



40 NIK NEEDHAM

CORNERBACK // 6-1 // 196 // UTEP '19

ACQUIRED: FA, '19

HOMETOWN: BUENA PARK, CALIF. // BORN: 11/4/96

NFL: FIFTH SEASON // DOLPHINS: FIFTH SEASON

NFL CAREER

TRANSACTIONS:

- Signed to Miami's active roster on Oct. 12, 2019.
- Signed to Miami's practice squad on Sept. 1, 2019.
- Waived by Miami on Aug. 31, 2019.
- Signed by Miami as an undrafted college free agent on May 9, 2019.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:

- Played in 53 career games with 27 starts.
- 193 tackles (140 solo), 3.0 sacks, 6 interceptions, 25 passes defended, 1 forced fumble and 1 fumble recovery; 1 interception return for a TD.
- His 11 passes defended in 2019 were 2nd-most among NFL rookies:

MOST PASSES DEFENSED (2019 ROOKIES)				
PLAYER	TEAM	INT	PD	
1. Jamel Dean	TB	2	17	
2. NIK NEEDHAM	MIA.	2	11	
3. Byron Murphy	Ari.	1	10	
Trayvon Mullen	Oak.	1	10	
5. Taylor Rapp	LAR	2	8	
Chauncey Gardner-Johnson	NO	1	8	
Deandre Baker	NYG	0	8	
Sean Murphy-Bunting	TB	3	8	

- Had 10 passes defended in his final 8 games in 2019, tied for 5th in the NFL in that span.

2023 (MIAMI):

- Played in 2 games.
- Missed the first 7 games of the season after being placed on Reserve/PUP list on Aug. 29 and activated on Oct. 24.
- 1 assisted tackle.

AT KANSAS CITY IN FRANKFURT (11/5): 1 assisted tackle.

2022 (MIAMI):

- Played in 6 games with 5 starts.
- Missed the rest of the season after being placed on injured reserve on Oct. 19.
- 21 tackles (15 solo) and 2 passes defended.

VS. BUFFALO (9/25): 5 tackles (4 solo) and 1 pass defended.

AT CINCINNATI (9/29): 2 tackles and 1 pass defended.

AT N.Y. JETS (10/9): 5 tackles (1 solo).

2021 (MIAMI):

- Played in all 17 games with 5 starts.
- 59 tackles (48 solo), 1.0 sack, 2 interceptions, 5 passes defended and 1 fumble recovery; 1 interception return for a TD.

VS. ATLANTA (10/24): 2 solo tackles and 1 fumble recovery.

- Recovered a QB Matt Ryan fumble forced by DE Emmanuel Ogbah on 3rd-and-8 in the 4th quarter.

VS. HOUSTON (11/7): 4 solo tackles, 1 sack and 1 pass defended.

- Sacked QB Tyrod Taylor for a loss of 10 yards in the 1st quarter.

VS. CAROLINA (11/28): 4 tackles (2 solo), 1 interception and 1 pass defended.

- Intercepted a QB PJ Walker pass intended for TE Ian Thomas in the 4th quarter.

AT NEW ORLEANS (12/27): 2 solo tackles, 1 interception and 1 pass defended; 1 interception return for a TD.

- Intercepted a QB Ian Book pass intended for WR Lil'Jordan Humphrey and returned it 28 yards for a TD to give Miami a 7-0 lead.

2020 (MIAMI):

- Played in all 16 games with 5 starts.
- 58 tackles (36 solo), 1.0 sack, 2 interceptions and 7 passes defended.

AT L.A. CHARGERS (11/15): 12 tackles (6 solo).

- Sacked QB Justin Herbert for a loss of 13 yards in the 1st quarter.

AT N.Y. JETS (11/29): 5 tackles (3 solo), 1 interception and 1 pass defended.

- Intercepted a QB Sam Darnold pass intended for WR Breshad Perriman in the 3rd quarter.

VS. CINCINNATI (12/6): 1 assisted tackle, 1 interception and 2 passes defended.

- Intercepted a QB Ryan Finley pass intended for WR Alex Erickson in the 4th quarter.

2019 (MIAMI):

- Played in 12 games with 11 starts.
- 54 tackles (41 solo), 1.0 sack, 2 interceptions, 11 passes defended and 1 forced fumble.
- His 11 passes defended were 2nd-most among

NFL rookies.

- Had 10 passes defended in his final 8 games, tied for 5th in the NFL in that span.

V.S. N.Y. JETS (11/3): 9 tackles (6 solo) and 1.0 sack.

- Sacked QB Sam Darnold in the 4th quarter.
- It was his 1st career sack.

AT INDIANAPOLIS (11/10): 6 tackles (5 solo), 1 interception and 3 passes defended.

- Intercepted QB Brian Hoyer in the 4th quarter. It was his 1st career interception.
- Tackled TE Eric Ebron 2 yards short of the sticks on a 4th-and-10 play that was Indianapolis' final offensive snap of the game, preserving Miami's victory.

AT N.Y. GIANTS (12/15): 4 tackles (3 solo), 1 interception and 1 pass defended.

- Intercepted QB Eli Manning on the final play of the first half.

- Honorable mention All-Conference USA.

- His 9 passes defended led the team.

SOPHOMORE (2016): Started all 12 games; 54 tackles (28 solo) and 11 passes defended.

- His 11 passes defended led the team and were tied for 6th in Conference USA.

REDSHIRT FRESHMAN (2015): Played in 11 games with 7 starts; 38 tackles (25 solo), 0.5 sacks, 1 interception and 6 passes defended; 1 punt return for 9 yards; 1 blocked kick.

- Redshirted in 2014.

HIGH SCHOOL (BUENA PARK HS - BUENA PARK, CALIF.)

- Played defensive back and wide receiver.

SENIOR (2013): 38 tackles (31 solo), 0.5 sacks and 2 interceptions; 39 receptions for 877 yards (22.5 avg.) and 5 TDs.

- 1st-team all-league.

BEFORE THE NFL

COLLEGE (UTEP):

- 4-year letterman (2015-18) and 3-year starter.

CAREER: Played in 47 games with 41 starts; 213 tackles (129 solo), 1.5 sacks, 3 interceptions, 36 passes defended and 2 fumble recoveries; 1 punt return for 9 yards; 1 blocked kick.

- Set school record with 36 career passes defended.

SENIOR (2018): Played in all 12 games with 11 starts; 62 tackles (48 solo), 1 interception, 10 passes defended and 1 fumble recovery.

- Honorable mention All-Conference USA.
- His 62 tackles were 4th on the team.

JUNIOR (2017): Played in all 12 games with 11 starts; 59 tackles (28 solo), 1.0 sack, 1 interception, 9 passes defended and 1 fumble recovery.

OFF THE FIELD

COMMUNITY:

2021:

- Volunteered at the Miami Dolphins Food Relief Program Thanksgiving meal distribution with Feeding South Florida to provide 1,000 meal boxes to South Florida families.

2019:

- In 2019, collaborated with fellow Dolphins rookies and Neighbors4Neighbors to sponsor four South Florida families with holiday gifts and game tickets.

PERSONAL:

- **MAJOR:** Organizational communication.

NIK NEEDHAM'S NFL REGULAR SEASON STATS

YEAR	TEAM	GP	GS	TACKLES					INTERCEPTIONS				FUMBLES		
				TOT	SOLO	ASST	SK	YDS	INT	YDS	LG	TD	PD	FF	FR
2019	MIAMI	12	11	54	41	13	1.0	7.0	2	23	23	0	11	1	0
2020	MIAMI	16	6	58	36	22	1.0	13.0	2	1	1	0	7	0	0
2021	MIAMI	17	5	59	48	11	1.0	10.0	2	28	28t	1	5	0	1
2022	MIAMI	6	5	21	15	6	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
2023	MIAMI	2	0	1	0	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0
NFL TOTALS		53	27	193	140	53	3.0	30.0	6	52	28t	1	25	1	1

ADDITIONAL STATS

Defensive Touchdowns: 28-yard interception return on 12/27/21 at New Orleans.

SINGLE-GAME CAREER HIGHS

Tackles: 12 vs. Buffalo, 9/20/20
Sacks: 1 3 times, last: vs. Houston, 11/7/21
Interceptions: 1 6 times, last: at New Orleans, 12/27/21
Passes Defended: 3 at Indianapolis, 11/10/19
Forced Fumbles: 1 vs. Buffalo, 11/17/19
Fumble Recoveries: 1 vs. Atlanta, 10/24/21