



# A.J. EPENESA

## DEFENSIVE END

# 57

**6-6** **260** **2<sup>ND</sup> YEAR** 

**SEPTEMBER 15, 1998 (AGE 23)**

 **EDWARDSVILLE, IL**

 **EDWARDSVILLE HS**

 **IOWA**

 **DRAFT: 2020 (2<sup>ND</sup> RD)**

## SHOUTOUTS

- Blocked a 36-yard FG attempt by Jason Sanders vs. Mia (10/31/21).
- Per Next Gen Stats, his 9 QB pressures at Mia. (9/19/21) were the 3rd most by an NFL player in a single game since the start of 2020.
- Posted first sack of his NFL career vs. the Rams Jared Goff (9/27/20).
- A 3-year starter at Iowa, tallied 26.5 sacks, 8 forced fumbles and 101 tackles. Named 1st-team All-Big Ten in 2018 and 2019 after earning freshman All-Big Ten in 2017.
- Recorded 11.5 sacks, 14.5 tackles for loss and 4 forced fumbles in 2019 to earn 2nd-team All-America honors.
- Twice posted 2.5 sacks (vs. USC in Holiday Bowl, 12/27/19 and vs. Minnesota, 11/16/19), a career high.
- Packed the stat sheet in 2018 by leading the team in tackles for loss (16.5) and sacks (10.5) with 88 QB pressures, 4 forced fumbles and a blocked punt.
- Had 8 tackles, a strip sack that he returned for a 19-yard TD, and a blocked punt at Illinois (11/17/18).
- Notched first career college sack in his first career game vs. Wyoming's Josh Allen (9/2/17).



## FIRST-AND-10

**A.J. EPENESA** (EPP-uh-NESS-uh) is in his 2nd season in Buffalo after being selected by the Bills in the 2nd round (54th overall) in 2020.

## IF YOU HAVEN'T 'HERD'

### HOOP STAR

A three-sport star growing up, Epenesa played on the St. Louis Eagles AAU basketball team that featured Celtics star Jayson Tatum and former Iowa star Tyler Cook. "His athleticism is freaky," Cook told *The Athletic*. "When I was in eighth grade, I promise you A.J. was better than I was. I'm not going to lie about that at all. A freak athlete, man. People don't know how skilled of a basketball player he was, too. He could shoot it, put it on the deck... I talk to him about it every time I see him."

### IT CAN ONLY BE JARED

According to a story by *The Athletic*, A.J. Epenesa's middle name, Jared, came from his father's best friend in college. Former DT Jared DeVries used to lend his car in college to Eppy Epenesa, so he could drive 50 miles to see his fiancée (now wife) Stephanie and their newborn daughter, Samantha. "Naming him after Jared has to do with my friendship with Jared, which will stick for life," Eppy said. "I'm glad I did that. It's a blessing just to have Jared as my friend."

## PERSONAL

Full name: Andrew Jared Epenesa. Is the son of Stephanie and Espensa "Eppy" Epenesa. His father, a native of American Samoa, played DT at Iowa. Has a sister, Samantha, and two brothers, Eric, an outside linebacker at Iowa, and lose. Majored in communications. Fan of the St. Louis Cardinals. Played football, basketball and track in high school, scoring over 1,000 points in basketball and earning All-America honors as a discus thrower.



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## IF YOU HAVEN'T 'HERD'



### AIGA MEANS FAMILY IN SAMOA

Epenesa's twitter bio contains the flag of American Samoa. His Instagram account is @supersamoan94. The roots run much deeper. His father, Eppy, grew up in Pago Pago, Samoa and that lineage is ingrained in his life. Because of that, family is first for the Epenesas and A.J. is tattooed with birds, tortoise shells, fish, and leaves, all symbols of the Samoan culture. "I didn't have much exposure to Samoa growing up in Illinois," A.J. said. "But my dad tried his best to put his culture into our lives so that I can really embrace it and take pride in it, which I do."

## THE STAMPEDE

### FAVORITE TV SHOW:

Game of Thrones

### FIRST JOB:

Worked in the garage of a tire shop

### BIGGEST PET PEEVE:

People who don't wave back

### FAVORITE FOOD:

Steak

### FAVORITE MOVIE:

Dark Knight

### HIDDEN TALENT:

Plays the ukulele

### FAVORITE CEREAL AS A KID:

Cap'n Crunch

### DREAM VACATION SPOT:

Tokyo, Japan



## A.J. EPENESA'S NFL REGULAR SEASON DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

| DATE          | TEAM  | GP        | TACKLES  |           |           |          |          |           |            |             |           |          | INTERCEPTIONS |          |          |          |          | FUMBLES  |          |          |          | ST       |          |          | MISC     |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |   |
|---------------|-------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|------------|-------------|-----------|----------|---------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|---|
|               |       |           | GS       | TK        | S         | A        | TFL      | YDS       | SK         | YDS         | QBH       | NO       | YDS           | LG       | TD       | PD       | FF       | FR       | TD       | YDS      | TK       | S        | A        | FF       | FR       | S        | A        |          |          |          |          |          |          |   |
| 2020          | Bills | 14        | 1        | 14        | 11        | 3        | 3        | 6         | 1.0        | 2.0         | 4         | 0        | 0             | 0        | 0        | 1        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0 |
| 2021          | Bills | 14        | 0        | 14        | 8         | 6        | 2        | 14        | 1.5        | 13.0        | 9         | 0        | 0             | 0        | 0        | 1        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        |   |
| <b>TOTALS</b> |       | <b>28</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>28</b> | <b>19</b> | <b>9</b> | <b>5</b> | <b>20</b> | <b>2.5</b> | <b>15.0</b> | <b>13</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b>      | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> |   |

## A.J. EPENESA'S NFL POSTSEASON DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

| DATE          | TEAM  | GP       | TACKLES  |          |          |          |          |          |            |            |          |          | INTERCEPTIONS |          |          |          |          | FUMBLES  |          |          |          | ST       |          |          | MISC     |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |
|---------------|-------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|------------|------------|----------|----------|---------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
|               |       |          | GS       | TK       | S        | A        | TFL      | YDS      | SK         | YDS        | QBH      | NO       | YDS           | LG       | TD       | PD       | FF       | FR       | TD       | YDS      | TK       | S        | A        | FF       | FR       | S        | A        |          |          |          |          |          |          |
| 2020          | Bills | 3        | 0        | 3        | 3        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 1        | 0        | 0             | 0        | 0        | 1        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        |
| 2021          | Bills | 2        | 0        | 2        | 0        | 2        | 0        | 0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0        | 0        | 0             | 0        | 0        | 1        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        |
| <b>TOTALS</b> |       | <b>5</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>5</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b>      | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> |

## SINGLE-GAME HIGHS: DEFENSIVE

**Total Tackles** 3 vs. Miami Dolphins, Oct 31, 2021  
**Sacks** 1.0 vs. New York Jets, Jan 09, 2022

**Passes Defensed** 1 at Denver Broncos, Dec 19, 2020  
**Tackles For Loss** 1 vs. New York Jets, Jan 09, 2022



### 2021 GAME-BY-GAME REGULAR-SEASON STATISTICS (BILLS)

| DATE               | OPP           | P/S | TACKLES          |           |          |          |            |             |          | INTERCEPTIONS |          |          |          |          | FUMBLES  |          |          |          | ST       |          |          | MISC     |          |          | W/L      | SCORE    |          |             |       |
|--------------------|---------------|-----|------------------|-----------|----------|----------|------------|-------------|----------|---------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-------------|-------|
|                    |               |     | TK               | S         | A        | SK       | YDS        | TFL         | YDS      | QBH           | NO       | YDS      | LG       | TD       | PD       | FF       | FR       | TD       | YDS      | TK       | S        | A        | FF       | FR       |          |          | S        | A           |       |
| 09/12              | Steelers      | P   | 0                | 0         | 0        | 0.0      | 0.0        | 0           | 0        | 1             | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | L           | 16-23 |
| 09/19              | at Dolphins   | P   | 1                | 0         | 1        | 0.0      | 0.0        | 0           | 0        | 2             | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | W        | 35-0        |       |
| 09/26              | Washington    | P   | 1                | 0         | 1        | 0.0      | 0.0        | 0           | 0        | 0             | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | W        | 43-21       |       |
| 10/03              | Texans        | P   | 0                | 0         | 0        | 0.0      | 0.0        | 0           | 0        | 1             | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | W        | 40-0        |       |
| 10/10              | at Chiefs     | P   | 0                | 0         | 0        | 0.0      | 0.0        | 0           | 0        | 1             | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | W        | 38-20       |       |
| 10/18              | at Titans     |     | ON INACTIVE LIST |           |          |          |            |             |          |               |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          | L        | 31-34       |       |
| 10/31              | Dolphins      | P   | 3                | 1         | 2        | 0.0      | 0.0        | 0           | 0        | 0             | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | W        | 26-11       |       |
| 11/07              | at Jaguars    | P   | 1                | 0         | 1        | 0.5      | 3.0        | 0           | 0        | 1             | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | L        | 6-9         |       |
| 11/14              | at Jets       | P   | 0                | 0         | 0        | 0.0      | 0.0        | 0           | 0        | 1             | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | W        | 45-17       |       |
| 11/21              | Colts         | P   | 1                | 1         | 0        | 0.0      | 0.0        | 0           | 0        | 0             | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | L        | 15-41       |       |
| 11/25              | at Saints     | P   | 2                | 2         | 0        | 0.0      | 0.0        | 0           | 0        | 0             | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | W        | 31-6        |       |
| 12/06              | Patriots      | P   | 1                | 1         | 0        | 0.0      | 0.0        | 0           | 0        | 0             | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | L        | 10-14       |       |
| 12/12              | at Buccaneers | P   | 1                | 1         | 0        | 0.0      | 0.0        | 0           | 0        | 1             | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | L        | 27-33+      |       |
| 12/19              | Panthers      |     | ON INACTIVE LIST |           |          |          |            |             |          |               |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          | W        | 31-14       |       |
| 12/26              | at Patriots   |     | DID NOT PLAY     |           |          |          |            |             |          |               |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          | W        | 33-21       |       |
| 01/02              | Falcons       | P   | 2                | 1         | 1        | 0.0      | 0.0        | 1           | 4        | 0             | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | W        | 29-15       |       |
| 01/09              | Jets          | P   | 1                | 1         | 0        | 1.0      | 10.0       | 1           | 10       | 1             | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 1        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | W        | 27-10       |       |
| <b>2021 TOTALS</b> |               |     | <b>14-0</b>      | <b>14</b> | <b>8</b> | <b>6</b> | <b>1.5</b> | <b>13.0</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>14</b>     | <b>9</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>11-6</b> |       |

+ - Overtime

### 2021 GAME-BY-GAME POSTSEASON STATISTICS (BILLS)

| DATE               | OPP       | P/S | TACKLES    |          |          |          |            |            |          | INTERCEPTIONS |          |          |          |          | FUMBLES  |          |          |          | ST       |          |          | MISC     |          |          | W/L      | SCORE    |          |            |       |
|--------------------|-----------|-----|------------|----------|----------|----------|------------|------------|----------|---------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|------------|-------|
|                    |           |     | TK         | S        | A        | SK       | YDS        | TFL        | YDS      | QBH           | NO       | YDS      | LG       | TD       | PD       | FF       | FR       | TD       | YDS      | TK       | S        | A        | FF       | FR       |          |          | S        | A          |       |
| 01/15              | Patriots  | P   | 0          | 0        | 0        | 0.0      | 0.0        | 0          | 0        | 0             | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 1        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | W          | 47-17 |
| 01/23              | at Chiefs | P   | 2          | 0        | 2        | 0.0      | 0.0        | 0          | 0        | 0             | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | L        | 36-42+     |       |
| <b>2021 TOTALS</b> |           |     | <b>2-0</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b>      | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>1-1</b> |       |

+ - Overtime