

# DE DEREK BARNETT 96



**6-3 | 259** **Rookie**  
**BORN: June 25, 1996 (Age 21)**

**Brentwood, Tennessee**  
**Brentwood Academy**



**Tennessee**  
**D1-17 (14th overall)**  
**by Philadelphia**

Derek Barnett was selected by the Eagles with the 14th-overall pick in the 2017 NFL Draft following a highly-decorated, three-year career at the University of Tennessee. In 2016, Barnett was named first-team All-America by the *Associated Press* after registering 13.0 sacks, bringing his career total to 33.0 and surpassing Pro Football Hall of Famer and Eagles legend **Reggie White** for the school record.



## TOTAL PRESSURES

**NCAA EDGE DEFENDERS IN 2016**  
**(PRO FOOTBALL FOCUS)**

Hunter Dimick (Utah)	83
Derek Barnett (Tenn.)	78
Trey Hendrickson (FAU)	77

## MOST SACKS

**UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE HISTORY**



**DEREK BARNETT**  
**(2014-16)**  
**33.0**



**REGGIE WHITE**  
**(1980-83)**  
**32.0**

## COLLEGE HIGHLIGHTS

- Played in all 39 games (36 starts) during his three-year career at the University of Tennessee, where he set a new school record with 33.0 career sacks. Surpassed the previous record of 32.0 set by Pro Football Hall of Famer and Eagles legend **Reggie White** (1980-83)
- Compiled 52.0 TFL in his career, finishing 2nd all-time in school history behind **Leonard Little** (53.0 from 1995-97)
- Earned first-team All-America honors from the *Associated Press* as a junior in 2016 after registering a career-high 13.0 sacks with 56 total tackles, 19 TFL, 16 hurries and 2 FFs
- Named second-team All-SEC by the *Associated Press* after starting all 13 games and leading the team with 10.0 sacks as a sophomore in 2015. Also finished 3rd on the Volunteers defense with 69 total tackles

## TACKLES FOR LOSS

**UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE HISTORY**

53.0	Leonard Little (1995-97)
52.0	Derek Barnett (2014-16)



## MOTHER'S INSPIRATION

Barnett considers his mother, Christine, his best friend and inspiration. Christine, who works in a UPS warehouse and at times has held three jobs to support her three children, instilled a humble attitude in Barnett at an early age.

"She always told me, 'Stay humble and put your head down and just work.' I think I get that attitude from her. Even though she worked a lot, she was still always there and made sure I had everything I needed."

Barnett noted in his pre-draft *Players' Tribune* article that his mother deserves to be taken care of for all of her hard work, but she admirably prefers to live her life as usual.

"She's already told me that she's going to keep her same job at the UPS warehouse — on her feet, sweating, sorting packages on a tight deadline — even after I make it to the league."



## NFL DRAFT COVER LETTER

Prior to the 2017 NFL Draft, Barnett penned a letter in *The Players' Tribune* to the league's general managers.

"I just thought it was a great way to express my feelings, and my mom thought it would be a good idea to get that letter out as well."

Barnett expressed his admiration for Reggie White, whose career sacks record he broke at the University of Tennessee, but assured readers that his work was not done yet.

"Right now, you might know me as the kid who broke Reggie White's sack record at Tennessee, but that's not the only thing I'm going to be remembered for by the time I leave this game. I promise you that."

## REGGIE WHITE'S RECORD

As a junior at the University of Tennessee in 2016, Barnett set a new school record with 33.0 career sacks, surpassing the previous record of 32.0 set by Pro Football Hall of Famer and Eagles legend Reggie White (1980-83). After breaking the record, Barnett received a phone call from Sara White.

"She was just congratulating me on everything I've accomplished. Even though I broke the record, I told her Reggie is still Reggie. I don't think I'm better than Reggie. It meant a lot."

Along with watching film of White, Barnett admires the games of several other NFL players, past and present. "I like watching [Seahawks DE] Michael Bennett play. I like his demeanor. He uses his hands very well. When I was younger, [Pro Football Hall of Famer and former Giants DE] Michael Strahan was one of the best to do it. I look up to a lot of those guys."

## MAKING AN IMPRESSION

Prior to the 2017 NFL Combine, Barnett caught the flu and his numbers were not as good as he originally anticipated. However, that did not keep him from making an impression on NFL teams, especially the Eagles.

"I caught the flu a few days before we ran, and I knew I probably wasn't going to test my best. But I knew it was an important job interview and I knew I had to go out there and grind it out. I told myself to just go out there and do my best and control what I can control, and I did so."

## BIRDSEED

Barnett lettered at Brentwood Academy (Brentwood, TN), where he earned numerous all-state honors as a defensive end. As a senior, Barnett recorded 60 tackles, 18 TFL, 5.5 sacks and 1 FF and helped lead his team to a state semifinal berth.

Barnett began playing football at an early age as both a guard and defensive end. He developed an immediate love for the game.

"The first time I picked it up, I started playing football in fifth grade, and I always used to play backyard football when I was younger. When I picked it up the first day of practice I had a blast, and I knew I was going to go a long way with it."

Barnett majored in communication studies at Tennessee.



BARNETT'S COLLEGE STATISTICS															
Year	Team	GP/S	TACKLES					PASS DEFENSE						FUMBLES	
			Total	Solo	Asst	TFL	Sacks	Int	Yds	Lg	TD	PD	Hur	FF	FR
2014	Tennessee	13/10	72	47	25	20.5	10.0	0	0	--	0	0	8	0	1
2015	Tennessee	13/13	69	44	25	12.5	10.0	0	0	--	0	1	7	1	1
2016	Tennessee	13/13	56	40	16	19.0	13.0	1	7	7	0	5	16	2	0
<b>Totals</b>		<b>39/36</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>52.0</b>	<b>33.0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>

Eagles Executive Vice President of Football Operations Howie Roseman on Derek Barnett

“He stands for what we want to be, and I think everyone in this city will see what kind of person he is, what kind of player he is. Unbelievably high character, unbelievable worker, and tremendously talented and productive.”



## COLLEGE HIGHLIGHTS (Continued)

- Named second-team All-SEC by the *Associated Press* as a freshman in 2014. Earned Freshman All-America honors by the *Football Writers Association of America* and was selected to the Freshman All-SEC team. Set true-freshman school records with 10.0 sacks and 20.5 TFL, while notching a career-high 72 total tackles

## TRANSACTIONS

**2017** Drafted by PHI in 1st round (14th overall)  
Signed 4-year contract