



## **Bill Bates**

Bill is an all-time favorite of Dallas Cowboys fans for his inspirational play. Bill spent entire 15 year career with the Cowboys from 1983 to 1987. He was a part of the Super Bowl championship teams in 1992, 1993, and 1995 as Dallas Cowboys cemented its place as the team of the 90s. One of the NFL's true success stories, Bill overcame the odds his entire career, starting when he made the team as a long shot free agent rookie. Bill immediately became a visible figure on the field with his ferocious special teams play. It was Bates' success that prodded the NFL into adding a spot on the Pro-Bowl teams for special teams' coverage players; he became the first NFC player so honored.

Bill won many awards during his career. He was named the winner of the Bob Lilly Award four years in a row as the Cowboy player who displays leadership and character on and off the field. After the 1993 season Bill was selected by his teammates to receive the Ed Block Courage Award for successfully overcoming injury. In 1995, Bill was named by the fans and his teammates the "Unsung Hero", an award which is given to one player from each NFL team. And Bill has also been the recipient of the Dallas All Sports Association Courage Award. Finally, Bill was selected to the All-Madden Team for twelve years in a row and to the Madden Hall of Fame.

When Bill retired following the 1997 season, he tied the club record for service with 15 seasons in Dallas. In that time his 217 games played ranked him second in team history, and he had over 700 tackles along with 14 interceptions. Bates joined the Cowboys again as a special teams/defensive assistant coach in 1998, was defensive backs coach in 2000 and defensive nickel package/special teams assistant the following two seasons.

Bill wrote his autobiography, Shoot For The Star, in which he reveals how his faith in Jesus Christ empowered his career and his family life.