# Jeff Rohrer and Josh Ross: the NFL's gay love story



In the heart of West Hollywood at an Italian restaurant, an unexpected love story unfolded between two individuals from seemingly disparate universes. Jeff Rohrer, a former linebacker for the Dallas Cowboys, and Josh Ross, a celebrated aesthetician with a clientele that includes notable figures from Bravo’s Real Housewives franchise, met and formed a connection that would make headlines.

Josh, enjoying life as an openly gay man in his 30s, initially had no interest in dating someone with a complicated past. Yet, upon meeting Jeff, who was navigating his own journey towards openness about his sexuality, Josh sensed an inexplicable bond. Born and raised in Texas, Josh felt a special connection to Jeff’s history with the Dallas Cowboys, often referred to as "America’s Team." Despite their contrasting backgrounds, a strong affinity grew between them.

This bond proved significant when the couple married in 2018, making Jeff the first NFL player to enter into a same-sex marriage. Their nuptials marked a national milestone and attracted considerable media attention. Additionally, their family dynamic was notable as Jeff continued to co-parent his children with his ex-wife, all under the same roof, alongside Josh. This blended family lifestyle was celebrated in features by PEOPLE and NFL Films, branding them a "Modern American Family."

Jeff reflected on his life changes and the responsibilities they brought. He felt a sense of duty to spread a message of love and understanding, moving beyond the traditional labels of being a gay man or an NFL player. Now, as empty-nesters, Jeff and Josh navigate a new chapter in their lives. Josh is dedicated to his cosmetic career, while Jeff works in Hollywood and participates in advocacy initiatives like Pride 365.

In a recent interview with Queerty, the pair discussed their lives, their family, and the surprising reception Jeff received from his coming out. Jeff confessed he had been shocked by the positive reactions from across the political and social spectrum, including friends and former NFL colleagues. He believed this widespread support demonstrated the broader community’s appreciation for one's character and actions rather than their sexuality.

Josh and Jeff fondly recounted humorous and poignant moments from their family life, likening their household to scenes from a sitcom. Josh explained that co-parenting alongside Jeff’s ex-wife gave their children a unique, supportive environment. This unconventional family set-up, initially met with curiosity from their children’s peers, eventually became a source of pride and admiration.

Reflecting on their initial encounter, Josh revealed he was unaware of Jeff’s NFL background or his previous marriage until they had been dating for a couple of months. Jeff, who had tested the waters of openly gay spaces cautiously, felt a unique draw towards Josh. Their relationship blossomed, despite the challenges stemming from Jeff's past.

Their conversations with Queerty also delved into lighter, more personal aspects of their lives. Jeff joked about Josh’s "daddy" preferences, which helped ease the introduction of Jeff’s children into their relationship. Josh shared insights into his skincare philosophy, emphasising holistic health and simple routines over cosmetic procedures.

Jeff offered a glimpse into his life during his time with the Dallas Cowboys, describing the wild, often brutal atmosphere of '80s NFL culture. The tales of camaraderie, parties, and on-field toughness painted a vivid picture of an era when NFL players navigated a sport fraught with physical and mental demands.

As the NFL season kicks off, Jeff and Josh juxtapose their activities on fall Sundays, with Jeff engrossed in football and Josh attending pilates. Their ongoing journey, marked by laughter, mutual support, and breaking new ground in public perceptions, continues to inspire and intrigue those who follow their story.