

INSIDE: The National Football League in the 2000's

OFFICIAL PRO FOOTBALL HALL OF
FAME
YEARBOOK

CLASS OF 2010



Russ Grimm ★ Rickey Jackson ★ Dick LeBeau
Floyd Little ★ John Randle ★ Jerry Rice ★ Emmitt Smith

HALL OF FAME GREATS

Elway ★ Largent ★ Olsen ★ Page ★ White

ARTIFACTS OF THE HALL

Celebrating the Past & Present

PLUS MUCH MORE!

U.S. \$9.95 Canada \$10.95



FAME

YEARBOOK



CLASS OF 2010 ENSHRINEES



RUSS GRIMM

PAGE 18



RICKEY JACKSON

PAGE 28



DICK LEBEAU

PAGE 34



FLOYD LITTLE

PAGE 44



JOHN RANDLE

PAGE 52



JERRY RICE

PAGE 60



EMMITT SMITH

PAGE 74

16

PRESIDENT'S
LETTER

10



14

TECHNOLOGY
Helps Hall of Fame Reach Students

OFFICIAL PRO FOOTBALL HALL OF

FAME

YEARBOOK



84

HALL OF FAME GREATS

JOHN ELWAY

MILE HIGH QUARTERBACK

PAGE 86

STEVE LARGENT

UNCONVENTIONAL PATHS

PAGE 92

MERLIN OLSEN

HEART OF THE FEARSOME FOURSOME

PAGE 96

ALAN PAGE

ACHIEVING A DREAM

PAGE 102

RANDY WHITE

BOLSTERING THE DOOMSDAY DEFENSE

PAGE 108

STAN JONES

1931-2010

PAGE 113

116 THEN FL IN THE 2000s

DID YOU 126 KNOW?

An Interesting Perspective
of Pro Football's Past

PRO FOOTBALL
HALL OF FAME
42ND ANNUAL PHOTO

138 CONTEST
2009 SEASON

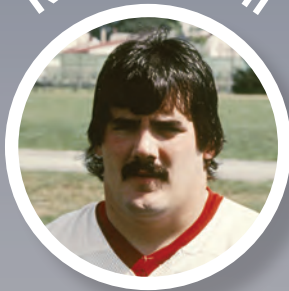
NEW ADDITIONS
PIECES FROM THE GAME

132



Class of

Russ Grimm



Position: Guard
Born: May 2, 1959
Birthplace: Scottsdale, Pennsylvania
Height: 6-3; Weight: 273
College: Pittsburgh
Pro: Washington Redskins (1981-1991)

Selected in 3rd round, 1981 NFL Draft . . . Immediate starter on Redskins offensive line that earned nickname "The Hogs". . . Speed and strength crucial to Redskins dominating running attack . . . Selected to four straight Pro Bowls . . . Named All-Pro and All-NFC, 1983-86 . . . Appeared in five NFC championship games and four Super Bowls . . . Elected to NFL's 1980s All-Decade Team.

Rickey Jackson



Position: Linebacker
Born: March 20, 1958
Birthplace: Pahokee, Florida
Height: 6-2; Weight: 243
College: Pittsburgh
Pro: New Orleans Saints (1981-1993), San Francisco 49ers (1994-95)

Selected by Saints in 2nd round (51st player overall), 1981 . . . Made immediate impact as rookie when led team with franchise rookie record eight sacks and was leading tackler . . . Six double-digit sack totals in career . . . Six Pro Bowls . . . All-Pro four times . . . Jackson finished NFL career as defensive end with 49ers . . . 128 career sacks does not include rookie total since sack did not become official statistic until 1982.

Dick LeBeau



Position: Cornerback
Born: September 9, 1937
Birthplace: London, Ohio
Height: 6-1; Weight: 185
College: Ohio State
Pro: Detroit Lions (1959-1972)

Drafted by Cleveland Browns in 5th round (58th overall), 1959 . . . Cut by Browns during rookie training camp, signed with Lions . . . String of 12 straight seasons with three or more interceptions . . . Five picks returned for career-high 158 yards, 1963 . . . Voted to three consecutive Pro Bowls . . . All-NFL second-team four times . . . NFC-leading nine interceptions for 96 yards, 1970 . . . Recorded 62 career interceptions for 762 yards and three touchdowns, ranked third all-time at retirement.

2010 Enshrinees

Floyd Little



Position: Running Back
Born: Born July 4, 1942
Birthplace: New Haven, Connecticut
Height: 5-10; Weight: 196
College: Syracuse
Pro: Denver Broncos (1967-1975)

Denver's first-round pick (6th player overall), 1967 . . . Initially used mostly as return specialist . . . In third year averaged league-high and career best 5.0 yards per carry rushing . . . Led AFC in rushing, 1970; Broncos' first 1,000-yard rusher; won NFL rushing title, 1971 . . . Receiving threat . . . Scored combined 32 TDs, 1971-73 . . . Named to five AFL All-Star Games/Pro Bowls . . . Named All-AFL/NFL twice, All-AFC first- or second-team four straight years . . . Amassed more than 12,000 all-purpose yards and 54 TDs . . . Retired 7th all-time in rushing yards.

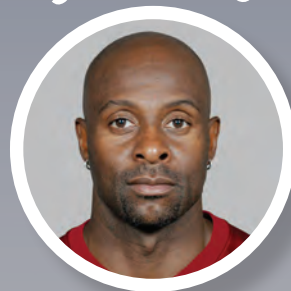
John Randle



Position: Defensive Tackle
Born: December 12, 1967
Birthplace: Hearne, Texas
Height: 6-1; Weight: 278
College: Trinity Valley Community College (TX); Texas A&I
Pro: Minnesota Vikings (1990-2000), Seattle Seahawks (2001-03)

Little All-America pick as a senior at Texas A&I . . . Signed by Vikings as an undrafted free agent . . . Recorded 137.5 career sacks . . . Had eight consecutive seasons (1992-99) with 10-plus sacks and a ninth in 2001 . . . In 1997 had career best and league-leading 15.5 sacks . . . Named first-team All-Pro/All-NFC six consecutive years (1993-98) and once All-AFC with Seahawks (2001) . . . Named to seven Pro Bowls.

Jerry Rice



Position: Wide Receiver
Born: October 13, 1962
Birthplace: Starkville, Mississippi
Height: 6-2; Weight: 200
College: Mississippi Valley State
Pro: San Francisco 49ers (1985-2000), Oakland Raiders (2001-04), Seattle Seahawks (2004)

Selected by 49ers in first round (16th player overall), 1985 . . . Set NFL record with 22 TD receptions, 1987 . . . Led NFL in receiving yards and touchdown receptions six times . . . Record 1,848 yards receiving, 1995 . . . Owns virtually every significant receiving mark including receptions (1,549); receiving yards (22,895); most 1,000-yard receiving seasons (14) . . . Had record 208 total touchdowns; 23,546 combined net yards . . . Super Bowl XXIII MVP . . . Named first-team All-Pro 11 consecutive seasons . . . 13 Pro Bowls.

Emmitt Smith



Position: Running Back
Born: May 15, 1969
Birthplace: Pensacola, Florida
Height: 5-9; Weight: 207
College: Florida
Pro: Dallas Cowboys (1990-2002), Arizona Cardinals (2003-04)

Selected by Dallas in first round (17th player overall), 1990 . . . Won rushing crowns in 1991, 1992, 1993, 1995 . . . Led NFL in rushing touchdowns three times . . . Major contributor to Cowboys Super Bowl XXVII, XXVIII, XXX victories . . . Named first-team All-Pro 1992-95 . . . In 1993, named NFL's MVP and MVP in Super Bowl XXVIII . . . 11 straight 1,000-yard seasons . . . Became NFL's all-time rushing leader in 2002 . . . Career totals: 18,355 yards and 164 touchdowns rushing; also had 515 receptions.



DALLAS COWBOYS

“I figured if I achieved what I wanted to achieve in the games, these opportunities would come, this is just icing on the cake, because I have done the things I needed to do on the football field.” – EMMITT SMITH



Emmitt Smith

By CHAREAN WILLIAMS

Charean Williams, a graduate of Texas A&M, has covered the NFL for 16 seasons, including the past 10 for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. She became a Pro Football Hall of Fame selector in 2006 and currently serves as the president of the Pro Football Writers of America.

Emmitt Smith was the first to know he was a Hall of Famer. In his rookie season, before he had ever played a game, Smith popped off to his new Dallas Cowboys' teammates about his career plans. He predicted he would not only win Super Bowls but also retire as the NFL's all-time leading rusher and become a Hall of Famer.

From the mouths of rookies . . .

Predictably, the Cowboys' veterans laughed at him. Receiver Michael Irvin, who was a two-year veteran when Smith became his road roommate in 1990, told Smith to his face that Smith's predictions were "ignorant."

"I was like, 'Get out of here, man,'" Irvin said, chuckling at the memory. "For Emmitt Smith to say, 'I'm going to be the all-time leading rusher; I'm going to be a Hall of Famer;' then, for it to actually happen, come on, man. What are the odds of all of that? I will never forget that determination, that

conviction. He said it, and then he did it."

Smith retired following the 2004 season, after 15 years in the league, as the NFL's all-time leader in carries (4,409), rushing yards (18,355) and rushing touchdowns (164). He won three Super Bowls with the Cowboys and was a league MVP as well as a Super Bowl MVP. He accomplished everything he said he would, and then some.

"If I just took advantage of what God has given me, which is this talent that I've had that has propelled me through college, high school, all the way to the National Football League, when so many people said I could not do it, when I believed in that little giant inside of me saying I can, coupled with the people I was able to play with, I just felt like at the end of my career, if I was there, all this would be added onto me," Smith said.

Smith left wanting nothing more. When he retired, Smith thanked Cowboys owner Jerry Jones for giving him the "opportunity to



have a life greater than I ever could have imagined.”

Emmitt James Smith III – nicknamed “Scoey” after comedian Scoey Mitchell – began his journey to the Hall of Fame in Pensacola, Florida. He was barely out of diapers when he dared to believe he was something special. His mother, Mary Smith, loves to tell the story of the day young Emmitt, trying to imitate Superman, tied a towel around his neck and leapt off the couch. Smith crashed head first into a wall, the scar on his forehead a lasting reminder of the belief he always has had in himself.

On the field, with the ball in his hands, Smith did wear a cape. He was Superman in pads in high school when he first started setting rushing

records and making history. Smith rushed for 8,804 yards, averaged 7.8 yards per carry and scored 106 touchdowns – setting the ball in the end zone after every one – in his four seasons at Escambia High. In 49 career games, Smith never had fewer than 71 yards. He had more than 100 yards in 45 games, including the last 28 of his career.

When Smith arrived as a freshman, Escambia had not had a winning record in 18 consecutive seasons. But the Gators won two state titles while Smith was becoming one of the all-time leading high school rushers. It is why the sign outside Escambia High School proudly proclaims itself as “Home of Emmitt Smith.”

It didn’t take the University of Florida long to figure out what Escambia knew. In Smith’s

first collegiate start, he rushed for a school record 224 yards and two touchdowns on 39 carries against Alabama. He surpassed the 1,000 yard mark in his seventh game of his freshman season, the fastest a college running back ever had achieved that feat.

Before his college career was done – in only three years – Smith became the school’s all-time leading rusher with 3,928 yards. He rushed for at least 100 yards in 25 of 34 games and left with 58 school records.

Smith and 37 other juniors entered the NFL Draft in 1990, the second year underclassmen were allowed to leave school early. Although Smith had rushed for 12,732 yards and scored 142 touchdowns the previous seven seasons, NFL scouts still weren’t sold. He was too



STEVE LARGENT

Unconventional Paths

By PETE FIERLE

Pete Fierle is the Manager – Digital Media/Communications for the Pro Football Hall of Fame. He joined the Hall of Fame's staff in 1988.



January of 1995 was a particularly good month for Steve Largent. On January 4, the same day as his 20th wedding anniversary, he was sworn in as a member of the 104th Congress as the newly elected U.S. Representative from Oklahoma's First Congressional District. A few weeks later on the 28th, he learned that he had been elected in his first year of eligibility to the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Both his election to Congress and the Hall of Fame were testimony to the hard work, character and commitment to purpose that Largent epitomizes. And, both are examples of successes that naysayers initially thought were long shots at best.

Because of his lack of political experience, Largent was described in 1994 political circles as an "unconventional" candidate. That's the kind of description you generally hear when some political pundit or party official is suggesting that a candidate's chances are slim to be elected. That type of rhetoric didn't deter Largent in the least, as he set out on the campaign trail espousing his heartfelt political convictions. His lack of political experience didn't deter voters either. In his successful bid for election he garnered more than 60 percent of the vote.

Even the way in which Largent began his congressional service could be called "unconventional." Shortly after his win at the polls, the Congressman-elect was appointed to fill the final days of a vacated seat before beginning his own term in January.

Largent was re-elected three times before resigning in 2002 to run for Governor of Oklahoma. He was narrowly defeated in that race and his career as an elected public official came to a close. Today, he stays tightly connected to Washington in his role as President and CEO of CTIA - The Wireless Association, a lobby that represents the wireless communications industry.

Much like his route to the nation's capital, Largent's journey to Canton could also be described as "unconventional." As a youngster growing up in Oklahoma City Steve never dreamed of being a football player. It was at his parents' urging that he tried out for his high school football team. Overwhelmed by the 140 other aspiring players and self doubt about his speed and size, Steve persevered only because his mother insisted that he do so and would not allow him to quit the team.

Largent developed into an all-state player, while also lettering in baseball, at Putnam City

THE NFL IN THE 2000s

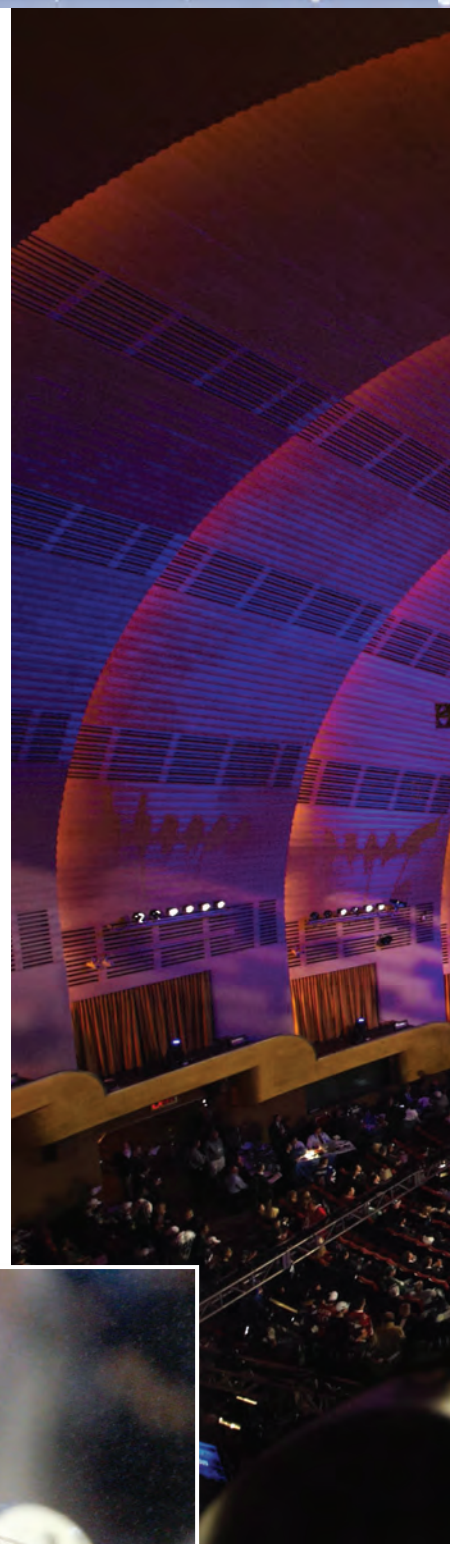
By VIC CARUCCI

Vic Carucci is a senior columnist for NFL.com. He is an award-winning writer and author of several New York Times bestselling books about football. He also is a past president of the Professional Football Writers of America and has been a member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame's Selection Committee.

It should come as no surprise that technology, just as in all walks of life, accounts for the biggest change the NFL has undergone in the 2000s. But it isn't the only one. The decade also has seen:

- The addition of a new team (the Houston Texans), which led to the league's first realignment since 1970.
- The construction of 12 new stadiums, including Houston's Reliant Stadium, and the major overhaul of another, Chicago's Soldier Field.
- The creation of a new term, "game manager," for a quarterback who can lead his team to a championship without putting up big passing numbers because he had the support of a dominant defense and strong rushing attack.
- The emergence of a new dynasty that would later be tarnished by a cheating scandal.
- The launch of a 24-hour cable-television channel dedicated to the NFL and football-related programming.
- The appointment of a new commissioner.
- The change in overtime procedures for the first time since 1974.
- The switch of the draft from two days to three.

Peyton Manning of the Indianapolis Colts celebrates during Super Bowl XLI.



DID YOU KNOW?

An Interesting Perspective of Pro Football's Past

By JON KENDLE

Jon Kendle is a researcher at the Pro Football Hall of Fame. He joined the Hall of Fame's staff in 2006.

A STAR IS BORN

The National Football League awarded Dallas its franchise on Jan. 28, 1960 and team organizers hit the ground running. New York Giants assistant coach Tom Landry had already been signed to a personal service contract with the intent of naming him head coach once the league expansion was finalized.

Although seemingly ahead of the game, the club still had a number of major decisions to make before the start of the team's inaugural season, not the least of which was to choose a name. Initially the Dallas franchise was known as the "Steers." After a few weeks, however, the nickname was changed to "Rangers." At the time a baseball team operated in Dallas under the same name but was scheduled to fold before the 1960 football season. Hence, the Dallas "football" Rangers were born.

Compounding the expansion Rangers' challenges was the fact that the franchise was granted too late for the upstart team to participate in the NFL's 1960 "secret" player draft that was held early so that its teams could get a jump on the new rival American Football League teams on signing rookies. However, Rangers owners Clint Murchison, Jr. and Bedford Wynne were again one step ahead of the game and had already signed Southern Methodist quarterback Don Meredith and New Mexico running back Don Perkins to personal service contracts. Since both players were also drafted

Don Meredith

