



COMPOSING THE ULTIMATE NFL PLAYER

Every football fan at one time or another has thought about what would make the ultimate NFL player.

Many believe it is having great strength, blazing speed and excellent jumping ability. Although all of these traits would make a fine NFL player, they are not the most important according to current NFL players.

According to the pros, intangibles, hard work and intelligence are some of the characteristics needed to be a great player on the gridiron.

Players list the traits they believe make up the ultimate NFL player with some choosing a current player who best displays them on the field:

PLAYER	ULTIMATE NFL PLAYER	WHAT IT TAKES
CB Ronde Barber, Tampa Bay	Champ Bailey Ed Reed	"The ultimate NFL player must include heart, brains and vision. He must have great instincts, enough speed, and a lot of agility."
LB Terrell Suggs, Baltimore	- - -	"First and foremost, the ultimate player has to have a terrific work ethic. Being smart is also a big part of being the best. You have to know your opponent and be willing to study so you can be prepared. I think anybody who is good and recognizes other great players knows it's all about work ethic and the desire to be the best."
WR Reggie Wayne, Indianapolis	Edgerrin James	"Edge has it all for a football player. He has the heart, the brains and he can either make people miss or drag them for another three or four yards. He's been doing the same thing everywhere he's been. That's my guy."
QB Donovan McNabb, Philadelphia	Brian Westbrook	"The ultimate NFL player would need work ethic, determination and the drive to succeed."
WR Hines Ward, Pittsburgh		"It would be a player full of heart. That player usually outshines those around him because he is willing to do whatever it takes to make the play and has no problem making a sacrifice. They put everything they have into every play."
QB Alex Smith, San Francisco	LaDainian Tomlinson	"Talent is almost a minimum when it comes to the NFL; everyone can run, jump and catch at this level. The big things that separate a lot of players are toughness and work ethic. As far as toughness, you have to be able to push through the pain. You also have to work extremely hard because you need to be able to do something to separate yourself from other players. LT best typifies this quality. He works extremely hard and continues to be hungry. He's never satisfied and he's an extreme competitor."
LB Shawne Merriman, San Diego	- - -	"Being aggressive would be number one, being relentless would be number two and being fundamentally sound would be number three."