

# Udeze talks about battle with leukemia

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Fans know him as the Vikings first round pick in the 2004 draft. But on Friday night, Kenechi Udeze talked as a fighter and survivor of acute leukemia.



"I just want to say thank you for giving me the insight educating me and most importantly giving me a second chance on living my life and doing what I love to do best," Udeze said on Friday.

It's been a three-month battle for Udeze filled with chemotherapy and radiation. But just two days ago, he learned it's a battle he just may win.

"Just this week, we found out my leukemia is in remission," Udeze said.

Even more, he said, tests show his brother is a perfect match for a bone marrow transplant.

"I feel like with my attitude, support of my family and friends and everyone here at Winter Park, there's no reason to be scared," he said.

Udeze shared that attitude with others Friday night at an around-the-clock soccer fundraiser for the National Marrow Donor Program.

"Whatever comes at you, you have to deal with it, you have to put God first and put your faith in Him and you got to be strong," he said.

Udeze also thanked his wife, Terrica, and said they and their four-month-old daughter, Bailey, are moving forward. Terrica agreed her husband will beat the disease.

"He's my support, I lean back on him when he leans back on me," she said.

As for football -- Udeze plans to return.

"Football's not going anywhere, and just like football, I'm not going anywhere," he said.

For more information on how to help other people find a donor match, you can go to: [www.marrow.org](http://www.marrow.org)