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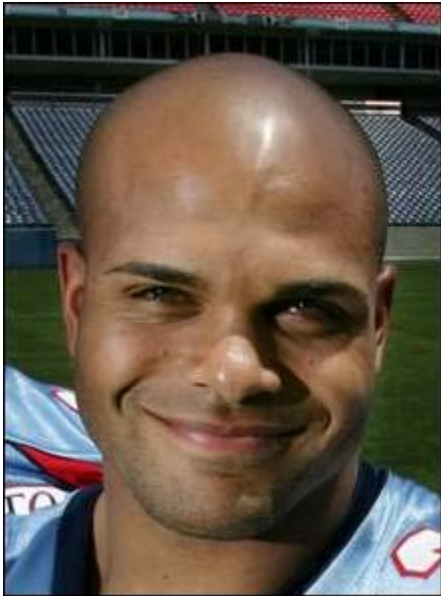
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## Chip Shots: Kats player says Franklin has become his home

With team disbanded, Alexander still hopes to remain in town

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ALEXANDER

**FRANKLIN** — Dan and Amy Alexander have grown to love Franklin, but their future here has become uncertain.

All of the Nashville Kats are looking for new jobs after last week's announcement that the Arena Football League team is ceasing operations. Dan played fullback and linebacker for the Kats, which closed down after posting the third-lowest attendance average (7,962) in the AFL.

"It was very disappointing for me and my wife," Alexander said. "I'm a free agent so I'm not necessarily tied to Nashville at this moment, but this is where my heart is. I love Nashville. I love being here and definitely if the Kats were here they'd be tops on my list."

Dan and Amy moved from Green Hills to a Franklin neighborhood near The Factory in 2004. "We used to think, 'Oh, we'll have to go downtown to get everything,' but we find we barely leave Franklin now," Alexander said. "We both work a lot out of here. It's a great community, a great place to live."

Alexander, 29, is a real estate agent during the offseason, and Amy works at a nonprofit counseling center in Franklin.

Kats owner Bud Adams said he discontinued the team because the ownership group couldn't put together a viable financial model that would be successful over the long-term.

"I think a lot of guys that were under contract by the Kats are upset because now they're not in control of where their families have to move," Alexander said. "They're going to be kind of doled out to all the other teams in the league, and they have no real choice on where they're going to go now."

Alexander understands that Adams is a businessman, but he wishes more had been done to save the team. "I think the league broke records this year in average attendance whereas the Kats' attendance has gone down every year," Alexander said. "If the league has gained popularity, why can't the Kats gain popularity? We have great fans, we did great the first time we were here, and I just feel like there just wasn't enough marketing or advertising done."

Alexander admitted that the team was partly to blame after failing to post a winning record during the past three seasons.

Some of the stray Kats such as lineman Aaron McConnell, the Franklin Christian football coach, may find new teams Friday when the AFL holds its dispersal draft. Players not se-lected will become free agents.

### **Making hard decisions**

The Alexanders, who had their first child five months ago, have some big decisions to make in the near future. They like Franklin so much that Dan is considering retiring from football to focus on real estate.

But he set the AFL single-season record for rushing touchdowns (41) last season, so it would be surprising if he didn't get some good offers when the free-agent signing period begins Oct. 29. Alexander, a former Nebraska star, led the pass-oriented league in rushing (426 yards) in 2007.

He's also considering the new All American Football League that will debut in 2008.

"My wife and me are crunching the numbers, and we're going over all the different scenarios and really just looking at it from a business standpoint on our side," Alexander said. "What do we have to do to support our new son and be able to live comfortably here in Franklin?"

In the meantime, Alexander will work out at D1 Sports Training in Cool Springs as he weighs his options. And if he gets an AFL offer? "Any team that's a short, inexpensive flight from Nashville," Alexander said. "Obviously, that's going to include people like Atlanta, Chicago and Orlando. We're going to do everything in our power to remain in the Franklin/Nashville area."

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