



SAM OKUAYINONU

DL × MARYLAND

91

6-1 × 269 × 5.1.98 × LOWELL, MA × 3RD YEAR × ACQUIRED FA IN '23

GOLDMINE

- Okuayinonu, a native of Monrovia, Liberia, did not grow up playing football and dreaming of being an NFL player. Instead, he grew up loving the game of soccer, a much more prevalent sport in his home country.
- At the age of 12, he and his family fled from Liberia to the United States to escape the country's civil war, settling in Lowell, Massachusetts. Even after immigrating to the US, his love of American football took a bit longer to develop. It wasn't until his junior year of high school that his cousin introduced him to the game. "I actually quite hated football when I first started playing," Okuayinonu said. "I tried it out my junior year of high school, but I didn't really like it. So, I ended up quitting I think three or four games into the season and went back to playing soccer."
- He decided to give football another try during his senior year, which is when he began to take it seriously and ultimately fell in love with the sport. Okuayinonu instantly found success on the field and decided that he would work hard to play professionally.

OKUAYINONU'S GOLDEN NUGGETS

- Is of Liberian and Nigerian descent.
- Last name is pronounced oh-koo-WAH-new.
- Okuayinonu has his mother's middle name 'Deakonti' tattooed on his right forearm. In his native language, Bassa, the word means 'Everything has time.' He has used this phrase to remain motivated during difficult times in his life, including the ups and downs of playing professional football.



OKUAYINONU'S CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	TEAM	GP	GS	TACKLES		AST	SACKS	YDS	INT	YDS	INTERCEPTIONS		PD	FUMBLES		
				TOT	SOL						LG	TD		FF	FR	YDS
2022	Ten	6	0	11	3	8	0.5	4.0	0	0	–	0	0	0	0	0
2024	SF	16	3	35	25	10	3.0	15.0	0	0	–	0	1	1	0	0
TOTALS		22	3	46	28	18	3.5	19.0	0	0	–	0	1	1	0	6

Milestones:

NFL Debut: at Was. (10/9/22); **First Sack:** Regular Season – at LAR (9/22/24); **First FF:** Regular Season – vs. NE (9/29/24)

OKUAYINONU'S CAREER HIGHS

Total Tackles: Regular Season – 4 at Arz. (1/5/25)

Solo: Regular Season – 3 vs. Chi. (12/8/24)

Assists: Regular Season – 3 at GB (11/17/22)

Sacks: Regular Season – 1.0 (3 times) Last vs. Dal. (10/27/24)

Forced Fumbles: Regular Season – 1 vs. NE (9/29/24)

Passes Defensed: Regular Season – 1 vs. Chi.(12/8/24)

OKUAYINONU'S TRANSACTIONS

Originally signed as an undrafted free agent with Ten. on 5/13/22...Waived by Ten. on 8/30/22...Signed to Ten. practice squad on 8/31/22...Promoted to Ten. active roster on 10/4/22...Waived by Ten. on 12/6/22...Re-signed to Ten. practice squad on 12/8/22... Promoted to Ten. active roster on 12/29/22...Waived by Ten. on 12/30/22...Re-signed to Ten. practice squad on 1/3/23...Signed to Reserve/Future contract with Ten. on 1/10/23...Waived by Ten. on 8/29/23... Signed to Ten. practice squad on 8/30/23...Released from Ten. practice squad on 8/31/23...Signed to SF practice squad on 1/10/24...Signed to Reserve/Future contract with SF on 2/13/24...Waived by SF on 8/29/24...Signed to SF practice squad on 9/2/24...Activated from SF practice squad on 9/9/24...Reverted back to SF practice squad on 9/10/24...Activated from SF practice squad on 9/21/24...Reverted back to SF practice squad on 9/23/24...Promoted to SF active roster on 9/28/24.

2024 (SAN FRANCISCO)

- Appeared in 16 games (3 starts) and registered 35 tackles, 6.0 tackles for loss, a career-high 3.0 sacks, 1 PD and 1 FF.
- Registered 1 tackle and 1.0 sack of Rams QB Matthew Stafford at LAR (9/22), which marked the first full sack of his career.
- Registered 2 tackles and 1 FF vs. NE (9/29), which marked the first FF of his career.
- Registered 2 tackles and 1.0 sack of Seahawks QB Geno Smith at Sea. (10/10).
- Tallied 1 tackle and 1.0 sack of Cowboys QB Dak Prescott vs. Dal. (10/27) which marked his 3rd sack of the season and 3.5 in his career.
- Notched a career-high 4 tackles at Arz. (1/5/25).

2022 (TENNESSEE)

- Appeared in 6 games and registered 11 tackles and a 0.5 sack.
- Registered a season-high 3 tackles vs. Den. (11/13).
- Registered a season-high 3 tackles and a 0.5 sack on Packers QB Jordan Love at GB (11/17/22).

COLLEGE

Appeared in 28 games (17 starts) in three seasons at Maryland (2019-21) and registered 103 tackles, 14.5 TFLs and 7.5 sacks after spending one year (2017) at Mesabi Range Community College (MN). As a redshirt senior in 2021, received third team All-Big Ten recognition after starting all 12 games and registering 55 tackles, 8.5 TFLs and a team-leading 6.0 sacks. In 2020, appeared in 5 games (4 starts) and registered 17 tackles, 1.5 TFLs and 0.5 sack. As a junior, appeared in 11 games (1 start) and registered 31 tackles, 4.5 TFLs and 1.0 sack. Transferred to Maryland from Mesabi Range Community College. In 2018, was named the Minnesota College Athletic Conference Defensive Player of the Year after starting in all 10 games and registering 62 tackles, 21.5 TFLs, 17.5 sacks, 1 FF and 1 FR.

PERSONAL

- Majored in African-American Studies and Kinesiology at Maryland.
- Mother is Clara Okuayinonu.
- Attended Lowell (MA) HS and was rated a three-star recruit by 247Sports after just one year of football.
- Born Samuel Okuayinonu (5/1/98) in Monrovia, Liberia.

OKUAYINONU'S GAME-BY-GAME

2022 (Tennessee)

Date	Opp	W/L	P/S	Tot	Sol	Ast	Sk	Yds	Int	Yds	PD	FF	FR	Yds
Sep 11	NYG	L	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sep 19	at Buf	L	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sep 25	LV	W	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Oct 2	at Ind	W	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Oct 9	at Was	W	1	0	0	1	0.5	4.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oct 23	Ind	W	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Oct 30	at Hou	W	1	0	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nov 6	at KC	L	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nov 13	Den	W	3	2	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nov 17	at GB	W	3	0	3	0	0.5	2.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nov 27	Cin	L	2	0	2	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dec 4	at Phi	L	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dec 11	Jax	L	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dec 18	at LAC	L	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dec 24	Hou	L	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dec 29	Dal	L	1	1	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jan 7	at Jax	L	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS			6/0	1	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0

2024 (San Francisco)

Date	Opp	W/L	P/S	Tot	Sol	Ast	Sk	Yds	Int	Yds	PD	FF	FR	Yds
SIGNED TO SF PRACTICE SQUAD ON 9/2														
ACTIVATED FROM SF PRACTICE SQUAD ON 9/9														
Sep 9	NYJ	W	1/0	2	1	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
REVERTED BACK TO PRACTICE SQUAD ON 9/10														
Sep 15	at Min	L	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
ACTIVATED FROM SF PRACTICE SQUAD ON 9/21														
Sep 22	at LAR	L	1/0	1	1	0	1.0	7.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
REVERTED BACK TO PRACTICE SQUAD ON 9/23														
PROMOTED TO SF ACTIVE ROSTER ON 9/28														
Sep 29	NE	W	1/0	2	2	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Oct 6	Arz	L	1/0	1	0	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oct 10	at Sea	W	1/0	2	2	0	1.0	6.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oct 20	KC	L	1/0	3	2	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oct 27	Dal	W	1/0	1	1	0	1.0	2.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nov 10	at TB	W	1/0	2	2	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nov 17	Sea	L	1/0	3	2	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nov 24	at GB	L	1/1	3	1	2	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dec 1	at Buf	L	1/1	2	1	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dec 8	Chi	W	1/1	3	3	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Dec 12	LAR	L	1/0	2	1	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dec 22	at Mia	L	1/0	2	2	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dec 30	Det	L	1/0	2	2	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jan 5	at Arz	L	1/0	4	2	2	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS			16/3	35	25	10	3.0	15.0	0	0	1	1	0	0