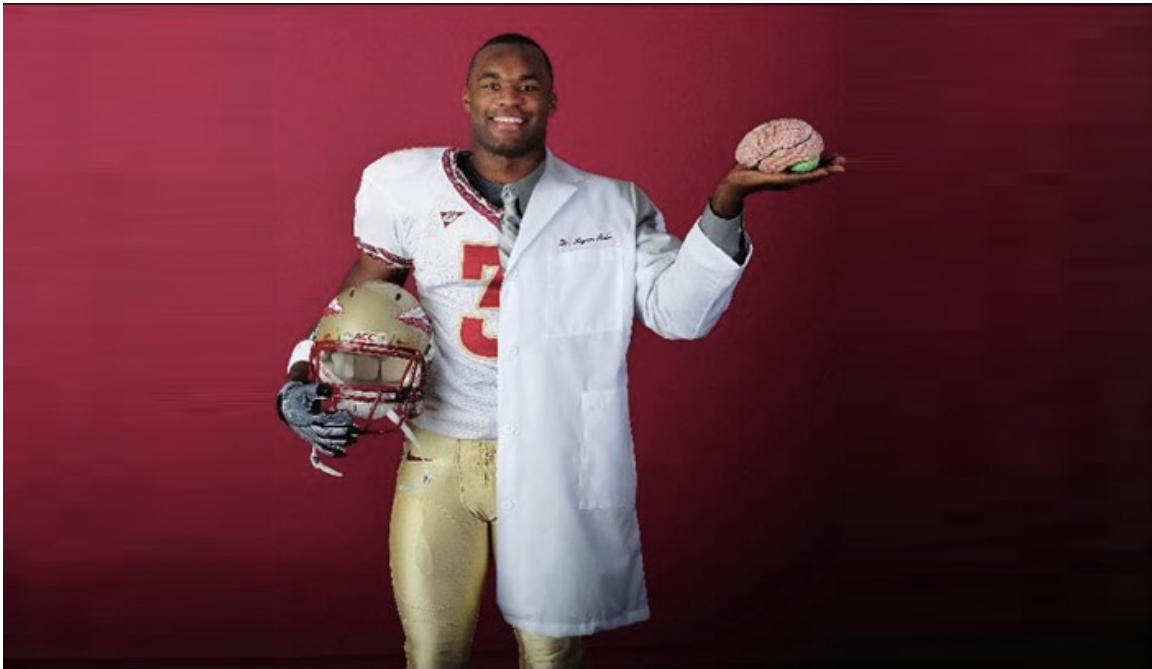


[#DESTINATIONGREATNESS] MYRON ROLLE: FROM THE NFL TO NEUROSURGEON



“I played football, but I didn’t want to be categorized as just a jock.” Those are the words of Myron Rolle. Coming out of high school, Myron was the #1 football prospect in the entire U.S. He was a First Team Freshman All-American in 2006 and earned both Third Team All-America and Second Team All-ACC honors in 2008, his final season in Tallahassee. NFL scouts definitely took notice. **Myron Rolle was rated by ESPN as the #1 football recruit in the U.S. in 2006, so it’s no wonder he went on to play in the NFL.**

During his time in the NFL, he wasn’t your usual player. He researched stem cells. He started anti-obesity programs that the U.S. Department of Interior adopted. He even raised money for hospitals.

But just before his NFL dreams came true by enlisting in the draft, as scouts were eager to snatch him up, Rolle decided to delay his entering the NFL draft for a whole year to study medicine in Oxford, England. During that time, he was named a finalist for a Rhodes scholarship, the most prestigious academic award given.

When he made it back to the States, the Tennessee Titans took on Rolle, selecting him in the sixth round of the 2010 draft. The progress he made in his first year with Tennessee — “I thought I was making strides and getting better with each snap, picking up things I didn’t pick up before,” he said — took a hit with the departure of head coach Jeff Fisher and the 2011 lockout putting a halt to OTAs.

Rolle was released right before the start of the 2011 season. The Steelers signed him to a reserve/future contract the next offseason, only to release Rolle at the tail end of the 2012 preseason. Afterward, it took Rolle three weeks of soul searching to realize that it was for the best that his football-playing career was done at age 25.

“I talked to my family, brothers and pastors asking them what they thought,” he said. “I still received interest from a few teams, and it didn’t have to be over. Then I said to myself, ‘I can knock my head against the wall for 8-9 years or move on to medicine.’ I was leaving the game with no concussions and dexterity in both my hands, where I could be a neurosurgeon one day.”



"The NFL experience was amazing. I had a chance to play alongside some of the best athletes in the world. Only two other people can say that they were a Rhodes Scholar and an NFL player (Pat Haden and Byron White). I look back and say, 'I got to the league, I got drafted.'"

So now, after much study and hard work, **the 30-year-old Rolle will be graduating this Spring 2017 with his doctorate from Florida State University College of Medicine!**

Rolle is now also the chairman of the Myron L. Rolle Foundation, which serves the underserved in areas of health, wellness and education in the U.S. and around the world. The Myron L. Rolle Foundation currently hosts the Myron Rolle Wellness and Leadership Academy for Florida foster children, "Rhodes to Success" (an academic workshop for at-risk teenagers) and "Our Way to Health" (an anti-obesity program for American Indians of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Navajo, Hopi and Pueblo tribes).



"It's always, 'What's next?,'" explains Myron. "I think people align themselves with my way of thinking when they're talking to me. They try to create new avenues for me to pursue, so if you want to be a doctor and you have interest in human rights and philanthropy and social equality of medicine and disease, **why don't you think about being surgeon general? Then you could have a political impact, with a stronger influence and a bigger platform. I'm that person.** 'What's next? What's next?'"

Whatever he has planned up his sleeve, we know it will be great. **So let's just "Rolle with it."**

See what I did there? 😏