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Andy Reid

This article is by Budd Bailey.

Andrew Barton Reid was born on February 26, 1954, in Hamilton, Ohio and is not related to the Super Bowl-winning coach Andy Reid. The town is located about 20 miles north of Cincinnati. Reid couldn't help but be introduced to football shortly after birth. His father was Floyd 'Breezy' Reid, who played for the University of Georgia and the Green Bay Packers. Floyd was a ninth-round pick in the 1950 NFL draft by the Chicago Bears. He spent seven seasons as a Packers' halfback before becoming a coach there. Andy's mother was named Ruth Ann. One of Floyd and Ruth's grandchildren, Tyler Minges, played pro baseball for several organizations.

Reid grew up in Hamilton and attended Robert A. Taft High School there. The school has an impressive list of athletes play ball there. Denicos Allen, Kaleb Johnson, Adam Pankey and Ricky Stone played at Taft before making it to the NFL. Joe Nuxhall, baseball player and announcer, and Kevin Grevey, a basketball standout, also played for the school.

Andy turned out to be much like his father in high school, starring for the Big Blue as a halfback. He played for coaches Fred Garretson and Demus Jones. Reid also was a member of the baseball team. He graduated from high school in 1972 and headed to the University of Georgia. Andy's uncles, Bernie Reid and Ernie Reid, also played college football at Georgia.ⁱ

"I really thought it would be better for me to go to school somewhere other than where my Dad went," Andy said to the *Hamilton Journal News*. "But when I finished high school football, I really didn't have any offers. Maryland was going to have me up for a visit because of my uncle, Bernie, who coached there."ⁱⁱ

Still, Georgia eventually took a look at Reid and was impressed enough to offer him a scholarship. Upon arrival, Reid discovered it was a good fit – and made his father happy. "He was very pleased because he appreciated the career he had at Georgia so much," Andy Reid said. "I know it meant a lot to him for me to play here."ⁱⁱⁱ

If Reid was hoping to win regularly, he picked the correct place. The Bulldogs were in the midst of the coaching reign of Vince Dooley, one of the nation's best. He stayed for 25 years and won 201 games. Georgia was coming off an 11-1 season in the fall of 1971 that included a win in the Gator Bowl. The Bulldogs didn't keep that pace up in Reid's



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freshman year, in which Andy didn't letter. The Bulldogs went 7-4 and didn't play in a bowl game.

Georgia had a similar season in 1973, going 7-4-1 and winning the Peach Bowl. Andy saw some playing time with the varsity, but only in a limited role. He picked up 53 yards rushing (sixth on the team) on 11 carries, but did play in all 11 games.

Reid's role increased as a junior in 1974, as he was third on the team in rushing with 316 yards on 66 carries, a nice 4.8 yards per run average, with one touchdown. Reid's biggest problem came in the form of some nagging injuries like muscle pulls. His quarterback was Matt Robinson, who played six years in the NFL with the New York Jets, Denver Broncos and Buffalo Bills (in 1981 & 1982). The Bulldogs slipped back to .500 at 6-6, which included a loss to Miami (Ohio) in the Tangerine Bowl. The highlight of the season was a 17-10 win over sixth-ranked Florida.

"Andy is one of the quickest backs we've had," Dooley said to the *Hamilton Journal News*. "He has an excellent take-off, very explosive from his stance. It's too bad he has not enjoyed the best of health during his career. ... Andy has developed himself into an outstanding blocker. His blocking has been a key favor in the success of our veer offense."^{iv}

Finally as a senior, Georgia had its best season in Reid's time there, improving to 9-3 – slightly spoiled by a Cotton Bowl loss to Arkansas. That was good for a 19th-place ranking in the year's final Associated Press poll. Reid was in the middle of a crowded backfield, as Glynn Harrison (894 yards) and Kevin McLee (806 yards, 10 touchdowns) were ahead of him. But Andy still ran for 468 yards on 83 carries, a fine 5.6 yards per run average (seventh in the Southeastern Conference). He also had three touchdowns. Andy picked up a little fame when Georgia beat Auburn in a nationally televised game. He won Most Valuable Player honors from ABC, and a \$1,000 scholarship in his name was donated to the University of Georgia.

In today's world of seven-round drafts by the NFL, someone like Reid probably would have had to have signed with a team as a free agent and hoped for the best. But the pro league drafted 17 rounds back then. Reid was taken in the 13th round by the Seattle Seahawks at No. 349. Four other Bulldogs were drafted that year, including offensive guard Randy Johnson (drafted in the fourth round by Seattle but played two seasons with Tampa Bay).

Seattle wasn't the worst place for Reid to land. The Seahawks were an expansion team, so everyone who showed up at training camp at least received a look. Alas, Reid only was on the Seattle roster until August 3, when he was waived.



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Reid signed with the Buffalo Bills at the beginning of December. In a coincidence, Reid's father was an offensive assistant coach for the Bills under Buster Ramsey in 1960 and 1961.^v The Bills had lost running back Darnell Powell to elbow surgery, and they needed another player on special teams in a hurry.^{vi}

The signing was something of a bad news/bad news situation for the rookie. As a halfback, he was looking up the depth chart at one of the greatest running backs in NFL history, O.J. Simpson. What's more, the Bills had collapsed after three straight winning seasons and were in the process of falling to a 2-12 season. Reid played one game for Buffalo, a December 5 date with the Miami Dolphins. Andy, who wore No. 33 to match his college number, didn't touch the football in a 45-27 loss in which Simpson ran for 203 yards.

Reid didn't even make it to training camp with the Bills in 1977, as he was released on April 7. Andy caught on with the Baltimore Colts about a month later, but he was cut on August 11 when they needed a roster spot to sign defensive back Lyle Blackwood. That ended Reid's career.

He graduated from the University of Georgia with a degree in marketing in 1977. Reid no doubt relived some of his football memories on January 29, 2005. He was inducted into the Hamilton School District's Athletic Hall of Fame. He joined father Floyd and uncle Bernie in that group.^{vii}

ⁱ Moeller, Bill. "Bill's Board." The Journal News; February 23, 1972.

<https://www.newspapers.com/article/the-journal-news-andy-reid-son-of-floyd/153167449/>

ⁱⁱ "Andy Reid really didn't want to follow in Dad's footsteps." The (Hamilton, Ohio) Journal News, November 2, 1975. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/36251362/?match=1&terms=%22Andy%20Reid%22%20Hamilton>.

ⁱⁱⁱ "Andy Reid really didn't want to follow in Dad's footsteps."

^{iv} "Andy Reid really didn't want to follow in Dad's footsteps."

^v "Bills Add Reid; Powell Out." Buffalo News, December 3, 1976.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/872909384/?match=1&terms=%22Andy%20Reid%22>.

^{vi} Felser, Larry. "Orange Bowl Sunny to O.J., Both QBs." Buffalo News, December 4, 1976.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/872910123/?match=1&terms=%22Andy%20Reid%22>.

^{vii} Athletic Hall of Fame. Hamilton City School District.

<https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1678124747/hamiltoncityschoolscom/zdytqnpeae78k7cnzu5s/Classof2005.pdf>.

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Speaking of family, Andy and his wife Kristine, were living with their two daughters in Mason, Ohio – only a handful of miles east of Hamilton – at the time of the induction. The couple was still in Mason as of the end of 2024.

End Notes:

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