

Trameka Boykin & Jerome Bettis

The Super Bowl champ weds his longtime girlfriend in Jamaica—with a party that’s a total rush



TRAMEKA BOYKIN & JEROME BETTIS, JULY 8, 2006

Former Pittsburgh Steelers tailback Jerome Bettis’s ability to run past and over defenders earned him the nickname “The Bus,” but petite Trameka Boykin managed to stop the NFL star in his tracks at a Miami club in 2000. “She’s fiery,” says Bettis, 34, of Boykin, a onetime telecom executive. “I like that.” The two briefly lost touch, but after a friend reintroduced them several months later, Boykin, 33, could see their relationship had legs: “He’s so warm and caring. He’s my gentle giant.”

A few years ago Bettis surprised Boykin with a trip to the Ritz-Carlton in Montego Bay, Jamaica. “I told Jerome, ‘This would be a beautiful place for a wedding,’” she says. Sure enough, once he had proposed with a 5.25-carat radiant-cut diamond, the couple returned for their nuptials. “It’s where we fell in love,” Boykin says.

Many of the groom’s 2006 Super Bowl-winning teammates joined in the three-day celebration, planned by Karen Kaforey of Signature Events in Nashville. At the ceremony on the hotel’s lawn, Bettis carried Jada, the couple’s 23-month-old daughter, to the altar, where he was halted yet again by the sight of his bride walking down the aisle. “I was mesmerized,” he says.

The reception featured a performance by R&B vocalist Chanté Moore to accompany the newlyweds’ first dance. Post-party the couple hopped a flight to L.A. for the ESPY Awards, then jetted to St. Martin and St. Bart’s for their honeymoon. Clearly, even in retirement, “The Bus” rolls on. ■



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1 Orchids graced each place setting at the tables, where guests dined on filet mignon and sea bass. **2** The bride, with her attendants, wore a duchesse silk satin Rivini gown and carried a bouquet of Casablanca lilies. **3** Bettis and his former Steeler teammates showed off their 2006 Super Bowl championship rings. **4** The four-tier vanilla cake with strawberry cream-cheese filling was encircled by bands of chocolate and topped with chocolate shavings. **5** The bride and longtime NFL running back Eddie George hit the dance floor.



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Steal This Idea!

Rather than having your flower girl scatter just a few petals, try blanketing the entire aisle in roses for your big entrance. To prepare for the ceremony, planner Karen Kaforey carefully placed a layer of lush white petals on the runner, then cordoned off the aisle with satin ribbon to prevent guests from trampling on them. (She also refrigerated the petals beforehand to keep them from wilting.) Once the wedding party had reached the altar, the flower girls tossed burnt-orange rose petals on top of the white ones in anticipation of the bride’s entrance.