

Mini Bio: Earl Campbell

Earl tore up the playing fields at Texas, winning the Heisman Trophy and consensus All-America honors in 1977, his senior year. The Houston Oilers made the 5-11, 233-pound fullback the first player taken in the 1978 draft.

He had perhaps the best rookie year ever, leading the NFL in rushing while winning all-pro, rookie-of-the-year, and Most Valuable Player honors. He was to win the MVP award twice more. Without doubt the most powerful runner of his day, he also had surprising speed.

Campbell led the league in rushing again as a sophomore. Then, in 1980, his 1,934-yard rushing total was the third best in NFL history. The "Tyler Rose" (because he was from Tyler, Texas) rushed for over a thousand yards in five of his first six seasons. In 1984, he was traded to New Orleans for a first round draft choice. He retired after the 1985 season with his eight-season career totals (115 games) at 9,407 yards and 74 touchdowns.

Campbell was named to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1991.

Mini Bio: John Hannah

When the New England Patriots made John the fourth overall pick in the 1973 draft, it was an unusually high slot for an offensive lineman. But the Pats knew what they were getting in the two-time All-America from Alabama. Hannah quickly adjusted from the wishbone offense that stressed straight-ahead blocking used by his college team to the drop-back pass blocking techniques used by the pros. And, because he had outstanding speed for such a big man, he was exceptional in leading sweeps. By 1976, he was an all-pro and stayed so for ten straight years. Four times he was named NFL Offensive Lineman of the Year.

He was a major factor when the Patriots set an NFL record with 3,165 rushing yards in 1978.

Although the 6-3, 265-pound guard battled injuries throughout his career, he was nevertheless able to play in 183 of 191 possible regular-season games over his 13-year career. He missed the 1983 Pro Bowl with a shoulder injury but played in eight others.

In 1991 he was named to the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Mini Bio: Stan Jones

Stan was one of the NFL's strongest and most versatile linemen. As a boy he took up weight lifting. Through discipline and dedication, he built himself into an outstanding specimen. At the University of Maryland, he became a regular two-way tackle as a sophomore in 1951. In 1953, his senior year, he was voted the outstanding college lineman in the country. The Chicago Bears drafted him on the fifth round in '53 as a future pick, and in 1954 he moved right in as a regular offensive tackle. The next year he switched to offensive guard, the position at which he gained the most pro fame.

From 1955 through 1961, the 6-1, 250-pound Jones played in seven straight Pro Bowls. He was named all-NFL four times. His strength and dependability made him an outstanding pass blocker, but he still had the speed to lead run sweeps.

In 1963, he switched permanently to defensive tackle and helped the Bears win the NFL Championship. After two more seasons, he was traded at his request to Washington so he could be nearer his home. He spent 1966 with the Redskins and then retired.

In 1991 Jones was named to the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Mini Bio: Tex Schramm

Tex spent 44 years -- from 1947 through 1990 -- in pro football. He began as the publicity director for the Los Angeles Rams and advanced to the positions of assistant to the president and general manager before leaving in 1956. The Rams played in four NFL Championship Games during his time with them.

In 1960, Tex became general manager/president of the newly formed Dallas Cowboys, a position he held until 1990. Under Schramm, the Cowboys became "America's Team," playing in five Super Bowls and making 18 playoff appearances. Their 20 consecutive winning seasons are unmatched in pro football history.

Schramm was influential in the league. He and Lamar Hunt were the leading forces in bringing about the NFL-AFL merger. He led the fight for instant replay, knowing it would enhance fan interest. He was a leading advocate of the referee's microphone, a 30-second clock between plays, extra-wide sideline borders, wind-direction strips on goalpost uprights, and other innovations.

Schramm was named to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1991.

Mini Bio: Jan Stenerud

Jan was born in Norway and attended Montana State on a skiing scholarship. One day the baseball coach saw him kicking a football around. He notified the football coach and Jan's career was launched. In 1966, the Kansas City Chiefs drafted as a third-round "red-shirt."

Though not the first soccer-style kicker to enter the NFL, Stenerud was the most successful. He booted for the Chiefs from 1967 through 1979, the Green Bay Packers from 1980 through 1983, and the Minnesota Vikings in 1984-85. In 19 seasons he scored 1,699 points, ranking him second in NFL scoring only to George Blanda. His 373 field goals are the all-time record. He tied the NFL record by scoring 100 or more points in seven seasons.

Seventeen of Jan's field goals were for over 50 yards, with his longest being a 55-yarder against Denver in 1970.

In 1991 Stenerud became the first pure kicker to be named to the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Mini Bio: Carl Eller

After winning consensus All-America honors at Minnesota, Carl became a regular defensive end with the Minnesota Vikings in 1964, his first year. He went on to hold that job for 15 seasons. He retired in 1979 after a final season with the Seattle Seahawks, having played in 225 regular season games.

The winner of the George Halas Trophy as the NFL's top defensive player in 1971 was a 6-6, 247-pound terror to enemy passers because of his great speed and agility. During the 1975-77 seasons alone he totaled 44 sacks. His 23 fumble recoveries is the third highest total in league history, but his most famous fumble is one he caused as a rookie. Teammate Jim Marshall picked it up and ran the wrong way.

With Marshall, Alan Page, and Gary Larsen, Eller formed the famous "Purple People Eater" defensive line that took Minnesota to four Super Bowls. During ten of his Minnesota seasons the Vikings won their division crown. He was selected to six Pro Bowls.

Mini Bio: L.C. Greenwood

The Pittsburgh Steelers were fined for uniform violation every game that L.C. played during his 13 seasons. While his teammates wore the standard black shoes that went with the uniform, Greenwood's were always a shiney gold. The Steelers never complained. L.C. was worth it.

The 6-6, 250-pound defensive end out of Arkansas AM&N combined with Joe Greene to form an impregnable duo on the left of the Steelers' "Steel Curtain." He had unusual speed for a man his size and used it to record 73 1/2 sacks during his career, but he was equally famous for the numerous times he used his height and quick reflexes to bat down passes. In Super Bowl IX he smashed down three of Fran Tarkenton's attempts.

Although his pass-rushing style was described as "reckless," he was remarkably consistent and seldom injured. An exception was the 1977 season when he missed five games with a knee injury, but he rebounded with one of his best seasons (and the Steelers went to the Super Bowl again) in 1978.

Mini Bio: Jack Youngblood

Jack was one of the most durable defensive ends ever in the NFL. In 14 seasons, he missed only one game and his 201 consecutive games constitute the Los Angeles Rams' club record. In 1979 he fractured his left fibula during the first round of the playoffs. He was fitted with a plastic brace and played every defensive down of both the NFC title game and Super Bowl XIV.

After earning All-America honors at Florida in 1970, the 6-4, 242-pound Youngblood was the 20th player selected in the 1971 draft. As a rookie, he served as backup for all-time great Deacon Jones, and by his third season he was a regular. He earned All-Pro honors in 1974, 1975, 1976, 1978 and 1979. He was All-NFC six times and played in seven straight Pro Bowls.

Rugged and reliable, he annually led the Rams in sacks. Three times he won the Dan Reeves Award as the Rams' MVP.