

Cowboys Number 11 History



Cowboys number 11 history is a fascinating subject that delves into the rich legacy of one of the most storied franchises in the National Football League (NFL). The Dallas Cowboys, established in 1960, have a unique history, not only marked by their championship victories and iconic players but also by the significance of specific jersey numbers. The number 11 jersey has been worn by several notable players throughout the team's history, each leaving an indelible mark on the franchise. This article will explore the history of the Cowboys' number 11, highlighting key players, memorable performances, and the cultural impact of the jersey.

Early Years of the Cowboys and Number 11

The Dallas Cowboys began their journey in the early 1960s, and from the outset, specific players donned the number 11 jersey. The significance of this number grew as the team gained prominence in the NFL.

First Wearers of Number 11

1. Don Meredith (1960-1968)

- The inaugural player to wear number 11 for the Cowboys was Don Meredith, a quarterback who played a crucial role in establishing the team's identity. Meredith was known for his playmaking ability and leadership on the field. He was a three-time Pro Bowl selection and is remembered for his contributions during the Cowboys' early years.
- Key Achievements:
 - Led the Cowboys to their first playoff appearance in 1966.
 - Instrumental in developing the “Doomsday Defense” philosophy that characterized the team.

2. Craig Morton (1965-1970)

- Following Meredith, Craig Morton took over the number 11 jersey. Morton was known for his strong arm and ability to lead the team through challenging games. He helped the Cowboys reach Super Bowl V, although they ultimately lost to the Baltimore Colts.

The Rise of Number 11 in the 1970s and 1980s

As the Cowboys transitioned into the 1970s, the team began to solidify its status as “America’s Team.” The number 11 jersey continued to be associated with significant players who played pivotal roles in the franchise’s success.

Key Players of the Era

1. Roger Staubach (1969-1979)

- Although Staubach primarily wore number 12, he briefly wore number 11 during his early career. Staubach’s ability to scramble and make plays under pressure earned him a legendary status and he is often cited as one of the greatest quarterbacks in NFL history.
- Achievements:
 - Two-time Super Bowl champion.
 - Six-time Pro Bowl selection.

2. Danny White (1976-1988)

- Danny White, who succeeded Staubach, wore number 11 for several years. White was known for his strong passing skills and his ability to lead the Cowboys during his tenure.
- Key Achievements:
- Led the Cowboys to three consecutive NFC Championship games.
- Known for his resilience and clutch performances, particularly in playoff scenarios.

The 1990s: A Decade of Dominance

The 1990s marked a golden era for the Dallas Cowboys, with multiple Super Bowl victories and an abundance of talent on the roster. During this time, the number 11 jersey took on new significance.

Notable Players of the 1990s

1. Michael Irvin (1988-1999)

- Though Irvin is most famously associated with jersey number 88, he wore number 11 early in his career. Irvin was a key figure in the Cowboys' success during the 1990s, known for his exceptional receiving skills and fierce competitiveness.
- Achievements:
- Three-time Super Bowl champion.
- Five-time Pro Bowl selection and inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

2. Troy Aikman (1989-2000)

- As the quarterback during the Cowboys' Super Bowl runs, Aikman wore number 8 but had connections with the number 11 jersey through various players he mentored. Aikman's leadership and passing skills helped define the era.
- Notable Achievements:
- Three-time Super Bowl champion and inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

The 2000s and Beyond: New Faces in Number 11

As the new millennium approached, the Cowboys continued to evolve, and the number 11 jersey saw new bearers who would contribute to the franchise's legacy.

Players in the 2000s

1. Quincy Carter (2001-2003)

- The first player to wear number 11 in the 2000s, Quincy Carter had a tumultuous career but was notable for being the Cowboys' starting quarterback during a challenging period for the franchise.
- Achievements:
- Helped lead the Cowboys to the playoffs in 2003.

2. Patrick Crayton (2004-2010)

- A wide receiver who wore number 11, Crayton became an important target for quarterbacks like Drew Bledsoe and Tony Romo. He was known for his reliable hands and ability to make key catches.
- Key Achievements:
- Part of the Cowboys team that won the NFC East and reached the playoffs multiple times.

Recent History of Cowboys Number 11

As the franchise moved into the 2010s and beyond, the number 11 jersey continued to be worn by key players who would shape the team's future.

Recent Key Players

1. Dez Bryant (2010-2017)

- Although Dez wore number 88, his impact on the Cowboys' roster during this time can't be overstated. His presence as a wide receiver during the 2010s created a legacy that future players would aspire to replicate, even if they wore different numbers.

- Achievements:

- Three-time Pro Bowl selection and one of the most dominant receivers in the league during his tenure.

2. CeeDee Lamb (2020-present)

- CeeDee Lamb, who was drafted in 2020, quickly made a name for himself as a talented wide receiver for the Cowboys. He wears number 88 but represents the new generation of talent alongside the legacy established by previous players who wore number 11.

- Notable Achievements:

- Pro Bowl selection and one of the leading receivers in the league.

The Cultural Impact of Number 11

The Cowboys number 11 has transcended the physical game of football, influencing pop culture, sports marketing, and the team's fan base.

Impact on Fans and Culture

1. Fan Loyalty and Nostalgia

- The players who wore number 11 have become legends in the eyes of fans. Their contributions to key moments in Cowboys history continue to resonate, fostering a sense of loyalty and nostalgia among fans.

2. Merchandising and Branding

- The number 11 jersey has been a popular item among Cowboys merchandise, symbolizing not just

the players who wore it but the legacy of the franchise itself. Fans often seek out jerseys of iconic players to connect with the team's history.

3. Inspiration for Future Generations

- Young athletes aspiring to play for the Cowboys often look up to the players who wore the number 11 jersey. The stories of their achievements encourage new generations to pursue their dreams in football and sports.

Conclusion

The Cowboys number 11 history is more than just a recount of players and statistics; it is a narrative woven into the fabric of the Dallas Cowboys franchise. From Don Meredith's early leadership to the contributions of players like Quincy Carter and Patrick Crayton, each athlete has played a role in the story of this storied number. As the Cowboys continue to evolve, the legacy of number 11 will undoubtedly remain a significant part of their history, inspiring future players and fans alike. The journey of this jersey reflects the resilience, talent, and passion that defines the Dallas Cowboys, ensuring its place in the annals of NFL history.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who was the first player to wear number 11 for the Dallas Cowboys?

The first player to wear number 11 for the Dallas Cowboys was quarterback Don Meredith, who played for the team from 1960 to 1968.

Which notable wide receiver wore number 11 for the Cowboys during the 1970s?

Wide receiver Drew Pearson wore number 11 for the Cowboys during the 1970s, becoming a key

player in the team's success.

What significant achievement is associated with number 11 in Cowboys history?

Number 11 is significant in Cowboys history as it was worn by players who contributed to the team's Super Bowl successes, including Drew Pearson and Michael Irvin.

Who is the most recent player to wear number 11 for the Dallas Cowboys?

As of the 2023 season, the most recent player to wear number 11 for the Dallas Cowboys is wide receiver CeeDee Lamb, who was drafted in 2020.

What impact did wearing number 11 have on Drew Pearson's legacy with the Cowboys?

Wearing number 11 solidified Drew Pearson's legacy as one of the franchise's all-time great wide receivers, contributing to his induction into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

How did number 11 become a symbol of excellence for the Cowboys?

Number 11 became a symbol of excellence for the Cowboys through its association with key players like Don Meredith and Drew Pearson, who played pivotal roles in the team's history.

Which player famously wore number 11 during the Cowboys' Super Bowl XXVII victory?

Michael Irvin famously wore number 11 during the Cowboys' Super Bowl XXVII victory in 1993, contributing significantly to the team's success.

What year did CeeDee Lamb start wearing number 11 for the Cowboys?

CeeDee Lamb started wearing number 11 for the Cowboys in 2020, after being selected in the first round of the NFL Draft.

What is the significance of number 11 in the context of the Cowboys' franchise history?

Number 11 holds significance in the Cowboys' franchise history as it has been worn by several Hall of Fame players and key contributors to the team's legacy.

Has the number 11 jersey ever been retired by the Cowboys?

As of now, the number 11 jersey has not been retired by the Cowboys, allowing current players to continue wearing it.

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yippee-ki-yay - 2013

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