

NFL'S GREATEST

THE GREATEST

QUARTERBACKS OF ALL TIME

by Marty Gitlin



BrightPoint Press



© 2021 BrightPoint Press
an imprint of ReferencePoint Press, Inc.
Printed in the United States

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PO Box 27779
San Diego, CA 92198
www.BrightPointPress.com

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LIBRARY OF CONGRESS CATALOGING-IN-PUBLICATION DATA

Names: Gitlin, Marty, author.

Title: The greatest quarterbacks of all time / by Marty Gitlin.

Description: San Diego, CA : ReferencePoint Press, [2021] | Series: NFL's greatest | Includes bibliographical references and index. | Audience: Grades 10-12

Identifiers: LCCN 2020002446 (print) | LCCN 2020002447 (eBook) | ISBN 9781682829950 (Hardcover) | ISBN 9781682829967 (eBook)

Subjects: LCSH: Quarterbacks (Football)--United States--Biography--Juvenile literature. | Quarterbacks (Football)--Rating of--United States--Juvenile literature. | Pro Football Hall of Fame (U.S.)--History--Juvenile literature. | National Football League--History--Juvenile literature.

Classification: LCC GV939.A1 G579 2021 (print) | LCC GV939.A1 (eBook) | DDC 796.332092/2--dc23

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2020002446>

LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2020002447>

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LEADING THE OFFENSE

They are the field generals. They call out plays in the huddle. They control the action. They are the quarterbacks. And they are the most important players in football.

The play begins when the center snaps the ball to the quarterback. The quarterback then has three options. He can hand the



The quarterback is responsible for making big decisions on the field.

ball to a running back. He can throw it to a receiver. Or he can take off and run with it.

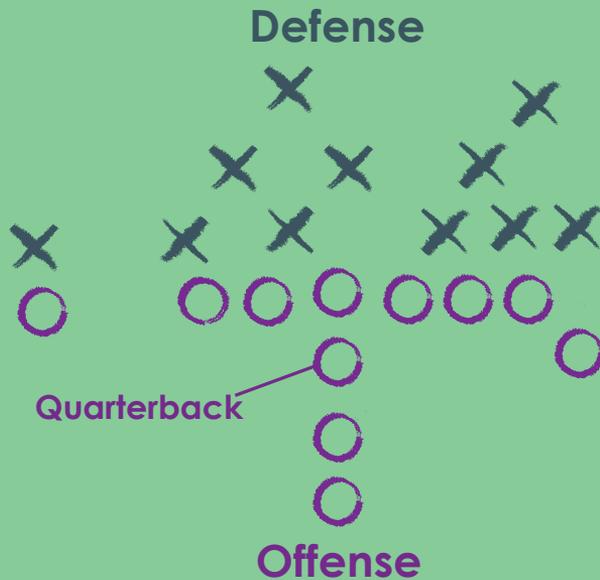
The quarterback must know what his teammates plan to do on every play.

He needs to read defenses to decide where to attack them. And he must decide where to throw the ball in a split second.

The quarterback must be a leader. It is critical that teammates believe in him. Quarterbacks with such qualities give the offense confidence. Teammates work hard to play for quarterbacks they respect.

Every quarterback has a different style. Some have strong arms and can throw the ball far. Others have great **accuracy**. Many quarterbacks are quick and fast. They gain a lot of yards running with the ball.

Where Quarterbacks Play



The quarterback usually begins the play at the center of the offense. He may pass the ball, run it, or hand it off.

Who are the greatest quarterbacks in NFL history? Experts have different opinions. But some quarterbacks are considered by many to be among the finest ever.

SAMMY BAUGH

Sammy Baugh was nicknamed “Slingin’ Sammy.” He was slinging passes all over the field. The result was two NFL titles.

Baugh led the league eight times in completion percentage. He completed 57 percent of his passes. Many quarterbacks of his time completed less than half their throws.



Sammy Baugh played for the Washington Redskins from 1937 to 1952.

He wasted no time making his mark.

He led the Washington Redskins to the crown as a rookie in 1937. He fired three **touchdown** passes to beat Chicago.

Baugh went on to lead the NFL in passing yards four times.

NOT JUST A QUARTERBACK

Many early NFL stars played more than one position. Baugh was not just a great quarterback. He played defensive back, too. Baugh also played punter. He even led the league in punting average five times.

KEY STATS (THROUGH 2019)

CAREER YARDS PASSING

Drew Brees*: 77,416
Tom Brady*: 74,571
Peyton Manning: 71,940
Brett Favre: 71,838
Dan Marino: 61,361

CAREER TOUCHDOWN PASSES

Drew Brees*: 547
Tom Brady*: 541
Peyton Manning: 539
Brett Favre: 508
Dan Marino: 420



GLOSSARY

accuracy

How well a pass is aimed at its target.

draft

An annual event in which NFL teams choose college players to play for them.

interception

A pass caught by a player on the opposing team.

merged

Combined two things into one.

overtime

An extra period in a tied football game to determine a winner.

red zone

The territory on a football field within 20 yards of a touchdown for an offense.

statistics

Information about a player's performance in numbers.

Super Bowl

The annual NFL title game between AFC and NFC champions.

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