

KEVIN LEWIS

Kevin Lewis is a homegrown man of the community. Kevin was reared in the inner-city of Orlando spending much of his time in the downtown Parramore area as well as the Mercy Drive area of west Orlando. These low income areas were very tough, drug infested and riddled with crime. Kevin attended Kaley Elementary, Meadowbrook Middle and Jones High schools.

During his early years, Kevin played little league football and basketball. AAU basketball gave him an opportunity to travel and compete at a high level. Because of the cost of these trips, Kevin learned how to fundraise and the important teaching of his mom about having good grades. "We had to always go out and raise money in order to finance these AAU trips, jersey's and shoes. We did candy sales, car washes, fish fries and barbeques and also made appeals to corporate sponsors. We found it was always easier telling sponsors and patrons about our grades in the classroom. That always seemed to get us more money."

Kevin continued on the path of seeking a good education and also maintained his focus in athletics. He lettered in basketball, track, weightlifting, and football at Jones High school. Because Kevin excelled in sports he was offered multiple scholarships in basketball and football. Kevin or should we say his mom, chose Duke. At Duke Kevin excelled on the field. So much so, as a true freshman at the age of seventeen, Kevin started the first game of the year against #1 ranked Florida State. "At Duke I was given a chance to grow into adulthood in a high competitive structure that forced the best from you." During his senior year, Kevin prepared for the NFL draft while still finishing school.

Then, tragedy struck. Kevin found out his best friend and closest confidant, his brother, had been arrested and sent to prison. Shortly after that, the NFL draft came and went without Kevin's name ever being called. "This gave me even more motivation to succeed and reach my full potential." Through prayer and God, Kevin was not only able to stay focused and graduate from Duke University with two degrees, he also was invited to camp by the New York Football Giants. "I always tried to live with the motto, if someone cracks the door; I'm going to kick it down." He did by turning an undrafted rookie free-agent opportunity, into a six year NFL career, two years as a starter, and became the only Giant in history to play all three linebacker positions in the same game. Kevin played in Super Bowl XXXV.

While Kevin was in the NFL, he never forgot about home. "I look at the inner cities of Orlando and don't dwell on the bad, I see an opportunity to do some good and help change lives and most importantly, generations." Kevin has always put his money where his mouth is as he has spear headed initiatives in his community through church organizations and at his alma mater, Jones High School's sports programs. Because of his hard work and dedication, Kevin was recognized by his beloved City and presented with the Key to the City and given his own, "Kevin Lewis Day in 2005" recognized every January 20th. Kevin has a beautiful wife Tameika Lewis MD an OBGYN of Women's center for Excellence, and the cutest daughter, Kallie Lewis now one year old.