

ORIGINAL COPY

He feels that he is a simple down to earth guy who is full of contradictions. While he considers himself an animal lover aware of their rights Tyrone Wheatley still wears leather and alligator shoes. "That's what I mean about contradictions. Just go figure," he said with a laugh.

Tyrone was the oldest in his family of three boys as well as being the oldest grandson in an extended family of ten. He was strong and independent as a small child and this strength of character continued throughout his formative years. "I had to find my niche and learn on the go. I became a pretty strong young man." Tyrone and his neighborhood buddies enjoyed the carefree days so synonymous with growing up. "We used to play a game called 'Ding Dong Ditch', where everybody gets on the porch and rings a doorbell and then we would all run." They used to love to open gates and let the dogs of the neighborhood out, free to run and play with them. These happy-go-lucky untroubled days came to a sudden end when at the age of twelve when he lost his father. "I had to grow up fast. At this point I said this is what I have to do." It was during this period of his life that Tyrone became much more sports and family oriented.

Although just a tad over the age of thirty, Tyrone's present family is one child shy of a basketball team. His oldest son Tyrone Jr. is six, followed by Terius who is 5, Tyrique who is 3 and his baby girl Tiana who is only 6 months old. Tyrone along with his wife Kimberly spends countless hours enjoying parenting and all the challenges that go along with it.

Having the opportunity of going to the University of Michigan was of the utmost importance to Tyrone. As he explains it, "You never really talked about college; you never talked about the next level because where I grew up most of my uncles graduated high school and went right to the car factories. No one ever spoke about college and what it was like." The fact that he got to not only go to college, but also was able to be involved in a diverse atmosphere and was able to know and understand people from all walks of life made quite an impression on him.

When there is an opportunity for a little down time, you will in all probability find Tyrone outdoors. He loves to fish, go bow hunting and paint balling. When this season is over, you will find Tyrone at home getting his garden ready for the upcoming spring and summer planting. "I am a heck of a gardener. I have a green thumb. Every summer I go to Home Depot and buy all my annuals and perennials." He not only does the planting but also the landscaping. In fact, he is at this time highly critical of his sprinkler system. "There is a certain patch of grass that I'm kind of upset about that doesn't get the right amount of water," he explained. This man is very serious about his garden and heaven help anyone who dares to tread in his flower beds.

He has an incredible curiosity inside of him about so many things that have gone on in the past as well as in the present. He is always thinking and drawing conclusions; his wheels are always turning in fact they put in quite a bit of overtime. He feels that if he had the opportunity to experience the chance to go back in time, he would go back to the days of Hitler. "Maybe I could just figure out what was this guy's trip. What was his thought process? What would make you think that you could do the things that he did."

There are many more exciting years ahead of Tyrone both on a professional level as well as a personal level. He exudes so many positive qualities, qualities that he should be extremely proud of; his curiosity regarding the world around him, his athletic prowess, his dedication to his team and most of all his devotion to his family.



TEXT EDITED FOR CONTENT AND LENGTH

Tyrone Wheatley is man full of contradictions. While he considers himself a conscientious animal lover aware of their rights he still wears leather and alligator shoes. "That's what I mean about contradictions. Just go figure," he said with a laugh.

Tyrone is the oldest of three boys and the oldest grandson in an extended family of ten. He was strong and independent as a child and this strength of character continued throughout his formative years. Sadly, Tyrone lost his father when he was only twelve years old. "I had to grow up fast. At this point I said this is what I have to do."

Having the opportunity of going to the University of Michigan was of the utmost importance to Tyrone. "You never really talked about college; you never talked about the next level because where I grew up most of my uncles graduated high school and went right to the car factories."

Tyrone has an incredible curiosity. He's always thinking and drawing conclusions; his wheels are always turning overtime. If he had the opportunity to go back in time, he would go back to the days of Hitler. "Maybe I could just figure out what was this guy's trip. What was his thought process? What would make you think that you could do the things that he did."

Although he's just a tad over thirty, Tyrone's family is one child shy of a basketball team. His oldest son Tyrone Jr. is 6, followed by Terius, 5, Tyrique, 3 and his daughter Tiana is 6 months old. Tyrone and his wife Kimberly spend countless hours enjoying parenting and all the challenges that go along with it.

When there is an opportunity for a little down time, you can find Tyrone outdoors. He loves to fish, bow hunt and play paint ball. In the off season, Tyrone spends time at home getting his garden ready for the upcoming spring and summer planting. "I am a heck of a gardener. I have a green thumb. Every summer I go to Home Depot and buy all my annuals and perennials." He not only does the planting but also the landscaping. In fact, he is highly critical of his sprinkler system. "There is a certain patch of grass that I'm kind of upset about that doesn't get the right amount of water." This man is very serious about his garden and heaven help anyone who dares to tread in his flower beds.

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He is an imposing figure on the football field standing 6'6" and well over 300 pounds. Off the field, Lincoln Kennedy has many other interests that one would not equate with a fierce some lineman. When he is lucky enough to get a little time to himself, Kennedy loves to play video games. "I am really a kid at heart. I enjoy being a kid and playing with games and toys. I love puzzle and strategy games because I like to challenge my mind." When he is not playing with the computer, Kennedy loves to snuggle up with a good book. "I am very inquisitive and thirsty for knowledge. I believe that picking up a book and reading it is the best exercise that you can give your mind." His absolute favorite book of all time is *Where the Wild Things Are*, a children's book, one that he had as a kid. "To this day when I go into a classroom, I usually see it. I'll tell you, I never got tired of reading that book."

Being a bit of a loner as a kid and teenager, Kennedy tried to be as much of an extrovert as he could. "I tried to be as involved with as many things as possible as a kid because I enjoyed experimenting with activities whether it be sports or the arts." Kennedy found a real peace within himself through his studies, and of course sports played a major role in his life growing up. One of the things that he remembers as far as sound advice came from a teacher he had during his college years. It was one by Albert Einstein that goes a little something like this-creativity and imagination is more important than knowledge.

Lincoln is a very quiet, private person who loves spending time with family and close friends. He has raised four daughters with wife Crystal and relishes the fact that besides a wonderful family, he has also been blessed to have known some very good people on his life's journey. It is his fervent hope that he has touched these people's lives in some way, much the same way they have touched his life.

He is a sensitive man who expresses sadness at the state of affairs around the world as well as in his own backyard. "I am saddened by the troubles that are going on overseas with our soldiers as well as the troubles that we have here at home. The fact that we are one of the richest countries in the world, but we have one of the highest poverty levels throughout our cities saddens me."

When Kennedy's football days come to an end, there is the possibility of a teaching career looming in his future. He has even expressed becoming a principal someday.

There is the likelihood that one of these days in the not so distant future, in some school somewhere in the U.S. a student will hear over the loudspeaker these words, "will Johnny Smith please report to Principal Kennedy's office. Will Johnny walk with trepidation, sweating buckets because he has been called to mean ole Principal Kennedy's office? Not. More than likely, Johnny will be comforted in the fact that he is going to the office of one of the coolest principals his school has ever had. Lincoln is just like that.



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Lincoln Kennedy is an imposing figure on the football field, standing 6'6" and weighing well over 300 pounds.

Off the field, Lincoln has many other interests that one might not equate with a fearsome lineman. When he is lucky enough to have a little time to himself, Kennedy loves to play video games and snuggle up with a good book. "I am very inquisitive and thirsty for knowledge. I believe that picking up a book and reading it is the best exercise that you can give your mind." His absolute favorite book is *Where the Wild Things Are*, a book he had as a kid. "To this day when I go into a classroom, I usually see it. I'll tell you, I never got tired of reading that book."

A bit of a loner growing up, Kennedy tried to be as much of an extrovert as he could. "I tried to be as involved with as many things as possible as a kid because I enjoyed experimenting with activities, whether it be sports or the arts." Lincoln found a real peace within himself through his studies. One of his college professors once gave him very sound advice, an Albert Einstein paraphrase: creativity and imagination are more important than knowledge.

Lincoln is a very quiet, private person who loves spending time with family and close friends. He has raised four daughters with his wife Crystal, and feels blessed to have known some very good people on his life's journey. It is his fervent hope that he has touched these people's lives in some way, much the same way they have touched his life.

When Lincoln's football days come to an end, there is the possibility of a teaching career looming in his future. He has even expressed becoming a principal some day. There is little doubt he will be one of the coolest principals any school has ever had.