



Roy Gerela

Roy Gerela started his professional football career with the Houston Oilers of the American Football League. The former New Mexico State star was the Oilers' fourth -round draft choice in 1969. Roy was born in Alberta, Canada and played high school football and baseball at Hawaii's Kalani high school.

In his rookie year at Houston, Gerela made a mark by tying George Blanda's club record by kicking five field goals in a 22-10 win over Miami. By the time the season was over, Roy had made 19 field goals and all 29 PAT's. He also doubled as Houston's punter averaging 40.2 yds.

The Pittsburgh Steelers claimed Gerela from waivers from the Oilers just before the 1971 season. In 1972, he set team records by scoring 119 points, kicking 28 field goals and kicking one field goal in each game. He was named All-Pro for the first time that season and he garnered his own routing section in Three Rivers Stadium who called themselves Gerela's Gorillas.

The following year, Roy became the first Steeler to lead the league in scoring as he set new team marks with 123 points and 29 field goals. He capped a great 1973 by playing in the Pro bowl for the first time.

In 1974, his 93 points won Gerela his second straight AFC scoring crown and placed him in the Pro Bowl once again. In 1975, he made 81 percent of his field goals (17-of-21). In fact Roy would not miss an extra point until his fourth year in pro football and for his 11 years in the league, made better than 96 percent of his PAT's.

Calf and groin injuries in the middle of the 1976 season kept Gerela out of the AFC championship game. He finished up with a partial season with the San Diego Chargers in 1979. He retired from the game when slow healing groin injuries hampered his effectiveness.

Gerela is a 1970 graduate of New Mexico State University who went on to fame as the Pittsburgh Steelers' place-kicker on their Super Bowl teams of 1974, 1975, and 1978. He was named to the All-Time Steelers Super Bowl Team.

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