NAME: Curran Delaney  
BRANCH/RANK: Marines/Corporal  
JOB: Sniper  
TOURS OF DUTY: Southeast Asia and Iraq  
POSITION: Defensive Lineman, University of Minnesota

Delaney committed to the military during his senior year at Holy Family High School in Victoria, Minn. “I never grew up hunting or firing a weapon,” says Delaney, who played one season as a safety and fullback at D3 University of St. Thomas in St. Paul before leaving for boot camp. “But when I joined in 2005, I was an 0311 rifleman, an infantryman.” He eventually became a sniper in the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines, one of the branch’s most highly decorated units. “My time in the military is not something I discuss a lot,” Delaney says. “I talk to my closer friends on the team about my service, but I don’t go around telling war stories.” When he returned home in 2009, Minnesota coaches offered him a tryout, but Delaney didn’t have the speed to stay in the secondary. Determined, he bulked up his 6’1” frame to 300 pounds, earning a walk-on spot last season. “My goal is to one day suit up and play,” says the 26-year-old junior. “There aren’t many things I can imagine that could be better.”