

Earthquake on the Plains

EARTHQUAKE ON THE PLAINS – JYOTISH VISITS THE WORLD OF SPORTS
by Lynn Bootes

Here is a December treat for our readers and students: a birth chart from the world of American Football – that perennial preoccupation of Americans at this time of the year. For those of you in other lands, please refer to the end notes for a short summary of how this sport works. In my home state of Oklahoma, we are grateful for football so we don't have to murder each other over religion or politics.

Lincoln Riley is a coach, not a player. He caused an earthquake in Oklahoma on November 27, 2021, when he announced his departure from the University of Oklahoma to the University of Southern California in Los Angeles effective immediately. Our ACVA students may wish to start by looking at the chart on your own, before reading further, to test your skills so far. For future students, graduates and friends, read on and see what you think. Those from Western Astrology will remember that we are using the Sidereal Zodiac, so all planets and chart points are 24 degrees earlier than in the Western Tropical. This is a chart with a rather singular focus, which gives us a chance to look at the distinction between a coach and an athlete, to look for particular combinations (Yogas), and to analyze the events of the fall of 2021 using Vimshottari Dashas and transits.



LINCOLN RILEY'S BIO

Lincoln Riley was born September 5, 1983, at 11:02 pm Central Daylight Time, in Lubbock, Texas. (AA data as published in a birth announcement in a local newspaper). He grew up in Muleshoe, Texas, a town of 5,000 on the Llano Estacado, a treeless and entirely flat high plain where the horizon is broken only by the grain mill, the water tower, and the football stadium. In this part of the world, it can just about be said that football IS life, the highest aspiration and the center of the community. Riley did well in sports and served as quarterback for his high school team, but at a tiny high school with a student body of

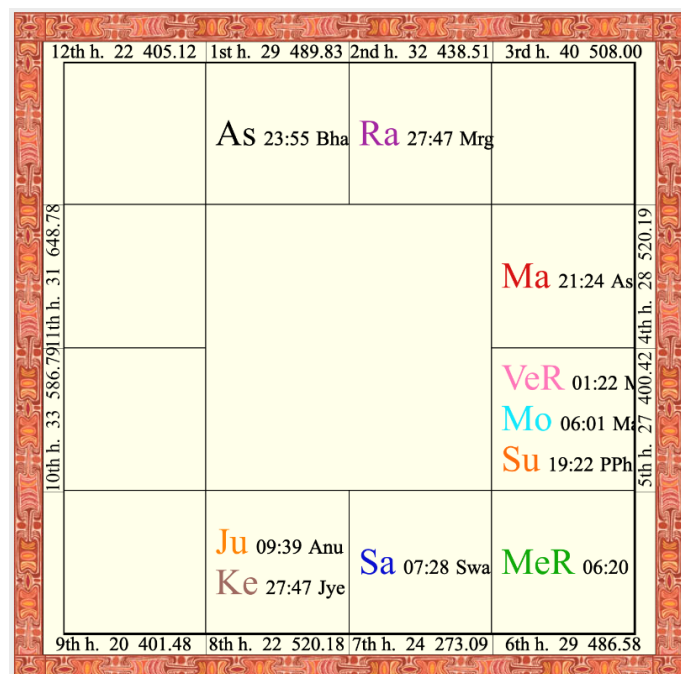
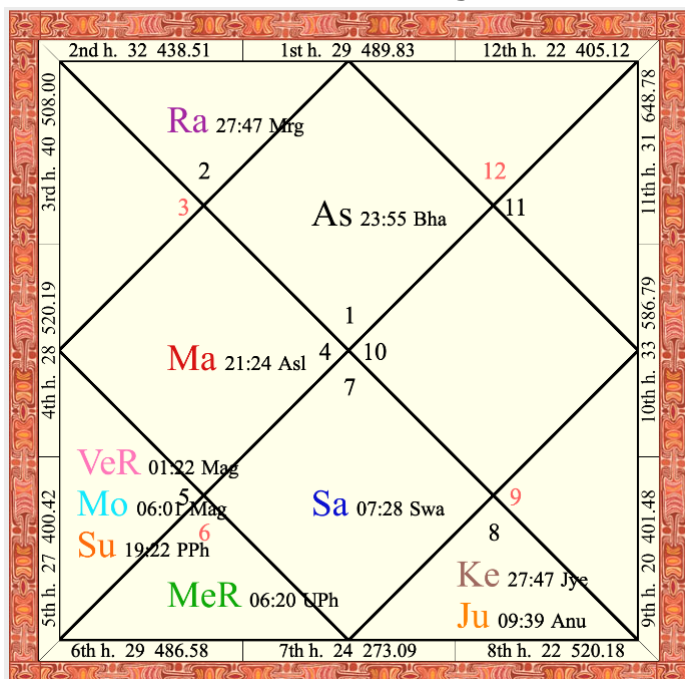
only 400. At Texas Tech College in Lubbock, he was accepted as a walk-on quarterback (no scholarship) but soon found his role as a student coach in 2003. He graduated in exercise and sports science in 2006 and married his wife Caitlin, and moved up the ranks of the coaching staff. In 2009, Riley became offensive coordinator (one rank below head coach) at East Carolina University. Two daughters were born in 2012 and 2016.

Then on January 15, 2015, he was hired as offensive coordinator for a much bigger team, University of Oklahoma (the Sooners). He did so well that in 2017 he received honors as the top college offensive coach in the nation. He became head coach after the retirement of Bob Stoops on June 7, 2017. As coach of one of the top teams of the Big 12 league of Texas and the big colleges of the Great Plains region, he had top talent and success. Two of his quarterbacks, Baker Mayfield and Kyler Murray, obtained the Heisman Trophy, and a third, Jalen Hurts, almost did so. All three went on to successful professional careers.

Riley's boss, athletic director Joe Castiglione, had bigger ambitions, and in the fall of 2021 announced a contract to move the team to the powerhouse SEC division. The football teams of the Southeast US have a reputation for amassing burly and aggressive linemen as opposed to the nimble virtuosity of the Big 12 quarterbacks. Perhaps Riley saw the prospect of finishing in the bottom half of these leagues as less than fulfilling – he has never said. But in the fall of 2021, the team lacked the same level of talent on the offensive team and in quarterback, and actually lost one game early in the season. On September 14, 2021, the USC coach in Los Angeles was fired, and it appears in retrospect that that school began recruiting Riley. Meanwhile the season in Oklahoma continued all the way to November 27, when Oklahoma was narrowly defeated by an arch-rival, Oklahoma State University (OSU Cowboys), in their annual match called "Bedlam." And then the very next day Riley announced his move. The level of noise and consternation among fans in Oklahoma reached near-earthquake proportions, but a week later, Riley was in California, beginning recruitment for a team plagued by a decade of loss and scandal.

RILEY'S BIRTH CHART

This birth chart has Aries in the Lagna and is dominated by Sun, Moon, and Venus close together in Leo in the 5th bhava or house. Our



beginning students in 101-104 at ACVA will notice that this chart is dominated by Fire signs (Aries and Leo) and by two of the three dharma houses, 1st and 5th. This is a very strong-willed, active, competitive person, who loves to lead. Unlike a common configuration for superstar players and celebrities, the center of gravity of the chart is not in the Lagna, but rather the 5th house. One of the key characteristics of the 5th house is the interest in sports, games and competition – while others include children and an interest in education. An esoteric meaning can be Punya Karma – the positive karma one is born into – Riley was born into a family and community which valued his talents.

The sign lord of his Aries Lagna is Mars, which is located in the 4th bhava or house. Mars is debilitated in Cancer, but it benefits because its lord Moon is with the Sun in Leo in the 5th and the Sun is in the sign it rules. Also Mars is opposite the 10th house of career ruled by Capricorn, which would be its exaltation sign. So in his life, his home town, the earth of his upbringing, was in an insignificant and humble town, and he was not able to be the star athlete in college. However, he found his talent in the 5th house activity of coaching.

Next, we look at the very strong and unusual Saturn, which is exalted in Libra, and has directional strength in the 7th house. Saturn seems like the polar opposite of the planets and signs we have discussed – an air sign, a cool-calculating malefic planet. Yet it adds the strength of being aware of

others – the coach who can identify young athletes to recruit, who can assess the best way to use the talents of the team. We don't know much about his wife, but she is likely to be a strong, stable counterpoint to his Aries Lagna, and capable of standing up to him. Saturn is the lord of his 10th house of career and 11th of financial gains – and being in Libra its own lord is Venus which is in Leo. And finally, there is a special mutual aspect with Mars which could bring trouble, but these two grahas often do well when directed into a physical contact sport such as football.

Mercury is in its own sign in Virgo in the 6th house of enemies, service and injuries. Behind the scenes we can picture the analytical side of Riley looking into all the details of plays and training regimens. Rahu in Taurus and Ketu in Scorpio are in their own signs in the 2nd house of money and the 8th house of debt. Thus Riley has five planets in their own or exalted signs, which is one of the Raja Yogas which indicates a rise to leadership. There are a number of other Yogas or combinations, especially the interactions of the planets ruling the 1st, 4th, 5th, 7th and 10th houses, which create Raja Yogas.

Our ACVA 106 students learn to look at the chart from the point of view not just of the Janma Lagna (first house) but also from the point of view of the Sun and Moon as Lagnas – the Moon giving the emotional and mental characteristics, and the Sun the inner purpose or Atma. Jupiter and Ketu in the 8th house is a weaker link in an otherwise strong chart, but even here we see that Jupiter makes a very helpful aspect to Mars, and that if we use the Sun or Moon as Lagna that Jupiter is in the 4th house from Leo. And ambitious Rahu in Taurus ends up in the 10th house of career, with Venus the 10th house lord being in the Sun/Moon Lagnas. This is a guy who wants to get to the top of his field – some writers have speculated he wants to eventually coach a professional football team.

RILEY'S DASHAS AND TRANSITS

*He was born with his Moon in the Nakshatra of Magha at 6:01 Leo, so his first Vimshottari Dasha period was **Ketu** until age four. Ketu is in the 8th house of debt and loss, yet is in its own sign of Scorpio and joined by Jupiter. Maybe money was tight in the family or some loss we don't know about. (Our ACVA students learn about Nakshatras in Course 107 and Dashas in 109)*

Venus Dasha lasted 20 years from age 4 to 24 (1987 to 2007). His early football career, education, his introduction to coaching and marriage all fell in those years. Venus combined with Sun and Moon in the 5th house, and Venus is the lord of Saturn in Libra, and of the 2nd house Taurus. He did well.

Sun Dasha was 6 years from age 24 to 30 (2007 to 2013). As the Sun is at the same spot in the chart as Venus, but in its own sign, the same positive trends continued. The year 2009 was an important career move to offensive coach at East Carolina.

Moon Dasha lasts 10 years, beginning in 2013. The same conditions continued with Moon in Leo in the 5th, but as lord of Mars from the 4th his competitive drive increased. As a new father he moved to Oklahoma in 2015 (Moon/Rahu). On June 7, 2017, he became head coach at OU and his second daughter arrived (Moon/Jupiter). The very difficult seasons of COVID lockdown occurred in Moon/Mercury and Moon/Ketu. Both Mercury and Ketu are in difficult houses - 6th and 8th.

Moon/Venus Bhukti began May 9, 2021. Note both are in his 5th house! On September 14, he was in MO/VE/SU if we go to the 3rd level of daschas – involving all three of the 5th house grahas. Then on September 18 he was in MO/VE/MO. I think it is likely he was already seriously planning his move, making the final decision in mid-November under MO/VE/MA when he was out of communication with the team for a day.

Looking ahead, he will enter **Moon/Sun Bhukti** on January 8, 2023 through July 2023. I am anticipating his path will continue much the same.

Mars Dasha will run from July 2023 to July 2030. This will be the first time in many decades the Dasha lord is not in the 5th house. It may prove more difficult in some ways, as Mars is debilitated and is lord of the 8th house, and in a mutual aspect with Saturn. He may have stresses with debts or with marriage. However, Mars' sign lord is the Moon in the 5th so he is likely to remain in his role in coaching top teams.

Rahu Dasha, beginning in 2030, brings this second house graha into the fore, and he may find he is making money in some big way.

Transits for November 2021

Note that Jupiter entered Aquarius just as he made his career move – Jupiter is now in his 11th house of gains, in a full aspect opposite his Sun, Moon and Venus. Saturn remains in Capricorn – his 10th house – and he may have felt he was at the top of what he could do in Oklahoma. The Moon was in Leo on the day of his announcement – with his Leo planets and opposite the Moon. If I had been consulted, I would have judged it a good time to take a risk – especially for a risk-taking Aries Lagna.

American Football features three separate teams: offense led by the Quarterback, defense led by the Center "D", and special teams, led by the

kicker. They take to the field at separate times. The Quarterback leads play and makes the decision to pass the ball to a runner, to throw the ball to another player, or to run the ball himself. Points are scored either as touchdowns, getting the ball over the goal line, or by field goals, in which the kicker of the special team kicks it between the goal posts for lesser points. The Quarterback also functions as the leader of the overall team among the players.

The birth data can be found at astro.com along with a link to the Wikipedia biography. A number of excellent photos are available online by photographers at the Tulsa World.