

Weston Dressler: Big Deal in Small Package

SCOOTER PURSLEY Pigskin Preview

Weston Dressler was too small to play high school football, so he went out and became a three-time all-state player while leading Bismarck High School to a state Class A championship. All he did as a senior was run for 2,100 yards and 40 touchdowns.

At 5-foot-7 and 170 pounds, he was definitely too small to take the pounding at the University of North Dakota. All he did was catch 76 passes for 1,272 yards and 13 touchdowns as senior. In four years, he caught 243 passes for 3,382 yards and 37 touchdowns.

Dressler was most definitely too small to play beyond college, until the Saskatchewan Roughriders signed him in 2008. In 10 Canadian Football League seasons since, Dressler has caught 670 passes for 9,491 yards and 56 touchdowns. He's rushed for 438 yards, returned 126 punts for 1,280 yards and three scores and brought back 36 kicks 718 yards.

He hasn't just had a decade-long career in the CFL, he is a two-time all-star, a four-time division all-star and the Most Outstanding Rookie in 2008.

Dressler insists he never had an I'll-show-them attitude, but there were doubters.

"People definitely doubted it, but it was never a motivator to me," Dressler said. "When I was younger I was more naïve to the fact that maybe I shouldn't be playing because I was smaller. It was something I liked doing, so why not keep doing it? I have always been smaller than 99 percent of the guys on the field with me."

Dressler remains a big thing in Canada where he lives with his wife and young son



THE DRESSLER FILE

- CFL All-Star, 2012, 2013
- West Division All-Star, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2013
- CFL Most Outstanding Rookie, 2008
- Jackie Parker Trophy (Most Outstanding Rookie, West Division), 2008
- Saskatchewan Roughriders Most Outstanding Player, 2011, 2012
- CFL Players Association All-Star, 2012

2017: Blue Bombers

- Injuries limited Dressler to 11 games in 2017, but he was still productive as he finished with 51 receptions for 691 yards and three touchdowns.
- Finished with seven carries for 67 yards, as well.
- Led the Bombers in receiving in five of his 11 games and posted three of their five 100-yard receiving efforts. Now has 31 100-yard receiving games in his career, ranking him in the CFL's Top 20, and 61 TDs.

2016: Blue Bombers

- Appeared in 14 games and led the club in receiving with 1,003 yards on 80 receptions.
- Ranked 15th in the CFL in receiving yards and 16th in yards from scrimmage.

- Among his 80 catches in 2016 were seven receptions for 30-plus yards and 16 for second-down conversions.

2008-15: Saskatchewan Roughriders

- Spent eight seasons with the Riders where he was their leading receiver three times (2008, 2009, 2012). During that time, he ranked first overall on the club's receiving list with 7,797 yards on 539 receptions for 50 TDs.
- Was part of the 2013 Riders Grey Cup team.
- Signed a futures contract with Kansas City in 2014 and returned to Saskatchewan as a free agent in August 2014.

College

- Dressler spent four seasons at the University of North Dakota where he set a school record with 1,272 receiving yards on 76 receptions in 2007.
- Finished his career at UND ranked first all-time with 3,382 yards on 243 catches and 38 touchdowns.
- Left North Dakota with 19 school records to his credit and was voted the school's Athlete of the Year in 2007-08.
- Named All-American by five different organizations and collected three consecutive Academic All-North Central Conference selections.
- Selected all-conference four straight years.