

HOW AM I DOIN', DAD?

Every child comes to their father for pearls of wisdom they can cling to, but not every kid can do so both at the kitchen table and in the huddle.

Some of today's finest players were molded by their coaching fathers on the youth, high school and college practice fields that have led to the NFL.

These life lessons and football experience are knowledge these lucky NFL stars apply on the field and now in their own home.

A look at players with coaching fathers and how they helped them be better players and people:

| PLAYER | FATHER'S INFLUENCE |
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| QB Jeff Garcia, Tampa Bay Buccaneers | "I think it helped me a lot because I knew that I could completely trust my coach even before I took my first snap," says Garcia. "It was fun having my dad as my coach and it helped us develop a great relationship." |
| WR Ted Ginn Jr., Miami Dolphins | "It helped a lot," says Ginn Jr. "It prepared me well for different situations. He never showed any favoritism towards me. In fact, he might have been harder on me to make me an example. It prepared me well for the next levels because I feel I can adjust to any type of coach." |
| CB Chris McAlister, Baltimore Ravens | "As a kid, I never won any awards," McAlister says. "No matter how the team voted he always gave them to another player. He always kept me hungry." |
| TE Greg Olsen, Chicago Bears | "People always think you get special treatment, but if anything, it's the opposite," says Olsen. "He was always hard on me whether it was on the practice field or at home and I think that has contributed to why I've been successful thus far. The tough love worked." |
| QB Philip Rivers, San Diego Chargers | "It helped a lot Xs and Os wise, but the biggest thing was I just got to be around it," says Rivers. "I was watching them break the huddle when I was five years old. I'm out there watching them change periods, run the stretch and hearing quarterbacks call plays. That probably gave me an edge as a young player just because of the leadership I learned." |

FROM BUNK BEDS TO NFL ROSTERS: BROTHERS FOREVER

They've been hearing the comparisons for years and the expectations of them have always been high. They may have been the star of their university, but that doesn't always make them the star in their own family. When the NFL season kicks off on September 6, a new crop of rookies will get a taste of the action, and several of those individuals will be a part of the 29 current brother tandems in the league.

DAVID and **KENNY IRONS**, brothers drafted in April from Auburn University, will not only need to make the transition from college to the pro game, but will have to do it in an unfamiliar situation – on different teams. David and Kenny had been teammates at virtually every level since Pop Warner in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, but David was drafted by the Atlanta Falcons and Kenny was selected by the Cincinnati Bengals.

"While other kids were sleeping, we were out practicing," David says about those Pop Warner days with Kenny and their father, David Sr., who was a standout running back at North Carolina A&T. David Sr. has prepared his kids for the NFL since their childhood, including introducing them to one backyard drill where the boys would stand in a hula hoop, turn and catch a ball 15 consecutive times before being allowed back in the house.

Although Kenny was drafted higher, David says there is one thing he'll always have that his younger brother will not. "He's not the prettiest guy in the world. He's not like his big brother," says David.

Two young quarterbacks that have All-Pro big brothers to look up to are **JORDAN PALMER** and **ELI MANNING**. Jordan, who was recently drafted by the Washington Redskins, is eager about one thing as it relates to his brother, Cincinnati Bengals quarterback **CARSON**. "We've been real competitive, but at the same time, the biggest thing I'm excited about when it comes to Carson is, we've never played against each other," says Jordan. The same can no longer be said about the Mannings.

PEYTON MANNING began his season with a victory against his younger brother, and concluded it with MVP honors in Super Bowl XLI. Playing against Eli and the New York Giants on 2006 NFL Kickoff Weekend was difficult for Peyton, being that he considers himself one of his brother's biggest fans. "Nobody pulls harder for Eli than I do," says Peyton. "I watch all of his games and I pull hard for him, and I've just been extremely proud of him."

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