

Reidel Anthony training incoming Florida receiver

Zach Abolverdi - Gatorsports.com

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Alvin Bailey was a jack-of-all-trades for Seffner Armwood's high school football team.

He played every offensive skill position, defensive back and special teams.

His triple dose of duties didn't give him much time to prepare for what his primary position will be in college. But with the help of former UF and NFL receiver Reidel Anthony, Bailey has been dialed in this spring.

"Wide receiver is all I've ever wanted to do," said the Florida signee. "But being an athlete in high school, you can't focus on one thing. Now all my focus is on that, and it's great to have a mentor like Reidel to put me in the receiver mentality."

Anthony was a wideout for the Gators from 1994-96 and finished his UF career with a national title and 126 catches for 2,274 yards and 26 touchdowns. He spent all five of his NFL seasons in Tampa Bay after being drafted by the Buccaneers with the 16th overall pick in 1997.

Anthony is now a skills coach at the Performance Compound in Tampa, which trains youth, high school, collegiate and professional athletes from several sports.

Bailey started seeing Anthony two months ago and they've been working out at least twice a week ever since.

"You're never too good to stop being trained," Bailey said. "He has a lot to teach me and there's so much stuff he knows that I don't. I'm just taking it all in."

The 5-foot-11 Bailey is also training with former NFL receiver Yo Murphy, the director of sports performance at the Performance Compound. According to Anthony, the Under Armour All-American has improved his agility and increased his upper and lower body strength. He's added eight pounds of muscle and weighs over 180.

"He's really enjoying what we're doing with him," Anthony said. "He's soaking it up. He takes everything in and he's willing to learn. He will go out and do whatever we ask him to do."

Anthony, who trains USC sophomore receiver Nelson Agholor as well, believes Bailey will see the field as a freshman and make an immediate impact for the Gators. He compared him to Ike Hilliard, his former UF teammate who played 12 years in the NFL with the New York Giants and Bucs.

"The way he's built and the way he moves, he reminds me of Ike," Anthony said. "Remember, Ike also came out (of high school) as a running back/quarterback/receiver. Alvin is going to be that guy who can catch the ball and go from zero to 60 at the drop of a dime."

After spending time with Anthony in the offseason, Bailey is confident in his abilities as he gets ready to report to Gainesville in late June. The Florida coaches plan on using him as a returner, slot receiver and wildcat quarterback.

"It's definitely special learning from him," Bailey said. "He was a legend in Tampa Bay and he did his thing as a Gator. He's basically showing me the blueprint for everything that's coming up for me. He's giving me some cheat codes to the game of football and I can't wait to use them."

