

UPDATED: Murrell Gives It Another Try

Written by Staff Reports

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Defensive end/linebacker Marques Murrill, who was a star player at Appalachian State University, is a pretty determined guy. Murrell, who was placed on waivers by the New England Patriots last season, is back at again. Only

this time, he's taken his talents north of the border. Murrell is currently a member of the Montreal Alouettes of the Canadian Football League. He had two tackles in a preseason game against the Toronto Argonauts Tuesday night. Murrell was a two-time first team All-American performer at ASU, finishing his career with 36 sacks and a school-record 18 forced fumbles. Murrell had 13 sacks in both his junior and senior seasons, fueling the Mountaineers to a pair of consecutive Division I-AA National Championships in 2005 and 2006. In the 2005 title game he forced a fumble that was returned by Jason Hunter for the winning touchdown in a 21–16 victory over University of Northern Iowa.

He was named the Southern Conference Male Athlete of the Year in 2006; and he was named the SoCon Defensive Player of the Year that season.

Professionally, Murrell was signed by the Philadelphia Eagles as an undrafted free agent on May 14, 2007, following the 2007 NFL Draft. He was waived by the Eagles during final cuts on September 1, 2007, and was re-signed to the team's practice squad two days later. He was picked up by the New York Jets in November of 2007 and played three seasons with that team before they cut him loose. His downfall with the Jets came in an overtime loss to Buffalo in 2009. Murrell and Jets safety James Ihedigbo threw punches at Bills tight end Derek Fine, prompting Murrell to be fined by the NFL for \$5,000 and be benched, along with Ihedigbo, by head coach Rex Ryan for the following game against the Oakland Raiders. Murrell finished the 2009 season with 12 tackles in ten games played. He was not tendered by the Jets as a restricted free agent following the season and became an unrestricted free agent. Murrell signed with the New England Patriots on March 9, 2010. He was released on September 13 after playing in the Patriots' season opener against the Cincinnati Bengals. The Patriots re-signed Murrell on January 5, 2011, prior to their first playoff game. He was waived again on August 30. He signed with the Virginia Destroyers of the United Football League shortly after the Patriots released him. Murrell joined the Alouettes on May 3 and signed a two-year deal on May 7.

NOTES: Also defensive back Ed Gainey, who was suspended by head coach Jerry Moore of the Mountaineers last season for unspecified reasons, will join Murrell as a member of the Alouettes after making the team. Gainey, from Mount Tabor High in Winston-Salem, N.C., was a second-team All-Southern Conference selection on defense in 2009; he was named to the SoCon All-Freshman squad in 2008.

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Photo Courtesy: Marques Murrell, PHOTO SUBMITTED