

Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie
2008 Arizona Cardinals Draft Selection
Round 1, Selection 16 - 16th overall
CB – Tennessee State - 6-2, 182

OVERVIEW:

Not since Aeneas Williams terrorized receivers during his playing days at Southern University (1987-90) has a Division 1-AA cornerback dominated like Rodgers-Cromartie has done during his career. Thrust into the starting lineup midway through his freshman campaign, the speedy pass defender has not only shown exceptional shutdown ability, but also has displayed the natural hands needed to excel as an interceptor. In addition to his defensive skills, he also excelled as a kickoff returner in addition to seeing action as a receiver during his senior campaign.

In 39 games as a starter for the Tigers, opposing quarterback completed just 55 of 161 passes (34.16%) thrown into Rodgers-Cromartie's area. He intercepted eleven of those throws, deflected 25 others and held the opposition to a miniscule 3.54 yards per pass attempt, the best figure of any collegiate defensive back over the last three seasons of NCAA competition.

In addition to his stellar play on the football field, Rodgers-Cromartie has also been a standout performer for the TSU track team. Despite juggling football spring drills with the indoor and outdoor track seasons in 2007, he qualified for the NCAA Mid-East Regionals after he captured the Ohio Valley Conference long jump title (25' 0.75"). In only his second outdoor event, he was named OVC Male Athlete of the Week after finishing third at the Penn Relays with a conference-best long jump of 24'10".

During the OVC Indoor Track Championships, Rodgers-Cromartie garnered Top Male Athlete honors with a sensational performance that saw him win the 60-meter dash (6.89), long jump (25' 0.75") and high jump (6' 9.5"). He also finished second in the triple jump (48' 8"). What made those finishes even more impressive was the fact that he performed most of the indoor season while nursing an ankle sprain.

Excelling in two sports is nothing new for this impressive athlete. The All-Area and All-District defensive back and wide receiver at Lakewood Ranch High School was regarded as one of the best cornerbacks in the South, receiving a four-star rating from Rivals.com. The High School Recruiting Report named him the most underrated prospect in the state of Florida. He also competed as a jumper and sprinter on the track team.

Rodgers-Cromartie enrolled at Tennessee State, where he shared playing time with Aaron Strong for the first half of the 2004 campaign. He would go on to start six contests at strong-side cornerback, including the last five games. He posted 33 tackles (22 solos) with a stop for a loss while recovering two fumbles, returning one for a touchdown. Named the Ohio Valley Conference's Defensive Newcomer of the Year by The Gridiron Report, he also batted away three passes and returned both of his interceptions for touchdowns. He blocked a punt for an 11-yard return and also had a 19-yard kickoff return.

As a sophomore, Rodgers-Cromartie started every game. He ranked fifth on the team with 41 tackles (34 solos), including three stops behind the line of scrimmage. He deflected five passes, intercepted another and returned a blocked punt 17 yards. He also gained 34 yards on two kickoff returns and caught one pass for 8 yards in brief action as a receiver. He allowed just 1.86 yards per pass attempt, the lowest total by a Division 1-AA defender in a season since Aeneas Williams averaged 1.99 yards (on 58 throws) for Southern University in 1990.

The junior defender ranked third in the nation and led the OVC with six interceptions in 2006. He finished fourth on the squad with 47 tackles (37 solos) and two stops for losses. He also blocked two kicks and had seven pass deflections, earning first-team All-OVC and All-American honors. He allowed just 3.64 yards per pass attempt, the best figure in the Division 1-AA ranks for the second consecutive year.

In 2007, Rodgers-Cromartie earned third-team All-American honors from The NFL Draft Report. He added All-Ohio Valley Conference first-team accolades for the second-straight year, as he was used not only on defense, but also handled kickoff return duties while seeing brief action on offense. He recorded 37 tackles (28 solos) with two stops for losses and a pair of fumble recoveries. He deflected eleven passes and picked off two others, returning both interceptions for touchdowns. He

also blocked four punts, gained 38 yards on a reception, 16 yards on four punt returns and 16 yards on two carries, finishing his final campaign with 1,016 all-purpose yards.

In 44 games at Tennessee State, Rodgers-Cromartie started 39 contests. He recorded 158 tackles (121 solos) with eight stops for losses of 30 yards, adding 14 more tackles on the special teams coverage units. He recovered four fumbles, returning one for a touchdown and blocked eight kicks. He deflected 26 passes and intercepted eleven others for 314 yards (28.5 avg) in returns with four touchdowns.

Rodgers-Cromartie also had two receptions for 46 yards, two carries for 16 yards and six punt returns for 44 yards (7.3 avg). He added 859 yards on 36 kickoff returns (23.9 avg). Of the 161 passes thrown into his territory, the opposition managed to catch just 55 balls (34.16 completion percentage) for 620 yards and three touchdowns. He has allowed just 3.85 yards per pass attempt during his career with the Tigers.

CAREER NOTES:

Became the eleventh player in NCAA FCS competition to gain over 300 yards (314) on interception returns in a career...His four interception returns for touchdowns set a school all-time record and rank behind William Hampton of Murray State (six interception returns for touchdowns, 1993-95) in Ohio Valley Conference annals...Holds the school and OVC career-record with eight blocked kicks, the seventh-best all-time total in NCAA FCS history...Also holds the school season-record with four blocked kicks in 2007...His three interceptions vs. Murray State in 2006 were the most pass thefts by a TSU player in a game since Donald Pinson set the school game-record with five pass thefts vs. Southwestern Louisiana in 1970...Of his 158 career tackles, Rodgers-Cromartie registered 59 third-down stops and fifteen fourth-down hits.

2007 SEASON:

All-American second-team choice by The NFL Draft Report...All-Ohio Valley Conference first-team selection...Started all eleven games at left cornerback, as he recorded 37 tackles (28 solos) with two stops for losses of 8 yards...Recovered two fumbles and gained 16 yards on four punt returns...Deflected eleven passes and intercepted two others for 140 yards in returns and two touchdowns...Set the school season-record by blocking four kicks...Gained 806 yards with a score on 33 kickoff returns (24.4 avg)...Also saw brief action on offense, rushing twice for 16 yards while coming up with a 38-yard reception... Made nineteen of his plays on third-down action, including sixteen vs. the pass...Of the sixty passes targeted into his area, he held the opposition to 22 receptions for 262 yards (11.91 avg per completion), three touchdowns and an average of 4.37 yards per pass attempt.

2006 SEASON:

All-American first-team pick by The NFL Draft Report...Added All-Ohio Valley Conference first-team accolades...Started all year at left cornerback, finishing fourth on the team with 47 tackles (37 solos), including two stops for losses of 10 yards...Added three more tackles on the special teams coverage unit...Deflected seven passes and led the OVC while ranking third in the nation with six interceptions for 70 yards (11.7 avg) in returns... Also blocked two kicks...Did not allow an opponent to catch any passes in three contests (Jackson State, Vanderbilt and Samford)...Of the 45 passes thrown into his area, only twelve were caught for 160 yards (26.67 pass completion percentage), as the opposition managed to gain just 3.56 yards per pass attempt, the best figure for any cornerback in every level of college football...Posted 17 third-down stops and seven more on fourth-down.

2005 SEASON:

All-Ohio Valley Conference first-team selection by The Gridiron Report...Started all eleven games, ranking fifth on the team with 41 tackles (34 solos), adding four more stops on the special teams coverage unit...Had three tackles for losses of 6 yards and blocked a punt that he returned 17 yards...Added 34 yards on two kickoff returns (17.0 avg) and 8 yards on a reception...Deflected five passes and gained 13 yards on an interception...Did not allow an opponent to catch any passes in four of eleven games (Jackson State, North Carolina A&T, Tennessee-Martin and Eastern Kentucky)...The opposition was wise to not throw into his area, as Rodgers-Cromartie allowed just ten receptions for 52 yards (35.71 pass completion percentage), as his opponent averaged a miniscule 1.86 yards per pass attempt...Eleven of his tackles came on third-down plays, with seven more coming on fourth downs...Also made nine plays inside the goal-line, with two on goal-line plays.

2004 SEASON:

Named the Ohio Valley Conference Defensive Newcomer of the Year by The Gridiron Report...Shared playing time with Aaron Strong before taking over starting duties at strong-side cornerback for six contests, including the team's final five games...Posted 33 tackles (22 solos) with a stop for a 6-yard loss...Recovered two fumbles, returning one for a touchdown...Deflected three passes and returned two interceptions for touchdowns totaling 91 yards...Blocked a punt for an 11-yard return, gained 19 yards on a kickoff return and made three tackles on the special teams coverage unit...Of the 29

passes thrown into his territory, Rodgers-Cromartie allowed just eleven receptions for 146 yards and one touchdown (37.93% pass completion percentage), yielding just 5.03 yards per pass attempt...Made twelve tackles on third-down plays and one more on fourth-down.

HIGH SCHOOL:

Attended Lakewood Ranch (Fla.) High School, lettering in both football and track...The All-Area, All-Class 5A and All-District 11 defensive back and wide receiver was regarded as one of the best cornerbacks in the South, receiving a four-star rating from Rivals.com... The High School Recruiting Report named him the most underrated prospect in the state of Florida...Also competed as a jumper and sprinter on the track team.

PERSONAL:

Psychology major...Son of Melissa Williams and Stanley Cromartie...Born 4/07/86... Resides in Bradenton, FL.

PLAYER STATISTICS:

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS												
STATS	GP	GS	TK	SO	AS	FR	FC	INT	TFL	PBU	SACK	BK
2004	11	06	33	22	11	2	0	2	1.0- 6	3	0.0-0	1
2005	11	11	41	34	7	0	0	1	3.0- 6	5	0.0-0	1
2006	11	11	47	37	10	0	0	6	2.0-10	7	0.0-0	2
2007	11	11	37	28	9	2	0	2	2.0- 8	11	0.0-0	4
TOTAL	44	39	158	121	37	4	0	11	8.0-30	26	0.0-0	8

INTERCEPTION RETURNS						ADVANCED FUMBLE RECOVERIES				
STATS	NO	YARDS	AVG	TD	LONG	NO	YARDS	AVG	TD	LONG
2004	2	91	45.5	2	56	1	2	2.0	1	2
2005	1	13	13.0	0	13					
2006	6	70	11.7	0	33					
2007	2	140	70.0	2	71					
TOTAL	11	314	28.5	4	71	1	2	2.0	1	2

KICKOFF RETURNS						PUNT RETURNS				
STATS	NO	YARDS	AVG	TD	LONG	NO	YARDS	AVG	TD	LONG
2004	1	19	19.0	0	19	1	11	11.0	0	11
2005	2	34	17.0	0	22	1	17	17.0	0	17
2007	33	806	24.4	1	92	4	16	4.0	0	8
TOTAL	36	859	23.9	1	92	6	44	7.3	0	17

RECEIVING STATISTICS						RUSHING STATISTICS				
STATS	NO	YARDS	AVG	TD	LONG	NO	YARDS	AVG	TD	LONG
2006	1	8	8.0	0	8					
2007	1	38	38.0	0	38	2	16	8.0	0	9
TOTAL	2	46	23.0	0	38	2	16	8.0	0	9

SPECIAL TEAMS TACKLES					
STATS	TK	SO	AS	FR	FC
2004	3	3	0	1	0
2005	4	3	1	0	0
2006	3	3	0	0	0
2007	4	3	1	0	0
TOTAL	14	12	2	1	0