

Justin Tuck

Super Bowl Champion and All-Pro Defensive End for the New York Giants

Justin Tuck was born and raised in the small town of Kellytown, Alabama. Although if you were to visit there today, one might over hear it being called “Tuckville” due to the 150+ family members who make up a good portion of the 700-person population. Tuck is one of seven children and many of his relatives live on the same street.

While at Central Coosa County High School, Tuck started out as quarterback before changing positions to tight end and then defensive end. He earned Alabama Class 4A Player of the Year as a senior in 2000 as well as lettering in football at both linebacker and tight end. Tuck’s journey to Notre Dame University could be described as an accidental one. While recruiting another player, a Notre Dame assistant became lost in the country roads of Central Alabama while looking for Tuscaloosa. It was at this time that he accidentally stumbled upon Tuck.

After redshirting his freshman year at Notre Dame in 2001, Tuck played sparingly in his sophomore season, only seeing 180 minutes of action. Despite his limited playing time, Tuck was named a third-team freshman All-American by *The Sporting News*. Tuck holds several defensive records at Notre Dame and finished his career there with 24.5 sacks. His 43 career tackles for loss and 13.5 sacks in a single season are also school records. Tuck was voted the Irish’s Most Valuable Player in 2004.

Tuck entered the 2005 NFL Draft and was selected 74th overall by the New York Giants. He finished his first season with 33 total tackles, one sack, two passes defended, one forced fumble, and 18 special teams tackles. In 2007 he posted 10 sacks and 65 tackles and was a major contributor on the Giants defensive line that led the NFL in sacks (53) during the 2007 season. In the off-season in 2008, Tuck signed a five-year extension with the Giants and went on to record a career-best 12.0 sacks the following season en route to Pro Bowl honors. He notched a game-high 2.0 sacks along with six tackles and one forced fumble in the Giants stunning win over the New England Patriots in Super Bowl XLII. Tuck kicked off the 2009 season as Week 1 NFC Defensive Player of the Week. He recorded 11.5 sacks and 76 total tackles in 2010 en route to his second career Pro Bowl selection. The following year, Tuck was named as an alternate to the 2011 Pro Bowl and All-Pro teams and has most recently been named as one of the Top 100 Players in the NFL.

Tuck’s dominant performance in Super Bowl XLII led to serious attention from major media outlets. In the days following the game, Tuck appeared on the CBS’s *The Early Show*, MTV’s *TRL*, ESPN’s hit radio show *Mike & Mike* and Fox Business Live among others. Since then, Tuck has starred in three national TV spots for Subway, Nike and Electronic Arts.

Outside of football, Tuck’s philanthropic passion is helping children overcome illiteracy. He and his wife Lauren have developed R.U.S.H. for Literacy for the children in his hometown community in Alabama as well as underserved children in New York. Tuck’s program donates money and thousands of new books to children to help instill the ideals of reading at an early age. Tuck is also a member of Ronnie Lott’s All Stars Helping Kids.