

## SPORTS

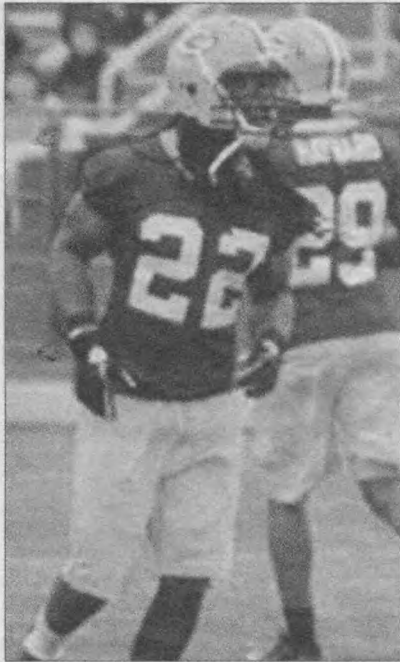


Photo courtesy of official website of Green Bay Packers

Jerron McMillian is wearing No. 22 for the Green Bay Packers after donning No. 1 for Hillside High School and then the University of Maine.

## Competition at higher level now for Hillside's McMillian

(Continued from Page 37)

"I really enjoyed playing for Coach Hopke, we all enjoyed playing for him," McMillian said. "Talking with other players (on the Packers) now, it's always a topic of discussion where you came from. They don't take into consideration how small a state New Jersey is and how many (NFL) players come from it."

Hopke played with Jones, who was a seventh round draft choice in 1991 by the San Diego Chargers out of Delaware State. As seniors, they helped lead Hillside to its only playoff championship, which was the 1985 North 2, Group 2 title.

Ogle, who played for head coach John Kaye, excelled at Maryland before he was a sixth round draft choice by the Cleveland Browns in 1999.

"We were real excited about Jerron getting drafted," said Hopke, who has taught in Hillside for 20 years. "The week before Green Bay brought him up for a workout he worked out for the Jets and Giants too. He wasn't overmatched at the Combines."

McMillian - who was named Maine's Defensive Player of the Year his junior season of 2010 after starting all of his team's games for the first time the year before - signed his first professional contract with Green Bay on May 11. Hopke said it was a four-year deal.

"We're all very proud of Jerron and can't wait to see him play at the next level," Hopke said.

Green Bay's pre-season opener is at San Diego Aug. 9 and its season-opener is home against the San Francisco 49ers Sept. 9.

The Packers will travel to East Rutherford to face the defending Super Bowl champion New York Giants the Sunday night after Thanksgiving, Nov. 25. The Giants knocked Green Bay out of the playoffs last season, preventing the 15-1 Packers from repeating as Super Bowl champions for the first time since they won Super Bowls 1 and 2 after the 1966 and 1967 seasons.

Green Bay safeties coach Darren Perry had this to say about McMillian in Bill Huber's Packer Report: "He's a very bright young man.

One of the things that stood out was his intelligence. He has a very high football IQ.

"Not that it's going to be easy, but one of the things we put up high is his intelligence. He's also an excellent tackler."

**McMillian on Coach McCarthy:** "He's a good coach. He's all about work."

**McMillian on the NFL:** "Regardless of your record, you have to play every game as hard as you can. You never know. Every team in the NFL is good."

**McMillian on the increased speed of the NFL game:** "You have to go through it and adjust to the tempo of the game. Now it seems like everyone is good. You say to the next player, 'I'm here for the same reason you are.' With that being said, you have to play even faster now.

"There are so many things you have to see. If you put yourself in the right position you'll survive. If you go out there thinking and don't know what's going on, you're not going to last."

**McMillian on playing safety:** "I like being a signal-caller. I like putting the team in the right formation and being back there and seeing everything and making sure everything is in front of me."

In addition to being an LT fan, McMillian also enjoyed watching former Washington Pro Bowler Sean Taylor play safety for the Redskins. At the age of 24 in 2007, Taylor died after he was shot in his home by an apparent intruder.

"I liked his game and the toughness he showed on the field," McMillian said of the former University of Miami star.

"He was always making plays and was a real game-changer."

That's the kind of player McMillian desires to be for the Green Bay Packers.

McMillian's made it this far - from Hillside to Orono to Green Bay's legendary Lambeau Field.

"It really isn't that far fetched to get here," McMillian said. "It's how determined you are and how much work you put in."

### NORTH-SOUTH ALL-STAR FOOTBALL CLASSIC

#### SCOREBOARD

#### SOUTH LEADS SERIES: 16-15-2

**2012:** North 14, South 7 - at Kean University

**2011:** South 21, North 14 - at Kean University

**2010:** North 17, South 3 - at Kean University

**2009:** South 7, North 0 - at Kean University

**2008:** North 31, South 25 - at Rutgers Stadium

**2007:** South 14, North 7 - at Rutgers Stadium

**2006:** North 31, South 16 - at Rutgers Stadium

**2005:** North 9, South 7 - at Rutgers Stadium

**2004:** North 26, South 21 - at Rutgers Stadium

**2003:** South 3, North 0 - at Rutgers Stadium

**2002:** No game was played at Rutgers because of inclement weather before the kickoff.

**2001:** North 24, South 0 - at Rutgers Stadium

**2000:** South 20, North 5 - at Rutgers Stadium

**1999:** South 22, North 19 - at Rutgers Stadium

**1998:** North 33, South 31 - at Rutgers Stadium

**1997:** South 28, North 24 - at The College of New Jersey

**1996:** South 32, North 23 - at Rutgers Stadium

**1995:** North 37, South 15 - at Rutgers Stadium

**1994:** South 21, North 16 - at Trenton State College

**1993:** South 9, North 8 - at Giants Stadium

**1992:** North 7, South 7 (tie) - at Giants Stadium

**1991:** North 26, South 12 - at Giants Stadium

**1990:** North 14, South 10 - at Rutgers Stadium

**1989:** South 24, North 0 - at Rutgers Stadium

**1988:** South 12, North 9 - at Rutgers Stadium

**1987:** North 21, South 10 - at Rutgers Stadium

**1986:** North 20, South 17 - at Rutgers Stadium

**1985:** North 10, South 10 (tie) - at Rutgers Stadium

**1984:** North 7, South 0 - at Rutgers Stadium

**1983:** South 41, North 7 - at Rutgers Stadium

**1982:** South 16, North 7 - at Rutgers Stadium

**1981:** South 32, North 0 - at Rutgers Stadium

**1980:** North 13, South 6 - at Rutgers Stadium

**1979:** South 34, North 13 - at Rutgers Stadium

SNAPPLE BOWL IS TWO WEEKS AWAY - This year's Snapple Bowl 19 will be held at East Brunswick July 19, with the Union County All-Stars seeking a second straight win in the series.

