

# **DERREK TUSZKA** NORTH DAKOTA STATE

**POSITION: DE**

**WEIGHT: 246**

**HEIGHT: 6-5**

## **Biography**

- \* **2020 East-West Shrine Bowl**
- \* **2019 STATS FCS Buck Buchanan Award Finalist (5th)**
- \* **2019 STATS FCS All-America First Team**
- \* **2019 HERO Sports FCS All-America First Team**
- \* **2019 Associated Press FCS All-America First Team**
- \* **2019 Phil Steele FCS All-America First Team**
- \* **2019 Athlon Sports FCS All-America First Team**
- \* **2019 Walter Camp FCS All-America First Team**
- \* **2019 AFCA All-America Second Team**
- \* **2019 MVFC Defensive Player of the Year**
- \* **2019 All-MVFC First Team**
- \* **2018 All-MVFC Honorable Mention**
- \* **2019 MVFC All-Academic First Team**
- \* **2019 MVFC President's Council Academic Award**
- \* **2017, 2018, 2019 MVFC Commissioner's Academic Excellence Award**
- \* **2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 MVFC Honor Roll**
- \* **2020 NFF Hampshire Honor Society**

Three-year starter at defensive end...First team All-American, Missouri Valley Football Conference Defensive Player of the Year, and finalist for the Buck Buchanan Award as a senior in 2019 to cap a productive career as one of the top linemen in the nation...Finished fifth in NDSU history with 29.5 career sacks totaling 202 yards...Tied for sixth at NDSU with 42.0 career tackles for loss...Played in 53 games including 34 starts...Part of five conference championships and four FCS national championships with Bison teams that went 70-5 in his career including his redshirt season in 2015...Played in 14 NCAA playoff games totaling 35 tackles with 12.0 tackles for loss and 10.5 sacks.

**2019 SEASON (SENIOR):** Missouri Valley Football Conference Defensive Player of the Year and fifth in voting for STATS FCS Buck Buchanan Award presented to the national defensive player of the year...Earned first team All-America honors from STATS, HERO Sports, Associated Press, Phil Steele, Athlon Sports and the Walter Camp Football Foundation...Second team All-America by the American Football Coaches Association...Selected to the East-West Shrine Bowl...Started 15 games, missing only the home game with Missouri State...Recorded tackles for loss in 13 of 15 games played...Tied for fifth in school single-season history with a team-high 19.0 tackles for loss of 104 yards...His 13.5 sacks and 92 yards were fourth most in NDSU single-season history...Also had five pass breakups and seven quarterback hurries...Totaled 48 tackles on the season with nearly half (23) going for lost yardage...Season-high six tackles in the home win over Western Illinois and the NCAA championship win over James Madison...Made five solo stops with two sacks, a forced fumble and pass breakup in the road win over sixth-ranked Illinois State...Voted to the MVFC All-

Academic first team...Named to the MVFC Honor Roll for the fifth straight year...Earned the MVFC Commissioner's Academic Excellence Award and MVFC President's Council Academic Award...National Football Foundation Hampshire Honor Society member.

**2018 SEASON (JUNIOR):** Honorable mention All-Missouri Valley Football Conference...Played all 15 games at defensive end including seven starts...Second on the Bison and seventh in the MVFC with 12.0 tackles for loss...Tied with teammate Cole Karcz for sixth in the league with 7.5 sacks...Also credited with seven quarterback hurries...Totaled 48 tackles, sixth most on the team...Career-high seven tackles with five solo stops in the home win over Southern Illinois...Made four solo tackles in the national championship win over Eastern Washington, including a sack on the final defensive play of the game before the Bison ran out the clock...Made the MVFC Honor Roll for the fourth straight year...Also earned the MVFC Commissioner's Academic Excellence Award.

**2017 SEASON (SOPHOMORE):** Moved into a starting role at defensive end for 12 of 15 games played...Team-high 7.5 sacks and nine quarterback hurries for a defense that led the Missouri Valley Football Conference in sacks, rushing defense, total defense, scoring defense and third down conversions allowed...Was fourth on the team with 9.5 tackles for loss...Totaled 33 tackles including 19 solo stops...Registered two sacks and a season-high six tackles, all solos, in the national championship victory over James Madison...Named to the MVFC Honor Roll and earned the MVFC Commissioner's Academic Excellence Award.

**2016 SEASON (FRESHMAN):** Part of a deep rotation at defensive end...Appeared in eight games and totaled four tackles...First career tackle was a solo sack against Youngstown State...Season-high three stops the next week against Indiana State...Named to the MVFC Honor Roll.

**2015 SEASON (REDSHIRT):** Sat out the season as a redshirt in the Bison program...Named to the MVFC Honor Roll.

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Four-year starter who played linebacker, safety, running back, wide receiver, tight end, long snapper, punter and kicker during his career at Warner...Finished his career with 342 tackles, 45 tackles for loss, 12 sacks and six forced fumbles...Had 109 tackles his senior year including 15 tackles for loss, three sacks and three forced fumbles...Also rushed 138 times for 1,460 yards, caught 14 passes for 247 yards and scored 23 touchdowns...Two-time all-state linebacker and two-time all-area...Three-time all-conference and two-time conference defensive MVP...Argus Leader Elite 45...Selected to the South Dakota all-star game...Also a five-year starter in basketball and five-year state track and field qualifier competing in the 100 meters, 200 meters, 4x200 relay and shot put.

**PERSONAL:** Earned a bachelor's degree in crop and weed sciences from NDSU in 2019...Owns and operates his own airplane...Plans to fly in Alaska after his football career...Son of Mark and Stacy Tuszka of Warner, S.D...Older brother, Jarrod Tuszka, played defensive end at NDSU from 2013 through 2017.