



## Twan Russell and Mrs. Corliss Russell (In Memoriam)

<http://www.russellreadingroom.com>

**Miami Dolphins** linebacker, **Twan Russell** was concerned about the high illiteracy rate of inner city youth and the lack of educational reinforcement resources available to them. He and his mother, Mrs. Corliss Russell - a former educator, embarked on an awesome journey to eradicate illiteracy among high-risk groups. Together, they created the Russell Life Skills and Reading Foundation, Inc.

As a young man, Twan's dreams came to fruition because of his interest in books. Now, his focus is to pass on a legacy of reading to this generation of youth and increase their chances of becoming productive and successful citizens. Having had to struggle and overcome his own adversity with reading, Twan decided to make a difference in the lives of at-risk elementary aged children faced with similar challenges. The Foundation currently serves more than 250 at risk youth in Broward and Miami-Dade Counties annually.



While attending St. Thomas Aquinas High School in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, Twan achieved academic success and received athletic accolades. Despite having to face numerous challenges, he was named to the academic honor roll countless times. One of his proudest moments in high school was winning the State Track and Field Championship in the 300-meter hurdles. Although track and field was his first love, Twan received a scholarship to play football at the University of Miami.

Some highlights of his college football success include: leading the University of Miami Hurricanes in tackles (115), posting 20 tackles against East Carolina University, earning Second Team Big East All American honors and being named Special Teams Captain.

After earning degrees in Broadcast Communications and Criminology at the University of Miami, the Washington Redskins selected Twan in the 1997 NFL Draft. During his NFL career, Twan played the linebacker position with the Redskins, the Miami Dolphins and the Atlanta Falcons.

In light of an injury, Twan decided to retire from professional football in November 2004. Twan remains active in the community, making it a point to speak at functions and support causes that benefit those who are less fortunate. As a result of his contributions, he has been the recipient of numerous awards, including the Iron Arrow Award, the highest award attained at the University of Miami; the Winn Dixie Charities Good Citizenship Award; and community service recognition awards from the Boys and Girls Club and the Dolphin Foundation.



Photo from [Naples Daily News](#)

Twan currently serves as Director of the Miami Dolphins' Youth and Community Programs.

### Additional Links:

- [The Russell Life Skills and Reading Foundation – Facebook Group](#)