

# CARL NASSIB

b. April 12, 1993

## FIRST OUT ACTIVE NFL PLAYER

*“I do not know all of the history behind our courageous LGBT community, but I am eager to learn and to help continue the fight for equality and acceptance.”*

**He is the first  
openly gay active  
player in the NFL.**

Carl Nassib is the first openly gay active NFL player. In 2021, as a defensive end for the Las Vegas Raiders, he made headlines by coming out after five seasons in the pros.

Nassib was born in West Chester, Pennsylvania, to a family of football enthusiasts. His father played at the University of Delaware. His older brother played in the NFL. Nassib excelled in high school sports, lettering in football, basketball, and track and field. His love of athletics and exceptional success fueled his dream of one day playing professional sports.

In 2011 Nassib enrolled in Penn State University. He immediately tried out for the football team as a walk-on, but the coach didn't play him until he earned an athletic scholarship in 2013. He quickly proved himself on the field, and after two successful seasons, he joined the starting lineup in his senior year. His performance earned him the Lombardi Award for best college football linebacker and the Hendricks Award for top defensive end in the nation. He was also named the Big Ten's Nagurski-Woodson Defensive Player of the Year.

In 2016 the Cleveland Browns signed Nassir as a third-round draft pick for a four-year deal worth \$3.2 million. After a successful first game, he was nominated for Pepsi's NFL Rookie of the Week. The Tampa Bay Buccaneers claimed Nassib off waivers for his last two years of the contract, then the Las Vegas Raiders picked him up in 2020 as an unrestricted free agent.

During Pride Month in June 2021, Nassib came out in an Instagram post. Despite fearing it might ruin his career, Nassib felt an obligation to set an example for LGBTQ youth. In his post, he pledged \$100,000 to the Trevor Project, an organization that provides counseling and suicide prevention services for at-risk LGBTQ kids. In a remarkable show of support, the NFL matched Nassib's donation.

After a standout 2021 season, Nassib became the first out NFL player to compete in the playoffs. In 2022 he signed a one-year deal to play again with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

Nassib is in a relationship with Soren Dahl, an Olympic swimmer. He continues to support the Trevor Project and advocate for LGBTQ rights.

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