

dallas cowboys number 86 history

dallas cowboys number 86 history traces the legacy of one of the most iconic jersey numbers in the franchise's history. The Dallas Cowboys, known for their rich tradition and star-studded rosters, have seen several standout players don the number 86. This number has been associated with key receivers and tight ends who have contributed significantly to the team's offensive prowess. Exploring the history of number 86 offers insight into the evolution of the Cowboys' offensive strategies, memorable on-field moments, and the players who have left a lasting impact on the franchise and its fans. This article delves into the careers of notable players who wore number 86, their statistical achievements, and their place in Cowboys lore. Additionally, the piece outlines the influence of this number on the team's identity and the fanbase's connection to these athletes. The following sections provide a comprehensive overview of the dallas cowboys number 86 history, highlighting significant eras and key contributors.

- Notable Players Wearing Number 86
- Impact on Dallas Cowboys Offense
- Statistical Milestones and Records
- Legacy and Cultural Significance

Notable Players Wearing Number 86

The dallas cowboys number 86 history is marked by several players who have made significant contributions to the team's success. These athletes, primarily wide receivers and tight ends, have

embodied skill, dedication, and leadership while wearing this number. Their performances have helped shape the Cowboys' offensive identity and provided memorable moments for fans.

Frank Clarke

Frank Clarke was one of the earliest players to wear the number 86 jersey for the Dallas Cowboys. Playing as a wide receiver in the 1960s, Clarke was known for his reliable hands and route-running ability. He played a pivotal role during the Cowboys' formative years, helping establish the team as a competitive franchise in the NFL.

Doug Cosbie

Doug Cosbie is arguably the most famous Dallas Cowboys player to wear number 86. As a tight end from 1979 to 1989, Cosbie was a vital part of the Cowboys' offense during the 1980s. He earned three Pro Bowl selections and was known for his versatility as both a receiver and a blocker, contributing to the team's offensive schemes and playoff runs.

Other Contributors

Beyond Clarke and Cosbie, other players have worn the number 86 jersey, including various wide receivers and tight ends who contributed during different seasons. These players have continued the tradition of excellence associated with the number, even if they did not reach the same level of acclaim as their predecessors.

Impact on Dallas Cowboys Offense

The Dallas Cowboys number 86 history is closely tied to the evolution of the team's offensive strategies. Players wearing this number have often been integral components of the passing game, serving as reliable targets and blockers. Their roles have adapted with changes in coaching philosophies and offensive schemes over the decades.

Role as a Receiving Threat

Historically, number 86 has been associated with receivers or tight ends who provide a dependable aerial option. Their ability to create separation, secure catches, and gain yards after the catch has been instrumental in sustaining drives and scoring points. This role has been consistent from the early days with Frank Clarke through Doug Cosbie's tenure and beyond.

Blocking and Versatility

Besides their receiving duties, players wearing number 86 have often been called upon to support the running game through effective blocking. This dual-threat capability has enhanced the Cowboys' offensive versatility, allowing for a balanced attack that keeps defenses off guard. The tight ends wearing 86 have especially been noted for excelling in this capacity.

Statistical Milestones and Records

The legacy of the Dallas Cowboys number 86 history includes several noteworthy statistical achievements. These milestones underscore the impact players with this number have had on the field.

and highlight their contributions to the franchise's success over the years.

Doug Cosbie's Career Highlights

Doug Cosbie's career statistics solidify his place as the most accomplished number 86 in Cowboys history. Over his 11 seasons, Cosbie recorded over 400 receptions, more than 4,800 receiving yards, and 41 touchdowns. His consistent production earned him three Pro Bowl honors and made him a fan favorite.

Records and Franchise Rankings

Cosbie's numbers placed him among the top tight ends in Cowboys history until more recent players challenged these records. The number 86 jersey thus became synonymous with dependable, high-level play at the tight end position. Other players who wore 86 have contributed to team records in their own right, though none matched Cosbie's statistical impact.

List of Key Statistical Achievements by Number 86 Players

- Doug Cosbie: Over 400 receptions and 41 touchdowns
- Frank Clarke: Leading receiver during early Cowboys years
- Multiple playoff appearances with significant receiving contributions
- Pro Bowl selections associated with the number 86 jersey

Legacy and Cultural Significance

The Dallas Cowboys number 86 history extends beyond statistics and on-field accomplishments to include cultural and fan-based significance. The players who wore this number have contributed to the identity of the Cowboys and have been celebrated by fans for their dedication and performance.

Fan Connection to Number 86

Fans often associate the number 86 with reliability, toughness, and clutch performances. The legacy of players like Doug Cosbie has cemented the jersey as one of distinction within the Cowboys community. Memorabilia and fan tributes frequently highlight the achievements of these athletes, enhancing the cultural footprint of the number.

Influence on Future Generations

The tradition established by number 86 players has inspired subsequent Cowboys receivers and tight ends. This legacy encourages new players to uphold the standards set by their predecessors, contributing to a continuous lineage of excellence. The history of number 86 serves as a motivational touchstone within the franchise.

Summary of Legacy Elements

- Symbol of offensive reliability and versatility

- Representation of key eras in Cowboys history
- Fan admiration and commemorative recognition
- Inspiration for current and future players

Frequently Asked Questions

Who was the most notable Dallas Cowboys player to wear the number 86?

Billy Howton is one of the most notable Dallas Cowboys players to wear the number 86. He was a standout wide receiver known for his impressive receiving yards during the 1960s.

Has the Dallas Cowboys retired the number 86 jersey?

No, the Dallas Cowboys have not officially retired the number 86 jersey, but several players who wore it have made significant contributions to the team.

Which position is typically associated with the number 86 on the Dallas Cowboys?

The number 86 is typically worn by wide receivers or tight ends on the Dallas Cowboys, aligning with traditional NFL jersey numbering conventions.

Are there any recent Dallas Cowboys players who wore number 86?

Yes, in recent years, players like Rico Gathers, a tight end/fullback, have worn the number 86 jersey for the Dallas Cowboys.

What is the historical significance of the number 86 for the Dallas Cowboys franchise?

While the number 86 is not officially retired, it has been worn by several key players over the years, contributing to the team's offensive successes and representing versatility at receiver and tight end positions.

Additional Resources

1. *The Legacy of Number 86: Dallas Cowboys' Unsung Hero*

This book delves into the career of the Dallas Cowboys' notable number 86, exploring his impact on the team during his tenure. It highlights key games and moments that defined his legacy and contributions to the Cowboys' history. Through interviews and archival footage, readers gain an intimate look at his journey in the NFL.

2. *Number 86: The Rise of a Cowboy Legend*

Focusing on the early life and rise of Dallas Cowboys' number 86, this book narrates the challenges and triumphs that shaped his professional career. It provides detailed accounts of his college years, draft experience, and breakthrough seasons. Fans will appreciate the behind-the-scenes stories that showcase his dedication and skill.

3. *Dallas Cowboys: The Story Behind Number 86's Greatness*

This comprehensive biography covers the playing style, achievements, and influence of number 86 on the Cowboys' offense. The author examines his role in pivotal games and how he became a fan favorite. The book also discusses the evolution of the tight end position through his career.

4. *Gridiron Glory: The Journey of Dallas Cowboys' Number 86*

A compelling narrative that follows number 86's path from rookie to veteran leadership within the Cowboys organization. It captures the highs and lows of his football career, including injuries, comebacks, and memorable touchdowns. The book provides an inspiring look at perseverance in

professional sports.

5. Number 86 and the Cowboys' Championship Pursuit

This title focuses on the seasons when number 86 was instrumental in the Cowboys' playoff runs and quest for Super Bowl titles. Detailed game analyses and player testimonials highlight his contributions on the field. The book celebrates his role in some of the franchise's most exciting eras.

6. The Cowboys' Number 86: A Career in Review

An analytical look at the statistics, records, and milestones achieved by Dallas Cowboys' number 86. It places his career in context with other greats of the franchise and the league. Readers interested in football history will find this book a valuable resource.

7. From Draft Day to Dallas: The Story of Number 86

This book chronicles the draft experience and early years of number 86 with the Cowboys, shedding light on the challenges of breaking into a star-studded team. It includes personal anecdotes and reflections from coaches and teammates. The narrative offers a detailed portrait of a player's growth in the NFL.

8. Number 86: Cowboys' Offensive Weapon

Highlighting the offensive strategies that utilized number 86's unique skills, this book explores how he became a vital part of the Cowboys' game plans. It discusses play designs, coaching decisions, and his adaptability on the field. Football enthusiasts will enjoy the technical breakdowns and game film insights.

9. The Heart of the Cowboys: Number 86's Impact On and Off the Field

Beyond the gridiron, this book explores the community work, leadership, and character of Dallas Cowboys' number 86. It portrays how his influence extended into locker rooms and local neighborhoods. The story balances athletic achievement with personal integrity, providing a holistic view of the player.

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