

Braelon Allen, The Next Big Thing

On a chilly January 20, 2004, a star was born. His name? Braelon Allen. 18 years later in 2021, a fearsome running back collected over 1,200 rushing yards and 12 touchdowns. This season, he already has over 1,100 rushing yards and 10 touchdowns. To put that in perspective, the Colts running back, Jonathan Taylor, had over 1,000 yards rushing and 10 touchdowns in his first college season. JT was one of the all-time leading rushers in college football, so just think about what this guy (Braelon) could do in a full season.

Many people don't think about the fact that the Badgers stud is just 18 years old. Here are a few of college football's other great backs: Mahamed Ibraheim (24), Chase Brown (21), and finally Carson Steele who is 20 years old. Anybody who is near him in rushing yards is years older than him. If measuring by age, it is a high schooler versus a college student, and he is still doing good! In high school, he decided to graduate early to start playing football for a bigger team. When I asked him why he wanted to play football at Wisconsin, he said that it was really an easy decision for him because he lived in Wisconsin and had some relationships with the coaches and other players on the team. Including his running back coach, Gary Brown, who died last year of cancer.

He is still getting used to playing only one position. In high school, he got to play both sides of the ball. Meaning he played both offense and defense, which is hard to do in high school. When he still played both linebacker and safety, he worked out **a lot**. Fortunately, that resulted in strength and agility. Braelon has said that the age of the opponent doesn't matter to him because he knows he is stronger than his opponent and if he isn't stronger, then **he** will outwork them. When he first got to college one of the things he did was go to the weight room and squat over 600 pounds. I don't know about you, but I think that's commitment. Something else to think about is that he isn't just a good runner but also a great blocker. He has multiple pancake blocks in the season so far and has many other great blocks too. And it's not just us thinking he is strong. I asked him what move he would use in a 1 on 1 situation, and he said the "Truck". Which is basically trying to run over the defender.

His schedule goes like this: wake up around 5:30 am, get dressed, eat breakfast, go to football practice at the stadium, and then got to classes and do schoolwork till 5:00 pm. After that, he goes to watch film with his team. His favorite thing about Wisconsin is his teammates and being able to be with them every day. He handles all the pressure mounted on him from football by staying prepared and poised, but also keeping calm and confident. When I asked Braelon what advice he would give to a 5th or 6th grade kid he said, "Once you figure out what you want to do, go after it. Do anything you can to succeed at it. And once you succeed you can live your life the way you want to."