

# Herschel Walker

Despite having a career most players would envy, Walker will always be considered a disappointment among some fans. So much was expected.

As a freshman at the University of Georgia, he was All-America, South East Conference Player of the Year and led his team to the national championship. By the time he was a junior he had three SEC Player of the Year trophies, a Heisman Trophy, held 80 different NCAA, SEC and Georgia records, and was ranked with the greatest runners ever.

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Text by Matthew Silverman

In 1983, he skipped his senior year to turn professional and immediately became the greatest player in league history, shattering records with 11 consecutive 100-yard games. That league, however, was the United States Football League, not the NFL.

When the USFL folded after three years, Walker joined the Dallas Cowboys. He responded with solid seasons in 1986 and 1987, but in 1988 he showed the form that had been predicted. He gained 1,514 yards rushing and earned 505 more yards as a receiver. The moribund Cowboys could have built the team around Walker, but they decided to use him to rebuild the team instead. In one of the most famous -- or infamous -- trades in NFL history, the Cowboys sent Walker to the Minnesota Vikings in exchange for six players and 12 draft picks in 1989. The Cowboys won back-to-back Super Bowls in five years and the Vikings have yet to fully recover.

With the Vikings, Walker was stuck in an offensive system unsuited to his talents. After three disappointing seasons in Minnesota, he signed with Philadelphia where he surpassed 1,000 yards rushing in 1992.