

When looking at the Illinois Fighting Illini football team this season, you might notice two players that look similar. Chase and Sydney Brown are identical twins hailing from London, Canada that have been impactful leaders for both sides of the ball. Chase is a dominant running back, posting multiple 200 plus rushing yard games, and Sydney is a key piece being a great secondary, with two forced fumbles on the season. This article will show you what you may and may not know about the twins.

Two of a few players to go from Canada to Division 1 football every year. They had some words on being Canadian born athletes and some of the most impactful players on their team too.

“We were naive in a sense of what it took to reach where we are now,” the Illinois stars say. “We are just gracious to be in the position where we can make plays when our name is called.” These two sure have shown how far they have come.

Both Sydney and Chase were participants of the longest game in NCAA history, in a nine overtime victory over then number nine ranked Penn State. They used their bye-week to push through the game. “From the outside looking in, you’d think we weren’t going in with much confidence, but we used the bye-week before to really help prepare ourselves for this match up,” Sydney Brown said. “I think the way we controlled the game led to us pulling out the win.”

With their dad being in the CFL and their mom being a good skater, you’d think they had some influence on their sons’ interest in football, but here this isn’t the case. The two stars really found their own way into football.

“We were never really pushed into sports,” they say. “We were always active, and we started playing football around 9 or 10.” I guess they found the right calling.

When asked about why they wear their numbers, the answer is pretty simple. They’ve always crept around single digits. “I’ve rocked with 2 ever since I started playing, and when it freed up when Reggie Corbin left, I decided to take it,” Chase said.

Sydney had a pretty similar story. He was a single digit guy then took 30 and ran with it. “I’ve always rocked with single digits, always been a single digit guy,” the safety said. “I’ve never imagined of wearing a double digit number, especially to the lengths of 30, but that was the number I was given when I came here and just rocked with it since.” Pretty simple answers for the two stars.

Illinois’ coaching staff had a change this year. Bret Bielema, who is known for having a heavy run offense, took over the coaching position. A key player in that heavy run offense is Chase Brown. Chase was thrown into the starting spot when Mike Epstein, who is an older player suffering from injuries that occurred the year before, was unable to play.

“It’s fun,” the running back says. “Coach B is known for having running backs that succeed not only on the college level, but in the NFL.” This is just one way Coach B has pushed Chase to be the best he can be.

Illinois has clinched major victories against ranked teams this year, and a huge factor for these wins can be credited to their defense. Coach Walters, their defensive coordinator, is largely responsible for pushing these student-athletes to achieve their best.

“Coach Walters has done really good this year,” Sydney says. “He’s been able to build a defense that thrives, and we’ve been able to mask a lot of different things this year.” Sydney’s spectacular performance this year is a result of Coach Walter’s strategies.

Similar to how other sets of twins push each other to do their best, Chase and Sydney are no exception. These two use their competitiveness to encourage and push each other towards greatness.

“I think we’re competitive in a way where we push each other,” Sydney proclaims. “If he’s gonna get in a cold tub when I’m not feeling like a cold tub, I’m gonna hop in the cold tub.” Motivation comes from a form of competitiveness.

The twins also shared their favorite hobbies. Focusing on fitness and nutrition are key beliefs in their lives. “I like to work out,” Sydney says. “We’re kinda meatheads; we just like fitness in general.”

Chase has a similar approach, “We like to cook. When we’re not working out, we like to try out new recipes,” he shares. These comments showed part of the reason the twins are so successful on the field.

I appreciate all the people who have helped make it possible for me to learn more about these two stars. This has been an incredible experience, and I can’t wait to continue my journey into the world of journalism. I hoped you liked learning about these two as much as I did.