

Football: Browns OL Ryan Miller released from hospital

Associated Press Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

Buffzone.com

BEREA, Ohio -- Browns offensive tackle Ryan Miller sustained a concussion during a blocking drill in practice Saturday, an injury that shook his teammates.

Miller, who is in his second season with Cleveland, was carted from the field and taken by ambulance to the Cleveland Clinic after he was hurt during one-on-one drills inside the team's indoor facility. Coach Rob Chudzinski said the 6-foot-7 Miller's condition has improved.

"He's doing well," Chudzinski said following practice. "He's responsive and it sounds like things are better at this point."

The Browns later said Miller has a concussion and has been released from the hospital.

Chudzinski did not see how Miller got hurt, and did not know if the head injury was the result of helmet-to-helmet contact.

Cleveland's players, wearing shoulder pads for the first time in training camp, were doing blocking drills when Miller wound up on the turf at 4:39 p.m. As medical personnel rushed to aid the motionless Miller, the music inside the field house was turned off and several players took off their helmets and dropped to a knee. After Miller was immobilized and strapped to a backboard, the entire Browns team and coaching staff huddled around the player and prayed.

"Anytime that happens you just pray and just hope for the best and hope everything is OK," linebacker D'Qwell Jackson said. "Coach gave us word that he is fine and that's a good thing. But those are the challenges and the scares that when you sign up for the game there's a possibility of something like that happening. I'll tell you what, it made everyone realize that at any moment anything can happen."

After the 320-pound Miller was wheeled from the building to be taken to the downtown hospital, the Browns continued their practice, which was moved indoors because of bad weather and closed to the public.

Chudzinski was given an update on Miller's condition during practice and relayed it to his players, who were relieved to hear Miller had improved.

"It's always tough to see your fellow linemen or one of your teammates go down like that," said Pro Bowl tackle Joe Thomas. "It's hard because obviously there are things more important than football and your health is certainly one of them. Sometimes it's hard to get back and focused on football when you see a guy laying there and not moving."

Thomas said Miller got hurt when "two helmets kind of hit in the wrong way, kind of a freak thing."

Miller was drafted by the Browns in the fifth round in 2012 out of Colorado. He appeared in eight games as a rookie, and got extended time in the fourth quarter of the season finale at Pittsburgh

after John Greco sustained a knee injury.

Miller was a four-year letter winner at Colorado, setting a school record with 48 career starts. He missed just two offensive plays over his final three seasons.

[Print This Page](#)


Niece's illness spurs Clemons' quest to excel in NFL

By **Bill Beckner Jr.**

VALLEY NEWS DISPATCH

Published: Sunday, July 28, 2013, 12:26 a.m.

Updated: Sunday, July 28, 2013

Wide receiver Toney Clemons won't be playing to help the Jacksonville Jaguars win games this season or to earn a big contract. What Clemons is playing for is priceless: his deep adoration for his 3-year-old niece, Maiyanna Clemons-McCarthy, who in May was diagnosed with Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma, a rare and inoperable type of brain tumor.

"I have dedicated the last two or three years to her, actually," said Clemons, a Valley graduate who is in training camp with the Jaguars and getting ready to start his second NFL season.

"Since she was born, and for decades to come, she'll continue to impress and inspire me. I wake up for her every day."

Clemons has a star tattoo on his shoulder with an "M" inside of it to honor Maiyanna, his knee-high sidekick and the daughter of his sister, former Valley track star Mycah Clemons.

"We're not going to mourn her while she is still with us," Toney said.

Clemons, 24, said his niece finished radiation treatments last week with results that brought some upbeat news: the tumor has shrunk.

The toddler continues to combat the illness, with her smile still lighting up a room as if nothing's changed.

"She is such a happy little girl," Clemons said. "I wake up every day thinking about watching her fight. She has reunited our family and the community."

Local fundraising efforts, as well as awareness-raising endeavors via social media, have been successful.

Maiy's Miracle Foundation has been the engine.

Clemons said the football program at Colorado, where he played two years of his college career after leaving Michigan, made a monetary donation.

The Jaguars also gave items for the family to auction.

Clemons would like nothing more than to stay by Maiyanna's side, but it's time for uncle Toney to go to work.

And he hopes a full season of experience — albeit one with more twists and turns than the routes in his playbook — will help propel him to a breakthrough season.

"I am a lot more calm, poised and focused because I know what to expect," Clemons said. "I have some personal goals to hit. First, I want to know my assignments. Second, I want to take every opportunity and maximize it. I want to show I can consistently do it. It wasn't just a one-time thing. And I want to make the clutch play look very routine."

About Bill Beckner Jr.

Valley News Dispatch Local Sports Editor Bill Beckner Jr. can be reached [via e-mail](#) or at 724-224-2696



[Mobile](#) | [Contact us](#)
[More Valley News Dispatch](#)

Valley News Dispatch

Clemons began his pro career with the [Steelers](#), who drafted him last year, released him after the preseason and then added him to the practice squad.

Jacksonville signed the 6-foot-2, 218-pound reserve wideout, and he played in four games, catching three passes for 41 yards.

Many believed the Steelers released Clemons because he dropped several passes during camp at St. Vincent. He rarely was targeted in the preseason, though, grabbing just one reception for 14 yards. Clemons has come to grips with the uncharacteristic showing.

"I wasn't there mentally 100 percent the way I should have been," he said.

"You live, and you learn. The biggest problem I had was that (the drops) carried over to the next day. Sometimes, you just have to get over things. I started to find myself as a player. You're going to make mistakes, but you have to be a pro about it."

Clemons spent a portion of his offseason in Florida, working out on the Miami (Fla.) campus.

Mostly, though, he's been in the area, working out in New Kensington with the Valley team.

"I feel comfortable working out at home," he said. "It's beneficial to me. It's good for the local kids to see me home. I like teaching them how to work."

Being home also prolonged his stay with Maiyanna, whom he wants to have as a guest as a Jaguars practice in the near future.

"That would be great for her," he said. "She enjoys football. She's always been around it."

Bill Beckner Jr. is the local sports editor of the Valley News Dispatch. Reach him at bbeckner@tribweb.com.

Copyright © 2013 — Trib Total Media
