

Akeem Jordan gets first chance to start along side Derrick Johnson on Chiefs' defense

Sports

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According to the Kansas City Star, it appears as if free agent Akeem Jordan will get first crack at the vacant inside linebacker position in the Chiefs defense.

Jordan played alongside Pro Bowler Derrick Johnson with the first-unit defense Tuesday when the Chiefs conducted their first full-squad practice of the off season.

Jordan, a seven-year veteran, is making the transition to a 3-4 defense from the 4-3 in Philadelphia, where he appeared in 82 games, including 34 starts, at all three spots during 2007-12.

"The thing you get with Akeem is he's a smart football player," Chiefs coach Andy Reid said. "He hasn't played in the 34, but he gives you the trust that he can do that. He doesn't make a lot of mistakes. And he's a phenomenal special-teams player, so you get both those things. You're going to get a guy who doesn't make mistakes on the field as a linebacker, and you get something special on special teams."

Another veteran free agent, Zac Diles, and fourth-round draft pick Nico Johnson of Alabama, played inside linebacker with the second unit and will compete for the spot formerly occupied by the late Jovan Belcher.