

Dallas Cowboys Number 13 History



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The Dallas Cowboys, one of the most storied franchises in the National Football League (NFL), have a rich history filled with memorable players, iconic moments, and unique jersey numbers. Among these numbers, 13 stands out as one that has been worn by several notable players over the years, each contributing to the team's legacy in different ways. This article delves into the history of the Dallas Cowboys number 13, exploring the players who have donned it, their achievements, and the significance of this jersey number in the context of the Cowboys' franchise.

Early Years of Number 13

The Dallas Cowboys were established in 1960, and from their inception, jersey numbers have played a crucial role in defining player identities and legacies. The number 13 has been associated with a few key figures in the early history of the franchise.

Don Meredith (1960-1968)

One of the most notable players to wear number 13 for the Cowboys was Don Meredith, who played as a quarterback from 1960 to 1968. Meredith was not only one of the original Cowboys but also a fan favorite and a significant contributor to the team's early success.

- Career Highlights:
- Meredith was known for his strong arm and charismatic personality, which made him a natural leader on the field.

- He led the Cowboys to their first playoff appearance in 1966 and was a three-time Pro Bowler.
- His ability to connect with fans and media helped to elevate the Cowboys' profile during the early years of the franchise.

Meredith's impact on the team extended beyond his playing career. After retiring, he became a well-known broadcaster, further solidifying his place in Cowboys lore. His legacy as a pioneer for the franchise and his connection to number 13 are remembered fondly by fans.

The Evolution of Number 13

After Meredith's departure, the number 13 continued to be worn by various players throughout the years. Each of these players brought their own unique style and contributions to the team, adding to the rich tapestry of the Cowboys' history.

Other Notable Players

- Clint Longley (1974-1976): Longley, a backup quarterback, is best remembered for his incredible performance in a 1974 game against the Washington Redskins when he stepped in for an injured Meredith and led the Cowboys to victory. His performance solidified his place in Cowboys history, despite only wearing the number for a brief time.
- Gary Hogeboom (1980-1983): Hogeboom, who wore number 13 during his tenure with the Cowboys, was another backup quarterback who had moments of significance. He was known for his strong arm and ability to make plays when called upon, helping to keep the Cowboys competitive during his time.
- Jason Garrett (1993-1999): Garrett, who is well-remembered as both a player and a coach for the Cowboys, wore number 13 during his playing days. As a backup quarterback, Garrett was known for his intelligence and work ethic, traits that would later serve him well as a coach. His time with the team contributed to the foundation of what would become a successful coaching career.

Significance of Number 13 in Cowboys Culture

The number 13 holds a unique place in the culture of the Dallas Cowboys. It not only represents the players who have worn it but also embodies the team's resilience and adaptability over the years.

Superstitions and Beliefs

In sports, the number 13 is often considered unlucky; however, the Cowboys have managed to turn this notion on its head. The players who have worn the number have often found success in their own right, contributing to the team's overall achievements.

- **Courage and Resilience:** Each player who has worn number 13 has demonstrated a willingness to step into challenging situations, whether as a backup or a starter. This spirit of resilience is a hallmark of the Cowboys' franchise identity.
- **Connection to Legacy:** The players who wore number 13 have helped create a legacy that inspires future generations of Cowboys players. The stories of Meredith, Longley, Hogeboom, and Garrett remind current players of the importance of perseverance and adaptability.

Modern Era of Number 13

As the NFL has evolved, so too has the significance of jersey numbers. In recent years, the Dallas Cowboys have seen players continue to wear number 13, each leaving their mark in the modern era of football.

Current Players and Their Impact

- **Ryan Switzer (2017-2018):** Switzer, a wide receiver and return specialist, wore number 13 during his time with the Cowboys. His versatility and ability to contribute on special teams made him a valuable asset to the team, and he was known for his agility and speed.
- **CeeDee Lamb (2020-Present):** Although Lamb initially wore number 88, which is iconic in Cowboys history, he has been associated with the number 13 in discussions about player legacies. His rise as a star receiver has garnered attention, and the comparisons to past players who wore number 13 are inevitable. As Lamb continues to develop, he may further contribute to the legacy of the number.

The Legacy of Number 13

The history of number 13 for the Dallas Cowboys reflects a broader narrative of the franchise's evolution over the years. Each player who has worn the number has played a role in shaping the team's identity and success.

Contributions to the Franchise's Success

- **Team Spirit:** The players associated with number 13 have often embodied the spirit of teamwork and resilience, characteristics that the Cowboys pride themselves on.
- **Historical Significance:** The legacy of number 13 is intertwined with the Cowboys' journey from an expansion team to a perennial contender in the NFL. These players have played their part in building a franchise known for its storied history and passionate fan base.

Conclusion

The Dallas Cowboys number 13 has a rich history that is marked by the contributions of several key players. From Don Meredith's pioneering role in the early years to the modern players who continue to carry the torch, the number has become synonymous with resilience, adaptability, and spirit. As the franchise moves forward, the legacy of number 13 will undoubtedly continue to inspire future generations of players, ensuring that its significance endures within the Cowboys' storied history. Whether worn by a quarterback or a wide receiver, the number 13 will always hold a special place in the hearts of Cowboys fans, representing a connection to the past and a hopeful glance towards the future.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who was the first Dallas Cowboys player to wear number 13?

The first player to wear number 13 for the Dallas Cowboys was quarterback Don Meredith, who played for the team from 1960 to 1968.

What notable achievements did Don Meredith accomplish while wearing number 13?

Don Meredith was a three-time Pro Bowl selection and led the Cowboys to their first playoff appearance in 1966 while wearing number 13.

Which player wore number 13 after Don Meredith and had a significant impact on the team?

Quarterback Craig Morton wore number 13 after Don Meredith, playing for the Cowboys from 1965 to 1977 and leading the team to Super Bowl V.

Has the number 13 ever been retired by the Dallas Cowboys?

No, the Dallas Cowboys have not retired the number 13, despite the contributions of players like Don Meredith and Craig Morton.

Who is the most recent player to wear number 13 for the Dallas Cowboys?

As of October 2023, the most recent player to wear number 13 for the Dallas Cowboys was wide receiver Cole Beasley, who played for the team from 2012 to 2019.

What position did Cole Beasley primarily play while wearing number 13?

Cole Beasley primarily played as a slot receiver while wearing number 13 for the Dallas Cowboys.

How did Cole Beasley perform statistically during his time with the Cowboys?

During his time with the Cowboys, Cole Beasley recorded over 3,300 receiving yards and 23 touchdown receptions.

What significance does number 13 hold in the context of the Dallas Cowboys' history?

Number 13 is significant in Cowboys' history as it was worn by key quarterbacks who shaped the franchise, including Don Meredith and Craig Morton.

Are there any famous plays associated with number 13 in Cowboys history?

Yes, one of the most famous plays associated with number 13 is Don Meredith's game-winning touchdown pass in the 1966 playoff game against the Cleveland Browns.

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