

## News-Press

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### Local agency picked by Graham

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Ex-UF RB readies for Senior Bowl

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Lee County's all-time leading rusher in high school football decided to stay close to home when choosing a sports agent.

Earnest Graham, who compiled 5,710 yards from 1994 to 1997 at Mariner High School, chose Kevin F. Jursinski of the Fort Myers- based KC Management, Inc., as his agent.

Graham, who just ended his senior season at the University of Florida with 965 rushing yards and nine touchdowns on 218 carries, finished his college career with 2,945 total rushing yards.

"We've followed Earnest and his career since high school," Jursinski said.

"I think he wanted to go with someone local who can take care of him."

Jursinski does not have any current local players in the NFL.

"Believe me, I would have liked to have had Jevon Kearse, but there's 1,100 to 1,300 agents out there to choose from," Jursinski said.

Graham will start at running back at 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 18, in the Senior Bowl in Mobile, Ala.

A solid performance by Graham in that game should help his chances to get drafted high, Jursinski said.

The NFL Draft begins Saturday, April 26, with the first three rounds.

"I think Earnest is going to be a first-day guy," Jursinski said. "He's going to help himself by playing in the Senior Bowl. He does everything well. That's one of the things I'm getting from all of the scouts."

Jursinski said that his biggest contract he has secured for a client during his 12-year career belongs to St. Louis Rams cornerback Dexter McCleon, who signed a five-year deal worth \$20 million that expires in two years.

PHOTO

GRAHAM