

Herman Johnson

2009 Arizona Cardinals Draft Selection

Round 5, Selection 31 – 167th Overall

G – Louisiana State University – 6-7, 382

OVERVIEW:

One of the most physically imposing players in college football, Johnson is a tremendous physical specimen. The biggest player to ever wear the purple and gold, Johnson would go on to start the final 38 games he appeared in, lining up at right offensive guard in three of those contests before taking over left guard duties.

Despite his massive frame and considerable bulk, Johnson is surprisingly light on his feet, registering sixteen down field blocks over the last two seasons. He shows very good mechanics for a player of his size and his road grading ability could see him shift to offensive tackle in the NFL, as he also has performed at right tackle during the earlier stages of his career with the Tigers.

Being the “big man on campus” is nothing new for Johnson. He was the largest baby born in Louisiana at the time, weighing in at 15 pounds and 14 ounces. The doctor who delivered Herman told his mother at the time he was born that he was a future LSU Tiger. To this day, the doctor who delivered him calls Herman’s mom each year, letting her know that no other baby has broken her record and that her baby is still the largest ever born in the state of Louisiana.

His mother, Karen Johnson, was a versatile athlete at LaSalle High School, and her son had many of her athletic traits. It was not until he enrolled at Denton High School that the “football bug” began to take hold. Still it took several years before the school’s coaching staff was able to convince him to give football a chance. Standing 6:05 at age fourteen, he was soon noticed for his hulking presence by the staff. “They told me I could get a scholarship to college, get an education and maybe go off to the NFL and be a millionaire,” Johnson said.

Affectionately nicknamed “House” by the Denton High School staff, Johnson was a standout offensive tackle, earning All-District first-team honors as a junior, and All-State first-team accolades in his final year. He was rated 30th on the Rival.com National Top 100 list, as that recruiting service also ranked him as the third-best prep tackle in the country.

During his senior season, the almost 400-pound lineman was a member of the Texas Top 100 and Midlands Sweet 66 squads. He graded 88% for blocking consistency and did not allow any quarterback sacks in 2003, before going on to excel at the U.S. Army All-American Bowl.

Louisiana State beat out Oklahoma, Oklahoma State and Houston for Johnson’s services. He appeared briefly in the Arkansas State and Mississippi State games before being granted a medical hardship in 2004. Prior to 2004 fall camp, he was bitten on his big toe by a spider back home. After being limited to just 42 offensive snaps, the LSU coaching staff decided to retain his four years of eligibility and shut him down for the rest of the season.

Johnson appeared in eleven games as a redshirt freshman in 2005, seeing most of his action on the field goal and PAT protection units. He started the Vanderbilt at right guard, logging 160 snaps for the season. He allowed two quarterback pressures and no sacks while collecting 26 key blocks/knockdowns.

Johnson played in twelve games, starting the final ten contests of the 2006 campaign. He earned two starting assignment at right guard for an injured Will Arnold before lining up at left guard for eight games. He posted 84 knockdowns/key blocks and played a big part in the team leading the Southeastern Conference and ranking 11th nationally with an average of 417.5 yards per game in total offense.

As a junior, Johnson started all fourteen games at left guard. He delivered 60 key blocks/ knockdowns to go with fifteen touchdown-resulting blocks. The big man also made eight down field blocks, as he allowed no quarterback sacks and just one pressure on 442 pass plays. With tackle Ciron Black and Johnson leading the way around the left side, the Tigers captured the national title while averaging 439.4 yards per game. For his efforts, Johnson was named to the All-Southeastern Conference first-team.

In 2008, Johnson repeated as an All-SEC first-team choice. He was also selected to the Associated Press All-American first-team. The offense failed to match their lofty numbers from their championship season, but still managed to average 368.1 yards per game. Their left guard recorded 64 knockdowns, fourteen touchdown-resulting blocks and eight down field blocks. He allowed 3.5 sacks and three pressures on 391 pass plays.

CAREER NOTES:

Johnson started the final 38 of 52 contests that he appeared in for the Tigers, including 35 at left guard and three others at right guard...Collected 237 knockdown blocks in his five seasons at Louisiana State, including 124 knockdowns, 29 touchdown-resulting blocks and 16 down field blocks during his final two campaigns...During his junior and senior seasons, he allowed only four quarterback pressures and 3.5 sacks on 833 pass plays.

2008 SEASON:

All-American first-team selection by the Associated Press, adding second-team honors from The Sporting News and the Walter Camp Foundation...All-Southeastern Conference first-team choice by the league's coaches and Associated Press...Started all thirteen games at left offensive guard...Graded 83.2% for blocking consistency, as he totaled 64 key blocks/knockdowns, fourteen touchdown-resulting blocks and eight down field blocks on 886 total plays...Allowed 3.5 quarterback sacks and three pressures on 391 pass plays...Helped the Tigers average 368.1 yards and 30.9 points per game...Also recorded an assisted tackle vs. Alabama.

2007 SEASON:

All-SEC first-team selection by the Associated Press and the league's coaches...Started all fourteen games at left offensive guard...Collected 60 key blocks/knockdowns with fifteen touchdown-resulting blocks and eight blocks down field...Charged with four penalties on a total of 1,030 plays...Allowed just one quarterback pressure and no sacks on 442 pass plays...Helped protect a backfield that ranked 11th in the nation in scoring (38.6 ppg), second in the SEC in rushing (214.2 ypg) and fourth in the league in total offense (439.4 ypg)...Recorded a solo tackle in the Florida clash.

2006 SEASON:

Johnson appeared in twelve games... Started each of the final ten games, lining up at right guard vs. Mississippi and Tulane before shifting to left guard for his last eight assignments...Registered 84 knockdowns/ key blocks and seven touchdown-resulting blocks while appearing in 649 snaps...Part of a unit that led the SEC and ranked 11th nationally in total offense (417.5 ypg) and paced the league while ranking ninth in the major college ranks in scoring (33.7 ppg)...Added a solo tackle in the Tennessee clash.

2005 SEASON:

Johnson played in eleven games, starting at right offensive guard vs. Vanderbilt...Made 26 knockdowns/key blocks, including two touchdown-resulting blocks while participating in 160 offensive snaps...Also saw considerable time on the field goal/PAT protection units... Helped the team average 374.1 yards in total offense and 29.5 points per game.

2004 SEASON:

Enrolled at LSU, but was granted a medical hardship due to an infection that developed in his big toe that was bitten by a spider ...Saw action for 13 plays vs. Arkansas State and 29 more vs. Mississippi State, totaling three knockdowns.

HIGH SCHOOL:

Attended Denton (TX) High School, playing football for head coach Gary Fischer...A standout offensive tackle, earning All-District first-team honors as a junior, and All-State first-team accolades in his final year...Rated 30th on the Rival.com National Top 100 list, as that recruiting service also ranked him as the third-best prep tackle in the country...During his senior season, the almost 400-pound lineman was a member of the Texas Top 100 and Midlands Sweet 66 squads...Graded 88% for blocking consistency and did not allow any quarterback sacks in 2003, before going on to excel at the U.S. Army All-American Bowl.

PERSONAL:

Communication and Sports Studies major, graduating in December, 2008...Son of Karen and the late Herman Johnson...Born Herman Johnson III on 1/29/85 in West Monroe, LA...Resides in Denton, TX.

PLAYER STATISTICS:

BLOCKING STATISTICS...Based on review of game film by our scouting department...SGP-season grade percentage...GM-games played...PLAY-amount of snaps played in...KB-key blocks (pancake/knockdowns)...TDB-touchdown resulting blocks... DWF-downfield blocks... PRS-pressures allowed...SKA-sacks allowed...High Grade Game-best graded game for the season.

| STATS | GM | SGP | PLAYS | KB | TDB | DWF | PRS | SKA | High Grade Game |
|-------|----|-------|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------------------|
| 2007 | 14 | 84.00 | 1030 | 60 | 15 | 8 | 1.0 | 0.0 | 90% vs. Mississippi |
| 2008 | 13 | 83.23 | 886 | 64 | 14 | 8 | 3.0 | 3.5 | 97% vs. Georgia Tech |
| TOTAL | 27 | 83.63 | 1916 | 124 | 29 | 16 | 4.0 | 3.5 | 97% vs. Georgia Tech |