



## **The Kid from Texas**

By: Austin Rader

October 6, 2019 — It was a freezing night in Kansas City, Missouri. The #4 Missouri Tigers were playing their arch-rivals #2 Kansas Jayhawks for a trip to the Big 12 Championship with the top ranking in college football on the line.

College Gameday was in town and the game was given top TV billing in front of a national audience. This kid from Texas was a rockstar that night. The then-junior picked apart a top ranked defense led by future NFL stars Aquib Talib and Chris Harris.

The quarterback was 41-49 (81%) for 361 yards and three touchdowns as Mizzou defeated Kansas 36-28 to win the Big 12 North and climb to #1 in the BCS rankings. He earned his ticket to New York as a Heisman finalist. The kid that turned down his dream school, the University of Texas, put a struggling Mizzou program on the map.

This is a story of Chase Daniel, the kid from Texas, who has been a winner his entire life. The 2004 5A Texas state champ knows what it takes to win big football games.

And now is the time for him to prove it at the final level.

He did it in high school, college, and as a back-up in the NFL. But what about as a starter?



After Chase went undrafted in the 2009 draft due to his height, he bounced around as a back-up quarterback. He won a ring with the Saints in his rookie season. He then went to Kansas City for three seasons and got his first two NFL starts (splitting the two despite impressive numbers in both games).

He had short stints with Philly and then the Saints again before signing a two-year deal with the Chicago Bears. He had become a well-rounded bench warmer carrying a clipboard and cheering on the starter. Coaches around the league praised him as a smart quarterback whisperer, teammate, hard worker and cheerleader.

Chase was fortunate to start two games last season for Chicago, winning in Detroit on Thanksgiving and then losing against the Giants in overtime. In those two games, Daniel had a combined 69.7 completion percentage, throwing for 515 yards with 3 touchdowns against 2 interceptions.

At the start of the Jewish New Year last week, starter Mitchell Trubisky suffered a shoulder injury early in the game against Minnesota. Coach Nagy quickly turned to his well-paid backup from Texas to drop his clipboard and get on the field. "You are our starter now," he likely said. "Go get us the win."



At this point in his career, Daniel had been in the league for a decade. He had played in big games in high school, was under the lights in prime time against his biggest rival (in a #1 vs #2 November game), and played under the likes of future hall of famer Drew Brees.

Here he was stepping in as the unexpected starter. And yes, he delivered. Daniel was poised in the pocket all afternoon moving the ball against a top defense in the NFL. Chase finished his day going 22-30 (73.3%) with 195 yards and one touchdown and a QB rating of 101.4. And Chicago won the game 16-6. Coach Nagy couldn't have been more proud of his decorated back-up - high school champion, Heisman finalist and now NFL winner.

On Sunday afternoon, the kid from Texas will trot out onto the field as the Chicago Bears starting quarterback in London to face the Oakland Raiders.

This Texas legend will hope to rekindle some of the magic he possessed when leading Carroll High to a National Championship, taking Mizzou to back-to-back Big 12 Championship appearances and guiding his NFL team to more victories.

Yes, he's a winner. And now he's proving it at another level once again.

Chase has always shown he has the "it" factor. It was evident from the crowd's response when he was announced before a game at Mizzou. It was obvious by the way he distributed the ball to talented receivers in Jeremy Maclin, Chase Coffman, Danario Alexander, or Martin Rucker. It was clear he had the "it factor" when he was called upon when Brad Smith was injured during a





homecoming game in the second half to carry his team to victory as a true freshman. He consistently proved he was a poised leader.

And you could see it when he played the game of his life on a freezing night in Kansas City, Missouri.

The question people are asking now is: can he win games at the professional level? We're about to find out. The Bears are trying to get Trubisky back after the bye week (which is after the game against the Raiders). If Daniel can get another win under his belt, it would make him

2-0 as a starter this season. Nagy won't need to rush back an unhealthy Trubisky. He can keep giving the keys to Daniel. "It" will work.

Chase has been preparing his whole career for this. Play your game. Make smart reads. Take care of the football. Make accurate throws. Just like you've been doing since Southlake Carroll High.

Let's see what the kid from Texas can do.

You know "it's" going to be fun to see Chase prove once again why the kid from Texas is such a winner.