

Rowan Baptiste Jr. – Football Mentor, Coach, and Former Professional Athlete

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Rowan Baptiste Jr. is a distinguished football coach, mentor, and former professional athlete whose journey exemplifies resilience, leadership, and excellence on and off the field. Born and raised in Mattapan, Massachusetts, Rowan overcame significant challenges, including exposure to street violence and adversity, by channeling his energy into athletics and mentorship. His passion for football became the foundation for a career dedicated to empowering youth and fostering character development through sports.

Playing Career

- High School:

Newton North High School (1991–1993): Varsity Running Back and Strong Safety; earned 1st Team State Honorable Mention for both offense and defense.

- Prep School:

Northfield Mount Hermon (1994): Key contributor to an 11–1 season, winning the New England Super Bowl Championship and earning 1st Team All-New England honors at Running Back and Strong Safety.

- College:

University of New Hampshire (1995–2000): Played Fullback and helped secure Conference Championships in 1995 and 1997.

- Professional:

Competed in the NFL Combines (2000) at Northwestern University, recognized as the Top-Performing Running Back among 300 elite athletes. Invited to the XFL Training Camp, showcasing elite speed, agility, and football IQ.

Played in the Indoor Professional Football League (2001–2003) as a Linebacker, contributing to a 2001 League Championship.

Coaching & Leadership

- Bentley University (2022–2023): Served as Linebacker Coach and Quality Control, focusing on athlete development and program excellence.

- NxtEra 7v7 Traveling Team (2024–Present): Mentors elite youth athletes in competitive football environments.

- Youth Development: Founder of 76 Visionary Academy and Visionary Sports Academy, creating innovative programs that combine athletic training with mentorship and leadership development.

Specialization: Rowan is highly regarded for his expertise in developing Linebackers and Defensive Backs, focusing on advanced techniques, speed, agility, and game intelligence to maximize performance at all levels.

Certifications & Expertise

- Certified Speed and Agility Instructor
- Certified in Bodyweight Training (ASFA)

Notable Events

- NextGen Regional Showcase (NJ, 2021)
- NextGen All-American Showcase (IMG Academy, FL, 2021)
- Adidas ProDay (MA, 2025)
- NxtEra National Traveling 7v7 Circuit

Rowan's legacy is defined by his commitment to excellence, both as an athlete and as a mentor. Today, he continues to inspire the next generation of football players, emphasizing discipline, resilience, and character as the keys to success.