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Tracy Ham



Tracy Ham is a member of the Canadian Football Hall of Fame as well as the College Football Hall of Fame and was an expert at running the option offence while in college at Georgia Southern. Ham is considered a legend at the school. His prowess and athletic ability led him to being drafted by the Los Angeles Rams in 1987 NFL draft in the 9th round 240th overall. The NFL envisioned Tracy as a running back but he wanted to continue as a quarterback.

Ham signed with the Edmonton Eskimos in June 1987, he joined a team loaded with future quarterback stars in Matt Dunigan and Damon Allen. By 1989 Allen had left the team and Tracy took advantage of the playing time leading the Eskimos to a 16-2 regular season record. The Eskimos would be upset by eventual Grey Cup champions Saskatchewan in the

Western Final in 1989 but Ham would go on to be named the league Most Outstanding Player. For the season he passed for 4,360 yards and 30 touchdowns, incredibly he added 1,005 yards rushing and 10 rushing touchdowns for one of the greatest statistical seasons ever for a quarterback.

The extremely athletic Ham would help redefine the quarterback position in Canadian Football in the early 1990's. Scrambling ability had long been an aspect of successful CFL quarterbacks, Ham along with other QB's of the time in Damon Allen and Doug Flutie brought the rushing threat of the quarterback to a new level.

By the end of the 1992 season Ham had entrenched himself as one of the premiere quarterbacks in the league. Tracy was traded to Toronto for the 1993 season in a 10 player deal. Under a new coach's misguided "run & shoot" offense, the team struggled. By the end of the season it seemed that the regard for Ham had fallen a great deal around the league, but coach Don Matthews knew better. Matthews had been recruited to coach the new Baltimore franchise in 1994. Matthews elected to bring Ham to Baltimore as a veteran with a great deal of CFL experience. Their success would culminate in Baltimore's Grey Cup victory over Calgary in 1995.

Following the dissolution of the American franchises the remnants of Baltimore were moved to Montreal. Ham was the face of the team back in Montreal. The club did well but was unable to get past the Doug Flutie led Argonauts in 1996 and '97. Following that Ham would continue to lead Montreal to regular season success but the Hamilton Tiger Cats were the nemesis for 1998 and '99. Ham would retire prior to the 2000 season turning over the quarterbacking duties to the capable hands of Anthony Calvillo. Over his career Ham carried himself with class, his athletic prowess changed how the position was played and viewed. Tracy Ham left his mark with incredible results over 12 seasons. In his career from 1987 to 1999 Ham accumulated 40,534 passing yards which currently ranks seventh all-time. He threw 4943 times with 2670 completions, 164 interceptions and 284 touchdowns. His 8043 rushing yards presently puts him in tenth all time and second among quarterbacks, behind only Damon Allen. He tallied 1059 carries with 62 touchdowns. Tracy was elected to the Canadian Football Hall of Fame for the Class of 2010.



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