

Longtime all-pro star Eller retires

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SEATTLE (AP) — Defensive end Carl Eller, a 16-year National Football League veteran who played four times in the Super Bowl for the Minnesota Vikings, has retired, the Seattle Seahawks announced Friday.

Eller, 38, came to the Seahawks before last season in a trade for defensive lineman Steve Niehaus, Seattle's first draft choice in 1976. He played with the Vikings for 15 seasons.

In 1979, Eller played in all 16 regular season games and started in eight contests. Although the Seahawks went 9-7 for the second straight season, they failed to make the playoffs and lacked an effective pass rush.

The Seahawks' first round draft pick this year was defensive end Jacob Green of Texas A&M, considered a premier pass rusher in college.

In his prime, the 6-foot-6, 245-pounder was one of the key players in the Vikings' famed "Purple People Eaters" defensive front four.

With the Vikings, Eller was selected all-pro five times and played in six Pro Bowl games.

He was a defensive and offensive lineman at University of Minnesota and was a first round draft choice of the Vikings in 1964.

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