

OTTIS ANDERSON

RB

Ottis James Anderson
Miami (FL)

6-2 220

b: 1/19/1957, West Palm Beach, FL

1979-86 St. Louis; 1986-92 New York Giants

Football's second "O.J.," Ottis James Anderson never achieved the records or the adulation of Orenthal James Simpson, and possibly the coincidence of initials (and the fact that they both wore number 32) worked against Anderson by making comparisons inevitable. Ironically, his favorite player was Gale Sayers.

Certainly he broke in with the Cardinals in 1979 with a Simpson-like game, exploding for 193 yards on 21 carries against the Dallas Cowboys. A 76-yard touchdown sprint in the final quarter proved to be the longest of his pro career. The 6'2", 225-pound Miami University grad won both Rookie of the Year and NFC Player of the Year honors for his '79 season total of 1605 rushing yards.

Although Anderson topped 1100 yards in four of his next five seasons, Cardinals fans grew increasingly impatient with the quiet, friendly star. He was criticized, perhaps unfairly, for saving his body by stepping out of bounds instead of struggling for extra yards, for putting personal accomplishments above the team, but mostly for not being Orenthal James.

In 1989, his career was rejuvenated with the New York Giants. He ran for 1,023 yards and scored 14 touchdowns. The next year he was a key man in the Giants' Super Bowl XXV victory, running for 102 yards against Buffalo.

		RUSHING					
YEAR	Team	LG	G	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
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1979	StL	N	16	331	1605	4.85	8
1980	StL	N	16	301	1352	4.49	9
1981	StL	N	16	328	1376	4.20	9
1982	StL	N	8	145	587	4.05	3
1983	StL	N	15	296	1270	4.29	5
1984	StL	N	15	289	1174	4.06	6
1985	StL	N	9	117	479	4.09	4
1986	StL-NYG	N	12	75	237	3.16	3
1987	NYG	N	4	2	6	3.00	0
1988	NYG	N	16	65	208	3.20	8
1989	NYG	N	16	325	1023	3.15	14
1990	NYG	N	16	225	784	3.48	11
1991	NYG	N	10	53	141	2.66	1
1992	NYG	N	13	10	31	3.10	0
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14 Yrs			182	2562	10273	4.01	81