

# NFL's Brad Smith Comes Home

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Brad Smith amassed nearly 4,000 yards and scored over fifty touchdowns as a star quarterback at Chaney High School. Now a wide receiver/kick returner for the New York Jets, Smith took some time to come back home as guest speaker for the United Way 'Champions Among Us' dinner, and the mark he is leaving on the Youngstown community goes far deeper than any touchdown he's ever scored.

Brad Smith is currently just like every other NFL player...without a team.

"I think in order for long term and the guys who will come after us, that it's very important to nail it down right," explained Smith of the lockout. "If we have to sacrifice a little bit, then it's worth it."

Once the lockout ends, Smith could leave the Jets for another team through free agency, but one thing that hasn't changed is his fondness for his Youngstown roots. A two-time all-state quarterback at Chaney high school, Smith isn't thrilled the Cowboys won't be competing on the football field next year.

"If you didn't go there; if you didn't experience the whole thing, you wouldn't miss it as much as some of the alumni do," said Smith. "It's very unfortunate for it to happen like that. Hopefully, as long as the school is still open, then maybe there is a chance they'll bring it back, but you have to do what's best for everyone. A lot of people understand that."

Smith is known in the area for his willingness to give back. This weekend, he will run his fourth annual football camp held at Youngstown State.

"Just seeing the little kids, never playing football before, actually you teach them something, and maybe I can come back and listen to them at a United Way banquet," said Smith. "That's what is special."

While in town, Smith also lended a helping hand to families in need by passing out food and necessities at the Salvation Army on Glenwood Avenue. Smith partnered with Feed the Children and the Salvation Army for the event and said it means a lot to be able to come back and help in his hometown.

"Youngstown has one of the highest child poverty rates in the country," said Smith. "It's around 51 percent. So I think it's important for us to find ways to help people get back on their feet while they're going through this tough time."

For more information on Brad Smith, go to his [True Foundation website](#).