

## RYAN SMITH

**R**YAN SMITH ATTENDED CORDOVA HIGH SCHOOL AND WAS A MEMBER OF THE 2005-2009 BLUE

Devils football team. As a high school freshman, he earned the positions of starting quarterback and cornerback, and he helped lead the team to win the 2007 3A Alabama State Championship in those positions his sophomore year. During his time at Cordova, the Blue Devils appeared in three consecutive Alabama state championship games from 2007-2009.

As a junior, Ryan rushed for 1,376 yards and 19 touchdowns on just 175 attempts while throwing for 1,274 yards and 20 touchdowns at quarterback. He also had 70 tackles and six interceptions as cornerback the same season. He was named to the Class 3A All-State First Team by the Alabama Sports Writers Association, a designation he would receive again his senior year.

During his senior season, Ryan moved to running back and safety and earned 3A Back of the Year honors. He rushed for 1,856 yards and 26 touchdowns at running back, finishing his senior season as the No. 27 ranked player in Alabama and fourth in the Alabama Mr. Football voting. He held offers from the University of Kentucky, the University of Alabama at Birmingham, the University of Southern Mississippi, Marshall University, and his dream school Auburn University, which he ultimately signed to.



As a freshman at Auburn, Ryan continued to build on the foundation that was instilled in him throughout his career at Cordova: hard work, dedication, and an unmatched passion for the game. These core values positioned him to play as a true freshman on the 2010 SEC Championship and the BCS National Championship teams.

During his sophomore season as a safety, Ryan made his most notable play with a goal line stop against Mississippi State University to continue Auburn's SEC winning streak. He continued to earn playing time at safety his junior year, and he earned the starting role at safety his senior year. In his last season, Ryan racked up 68 tackles and 3 interceptions, and he helped lead the Auburn Tigers to another SEC Championship and BCS National Championship appearance. He graduated with his bachelor's degree in public administration and master's degree in adult education. In 2014, Ryan reached terms with the Dallas Cowboys as an undrafted free agent.

Ryan credits his successes to several people in the community where he was raised; his teammates; his middle school basketball coach, Myrus Strong, for investing in him at an early age; his high school football head coach, Scott Basden, for challenging him to write down his goals in the 9th grade; and his high school football coach and mentor, Pete Bush, for his leadership and guidance.

Ryan is currently employed with Amazon Web Services Talent Acquisition team and supports creating career opportunities for current and former college student athletes and underprivileged communities.