

TULANE FOOTBALL DRAFT BIOS



#13 Lynaris Elpheage, CB, 5-9, 170, Junior New Orleans, La. (Carver HS)

2002: Earned second team All-America honors from *cnni.com* and *Collegefootballnews.com* and was a consensus first team All-Conference USA choice as a cornerback. Named to the All-Louisiana team. A second team All-C-USA selection as a punt returner. On offense, lined up at wide out and scored a TD versus Southern Miss. His eight interceptions tied for second-most in the nation while his INT average tied for fifth in the NCAA stats. Second in the nation in passes defended (PBU+INT) with 29. After totalling four punt returns for 143 yards in the bowl game, moved up to rank fifth in the NCAA in punt return average with 16.54 yards per return. That number is also second on the Tulane single season charts. Ranked 19th nationally in kickoff returns with his average of 25.17 yards per return. Named MVP of the 2002 Hawai'i Bowl. Returned four punts for 143 yards including a 60-yard return for a touchdown in the third quarter. Returned another punt 56 yards to the Hawai'i 17-yard line which set up Tulane's go-ahead score. Also brought back two kickoffs for 57 yards. Recorded six tackles, including five solo, and broke up a pass. Broke up at least one pass in 11 of 13 games on the year,

including a career-high five versus UL-Monroe (10/5), and three against Southern Miss (11/23). Finished his career as Tulane's all-time leader in pass break-ups with 49 and ranks second on the career interceptions chart for both Conference USA and Tulane, with 14. Scored seven career TDs: on a kickoff return, two punt returns, a fumble return, two interception returns and a rush. It's a feat no other Division I-A player can match. Only player to score a touchdown in four ways during the 2002 season (rush, INT return, punt return kickoff return). Also engineered another punt return TD versus UAB (10/19) when he ran back a punt 57 yards, then as he was being tackled, lateralled to Gerald Brobbey, who scored. Showed his incredible athletic abilities when, on the first offensive play OF HIS CAREER, ran 16 yards for a score on an end around to surprise Southern Miss. Other scores in 2002 came on a 42-yard inside kickoff return versus Houston (9/7) and a 62-yard interception return against UL-Monroe. Made a career-high 68 tackles, 51 solo, in 2002 to rank fourth on the team. Forced a pair of fumbles and recovered another. Had a season-high eight tackles (six solo) versus Southern Miss and made seven solo stops versus UAB. His eight INTs this year rank third all-time at TU. Returned 28 punts for 463 yards to set the record for most punt return yards in a season. Registered 18 kickoff returns for 453 yards to rank fourth on the TU single season list. Finished his career third all-time at Tulane in both career punt return (12.4) and career kickoff return (23.2) average. Earned C-USA Player of the Week and Nokia Sugar Bowl Player of the Week honors after the Houston game. Collected over 1,000 all-purpose yards to rank second on the Tulane team, although only 22 came as an offensive player.

2001: Started all 12 games at right cornerback. Led Tulane with three interceptions and 14 pass deflections (fourth in C-USA). Ranked seventh on the team in tackles with 59, 43 solos. Interceptions came against Southern (9/29), TCU (10/13) and Navy (11/10). His Navy interception was followed by a 48-yard return for a touchdown. Also broke up three passes and had five tackles in that game. Had an INT and 22-yard return in the TCU game. Scored Tulane's first punt return touchdown since 1988 on a 64-yard return against Southern. Returned four punts for 55 yards at Navy, including a 33-yard runback. Returned 17 kickoffs for 374 yards, a team-leading 22.0-yard average. Recorded Tulane's longest kickoff return since 1997 with a 59-yarder in the UCF game (9/22). Had a 50-yard return versus Cincinnati (10/6). Made a season-high eight tackles versus BYU (8/25). Contributed seven solo stops at LSU (9/1), breaking up a team-high three passes, including one at the goal line.

2000: Second team All-Conference USA choice at cornerback by The Sporting News. Named to the C-USA All-Freshman team and the All-Louisiana second team. Led Tulane in interceptions with three and in pass break-ups with 14 (third in Conference USA). Registered 44 tackles, including 35 solos, to rank seventh on the team. Snagged a pair of interceptions against Cincinnati (9/30) and one versus Army (10/21). Scored on a 23-yard fumble recovery in the Navy game (11/11). Best game came against Navy (11/11) with four pass break-ups, seven tackles and a pair of fumble recoveries.

High School: A USA Today honorable mention All-America choice. Tabbed as all-state both as a quarterback and as a return specialist. Earned Class 4A Offensive Player of the Year honors. Named the New Orleans Player of the Year by the Sugar Bowl after leading Carver to the Class 4A quarterfinals. A two-time All-Metro selection. Played four different positions. Passed for 2,300 yards and 34 TDs while rushing for 270 yards and eight scores as a senior. Earned All-Metro Large School MVP honors as a junior by combining for more than 2,200 total yards and 31 TDs. Played for Coach Jack Phillips.

Personal: Born April 8, 1982 in New Orleans. The son of Judy and Russell Mason. Majoring in social sciences.

Elpheage's Career Stats							
DEFENSIVE							
Year	G/GS	UT-AT-TT	TFL	Sacks	FF/FR	PBU	Int
2000	11/5	35-9-44	0-0	0-0	0/2	14	3-7
2001	12/12	43-16-59	1-1	0-0	1/0	14	3-87
2002	13/13	51-17-68	1-2	0-0	2/1	21	8-133
Career	36/30	129-42-171	2-3	0-0	3/3	49	14-227
KICKOFF RETURNS							
Year	G/GS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	LP/Opp.	
2000	11/5	2	31	15.5	0	22/Cincinnati	
2001	12/12	17	374	22.0	0	59/UCF	
2002	13/13	18	453	25.2	1	52/TCU	
Career	36/30	37	858	23.2	1	59/UCF	
PUNT RETURNS							
Year	G/GS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	LP/Opp.	
2000	11/5	1	1	1.0	0	1/East Carolina	
2001	12/12	19	133	7.0	1	64/Southern	
2002	13/13	28	463	16.5	1	60/Hawai'i	
Career	36/30	48	597	12.4	2	64/Southern	