

An NFL star is opening a Cajun restaurant near Valley Ranch, and it's not a Cowboy

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Irving used to be the home of the Dallas Cowboys, but soon a quarterback from another National Football League team will leave his stamp on the suburb.

Walk-On's Bistreaux and Bar, a franchise that hails from Baton Rouge, La., is opening its first North Texas location at 4949 Regent Blvd. in Las Colinas, coincidentally between Valley Ranch and where the original Cowboys Stadium once stood.

The restaurant is co-owned by New Orleans Saints quarterback, Super Bowl champ and 10-time Pro Bowl player Drew Brees, who bought a stake in the business in 2015. Though he's never been a Dallas Cowboy, Brees is a native Texan, having grown up in Austin.

"Texas has been a priority expansion market ever since we started franchising," said Brandon Landry, one of the founders, in a statement. He and partner Jack Warner opened their first Walk-On's in 2003 and named it after their own journey as walk-on players to the Louisiana State University basketball team.

The Irving location will inhabit an 8,500-square-foot space and serve the same [Cajun-infused sport bar menu](#) featured at Walk-On's 17 other locations. Think hush puppies, gumbo, alligator, shrimp dishes and fusion dishes like a Cajundillas, which come stuffed with chicken, andouille sausage, boudin, onions and cheese with a side of red beans and rice.

The restaurant, which is owned by franchisees Joshua Allen and Johnny Qubty, breaks ground on March 6. It is expected to open in October.

The voodoo shrimp from Walk-On's Bistreaux and Bar features chargrilled shrimp stuffed with cream cheese and pickled jalapenos, wrapped in bacon and served over corn grits.

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