



Donnie Shell

Donnie was a member of the famed Pittsburgh Steelers “Steel Curtain” defense which shut down NFL offenses in the late 1970’s. His nickname, “Donnie Torpedo Shell” gives you an indication of the ferocity with which he hit opposing receivers. He won four Super Bowls and was selected to represent the AFC in the Pro Bowl five consecutive seasons. Donnie was also an All-Pro three times in 1979, 1980 and 1982. He started as a safety for 11 straight seasons for the Steelers and was selected to the Steelers All-Time team. Additionally, he was named to the NFL Silver Anniversary Super Bowl Team and the Steelers 75th Anniversary Team. When Donnie left football, he was the NFL’s all-time career leader in interceptions by a strong safety with 51. Donnie played in Pittsburgh from 1974 to 1987. A 1974 graduate of South Carolina State University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in physical education with a minor in biology, Donnie went on to earn his Master’s Degree in Counseling Education in 1977. He was selected to the MEAC Hall of Fame, and the College Football Foundation Hall of Fame. In 2001, he was also one of 15 finalists for induction into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Donnie is formerly the Director of Player Development for the Carolina Panthers of the NFL. He distinguished himself as a front office executive. From 1994 until 2009, Donnie coordinated all of the Panthers player programs. Indicative of his efforts, Donnie earned the "Best Player Programs" award in 1998 and 1999 and garnered the "Most Outstanding Player Programs" honor from the NFC in 2000.

Donnie made a decision for Christ in 1974 before the AFC Championship game. The night before, Donnie was having trouble resting. He decided to go downstairs in the hotel to the coffee shop where he met the man who was scheduled to speak at the Steelers chapel service the following day. They talked for a while and Donnie now realizes that the man shared with him the most important message anyone could ever share. The man shared the gospel message with Donnie, telling him that everyone needs to accept Christ as his personal Saviour.

That night, Donnie prayed a simple prayer to ask Jesus Christ into his life and forgive him of his sins. He noticed that the emptiness he had experienced was immediately gone and he felt purpose in his life.

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