

BUCK BUCHANAN

An NAIA all-America at Grambling, the 6-7, 274 pound Buchanan was the first player taken in the 1963 American Football League draft. For the next 13 seasons, he excelled as a team leader and defensive fixture until his retirement in 1975. Buchanan dabbled briefly at defensive end as a rookie and then settled down to his permanent job as the Chief's defensive right tackle.

He was named to his first AFL All-Star game after his second season in 1964. It was the first year of an eight-season stretch during which he played in either the AFL All-Star game or the AFC-NFC Pro Bowl. He was a virtually unanimous all-AFL choice from 1966 through 1969 and then won all-AFC honors in 1970. He also starred in Kansas City's 23-7 upset of the heavily favored Minnesota Vikings in Super Bowl IV. He and nose tackle Curley Culp overpowered the middle of the Vikings' to shut down the Minnesota offense. Because Buchanan's size and strength made it impossible for the guards of his day to handle him, Oakland's Al Davis drafted rangy Gene Upshaw, considered by some scouts to be too tall to play the pro guard position, specifically to match up with Buchanan. The battles of the two behemoths led to a general upsizing in pro lines.

BOB GRIESE

A two-time all-America at Purdue, the 6-1, 190-pound Griese was the Dolphins' No. 1 draft pick in 1967. He enjoyed an excellent rookie season with 2,005 yards and 18 touchdowns passing and, for the next 13 seasons, was the poised leader of a classic ball-control offense that generated an awesomely efficient running attack, three AFC championships and victories in Super Bowls VII and VIII.

Once called the "cornerstone of the franchise" by owner Joe Robbie, Griese used the forward pass only sparingly in several of his finest performances. But when the defenses clogged up the Miami runners, griese quickly proved he could match passes with the very best quarterbacks.

In 14 seasons, Griese threw 3,429 passes for 25,092 yards and 192 touchdowns. He also rushed for 994 yards and seven touchdowns. Griese, who was born on February 3, 1945, in Evansville, IN, was a six-time Dolphins MVP, the NFL Player of the Year in 1971 and all-pro or all-AFC three times. He played in two AFL All-Star games and six AFC-NFC Pro Bowls.

FRANCO HARRIS

Harris began his pro career as the No. 1 choice of the Steelers in 1972. Throughout his career the former Penn State all-America was a big-yardage running back, a key man in the powerful offensive machine which also included a lethal passing attack. He gained major attention his rookie season by rushing for more than 1,000 yards. He wound up the year by being on the receiving end of the famous "Immaculate Reception" pass from Bradshaw that gave the Steelers their first-ever playoff win, a 13-7 victory over the Oakland Raiders.

In his 13 seasons, the last of which was spent with the Seattle Seahawks in 1984, the 6-2, 225 pounder rushed for 12,120 yards and 91 touchdowns. His career rushing total and his combined net yardage figure of 14,622 both rank as the fourth highest in NFL history. Harris, who was born in Ft. Dix, NJ, on March 7, 1950, was an all-AFC choice in 1972, 1975, and 1977. He played in eight Pro Bowls, five AFC championships and four Super Bowls. In Super Bowl IX, Harris rushed for a then-record 158 yards and won MVP honors. His 24 points and 354 yards rushing are both Super Bowl career records. Harris' 16 touchdowns and 1,556 yards rushing in post-season plays are also records.

TED HENDRICKS

A three-time all-America from the University of Miami in Florida, Hendricks, at 6-7, 235 pounds, was considered too tall to be a linebacker and too small to be a defensive end. But he proved to be deceptively effective. He was strong, fast and a devastating tackler who specialized in blocking punts, field goals and extra-point attempts. In his career, he intercepted 26 passes, which he returned for 332 yards and a touchdown. He also recovered 16 opponents' fumbles, scored a record-tying four safeties, and blocked 25 kicks.

Hendricks, who was born November 1, 1947, in Guatemala City, Guatemala, joined the Colts as a second-round draft pick in 1969. After five seasons, he was traded to the Green Bay Packers in 1974. Hendricks enjoyed perhaps his finest season ever with the Packers but signed with the Oakland Raiders in 1975. He played in 215 straight regular-season games, plus eight Pro Bowls, seven AFC championships and four Super Bowls (V with the Colts, XI, XV and XVIII with the Raiders). He was named all-AFC seven times and all-NFC once.

JACK LAMBERT

Lambert was a two-time all-Mid America conference linebacker at Kent State and a second-round selection of the Steelers in 1974. The 6-4, 220 pound Lambert immediately took charge of his destiny by winning the starting middle linebacker assignment as a rookie and keeping the job throughout his 11-year tenure in Pittsburgh that ended because of a severe toe injury after the 1984 season.

Lambert, who was born July 8, 1952, in Mantua, OH, had all the necessary ingredients -- intelligence, intensity, speed, quickness, range durability -- and he used those assets to his best advantage. Even though he was the youngest starter on the Pittsburgh defensive unit, many felt that Lambert's presence was the final element needed to turn that unit into a juggernaut. He was named the NFL Defensive Player of the Year in 1974 and then was selected all-pro seven times in a nine-year span between 1975 and 1983. He played in nine straight Pro Bowls and was the NFL Defensive Player of the Year both in 1976 and 1979. The Steelers' captain for eight years, he played in six AFC championship games and four Super Bowls. During his career, he had 28 interceptions for 243 yards and 15 opponents' fumble recoveries.

BOB ST. CLAIR

St. Clair, who stood 6-9 and weighed 265 pounds, joined the 49ers as a third round draft pick in 1953. His mere presence on the field tended to intimidate many opponents. Blessed with size, speed, intelligence and a genuine love of hitting, St. Clair was an outstanding blocker both on passing plays and rushing attempts. Particularly early in his career, he was used on defense in goal line situations. He also excelled on the special teams. In 1956, he was credited with an amazing 10 blocked field goals.

Extremely popular with the fans and his fellow players, St. Clair served as the 49ers' team captain for several years. He was named all-NFL in 1955, 1956 and 1957 and was selected as a starter in five Pro Bowls from 1956 through 1961.

St. Clair was born in San Francisco on February 18, 1931, and played his college football at the University of San Francisco and University of Tulsa.

TOM LANDRY

Landry became the Cowboys head coach in their first season in 1960 and he stayed on the job for 29 years until new ownership opted for new field leadership after the 1988 campaign. His 29-year tenure with one club is surpassed only by George Halas, who coached the Chicago Bears for 40 seasons, Curly Lambeau also coached Green Bay for 29 straight years.

Under Landry, the Cowboys compiled some remarkable records. They enjoyed 20 straight winning seasons from 1966 through 1985 and, during that period, won 13 divisional championships, five NFC titles and victories in Super Bowl VI and XII. Landry's regular season career record is 250-162-6 and his record counting playoffs is 270-178-6. His 270 career wins are topped only by Halas and Don Shula.

While he was noted for his impassive demeanor on the sidelines, he also was a great technical innovator, as well as an inspirational leader of unusual proportions. He introduced the "flex defense" and the "multiple offense" in the 1960s. In the 1970s, he restructured the "shotgun" or "spread" offense and, in the 1980s, he embraced and helped develop the "situation substitution" concept.

Landry, who was born September 11, 1924, in Mission, TX, was an excellent player both at the University of Texas and in the pros. He was a defensive back, punter and kick returner both with the 1949 New York Yankees in the AAFC and with the New York Giants in the NFL between 1950 and 1955. He began his coaching career as a player-coach in 1954 and 1955 and then served as a full-time defensive coach from 1956 to 1959.