

# DEONTE HARTY

Deonte Harty is an NFL veteran wide receiver and return specialist for the Baltimore Ravens, known for his explosive speed, agility, and ability to make game-changing plays. His journey from an undrafted prospect at Assumption University to earning 2019 Pro Bowl and First-Team All-Pro honors is a testament to his resilience, dedication, and relentless work ethic.

Harty's path to success has been anything but easy. In 2021, he faced one of the most challenging periods of his life, battling personal tragedies, mental health struggles, and the immense pressure of professional football. At one point, he was on the verge of walking away from the game. "I was one more bad thing happening from saying, 'I'm done,' and getting on that flight home to be with my family," he recalls. Yet, despite booking that flight, he made the courageous decision to stay, fight through adversity, and use his experiences to uplift others.

Harty's firsthand journey in navigating mental health challenges, seeking professional care, and breaking through personal barriers has fueled his passion for advocating for mental wellness, youth empowerment, and social justice—especially for Black youth.

Off the field, Harty is a dedicated philanthropist and co-founder of the TayNation Foundation, which he launched alongside his mother, Lisa Harty. The foundation focuses on mental wellness, youth empowerment, and supporting justice-involved youth. Recognizing the mental health challenges young athletes face—particularly Black youth—Harty has committed his platform to increasing awareness, access, and culturally competent resources.

In 2024, he became a Game Day Ambassador for Mind + Motion Game Day, an initiative that transforms traditional sports spaces into high-energy, athlete-led experiences centered on mental wellness. This initiative leverages the excitement of professional game day to promote mental resilience, emotional intelligence, and life skills for Black youth, with a strong emphasis on suicide prevention and mental health advocacy.

Harty also serves as the Honorary Chairperson of Huddle x Action's Advisory Board, where he champions mental wellness initiatives, advocates for culturally competent support systems, and bridges the gap between players, coaches, and institutions to create lasting change for Black men and boys in sports.

His leadership has led to key partnerships with organizations such as Minority Women in Sports and Friends & Families of Louisiana's Incarcerated Children (FFLIC), amplifying his mission at the intersection of athletics, mental wellness, and juvenile justice reform.

