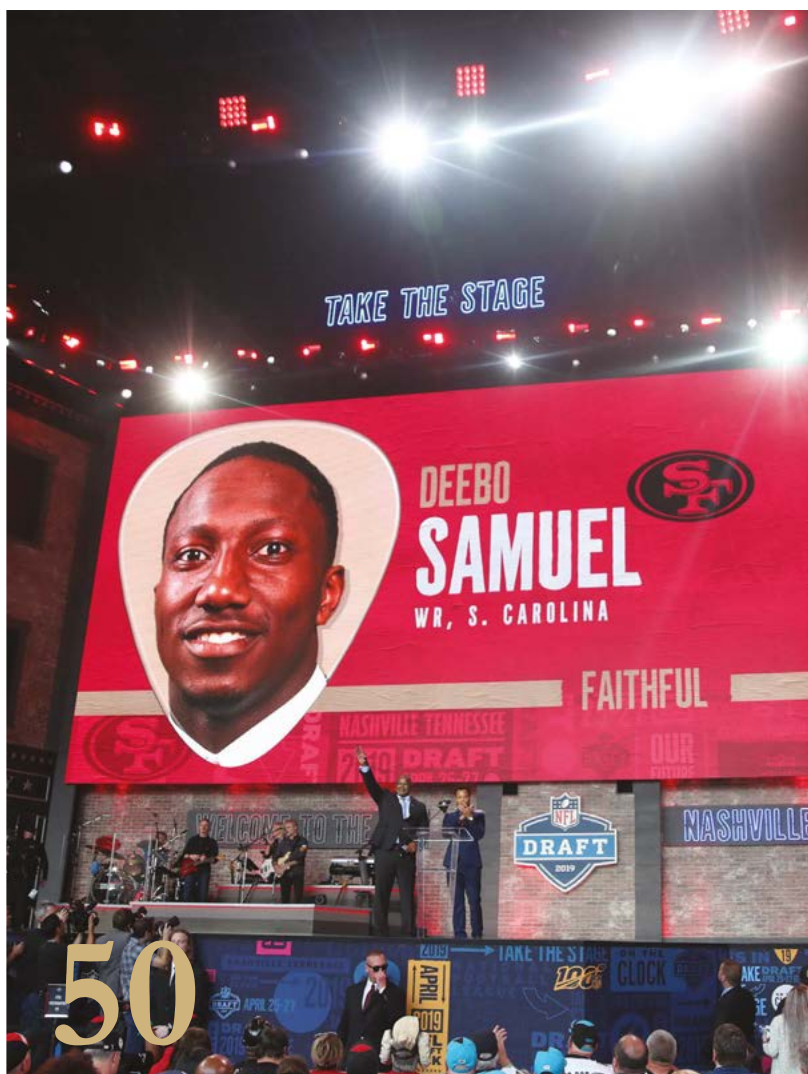


# 49ERS ALUMNI MAGAZINE



2019





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# 2019 49ERS SCHEDULE

**AT** WEEK 1 | SEPT. 8  
**BUCCANEERS**  
FOX | 1:25 P.M.

**VS** WEEK 10 | NOV. 11  
**SEAHAWKS**  
ESPN | 5:15 P.M.

**AT** WEEK 2 | SEPT. 15  
**BENGALS**  
FOX | 10:00 A.M.

**VS** WEEK 11 | NOV. 17  
**CARDINALS**  
FOX | 1:05 P.M.

**VS** WEEK 3 | SEPT. 22  
**STEELERS**  
CBS | 1:25 P.M.

**VS** WEEK 11 | NOV. 24  
**PACKERS**  
FOX | 1:25 P.M.

**VS** WEEK 5 | OCT. 7  
**BROWNS**  
ESPN | 5:15 P.M.

**AT** WEEK 13 | DEC. 1  
**RAVENS**  
FOX | 10:00 A.M.

**AT** WEEK 6 | OCT. 13  
**RAMS**  
FOX | 1:05 P.M.

**AT** WEEK 14 | DEC. 8  
**SAINTS**  
FOX | 10:00 A.M.

**AT** WEEK 7 | OCT. 20  
**REDSKINS**  
FOX | 10:00 A.M.

**VS** WEEK 15 | DEC. 15  
**FALCONS**  
FOX | 1:25 P.M.

**VS** WEEK 8 | OCT. 27  
**PANTHERS**  
FOX | 1:05 P.M.

**VS** WEEK 16 | DEC. 21 OR 22  
**RAMS**  
TBD | TBD

**AT** WEEK 9 | OCT. 31  
**CARDINALS**  
FOX/NFLN/AMAZON  
| 5:20 P.M.

**AT** WEEK 17 | DEC. 29  
**SEAHAWKS**  
FOX | 1:25 P.M.

\*All times Pacific Time

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# LETTER FROM THE GM

## DEAR 49ERS ALUMNI,

As Kyle and I head into our third season with this storied franchise, I wanted to thank each and every one of you for your encouragement, support and inspiration over the past two-plus years. I hold my role with the San Francisco 49ers in the highest regard and work every day to build upon the legacy each of you has contributed to creating. We are committed to The 49er Way and bringing in the type of players that represent the professionalism, talent and spirit that you embodied as a player.

We have dedicated a great deal of time and resources over these past couple of years developing a group of young men that we can all be proud of equally on and off the field. While there have been both highs and lows throughout the process, that does not change our vision or level of determination toward bringing championship caliber football back to the 49ers. Our aggressive approach this offseason to add impact players via trade, free agency and the draft have us in great position to take significant steps forward during the 2019 season. I strongly believe that this group of players, coaches and football staff is cut from the right cloth, and we now have an opportunity to compete at a higher level. Now, we've got to go out and do it.

We are now in the heart of training camp and I know we've grown since the first day the guys returned for the offseason program in April. We have a solid group of men with great experience and talent that can step in and help us when called upon. It was evident that when the team reported for camp, they maximized their time away and used it to prepare for the upcoming grind of the 2019 season.

Inside this issue of the 2019 Alumni Magazine, take the time to see what is going on in some of your former teammates' lives, along with a celebration of the storied 10-Year Club, and the remembering of the ones we've lost over the past year.

Also, please join us in congratulating to Pro Football Hall of Famer, Terrell Owens, who will become the 28th inductee into the Edward J. DeBartolo Sr. San Francisco 49ers Hall of Fame during our home opener against the Pittsburgh Steelers.

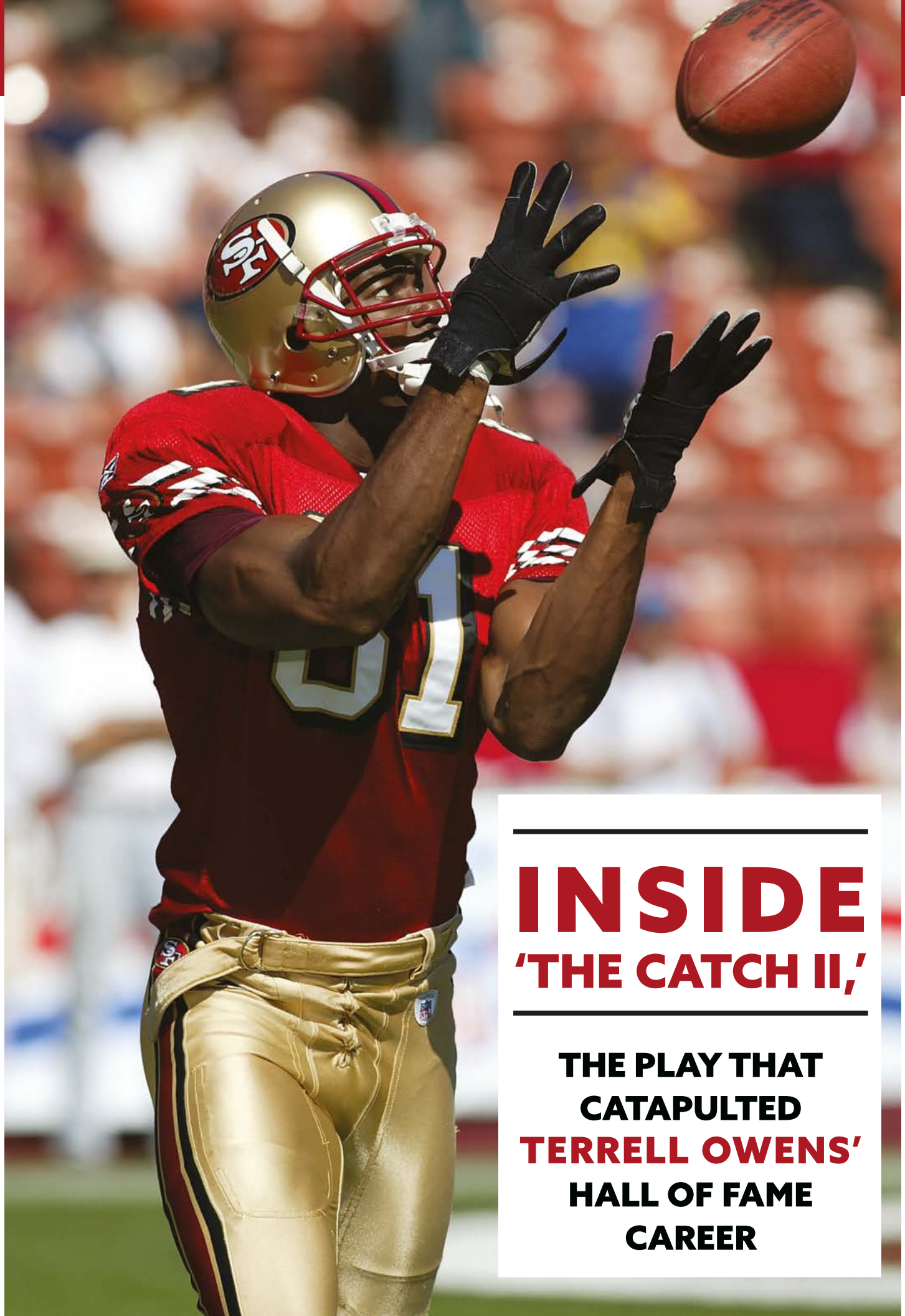
In addition, as Levi's Stadium looks to celebrate its fifth birthday in 2019, I encourage you to check out our amazing home if you haven't done so already. As you may know, the stadium has gone through amazing transformations since opening in 2014. This year's Alumni Weekend will be held from October 25th through the 27th. I hope to see many of your familiar faces as we get set to take on the Carolina Panthers that weekend.

Thank you for your continued support and GO NINERS!



John



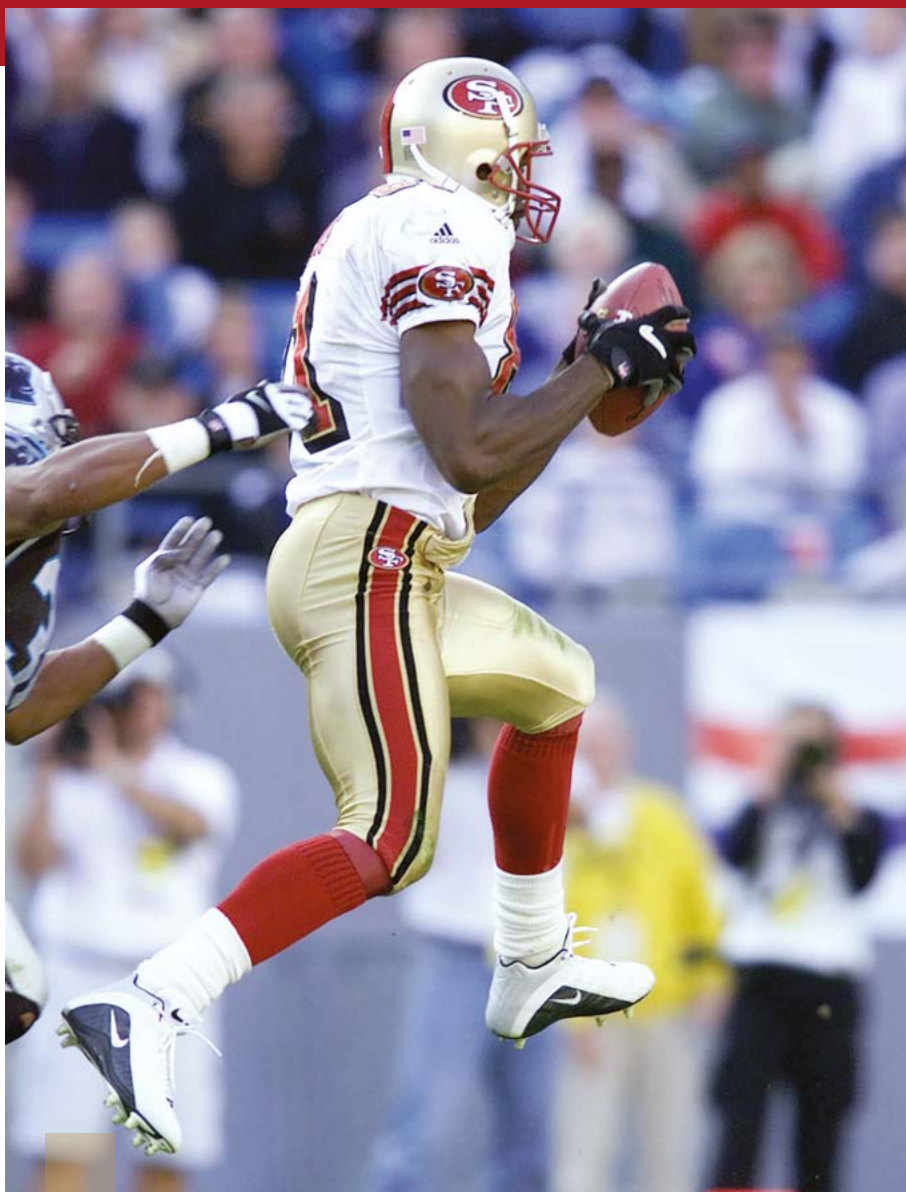


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# **INSIDE** **'THE CATCH II,'**

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**THE PLAY THAT  
CATAPULTED  
TERRELL OWENS'  
HALL OF FAME  
CAREER**



Imagine your own watershed moments – the decisions, instances and happenings in your life that defined your past and shaped your future. We all have them. They'd be the chapters in your biography if not the name of the book itself.

Terrell Owens knows that his, at least from a football standpoint, came on Jan. 3, 1999 in the San Francisco 49ers Wild Card victory against the Green Bay Packers. Owens' game-winning 25-yard touchdown catch in the game's final seconds, better known as "The Catch II," propelled his rise to an eventual NFL Hall of Famer.

"I don't know where I would be if it weren't for that play to be honest," Owens reflected. "If you take that play out of 49ers history, I don't know where I would be. If you take that one catch, that one touchdown away from me, I don't know where I would be. It was

a play that really catapulted my career."

Owens caught 592 passes for 8,572 yards and 81 touchdowns in his eight seasons in San Francisco. He accumulated 153 touchdowns over his 15-year career, good for third-most in NFL history. His flare for the dramatics, outspoken nature and Broadway-like showmanship made "T.O." must-watch television on a weekly basis. Now the franchise's third-round pick in 1996 is set to become the 28th inductee into the Edward J. DeBartolo Sr. San Francisco 49ers Hall of Fame during the 2019 regular season.

But for all of Owens' pom-pom shaking and big-play breaking, his game-winner against Green Bay stands out chief among the receiver's vast highlight reel. And here's the thing: The play itself is remarkable – Owens caught the pass in traffic and absorbed two big hits at the goal line – but it's the events leading up to the touchdown that make the moment so profound. It was the perfect storm of timing,

luck, stage and stakes.

San Francisco welcomed the Packers to 3Com Park (eventually renamed to Candlestick Park) after posting a 12-4 record during the 1998 regular season. Owens had come onto the scene as a budding star in what was his third NFL campaign. He caught 67 passes for 1,097 yards and 14 touchdowns – all career highs at that juncture. The yardage was just 60 yards shy of Jerry Rice's total that year, and Owens scored five more touchdowns.

"At this point I realized the 49ers saw something in me, and I didn't want to be a disappointment," Owens said of his 1998 season.

But Owens got off to a dreadful start in the Wild Card Round against Green Bay. He lost a fumble and





dropped a sure touchdown after losing the ball in the sun in the first half alone. Owens recalled that a local paper used to name a “Goat of the Week” after each loss (and not in the Jerry Rice, “Greatest of All Time” sort of way).

He stood on the sideline and mentally braced himself to be given the literary dunce cap.

“That did not sit well with me,” Owens said. “I looked around the stands and understood that I was going to cause a lot of heartache, not just for my teammates but also for the fans. Those were the things that were going through my head.”

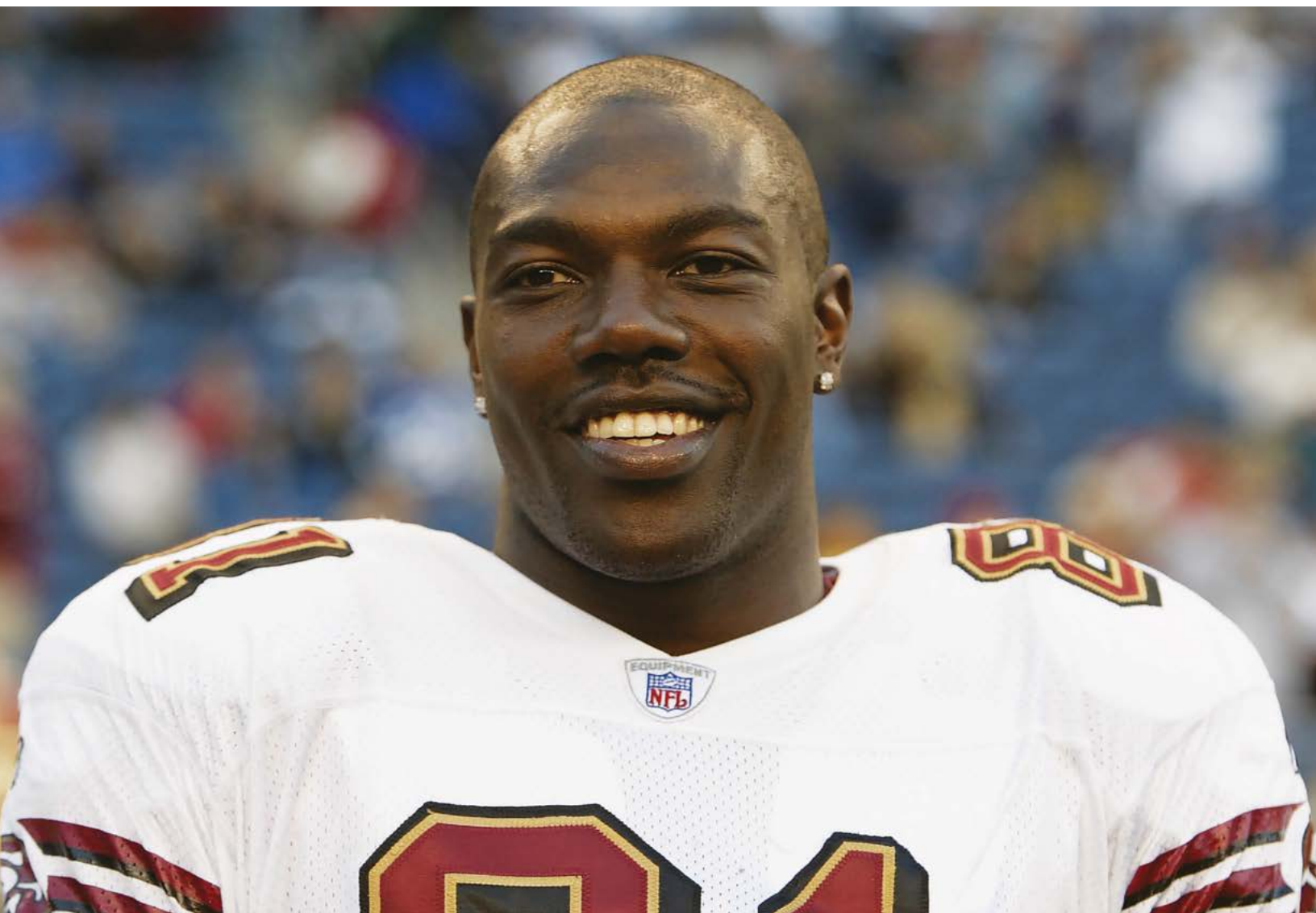
After trailing 17-10 at halftime, the 49ers scored 10 unanswered points to take a three-point lead into the fourth quarter. The two teams traded field goals before Brett Favre fired a 15-yard touchdown pass to Antonio Freeman to give the Packers a 27-23 lead with 1:56 to play. There were three ties and six lead changes throughout the seesawing nail-biter.

Steve Young and the offense took over at their own 24-yard line with 1:47 remaining and all three timeouts. San Francisco took the field without Owens. Rice and J.J. Stokes were deployed as the only receivers.

San Francisco called timeout after a short three-yard pass to fullback Marc Edwards







crossed midfield and reached Green Bay's 47-yard line. With the offense huddled together on the sideline, wide receivers coach Larry Kirksey suggested to head coach Steve Mariucci that he put Owens back into the game. Kirksey figured having three receivers on the field might open things up in the Packers secondary with just :54 on the clock.

"Owens was standing next to me as we were driving down the field," Kirksey said. "I said, 'Mooch, let's put Terrell back in the ball game.'"

It's imperative to note that Kirksey was always Owens' most ardent champion. He spent four years grooming Owens into one of the most imposing receivers in NFL history.

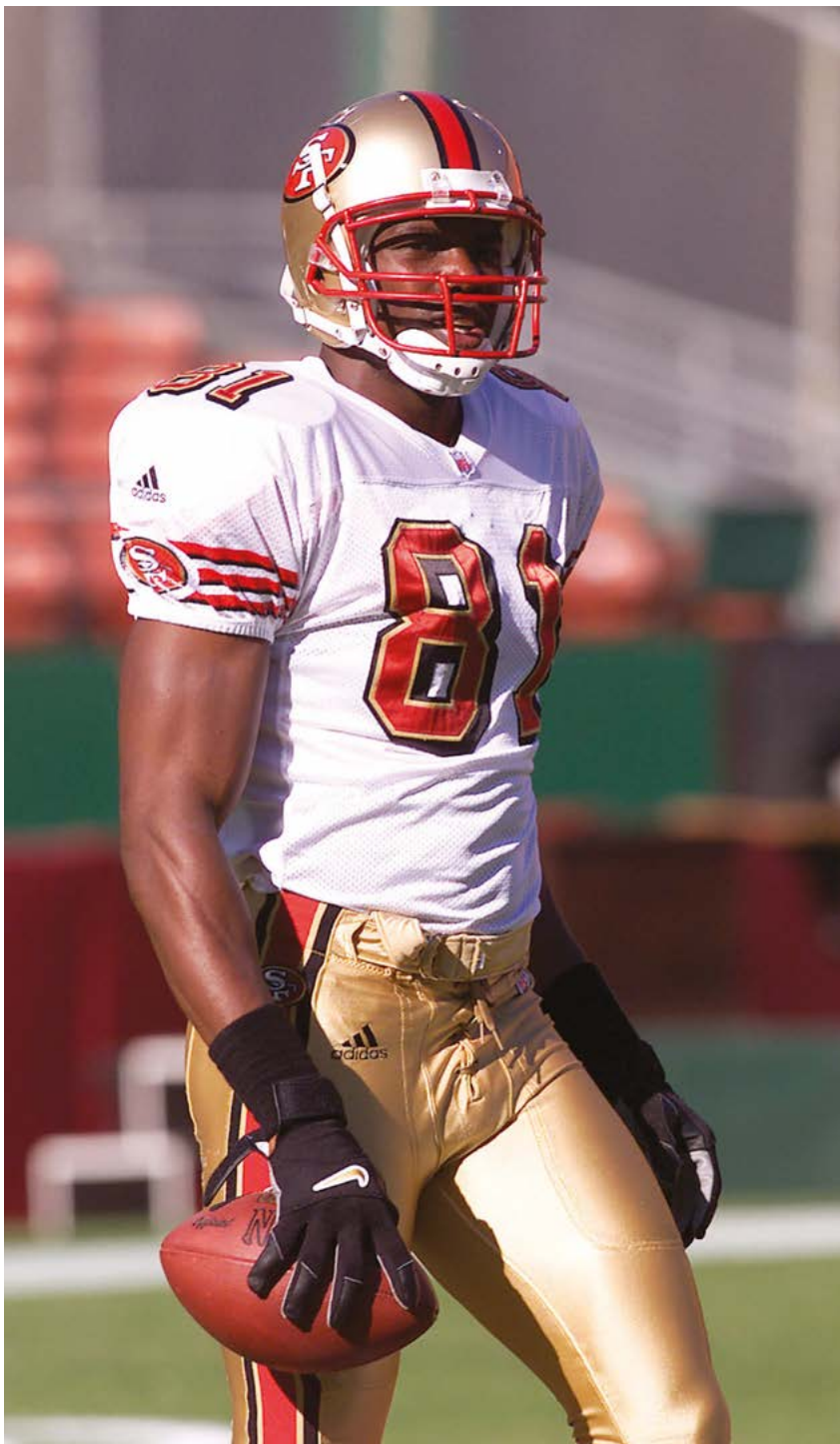
"Coach Kirksey constantly stayed on me," Owens said. "We'd have individual meetings and get in extra work after practice. He knew that I had the potential. He could see that there was something about me. These were things I continually tried to work on."

Owens entered the league with ideal size (6-foot-3, 213 pounds) but little polish. He was a two-sport athlete, playing basketball at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and never gave professional football much thought until his junior year. His route tree was limited upon his arrival in the NFL, and he struggled mightily against press man-to-man coverage.

Kirksey shifted Owens' thought process back to basketball. If he could take a defender off the dribble and get to the rim in hoops, why couldn't he do the same on a football field? Treating his routes like a game of 1-on-1 offered Owens an immediate remedy.

"When he told me that," Owens said, simultaneously snapping his fingers, "the light bulb came on. And when it did, it made perfect sense. It took the guesswork out of it."

Back to the Wild Card Round, Owens returned to the field with just two catches for 48 yards up to that point. Here's where luck factored into the equation. Two plays later, Rice



field stood regardless of their accuracy. In fact, the NFL instituted a replay system in 1999 due in large part to these two borderline calls.

San Francisco had one last shot at the end zone from 25 yards out with :08 remaining and no timeouts. Owens recalled being open on the near interception, but Young never saw him in the middle of the field. He told his quarterback in the huddle that he was going to run his route the exact same way.

Lined up slot right, Owens ran up the seam and shaved his route towards the middle in front of safety Darren Sharper. Young threaded a pass between three defenders to Owens, who held on despite pin balling off of two defenders for the game-winning touchdown.

The play ended San Francisco's five-game losing streak against Green Bay and simultaneously secured Owens' place in 49ers franchise history.

"He redeemed himself on that one particular play," Kirksey said. "That's one of the plays that went down in history – him making that catch to win the game. ... I can't tell you where he would stack, but I know he's one of the greatest of all time."

At that point San Francisco knew it had found Rice's heir apparent. Owens would go on to post nine 1,000-yard seasons and eight seasons with double-digit touchdowns, but it's "The Catch II" that remains synonymous with his tenure with the 49ers.

Now 21 years later, on Sept. 22, 2019 at half-time of the team's home opener against the Pittsburgh Steelers, Owens will be welcomed into the franchise's Hall of Fame.

caught a 6-yard crossing route – his only catch of the game – and lost the football as his knee touched the ground. The referee immediately ruled Rice down while the Packers defense clamored for a fumble. Just three snaps after that, the penultimate play of the game, Young nearly threw an interception looking for Stokes towards the right sideline.

Packers corner Craig Newsome secured the football with his left arm but the tip of the football appeared to hit the ground in the process. The referee, once again, ruled the bang-bang play in the 49ers favor and called it an incomplete pass. Mind you, challenges weren't a thing at this point. The rulings on the

"I am so humbled to be mentioned with the likes of Joe Montana, Steve Young, Jerry Rice and many others that have represented the San Francisco 49ers organization," said Owens. "The Bay Area is where I began my career, and I will forever be indebted to the 49ers. I am honored to be inducted into the 49ers Hall of Fame as this is a special moment with a special group of individuals."

That afternoon at Levi's® Stadium will punctuate another – but likely not the last – chapter worth celebrating in Owens' life. Because that's the thing about watershed moments, there's always room for one more.



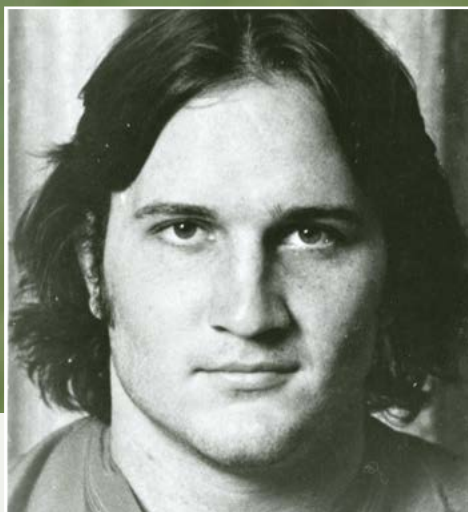


**// I can't tell you where he would stack, but  
I know he's one of the greatest of all time. //**

**- Former 49ers Wide Receivers Coach Larry Kirksey**



# THE 49ERS REMEMBER



**STAN BLACK**

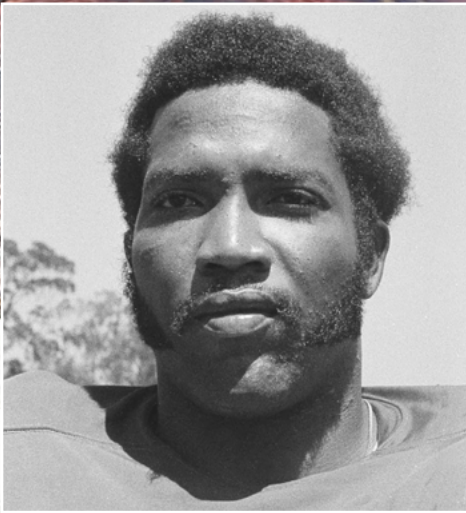
Stan Black was drafted by San Francisco in the fourth round (100th overall) of the 1977 NFL Draft. He passed away on August 24, 2018, at the age of 62. Black played one season (1977) in the NFL with the 49ers and appeared in 13 games, seeing action in the secondary and also returned 13 punts for 38 yards. Black played four seasons at Mississippi State as a defensive back and kickoff returner before joining the 49ers. He earned Honorable Mention All-SEC honors in his sophomore and junior seasons.



**REGGIE COBB**

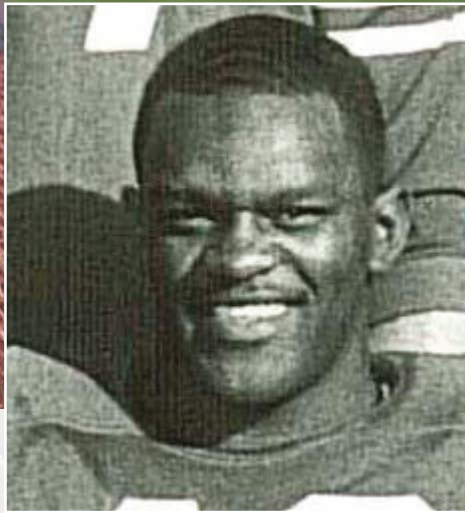
San Francisco 49ers area scout Reggie Cobb passed away on Saturday, April 20, 2019, at the age of 50. Cobb was entering his 11th year with the 49ers as an area scout and 26th overall in the NFL. He joined the 49ers after spending the previous six years (2003-08) scouting the Southwest region for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and two seasons (2001-02) as a member of the Washington Redskins scouting department. In 2011 with San Francisco, he was named NFC Scout of the Year by the Fritz Pollard Alliance. Cobb enjoyed a seven-year playing career that began as a second-round pick (30th overall) of the Buccaneers in 1990. He played four seasons (1990-93) with Tampa Bay before playing one season with Green Bay (1994), Jacksonville (1995) and the New York Jets (1996). Cobb finished his college career ranked third on the University of Tennessee's career rushing chart with 2,360 yards and 26 touchdowns. He was also a member of the school's 100th anniversary team. Cobb lettered in track and graduated with a degree in urban studies in 1990.





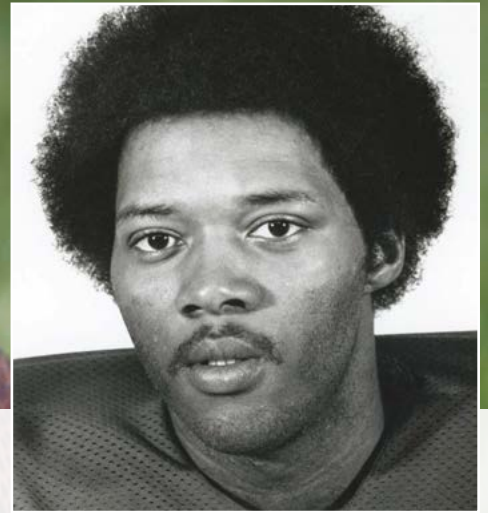
**CEDRICK HARDMAN**

Cedrick Hardman, who was selected by San Francisco in the first round (ninth overall) of the 1970 NFL Draft, passed away on March 8, 2019, at the age of 70. He spent 10 seasons with the 49ers (1970-79) and appeared in 139 games (121 starts), the fifth-most among 49ers defensive linemen, trailing only DT Bryant Young (208), DT Charlie Krueger (198), DT Leo Nomellini (174) and DT Roland Lakes (140). A two-time All-Pro (1971 & 1975) and Pro Bowl (1972 & 1976) selection, Hardman anchored a defensive front nicknamed the “Gold Rush” that included DE Cleveland Elam, DE Tommy Hart and DT Jimmy Webb. Hardman is also a member of San Francisco’s 10-Year Wall, which honors all players who played 10-or-more seasons with the team. Following his time in San Francisco, Hardman signed with the Oakland Raiders where he appeared in 32 games over two seasons (1980-81) and was a member of the Super Bowl XV championship team. Hardman arrived to San Francisco after a successful collegiate career at the University of North Texas. In his senior season, Hardman registered 38.0 sacks in 10 games in his only season as a full-time starter.



**DON LISBON**

Don Lisbon, who was drafted by San Francisco out of Bowling Green in the third round (36th overall) of the 1963 NFL Draft, passed away on December 29, 2018, at the age of 77. Lisbon played two seasons (1963-64) with the 49ers and appeared in 20 games (14 starts), registering 561 yards on 164 rushing attempts. He also added 34 receptions for 363 yards and three receiving touchdowns. Lisbon also registered a 45-yard passing touchdown in his rookie season. After his time with San Francisco, Lisbon went on to play for the Montreal Alouettes (1966-67) and the Edmonton Eskimos (1967-68). In his three seasons in the CFL, Lisbon registered 1,577 yards and six touchdowns on 326 carries. He also hauled in 42 receptions for 446 yards. Lisbon was inducted into the Bowling Green State University Hall of Fame in 1980.



**JIM LASH**

Jim Lash, who spent two seasons with the 49ers (1976-77), passed away on May 31, 2019 at the age of 67. He was originally drafted in the third round (65th overall) of the 1973 NFL Draft by the Minnesota Vikings. He spent four seasons with the Vikings (1973-76), appearing in 42 games (33 starts) and registering 75 receptions for 1,252 yards and three touchdowns, before San Francisco acquired him in a trade during the 1976 season. In his two seasons with the 49ers, Lash played in 18 games (10 starts) and notched 16 receptions for 212 yards. He attended Northwestern University (1970-72) and played in 32 games and recorded 86 receptions for 1,479 yards and six touchdowns throughout his collegiate career. A native of Akron, OH, Lash was selected as a defensive back on the 1968 Class AA Associated Press All-Ohio Football Team.

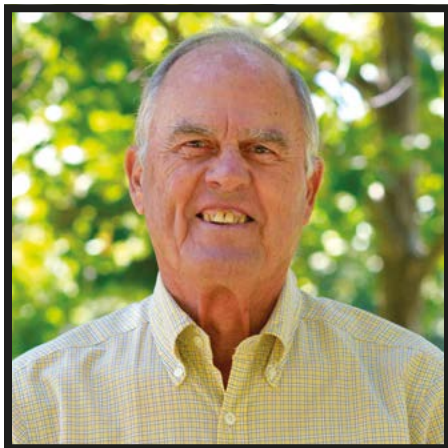


# ▶▶▶ WHERE ARE THEY NOW? CATCHING UP WITH FORMER 49ERS



## G/C RANDY CROSS

Randy Cross played his entire 13-year NFL career (1976-1988) with San Francisco after being selected by the 49ers in the second round (42nd overall) of the 1976 NFL Draft. Cross was a member of three Super Bowl Championship teams (Super Bowl XVI, Super Bowl XIX and Super Bowl XXIII). Individually, Cross played the third-most games (185) by an offensive lineman in franchise history and earned Pro Bowl honors three times (1981, 1982 and 1984). After retiring from football, Cross launched a career in broadcasting. For the first 20 years of his broadcasting career, Cross commented on NFL games on CBS. He then switched over to calling college football games on the network, a position he has held for the past 10 years. He also hosts a weekday highlight show on CBS called Inside College Football. Cross lives in Alpharetta, GA, with his wife, Patrice. The couple has three children; Brendan, Crystal and Kelly. In his spare time, Cross enjoys golfing, traveling and volunteering with Hire Heroes USA, an organization dedicated to providing work-related skills and services to veterans and their families.



## DB EDDIE DOVE

Eddie Dove was selected by the 49ers in the third round (29th overall) of the 1959 NFL Draft. Dove spent five years (1959-63) with San Francisco, but finished the 1963 season as a member of the New York Giants before retiring from the game at the end of the season. While with the 49ers, Dove registered eight interceptions, six fumble recoveries and four forced fumbles. He also recorded 44 punt returns for 239 yards. After retiring from football, Dove began working in the construction industry. He is currently working on a part-time basis as the vice president of construction with Huettig & Schroom Inc., a property management and construction company. Dove still resides in Menlo Park in the same house he purchased with his late wife, Susan, in 1959. He enjoys visiting their neighboring three children and six grandchildren. Dove is also fond of visiting his second home in Lake Almanor, CA.



## T SCOTT GRAGG

Scott Gragg appeared in 79 games (78 starts) at tackle over a five-year (2000-04) career with the 49ers. He played five seasons (1995-99) with the New York Giants before signing with the 49ers as a free agent in 2000. He also played one season (2005) with the New York Jets. After retiring from football, Gragg served as the head football coach at his alma mater, Silverton (OR) High School, from 2006-10. He then made the jump to the University of Montana, where he worked from 2010-15 as a tight ends coach, offensive line coach and then offensive coordinator. Gragg left the coaching ranks in 2016 to accept the position of athletic director at McNary High School in Keizer, OR, a position he currently holds. Gragg resides in Keizer with his wife, Toni, and their two children, Hannah and Brian. Hannah plays volleyball at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia, and their son, Brian, recently graduated from McNary. In his free time, Gragg enjoys camping, fishing and hiking, particularly in the state of Montana.



# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



## DB DWIGHT HICKS

Dwight Hicks appeared in 96 games (92 starts) in seven seasons (1979-85) with the 49ers. Throughout his career with the 49ers, he registered 30 interceptions for 586 return yards and three touchdowns. He also added 14 fumble recoveries for 112 return yards and one touchdown. Hicks was a key member of two Super Bowl Championship teams (Super Bowl XVI and Super Bowl XIX) and even recorded an interception on the opening possession of Super Bowl XVI. Hicks played one season (1986) with the Indianapolis Colts before retiring from the game. Following his playing career, Hicks appeared on an NFL postgame show with Fox. Shortly after beginning his career in broadcasting, Hicks acquired an agent and began auditioning for roles in commercials, film and theatre. He has since performed in shows and films such as Armageddon, Castle, The O.C. and The X-Files. Hicks, who has lived in Los Angeles since 1997, has two daughters, Paress and Aubrey. Paress is in the entertainment industry as well, working with actor Will Smith at Overbook Entertainment. She has since launched a career of her own as a producer. Aubrey is an author and has been published twice. Hicks enjoys golfing and mentoring other young people in his profession in his spare time.



## RB LARRY SCHREIBER

Larry Schreiber played five seasons (1971-75) with the 49ers after being selected by the team in the 10th round (243rd overall) of the 1970 NFL Draft out of Tennessee Tech. Schreiber played in 60 games (35 starts) with San Francisco and registered 1,734 rushing yards and 10 touchdowns on 502 attempts while adding 116 receptions for 966 yards and four touchdowns. He played one season with the Chicago Bears in 1976 before retiring from the game. Schreiber obtained his real estate license and his contractor's license while playing for the 49ers. Then, after his playing career was over, he first opened a night club in San Francisco with former teammate Gene Washington, but later expanded to the real estate business in various parts of the country. Schreiber retired five years ago and still resides in the same Woodside home he purchased when he first arrived to San Francisco in 1975. Schreiber remained connected to the game after retirement, serving as the president of the Bay Area NFL Alumni Association for five of the 30 years he was involved with the organization. He also assisted the Woodside High School football program for about 18 years, instructing future Super Bowl MVP Julian Edelman in his time at the school. Schreiber enjoys landscaping, biking and attending charitable events in his free time.



## T/G ADAM SNYDER

Adam Snyder played eight seasons (2005-11, 2013) with the 49ers after being selected by the team in the third round (94th overall) of the 2005 NFL Draft out of the University of Oregon. Snyder appeared in 123 games (73 starts) throughout his eight-year career with the 49ers. He also played for the Arizona Cardinals (2012) and New York Giants (2014). Snyder retired from the game in 2014 and began coaching the offensive linemen of Perry High School in Gilbert, AZ. He is currently in the process of opening his own offensive line training facility, VydL Offensive Line Academy, near his home in Chandler, AZ. Snyder plans on helping the offensive linemen with film study, flexibility, mobility, nutrition, strength-building and the fundamentals of the position. Snyder and his wife, Erika, reside in Chandler with their four children; Kael (10), Zane (8), Shea (5) and Cole (3). Snyder enjoys wakeboarding, golfing and watching his children compete in various sports in his spare time.

# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



## RB HARRY SYDNEY

Harry Sydney spent five seasons (1987-91) with the 49ers after first playing in the United States Football League for three seasons (1983-85). In 69 games with San Francisco, he rushed for 642 yards and seven touchdowns on 139 rushing attempts, while adding 35 receptions for 298 yards and three touchdowns. Sydney was also with San Francisco when the team won back-to-back Super Bowl Championships from 1988-89 (Super Bowl XXIII and Super Bowl XXIV). After his time with the 49ers, Sydney played one more season (1992) in the NFL with the Green Bay Packers. Upon retirement, Sydney appeared on the sports talk radio station KGO and coached high school football before joining the Green Bay Packers coaching staff, where he worked with the running backs under head coach Mike Holmgren from 1994-2000. After leaving the coaching ranks, Sydney launched My Brother's Keeper alongside his wife, Madonna, which is a non-profit organization that provides direction and guidance to male individuals who lack necessary life-coping skills. The organization helps a variety of individuals, from troubled boys identified by schools or parents to men struggling with relationships, job dissatisfaction and financial difficulty. Since its inception in 2003, the organization has helped over 9,300 boys and men change their lives in the Green Bay area. Sydney and his wife have eight children and seven grandchildren. The couple lives in Green Bay, WI, where they direct their non-profit's initiatives. In addition, Sydney is an author of the book titled, "Win from Within: False Starts, First Downs, and the Power of Second Chances." Told in his own words, the book "shows what can happen if you think positively and work hard."



## DL MANU TUIASOSOPO

Manu Tuiasosopo played three seasons (1984-86) with San Francisco after playing his first five seasons (1979-1983) with Seattle. In his three seasons with the 49ers, Tuiasosopo played in 46 games (30 starts) and registered 103 tackles, 7.0 sacks, two fumble recoveries, one forced fumble and one interception with a return of 22 yards. Tuiasosopo was a part of the Super Bowl XIX Championship team in his first season with the 49ers. In the victorious Super Bowl victory over the Dolphins, Tuiasosopo started at nose tackle and was a part of a defensive unit that held the opposing rushing attack to just 25 net yards. After hanging up his cleats in 1987, Tuiasosopo began working with Crowley Maritime in the Seattle area. Although, after his management team moved their unit to Jacksonville, FL, a few years into his time there, Tuiasosopo transitioned to a role with Alaska Airlines with the intent of keeping his family in Seattle. He has worked with the airline for 15 years now. In addition to his full-time work, he also serves as a coach and mentor to high school football players in his local community. Tuiasosopo still resides in the Seattle area with his high school sweetheart and wife of 40 years, Tina. The couple has five children; Leslie, Ashley, Marques, Zach and Matt. Their oldest daughter, Leslie, serves as an assistant coach for the University of Washington volleyball team, and their youngest daughter, Ashley, is a teacher and coach in the Seattle area. Their oldest son, Marques, played quarterback with the Oakland Raiders for six seasons before launching his coaching career. He currently works as the quarterbacks coach at the University of California. Zach played running back at the University of Washington and their youngest son, Matt, recently retired from playing professional baseball and has launched a career in coaching. In his spare time, Tuiasosopo enjoys spending time with his five children and 12 grandchildren, as well as taking trips to Hawaii and Florida. On January 19, 2018, Tuiasosopo was inducted to the Polynesian Football Hall of Fame.



## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



### C CODY WALLACE

Cody Wallace played two seasons (2008-09) with the 49ers after being selected by the team in the fourth round (107th overall) of the 2008 NFL Draft. Wallace also spent time with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers (2012) and Pittsburgh Steelers (2013-16). Wallace and his brother-in-law, Mike, started a termite inspection company, Brothers Inspections Services, in the Bay Area after retiring from football. Wallace has been married to his wife, Chely, for 10 years. He and his wife reside in Livermore with their two children, Ryder (6) and Everly (4). In his spare time, Wallace enjoys camping and traveling with his family.



### LB DAVE WILCOX

Dave Wilcox, selected by San Francisco in the third round (29th overall) of the 1964 NFL Draft, played his entire 11-year career (1964-74) with the team. A member of the Edward J. DeBartolo Sr. 49ers Hall of Fame and the Pro Football Hall of Fame, Wilcox earned Pro Bowl honors seven times (1966, 1968-73) and First-Team All-Pro honors twice (1971-72) throughout his career. In his 11 seasons with the 49ers, Wilcox recorded 14 interceptions and 12 fumble recoveries. After retiring from the NFL, Wilcox continued working with his partners on his health club investments in Oregon. In 1976, Wilcox acted on his vision of living in the Oregon countryside and built a log home on a property in Eugene, OR. For 30 years, Wilcox raised a variety of vegetable seeds, ranging from cabbage to brussel sprouts to radishes. Wilcox and his wife, Merle, currently split their time between Eugene and Junction City, OR, and their other property in Goodyear, AZ. The couple has two children, Josh and Justin, who both played football at the University of Oregon. Josh currently works for a tequila company owned by Bill Walton, while Justin serves as the head football coach of the University of California football team. In his spare time, Wilcox enjoys participating in charity events and traveling.





# ALUMNI MEMORIES









# ALUMNI PROGRAMS



**THE MISSION OF THE ASSISTANCE FUND IS TO SERVE 49ERS ALUMNI WHO ARE IN NEED OF FINANCIAL, MEDICAL, PHYSIOLOGICAL OR EMOTIONAL SUPPORT.**

The Golden Heart Fund supported by 49ers ownership (past and present) and lead by 49ers alumni greats provide funding support and relief for alumni players in times of physical, emotional and financial need. It is undeniable the amount of stress that is overlooked after retirement from the NFL. Whether the career was 2 years or 20 years, the struggle with depression, aftermath of physical injury, self-identity and financial burden is real. We have come together as a 49er family to lift those who once lifted our city. To be the support our fellow 49er family members are in desperate need of.

For more information or to donate to The Golden Heart Fund, please visit:  
[www.goldenheartfund.org](http://www.goldenheartfund.org)



Nearly 5300 players are registered in the NFL Legends Community.

There are 23 Legends living all across the country serving as Legends Community Directors and Coordinators. They played in different eras for multiple teams at various positions and are passionate about helping their former teammates.

5 Regions: Northeast, Southeast, Central North, Central South, Pacific West

Assist in communication with affinity groups including Hall of Fame, NFL Alumni Association, NFLPA's The Trust, Gridiron Greats, Player Care Foundation, etc. to ensure players are tapping into all resources available to them.

Communicate regularly with Legends Community members via: a monthly newsletter, hospitality/networking activities at calendar events, dedicated social media accounts (#NFLBrotherhood).

**The NFL Legends Community was launched in 2013 to celebrate, embrace, and connect former players with each other, their former teams, and the NFL.**

[www.nfllegendscommunity.com](http://www.nfllegendscommunity.com)  
Email: [NFLLegends@NFL.com](mailto:NFLLegends@NFL.com)

## THE TRUST POWERED BY THE NFLPA

The Trust is a set of resources, services and programs that provide former NFL players with the support, skills and tools they need to help ensure success off the field and in life after football.

A tailor-made experience that focuses on your own unique needs through a customized game plan.

A program designed to help you achieve your health, wellness and career goals through VIP access to premiere facilities and partners – with no cost to you.

**THE TRUST IS ALL ABOUT YOU ALL FOR YOU!**

<b>PHONE</b>	<b>EMAIL</b>	<b>WEB</b>
866.725.0063	<a href="mailto:INFO@PLAYERSTRUST.COM">INFO@PLAYERSTRUST.COM</a>	<a href="http://PLAYERSTRUST.COM">PLAYERSTRUST.COM</a>







## THE 88 PLAN

The 88 Plan is designed to assist players who are vested under the Bert Bell/Pete Rozelle NFL Player Retirement Plan ("Retirement Plan") and who are determined to have dementia, as this condition is defined in the 88 Plan.

The 88 Plan will pay the cost of medical and custodial care for eligible players, including institutional custodial care, institutional charges, home custodial care provided by an unrelated third party, physician services, durable medical equipment, and prescription medicine.

For eligible players who are institutionalized as an in-patient, the maximum annual benefit is \$88,000. For eligible players who are not institutionalized as an in-patient, the maximum annual benefit is \$50,000. 88 Plan benefits may be paid on behalf of an eligible player even if that player is also receiving total and permanent ("T&P") disability benefits from the Retirement Plan, but only if he is in the "Inactive" category. Players receiving T&P disability benefits from the Retirement Plan in the "Active Football," "Active Nonfootball," and "Football Degenerative" categories cannot also receive the 88 Plan benefit. For players who convert, or have converted to retirement benefits from those three T&P categories, an offset applies that may or may not eliminate 88 Plan benefits.

**For more information, contact NFL Player Benefits Department at 1-800-NFL-GOAL (1-800-635-4625)**



The National Football League recognizes the enormous contributions former players have had in the development and success of America's favorite sport -- NFL football.

To acknowledge and express appreciation for their contributions, the NFL Owners, in partnership with the NFL Players Association, Pro Football Hall of Fame, and the NFL Alumni Association, created the NFL Player Care Foundation (PCF) in September 2007.

PCF is administered by a board of six directors. The National Football League, NFL Players Association, Pro Football Hall of Fame and the NFL Alumni Association each nominated a director and there also are two outside directors with expertise in foundation management and social welfare issues.

PCF is an independent organization dedicated to helping retired players improve their quality of life. PCF addresses all aspects of life -- medical, emotional, financial, social and community, providing programs and assistance in each area.

**For more information about PCF, 800-NFL-GOAL (800-635-4625) OR 954-639-4584**



In 2012, the National Football League provided a grant to establish the NFL Life Line for members of the NFL family -- current and former NFL players, coaches, team and league staff, and their family members who may be in crisis. The NFL Life Line is a free, confidential, and independently operated resource that connects callers with trained counselors who can help individuals work

through any personal or emotional crisis. This service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

**Individuals can simply call (800) 506-0078 or chat online to be connected with a counselor.** These caring professionals are trained to understand the specific issues that may arise during or after a professional career in football, as well as a variety of general problems that can affect anyone. No confidential information about individual calls or callers is shared with the NFL, teams, or any other organization. They're there to listen and assist callers in finding solutions in challenging times, provide support for individuals who are calling out of concern for somebody else, and can connect callers with programs and resources offered by the NFL and other organizations. Federal evaluations of hotlines similar to this service have shown that they can effectively reduce emotional distress and suicidal thinking in callers.

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# THE 10-YEAR CLUB

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The 10-Year Club, which honors all players who spent 10-or-more years with the San Francisco 49ers, is proudly displayed in the hallway leading to the team's locker room. Since the team's inception in 1946, only 51 players have joined this exclusive fraternity.

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# What does being a member of the 49ers 10-Year Club mean to you?

## **T HARRIS BARTON (1987-98)**

"It's one of the greatest achievements in my personal life. To be on the greatest team with the greatest owner, for the greatest city, for 12 years – I mean to win three Super Bowls, play with Joe Montana and Jerry Rice, Steve Young and Ronnie Lott, they're guys I'm friendly with even now. It's a bond that I'll never be able to replace."

## **DE DWAIN BOARD (1979-88)**

"For me, it's a part of being something special – to start the Super Bowl runs and play with some of the greatest players of all time."

## **G/C RANDY CROSS (1976-88)**

"To have a 10-year career in the NFL is an incredible battle against the odds and a remarkable accomplishment. To play 13 years for a fan base like the 49er Faithful and for an organization like the 49ers is truly a blessing. I mean, when I look at the names on that wall and realize my face/name is among them, I am full of an incredible amount of pride. I played with the best there was, for the best there was and in front of/for the best fans in the NFL. So, what do I say? To all, I say thank you."

## **TE VERNON DAVIS (2006-15)**

"The 10-Year Club is a beautiful achievement. Something I'll always hold near and dear to my heart. It represents longevity, accountability and determination. It also shows me how much the organization believed in me as a person. There's so much history on that wall in the company of Jerry Rice and all the other well established incredible men. I remember looking at that wall back in 2006 saying to myself, 'I will be on that wall one day.' I knew that I had to be a high character person and a standout athlete if that was going to happen."

## **G/T DERRICK DEESE (1992-2003)**

"It's an honor. It shows that a lot of hard work, dedication and going above and beyond the norm can allow you to benefit from. To be able to a part of such a great organization for so many years, it says a lot."

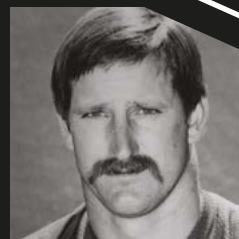
## **RB FRANK GORE (2005-14)**

"It's real big. Being on the wall with Vernon Davis, Joe Staley, Ronnie Lott, Guy McIntyre, Jerry Rice, Steve Young, Joe Montana – there are a lot of great names on that wall. Once I found out what those pictures were about, that was one of my goals. I wanted be part of the all of those great players who did amazing things for this organization."

## **LB WILLIE HARPER (1973-83)**

"It's a once in a lifetime opportunity. An accomplishment that even in the years to come, my children's children's children will be able to come and take a look at some of the things that their grandfather has accomplished."

John Ayers



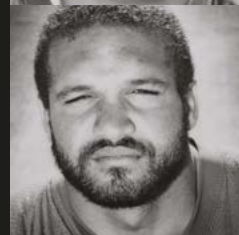
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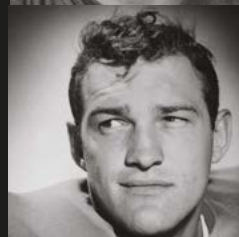
Harris Barton



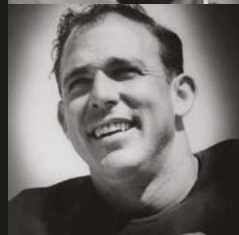
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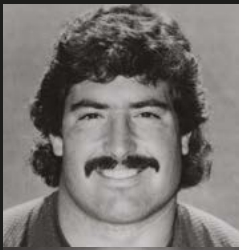


Bruce Bosley



John Brodie





Randy Cross



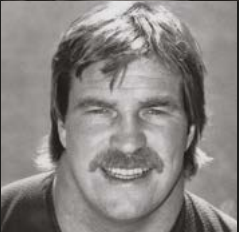
Tommy Davis



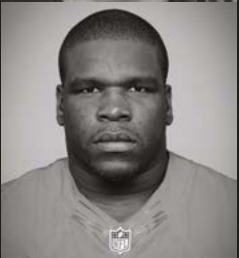
Vernon Davis



Derrick Deese



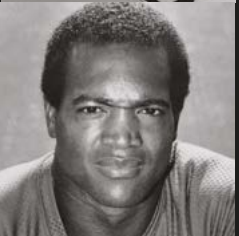
Keith Fahnhorst



Frank Gore



Cedrick Hardman



Willie Harper



Tommy Hart



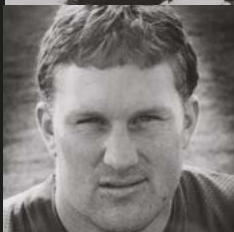
Matt Hazeltine



Brian Jennings



Jimmy Johnson



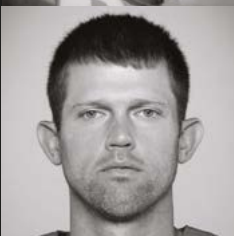
Brent Jones



Charlie Krueger



Roland Lakes



Andy Lee



# What does being a member of the 49ers 10-Year Club mean to you?

## **TE/LS BRIAN JENNINGS (2000-12)**

"I played in a system that was built on greatness. That's what the 10-Year Club means to me. I was trained by the best in the world, and I was just crazy enough to do what they said. I approached every game like a cumulative final exam, and my job was to overcome unforeseen obstacles."

## **DB JIMMY JOHNSON (1961-76)**

"To be remembered in the 49ers 10-Year Club, amongst the other dedicated players in the 49ers history, gives me a great feeling of pride and accomplishment!"

## **TE BRENT JONES (1987-97)**

"The 10-Year Club was always a major goal for me. To perform at an extremely high level, with the best team in the NFL, is truly one of my greatest honors."

## **P ANDY LEE (2004-14)**

"Once it got to a point where it was year four, five and six, that kind of became my goal. I'll be honest, I wanted to be on that wall. I'd walk past it every day on the way to our team meeting room. Once I got on the wall, it was just a great accomplishment – not just to play in the NFL for 10 years but to be in the same place for 10 years and have success. It's an awesome honor to have."

## **DB RONNIE LOTT (1981-90)**

"I was told my second or third year from a newspaper writer, 'Greatness is not made in two years or three years. Greatness surrounds somebody that sustains it over a 10-year career.' When you think of people that are on that wall, all of those guys had the capability of playing 10 years. Due to the nature of the game of football, to play 10 years and to play at a passionately high level, is something that every one of the men that on the wall will tell you, that the badge of honor is hard to accomplish."

## **G GUY MCINTYRE (1984-93)**

"Being a member of the 49ers 10-Year Club is one of my greatest accomplishment in my football career. And to be part of a great group of players in 49ers history makes it extra special."

## **QB JOE MONTANA (1979-92)**

"It was a great pleasure being a part of this organization for those years. Could not have been accomplished without the great players and the whole organization, most importantly Bill Walsh and the best owner ever, Eddie DeBartolo!"

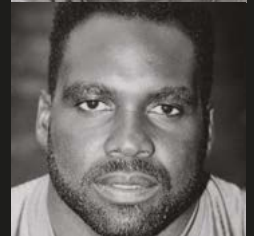
## **LB FRANK NUNLEY (1967-76)**

"It's an honor to be a part of an elite group of individuals who were privileged to play this great game for such a long time. I am happy to see the Niner organization keeping the legacy of alumni players alive and I am pleased to be a part of it."

Ronnie Lott



Guy McIntyre



Joe Montana



Leo Nomellini



Frank Nunley



Woody Peoples

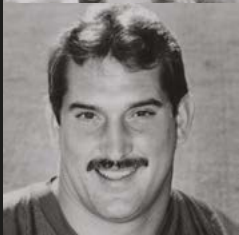




Joe Perry



Mel Phillips



Fred Quillan



Jerry Rice



Len Rohde



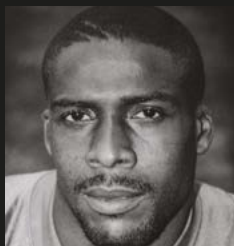
Jesse Sapolu



Bob St. Clair



Joe Staley



John Taylor



John Thomas



Y.A. Tittle



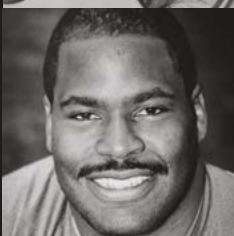
Keena Turner



Jeff Ulbrich



Skip Vanderbunt



Steve Wallace



Mike Walter



# What does being a member of the 49ers 10-Year Club mean to you?

## **WR JERRY RICE (1985-2000)**

"I'm proud to be in the 49ers 10-Year Club and surrounded by so many other 49ers champions. It's truly an honor to share the wall with these great men. It was a dream come true to be drafted by Eddie DeBartolo, Bill Walsh and the 49ers, and I'm grateful for the 16 seasons I got to play in San Francisco."

## **C/G JESSE SAPOLU (1983-97)**

"What makes me proud was the consistency. I never won less than 10 games in my 15 years there. I think the fact that we were able to uphold a certain high standard for a long period of time. That's what makes me most proud when I think about the 10-Year Club."

## **T JOE STALEY (2007-PRESENT)**

"It means a lot to me. It was one of the first goals when I stepped in here – to be in that 10-Year Club at some point. It was right there in the hallway outside of the meeting rooms when I was a rookie in 2007. You'd walk by it every day and everybody would be waiting for meetings to get out. I would look at it and all the faces and the mustaches that were on it. It was always a goal of mine. It was a goal I set as a rookie, to be on there. I am fortunate to be up there."

## **WR JOHN TAYLOR (1986-95)**

"It was amazing to be a part of the 10-Year Club because before I was drafted, I watched the 49ers play the Bengals in the Super Bowl. Then, to end up in a Super Bowl against the Bengals and to make the game-winning catch, what more needs to be said."

## **T JOHN THOMAS (1958-67)**

"When I think about my career, it feels like a big deal. My son and my grandson really think it was a big deal for me to have played. For that reason, I'm very happy and excited that I can pass it on to them. They appreciate it more than I did."

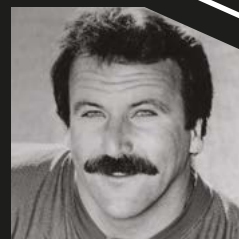
## **LB KEENA TURNER (1980-90)**

"The 10-Year Club, because it was up and it had the big plaque, with all of the pictures of the guys that have played 10 or more years, I don't know when I started paying attention to it, but somewhere along the line you get to six, seven years, and you think you have a shot at that. That's every guys goal, is to play 10. So, I just wanted to achieve that. Once I did, I was so proud of the honor to be a part of that exclusive club. I feel proud to be a member of the group and to this day, when I walk through the corridor, I make sure my picture is still there."

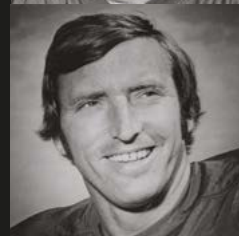
## **LB JEFF ULBRICH (2000-09)**

"Growing up in the Bay Area and being a fan of the 49ers during the 80s, I was extremely aware of the prestige and tradition of the organization. To say I was overwhelmed my first day as a 49er would be a huge understatement. The fact that they kept me around for 10 years is one of the greatest honors of my life."

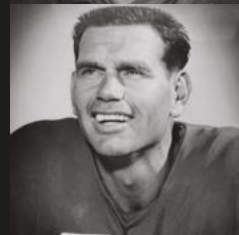
Ray Wersching



Dave Wilcox



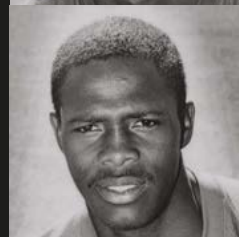
Billy Wilson



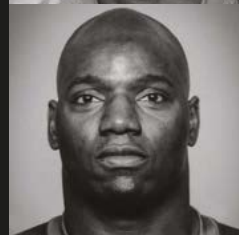
Mike Wilson



Eric Wright



Bryant Young



# What does being a member of the 49ers 10-Year Club mean to you?

## **LB SKIP VANDERBUNDT (1968-77)**

“To be thrown in with the Leo Nomellini’s, the Matt Hazeltine’s, the Joe Montana’s and everybody else – it’s a real honor for me. I didn’t consider myself a superstar. I was just a hard-working stiff who went to work every day and tried to do the best I could.”

## **T STEVE WALLACE (1986-96)**

“Some of the greatest lessons I’ve ever learned came from my time with the 49ers. Quite often, when I get the chance to speak, one of the quotes that I use is, ‘All I know is winning.’ When you’re around it, it becomes contagious and it is passed down. The leadership was tremendous. Having guys like Ronnie Lott and Joe Montana, then to when those guys left, to have people like myself, Brent Jones, Steve Young kind of take on that role, just continue to refuse to have it any other way. The only thing we wanted to do was work as hard as we possibly can to continue winning. That was the 49ers tradition and it kept leading to winning for 16 years in a row – at least 10 games.”

## **LB MIKE WALTER (1984-93)**

“When I got to the 49ers, I would look at that wall and see people on that wall, Dave Wilcox, for example, who I looked up to as a kid. I grew up a 49ers fan in Oregon and Dave was also a University of Oregon guy. I went to Oregon, as well, so he was always a hero of mine. I’d see Dave and all of these people on the wall, to think I could ever be on the same wall as them was pretty impressive. I never thought I would make it.”

## **K RAY WERSCHING (1977-87)**

“Years ago, when I first got there, that’s the first thing I remember seeing when I got to the team. I said, ‘Well, first things first I’ve got to make the team.’ My next goal and thought was then, ‘Gosh, it would be so cool to be here for a decade and make it on the wall.’ I was so happy to accomplish that. It is so special to be on that wall along all those 49ers greats.”

## **LB DAVE WILCOX (1964-74)**

“I will always remember my teammates, friends and buddies from those 10-plus-one years! It was a dream come true for a small-town guy from Eastern Oregon – a place called Vale. Thanks, it was a great time!”

## **WR MIKE WILSON (1981-90)**

“The key to our success was the commitment and focus on always being the best through ownership, coaches and the players. From the small details in practice, to execution on game day, we built championship teams. Super Bowls V, XI, XIX, XXIII and XXIV are forever reminders of the successful years.”

## **CB ERIC WRIGHT (1981-90)**

“When you get the opportunity to play in one place for 10 years and to have the experience with special teammates and people in the organization, it’s an honor and a privilege to experience that. It’s also an honor to be blessed and have the longevity to be in one place for 10 years with great experiences along the teammates and coaches.”

Steve Young



## **DT BRYANT YOUNG (1994-2007)**

“To be on that wall along some of the greats that have come before me, it’s a very big accomplishment. I think all the hard work and training in the offseason, and doing it better each year, proved my value to the team. It definitely has paid off. It’s a testament to the willingness to stay committed to the brand, the people in the organization, the players and coaches. It is a big reward in having the longevity and being valued as a player and person.”

## **QB STEVE YOUNG (1987-99)**

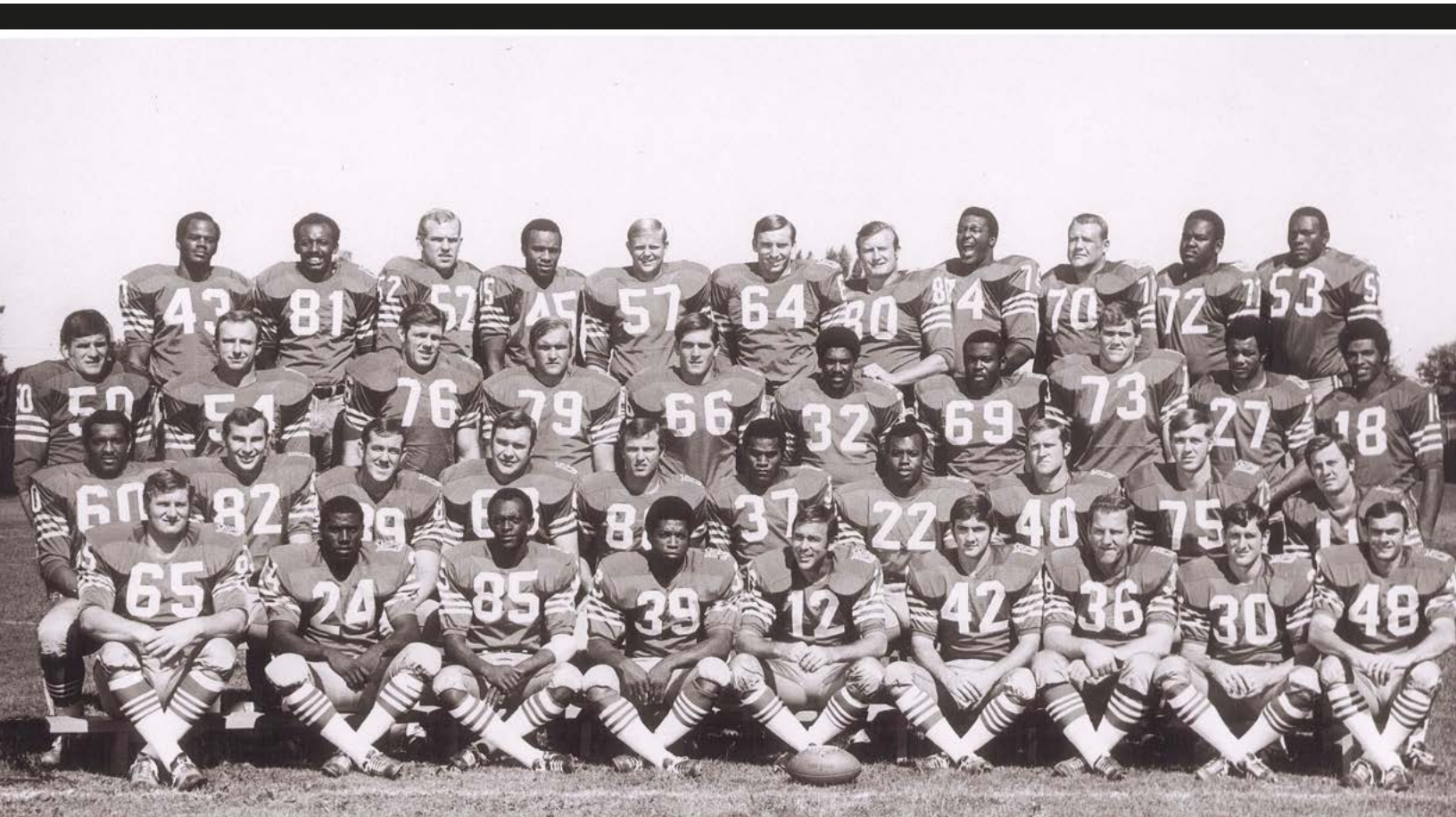
“10 years in the NFL on the same team is an amazing accomplishment, and one I owe too many people to list here. But know that there are some men that must be listed as to the how and why I was able to be on the 10-year wall, and that is the name of every man that I stepped on the field with who had my back.”



## THE 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY TEAM

# THE 1969 SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

The 1969 San Francisco 49ers posted a 4-8-2 record. QB John Brodie completed 194 of 347 attempts for 2,405 yards and 16 touchdowns. FB Ken Willard led the team with 557 rushing yards and seven touchdowns on 171 carries while adding 36 receptions for 326 yards and three touchdowns. Rookie WR Gene Washington led the team with 51 receptions for 711 yards and three touchdowns. On the defensive side of the ball, CB Kermit Alexander and CB Jimmy Johnson tied for a team-high five interceptions. Three members of the team, Johnson, T Len Rhode and LB Dave Wilcox, earned All-Pro honors and five players, G Elmer Collett, Johnson, Washington, Wilcox and Willard, were selected to the Pro Bowl. Johnson was also the recipient of the Len Eshmont Award.





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# SOLOMON THOMAS

A 'DARK HOLE' AND A SHOT AT REDEMPTION

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“Ella’s Sunflowers” congregated in Fort Mason on the evening of Saturday June 8. The group, comprised of Solomon Thomas’ family, his friends and a large contingent from the San Francisco 49ers, all donned the same white long sleeve shirt featuring a sunflower on the left breast.

Thomas’ mom came up with the catchphrase as a way to honor her late daughter (Thomas’ sister) Ella, who took her own life in the spring of 2018. The Thomas family has been to hell and back in the year-plus since her death. Now their mission, in Ella’s memory, is to create as much awareness as possible regarding mental health.

“Ella’s Sunflowers” was one team among thousands of people in attendance at the bi-annual “Out of Darkness Walk” put on by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

“That’s what makes the walk so special, because you’re around so many people who share a common struggle,” Thomas said. “You feel so much more comfortable because you know everyone understands, at least to some extent, what your pain is.”

Everyone who participated was given beads to signify their reason for walking. There were different colors for those who’d lost a parent, a sibling, a child, a friend or for those who were in attendance as an ally to help raise awareness.

The walk doesn’t represent leaving your grief behind, but rather signifies that it’s possible to walk with it. The Thomas’, along with countless others around the world, endure the relentless struggle of learning to live and move forward despite the torture of a void that can never be replaced.

Thomas is more comfortable sharing his story than he was a year ago. He spent time on the walk discussing his relationship with Ella – how they were best of friends and spoke on a daily basis. Thomas also lent an ear to strangers and listened to their stories.

Maybe the most powerful moments of the night were when Thomas broke away from the group to be with his own thoughts. Overcoming grief and tragedy is like learning to walk all over again. Progress comes in baby steps. Still, in those internal moments, Thomas couldn’t help but feel proud of how far he’d come.

“I feel like a totally different person – emotionally, mentally and physically,” Thomas said. “I had to reevaluate everything and start over again. I had to find that passion and find my values and what I care about. I had to really learn how to love myself and learn how to build myself in order to be happy again.”



But it took an arduous process to get there. 'Thomas' rock bottom lasted several months. His enthusiasm for life had vanished. He dreaded each day and the only goal, proverbially speaking, was survival.

This stretch coincided with 'Thomas' second season in the NFL. He didn't record a sack until the 49ers ninth game of the season. Fans groaned as he failed to live up to expectations as the third-overall pick in 2017. But that didn't matter to Thomas. Nothing did.

"If I did good on something, I wouldn't care. If I did bad on something I wouldn't care," Thomas said. "I really didn't want to be around anyone. I'd say whatever I could to get through the day. It was a dark hole, and it took me a long time to get out of it."

What's wild is that Thomas' teammates were naïve to the magnitude of his suffering. With a smile here and a laugh there, Thomas accomplished his mission of disguising his own depression.

Thomas' recent offseason transformation exemplified the stark contrast between where he was in 2018 and how much progress he's made. He spent the winter in Dallas with a regimen that balanced training, treatment and time with friends. Thomas arrived to the 49ers offseason program noticeably "rocked up" (Dante Pettis' words) with a markedly improved disposition.

"I thought he was always smiling last year, but now he's really always smiling," said Pettis, who took part in the walk with Thomas. "It's the true him. When you talk to him, you can feel the more upbeat Solomon. It's pretty cool to see."

Thomas didn't feel himself turn a corner until John Lynch approached him just before the 49ers bye week in 2018. San Francisco's GM suggested to Thomas that the team would be happy to help him find a therapist to speak with. Thomas agreed and began to see immediate results.

It became evident that discussing his feelings and embracing his emotions was the only way through the darkness. It remains how Thomas gets through the hard days (there are still plenty of them). He attempts to instill that approach in others who are currently suffering from grief, mental illness or both.

"It's OK to not be OK," Thomas tells them. "Whatever you feel is perfectly normal. Try to be your authentic self. If you honor yourself and honor your emotions then you're going to see a change in your life."

In May, Thomas delivered a poignant speech to reporters about his renewed passion for football and his eagerness to reach his potential. The confidence and conviction in Thomas' voice was unmistakable.

"I know what I can do. I know what I'm going to do. I believe in myself, and I know who I am," Thomas said. "I'm getting



**// I want to live how she did. She had intent with everything she did. She wanted to impact other people. She made whoever she was talking to feel like the most important person in the room. That's how I want to live. //**



ready to ball this season. I feel athletic and explosive again. I'm ready to be violent and wreak havoc. Now I've got to perfect my technique. That's going to make me a game-changing player."

The rest of the 49ers locker room anticipates a breakout season from the clear-minded Thomas.

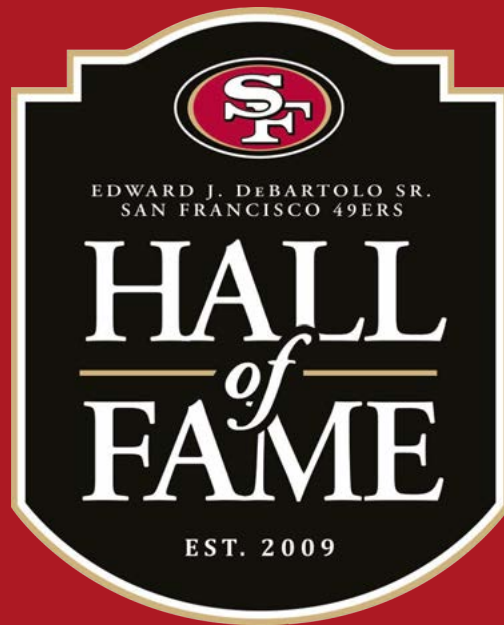
"He showed a lot of courage, and I think he's very inspirational," Pettis said. "If you're not rooting for him, there's something wrong with you."

But Thomas will always be defined by more than the game of football. His dreams and expectations as a player will never get in the way of his duty as one of "Ella's Sunflowers."

He knows he has a platform, and he will continue to utilize his voice to speak up and raise awareness regarding mental health. Ella, Thomas says, left an impression on each person she met with her vibrant yet selfless personality. In her honor, Thomas knows he can change lives just the same.

"I want to live how she did. She had intent with everything she did," Thomas said. "She wanted to impact other people. She made whoever she was talking to feel like the most important person in the room. That's how I want to live."





THE EDWARD J. DEBARTOLO SR.

# 49ERS HALL OF FAME





The San Francisco 49ers franchise is arguably one of the most fabled in sports history. With the multitude of memories that the team's history holds, a place to honor and capture these tremendous times and legendary figures only seems appropriate.

During the 2009 offseason, the San Francisco 49ers and the York family proudly introduced the creation of the Edward J. DeBartolo Sr. 49ers Hall of Fame, named in honor of the beloved patriarch of the storied franchise. The 49ers Hall of Fame was established to recognize players, administrators and coaches who have made exceptional contributions to the organization.

A week after the creation of the new 49ers Hall of Fame, team President & CEO Jed York announced the name of its inaugural inductee, his uncle, Edward J. DeBartolo Jr., known as "Mr. D" to most close to the 49ers family. He was then officially inducted during halftime of the team's home opener versus the Seattle Seahawks on September 20, 2009.

Being inducted into the 49ers Hall of Fame is no easy task, and the selection process reflects the level of honor which it bestows.

As a prerequisite for induction, all 49ers Hall of Fame candidates must have displayed one or more of the following qualifications: outstanding production and performance on the field, key contributions to the team's success, and/or the embodiment of the spirit and essence of the San Francisco 49ers.

**// Being inducted into the 49ers Hall of Fame is no easy task, and the selection process reflects the level of honor which it bestows. //**

A number of players and coaches have already been recognized in various ways throughout the years for their contributions to the game of professional football and the 49ers organization. Accordingly, the franchise has automatically enshrined members of the 49ers family who have either had their jersey numbers already retired by the organization or have been selected to

the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio. These players include: John Brodie, Dwight Clark, Fred Dean, Jimmy Johnson, John Henry Johnson, Charlie Krueger, Ronnie Lott, Hugh McElhenny, Joe Montana, Leo Nomellini, Joe Perry, Bob St. Clair, Y.A. Tittle, Bill Walsh, Dave Wilcox and Steve Young.

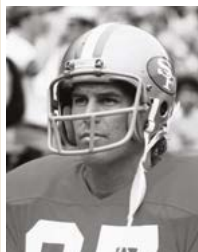
During Alumni Weekend on October 11, 2009 against the Atlanta Falcons, the 49ers honored the automatic enshrinement of the above players during halftime of the game.



### JOHN BRODIE

Quarterback,  
1957-73

49ers Hall of  
Fame Inductee:  
2009



### DWIGHT CLARK

Wide Receiver,  
1979-87

49ers Hall of  
Fame Inductee:  
2009



### ROGER CRAIG

Running Back,  
1983-90

49ers Hall of  
Fame Inductee:  
2011



### FRED DEAN

Defensive End,  
1981-85

49ers Hall of  
Fame Inductee:  
2009

Pro Football  
Hall of Fame  
Inductee:  
2008



### EDWARD J. DeBARTOLO JR.

Owner,  
1977-2000

49ers Hall of  
Fame Inductee:  
2009

Pro Football  
Hall of Fame  
Inductee:  
2016



### CHARLES HALEY

Linebacker,  
1986-91, '99

49ers Hall of  
Fame Inductee:  
2015

Pro Football  
Hall of Fame  
Inductee:  
2015



### TONY AND VIC MORABITO

Founder/  
Owners,  
1946-64

49ers Hall of  
Fame Inductee:  
2010



### LEO NOMELLINI

Defensive  
Tackle,  
1950-63

49ers Hall of  
Fame Inductee:  
2009

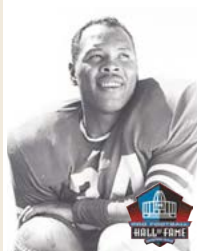
Pro Football  
Hall of Fame  
Inductee:  
1969



### R.C. OWENS

Wide Receiver,  
1957-61

49ers Hall of  
Fame Inductee:  
2011



### JOE PERRY

Fullback,  
1948-60, '63

Kicking Coach/  
Game Scout,  
1968-69

49ers Hall of  
Fame Inductee:  
2009

Pro Football  
Hall of Fame  
Inductee:  
1969



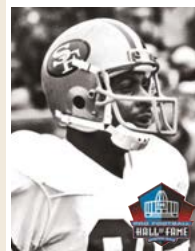
### TOM RATHMAN

Fullback,  
1986-93

Running  
Backs/  
Assistant Tight  
Ends Coach,  
1996

Running Backs  
Coach, 1997-  
2002, 2009-16

49ers Hall of  
Fame Inductee:  
2017



### JERRY RICE

Wide Receiver,  
1985-2000

49ers Hall of  
Fame Inductee:  
2010

Pro Football  
Hall of Fame  
Inductee:  
2010





## **JIMMY JOHNSON**

Cornerback,  
1961-76  
49ers Hall of  
Fame Inductee:  
2009

Pro Football  
Hall of Fame  
Inductee:  
1994



## **JOHN HENRY JOHNSON**

Fullback,  
1954-56  
49ers Hall of  
Fame Inductee:  
2009

Pro Football  
Hall of Fame  
Inductee:  
1987



## **CHARLIE KRUEGER**

Defensive  
Tackle,  
1959-73  
49ers Hall of  
Fame Inductee:  
2009

Pro Football  
Hall of Fame  
Inductee:  
1990



## **RONNIE LOTT**

Defensive Back,  
1981-90  
49ers Hall of  
Fame Inductee:  
2009

Pro Football  
Hall of Fame  
Inductee:  
2000



## **HUGH McELHENNY**

Halfback,  
1952-60  
49ers Hall of  
Fame Inductee:  
2009

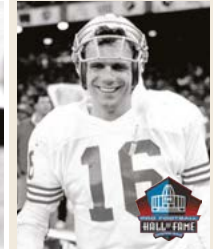
Pro Football  
Hall of Fame  
Inductee:  
1970



## **JOHN McVAY**

YP and GM,  
1979-2003  
49ers Hall of  
Fame Inductee:  
2013

Pro Football  
Hall of Fame  
Inductee:  
2000



## **JOE MONTANA**

Quarterback,  
1979-92  
49ers Hall of  
Fame Inductee:  
2009

Pro Football  
Hall of Fame  
Inductee:  
2000



## **GEORGE SEIFERT**

Secondary  
Coach,  
1980-82  
Defensive  
Coordinator,  
1983-88  
Head Coach,  
1989-96  
49ers Hall of  
Fame Inductee:  
2014



## **GORDY SOLTAU**

Wide Receiver,  
1950-58  
49ers Hall of  
Fame Inductee:  
2012

Pro Football  
Hall of Fame  
Inductee:  
1990



## **BOB ST. CLAIR**

Tackle,  
1953-64  
49ers Hall of  
Fame Inductee:  
2009

Pro Football  
Hall of Fame  
Inductee:  
1990



## **Y.A. TITTLE**

Quarterback,  
1951-60  
Offensive  
Consultant,  
1965-69  
49ers Hall of  
Fame Inductee:  
2009  
Pro Football  
Hall of Fame  
Inductee:  
1971



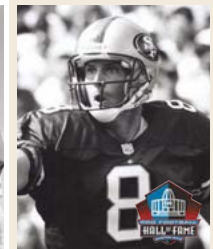
## **BILL WALSH**

Head Coach,  
1979-88  
49ers Hall of  
Fame Inductee:  
2009  
Pro Football  
Hall of Fame  
Inductee:  
1993



## **DAVE WILCOX**

Linebacker,  
1964-74  
49ers Hall of  
Fame Inductee:  
2009  
Pro Football  
Hall of Fame  
Inductee:  
2000



## **STEVE YOUNG**

Quarterback,  
1987-99  
49ers Hall of  
Fame Inductee:  
2009  
Pro Football  
Hall of Fame  
Inductee:  
2005

For full bios of the Edward J. DeBartolo Sr. 49ers Hall of Fame members, please visit [www.49ers.com/history](http://www.49ers.com/history)

# 49ERS IN OTHER HALLS OF FAME



## **ED BEARD**

Hampton Roads (VA) Sports HOF  
- October, 2018



## **DWAINE BOARD**

Franklin (VA) County HS  
Athletic HOF - October, 2018



## **BRUCE COLLIE**

San Antonio (TX) Sports HOF  
- March, 2019



## **DENNIS ERICKSON (COACH)**

College Football HOF  
- December, 2019



## **FRANK GORE**

University of Miami Sports HOF  
- April, 2018



## **BRUCE GOSSETT**

Ferrum (VA) College Sports HOF  
- September, 2018



## **SCOTT GRAGG**

Montana Football HOF  
- March, 2019



## **DENNIS GREEN (ASSISTANT COACH)**

The Pennsylvania Sports HOF  
- October, 2019



## **MERTON HANKS**

Texas Black Sports HOF  
- February, 2018



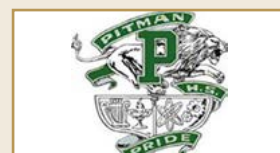
## **THOMAS "HOLLYWOOD" HENDERSON**

Black College Football HOF  
- February, 2018



## **THOMAS HERRION**

Kilgore (TX) College Athletics  
HOF - October, 2018



## **COLIN KAEPERNICK**

Turlock Pitman (CA) HS Sports  
HOF - November, 2018



# OTHER HALLS OF FAME



## **CEDRIC KILLINGS**

South Atlantic Conference (SAC)  
HOF - May, 2018



## **ANTONIO LANGHAM**

Alabama Sports HOF  
- April, 2019



## **REGGIE MCKENZIE**

Tennessee Sports HOF  
- July, 2018



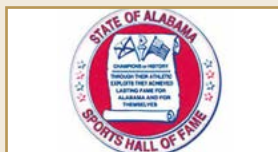
## **BRIT MILLER**

Decatur (IL) Public Schools HOF  
- September, 2018



## **RENALDO NEHEMIAH**

National High School Track &  
Field HOF - March, 2018



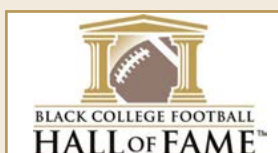
## **TERRELL OWENS**

State of Alabama Sports HOF  
- April, 2018



## **KURT SCHOTTENHEIMER (ASSISTANT COACH)**

Pennsylvania Sports HOF  
- June, 2018



## **JOHN TAYLOR**

All-Time Black College Football  
Team - February, 2019



## **BILL TUCKER**

Ohio Valley Athletic Conference  
(OVAC) HOF - August, 2018



## **KEENA TURNER**

Bay Area Sports Hall of Fame  
- May 2019



## **RICKY WATTERS**

The Pennsylvania Sports HOF  
- October, 2019



## **JOHN WATSON**

Tulsa Public Schools Athletics  
HOF - January, 2018



## **PATRICK WILLIS**

College Football HOF  
- December, 2019



## **ERIC WRIGHT**

St. Louis Sports HOF  
- February, 2019



## **SAM WYCHE**

South Carolina Sports HOF  
(Willie Jeffries Ambassador for  
Sports Award Honoree)  
- May, 2018

# 2018 TEAM AWARDS

## **49ERS NOMINEE FOR THE WALTER PAYTON NFL MAN OF THE YEAR: K ROBBIE GOULD**



The San Francisco 49ers announced K Robbie Gould as the team's nominee for the 2018 Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year. Named after the late Hall of Fame running back of the Chicago Bears, the Walter Payton Man of the Year Award is given annually to the player who best exemplifies a commitment to philanthropy and community involvement.

## **FINALIST FOR 2018 ART ROONEY SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD: T JOE STALEY**

For the fourth-consecutive season, San Francisco 49ers T Joe Staley was selected as one of eight finalists for the fifth annual Art Rooney Sportsmanship Award. The award was created in 2014 in honor of the founding owner of the Pittsburgh Steelers and Pro Football Hall of Famer Art Rooney, Sr. It is presented annually to an NFL player who best demonstrates the qualities of on-field sportsmanship, including fair play, respect for the game and opponents, and integrity in competition.

The winner received a trophy that represents the important role that sportsmanship plays in the game and how NFL players that demonstrate integrity and honor on the field serve as role models for players at all levels.





## **SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS 2018 BOBB MCKITTRICK AWARD WINNER: OL LAKEN TOMLINSON**



This award is given annually to the 49ers offensive lineman who best exemplifies the dedication, excellence and commitment of offensive line coach Bobb McKittrick, a five-time Super Bowl champion.

In 1999, the San Francisco 49ers, under the direction of Bill Walsh, established the Bobb McKittrick Award. The award is meant to honor those offensive linemen who have best represented the courage, intensity and sacrifice displayed by the late McKittrick during his 21 years of service with the 49ers.

“Bobb gave distinguished service to the organization since our renaissance in 1979,” Walsh said. “He was a vital factor in five Super Bowl championships, the evolution of a dynasty and in the production of some of the finest offensive linemen in football. Offensive linemen don’t receive the recognition they so richly deserve. This gives us a venue to honor their sacrifices and achievements.”

## **SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS 2018 LEN ESHMONT AWARD WINNER: DL DEFOREST BUCKNER**



The Len Eshmont Award, the 49ers most prestigious annual honor, has been given each year to the 49ers player who best exemplifies the “inspirational and courageous play” of Len Eshmont. A member of the original 1946 49ers team, Eshmont coached at Navy and Virginia following his playing days with the 49ers. Eshmont passed away in 1957.

## **SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS 2018 BILL WALSH AWARD WINNER: TE GEORGE KITTLE**

The Bill Walsh Award was established in 2004 in honor of San Francisco’s Hall of Fame Head Coach. The award, which is voted on by the coaching staff, is given to the 49er who has best represented the standard of professional excellence established by Walsh. Walsh served as the team’s head coach for 10 seasons from 1979-88. In that time, he compiled a record of 102-63-1 and led the team to three Super Bowls. He was twice named Coach of the Year (1981, 1984) and was later named Coach of the Decade for the 1980s.



# 2018 TEAM AWARDS

## **SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS 2018 ED BLOCK COURAGE AWARD WINNER: CB RICHARD SHERMAN**

The Ed Block Courage Award is named after Ed Block, the former head athletic trainer of the Baltimore Colts of 23 years. Block was a pioneer in his profession and a respected humanitarian whose most passionate cause was helping children of abuse. The award is presented in his name each year to the player that exemplified a commitment to sportsmanship and courage. Ed Block Courage Award winners from each of the 32 NFL teams are honored at a banquet in Baltimore, MD.

All proceeds from the event benefit the Ed Block Courage Award Foundation's Courage House National Support Network. Named after the NFL team in a respective NFL city, a Courage House is a facility that provides support and quality care for abused children and their families in that community. The 49ers dedicated their Courage House in October 2003 at the Edgewood House in San Francisco.



## **SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS 2018 THOMAS HERRION MEMORIAL AWARD WINNER: QB NICK MULLENS**



49ers owners Denise and John York established the Thomas Herrion Memorial Award in 2005, which is presented each season to a rookie or first-year player that best represents the dream of Thomas Herrion. The award will go to a player, like Thomas, who has taken advantage of every opportunity, turned it into a positive situation and made their dream turn into a reality.

## **SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS 2018 MATT HAZELTINE IRON MAN AWARD WINNER: DL DEFOREST BUCKNER**

The Hazeltine Iron Man Award is named after linebacker/center Matt Hazeltine, a 13-year performer who played more seasons at linebacker than any other 49ers player. Known for his durability and dedication, Hazeltine passed away in 1987 from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) and Bill Walsh established the award in his honor that year. The award is given annually to the most courageous and inspirational defensive player.







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**RICHARD HIGHTOWER'S STORY:**  
**WINNERS NEVER QUIT AND QUITTERS NEVER WIN**

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Richard Hightower has far too much self-belief to consider himself an underdog. Still, his life is full of evidence to support that notion.

He spent his childhood in one of Houston's toughest inner-city areas — a neighborhood that mandated your head be on a swivel every time you left the house. Hightower defied the odds by staying out of trouble and ranking in the top three percent of his high school graduating class (13th out of more than 500 students, to be exact). He earned a full-ride academic scholarship to the University of Texas.

Division I football rosters, especially at Power 5 schools, are mostly void of 5-foot-8 players bar the occasional athletic marvel. Unfortunately, Hightower was undersized without freakish talents. And yet, he walked on for the Longhorns and eventually received an athletic scholarship as a special teams dynamo.

Then Hightower left behind a promising career on the marketing side of football in order to pursue his dreams as a coach. He's since spent more than a decade climbing the coaching ranks all the way into his current role as the special teams coordinator for the San Francisco 49ers.

"Winners never quit, and quitters never win," Hightower said. "It's cliché, but I remember hearing that as a six-year-old. My dad taught me to finish what I started no matter what."

He credits his parents — father Richard Anthony Hightower Sr. and mother Carolyn Hightower — for his outlook, perseverance and overall success. Both did their best to provide Hightower and his older sister Traceé with every opportunity to follow their passions. (Hightower jokes that his sister, a high school salutatorian and eventual partner at Price Waterhouse Cooper, is whom this story should be about.)



There were three strict points of emphasis within their household. The first was to respect everyone in the family. It was to be exhibited from the moment you woke up until your head hit the pillow at night. Hightower's father ensured that was always the case.

"When you walked by someone, you had to say 'good morning' as a sign of respect. If I walked by my mom and didn't say 'good morning,' I'd have to get dealt with," Hightower said laughing. "I'd get a pop for that, and I learned real quick. There was hell to pay for that."

The second was a dedication to academics. Evidently neither kid had an issue there.

Finally, and this served as the root of Hightower's bond with his father, was an emphasis on athletics.





The lessons in structure, responsibility, accountability, teamwork and dedication made sports a foundational piece in Hightower's childhood.

He played baseball, basketball and football, and his father was always in attendance. Hightower Sr. spent years in and out of jobs but always found a way to compartmentalize his own struggles in order to keep an unwavering role in his son's life.

"Monday Night Football" was another source of fond memories. Hightower and his father would watch together as a weekly tradition.

"We'd never miss it," he said. "We would watch it, and then we'd play catch during commercials. Every commercial break we'd play catch."

That continued through high school. When it came time to pick a university, Hightower decided he not only wanted to attend Texas, but he was adamant about playing football for the Longhorns.

"He was way undersized, and he didn't have great speed," recalled former Texas head coach Mack Brown.

Hightower flamed out at safety before moving to the receiver's room. He quickly determined he wouldn't have a future as a wideout, either. But Hightower wouldn't be denied, because winners never quit, and quitters never win.

He worked his tail off as a scout team receiver. His job was to give the starters the best look possible during each week of

preparation. Brown reiterated to every walk-on that if they could impress the coaching staff on the scout team, then they'd be given the opportunity to travel to road games.

Traveling was a feather in the cap of a walk-on, but Hightower wanted more. He believed he could be a difference maker on gamedays. Brown remembers Hightower relentlessly pining coaches for a chance to play on special teams. Brown finally obliged during Hightower's redshirt freshman season in 1999.

Hightower recorded three tackles and a fumble recovery on kickoff coverage in his debut during a home game against Texas Tech.

"He ended up being on every special teams unit because he found his niche," Brown said. "We told everybody, 'There's something you can do to help this team. It's your responsibility to go find it.' Richard was able to do that."

Hightower's production on special teams, on top of his blue-collar approach, made him a respected presence in Texas' locker room.

"He was a stud and earned everything," said Kyle Shanahan, who played with Hightower at Texas after transferring from Duke. "He was kind of our bell cow on special teams. He was tough as hell and played extremely physical. He was a dude you didn't mess with."

The pinnacle of Hightower's career at Texas came just before his senior season. Each Division I program is allowed to give 85 scholarships. If any are leftover, it's common for



coaches to reward senior walk-ons for their dedication over the years.

So on the final night of camp in 2002, in front of the entire team, Brown awarded Hightower, fellow special teams stand-out Michael Ungar and Shanahan with scholarships.

“It was an amazing moment. I just remember the team being fired up,” Hightower said. “It was totally out of the blue. I didn’t expect it, and I’m forever grateful to Mack Brown because he didn’t have to do it.”

Brown went as far as to call Hightower one of the three most memorable walk-ons he’d ever coached.

“The reason I’ve kind of adopted him as an extension of our family is because he’s going to make things work,” Brown said. “He’s got the most positive attitude and the most energy of just about anybody I’ve ever been around. He would always find something he could do and do it really well. He ended up being one of the best special team players in Texas football history.”

Hightower briefly left the football world behind after graduation and worked at a staffing agency. He made decent money, but it took him just six months to realize that he missed the game. Hightower penned a letter to former Houston Texans general manager Charley Casserly.

The best Casserly could do was provide Hightower with a marketing internship. Hightower thrived in the role and eventually earned a full-time gig with the Texans. He still knew

deep down that he’d ditch the business side for a spot on a coaching staff should the opportunity present itself.

That chance came when Shanahan joined the Texans staff in 2006 as the wide receivers coach. He helped Hightower land an intern-level role that was lower on the totem pole than quality control coaches. It wasn’t glamorous, but it was a foot in the door. That’s all Hightower needed.

He left the money and security of his marketing job to do grunt work under head coach Gary Kubiak. His \$40,000 salary was now an hourly wage of \$5.15. The career move baffled those on the business side.

“I remember the head of marketing coming to my office and telling me, ‘Hightower has such a good career over here. He’s going to do so well. Don’t have him do this job,’” Shanahan said.

Hightower spent two seasons in that role from 2006-07 before being elevated to special teams assistant in 2008. He then departed for the University of Minnesota to be the receivers coach for the Golden Gophers. He returned to the NFL a year later when Shanahan joined forces with his father, Mike Shanahan, with the Washington Redskins. Hightower spent four seasons with the Redskins from 2010-13, splitting his time between assistant defensive backs coach and special teams assistant. Shanahan and Hightower were together for one more year in 2014 with the Cleveland Browns before Shanahan became the Atlanta Falcons offensive coordinator.

The 49ers hired Hightower in 2015 as a special teams assistant under Thomas McGaughey, and he held the same role with



the Chicago Bears in 2016. Shanahan called him again shortly after the 2016 season. He'd just been hired as San Francisco's head coach, and he wanted to interview Hightower to be his special teams coordinator.

Coincidentally, the two sat in Hightower's old office during the interview. Neither mentioned the elephant sitting in the room, although both were acutely aware of its presence. They knew sentiment couldn't get in the way of a decision that would be made purely on the merits of Hightower's coaching acumen. Shanahan remembered the tension created when his father passed over Hightower for the same role back in 2013 with the Redskins (Hightower spent that season as Washington's No. 2).

"I was very nervous because that's an awkward thing for a friendship, and it was an awkward thing when my dad didn't hire him," Shanahan said.

The 49ers interviewed three candidates to be special teams coordinator: Hightower, Eric Sutulovich (Atlanta Falcons No. 2) and Ryan Ficken (Minnesota Vikings No. 2). Shanahan grilled each candidate about philosophy and vision. He wanted to see if the lessons taught in practice were translated into game situations.

Shanahan strategically had Hightower go last, hoping that his friend would stand out among the three.

"We spent a lot of time in there, and he had a lot of questions," Hightower said. "He poked holes in everything as he always does because he's so detailed. He tried to make sure I was prepared. He was very thorough, and I wanted it that way."

They were into hour three of the interview when Shanahan interrupted Hightower.

"Alright dude that's enough," he said. "Do you want this job? Cause you've got it if you want it."

The combination of relief, exaltation and accomplishment provide a vivid memory for Hightower.

"I'm fortunate and happy that I ended up being that person," Hightower said. "That was a cool moment. I worked a decade for that moment. That was awesome."

His first two seasons as an NFL coordinator have been largely successful. Robbie Gould made 72-of-75 combined field-goal attempts from 2017-18. The 49ers coverage units were also stellar. San Francisco's punt coverage team allowed just 4.2 yards per return in 2017, a number that ranks eighth in NFL

history. NFL journeyman Raheem Mostert found a home in San Francisco and developed into one of the league's top special teams players. Richie James, a seventh-round pick in 2018, was named to ESPN's All-Rookie Team after averaging 25.2 yards per kick return on 23 chances. The highlight of James' season was a 97-yard kick return touchdown against the Seattle Seahawks in Week 15.

Shanahan recognizes that San Francisco's success on special teams is a direct reflection of Hightower, proving to himself that he made the right hire.

"I think the buy-in from his players is as good as any special teams coach I've ever been around," Shanahan said. "His guys believe in him. They know how passionate he is. They know how hard he works for them. He can get on guys and call them out and guys don't take it personally. They know he genuinely cares about them. They know he genuinely works hard."

"In order to get the best out of a player, they have to trust you and they need to respect you. They also have to know that you're going to help them. That's what Hightower gets with his guys."

Those are strong words – praise that would make Richard Anthony Hightower Sr. beam with pride if he were still alive. Hightower lost his father to a diabetic coma in 2009 just before moving to Minnesota. He regrets his dad not being able to see how far he's come as a football coach.

More importantly, Hightower wishes his father were here to see his growth as a man, a husband and now as a dad. Hightower married his high school sweetheart Lanet (he joked he chased her since the seventh grade), and they now have three kids of their own. The two are kindred spirits, each enduring and overcoming similar childhood hardships as Lanet went on to earn her doctorate in Pharmacy.

The same rules still apply in the Hightower household. One Sunday night, tensions were high as his seven-year-old son was struggling with his math homework. He'd mastered addition, but subtraction flummoxed the young first grader.

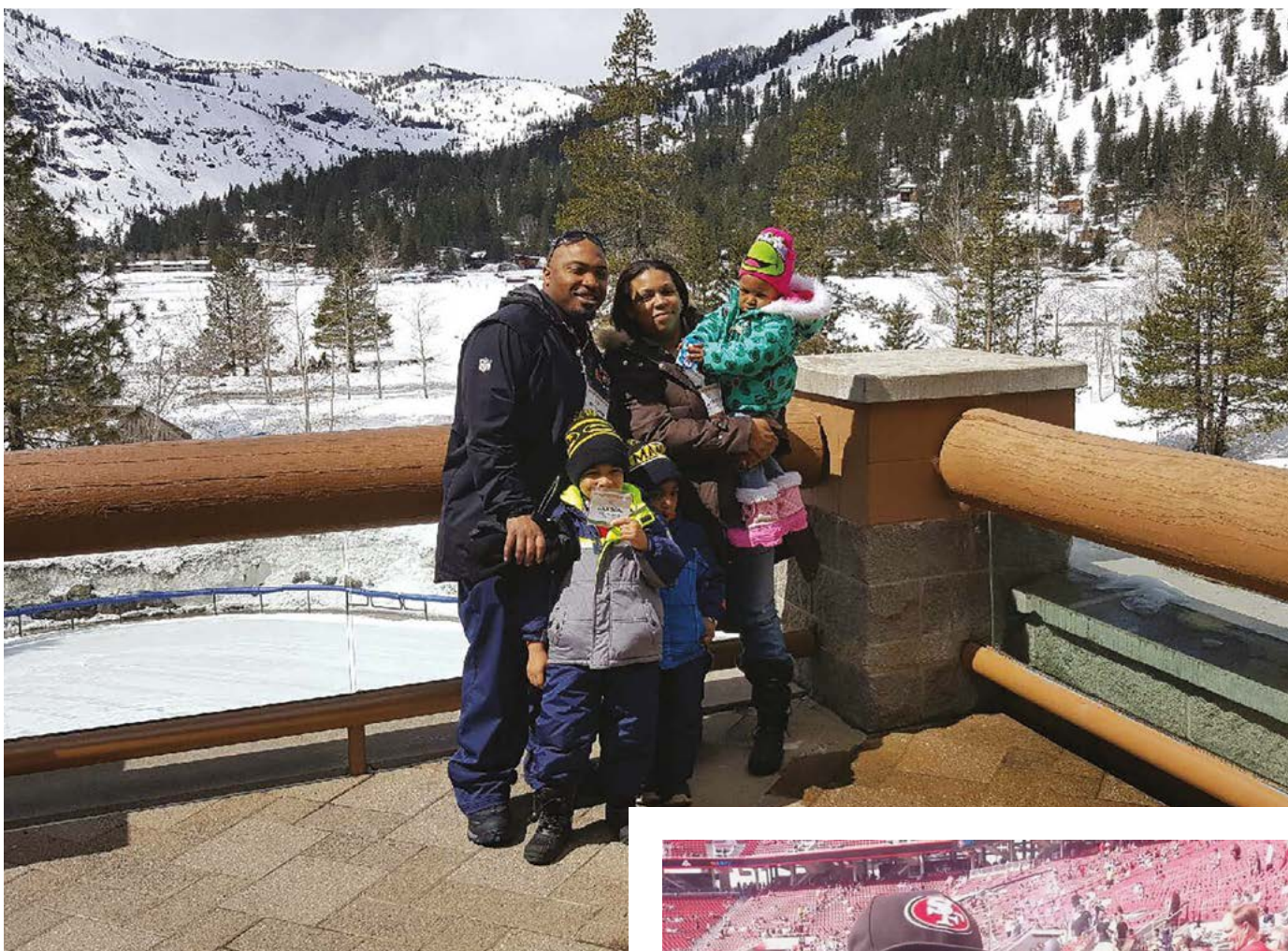
"I can't do it," said his exasperated son. "I quit, it's too hard."

Predictably, Hightower wasn't thrilled.

"That set me off," Hightower said. "I told my son, 'I don't care about the problems you got wrong. What I care about is the fact that you said you quit. We don't quit in this house.'"

Because winners never quit, and quitters never win.





“I would have wanted my dad to see me be a father – having kids and able to take care of all three of them,” Hightower said. “I would have wanted him to see that part more than the football accomplishments. That’s what he would have been most proud of.”

His personal and professional résumés would not only make Hightower Sr. proud, but would also undoubtedly provide him with a sense of validation as a father. Not only did his kids make it out of that troubled Houston neighborhood, but both are thriving in their respective fields.

Hightower’s journey is far from over. His hand is still void of a Super Bowl ring, and there’s much work to be done raising his three kids. However, there’s still nothing wrong with recognizing what he’s achieved thus far.

“He’s still doing the exact same thing that he was doing as a walk-on on our team,” Brown said. “He’s knocking down every wall. Any time there’s something in his way that could be a road block for a lot of people, he just moves forward and makes it a positive.”

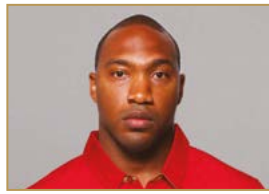




# 2019 49ERS COACHING STAFF



**KYLE SHANAHAN**  
Head Coach



**RICHARD HIGHTOWER**  
Special Teams Coordinator



**MIKE LAFLEUR**  
Passing Game Coordinator



**MIKE MCDANIEL**  
Run Game Coordinator



**ROBERT SALEH**  
Defensive Coordinator



**JOE WOODS**  
Defensive Backs/  
Passing Game Coordinator



**JON EMBREE**  
Assistant Head Coach/  
Tight Ends



**MILES AUSTIN**  
Offensive Quality Control



**JOHN BENTON**  
Offensive Line



**DANIEL BULLOCKS**  
Safeties



**MICHAEL CLAY**  
Assistant Special Teams



**SHANE DAY**  
Quarterbacks



**TAYLOR EMBREE**  
Offensive Quality Control



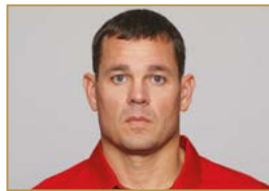
**BRIAN FLEURY**  
Defensive Quality Control



**JOHNNY HOLLAND**  
Run Game Specialist/  
Outside Linebackers



**CHRIS KIFFIN**  
Pass Rush Specialist



**KRIS KOCUREK**  
Defensive Line



**STAN KWAN**  
Assistant Special Teams



**DEMECO RYANS**  
Inside Linebackers



**BOBBY SLOWIK**  
Offensive Assistant



**KATIE SOWERS**  
Offensive Assistant



**ROBERT TURNER JR.**  
Running Backs



**WES WELKER**  
Wide Receivers



**ZACH YENSER**  
Assistant Offensive Line



**NICK KRAY**  
Administrative Assistant  
To The Head Coach



**PATRICK HAGEDORN**  
Assistant To The Coaching Staff

# THE 2019 DRAFT



At the 2019 NFL Draft in Nashville, TN, each NFL team presented two former players with the opportunity to announce a draft pick for their respective team. This year, the 49ers were represented by former FB/TE Earl Cooper, who announced the team's second round choice, and 2019 Edward J. DeBartolo San Francisco 49ers Hall of Fame inductee WR Terrell Owens, who announced the team's third round selection.

Cooper, who was selected by the 49ers in the first round (13th overall) of the 1980 NFL Draft, spent six seasons (1980-85) with San Francisco and played in 88 games (40 starts)

and rushed for 1,152 yards and six touchdowns on 298 carries while adding 213 receptions for 1,908 yards and 12 touchdowns. He was also a member of the Super Bowl XVI and Super Bowl XIX Championship teams. "It's an honor because of all the 49ers have done for me and my family," said Cooper. "To have an opportunity to play in two Super Bowls with great players, great coaches and a great owner, you can't be anything but honored to be even considered to represent the team. It's like being in the Super Bowl all over again. I'm just so excited."

Cooper was joined on stage by DeMarcus Cobb, the son of 49ers scout Reggie Cobb, who passed away suddenly on April 20, 2019. "First of all, I want to thank the NFL for allowing me to do this," said Cobb. "I want to thank [49ers General Manager] John [Lynch], [NFL Commissioner] Roger Goodell, they've really gone above and beyond for all this."

Owens was selected by San Francisco in the third round (89th overall) of the 1996 NFL Draft. In eight seasons (1996-2003) with the 49ers, he appeared in 121 games (107 starts) and notched 592 receptions for 8,572 yards and 81 touchdowns, which ranks second in franchise history in all three categories. Owens was inducted to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2018.





**NICK BOSA**

ROUND 1 \ PICK 2  
DL  
6-4 \ 266 LBS.  
COLLEGE: OHIO STATE

**DRE GREENLAW**

ROUND 5 \ PICK 148  
LB  
6-0 \ 227 LBS.  
COLLEGE: ARKANSAS

**DEEBO SAMUEL**

ROUND 2 \ PICK 36  
WR  
6-0 \ 210 LBS.  
COLLEGE: SOUTH CAROLINA

**KADEN SMITH**

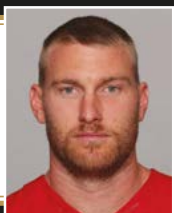
ROUND 6 \ PICK 176  
TE  
6-5 \ 252 LBS.  
COLLEGE: STANFORD

**JALEN HURD**

ROUND 3 \ PICK 67  
WR  
6-4 \ 217 LBS.  
COLLEGE: BAYLOR

**JUSTIN SKULE**

ROUND 6 \ PICK 183  
OL  
6-6 \ 318 LBS.  
COLLEGE: VANDERBILT

**MITCH WISHNOWSKY**

ROUND 4 \ PICK 110  
P  
6-2 \ 220 LBS.  
COLLEGE: UTAH

**TIM HARRIS, JR.**

ROUND 6 \ PICK 198  
CB  
6-1 \ 205 LBS.  
COLLEGE: VIRGINIA



# 2019 DRAFT PICKS



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