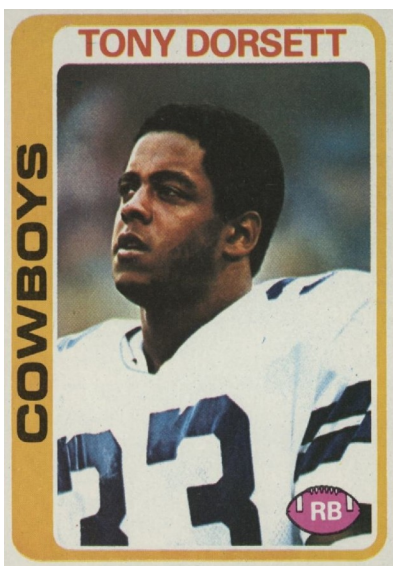


Tony Dorsett

This article was written by Matt Keddie.

In the eyes of Anthony Drew Dorsett Sr. (b. April 7, 1954; 5'11, 192 pounds), actions always spoke louder than words. “A lot of people said I wouldn't last in this league (the NFL),” Dorsett said in 1987. “I was the skinny little kid from Aliquippa, Pa., who wasn't supposed to make it.”¹ Dorsett ran through, over, and around the opposition, compiling 12,739 rushing yards in his 12-year career as a member of the Dallas Cowboys (1977-1987) and Denver Broncos (1988).² Dorsett was named to four Pro Bowls (1978, 1981-1983), selected to the All-NFC team five times (1977, 1978, 1981, 1982, 1983), and was named to an all-pro team in three distinct seasons (1981-1983).³ At the time of his retirement, Dorsett ranked second on the NFL's all-time rushing list, and sixth in rushing touchdowns with 77.⁴ Former teammate, quarterback Roger Staubach spoke about the impact he had on the team, saying, “When he came to us, we hadn't had a strong running attack for about three years. Tony Dorsett is one of the greatest backs in NFL history.”⁵



Not counting the strike-shortened 1982 season, Dorsett ran for over 1,000 yards in eight of 10 seasons with Dallas. His strongest year was in 1981 where he accounted for 1,646 rushing yards, four rushing touchdowns, and nearly 2,000 yards from scrimmage.⁶

On January 3, 1983, Dorsett set an all-time record that won't ever be broken, a 99-yard rushing touchdown against the Minnesota Vikings.⁷ The run demonstrated a unique detail, aside from that it was a pure gem of teamwork, Dallas only had 10 players on the



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field. Wide receiver Drew Pearson significantly impacted the play, escorting Dorsett down the field with a few pivotal blocks, “On that run, Drew Pearson was trying to get down there and get in the way,” Dorsett said. “I used to always tell Drew, Tony Hill and all of our wide receivers, look man, ya’ll don’t have to knock them down, just get in the way. Make them move, make them change direction or do something and I’ll do the rest, don’t worry about it!”⁸

Dorsett began his career with the Cowboys, selected second overall in the 1977 NFL draft. Dallas was coming off an 11-3 season in 1976, in need of upgrading their running game.⁹ In a deal with the expansion Seattle Seahawks, Dallas swapped its first-round choice (14th overall) and three second round picks (numbers 30, 41, and 54) in order to move up to the second spot.¹⁰ The move turned out to be a slam dunk that Cowboys’ general manager Tex Schramm was overjoyed, “Dorsett is the outstanding back to come out of college since maybe O.J. Simpson.”¹¹ He signed a five-year, \$1.1 million contract, which was the second largest for a rookie, and highest for such a player in franchise history.

Dorsett lived up to the draft hype, winning the Rookie-of-the-Year award in a unanimous sweep of all major media outlets – Associated Press, UPI, Pro Football Writers Association, *The Sporting News*.¹² He carried the offense with 1,007 rushing yards, 12 touchdowns, while becoming the first rookie in franchise history to run for over 1,000 yards and the only such Cowboy rookie until 2016 when Ezekiel Elliott topped the 1,000 yard mark.¹³ Dallas rolled to the Super Bowl that included a regular season rematch with the Denver Broncos. Its Doomsday Defense intercepted former Dallas quarterback Craig Morton four times, Dorsett led all rushers with 66 yards, and started the scoring with the game’s first touchdown, and the Cowboys cruised to a 27-10 victory.¹⁴

In 1978, Dallas repeated as NFC Champions, returning to the Super Bowl against the Pittsburgh Steelers. Dallas nearly came back from a 35-17 fourth quarter deficit, but their onside kick failed with 22 seconds left in the game, sealing the 35-31 defeat.¹⁵ Dallas became the first Super Bowl losing team to score more than 30 points, and the first defending champion to lose in the Super Bowl. Despite the loss, Dorsett had an outstanding season rushing for 1,325 yards and seven touchdowns that earned him his first Pro Bowl selection.¹⁶

The Cowboys followed up the next two seasons in 1979 and 1980, with consecutive playoff exits in the divisional round against the Los Angeles Rams, and conference championship loss at the Philadelphia Eagles, respectively, despite posting 11-5 and 12-4 records.¹⁷ Dorsett matched the consistency with 1,107 and 1,185 rushing campaigns, respectively. His 1981 season was the greatest of his career.¹⁸ Dorsett was dominant, setting the franchise record with 1,646 rushing yards, adding 325 receiving yards, and a



first-team All-Pro selection by the Associated Press, Pro Football Writers, and *The Sporting News*.¹⁹ He was also named to the Pro Bowl, first-team All-Conference by the UPI and *Pro Football Weekly*. Dorsett also finished third in the MVP voting and runner up in the Offensive Player of the Year race.²⁰

The 1982 season was only nine games due to a 57 day long players' strike. Dallas finished 6-3 with Dorsett leading the league with 177 rushes, turning in another Pro Bowl campaign.²¹ He was also named a second-team All-Pro by the Associated Press and the *Newspaper Ent. Association*. Despite the nine game season, Dorsett nearly reached 1,000 yards from scrimmage, finishing with 924, an average of over 100 yards per game.²²

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- 1 “#33 Tony Dorsett – Running Back 1977-1987,” DallasCowboys.com, accessed June 12, 2022, <https://www.dallascowboys.com/team/roh-tony-dorsett>.
 - 2 “Tony Dorsett,” ProFootballReference.com, accessed June 12, 2022, <https://www.pro-football-reference.com/players/D/DorsTo00.htm>.
 - 3 “Tony Dorsett,” ProFootballReference.com, accessed June 12, 2022, <https://www.pro-football-reference.com/players/D/DorsTo00.htm>.
 - 4 “NFL Career Rushing Touchdowns Leaders Through 1988,” ProFootballReference.com, accessed June 12, 2022, https://www.pro-football-reference.com/leaders/rush_td_career_1988.htm.
 - 5 “#33 Tony Dorsett – Running Back 1977-1987,” DallasCowboys.com, accessed June 12, 2022, <https://www.dallascowboys.com/team/roh-tony-dorsett>.
 - 6 “Tony Dorsett,” ProFootballReference.com, accessed June 12, 2022, <https://www.pro-football-reference.com/players/D/DorsTo00.htm>.
 - 7 Anderson, John. “Column: Tony Dorsett talks about the 99-yard run, Pearson and a look at Dallas Cowboys coach Tom Landry,” *Tyler Morning Telegraph*, July 20, 2021, <https://tylerpaper.com/news/local/column-tony-dorsett-talks-about-the-99-yard-run-pearson-and-a-look-at>.
 - 8 Anderson, John. “Column: Tony Dorsett talks about the 99-yard run, Pearson and a look at Dallas Cowboys coach Tom Landry,” *Tyler Morning Telegraph*, July 20, 2021, <https://tylerpaper.com/news/local/column-tony-dorsett-talks-about-the-99-yard-run-pearson-and-a-look-at>.
 - 9 “1976 Dallas Cowboys Statistics & Players,” ProFootballReference.com, accessed June 12, 2022, <https://www.pro-football-reference.com/teams/dal/1976.htm>.
 - 10 “#33 Tony Dorsett – Running Back 1977-1987,” DallasCowboys.com, accessed June 12, 2022, <https://www.dallascowboys.com/team/roh-tony-dorsett>.
 - 11 “Tony Dorsett had all the right moves and a brilliant NFL career,” ProFootballHOF.com, April 1, 2011, <https://www.profootballhof.com/news/2011/04/news-tony-dorsett-had-all-the-right-moves-and-a-brilliant-nfl-career/>.
 - 12 “Tony Dorsett had all the right moves and a brilliant NFL career,” ProFootballHOF.com, April 1, 2011, <https://www.profootballhof.com/news/2011/04/news-tony-dorsett-had-all-the-right-moves-and-a-brilliant-nfl-career/>.
 - 13 “Tony Dorsett had all the right moves and a brilliant NFL career,” ProFootballHOF.com, April 1, 2011, <https://www.profootballhof.com/news/2011/04/news-tony-dorsett-had-all-the-right-moves-and-a-brilliant-nfl-career/>.
 - 14 “Tony Dorsett had all the right moves and a brilliant NFL career,” ProFootballHOF.com, April 1, 2011, <https://www.profootballhof.com/news/2011/04/news-tony-dorsett-had-all-the-right-moves-and-a-brilliant-nfl-career/>.



From 1983 through 1985, Dorsett continued to play at a high level, but the Cowboys suffered early round playoff exits to the Rams. The 1986 campaign marked a turning point for Dorsett when Dallas drafted the incredibly talented Herschel Walker from Georgia. This move limited Tony's playing time, creating tension between the two players. Dorsett also suffered injuries to both ankles, having arthroscopic surgery. Walker outplayed Dorsett in 1986 and 1987, which included a few healthy scratches of Dorsett. As a result, he requested a trade.²³

On June 3, 1988, Dorsett was traded to the Denver Broncos for a conditional draft pick. He left the Cowboys as the franchise's all-time leading rusher with 12,036 rushing yards.²⁴ The Cowboys struggled to reach a .500 record after his departure, failing to make the playoffs again until the 1991 season.²⁵ With the Broncos, Dorsett was the primary workhorse, carrying a 3.9 yards per rushing average, with over 700 rushing yards, but Denver finished at 8-8, missing the playoffs.²⁶ In training camp the following season Dorsett felt a snap in his knees during a running play. Doctors discovered two torn ligaments in his left knee, forcing him into retirement.

When asked about his career, he is amazed by his life's work, "My career? It's one that I can live with. To be a running back in this league at 183 pounds, sometimes I wonder how I played this long. I'm the second-leading all-time rusher and I played 12 seasons when at one point I thought I would only play five. When I leaf through the pages of my

- 1 5 "Dallas Cowboys Franchise Encyclopedia," ProFootballReference.com, accessed June 12, 2022, <https://www.pro-football-reference.com/teams/dal/>.
- 1 6 "Tony Dorsett," ProFootballReference.com, accessed June 12, 2022, <https://www.pro-football-reference.com/players/D/DorsTo00.htm>.
- 1 7 "Dallas Cowboys Franchise Encyclopedia," ProFootballReference.com, accessed June 12, 2022, <https://www.pro-football-reference.com/teams/dal/>.
- 1 8 "Tony Dorsett," ProFootballReference.com, accessed June 12, 2022, <https://www.pro-football-reference.com/players/D/DorsTo00.htm>.
- 1 9 "Tony Dorsett," ProFootballReference.com, accessed June 12, 2022, <https://www.pro-football-reference.com/players/D/DorsTo00.htm>.
- 2 0 "Tony Dorsett," ProFootballReference.com, accessed June 12, 2022, <https://www.pro-football-reference.com/players/D/DorsTo00.htm>.
- 2 1 "Dallas Cowboys Franchise Encyclopedia," ProFootballReference.com, accessed June 12, 2022, <https://www.pro-football-reference.com/teams/dal/>.
- 2 2 "Tony Dorsett," ProFootballReference.com, accessed June 12, 2022, <https://www.pro-football-reference.com/players/D/DorsTo00.htm>.
- 2 3 Tony Dorsett had all the right moves and a brilliant NFL career," ProFootballHOF.com, April 1, 2011, <https://www.profootballhof.com/news/2011/04/news-tony-dorsett-had-all-the-right-moves-and-a-brilliant-nfl-career/>.
- 2 4 "Tony Dorsett Is Traded To The Denver Broncos," *The Dispatch*, June 3, 1988, 10.
- 2 5 "Dallas Cowboys Franchise Encyclopedia," ProFootballReference.com, accessed June 12, 2022, <https://www.pro-football-reference.com/teams/dal/>.
- 2 6 "Tony Dorsett," ProFootballReference.com, accessed June 12, 2022, <https://www.pro-football-reference.com/players/D/DorsTo00.htm>.



scrapbook someday, I can smile about what I have done.”²⁷ Dallas coach Tom Landry was asked whether Dorsett was capable of setting the rushing yards mark with the Cowboys. Landry commented, “If I wanted to risk Tony, I think he could gain as many yards as Payton and Campbell, but Tony is so much different than Earl, who is so big. Payton is probably the strongest little man I have ever seen. Then there is Wilbert Montgomery, who did get used a lot and got hurt. I [didn't] want that to happen to Tony.”²⁸ Despite his injuries in 1986 and 1989, Dorsett was rather durable for a back his size. He missed only three of 142 games in his first nine seasons. In total, he played in 173 NFL games, starting in 152.²⁹

Dorsett was scared to miss a football game growing up. His family resided in Aliquippa, Pennsylvania, outside of Pittsburgh, where his four brothers worked in the steel mills during the summers, following in the footsteps of their father, Wes, who discouraged it.³⁰ “Come in the mill, you don't know if you're coming out,” Wes said. “And if you do, you might be missing an arm, eye, or leg. Do something better with your life.”³¹ That is when Tony turned to football.

The neighboring communities of Hopewell and Aliquippa were ravaged by racism in the 1960s and 1970s, but football unified the differences.³² One of the assistant coaches, Sherm McBride, recalls, “Football brought the families, the community, everything back together. You'd go down to the mill where everybody's mother or father was working and hear, 'You going to the game this week?'...”³³ Wes and Myrtle Dorsett moved their family to the Pittsburgh area in 1944 from North Carolina during the second wave of the Great Migration.

2 7 Tony Dorsett had all the right moves and a brilliant NFL career,” ProFootballHOF.com, April 1, 2011, <https://www.profootballhof.com/news/2011/04/news-tony-dorsett-had-all-the-right-moves-and-a-brilliant-nfl-career/>.

2 8 Tony Dorsett had all the right moves and a brilliant NFL career,” ProFootballHOF.com, April 1, 2011, <https://www.profootballhof.com/news/2011/04/news-tony-dorsett-had-all-the-right-moves-and-a-brilliant-nfl-career/>.

2 9 “Tony Dorsett,” ProFootballReference.com, accessed June 12, 2022, <https://www.pro-football-reference.com/players/D/DorsTo00.htm>.

3 0 Price, SL. “The Heart Of Football Beats In Aliquippa: Hope and despair in a Pennsylvania mill town,” SI.com, September 9, 2014, <https://www.si.com/high-school/2014/09/09/heart-football-beats-aliquippa>.

3 1 Price, SL. “The Heart Of Football Beats In Aliquippa: Hope and despair in a Pennsylvania mill town,” SI.com, September 9, 2014, <https://www.si.com/high-school/2014/09/09/heart-football-beats-aliquippa>.

3 2 Price, SL. “The Heart Of Football Beats In Aliquippa: Hope and despair in a Pennsylvania mill town,” SI.com, September 9, 2014, <https://www.si.com/high-school/2014/09/09/heart-football-beats-aliquippa>.

3 3 Price, SL. “The Heart Of Football Beats In Aliquippa: Hope and despair in a Pennsylvania mill town,” SI.com, September 9, 2014, <https://www.si.com/high-school/2014/09/09/heart-football-beats-aliquippa>.



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Tony was a star football and basketball player at Hopewell High School.³⁴ Starting out on defense, his coaches would not play him as a running back, the position he hoped for. Dorsett convinced the coaches to give him a shot, and the job became his during a game in 1971 against Ambridge high school. He took a screen pass 75-yards for a touchdown, and the rest became history.³⁵ As a senior in 1972, he set the school record for rushing yards in a single game (247), season (1,238), and for a career (2,272). He was a two-time All-State player, leading the Vikings to back-to-back 9-1 finishes.³⁶ Dorsett was invited to play in the Big 33 Football Classic following the season, when his future college coach, Johnny Majors scouted him. Dorsett was quite the asset to the Vikings' football program, that in 2001, the school retired his number 33 and named the football stadium, Tony Dorsett Stadium.³⁷ The following year in 1973 marked the beginning of an illustrious college career for Tony at the University of Pittsburgh.

Upon arriving in 1973, the Pitt football program had not seen a winning season in nearly a decade. Coming off a 1-10 campaign in 1972, the university came close to de-emphasizing football as a result of the shortage of success.³⁸ Enter Johnny Majors. Majors was previously the head coach at Iowa State, where he recorded a 24-30-1 record. He left following the 1972 season, when the Cyclones started 5-1, but failed to win a game in the season's final two months, finishing 5-6-1.³⁹ One of his most prized recruits was Tony Dorsett, who aided in the program's turnaround. In his four seasons at the University of Pittsburgh, Majors channeled the football hotbed of Western Pennsylvania as his recruiting grounds. Dorsett set the freshman rushing record at 1,586 yards, the first 1,000 yard season in program history.⁴⁰ His freshman season was highlighted by his 209 yards rushing against the national champion University of Notre Dame. No player had ever rushed for over 200 yards against the Fighting Irish. Dorsett was also the first freshman to be named All-American in 29 years by the Associated Press. Dorsett said, "I won't say I'm the best back in the country, but I think I'm one of them."⁴¹ His head coach agreed,

3 4 Price, SL. "The Heart Of Football Beats In Aliquippa: Hope and despair in a Pennsylvania mill town," SI.com, September 9, 2014, <https://www.si.com/high-school/2014/09/09/heart-football-beats-aliquippa>.

3 5 Bires, Mike. "Questions remain on Johnson-Dorsett career record," *Beaver County Times*, January 21, 1988, 9.

3 6 Bires, Mike. "Questions remain on Johnson-Dorsett career record," *Beaver County Times*, January 21, 1988, 9.

3 7 "Tony Dorsett," pittsburghpanthers.com, accessed June 12, 2022, <https://pittsburghpanthers.com/sports/general/roster/tony-dorsett/8663>.



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“Dorsett is the most outstanding back I've ever witnessed. I'm not pushing him for the Heisman Trophy because he is a frosh, but if you're picking the best in the country he should be a definite candidate.”⁴² The Panthers finished the regular season at 6-4-1, their best mark since 1963, and reached the Fiesta Bowl, the school's first bowl game since the 1956 Gator Bowl.

It did not take Dorsett long to break the all-time school record for career rushing yards. Only three games into his sophomore season in 1974, Dorsett broke Marshall Goldberg's school record of 1,957 career rushing yards.⁴³ Pitt improved to 7-4, despite not being selected for a bowl game.

Dorsett improved as a junior in 1975, rushing for 1,544 yards, highlighted by a 303-yard performance in a 34-20 victory over No.9 Notre Dame.⁴⁴ Pitt defeated Kansas, 33-19, in the Sun Bowl to cap an 8-4 season. It only took two years, but Majors finally had solid players around Dorsett, including quarterback Matt Cavanaugh, tight end James Corbett, and receivers Gordon Jones, Willie Taylor, and Randy Reutershan.⁴⁵ All these teammates would end up as future NFL draft selections. Dorsett finished his junior year fourth in the Heisman Trophy balloting, in what would set up a stellar senior season.⁴⁶

Pittsburgh was ranked No. 9 in the pre-season polls, with the feeling the team could make a run at the national title. Dorsett ran for over 100 yards in every contest, including three 200+ yard rushing games, against Miami (FL) (227 yards), Syracuse (241 yards), and Penn State (224 yards).⁴⁷

The regular season finale against No. 16 ranked Penn State was special because with the scored tied at seven at halftime, Majors switched Dorsett to fullback, which confused the

3 8 “Tony Dorsett,” pittsburghpanthers.com, accessed June 12, 2022, <https://pittsburghpanthers.com/sports/general/roster/tony-dorsett/8663>.

3 9 “Johnny Majors,” SportsReference.com, accessed June 19, 2022, <https://www.sports-reference.com/cfb/coaches/johnny-majors-1.html>.

4 0 “Tony Dorsett,” pittsburghpanthers.com, accessed June 12, 2022, <https://pittsburghpanthers.com/sports/general/roster/tony-dorsett/8663>.

4 1 “Pitt's Dorsett All-American Pick,” *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, December 4, 1973, 12.

4 2 “Pitt's Dorsett All-American Pick,” *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, December 4, 1973, 12.

4 3 “Tony Dorsett,” pittsburghpanthers.com, accessed June 12, 2022, <https://pittsburghpanthers.com/sports/general/roster/tony-dorsett/8663>.

4 4 “Tony Dorsett,” pittsburghpanthers.com, accessed June 12, 2022, <https://pittsburghpanthers.com/sports/general/roster/tony-dorsett/8663>.

4 5 “1975 Pitt Panthers Roster,” SportsReference.com, accessed June 19, 2022, <https://www.sports-reference.com/cfb/schools/pittsburgh/1975-roster.html>.

4 6 “Tony Dorsett,” pittsburghpanthers.com, accessed June 12, 2022, <https://pittsburghpanthers.com/sports/general/roster/tony-dorsett/8663>.

4 7 “Tony Dorsett,” Heisman.com, accessed June 19, 2022, <https://www.heisman.com/heisman-winners/tony-dorsett/>.



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Nittany Lions' defense. Pitt pulled out the 24-7 victory, maintaining their undefeated season and No.1 ranking that ensured the Panthers would be playing for the national championship.⁴⁸ Dorsett was held to 51 yards in the first half, but he added 173 to that total as a result of Majors' coaching adjustment. Penn State coach Joe Paterno said, "I didn't think they could run up the gut like that on us. I didn't think I'd see Dorsett at fullback. We weren't ready for the unbalanced stuff."⁴⁹ Paterno added, "How many ways can you say great," about Dorsett?⁵⁰

With the perfect regular season, Pittsburgh was the East Champion, claiming the Lambert-Meadowlands Trophy, breaking Penn State's five year hold on the award. It was Pittsburgh's first since 1955. Dorsett finished the regular season with 1,948 rushing yards, and won the Heisman Trophy. He became the first Pitt player to win the Heisman.⁵⁰ Paterno delivered the utmost praise for Dorsett, which speaks tremendous volumes coming from arguably one of the greatest coaches in college football history, "No player in the history of college football has ever been so great for so long. If he had played in another section of the country, he'd be shooting for his third Heisman, not his first."⁵¹

Pitt went on to square off against fifth ranked Georgia in the 1977 Sugar Bowl. The Bulldogs were coached by the legendary Vince Dooley, known for their stingy defense dubbed, the "Junkyard Dawgs." Their quarterback, Ray Goff was having a fine season, being named the Southeastern Conference Player of the Year. Goff won 19 games in his final two seasons.⁵² Despite all the hype, the game turned out to be one-sided in favor of the Panthers. Pitt opened the scoring on a 12 play, 80-yard opening drive to take a 7-0 lead on a 6-yard run by Matt Cavanaugh. That was the closest Georgia got. Cavanaugh found receiver Gordon Jones on a 59-yard score and Dorsett added an 11-yard touchdown run, putting the game out of reach at halftime.⁵³ The Panthers won 27-3 and were national champions for the first time since 1937. Dorsett ran for 202 yards in the game, setting a Sugar Bowl record.⁵⁴

4 8 "Tony Dorsett," pittsburghpanthers.com, accessed June 12, 2022, <https://pittsburghpanthers.com/sports/general/roster/tony-dorsett/8663>.

4 9 "Tony Dorsett," pittsburghpanthers.com, accessed June 12, 2022, <https://pittsburghpanthers.com/sports/general/roster/tony-dorsett/8663>.

5 0 "Tony Dorsett," pittsburghpanthers.com, accessed June 12, 2022, <https://pittsburghpanthers.com/sports/general/roster/tony-dorsett/8663>.

5 0 "Tony Dorsett," pittsburghpanthers.com, accessed June 12, 2022, <https://pittsburghpanthers.com/sports/general/roster/tony-dorsett/8663>.

5 1 "Quick as a hiccup, Panthers Dorsett," *The Morning Record*, December 1, 1976, 16.

5 2 Rasmussen, Karl. "Ray Goff Traded the Gridiron for the Griddle After Leaving Georgia," Fanbuzz.com, March 4, 2022, <https://fanbuzz.com/college-football/sec/georgia/ray-goff-now/>.

5 3 "Pitt Stomps Georgia," *Reading Eagle*, January 2, 1977, 2.

5 4 "Pitt Stomps Georgia," *Reading Eagle*, January 2, 1977, 2.



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In Dorsett's four seasons, the Panthers were 33-13-1, the school's best run since the 1930s under Jock Sutherland. Majors praised him as one of the greatest players he ever coached, "I could coach another 100 years and never get the opportunity to coach another back like Dorsett. I consider it an honor to be his college coach."⁵⁵ Dorsett said of his achievements in his senior season, "We had accomplished our mission. I think back to those college days often, and I can't help but smile. I've never had more fun in my life. We were a part of history. We helped save Pitt football."⁵⁶ Credit to Majors for taking a program from 1-10 and on the brink of dissolving its football team to 12-0 and national champions in a mere four years. Majors was named the National Coach of the Year for the efforts.⁵⁷

Upon finishing his collegiate career, Dorsett set the NCAA rushing record at 6,082 yards. He set or tied 18 rushing records at Pitt. Dorsett's number 33 was retired by the school at halftime of his final home game against West Virginia in 1976, marking it the first number retired in program history.⁵⁸ He won a host of awards as a senior including the Walter Camp and Maxwell awards. Dorsett became the first player in football history to win a college national championship, the Heisman Trophy, and a Super Bowl championship.⁵⁹ He was inducted to both the College Football Hall of Fame and Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1994. One of the greatest honors he received may be when the Sports and Exhibition Authority of Pittsburgh approved a measure to change the name of Martindale Street, adjacent to Heinz Field, to "Tony Dorsett Drive," in 2001.⁶⁰

End Notes:

- 5 5 "Tony Dorsett," pittsburghpanthers.com, accessed June 12, 2022, <https://pittsburghpanthers.com/sports/general/roster/tony-dorsett/8663>.
- 5 6 "Tony Dorsett," pittsburghpanthers.com, accessed June 12, 2022, <https://pittsburghpanthers.com/sports/general/roster/tony-dorsett/8663>.
- 5 7 Litsky, Frank. "Johnny Majors, 85, Winning Coach at Pittsburgh and Tennessee, Dies," *The New York Times*, June 3, 2020, <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/03/sports/ncaafotball/johnny-majors-dead.html#:~:text=Three%20years%20later%2C%20in%201976,year%20in%201973%20and%201976..>
- 5 8 "Tony Dorsett," pittsburghpanthers.com, accessed June 12, 2022, <https://pittsburghpanthers.com/sports/general/roster/tony-dorsett/8663>.
- 5 9 "Tony Dorsett," Heisman.com, accessed June 12, 2022, <https://www.heisman.com/heisman-winners/tony-dorsett/>.
- 6 0 "Tony Dorsett," pittsburghpanthers.com, accessed June 12, 2022, <https://pittsburghpanthers.com/sports/general/roster/tony-dorsett/8663>.