

Dallas Cowboys Number 20 History



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The Dallas Cowboys, one of the most iconic franchises in the National Football League (NFL), have a storied history that includes several legendary players who have donned the number 20 jersey. This number is not just a numerical representation; it's a symbol of excellence, hard work, and unforgettable moments on the football field. In this article, we will delve into the history of the number 20 jersey in Dallas Cowboys lore, highlighting key players, memorable performances, and the impact they had on the team and its fans.

Key Players Who Wore Number 20

Throughout the history of the Dallas Cowboys, several notable players have worn the number 20 jersey. Each of these athletes brought their unique skills and contributions to the team, leaving an indelible mark on Cowboys history.

1. Mel Renfro

One of the most prominent figures to wear the number 20 for the Cowboys was Mel Renfro. Renfro, a cornerback and safety, played for the Cowboys from 1964 to 1977.

- Achievements:
- Inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1996.
- Selected to 10 Pro Bowls and 5 First-Team All-Pro teams.
- Renfro was known for his incredible speed, agility, and ball-hawking skills.

- In 1970, he recorded a remarkable 10 interceptions in a single season.

Renfro's versatility allowed him to play both cornerback and safety, making him an invaluable asset to the Cowboys' secondary. His contributions were instrumental in the team's success during the 1970s, including their Super Bowl victories.

2. Darren Woodson

Another standout player who wore number 20 for the Dallas Cowboys was Darren Woodson. Woodson, a safety, played for the Cowboys from 1992 to 2004 and became one of the best safeties in NFL history.

- Achievements:
- 3-time Super Bowl champion (XXVII, XXVIII, XXX).
- Selected to 5 Pro Bowls and 3 First-Team All-Pro teams.
- Woodson is the franchise's all-time leader in tackles and interceptions for a safety.

Woodson's leadership and hard-hitting style of play helped solidify the Cowboys' defense during their dominant run in the 1990s. His contributions were pivotal in transforming the Cowboys into a perennial contender.

3. Felix Jones

In more recent history, Felix Jones wore number 20 during his tenure with the Dallas Cowboys from 2008 to 2012. A running back out of Arkansas, Jones was known for his speed and ability to change direction quickly.

- Achievements:
- Selected in the first round of the 2008 NFL Draft.
- Played an essential role in the Cowboys' running game as a complementary back.
- Notable for his 73-yard touchdown run against the Seattle Seahawks in 2010.

Though not as historically significant as Renfro or Woodson, Jones brought excitement to the Cowboys' offense and showcased the potential of a dynamic running game.

Memorable Moments in Number 20 History

The number 20 has been associated with several unforgettable moments in Dallas Cowboys history. These moments not only highlight the impact of the players who wore the number but also define the essence of

what it means to be a Cowboy.

1. Mel Renfro's Super Bowl Appearances

Mel Renfro played a crucial role in the Cowboys' first Super Bowl victories. His performance in Super Bowl VI against the Miami Dolphins was particularly noteworthy:

- Interception: Renfro intercepted a pass from Dolphins quarterback Bob Griese, helping the Cowboys secure their first championship.
- Defensive Prowess: His ability to blanket receivers allowed the Cowboys to dominate defensively, setting the tone for future Super Bowl appearances.

2. Darren Woodson's Game-Winning Plays

Darren Woodson was known for stepping up in critical moments, especially during playoffs. Some key highlights include:

- 1995 NFC Championship Game: Woodson played a pivotal role in the Cowboys' victory over the Green Bay Packers, leading the team in tackles and making key stops.
- Super Bowl XXX: Woodson's interception against the Pittsburgh Steelers helped solidify the Cowboys' victory, contributing to his legacy as a clutch performer.

3. Felix Jones' Electrifying Touchdowns

Although Felix Jones may not have as extensive a legacy as Renfro and Woodson, he had his fair share of electrifying moments:

- Kickoff Returns: Jones was known for his explosive kickoff returns, including a memorable 100-yard return against the New York Giants in 2009.
- Breakout Games: His performance in the 2010 season, where he had multiple games with over 100 rushing yards, showcased his potential as a game-changer.

The Legacy of Number 20

The legacy of the number 20 in Dallas Cowboys history is one of excellence, determination, and memorable achievements. Each player who wore this number contributed to the franchise's identity and success.

Honoring the Legacy

The Cowboys have a rich tradition of honoring their past, and the contributions of players who wore number 20 are no exception. The organization continues to recognize their impact through:

- Ring of Honor: Mel Renfro and Darren Woodson are both enshrined in the Cowboys' Ring of Honor, celebrating their contributions to the franchise.
- Retirement of Jerseys: While the Cowboys have not officially retired the number 20 jersey, the legacy of those who wore it continues to inspire current and future players.

Influence on Future Generations

The players who wore number 20 have set high standards for future generations of Cowboys. Young athletes are inspired by the work ethic and dedication of legends like Renfro and Woodson. These players have become role models, representing what it means to be a Cowboy.

- Mentorship: Many former players are involved in mentoring young talent, sharing their experiences and lessons learned during their careers.
- Community Engagement: Players like Woodson are active in the community, giving back and encouraging young athletes to pursue their dreams.

Conclusion

The history of the Dallas Cowboys number 20 is a rich tapestry woven with the stories of exceptional athletes who have left their mark on the franchise. From Mel Renfro's defensive prowess to Darren Woodson's leadership and Felix Jones' explosive plays, each player has contributed to the legacy of this iconic number. As the Cowboys continue to build their future, the spirit of those who wore number 20 will undoubtedly remain a guiding force in the pursuit of excellence on the gridiron. The stories of these players will continue to resonate with fans, ensuring that the legacy of number 20 in Dallas Cowboys history endures for generations to come.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who was the first player to wear number 20 for the Dallas Cowboys?

The first player to wear number 20 for the Dallas Cowboys was running back Dan Reeves, who played for the team from 1960 to 1965.

Which famous player wore number 20 for the Dallas Cowboys during the 1980s?

The famous player who wore number 20 during the 1980s was safety Michael Downs, who played for the Cowboys from 1981 to 1989.

What significant achievement did number 20 player Deion Sanders contribute to the Dallas Cowboys?

Deion Sanders, who wore number 20 from 1995 to 1999, contributed to the Dallas Cowboys' Super Bowl XXX victory in 1996.

Which running back wore number 20 for the Cowboys before becoming a key player for the New Orleans Saints?

Running back Tony Dorsett wore number 20 for the Cowboys before becoming a key player for the New Orleans Saints later in his career.

How many Pro Bowls did Michael Downs, who wore number 20, make during his career?

Michael Downs made two Pro Bowl appearances during his career with the Dallas Cowboys.

What is the significance of number 20 in the context of Dallas Cowboys' history?

Number 20 has been worn by several notable players in Dallas Cowboys' history, contributing to the team's legacy and success over the years.

Which player is known for his interception skills while wearing number 20 for the Cowboys?

Deion Sanders is known for his exceptional interception skills while wearing number 20 for the Cowboys.

Is number 20 retired by the Dallas Cowboys?

No, number 20 is not retired by the Dallas Cowboys, allowing multiple players to wear it throughout the team's history.

Which player wore number 20 for the Cowboys during the 2010s?

Cornerback Orlando Scandrick wore number 20 for the Dallas Cowboys during the 2010s.

What was the impact of Deion Sanders wearing number 20 on the Cowboys' defense?

Deion Sanders' presence wearing number 20 significantly bolstered the Cowboys' defense, making it one of the most formidable units during the 1990s.

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