

dallas cowboys fullback history

Dallas Cowboys fullback history is a fascinating journey through the evolution of one of the NFL's most iconic franchises. The fullback position has traditionally been a vital component of the Dallas Cowboys' offensive strategy, providing both blocking support for the running game and an option for short-yardage situations. This article delves into the history of fullbacks in the Cowboys organization, highlighting key players, their contributions, and the evolution of the position over the years.

Cowboys Fullbacks: An Overview

The fullback position in football is often overshadowed by the more glamorous running back role. However, the fullback's responsibilities are crucial for a team's success. Traditionally, fullbacks serve as lead blockers for running backs, helping to clear the way for big gains. They also provide protection in pass-blocking situations and can serve as ball carriers themselves, particularly in short-yardage scenarios.

In the history of the Dallas Cowboys, the fullback has been a cornerstone of their offensive schemes, adapting over time to meet changing styles of play. From the early years of the franchise to the present day, fullbacks have played a significant role in the team's identity.

The Early Years: 1960s to 1970s

When the Dallas Cowboys were established in 1960, the fullback position was not as specialized as it is today. The team primarily utilized a two-back system, where the fullback would share duties with the halfback. The early Cowboys featured several notable fullbacks:

1. Don Perkins

- Career Span: 1960-1968
- Achievements:
- Four-time Pro Bowler
- Cowboys' all-time leading rusher until surpassed by Tony Dorsett

Don Perkins was one of the first stars for the Dallas Cowboys, known for his powerful running style and ability to gain tough yards. He was a key player in the Cowboys' early success, helping to establish the franchise's identity as a competitive team.

2. Walt Garrison

- Career Span: 1966-1974
- Achievements:
- Pro Bowl selection in 1970
- Renowned for versatility as a runner and blocker

Walt Garrison was another significant figure in the Cowboys' early years. He contributed not only as a fullback but also as a special teams player. His toughness and determination made him a fan favorite and a valuable asset to the team.

The Glory Years: 1970s to 1990s

The 1970s and 1980s marked a golden era for the Dallas Cowboys, with the team winning multiple Super Bowl titles and establishing itself as a perennial contender in the NFL. The role of the fullback evolved during this time, as the team began to utilize the position more strategically.

3. Robert Newhouse

- Career Span: 1972-1983
- Achievements:
- Key player in the Cowboys' Super Bowl XII victory
- Known for his physical running style

Robert Newhouse was a standout fullback during the Cowboys' championship years. His powerful running and blocking skills helped pave the way for star running back Tony Dorsett, making him an essential part of the offense.

4. Daryl Johnston

- Career Span: 1989-1999
- Achievements:
- Three-time Super Bowl champion (XXVII, XXVIII, XXX)
- Renowned for his intelligence and versatility

Daryl Johnston, affectionately known as "Moose," became synonymous with the Cowboys' success in the 1990s. His ability to block effectively while also contributing as a ball carrier made him one of the most

respected fullbacks in the league. Johnston's leadership and work ethic set a standard for future fullbacks.

Modern Era: 2000s to Present

As the NFL evolved in the 21st century, the role of the fullback began to shift again. Teams started to favor multi-dimensional players who could adapt to various offensive schemes. The Cowboys have seen several fullbacks fill this role in more recent years.

5. Jason Witten

- Career Span: 2003-2020
- Achievements:
- Multiple Pro Bowl selections
- Transitioned from tight end to fullback in certain offensive sets

While primarily known as a tight end, Jason Witten occasionally took on fullback duties during his illustrious Dallas Cowboys career. His exceptional blocking skills and ability to catch passes made him a versatile weapon for the offense.

6. Jamize Olawale

- Career Span: 2017-2019
- Achievements:
- Contributed to the Cowboys' running game during his tenure

Jamize Olawale brought a modern approach to the fullback position, showcasing versatility as both a blocker and a ball carrier. His ability to adapt to new offensive schemes made him a valuable asset during his time with the Cowboys.

Impact of Fullbacks on the Cowboys' Offense

The fullback position has historically played a crucial role in shaping the Dallas Cowboys' offensive strategy. Here are some key impacts:

- **Blocking for Star Running Backs:** Fullbacks have consistently provided crucial blocking support,

allowing star running backs to excel.

- **Short-Yardage Success:** Fullbacks are often relied upon in short-yardage situations, converting crucial first downs and touchdowns.
- **Versatile Offensive Options:** Modern fullbacks have adapted to the changing nature of the game, contributing as receivers out of the backfield.

Conclusion

The history of the **Dallas Cowboys fullback** position reflects the evolution of football tactics and the importance of versatile players in modern offenses. From early stars like Don Perkins and Walt Garrison to the glory years with Robert Newhouse and Daryl Johnston, and into the modern era with players like Jason Witten and Jamize Olawale, fullbacks have played a significant role in the Cowboys' identity.

As the NFL continues to evolve, the fullback position may change, but the contributions of these players to the Dallas Cowboys' legacy will always be remembered. The fullbacks not only helped shape the team's success but also contributed to the overall narrative of the franchise's storied history in the National Football League.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is considered the most iconic fullback in Dallas Cowboys history?

The most iconic fullback in Dallas Cowboys history is undoubtedly Daryl Johnston, who played for the team from 1989 to 1999 and was a key contributor during the team's Super Bowl victories in the 1990s.

What role did fullbacks typically play in the Dallas Cowboys' offensive strategy?

Fullbacks in the Dallas Cowboys' offensive strategy typically served as lead blockers for running backs, but they also contributed in short-yardage situations and occasionally caught passes out of the backfield.

How did the use of the fullback position evolve during the Cowboys' history?

The use of the fullback position in the Cowboys' history evolved from a more traditional blocking role in

the 1970s and 1980s to a more versatile position that included receiving duties, particularly during the 1990s with players like Daryl Johnston.

Which Dallas Cowboys fullback was known for his versatility and receiving skills?

Daryl Johnston was known for his versatility and receiving skills, finishing his career with over 1,500 receiving yards and being effective in both blocking and as a pass-catcher.

What impact did the fullback position have on the Cowboys' Super Bowl runs?

The fullback position had a significant impact on the Cowboys' Super Bowl runs, particularly in the 1990s, where Daryl Johnston's blocking and leadership helped pave the way for the success of running backs like Emmitt Smith.

Who was the last fullback to play a significant role for the Cowboys?

The last fullback to play a significant role for the Cowboys was Keith Smith, who played for the team from 2013 to 2016 before the position became less prominent in their offensive scheme.

What is one of the most memorable plays involving a Cowboys fullback?

One of the most memorable plays involving a Cowboys fullback was Daryl Johnston's touchdown reception in Super Bowl XXVIII, which highlighted his receiving ability and contributed to the Cowboys' victory.

How has the evolution of the NFL affected the fullback position in the Cowboys' lineup?

The evolution of the NFL towards more passing offenses has diminished the traditional role of the fullback in the Cowboys' lineup, leading to a decrease in fullback usage and a shift towards more multi-purpose players.

Can you name a notable fullback from the Cowboys' early years?

A notable fullback from the Cowboys' early years is Don Perkins, who played from 1961 to 1968 and was known for his rushing ability, earning six Pro Bowl selections during his career.

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