



AP Photo/Nick Wass

Washington Commanders wide receiver Stefon Diggs speaks to the media after practice at the team’s training camp Friday in Ashburn, Va.

Diggs returns home to the Commanders in full-circle moment

BY ETHAN CADEAUX
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ASHBURN, Va. — For the first decade of his NFL career, Stefon Diggs always felt like he had something to prove when going up against Washington.

“That’s my hometown team, them and the Baltimore Ravens,” Diggs said Friday. “I always played with a chip on my shoulder, but the chip got really big when I’d go home because I felt like they passed up on me, didn’t give me a chance, and I was right in their backyard.”

Washington, and every NFL franchise, passed on Diggs multiple times in the 2015 draft before Minnesota selected him in the fifth round. After stints with the Vikings, Buffalo Bills, Houston Texans and New England Patriots, and four Pro Bowl selections later, Diggs signed with his hometown Commanders earlier this week.

It’s a full-circle moment for Diggs, a Gaithersburg, Maryland, native who played for youth programs in the area growing up. A five-star recruit with scholarship offers practically anywhere in the country, Diggs chose to stay home and play for the University of Maryland.

“I can’t write a better story,” Diggs said. “At this point in my career, being healthy, coming off an ACL (injury), having success, going to your hometown team and wanting to shine for them. ... I want to put on for my city.”

His homecoming is more than just a feel-good story. The Commanders entered training camp with a massive hole at No. 2 wide receiver opposite Terry McLaurin, and Diggs figures to fill it as an instant upgrade.

Stylistically, Diggs is an excellent fit opposite McLaurin, who is a more traditional “X” receiver. Diggs has experience playing on the perimeter and in the slot and was one of the league’s best chain-movers in 2025 — 51 of his 85 receptions went for first downs.

“When you see him work inside as a slot player, he’s got great feel,” head coach Dan Quinn said. “He’s a great competitor. ... He’s somebody certainly that can move the chains, and you know how important

that is — to have somebody that has the detail of option routes and specifics.”

Diggs said he didn’t have a personal relationship with McLaurin before his arrival, but admired his new teammate’s game and intensity from afar and called it “real similar to myself.” Diggs praised the rest of the Commanders’ receivers, specifically rookie Antonio Williams, who he said “can hoop a little bit.”

Quinn said the plan for Diggs was to ramp up over the next two days, but the 32-year-old arrived in great shape and participated in individual and team drills on Friday. His immediate focus is in the classroom, hoping to learn new offensive coordinator David Blough’s system quickly.

Throughout his career, Diggs has earned the reputation of helping elevate young quarterbacks. After a so-so rookie year, New England’s Drake Maye finished second in MVP voting last season with Diggs as his top target. Josh Allen took a major step forward in 2020, Diggs’ first year in Buffalo.

“Quarterbacks got a lot on their plate, so I bring it down a notch and talk to them brother to brother,” Diggs said. “With young quarterbacks, making plays for them gives them confidence. That puts a battery in their back to feel like, ‘Man, I can do anything out here.’ That’s how I try to help them: just by playing well.”

Allen and Bills prepare to hold first practice in new \$2.1B stadium

BY JOHN WAWROW
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PITTSFORD, N.Y. — Josh Allen laughed at the notion of some referring to the Buffalo Bills’ new home as “the house that Josh built” by saying he had nothing to do with the \$2.1 billion facility’s design or construction.

It’s a figurative nickname, after all, in representing how the Bills have enjoyed a surge in popularity and competitiveness since the star quarterback’s arrival in 2018.

What Allen can’t dispute is looking forward to the Bills’ first opportunity to take the field at Highmark Stadium on Saturday night, when the team holds its annual Blue and Red scrimmage in front of what’s expected to be a full house.

“It’s really cool to be a part of a team that gets to play the inaugural season at a new stadium, a stadium I think that was long-needed here in Western New York,” Allen said Friday, after the Bills closed their training camp schedule in suburban Rochester, New York.

Allen acknowledged he’s not much of a sentimentalist in reflecting on the team’s former home, also called Highmark, which has since been reduced to rubble across the street.

“We had good times there,” he said. “But looking forward to having good times in the new one, too.”

ENTERING THE MODERN AGE

In having bid farewell to their aging, utilitarian home, with dark, narrow corridors and few amenities, the Bills make the transition into the modern age.

There will be much to get accustomed to from new sightlines to the sound system, a curved overhang to reduce the effects of the wind and elements, and a natural grass field replacing the artificial turf surface.

There will be no cramped tunnel for the players of both teams to squeeze out of, with home



A general interior view of the Buffalo Bills’ new Highmark Stadium prior to a ribbon cutting ceremony in Orchard Park, N.Y., on June 23.

AP Photo/Jeffrey T. Barnes

and visiting locker rooms now separated. And even the seating configuration will be different, with the 60,000-plus seats stacked more vertically, and seemingly on top of the action.

First-year coach Joe Brady regards the practice on Saturday as the first of several key test runs. The Bills will hold several more practices in the new facility, along with playing two preseason games, before their prime-time Thursday home-opener against Detroit on Sept. 17.

“I’m going to be looking at everything, just getting a feel of play clocks while I am calling it. Vantage points from lights and how does the wind feel? There’s so many things just from my perspective,” Brady said, noting he has spent countless meetings going over every scenario regarding the new stadium.

Brady even had Bills staff provide an orientation of the building to members of players’ families. The last thing the coach wants is having his players distracted on game day because someone can’t

find an entrance.

“It’s like truly walking into the house,” general manager Brandon Beane said. “Yeah, it’ll be different, and the number one thing we have to do is try and get over there as much as we can with our team to make it feel like home.”

GETTING ACCUSTOMED TO THE ELEMENTS

For most players it won’t take long to get accustomed to their new surroundings. The big exception is the special teams unit, with kicker Tyler Bass and Buffalo’s two punters on the roster having to take into

account the wind and elements.

Though the new stadium is not covered, it has design elements to reduce the effects of the wind.

The curved overhang is one element. Another is the the new stadium being taller and also having a north-south orientation. That’s different from the west-east facing former home, which allowed the gusting winds blowing in off of Lake Erie to funnel and swirl into the stadium bowl.

“I’d love to go over there on a windy day just to see,” long-snapper Reid Ferguson said. “I’m sure it’ll take a few practices in there to kind of get our bearings on the different parts of the field where the wind may swirl a little bit if there is any. So, yeah, excited to get in there.”

ABSOLUTE

AUCTION

Wed., August 19th 10 AM

1807 W. PARRISH AVE., OWENSBORO

BRICK TWO-STORY DUPLEX

FOR MORE INFO. OR VIEWING CONTACT CLAY TAYLOR, AUCTIONEER

800-264-1204

kurtzauction.com

Announcements made at auction take precedence

Kurtz

AUCTION & REALTY.

Downsizing Sale for

George & Marilyn Bratcher
606 Ford Avenue
Owensboro, KY 42303

Thurs., August 6, 9am-4pm
Fri., August 7, 9am-4pm
Sat., August 8, 9am-2 pm

Mr. & Mrs. Bratcher have downsized and are selling the remaining contents of their lifetime collections. This sale includes household, lawn and garden items, as well as a complete woodworking shop of well-cared for tools. Items include a mahogany hall tree, small server, lighted curio cabinet, small tables, wing back chairs, office desk, high top kitchen table, oak sideboard, coffee table, rocker, console table, ladder back chairs, bookcase, small curio cabinet, antique wall phone, lots of art-work including a lovely Thomas Kincaid picture, decorative accessories, lamps, kitchenware, a collection of roosters and giraffes, vintage watches and clocks, costume jewelry, Whirlpool Duet dryer, Opal cast iron Victorian cook stove, vintage patio furniture, wicker porch swing, concrete yard decor, park bench, Craftsman and Bolens push mowers, yard tools, Troy-Bilt riding mower, leaf blowers, weedeater, kerosene heater, heavy duty-battery charger, fiberglass stepladders, Craftsman tool boxes, extensive collection of oil cans, Craftsman table saw, Craftsman radial arm saw, multiple sanders, (including spindle, edge, belt), scroll saw, router table, Grizzly wood lathe, Grizzly lathe attachment, wet grinder, drill press, DeWalt planer, Sprunger band saw, Delta dust collector, Rockwell band saw, Shop Fox mortising machine, bench grinders, jigsaw, hydraulic shop press, band saw, yard vacuum, electric power washer, mortiser, 3500-watt generator, chain saws, spreaders, edger, tiller, wrench and socket sets, calipers, micrometers, hand saws, screwdrivers, bits, hand planes, 1-ton chain hoist, pneumatic nailers, circular saw, woodworking knives, sawhorses, extension cords, weathervanes, and so much more. You may view photographs of many of the items that will be in the sale on Estatesales.org.

Cash or check with proper ID, 3% fee will be added to credit/debit card purchases. We also accept Venmo. All sales are final. No returns or refunds. KY sales tax of 6% will be added unless buyer presents a resale exemption certificate. All items purchased are as-is. We are not responsible for accidents.

YOU MUST bring help to move large items as we DO NOT have staff to assist. All items must be removed by 2pm on Saturday. Please bring boxes and paper to pack your items. Call Donna at 270-903-7859 with questions.

ABSOLUTE

AUCTION

LIVE AND SIMULCAST

Thur., August 13th - 10 AM

LOCATION: 2125 Hwy. 81, Owensboro, KY

7.826 ACRES

3 BUILDINGS

Zoned Light Industrial (I-1)

Boundary lines are approximate

FOR MORE INFO. CONTACT KELSEY EDGE OR AMY WHISTLE, AUCTIONEERS

800-264-1204

kurtzauction.com

Announcements made at auction take precedence over printed material

Kurtz

AUCTION & REALTY.

2026 KENTUCKY FOOTBALL YEARBOOK

● Q&As with head coach Will Stein, OC Joe Sloan & DC Jay Bateman

● Stein's journey to UK

● The QB Whisperer

● Meet The 2026 Cats

● Time to 'Get Real'

● Breaking down all 12 Kentucky opponents

● Kentucky high school preview for Class A - 6A

★ BONUS: The remarkable life journey for UK's Ben Myers

Excitement has never been higher for a new Kentucky football season with the arrival of new coach Will Stein and The Cats' Pause is here to get the party started with our 30th Kentucky Football Yearbook.

Inside the yearbook, you will find:

● Q&A with new head coach Will Stein

● Q&A with offensive coordinator Joe Sloan

● Q&A with defensive coordinator Jay Bateman

● Stein's journey to head coach. Why Kentucky?

● The QB Whisperer

● Meet the Cats. A position-by-position feature

● Previewing all 12 UK opponents

● BONUS: The life journey of UK freshman Ben Myers.

● High School Preview, Class A-6A

\$12.95 + \$8

priority mail delivery

ORDER TODAY AT SHOPCatsPause.com or scan QR code

LEGAL NOTICE

MASTER COMMISSIONER SALE
KENTUCKY HOUSING
CORP. V. STEPHANIE
LOCKE, ET AL.
CIVIL ACTION NO.
26-CI-00548,
MAP #6-12-5-9
AMOUNT OF JUDGMENT:
\$135,383.98
ADDRESS: 521 JEFF PL.,
OWENSBORO, KY

By virtue of Judgment and Order of Sale of the Daviess Circuit Court the undersigned will, on Monday, August 17, 2026, at 10:00AM, at the Court-house 2nd Floor Fiscal Court Room in Owensboro, Ky., expose to PUBLIC SALE the above real estate. For a complete legal description of the property see the Court record in the Circuit Clerk's Office. TERMS: CASH OR 10% DOWN & BALANCE 30 DAYS. If on credit purchaser must post bond with approved surety for the balance of the purchase price, plus 6% interest per annum from the date of said bond. The buyer shall be responsible for the current year's property taxes. MASTER COMMISSIONER DAVIESS CIRCUIT COURT

LEGAL NOTICE

MASTER COMMISSIONER SALE
FIVE FOUR LEA, LLC V. JAMES C. HAND, ET AL.
CIVIL ACTION NO.
25-CI-01252,
MAP #3-13-11-5
AMOUNT OF JUDGMENT:
\$6,143.14
ADDRESS: 2608 VICTORY
CT. W., OWENSBORO, KY

By virtue of Judgment and Order of Sale of the Daviess Circuit Court the undersigned will, on Monday, August 17, 2026, at 10:00 AM, at the Court-house 2nd Floor Fiscal Court Room in Owensboro, Ky., expose to PUBLIC SALE the above real estate. For a complete legal description of the property see the Court record in the Circuit Clerk's Office. TERMS: CASH OR 10% DOWN & BALANCE 30 DAYS. If on credit purchaser must post bond with approved surety for the balance of the purchase price, plus 6% interest per annum from the date of said bond. The buyer shall be responsible for the current year's property taxes. MASTER COMMISSIONER DAVIESS CIRCUIT COURT

LEGAL NOTICE

MASTER COMMISSIONER SALE
LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICE LLC V. HSAR LI MA BI, ET AL.
CIVIL ACTION NO.
25-CI-01263,
MAP #4-44-1-147
AMOUNT OF JUDGMENT:
\$245,391.74
ADDRESS: 2175 SKAGGS
CT., OWENSBORO, KY

By virtue of Judgment and Order of Sale of the Daviess Circuit Court the undersigned will, on Monday, August 17, 2026, at 10:00 AM, at the Court-house 2nd Floor Fiscal Court Room in Owensboro, Ky., expose to PUBLIC SALE the above real estate. For a complete legal description of the property see the Court record in the Circuit Clerk's Office. TERMS: CASH OR 10% DOWN & BALANCE 30 DAYS. If on credit purchaser must post bond with approved surety for the balance of the purchase price, plus 4.532% interest per annum from the date of said bond. The buyer shall be responsible for the current year's property taxes.