

# From Seahawks to Starbucks: Players try out the corporate world in job shadow program

Jun 12, 2015, 8:05am PDT



Seahawks lineman Garry Gilliam participated in Starbucks' job shadowing day for...A star on the field could also become a star in the boardroom. That's the idea behind Starbucks' (Nasdaq: SBUX) new job-shadowing program for Seattle Seahawks players. "In a perfect world, obviously, you want to play football long enough so you have enough money so you don't have to work again," said Seahawks lineman Garry Gilliam. Gilliam is one of the first participants in the new program, which gives players a chance to spend time at Starbucks' corporate offices in Seattle, meet with some of the leaders of various departments and get a sense of what job opportunities might be available to them when their days on the field come to an end. Many football players come from underprivileged backgrounds. Gilliam was the first in his family to graduate from high school, and then went on to Penn State to play football and get degrees in advertising, psychology and business. "I can see myself being a serial entrepreneur," Gilliam said. "Set up a few businesses and see how far I can take them." Gilliam wasn't the only Seahawks player to participate in the job shadowing program this week. Seahawks teammates Kevin Pierre-Louis, Marcus Burley, Mike Morgan and Julius Warmesley also shadowed Starbucks employees. About 90 percent of professional football players go bankrupt within two years of leaving the sport, Starbucks said in a press release. That's what prompted this program.