

## **Mike Bass**

Mike Bass is one of the greatest Washington Redskins in the team's long and storied history. He graduated from the University of Michigan in 1967 with a degree in education. Mike's pro career began with his being drafted by Hall of Fame Coach Vince Lombardi and the Green Bay Packers. Before playing a game for the team, the Ypsilanti, Michigan native was cut, but the Detroit Lions picked him up and put him on their taxi squad. Mike appeared on special teams in the final two games for the Lions in the 1967 season and remained with the Lions until he was able to gain his release after the 1968 season.

Fortunately for Mike, Lombardi, who had drafted Mike for the Packers, moved on to the Washington Redskins in 1969 and asked him to come to the Redskins. Immediately, Lombardi inserted Mike into the starting lineup as the right cornerback. In 1971, Hall of Fame Coach George Allen became the head coach of the Redskins. In 1971, Mike intercepted 8 passes to lead the team and that total ranked third in the entire NFL.

Another highlight of Mike's career occurred in Super Bowl VII in 1972. His Redskins were playing the undefeated Miami Dolphins. Garo Yepremian took a botched snap on a field goal attempt and fumbled the ball, while trying to complete a pass on the broken play. Bass scooped up the ball and ran it back 49 yards for the 'Skins only touchdown of the game as Washington went down to defeat 14-7.

In 1974, Mike was selected 1st Team All-NFC by the AP, Sporting News and UPI and 2nd Team All-Pro by the AP. In his career, Mike had 30 interceptions and ran 3 of them back for touchdowns, in addition to his TD on the Super Bowl fumble. Amazingly, in his 104-game career, regular season plus playoffs games, Bass gave up only 8 touchdown passes!!! That's a remarkable record that speaks to his ability to cover wide receivers. In 2002, he was selected as one of the 70 Greatest Redskins of All Time. Prior to the 1976 season, Mike was forced to retire as a result of a neck injury suffered during the 1975 season. Under Lombardi and Allen, Bass never missed a game, starting 104 straight until his retirement in 1976.

After retirement, Mike relocated to The Bahamas, where he operated his own resort for 18 years. In 1997, Mike returned to the U.S. and accepted a position with the University of Florida as a counselor until 2003. In 2004, Mike established his own consulting firm, which specializes in Internet marketing/sales and real estate investment opportunities. Mike is a humble man with tremendous life experience. He is an excellent choice to share his knowledge with your organization.