

GRIDIRON GREATS FROM THE LONE STAR STATE

Texan-Born Players Enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame (as of 2015)

1960s

Sammy Baugh

Team:	Washington Redskins
Position:	Quarterback, defensive back, punter
Hall of Fame Class:	1963 (charter class)

Sammy Baugh, born in Temple in 1914, is considered by some sports historians to be the pioneer of modern passing in professional football.

As a young man, Baugh's real love was baseball, and he thought his skill might earn him a college scholarship in the sport. That hope was dimmed when he injured his knee in a baseball slide. After high school, he received an offer from Texas Christian University to play baseball, basketball, and football. While playing offense, defense, and punting for the TCU football team, he became a two-time All America and two-time bowl game winner, finishing as a finalist for the Heisman Trophy in 1936.

After a frustrating minor league career for the St. Louis Cardinals, Baugh signed a professional football contract in 1937 with the Redskins, who had just moved from Baltimore to Washington. He made an impact immediately, setting a record for passes completed by a rookie. His record for most passing yards in a playoff game by a rookie stood for 75 years until it was broken by Russell Wilson in 2012.

Clyde Turner

Team:	Chicago Bears
Position:	Center, linebacker
Hall of Fame Class:	1966

Born in Plains in 1919, Clyde "Bulldog" Turner was a pioneer of early professional football. After playing at Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Turner was drafted seventh overall in the 1940 NFL draft by the Chicago Bears. He didn't sign with the Bears immediately, however, as the Detroit Lions secretly paid Turner to refuse to sign with other teams. When the Lions' deal was discovered, the NFL fined the organization. Turner soon signed with the Chicago Bears.

Known for both his large size and impressive speed, Turner played both offense and defense for the Bears, serving as a center and linebacker. Though most of his statistics are not known because the NFL didn't keep many records at the time, Turner was considered by his peers to be one of the most dominant players of his era.

After retiring in 1952, "Bulldog" Turner made a brief return to pro football in 1962 as head coach of the New York Titans (now the New York Jets).

Bobby Layne

Team: Chicago Bears, New York Yankees, Detroit Lions, Pittsburgh Steelers
Position: Quarterback
Hall of Fame Class: 1967

Bobby Layne, born in Santa Anna in 1926, excelled in high school as a football player at Highland Park High School, where he was teammates with fellow Texan and Hall of Famer Doak Walker.

Layne played college football at the University of Texas at Austin. He is considered one of the best quarterbacks ever to play for the Longhorns. After missing much of the 1945 season while serving in the Merchant Marines, Layne returned in 1946 to lead Texas to a victory over Missouri in the Cotton Bowl, in one of the best single-game performances in college football history. During that game, Layne set 12 NCAA and Cotton Bowl records, some of which still stand today.

Layne was simultaneously drafted into pro football by the NFL Pittsburgh Steelers and the Baltimore Colts of the All America Football Conference in 1948. After the Steelers traded him, Layne landed on the Chicago Bears roster where he struggled to earn playing time. He eventually requested a trade, even trying to arrange a deal with the Green Bay Packers himself. In 1950, Layne found success with the Detroit Lions, guiding them to three NFL championships. He returned to the Pittsburgh Steelers in 1958 and retired from football after the 1962 season.

1970s

Y.A. Tittle

Team: Baltimore Colts, San Francisco 49ers, New York Giants
Position: Quarterback
Hall of Fame Class: 1971

Y.A. (Yelberton Abraham) Tittle, born in Marshall in 1926, played quarterback for his high school team before becoming quarterback for Louisiana State University where he participated in the famous 1947 Cotton Bowl game against Arkansas that ended in a scoreless tie. Tittle was voted most valuable player of that game.

Drafted 6th overall by the NFL Detroit Lions in 1948, Tittle declined to play for them and instead began his pro football career in the All America Football Conference (AAFC) with the Baltimore Colts. After the Colts AAFC organization suspended operations, Tittle was redrafted by the San Francisco 49ers in 1951. Tittle played with the 49ers for ten seasons before being traded to the New York Giants where he played until his retirement after the 1964 season.

Though Tittle's professional quarterback numbers are low when placed in a modern context, he was a seven-time NFL Pro Bowler, four-time NFL Most Valuable Player, and played in many championship

games. He also was the first quarterback in NFL history to throw for 30 or more touchdowns in back-to-back seasons. In 1963, Tittle set the single season record for touchdown passes at 36, a number that stood until 1984.

Ollie Matson

Team: Chicago Cardinals, Los Angeles Rams, Detroit Lions, Philadelphia Eagles
Position: Running back
Hall of Fame Class: 1972

Born in Trinity in 1930, Ollie Matson started his football career at City College of San Francisco before transferring to San Francisco University where he would lead college football in rushing and touchdowns. Prior to starting his NFL career, Matson competed in the 1952 Olympics in Helsinki, Finland, where he won a bronze medal in the 400-meter and a silver medal as a member of the U.S. 1,600-meter relay team.

Matson was drafted first overall by the Chicago Cardinals in 1952 and played for the team until 1958 when he was traded to the Los Angeles Rams. Three seasons later, Matson went to the Detroit Lions for one season. In 1966, Matson retired from football after two seasons with the Philadelphia Eagles. During his 14-year pro career as a running back, six-time Pro Bowler Matson trailed only Jim Brown in all-purpose yards gained.

Raymond Berry

Team: Baltimore Colts
Position: Receiver
Hall of Fame Class: 1973

Raymond Berry, born in Corpus Christi in 1933, was considered an average high school athlete. He didn't start on his high school football team until his senior year. With limited experience under his belt, Berry played one year after high school at Schreiner Institute before transferring to Southern Methodist University in Dallas where he caught only 33 passes in his three-year career.

Selected by the Baltimore Colts in the 20th round of the NFL draft in 1954, Berry became an outstanding receiver, known for his tremendous hands. In the 1958 NFL Championship game against the New York Giants—still referred to as “The Greatest Game Ever Played” — Berry famously made 12 catches for 178 yards and a touchdown. He dropped the ball only twice in his career, a statistic many consider unmatched in football history. Berry spent his entire 13-season career with the Colts, retiring as a player in 1967.

But his football career wasn't over. In 1978, Berry joined the New England Patriots as an assistant coach. He became head coach in 1984 and is credited with improving the Patriots organization nearly instantly, bringing the team a winning record in 1984, and a 1986 Super Bowl XX appearance where they lost to the Chicago Bears. Berry retired from professional football after the the Patriots' 1989 season.

Dick “Night Train” Lane

Team: Los Angeles Rams, Chicago Cardinals, Detroit Lions
Position: Defensive back
Hall of Fame Class: 1974

In an era of pro football where passing and intercepting was exceedingly rare, Dick “Night Train” Lane built an NFL career on snagging footballs. Born in 1927 in Austin, Lane played football in high school and junior college, dropping out after just one year to enlist in the U.S. Army.

After completing his military service, Lane showed up at the 1952 Los Angeles Rams training camp for an open tryout. He made the team as a defensive back with a talent for interceptions and ferocious hitting, given his relatively small stature. Famous New York Giants quarterback and fellow Texan Hall of Famer Y.A. Tittle once claimed that Lane hit him so hard that he “knocked the plays out of his head.” It was during the Rams training camp that Lane earned his "Night Train" nickname after spending many hours with a coach who played the popular Buddy Morrow record frequently.

Lane played for the Rams for two years before being traded to the Chicago Cardinals and then to the Detroit Lions, where he finished his 12-season professional career in 1965. "Night Train" Lane continues to hold the NFL single season interception record of 14, which is especially impressive given that NFL seasons were four games shorter during Lane’s career than they are today.

Forrest Gregg

Team: Green Bay Packers, Dallas Cowboys
Position: Offensive lineman
Hall of Fame Class: 1977

Alvin Forrest Gregg, born in Birthright in 1933, was a five-time NFL champion, two-time Super Bowl champion, and head coach of three NFL teams. Before his professional days, Gregg played high school football at Sulphur Springs High School and college football at Southern Methodist University.

As an offensive lineman for the Green Bay Packers and the Dallas Cowboys, Gregg was known for his consistent performances, loyalty to teammates, and durable and dependable game play. During his 15-season career, he held an NFL record for most consecutive games played (188), not missing a game from 1956 until 1971. Celebrated Green Bay Packers coach Vince Lombardi claimed that Gregg was the “finest player” he’d ever coached.

After retiring as a player in 1972, Gregg spent three decades as an assistant or head coach for the San Diego Chargers, the Cleveland Browns, the Cincinnati Bengals, and the Green Bay Packers. As head coach of the Bengals, he led his team to the 1981 Super Bowl where they were defeated 26-21 by the San Francisco 49ers. Gregg finished his United States coaching career at Southern Methodist University before joining the coaching ranks of the Canadian Football league in 1994.

Lance Alworth

Team: San Diego Chargers, Dallas Cowboys
Position: Receiver
Hall of Fame Class: 1978

Lance Alworth was born in Houston in 1940, but spent his youth in Mississippi, where he lettered as a four-sport athlete at Brookhaven High School. Alworth received professional baseball offers from both the Yankees and Pirates after graduating high school, but instead attended the University of Arkansas where he led the nation in punt return yardage two years in a row, and graduated as a three-time All America.

Alworth was drafted by both the NFL and the AFL (American Football League) in 1962. He signed with the AFL San Diego Chargers and made the transition from return specialist to wide receiver, catching passes for more than 200 yards in five different games throughout his career, a record that still stands today.

Alworth finished his 11-season career with the Dallas Cowboys. At Super Bowl VI in January 1972, Alworth caught the opening touchdown pass from Roger Staubach. The Cowboys went on to win 24-3 against the Miami Dolphins. Alworth retired from football after Dallas' 1972 season. In 1978, he became the first AFL player to be enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Yale Lary

Team: Detroit Lions
Position: Defensive back, punter
Hall of Fame Class: 1979

A member of the NFL's All-1950s team, Yale Lary was born in Fort Worth in 1930, and spent his entire professional football career with the Detroit Lions.

Lary started his professional career in the early 1950s as a defensive back with the Lions, sharing the field with many of the era's great defensive players, including fellow Texan Dick "Night Train" Lane. After military duty, he returned to the Lions in 1956 as a kick returner and prolific punter, leading the league in punting averages during the 1959, 1961, and 1963 seasons. Lary played in three NFL championship games and nine Pro Bowls.

1980s

Bob Lilly

Team: Dallas Cowboys
Position: Defensive tackle
Hall of Fame Class: 1980

Known as "Mr. Cowboy," Bob Lilly was the first draft pick in Dallas Cowboys franchise history.

Lilly was born in Olney in 1939, but moved with his farming family from Texas to Oregon in the 1950s to escape a severe Texas drought. Lilly played his senior year for Oregon's Pendleton High School, where he earned all-state honors. Lilly returned to Texas for college football, playing for Texas Christian University and making the College Football All-America team in 1961. That same year he was selected 13th overall by the Dallas Cowboys in the NFL draft.

Lilly spent his entire career with the Cowboys. As a fierce defensive end and tackle, Lilly gave opposing team quarterbacks fits in the backfield, and still holds the record for most yards loss on a sack, at -29 yards. Agile and durable, Lilly missed only one game in his 196-game professional career and made the NFL Pro Bowl 11 times.

Charley Taylor

Team: Washington Redskins
Position: Running back, receiver
Hall of Fame Class: 1984

Charley Taylor, born in Grand Prairie in 1941, played high school football at the then-segregated Dalworth High School and college ball at Arizona State, where he was a halfback and defensive back. In the College All Stars game against the Chicago Bears, Taylor was named the game's most valuable player.

The Washington Redskins selected Taylor as the third overall pick in the 1964 NFL draft. In his first few seasons he was a successful halfback before the Redskins converted him to wide receiver. In 1975, Taylor became the NFL receptions record holder, a record he held for several years.

After playing his entire career with the Redskins, Taylor retired as an eight-time NFL Pro Bowl player after the 1977 season. He then spent 13 seasons (1981 to 1994) as the Redskins receiving coach.

Ken Houston

Team: Houston Oilers, Washington Redskins
Position: Strong safety
Hall of Fame Class: 1986

Born in Lufkin in 1944, Ken Houston attended Dunbar High School as a two-sport athlete in basketball and football. Prairie View A&M and Bishop College offered Houston football scholarships, but when Bishop College withdrew its initial offer, Houston went to Prairie View A&M where he played defensive back.

In 1967, Houston was drafted into the NFL in the 9th round by the Houston Oilers and earned a starting position by the third game of the season. He was traded to the Washington Redskins in 1973 where he spent the remainder of his career, retiring as a player in 1980.

Throughout his 14-season career, Houston was known for having a “nose for the football” by grabbing interceptions and knocking down passes. Often ranked among the top 100 pro football players of all time, Houston was highly regarded by his peers and was named to the NFL Pro Bowl for 7 consecutive seasons.

Doak Walker

Team: Detroit Lions
Position: Halfback, kicker, punter
Hall of Fame Class: 1986

Doak Walker, born in Dallas in 1927, was a collegiate athlete at Southern Methodist University where he excelled as a running back, earning both the Heisman Trophy and the cover of *LIFE* magazine in 1948.

In 1950, Walker was drafted third overall by the Detroit Lions, the only team he played for in his six-season career. Walker holds the record for being the Texan with the shortest professional career (1950-1955) currently enshrined in the Hall of Fame. In that relatively short career, he was voted an NFL All-Pro four times and won two NFL championships with the Lions in 1952 and 1953.

Since 1990, the Doak Walker Award has been given to the nation's top collegiate running back. To date, six players from Texas universities have won the award.

Joe Greene

Team: Pittsburgh Steelers
Position: Defensive tackle
Hall of Fame Class: 1987

Joe Greene, born in Elgin in 1946, became one of the most popular and dominant defensive linemen in NFL history as the feared anchor of the Pittsburgh Steelers’ 1970s defensive unit called the “Steel Curtain.”

Before his storied NFL career, Greene played three seasons as a powerful and speedy defensive tackle for North Texas State University (now the University of North Texas). In 1969, Green was drafted 4th overall in the NFL draft by the Pittsburgh Steelers where he spent his entire career. He earned the well-known nickname, "Mean Joe Greene," because Steelers fans mistook his college team's nickname, “the Mean Green,” as belonging to Joe Greene himself.

Green was a dominant defensive player throughout his career, often drawing triple-team blocking. His career sack statistics, however, are unofficial because the NFL didn't keep official sack records until 1982, after Greene had retired.

Green retired as a player in 1981, after winning numerous league honors and four Super Bowls. He held assistant coach positions with the Steelers, Dolphins, and Cardinals before becoming a special assistant for the Steelers in 2004 and winning two more Super Bowl rings. In tribute to their outstanding defensive player, the Steelers retired Mean Joe Greene's #75 in 2014.

Don Maynard

Team: New York Giants, New York Jets, St. Louis Cardinals
Position: Receiver
Hall of Fame Class: 1987

Born in Crosbyton in 1935, Don Maynard played for Rice University and Texas Western College (now UT El Paso) as a wide receiver, running back, and kick returner.

Maynard was selected in the ninth round of the 1957 AFL draft by the New York Giants. In 1958, Maynard played against another Texas future Hall of Famer, Raymond Berry, in the NFL Championship game between the then-Baltimore Colts and the Giants, still referred to as “The Greatest Game Ever Played.” Maynard then played thirteen years for the New York Jets. His most outstanding performance came in the 1968 AFL Championship game with 6 passes for 118 yards and two touchdowns as the Jets defeated the Oakland Raiders 27-23. The underdog Jets went on to upset the heavily favored Baltimore Colts in Super Bowl III.

Maynard is one of only a few players who played in the AFL for the entirety of the league’s existence. Although most of his receiving records have since been broken, Maynard’s catches and yards statistics were nearly unmatched in his era. He retired from professional football in 1974.

Gene Upshaw

Team: Oakland Raiders
Position: Guard
Hall of Fame Class: 1987

Perhaps more known for his role as the longtime head of the National Football League Players' Association (NFLPA), Gene Upshaw began his football career at Robstown High School and was recruited by Texas A&I University (now Texas A&M-Kingsville) where he played offensive guard.

In the 1967 AFL draft, All-America Upshaw was drafted 17th overall by the Oakland Raiders, playing left guard for his entire 15-season pro football career. Upshaw was the first player in NFL history to participate in Super Bowls in three different decades, playing on Raiders Super Bowl teams in 1967, 1976, and 1980.

After retiring as a player in 1981, Upshaw became the head of the NFLPA in 1983, leading the first players' strike in 1987. As head of the association, Upshaw successfully negotiated players' rights to free agency in exchange for establishing a salary cap. He also ended the NFLPA’s legal status as a union. Upshaw remained the Executive Director of the NFLPA until his death in 2008.

Upshaw was born in Robstown in 1945.

Tom Landry

Team:	New York Yankees, New York Giants, Dallas Cowboys
Position:	Center, linebacker (player); Head coach
Hall of Fame Class:	1990

Easily recognizable by his signature fedora, Tom Landry made history in the NFL as both a player and as the 29-year head coach of the Dallas Cowboys.

Landry, born in Mission in 1924, was a successful high school fullback, leading his team to an undefeated season in his senior year. Declining a scholarship from Southern Methodist University which he felt was too far away from his family, Landry played for one season at the University of Texas at Austin before leaving to serve in the Eighth Air Force in Europe where he flew at least 30 B-17 missions. Landry returned to UT in 1946 and helped the Longhorns win the 1948 Sugar Bowl and 1949 Orange Bowl games. After college, Landry played professional football for one year with the AAFC New York Yankees. In 1950, he joined the NFL New York Giants where he played left defensive halfback for five years, winning All Pro honors in 1954.

Landry's biggest football successes, however, came after he retired as a player and became a coach. In 1956, Landry began a three-year career as the defensive coordinator for the NFL Champion New York Giants. In 1960, he became head coach of the Dallas Cowboys and developed the players into "America's Team," a nickname he was said to resent because he believed the name caused other teams to play even harder against them. Landry was considered a defensive innovator for creating the "4-3" defensive system, a formation still used today. During his years as head coach, Landry led the Cowboys to an NFL record 20 consecutive winning seasons which included 270 victories, 13 division titles, 18 playoff appearances, and two Super Bowl championships.

Earl Campbell

Team:	Houston Oilers, New Orleans Saints
Position:	Running back
Hall of Fame Class:	1991

Born in Tyler in 1955, Earl Campbell began making his mark on football leading his John Tyler High School team to a 4A Texas State Championship in 1973. He then played for the University of Texas Longhorns in Austin where he won the 1977 Heisman Trophy and racked up 4,444 career rushing yards.

In 1978, the "Tyler Rose" was the first overall draft pick in the NFL draft by the Houston Oilers. Early in his career, Campbell was often compared to celebrated NFL running back Jim Brown. Both runners combined agility, strength and speed to create league-leading rushing records. From 1978 through 1983, the Oilers built much of their offense around Campbell's ground attack. While getting plenty of carries and increasing his rushing stats, he also endured the battering of many teams' defensive attacks. The physical toll of the constant hits is considered a factor in the relatively short seven-season length of his

professional career. In 1984, the five-time Pro Bowler was traded to the New Orleans Saints where he played for two seasons, retiring as a player in 1986.

Jimmy Johnson

Team: San Francisco 49ers
Position: Defensive back, safety, wider receiver, cornerback
Hall of Fame Class: 1994

Not to be confused with the former Dallas Cowboys head coach of the same name, James Earl "Jimmy" Johnson was a successful multi-position athlete over the course of a 16-year NFL career.

Born in Dallas in 1938, Johnson played both offensive and defensive positions in his college career at UCLA. Drafted sixth overall by the San Francisco 49ers in 1961, Johnson played left cornerback for the majority of his 16-season pro career with the 49ers.

Johnson was named an All Pro from 1969 through 1972, played in three Pro Bowls, and is one of the few players in NFL history to have more than 40 interceptions and 40 receptions. Johnson retired from professional football in 1976.

Mel Renfro

Team: Dallas Cowboys
Position: Safety, cornerback, special teams
Hall of Fame Class: 1996

Born in Houston in 1941, Mel Renfro moved to Oregon as a young man and became a record-setting high school and college football player and track star.

Renfro attended the University of Oregon University where he played both offense and defense, and earned All America honors. He was drafted in the second round of the 1964 NFL draft by the Dallas Cowboys, where he would play his entire 14-season career.

As in college, Renfro was a multi-position threat for the Cowboys. He started as a safety but was switched to cornerback for the final nine years of his career. He also found playing time as a league-leading punt and kickoff returner.

Renfro played in four Super Bowls and retired in 1977 after a Cowboys' Super Bowl XII victory over the Denver Broncos. In 1981, Renfro was added to the Texas Stadium Ring of Honor.

Mike Haynes

Team: New England Patriots, Los Angeles Raiders
Position: Cornerback
Hall of Fame Class: 1997

Born in Denison in 1953, Mike Haynes began his football career at John Marshall High School in Los Angeles. Recruited by Arizona State as a defensive back, Haynes became a two-time All America and member of the College Football Hall of Fame.

In 1976, Haynes was drafted fifth overall by the New England Patriots. Winning both Defensive Rookie of the Year and Rookie of the Year in 1976, Haynes played for the Patriots for the first six years of his career. After the 1982 season, he was traded to the Los Angeles Raiders where he played for seven seasons. His championship record includes an interception the the Raiders' Super Bowl XVIII victory over the Washington Redskins. Working the field with Lester Hayes, five-time Pro Bowler Haynes became half of one of the toughest defensive back tandems in NFL history.

Mike Singletary

Team: Chicago Bears
Position: Linebacker
Hall of Fame Class: 1998

Mike Singletary, born in Houston in 1958, was a standout athlete at Evan E. Worthing High School before becoming a game-changing All America linebacker for Baylor University. He once recorded a remarkable 35 tackles in a game, and as a senior in 1980, helped Baylor to their first 10-win season in school history.

Singletary was drafted in the second round by the Chicago Bears in 1981 and earned a starting role halfway through his first season. His nickname, "The Minister of Defense," referred to both his role as a key defensive player and to his life as an ordained minister outside of football. In addition to being the Bears' leading tackler for much of his 12-season career, he was also a locker room leader, often tasked with delivering rousing pre-game speeches to the defense.

Eight-time All Pro and ten-time Pro Bowler Singletary retired as a player after the Bears' 1992 season. He was an assistant and position coach for several NFL teams before serving as head coach of the San Francisco 49ers from 2008 to 2010.

Eric Dickerson

Team: Los Angeles Rams, Indianapolis Colts, Los Angeles Raiders, Atlanta Falcons
Position: Running back
Hall of Fame Class: 1999

Eric Dickerson was born in Sealy in 1960. In junior high school, he was already used to scoring multiple touchdowns per game. Throughout college and an NFL career, Dickerson became one of the most accomplished running backs in professional football history.

After committing to Texas A&M for his college football career, Dickerson instead signed with Southern Methodist University where the two-time All America broke records for yards, attempts, and touchdowns, finishing third in Heisman Trophy voting in his senior year.

In 1983, Dickerson was selected 2nd overall in the NFL draft by the Los Angeles Rams. His rookie season honors included All Pro, Rookie of the Year, Player of the Year, and Pro Bowl selection. In his second season, Dickerson broke the single-season rushing yards record with 2,105 yards— a record that still stands today.

In 1987, Dickerson was traded to the Indianapolis Colts. During his career there, he became the record holder for reaching 10,000 yards in the fewest number of games (91). In 1992, Dickerson went to the Los Angeles Raiders and in 1993 finished his career with the Atlanta Falcons. To date, Dickerson still holds 16 active NFL rushing records.

2000s

Thurman Thomas

Team: Buffalo Bills, Miami Dolphins
Position: Running back
Hall of Fame Class: 2007

Born in Houston in 1966, Thurman Thomas rose to prominence as part of the Buffalo Bills vaunted “no-huddle” offense in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Today, he is still considered one of the most versatile running backs in NFL History.

Thomas played his high school football at Willowridge High School in Houston, where he won a 4A state title in 1983. A knee injury late in his college career jeopardized his status as a high draft pick, and he fell unexpectedly into the second round where he was drafted 40th overall by the Buffalo Bills in 1988.

Although a running back, Thomas was known for his impressive versatility as both a runner and receiver, finishing his career with over 10,000 rushing yards and 4,000 receiving yards. He was also a part of the Buffalo Bills dynasty that reached four consecutive Super Bowls — unmatched in NFL history — though the team lost all four games. Thurman is the only running back in NFL history to be listed in the top 10 for playoff receptions.

After playing the 2000 season for Bills' rival Miami Dolphins, Thomas suffered a career-ending knee injury. In 2001, he signed a one-day contract with the Buffalo Bills, allowing him to officially retire as a member of the team where he spent most of his career. Thomas was inducted into the Texas Sports Hall of Fame in 2014.

Darrell Green

Team: Washington Redskins
Position: Cornerback
Hall of Fame Class: 2008

Considered one of the speediest players in NFL history, Darrell Green’s football career had its roots in Houston, Texas where he was born in 1960. Green attended Jesse H. Jones High School where he

excelled in track. It wasn't until his senior year that he made the varsity football squad. Green was a two-sport college athlete for Texas A&M-Kingsville, earning All-America honors in both football and track.

In the 1983 NFL Draft, the Washington Redskins selected Green as the last pick of the first round. The first time he touched the ball as a professional football player, Green scored a touchdown on a punt return. During his 20-season career with the Redskins, Green held several NFL records, including the most consecutive seasons with an interception (19).

Playing into his early 40s, Green was nicknamed "the Ageless Wonder" by his peers as an acknowledgment of a long career defined by speed, agility, and durability. The seven-time Pro Bowler retired from professional football after the Redskins' 2002 season.

Emmitt Thomas

Team:	Kansas City Chiefs
Position:	Cornerback
Hall of Fame Class:	2008

Born in Angleton in 1943, Emmitt Thomas attended Bishop College in the 1960s where he played quarterback and wide receiver on one of the first desegregated teams the school ever fielded.

Thomas was undrafted in the 1966 NFL and AFL drafts, but made the Kansas City Chiefs squad after a free agent try-out. Green spent his entire 13-season career with the Chiefs and was named to five all-league teams and selected for five Pro Bowls. During his career, Thomas grabbed a then record-setting 58 interceptions. To date, he remains in the top 15 list in career interceptions, despite playing during a time when passing was a less prominent component of offensive strategies.

Thomas retired as a player after the Chiefs' 1978 season and began a second career as an NFL coach for numerous teams including the Washington Redskins and Atlanta Falcons. In 2010, he returned to the Chiefs as a defensive backs coach. Unlike other Texas Hall of Famers, Thomas' 2008 selection to the Pro Football Hall of Fame came from a nomination from the nine-member Senior Committee, a subset of the larger 46-member Selection Committee. The Senior Committee considers players whose active careers have been over for at least 25 years for Hall of Fame enshrinement.

John Randle

Team:	Minnesota Vikings, Seattle Seahawks
Position:	Defensive tackle
Hall of Fame Class:	2010

Born in Mumford in 1967, John Randle played high school football at Hearne High School and college football at Texas A&M-Kingsville. Although an All America defensive player at A&M, Randle wasn't selected in the 1990 NFL draft because he was considered too small for the NFL. However, his determination and skill landed him a job with the Minnesota Vikings after an impressive free agent tryout.

Randle's 14-year NFL career included 11 seasons with the Minnesota Vikings (1990-2000) and three seasons with the Seattle Seahawks (2001-2003). Noted for his pass rushing ability, Randle also created many records for sacks during a game. At the time of his retirement after the 2003 season, he was second overall in the NFL for most consecutive seasons (8) with ten or more sacks. Always considered a character, Randle became known over the course of his career for his face paint and heckling as well as his longstanding rivalry with the Packers' Brett Favre, whom he sacked more than any other quarterback.

Though Randle never won a Super Bowl, he was named to the NFL Pro Bowl seven times and is considered one of the most talented defensive linemen of the modern era.

Michael Strahan

Team: New York Giants
Position: Defensive end
Hall of Fame Class: 2014

Michael Strahan, born in Houston in 1971, grew up in a military family and began his football career in Germany. Returning to Houston for his senior year, Strahan played one season for Westbury High School and earned a scholarship to Texas Southern University. Strahan's power and athleticism made him a difficult match-up for most of his collegiate opponents but he wasn't considered an NFL prospect until he was an upperclassman. Strahan earned All-America honors as a senior defensive lineman and was listed by *The Poor Man's Guide* (a football guide previewing underrated and unknown college stars) as the number one diamond-in-the-rough entering the NFL draft in 1993.

Strahan was drafted in the second round of the 1993 NFL Draft by the New York Giants where he played his entire 15-season career. In 2001, Strahan established a still-standing NFL single-season sack record of 22.5 in the final game of the season by sacking Packers' quarterback Brett Favre.

In 2007, Strahan played a critical role in the Giants' Super Bowl XLII victory against the undefeated New England Patriots. Following the game, Strahan retired as an NFL player and began a career in television and media.

Tim Brown

Team: Oakland/Los Angeles Raiders, Tampa Bay Buccaneers
Position: Wide receiver, kick returner, punt returner
Hall of Fame Class: 2015

Tim Brown, born in Dallas in 1966, began his football career by playing in the band at Woodrow Wilson High School in Dallas. Forbidden by his mother to play football, Brown began secretly attending practice in his sophomore year. By the time he was a senior, he was a heavily recruited wide receiver who played college ball as a four year starter at Notre Dame, earning All-America honors in 1986 and 1987. In 1987, Brown also became the first single-position wide receiver to win the Heisman Trophy.

Drafted by the Los Angeles Raiders as the sixth overall selection in the 1988, Brown led the league in kickoff returns (41), yards returned (1,098), and highest average per return (26.8) in his rookie year. In 1993, Brown began a 10-year stretch of seasons with at least 75 receptions and 1,000 yards gained, a performance that earned him a spot on the NFL's All Decade team for the 1990s. The nine-time Pro Bowler retired from pro football with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers after the 2004 season. At that time, he was the third all-time leading receiver in NFL history with 1,094 receptions for 14,934 yards, and 100 touchdowns.