



**PATRICK
MAHOMES**
NEW NFL SUPERSTAR

Jim Gallagher



© 2022 ReferencePoint Press, Inc.
Printed in the United States

For more information, contact:

ReferencePoint Press, Inc.
PO Box 27779
San Diego, CA 92198
www.ReferencePointPress.com

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

No part of this work covered by the copyright hereon may be reproduced or used in any form or by any means—graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, taping, web distribution, or information storage retrieval systems—without the written permission of the publisher.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS CATALOGING-IN-PUBLICATION DATA

Names: Gallagher, Jim, 1969- author.
Title: Patrick Mahomes, new NFL superstar / by Jim Gallagher.
Description: San Diego, CA : ReferencePoint Press, 2021. | Includes bibliographical references and index.
Identifiers: LCCN 2020057719 (print) | LCCN 2020057720 (ebook) | ISBN 9781678200886 (library binding) | ISBN 9781678200893 (ebook)
Subjects: LCSH: Mahomes, Patrick, 1995--Juvenile literature. | Football players--United States--Biography--Juvenile literature.
Classification: LCC GV939.M284 G25 2021 (print) | LCC GV939.M284 (ebook) | DDC 796.332092 [B]--dc23
LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2020057719>
LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2020057720>

CONTENTS

Introduction	4
Tre Right, Three Jet Chip Wasp	
Chapter One	8
An Active Childhood	
Chapter Two	17
Star at Texas Tech	
Chapter Three	26
Drafted by the Chiefs	
Chapter Four	35
Bringing the Magic	
Chapter Five	44
The Best Player in the NFL	
Source Notes	54
Important Events in the Life of Patrick Mahomes	57
For Further Research	59
Index	61
Picture Credits	63
About the Author	64

AN ACTIVE CHILDHOOD

Patrick Mahomes inherited his athletic ability from his parents. His father, Pat Mahomes Sr., was a Major League Baseball pitcher. Pat had grown up near the city of Tyler, Texas, where he starred in three sports for Lindale High School during the mid-1980s. After graduating from Lindale, he began dating Randi Martin, who was two years younger. Randi was also athletic, playing basketball and softball at Lindale, and led the school band as a majorette.

While Randi was a good athlete, Pat was an outstanding one. During his senior year he earned all-state honors in both football and baseball and was recruited by many college coaches. He was even offered a scholarship to play Division I basketball at the University of Arkansas, which at the time had one of the top teams in the country. But when the Minnesota Twins selected Pat in the sixth round of the 1988 amateur draft, he chose to forgo college and start a career in professional baseball.

After Randi graduated high school in 1990, she and Pat were married. She maintained their home in Tyler while he traveled with his teams during the baseball seasons. Pat made it to the major leagues in 1992 with the Twins. After pitching in one September 1995 game, he flew home to Tyler to be with Randi at the local hospital. On Sunday, September 17, 1995, she gave birth to their first child—a boy they named Patrick Lavon Mahomes II.

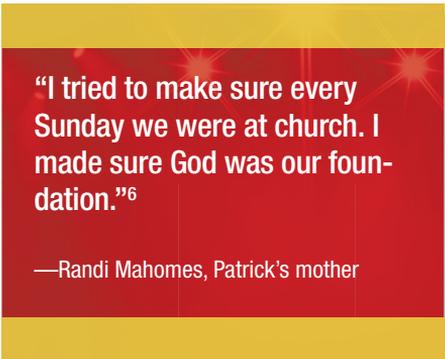
GROWING UP AROUND BASEBALL

While Pat continued his baseball career, Randi was responsible for raising Patrick at home in Tyler. Patrick was a very active child, Randi recalls. Although he could be a little shy around new people, he was always confident in himself—particularly when he had a ball in his hand. And he always seemed to be playing some sort of game. “I called him my Energizer Bunny because he would never want to take a nap,”⁵ recalls Randi.

Whenever they could, Randi and Patrick would stay with Pat during baseball seasons. Patrick enjoyed being in the clubhouse watching major-league players up close. By the time he was six years old, Patrick was able to roam the outfield during pregame batting practices and catch fly balls.

Randi’s Christian faith was very important to her, so she made sure that Patrick and his younger brother, Jackson, who was born in May 2000, were raised in the local Baptist church. “I tried to make sure every Sunday we were at church,” she says. “I made sure God was our foundation.”⁶

Patrick’s first organized sport was soccer, which he started playing when he was three. But he soon tried other sports, like basketball. And of course, with his baseball background, Patrick was a natural on the diamond. He was so good at baseball that he often “played up,” holding his own against boys who were two or three years older. By the time Patrick was nine, he was the shortstop and leading hitter on a team of twelve-year-old Little League all-stars.



“I tried to make sure every Sunday we were at church. I made sure God was our foundation.”⁶

—Randi Mahomes, Patrick’s mother

FAMILY STRUGGLES

Unfortunately, his dad’s career was not going so well. Pat had bounced from team to team for several years, playing on one-year contracts. After the 2003 season, no big-league team was



Chicago Cubs pitcher Pat Mahomes Sr., delivers a pitch against the Pittsburgh Pirates in a 2002 game. Son Patrick was introduced at an early age to his father's world of professional baseball.

interested, so Pat spent the next six years playing for minor-league teams, trying unsuccessfully to return to the majors. The career stress contributed to tensions within the family. In 2005, when Patrick was in fourth grade, his parents divorced. The split was amicable, but Randi later said it was very hard for Patrick to accept. It helped that Pat and Randi remained on friendly terms and supported their children.

As a single mother, Randi's lifestyle changed. She took a job as a receptionist at the Hollytree Country Club in Tyler, working extra shifts at night and on weekends to earn enough to support the children. Ten-year-old Patrick was sometimes left at home to watch five-year-old Jackson. Randi withdrew Patrick from a private school and enrolled him in the local public school. "Being a single mom was incredibly hard," Randi recalls. "I missed so much with Patrick and Jackson because I couldn't miss work. . . . I had to struggle all of those years to be able to pay for Patrick and Jackson to be on teams and have school supplies. They didn't have the best of everything, but they had something."⁷

Both Patrick and Jackson have said they learned important life lessons from their parents, but the years in which Randi Mahomes cared for the boys while their father was playing ball away from home clearly had a big impact on Patrick. "I think, with my mom, the biggest influence she gave me was just hard work," Patrick later observed. "I mean, every single day doing her job and then going to my games and just being there every single day. That shows me no matter what your situation is, if you put in hard work, you will succeed."⁸

"I think, with my mom, the biggest influence she gave me was just hard work. I mean, every single day doing her job and then going to my games and just being there every single day. That shows me no matter what your situation is, if you put in hard work, you will succeed."⁸

—Patrick Mahomes

HIGH SCHOOL STAR

When Patrick reached high school, he was recognized as one of the best athletes in the Tyler area. In August 2010, as a ninth grader, Patrick led a team from Tyler into the Junior League World Series, an international baseball tournament for thirteen- and fourteen-year-olds. Patrick was the leadoff hitter, shortstop, and pitcher. The Tyler team reached the finals, where it lost to a team from Taiwan.

PAT MAHOMES'S CAREER IN BASEBALL

When he was drafted by the Minnesota Twins in 1988, Pat Mahomes was just seventeen years old. Over the next few years, Pat worked his way up through the Twins' farm system. On April 12, 1992, Pat made his major-league debut for the Twins in a game against the Texas Rangers. He was just twenty-one years old.

Pat was a starting pitcher for several years but the Twins moved him to the bullpen before the 1995 season. In 1996 the Twins traded Pat to the Boston Red Sox. After this he would have a journeyman career as a relief pitcher. Pat even played a season in Japan. His best season came with the New York Mets in 1999, when he went 8–0 with a 3.68 earned run average and pitched very well in the playoffs.

Over eleven big-league seasons, Pat pitched in more than three hundred games, compiling a 42–39 record. No big-league team signed him after the 2003 season, so from 2004 to 2009, he bounced around the minor leagues hoping for another chance. He retired in early 2010 so that he could attend Patrick's youth and high school games.

Patrick earned a spot on the Whitehouse High School varsity baseball team as a freshman and started on the team for four years. By the time he was a senior, he could throw his fastball 93 miles per hour—faster than some big leaguers. When not pitching, he played the outfield. He was one of the school team's leading hitters, batting over .500 as a senior. On one notable day, Patrick pitched a no-hitter, striking out sixteen batters, in the first game of a doubleheader. In the second game, he went 3 for 4 with a home run and 3 runs batted in (RBIs). Had he chosen to focus on baseball, Patrick probably would have been drafted in the early rounds of the Major League Baseball (MLB) draft.

But Patrick loved playing other sports and refused to limit himself to just one. He also starred on the basketball court, earning four varsity letters. As a senior point guard, he averaged 19 points and 8 rebounds a game. He scored 49 points in one game and 37 more in a state playoff game, leading Whitehouse to a 28–7 record.

And Patrick had grown to love another sport: football. He started playing for fun in middle school, later explaining, "I came out just to play with my friends."⁹ He wanted to be a quarterback, but he could not win that spot during his first two years of high school. Instead,

his initial varsity playing time came on defense. Patrick only played in one game his freshman year but showed off his athleticism by intercepting a pass and running it back 32 yards. As a sophomore, Patrick earned the starting safety role and also returned punts.

Patrick played quarterback for the junior varsity team as a ninth and tenth grader, but he became frustrated waiting to lead the varsity offense. “Before his junior year in high school, he came to me that summer wanting to quit football,” his mom recalls. “But I just said, ‘you’re going to regret it if you quit.’”¹⁰



During a 2000 New York Mets practice, a young Patrick Mahomes competes with Mets pitcher Mike Hampton for a fly ball. Patrick’s father, who was pitching for the Mets at this time, often brought his son to practices.

SOURCE NOTES

INTRODUCTION: TRE RIGHT, THREE JET CHIP WASP

1. Quoted in NFL Films, *How Mahomes Made 3rd & 15 Magic in Super Bowl LIV*, YouTube, February 7, 2020. www.youtube.com/watch?v=t-t6tbS5waE.
2. Quoted in Jerry Brewer, "Patrick Mahomes, in Super Bowl Comeback, Showed Why He Is the Best Player in the NFL," *Washington Post*, February 2, 2020. www.washingtonpost.com.
3. Quoted in D. Orlando Ledbetter, "Reid on Mahomes: He Did a Great Job. He Kept Firing," *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, February 3, 2020. www.ajc.com.
4. Quoted in Adam Kilgore, "'That Play in Our Back Pocket': How Patrick Mahomes Rallied the Chiefs to a Super Bowl Win," *Washington Post*, February 3, 2020. www.washingtonpost.com.

CHAPTER ONE: AN ACTIVE CHILDHOOD

5. Quoted in Cindy McDermott, "Randi Mahomes: The Work of Parenting Is Never Done," *HERLIFE Magazine*, March 25, 2020. www.herlifemagazine.com.
6. Quoted in David Segal, "Randi Mahomes Talks Faith, Family, and Being the Mom of a Superstar NFL QB," *Houston (TX) Chronicle*, September 4, 2020. www.houstonchronicle.com.
7. Quoted in McDermott, "Randi Mahomes."
8. Quoted in *Kansas City (MO) Star*, "A Star's Evolution: Small Texas Town Molded Mahomes," *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* (Little Rock, AR), February 2, 2020. www.arkansasonline.com.
9. Quoted in *Amarillo (TX) Globe-News*, "Whitehouse Quarterback Mahomes Wins AP High School Player of the Year Honor," December 20, 2013. www.amarillo.com.
10. Quoted in Tribune Media Wire, "QB Patrick Mahomes' Mom Talks of Raising the MVP, His Siblings," Fox 13, January 19, 2020. www.fox13now.com.
11. Quoted in *Amarillo (TX) Globe-News*, "Whitehouse Quarterback Mahomes Wins AP High School Player of the Year Honor."
12. Quoted in Robert Marlin, "Patrick Mahomes," *Tyler Today*, October/November 2015. <https://mydigitalpublication.com>.

IMPORTANT EVENTS IN THE LIFE OF PATRICK MAHOMES

1995

Patrick Lavon Mahomes II is born September 17 to Pat and Randi Mahomes in Tyler, Texas.

2001

Meets baseball star Alex Rodriguez when his father signs a contract to pitch for the Texas Rangers.

2005

Pat and Randi Mahomes divorce.

2008

Begins playing on a youth football team to have fun with his friends.

2010

Leads an all-star team from Tyler to the finals of the Junior League World Series, an international baseball tournament.

2011

Starts as a safety on the Whitehouse High School football team.

2012

Wins a competition for the varsity quarterback spot and leads Whitehouse High to a 10–2 record, throwing 46 touchdown passes.

2013

Emerges as the best quarterback in Texas, as Whitehouse wins the district championship for the first time in school history. Named National Male Athlete of the Year by scouting organization MaxPreps. Commits to play football and baseball at Texas Tech University.

2014

Receives opportunities to start several Texas Tech games as a freshman and throws 16 touchdown passes.

FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

BOOKS

Matt Derrick, *Patrick Mahomes: Showtime*. Chicago: Triumph, 2019.

John Feinstein, *Quarterback: Inside the Most Important Position in the National Football League*. New York: Doubleday, 2018.

Michael McCambridge, ed., *Chiefs Kingdom: The Official Story of the 2019 Championship Season*. Kansas City, MO: Andrews McMeel, 2020.

Adam Teicher, *Kingdom: How Andy Reid, Patrick Mahomes, and the Kansas City Chiefs Returned to Super Bowl Glory*. Chicago: Triumph, 2020.

INTERNET SOURCES

Joe Andrews, “Andy Reid on Patrick Mahomes: ‘I’d Take Him Over Everybody,’” *Sports Illustrated*, November 23, 2020. www.si.com.

Greg Bishop, “What the Mahomes Contract Really Means,” *Sports Illustrated*, September 10, 2020. www.si.com.

Albert Breer, “Super Bowl LIV Is Set, Thanks to an Intense—but Effective—Pep Talk from Kyle Shanahan and a Classic Patrick Mahomes Performance,” *Sports Illustrated*, January 20, 2020. www.si.com.

Connor Christopherson, “Patrick Mahomes Is the Most Clutch Quarterback in the NFL,” *Sports Illustrated*, November 26, 2020. www.si.com.

Scott Davis, “How Patrick Mahomes Went from a High School Baseball Star to the Most Exciting Player in the NFL and Future of the League,” *Business Insider*, February 2, 2020. www.businessinsider.com.

Austin Johnston, “Patrick Mahomes and the Power of Imagination,” *Sports Illustrated*, May 25, 2020. www.si.com.

Robert Klemko, “Where Patrick Mahomes Gets His Cool,” *Sports Illustrated*, October 5, 2018. www.si.com.

INDEX

Note: Boldface page numbers indicate illustrations.

- awards
for high school play, 16
2018 NFL's MVP/Offensive Player of the Year, 39
2020 *Sports Illustrated's* Sportsperson of the Year, 50
- Belichick, Bill, 37, 39
Bieniemy, Eric, 4, 33
Blackledge, Todd, 29
Black Lives Matter movement, 49
Brady, Tom, 35, 37, 38, 39, **42**, 45
Buck, Joe, 44
- Carr, Derek, 41
Cook, Adam, 14, 26
Cunningham, Randall, 51
- Dawson, Len, 29
Dixon, John, 37
Dorsey, John, 27
Duvernay-Tardif, Laurent, 51
- Favre, Brett, 33, 38
Feinstein, John, 30
15 and the Mahomies Foundation, 50, 60
Ford, Dee, 38
Fournette, Leonard, 22, 28
Fuller, Kendall, 34
- Garrett, Myles, 27
- Gronkowski, Rob, 38
- Harris, Demetrius, 32
Haverty, Trey, 15
Hill, Tyreek, 34, 44, 45
Hunt, Clark, 27, 28
Hunt, Kareem, 33
- James, LeBron, 50
- Kaepernick, Colin, 48–49, **49**
Kafka, Mike, 7, 32, 33
Kansas City Chiefs (website), 60
in 2018 AFC championship, 37–39
in 2019 AFC championship, 43
in 2020 AFC championship, 52–53
quarterback problems of, 29
Kelce, Travis, 5, 7, 34, 36
Kingsbury, Kliff, 15, 19, 20
Kiper, Mel, Jr., 25
Kizer, DeShone, 25
- Leach, Mike, 20
- Mahomes, Jackson (brother), 9, 11, **15**
Mahomes, Patrick, **23**, **40**
on Alex Smith, 30
with Alex Smith, **31**
becomes highest-paid NFL quarterback, 45–46
birth of, 8
with Brittany Matthews, **47**
as clutch performer, 41