

# T HALAPOULIVAATI VAITAI 72



**6-6 | 320**  **2nd Year**  
**BORN: June 16, 1993 (Age 24)**

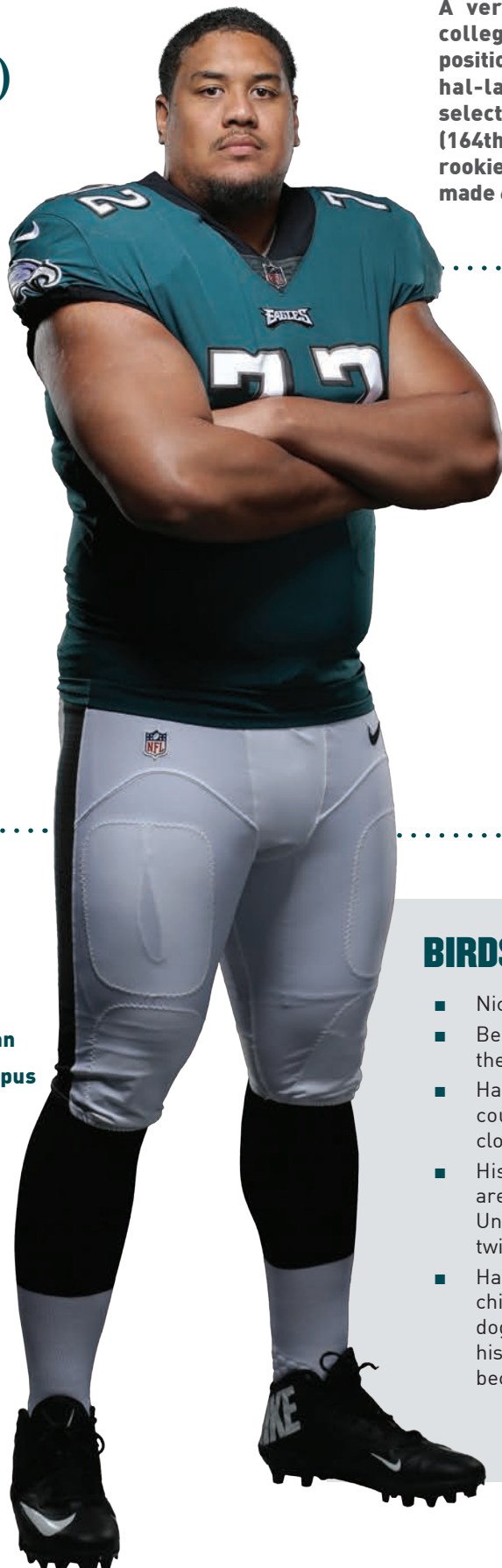


**Haltom,  
Texas** ☆

**Haltom  
High School**



**Texas Christian**  
**D5b-16 (164th overall)**  
**by Philadelphia**



A versatile offensive lineman who has college experience playing both tackle positions, **Halapoulivaati Vaitai** (pronounced hal-lah-poo-lee-VAH-tee VIE-tie) was selected by the Eagles in the fifth round (164th overall) of the 2016 NFL Draft. In his rookie season, Vaitai played in 7 games and made 6 starts at RT for the Eagles.

## CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- Filled in at RT for the Eagles as a rookie in 2016, appearing in 7 games with 6 starts
- Started and played in his first-career NFL game, lining up at RT in a Week 6 divisional matchup at Was. (10/16/16)

## COLLEGE HIGHLIGHTS

- Competed in 42 games (31 starts) at both tackle positions for TCU (2012-15), where he was a two-time All-Big 12 second-team selection

## THREE STEP DROP

If he could play another sport:  
**WWE wrestler**

If he could be any superhero: **Batman**

Strangest thing he likes to eat: **Octopus**

Favorite athlete as a kid: **Yao Ming**

Favorite athlete to watch now:  
**Jason Peters**

Favorite meal:  
**Hamburger and french fries**

Favorite movies:  
**Action, comedies, thrillers**

Favorite TV shows: **Fresh Prince of Bel-Air and Friends**

Favorite music: **Enjoys all types of music, but is particularly fond of country and island reggae**

Favorite quote: **"I don't have to do this, I get to do this."**

## BIRDSEED

- Nickname is 'Big V'
- Began playing flag football in first grade for the Packers
- Halapoulivaati is named after his father's cousin. "He and my dad are extremely close," says Big V, "They're like brothers."
- His parents, Talikavili and Shirley Vaitai, are originally from Tonga and moved to the United States in the 1980s. He has younger twin brothers named Kevin and Will
- Has two dogs: a terrier named Abby and a chihuahua named Coffee. Abby was a rescue dog that his fiance, Caitlin, gave to him for his birthday. He named his chihuahua Coffee because he is hyper



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## BAND OF BROTHERS

Halapoulivaati is the oldest of three Vaitai brothers. Twins Kevin and Will are just 11 months younger than 'Big V' and the three played on the offensive line together at Haltom (TX) HS. After playing TE as a freshman, 'Big V' moved to RT as a sophomore and immediately earned a starting job. That year, he was joined on the o-line by Kevin (LG) and Will (RG). Big V stayed at RT for his final two years at Haltom, while Kevin moved to C and Will moved to LG.

## POLYNESIAN ROOTS

Vaitai learned to play the guitar at a young age when his cousin taught him three chords. He plays by ear and does not read music. "Polynesians are very musically talented and they always play by ear. I also know how to play the ukulele, but prefer the guitar because it's bigger." Growing up, Vaitai and his family ate a lot of traditional Polynesian foods. "Roasted pig is a staple and spinach is a main ingredient in every dish."



## APPLIED LEARNING

Vaitai majored in criminal justice at TCU with a minor in social work. After his playing career is over, he wants to work for the Department of Homeland Security. In Fall 2015, Vaitai interned with Youth Advocate Programs, Inc., an agency that provides direct service to vulnerable and high-need youth and families. As a part of his internship, 'Big V' was paired with a sixth grader who suffered from severe ADHD. "My job was to mentor him and take him out after school. It was a very eye-opening experience. The hardest part of the job is having to shut down your feelings and emotions. You get exposed to serious and dire living conditions, but our only job is to be a big brother to the kids. We can't try to fix everything."

## CAREER HIGHLIGHTS (Continued)

- As a senior in 2015, was awarded with second-team All-Big 12 accolades after starting in 11 of 12 contests, anchoring an o-line that contributed to a 1,000-yard receiver and a 1,000-yard rusher in the same season for just the second time in TCU history
- Earned All-Big 12 second-team honors in 2014 after starting at right tackle for all 13 games. Was part of an offense that ranked second in the nation in scoring (46.5 ppg) and tied for fifth in total offense (533.0 ypg), in addition to setting single-season school records for points (604), passing yards (4,240), total yards (6,929), first downs (331) and plays (1,038)

## TRANSACTIONS

**2016** Drafted by PHI in 5th round (164th overall)  
Signed 4-year contract

VAITAI'S CAREER SERVICE						
			STARTS		OFF SNAPS	
Year	Team	GP/S	RT	LT	No	Pct
2016	Philadelphia	7/6	6	0	423	37%
2017	Philadelphia	9/3	1	2	326	52%
<b>Totals</b>		<b>16/9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	---	---