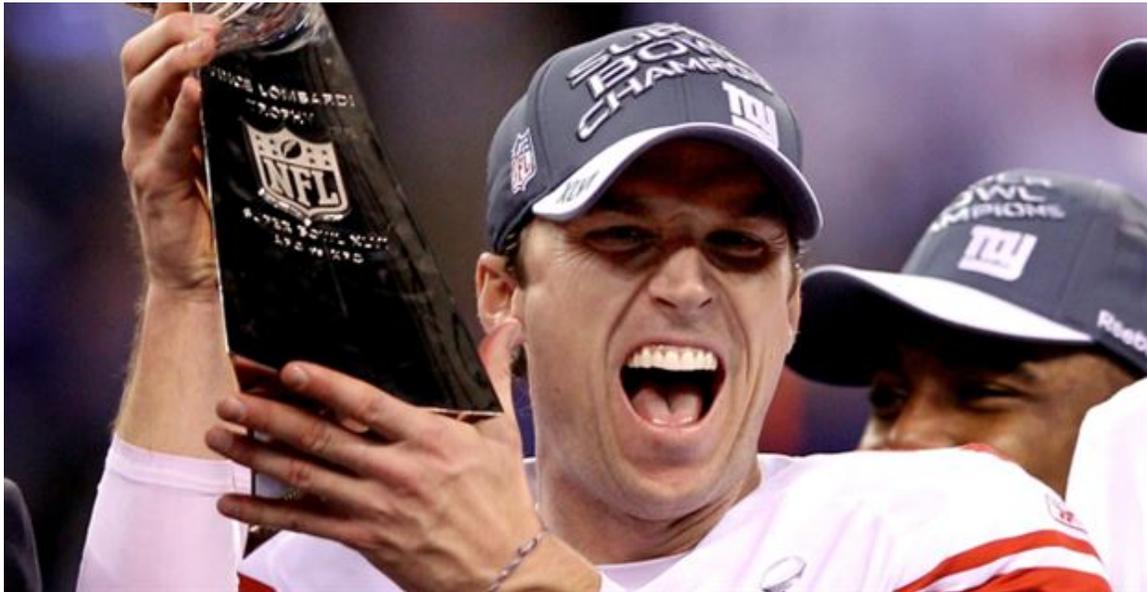
— The Bitter Birds (@AdrianFedkiw) January 13, 2018

Previous British NFL players — Patriots' **Marvin Allen** and Steelers' **Scott McCready** — are both able to flaunt their Super Bowl rings for their participation on the practice squads throughout the '02 and '07 seasons.

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However, neither of these players actually saw the field.

Should Philadelphia reach its second-ever Super Bowl, Ajayi could join Umenyiora and Tynes as a Super Bowl champion from the U.K.



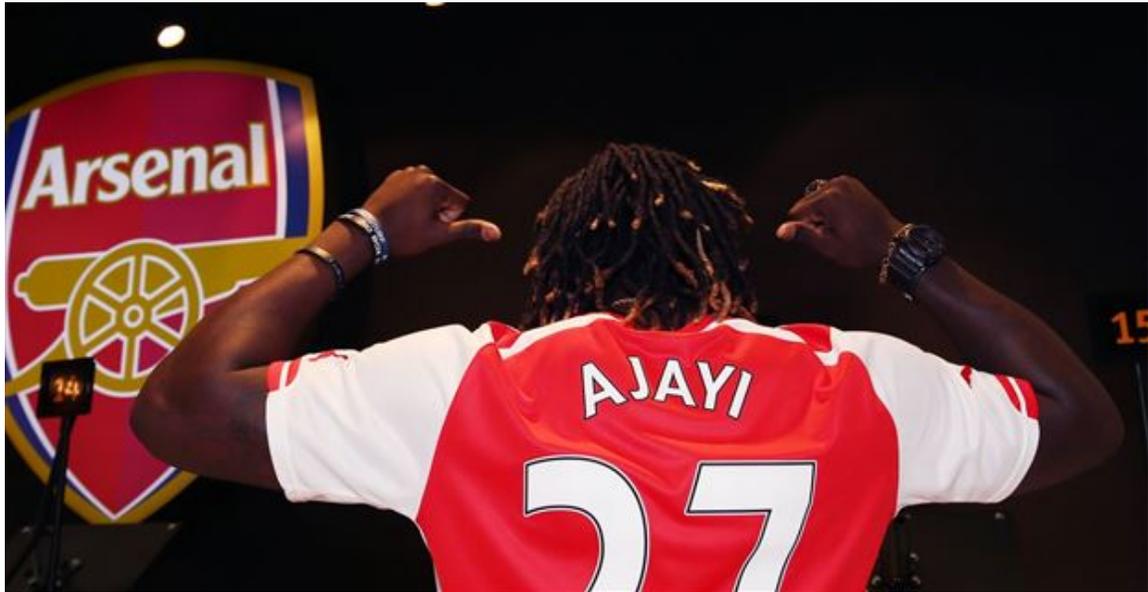
New York K Lawrence Tynes hoists the Lombardi Trophy after the Giants win Super Bowl XLVI. (Photo: CBS Boston)

Notably, defeating the Vikings on Sunday gives Ajayi the opportunity to become the first Brit to actually play in an offensive snap in the Super Bowl.

As an English native, I recognize that this milestone holds certain significance for any fellow Brit interested in the NFL.

The sport of 'football' remains something of a beautiful confusion for many British people, but figures such as **Jay Ajayi** could inspire a generation of future NFL athletes to come.

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Soccer fan Ajayi rocking his custom-made Arsenal jersey. (Photo: Daily Mirror)

Will **Jay Ajayi** be a key piece in Sunday's Championship game against the Vikings? Will he become the first British offensive payer to win it all?

Let us know your thoughts in the comment section below.

Written by The Old Coach's Rory Jones (UK) and Nick Walters

Start the Conversation

247SPORTS

Tate Martell could break college football's transfer system

By **CHRIS HUMMER** - Mon Feb 11 2019

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College football's shifted with the aggressiveness of the new-age transfer market. No player more profoundly represents that than **Tate Martell**.

The former Ohio State and current Miami signal caller was once a recruiting trailblazer of the modern age. Now, the third-year QB is pushing the boundaries of a transfer guideline that's long held firm against immediate eligibility.

Justin Fields is a notable example of this trend. Georgia's freshman backup a season ago, Fields bolted for Columbus this offseason and submitted an appeal the NCAA approved last week for immediate eligibility. Playing time played a role in Fields' desire to depart – **Jake Fromm** wasn't budging off Georgia's starting job – but his appeal centered around an off-field incident at Georgia.

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Martell is a different sort of case.

The former Top247 quarterback loudly proclaimed his intention to compete with Fields before the five-star arrived in Columbus. Yet Martell left Ohio State shortly after Fields' announcement. Martell's transfer reasoning seems simple: He wanted to play and thought he had a better opportunity to do so elsewhere.

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It's what makes Martell's waiver so intriguing. A long-standing NCAA rule states football undergraduate transfers must sit out a year in residence transferring to another FBS program. Fair or unfair – and that's not the question for today – non-graduate athletes can't transfer without penalty on the grounds of playing time. Martell's case could open the floodgates for NCAA policy change and create a precedent that would shake the college football world if approved.

Not that Martell's waiver is simple.

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Publicly, it's presumed Martell will challenge for immediate eligibility citing Ohio State's sudden coaching change from **Urban Meyer** to **Ryan Day**. Martell's lawyer, Travis Leach, has said as much. But Martell's waiver will have more layers than that. You should fully expect Martell to cite a number of previous precedents in his appeal, including potential "egregious behavior" by Ohio State or the more recent modification to the waiver guidelines that allows an athlete to cite "documented mitigating circumstances that are outside the student-athlete's control and directly impact the health, safety and well-being of the student-athlete." Fifty-one of 64 NCAA players who appealed for immediate eligibility since that modification saw their waivers approved, per the most recent NCAA data.

One does not need much mental exercise to connect potential "mitigating circumstances" for Martell to Ohio State's offseason issues with **Urban Meyer** and **Zach Smith**. CBS Sports previously reported Martell considered using those program transgressions as a reasoning for *transfer prior to the season*; one might surmise that was a leak by Martell's camp to show Martell considered transferring before Fields arrived.

"There were some things that happened at Ohio State that we can potentially get some relief from the NCAA, and we're going to try it that way," Leach told the Toledo Blade. "The coaching staff turnover is an issue. There are a few things. There's no real bright-line test that tells you 100 percent how you can get a waiver. This is a tough one, but there are some good facts on his side.

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"You try to throw as much against the way as you can."



(Photo: Joe Scarnici, Getty)

That leads to something many miss with Martell's case. His is not a cut and dry appeal – nobody's is. The NCAA's process is convoluted, so much so a mini-industry's popped up around waivers to help athletes parse the hundred of pages of documents needed to deal with the waiver process.

"People know publicly about certain factors that go into cases, but they don't know everything," said Tim Nevius, a New York lawyer who operates a practice that centers around advocating for college athletes. "The public doesn't know all the facts and circumstances an athlete is dealing with in his or her life that would give the NCAA a basis to grant a waiver."

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Thus, whatever the result of Martell's waiver, it's important to remember his situation is unique. Nobody will have the same set of circumstances as Martell in the future, which makes speculation about any future results hazardous.

That's why athletes are hiring representation.

"The system is stacked against the athletes," Nevius said.

Martell isn't the last notable waiver the college football world will follow this offseason. His is, however, the most important. Martell's case could serve as a spark for significant legislative change. No matter the circumstances Martell cites in his documentation, the reasoning for his appeal is transparent. He wants to play now. His desire to do so could expose flaws in an entire system. If Martell's waiver is granted, it'll inspire a flood of similar cases

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COMMENTS

that could lead to the elimination of the year-in-resident requirement, bringing college football one step closer to quasi-free agency.

Comments (47)

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