

Shawn Aaron Springs

Shawn Springs is the CEO and Founder of Windpact, Inc., a Northern Virginia based safety technology company leveraging its patented padding technology to improve impact performance in helmets and protective gear in sports, military and recreation. Shawn, an entrepreneur, visionary and investor, has participated in numerous businesses, from real estate to tech startups. Additionally, Shawn works during the NFL season as a local commentator/ anchor for NBC Sports, discussing all things relating to the Washington Redskins. He also appears on ESPN and NFL Network.

His inspiration for founding Windpact came from a car seat made by Dorel Juvenile. Shawn was using the car seat to transport his children when he was struck with the idea that perhaps the same technology being utilized to protect his kid's heads in an auto accident could be transferred into helmets to protect athletes, soldiers, etc. After 13 years as a football player in the NFL, Shawn sustained or witnessed enough concussions to realize that if he had found a way to protect future players from injury, then it was his obligation to work to develop this technology.

Shawn is a graduate of The Ohio State University and completed a Bachelor of Science in Sociology. At Ohio State, as a member of the football team, he was a two-time Academic All-Big Ten Athlete and was named the Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year in 1996 despite having no interceptions. While attending Ohio State, Shawn served as the President of the Majority of One Program, a program offering support, scholarships and mentoring to minority students.

In 1997, Shawn entered the National Football League and was drafted by the Seattle Seahawks with the third pick overall. He remains the highest cornerback ever drafted in the NFL and spent 7 years in Seattle playing under Mike Holmgren and Dennis Erickson. He was selected to the ProBowl in 1998. While playing for the Seahawks, Shawn continued his education and attended the University Washington, where he was inducted into the Society of National Collegiate Scholars.

He was signed as a free agent in 2004 by legendary coach Joe Gibbs and the Washington Redskins. While playing for the Redskins, he became the only player in NFL history to lead his team statistically with sacks and interceptions in the same year (2005). He finished his career in 2010 by spending a year playing for Bill Belichick and the New England Patriots.

During his time in the NFL, Shawn was the Founder and President of the Springs for Life Foundation, a non-profit which supported at-risk youth. Additionally, he committed himself to charitable organizations seeking a cure for diabetes and continues to participate in numerous events for the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation and the American Diabetes Association. For his continuous dedication to community work, both the Seahawks and Redskins chose him to represent them as an NFL Walter Payton "Man of the Year." In 2009, he was selected as a "Washingtonian of the Year" by Washingtonian Magazine.

Since retiring from the NFL and founding Windpact, Shawn has been active in lobbying the government to improve consumer safety standards in protective gear. He regularly appears on The Hill for meetings with senators and congressman, discussing not only head protection but the importance of health and physical fitness at the school level.

Shawn gave a TEDx Columbus talk in 2015 entitled "Tackling Helmet Protection Head On"

Shawn's father, Ron Springs, was an All American and team captain at Ohio State University. Ron played 9 NFL seasons with the Dallas Cowboys and Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Born in Williamsburg, VA, Shawn went to high school in Maryland at Springbrook High School in Silver Spring, MD. He currently resides in Northern Virginia, where he spends time coaching local youth football teams, mentoring athletes working to get to the college level and training his own sons who all play football.

His company website is www.windpact.com. He can be reached via email at shawn@windpact.com