



Jamaal Charles

It is entirely likely that Jamaal Charles will one day be headed to Canton Ohio to be inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame. For his career the running back is the all-time leader in yards per carry for players with over 1,000 rushing attempts with an outstanding 5.38 yards per carry.

Jamaal was drafted in the 3rd round of the 2008 NFL draft by the Kansas City Chiefs out of the University of Texas where he dominated for the Longhorns from 2005 to 2007. Playing behind veteran Larry Johnson, he didn't get a lot of touches but flashed his brilliance by averaging 6.7 yards per carry. Starting with the 2009 season, Jamaal began grinding out yards with the first of five 1,000+ yard seasons on the ground. In 2010 he racked up 1467 rushing yards and was named a Pro Bowler; his 7.0 yards per carry was the highest average of his career.

An ACL injury in week 2 of 2011 ended that season prematurely but he came back with a vengeance in 2012 with 1509 yards, a Pro Bowl selection and was an All Pro. He followed up in 2013 with 1287 rushing yards, another Pro Bowl and All Pro Selection and finished 3rd in Offensive Player of the Year voting. Another 1000+ yard season and Pro Bowl selection followed in 2014.

In October of 2015, another ACL injury ended his season. His 2016 season also ended early as he required surgery to trim the meniscus in his knee. In early 2017, the Chiefs released Jamaal and he was signed by the Denver Broncos. Playing sparingly in the Mile High City. He ended his NFL career with 2 games with the Jacksonville Jaguars in 2018.

In his brilliant career, Charles rushed for 7563 yards on 1407 carries for his 5.38 average. He also caught 310 passes for 2593 yards out of the backfield for a 8.4 yard average per reception. As great as the numbers are, what could have been without the knee injuries. But that is life in the NFL.

Jamaal is now an ambassador for the Special Olympics. He was diagnosed with a learning disability in the third grade and as such was qualified and competed as a Special Olympian in track and field. The Special Olympics helped him to find his voice and overcome the teasing and bullying he encountered and to take flight in the NFL.

