

Joe DeLamielleure

D-E-L-A-M-I-E-L-L-E-U-R-E

Apparently, Joe DeLamielleure never took the time out when he was playing to let people know that his name was being mispronounced.

For the record, the last syllable in Joe DeLamielleure's name is pronounced "LEAR" not "LURE." Thus, his name is pronounced: Duh-lahm-uh-LEAR.

In the 1970s, Joe DeLamielleure and his Buffalo Bills offensive line mates were dubbed the "Electric Company," because they "turned the Juice loose." The "Juice" of course was Hall of Fame running back O.J. Simpson.

An All-America and three-time All-Big Ten performer at Michigan State, "Joe D" as he was known, was selected in the first round of the 1973 NFL Draft by the Buffalo Bills. At first, when he failed his physical, it seemed he would never play pro football. Fortunately, further tests showed his irregular heartbeat was not serious, and Joe went on to win All-Rookie honors. It was the beginning of a string of career honors that few guards had or have since exceeded. He went on to become the most honored lineman of the Bills respected front wall. Eight times during his career he was selected first- or second-team All-Pro; seven times he was named first- or second-team All-AFC, and six times he was named to the Pro Bowl. Since 1970, only two Hall of Fame guards, John Hannah with 10 and Gene Upshaw with seven, were named All-Pro more often. In 1975, the NFL Players Association named him Offensive Lineman of the Year.

Extremely durable and dependable, Joe played in 185 consecutive games during his 13 playing seasons with the Bills and the Cleveland Browns. A starter from the first game of his rookie season, DeLamielleure played and started in every game for eight seasons in Buffalo before being traded to Cleveland in 1980. During five years in Cleveland he played in every game and had only three non-starts.

Primarily due to the success of the Bills running attack led by Simpson, DeLamielleure was best known for his run blocking. Behind the swift pulling guard, O.J. became the first player to rush for more than 2,000 yards in a season. But Joe was more than just a run blocker, he was also an effective pass blocker and rarely allowed his opponent to disrupt Buffalo's or Cleveland's pass plays.

DeLamielleure, who was named to the NFL's 1970s All-Decade Team, finished his career in 1985 with a final season back where it had begun, in Buffalo.

Joe DeLamielleure
Guard - 6'3", 254
Michigan State

Joseph Michael DeLamielleure. . . Selected by Bills in first round, 1973 draft. . . All-America at Michigan State. . . Won All-Rookie honors . . . Durable, played in 185 consecutive games. . . Anchored Bills' famed "Electric Company" offensive line. . . Best known as lead blocker for O. J. Simpson, NFL's first 2000-yard rusher, 1973. . . Selected All-Pro and All-AFC 1975 through 1980. . . Named to six Pro Bowls. . . Named to NFL's 1970s All-Decade Team. . . Born March 16, 1951 at Detroit, Michigan.

1973 Buf 14	1977 Buf 14	1982 Cle 9
1974 Buf 14	1978 Buf 16	1983 Cle 16
1975 Buf 14	1979 Buf 16	1984 Cle 16
1976 Buf 14	1980 Cle 16	1985 Buf 10
	1981 Cle 16	13 yrs 185

All-League Teams

All-Pro: 1975 (AP, PFWA, PW), 1976 (AP, PFWA, NEA, PW), 1977 (AP, PFWA, NEA, PW), 1978 (PFWA, NEA, PW), 1979 (PFWA, NEA), 1980 (PFWA, SN)

All-Pro Second Team: 1974 (NEA), 1978 (AP), 1979 (AP), 1980 (AP), 1983 (AP) All-AFC: 1975 (AP, UPI, SN, PW), 1976 (AP, UPI, SN, PW), 1977 (SN, PW), 1978 (UPI, SN, PW), 1979 (UPI, SN, PW), 1980 (UPI, PW)

All-AFC Second Team: 1977 (UPI), 1981 (UPI)

Pro Bowls

(6) - 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981
1970s All-Decade Team