



Billy Sims

Billy Sims achieved legendary status as a football player right from high school to college and through the pro ranks. In the football-crazy state of Texas, Billy set records playing for Hooks High School. He then took his talents to Oklahoma University where he played for coach Barry Switzer on the vaunted Sooners football team.

In 1978, Sims won the Heisman Trophy, an award given to the player who is deemed to be the most outstanding player in U.S. college football. That season, he rushed for 1,896 yards and scored 22 TD's while averaging an astounding 7.4 yards per carry. He was the 6th college junior in history to win the award. In his senior season of 1979, he finished runner-up in Heisman voting after rushing for 1,670 yards and scoring 23 touchdowns.

It is no surprise then that Billy was the first overall draft choice in the 1980 NFL draft, taken by the Detroit Lions on the basis of their dismal 2-14 record the previous season. In his first NFL season, he proved that he was worthy of being the top draft choice as he led the Lions to a 9-7 record while being named Rookie of the Year. He rushed 1,303 yards, averaging 4.2 yards per carry. His 13 touchdowns scored led the league. Sims had made the city of Detroit fall back in love with the Lions! The following season, Billy proved that his rookie season wasn't a fluke as he rushed to 1,437 yards for an average yards per carry of 4.9. He again scored 13 TD's.

Tragically, we will never know what Billy's place in history would have been if he had remained healthy. A catastrophic knee injury incurred in the 1984 season ended his career after only 5 seasons. Certainly during his time in the NFL, Billy proved to be one of the very best ever. However, we will never know if he might have been able to challenge for the all-time career rushing record.

In just 5 seasons, two of which were truncated due to injury, Sims rolled up 5,106 rushing yards and added 2,072 receiving yards for a total of 7,178 yards! He was named to the Pro Bowl three times – 1980, 1981 and 1982 – and was a First-Team All Pro in 1981 and a Second-Team All Pro in 1980. Billy's #20, also worn by Lions greats Barry Sanders and Lem Barney, has been retired by the team as an honour to three of their greatest players.

As you travel the midwest USA, keep an eye out for a Billy Sims Barbecue Restaurant which number 45 locations and enjoy some great food made famous by an outstanding player! Billy is fully involved with the restaurants that bear his name.

Contact us today to book Billy Sims for your event and enjoy meeting this humble superstar.

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