

MINI-BIO: L.C. GREENWOOD

By Bob Carroll

The Pittsburgh Steelers were fined for uniform violation every game L.C. played. While his teammates wore the standard black shoes that went with the uniform, Greenwood's were always a shiny gold. His nickname, "Hollywood Bags," referred to his oversized, golden shoes. The Steelers never complained about the fines; L.C. was worth it.

One of nine children, Greenwood was a good student at Rogers High School in Canton, MS, and received several academic scholarship offers. He chose Arkansas AM & N (now U. of Arkansas, Pine Bluff) where he earned a bachelor's degree in vocational education. A three-year regular at defensive tackle and end at, he was named an Ebony magazine All-America in his senior year.

Nonetheless, "Bags" was not drafted until the tenth round in 1969. For two seasons, he served as Pittsburgh's fifth defensive lineman. In 1971, he became a regular, combining with All-Pro Joe Greene to form a nearly impregnable duo on the left side of the Steelers' defensive line. The right side -- Ernie Holmes and Dwight White -- was nearly as strong. Together, the "Steel Curtain" formed the heart of a legendary defense that took Pittsburgh to four Super Bowl victories and six division titles.

A nightmare for quarterbacks, Greenwood used his 6'6" height and quick reflexes to bat down numerous enemy passes. In Super Bowl IX, he smashed down three of Fran Tarkenton's attempts. He had unusual speed and quickness for a man his size, and though his pass-rushing style was often described as "free-wheeling" and "reckless," he was remarkably consistent and undeniably effective. During his thirteen season career he recorded 73 1/2 sacks and fourteen fumble recoveries. When the Steelers won Super Bowl X, he sacked Roger Staubach three times.

Greenwood was All-Pro twice and four times All-AFC; he appeared in six Pro Bowls. Although he played in some of the most hard-fought games of the 1970s, he was seldom injured until the 1977 season when he missed five games with a knee injury. He rebounded in 1978 with one of his best seasons as the Steelers won their fourth Super Bowl.

Recurring knee injuries forced his retirement before the 1982 season. He and his wife Jane live in Pittsburgh where he operates a coal company, an engineering and construction firm, and occasionally appears in television commercials.

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L.C. Henderson (Hollywood Bags) Greenwood

DE

6-06 250 Arkansas AM & N * Rogers HS [Canton, MS]

b: 09/08/1946, Canton, MS

1969-81 Pittsburgh NFL * 13 seasons, 172 games