Most Dropped Passes In Nfl History



Most Dropped Passes in NFL History: A Gridiron Gauntlet of Uncaught Opportunities

The roar of the crowd, the tension in the stadium... and then, the thud. A dropped pass. A moment that can shift the momentum of a game, a season, even a legacy. While spectacular catches often steal the headlines, the silent, frustrating scourge of dropped passes significantly impacts NFL success. This post dives deep into the murky world of uncaught opportunities, exploring the players with the most dropped passes in NFL history, the factors contributing to this unfortunate statistic, and the lasting impact it has on both individual players and team performance. We'll uncover the data, analyze the reasons, and ultimately, appreciate the pressure cooker that is the NFL.

Understanding the Data Challenges in Tracking Dropped Passes

Before we dive into the rankings, it's crucial to acknowledge a significant hurdle: consistent and accurate data on dropped passes throughout NFL history is notoriously difficult to obtain. Official NFL stats don't historically track dropped passes with the same precision as other metrics like touchdowns or interceptions. Different sources use varying methodologies, making direct comparisons challenging. What one source classifies as a drop, another might deem a slightly deflected ball or a bad throw.

This inherent ambiguity means any "most dropped passes" list should be approached with a degree of caution. We'll focus on the most reliable sources available, acknowledging the inherent limitations.

The Perils of Pinpointing the "Most": A Methodology Discussion

Due to the aforementioned data inconsistencies, providing a definitive, universally accepted list of players with the "most" dropped passes is impossible. Official NFL records simply don't exist in this granular detail for the entire history of the league. Any ranking will necessarily rely on compiled data from various sources, and these sources may have different criteria.

Instead of a strictly numerical ranking (which would be inherently flawed), we'll discuss the prominent names consistently associated with high numbers of dropped passes over their careers. This approach allows for a more nuanced and insightful discussion of the issue.

Players Frequently Cited in "Most Dropped Passes" Discussions

While definitive numbers are elusive, certain players' names repeatedly surface in discussions about dropped passes. These players aren't necessarily definitively ranked, but represent a consistent narrative around a higher-than-average number of dropped passes throughout their careers. Factors like playing time, position (wide receivers bear the brunt of this statistic), and overall career length all influence the final outcome. It's also essential to contextualize these numbers; a player with a high number of targets naturally increases their potential for dropped passes.

The Influence of Target Volume

Consider this: a receiver targeted 150 times in a season is statistically more likely to have a higher number of dropped passes than a receiver targeted only 50 times. A player with a high volume of targets is a critical offensive piece, which means they're often in high-pressure situations where drops can be devastating. This needs to be considered when evaluating any potential "most dropped passes" list.

Beyond the Numbers: Factors Contributing to Dropped Passes

The number of dropped passes isn't simply a reflection of a player's skill. Several external and internal factors significantly contribute to this statistic:

1. The Quality of the Throw:

An inaccurate or poorly thrown ball is a major contributor to drops. A quarterback's arm strength, accuracy, and timing all play a critical role.

2. Defensive Pressure:

When a quarterback is under duress, throws become rushed and less accurate, increasing the chance of a dropped pass.

3. Weather Conditions:

Rain, wind, and cold significantly impact a receiver's ability to handle the ball securely.

4. Hand Size and Technique:

A player's hand size and catching technique directly impact their ability to secure the ball, especially in contested situations.

5. Mental Factors:

Pressure, confidence, and focus all play a crucial role. A player lacking confidence or struggling with mental fatigue is more prone to dropping passes.

The Long-Term Impact of Dropped Passes

The consequences of consistently dropping passes extend beyond individual performances. For teams, it directly affects offensive efficiency, points scored, and ultimately, the outcome of games. For players, a reputation for dropping passes can impact confidence, playing time, and even future career prospects.

Conclusion

While a definitive list of players with the most dropped passes in NFL history is hampered by data limitations, the issue remains a significant factor in the game's dynamics. Understanding the contributing factors, beyond simply counting drops, offers a more nuanced perspective on this crucial aspect of offensive football. The pressure-cooker environment of the NFL demands precision, and dropped passes serve as a stark reminder of the razor-thin margin between success and failure.

FAQs

1. Are there any official NFL stats tracking dropped passes comprehensively throughout history? No, official NFL statistics don't comprehensively track dropped passes historically with the same accuracy as other metrics.

- 2. How can we improve the accuracy of tracking dropped passes in the future? Enhanced technology, such as advanced tracking systems, could potentially provide more accurate and consistent data.
- 3. Does playing position significantly influence the number of dropped passes a player might have? Yes, wide receivers, typically having the most targets, tend to have the highest number of recorded dropped passes.
- 4. How do coaching staffs address the issue of dropped passes in their players? Coaches often incorporate specialized drills focusing on hand technique, concentration, and route-running to improve players' catching skills.
- 5. Can we definitively say which player has the most dropped passes ever? No. Due to inconsistent data across different sources and throughout NFL history, a definitive ranking is impossible. We can, however, discuss players frequently associated with high drop rates.

most dropped passes in nfl history: The NFL in the 1970s Joe Zagorski, 2016-07-08 The 1970 merger between the American Football League and the National Football League laid the foundation for a stronger brand of gridiron competition, providing a new level of excitement for fans. This book examines each year of the NFL's pivotal decade in detail, covering the great names, great rivalries and great games, as well as the key changes in both strategy and rules. Along the way, the author explains how pro football developed into a near-religious American tradition.

most dropped passes in nfl history: Tom Brady vs. the NFL Sean Glennon, 2016-09-15 Showcasing one of professional football's best players, this book spotlights the life and career of gridiron great Tom Brady. More than just a biography, it relates Brady's story while also establishing his prominent place in NFL history. By examining his skills and statistics in a variety of categories and comparing him to other great quarterbacks—including Peyton Manning, Joe Montana, Bart Starr, Johnny Unitas, Roger Staubach, Aaron Rodgers, and more—the guide makes a strong case for Brady as football's best signal caller. Along the way, his best moments as a Patriot are revisited, from championship seasons spanning from 2001 to 2015, to his favorite receivers, to his relationship with legendary coach Bill Belichick and the Deflategate scandal in 2015. With detailed sidebars on Brady's celebrity status, fashion sense, much-talked-about hair, and supermodel wife, this revised and updated edition is a must-have for faithful New England fans and pro football buffs alike.

most dropped passes in nfl history: History of the NFL First 100 Year's You Sure Started Somethin' R.D. Griffith, 2021-12-16 Are you searching for a book about American Football that has it all? R. D. Griffith will take you on a comprehensive drive through the history and highlights of American Football, its salient details, from its inception at the turn of the century to its centralized embodiment now in the modern era, the NFL. He will share with you the challenges the game faced through the Great Depression and two World Wars, including the spicy anecdotes of the people comprising the great game of American Football throughout the years.

most dropped passes in nfl history: The Raiders Encyclopedia Richard J. Shmelter, 2014-01-10 This is the definitive reference work on the NFL's Oakland/Los Angeles Raiders. Part I is a season-by-season review, covering each game and player from every campaign. Part II includes a complete all-time roster of players and coaches, with biographical information, along with information on all draft picks, schedules, and individual awards and honors. Part III covers the characters, from executives to cheerleaders, who made the Raiders one of the most colorful organizations in professional sports, and details the franchise's historic stadiums and uniforms.

most dropped passes in nfl history: Football Is a Numbers Game Shane Frederick, 2018 What does a quarterback rating have to do with gridiron greatness? More than you think. In this fun and smart look at football, you will discover stories and uncover facts that will help you better

understand and enjoy every kickoff, tackle, and touchdown all the more.

most dropped passes in nfl history: Tom Brady David Fischer, 2021-09-01 Selected by the New England Patriots as the 199th overall pick in the sixth round of the 2000 NFL draft, Tom Brady is arguably the greatest quarterback in pro football history. He has seven Super Bowl rings, five Super Bowl MVP awards, and has won NFL MVP honors three times. He is one of only two starting quarterbacks to have won Super Bowls with two different teams and is the first NFL player to win titles in three different decades. Having completed his 21st NFL season, Brady holds more than 50 NFL records and is one of the longest-tenured players in league history. After leading the Patriots through two decades of dominance, Brady cemented his GOAT status by taking the Buccaneers to a title in his first season in Tampa. This fully illustrated book celebrates Brady's career with passionate and vivid prose, supreme photographic images, and call-out quotes. In addition, dozens of personal anecdotes and recollections about Brady from prominent members of the NFL community enhance this nostalgic experience.

most dropped passes in nfl history: Undeniable The Athletic, 2024-02-27 In Super Bowl LVIII, the Kansas City Chiefs finished off their most improbable championship season yet by triumphing over the San Francisco 49ers and solidifying that their status as a modern NFL dynasty. Undeniable takes fans through the remarkable journey that was the 2023-2024 campaign, from the unwavering leadership of Patrick Mahomes, to the rise of a young yet formidable defense, to the statement-making playoff wins against the Dolphins, Bills and Ravens that cleared the way for a Super Bowl to remember. Featuring in-depth writing from The Athletic plus dozens of photos, this commemorative edition takes fans from the league's toughest training camp all the way through overtime in Las Vegas. This keepsake also features in-depth stories on Mahomes, Travis Kelce, Andy Reid, Steve Spagnuolo and more.

most dropped passes in nfl history: The Rise of the Black Quarterback Jason Reid, 2022-08-02 A compulsively readable sports narrative by senior NFL writer for ESPN's The Undefeated (now Andscape), Jason Reid, chronicling both the history of Black players in the NFL, such as Warren Moon, and the recent careers of groundbreaking Black guarterbacks, including Colin Kaepernick. In September 2019, ESPN's The Undefeated website (now Andscape) began a season-long series of articles on the emergence of Black quarterbacks in the NFL. The first article in the series was Jason Reid's enormously popular, Welcome to the Year of the Black Quarterback. The series culminated with an hour-long television program in February 2020, hosted by Reid himself. The Rise of the Black Quarterback: What It Means for America will expand on Reid's piece—as well as the entire series—and chronicle the shameful history of the treatment of Black players in the NFL and the breakout careers of a thrilling new generation of Black quarterbacks. Intimate portraits of Colin Kaepernick, Patrick Mahomes, Lamar Jackson, and Kyler Murray feature prominently in the book, as well as the careers and legacy of beloved NFL players such as Doug Williams and trailblazing pioneers Marlin Briscoe and Eldridge Dickey. Reid delves deeply into the culture war ignited by Kaepernick's peaceful protest that shone a light on systemic oppression and police brutality. Fascinating and timely, this page-turning account will rivet fans of sports, cultural commentary, and Black history in America.

most dropped passes in nfl history: THE HISTORY OF THE NFL James Bren, The History of the NFL by James Bren is a must-read for football fans and sports enthusiasts alike. This book chronicles the remarkable story of the National Football League, from its origins as a rag-tag collection of teams in the 1920s to the powerhouse that it is today. Bren's meticulous research and engaging writing style bring to life the iconic moments, players, and coaches that have shaped the league. From the dynasties of the Green Bay Packers, Pittsburgh Steelers, and San Francisco 49ers to the rise of modern-day superstars like Tom Brady and Patrick Mahomes, Bren covers it all. The book is organized chronologically, starting with the early days of the NFL and moving through each decade. Bren provides context for each era, discussing the social, political, and cultural events that influenced the league's development. He also delves into the game itself, analyzing the strategic innovations, rule changes, and technological advances that have made the NFL what it is today.

Bren's attention to detail is impressive. He not only covers the major events in NFL history but also shines a light on lesser-known stories and forgotten heroes. From the first NFL draft in 1936 to the groundbreaking TV contracts of the 1960s, from the rise of Monday Night Football to the scandals that have rocked the league, Bren leaves no stone unturned. The History of the NFL is more than just a retelling of past events. It's a celebration of the game, its players, and its fans. Bren captures the passion and excitement that make football the most popular sport in America, and his book is sure to be a hit with anyone who loves the game.

most dropped passes in nfl history: Sapp Attack Warren Sapp, David Fisher, 2012-08-21 In his no-holds-barred memoir, Sapp Attack!, Warren Sapp, one of the NFL's most hilarious and candid personalities, reveals a side of football most fans have never before seen. Big Man. Big Talent. Big Star. Big Mouth. Big Heart. Big Personality. Big Smile. Big Headlines. Warren Sapp, one of pro football's most dominating defensive players both on and off the field, has a reputation for being bold, brash, knowledgeable, and outspoken. During his All-American career at the University of Miami, 13 seasons as an NFL star, four years on the NFL Network and one very big season on Dancing with the Stars, Sapp has never held back. Now he brings that same fearless attitude to his memoir, a book that will create controversy and headlines; in other words, pure Warren Sapp. Sapp has won every award possible for a defensive player, but it wasn't just his extraordinarily athletic ability that made him a star; it was also his ability to understand the subtleties of the game. He writes about working his way up from the high school gridiron to one of the top college football programs in the country, to the NFL, and reveals how the system actually works—the behind-the-scenes plays that fans rarely get to see. He'll discuss what it was like to face some of the greatest players in NFL history, including Hall of Famers Steve Young and Jerry Rice, both of whom he put out of the game, and Bret Favre, whom he sacked eleven times during his career. In this revealing, hilarious, and must-read book, Sapp offers readers a look inside the life of one of football's biggest stars and shares his often controversial opinions about the state of pro football today and its future.

most dropped passes in nfl history: The National Forgotten League Dan Daly, 2012-10-01 The first fifty years of America's most popular spectator sport have been strangely neglected by historians claiming to tell the "complete story" of pro football. Well, here are the early stories that "complete story" has left out. What about the awful secret carried around by Sid Luckman, the Bears' Hall of Fame quarterback whose father was a mobster and a murderer? Or Steve Hamas, who briefly played in the NFL then turned to boxing and beat Max Schmeling, conqueror of Joe Louis? Or the two one-armed players who suited up for NFL teams in 1945? Or Steelers owner Art Rooney postponing a game in 1938 because of injuries? These are just a few of the little-known facts Dan Daly unearths in recounting the untold history of pro football in its first half century. These decades were also full of ideas and experimentation, such as the invention of the modern T formation that revolutionized offense, unlimited player substitution, and soccer-style kicking, as well as the emergence of televised pro football as prime-time entertainment. Relying on obscure sources, original interviews, old game films and statistical databases, Daly's extensive research and engaging stories bring the NFL's formative years—and pro football's folk roots—to life.

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most dropped passes in nfl history: *The Mad Dog Hall of Fame* Christopher Russo, Allen St. John, 2007-05-01 From the creators of The Mad Dog 100 comes a definitive ranking of each sport's greatest players, places, and moments in sports history, featuring such top ten lists as the Top 10 Coaches of All Time, the Top 10 Sports Venues, the Top 10 Sports Moments in History, and the Top 10 Players in Baseball, NFL Football, College Basketball, and more. Reprint. 20,000 first printing.

most dropped passes in nfl history: Drew Brees David Aretha, 2020-06-01 Quarterback Drew

Brees joined the New Orleans Saints as a free agent nine months after suffering a terrible injury. Since then he has broken numerous quarterback records, including highest number of passing completions and yards throughout his career. Brees is considered by some to be the greatest quarterback of all time. Drew Brees is a compelling profile of one of football's greatest quarterbacks. This lively biography provides readers with a behind-the-scenes look at Brees's personality, life, and career.

most dropped passes in nfl history: Coming Back Stronger Drew Brees, 2010-07-06 When a potentially career-ending shoulder injury left quarterback Drew Brees without a team—and facing the daunting task of having to learn to throw a football all over again—coaches around the NFL wondered, Will he ever come back? After Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans, leaving more than 80 percent of the city underwater, many wondered, Will the city ever come back? And with their stadium transformed into a makeshift refugee camp, forcing the Saints to play their entire 2005 season on the road, people questioned, Will the Saints ever come back? It takes a special person to turn adversity into success and despair into hope—yet that is exactly what Super Bowl MVP Drew Brees has done—and with the weight of an entire city on his shoulders. Coming Back Stronger is the ultimate comeback story, not only of one of the NFL's top quarterbacks, but also of a city and a team that many had all but given up on. Brees's inspiring message of hope and encouragement proves that with enough faith, determination, and heart, you can overcome any obstacle life throws your way and not only come back, but come back stronger.

most dropped passes in nfl history: The Dallas Cowboys Joe Nick Patoski, 2012-10-09 The definitive, must-have account of the all-time players, coaches, locker rooms and boardrooms that made the Dallas Cowboys America's Team. Since 1960, the Cowboys have never been just about football. From their ego-driven owner and high-profile players to their state-of-the-art stadium and iconic cheerleaders, the Cowboys have become a staple of both football and American culture since the beginning. For over 50 years, wherever the Cowboys play, there are people in the stands in all their glory: thousands of jerseys, hats, and pennants, all declaring the love and loyalty to one of the most influential teams in NFL history. Now, with thrilling insider looks and sweeping reveals of the ever-lasting time, place, and culture of the team, Joe Nick Patoski takes readers - both fans and rivals alike - deep into the captivating world of the Cowboys.

most dropped passes in nfl history: The 50 Greatest Players in Pittsburgh Steelers History Robert W. Cohen, 2019-08-26 The 50 Greatest Players in Pittsburgh Steelers History examines the careers of the 50 men who made the greatest impact on one of the NFL's most iconic and successful franchises. The author ranks, from 1 to 50, the top 50 players in team history. Quotes from opposing players and former teammates are provided along the way, as are summaries of each player's greatest season, most memorable performances, and most notable achievements.

most dropped passes in nfl history: *Green Bay Packers* Don Gulbrandsen, 2011-04-26 The Packers are world champions once again, and Green Bay Packers: The Complete Illustrated History is the ultimate, authoritative look at this storied and beloved sports franchise. In addition to offering a comprehensive history of the team and in-depth profiles of its greatest stars, the book features more than 200 rare and iconic photographs as well as chalkboard diagrams of key plays from team history. It tells of the legends who have defined the Packer legacy for more than 80 years, from Bart Starr to Brett Favre to Aaron Rodgers, Ray Nitschke to Reggie White to Clay Matthews, Curly Lambeau to Vince Lombardi to Mike McCarthy. This fully updated third edition highlights the team's triumphant journey to Super Bowl XLV and includes profiles of the latest Packer stars. Chock full of stats and stories, Green Bay Packers is a book that no Packer fan will want to be without.

most dropped passes in nfl history: The Great Book of San Francisco/Bay Area Sports Lists Damon Bruce, 2009-04-28 The Bay Area is home to multiple popular franchises in all four major sports -- the 49ers and Raiders (NFL), Giants and A's (MLB), Kings and Warriors (NBA), and Sharks (NHL). With such diversity in rooting interest, area fans have much to debate all year long, and prominent Bay Area sports-radio host Damon Bruce is just the man to get the debate going with this entertaining book of original sports and entertainment lists. Bruce also enlists the help of such

notable local stars to contribute their own lists, including Orlando Cepeda, Brent Jones, Gary Radnich, Drew Remeda, Bob Weir of The Grateful Dead, and more.

most dropped passes in nfl history: Big Blue Wrecking Crew Jerry Barca, 2016-08-23 A marauding linebacker who changed the game of football, a tough-as-nails guarterback, and a fiery head coach helped the 1986 New York Giants leave an indelible mark on the NFL. Big Blue Wrecking Crew is the no-holds-barred story of the team that created Giant Football, the pound-vou-into-submission, guarterback-crushing defense, coupled with a powerful ball control offense that resulted in a 1986 Superbowl Championship—the first in team history. In a gripping narrative of the season that changed the course of a franchise, author Jerry Barca takes readers on a wild journey filled with improbable characters. Linebacker Lawrence Taylor partied with the same level of recklessness and violence he put forth when he donned his jersey. Bill Parcells motivated his team in an unrelenting Jersey Guy way, and quiet defensive genius Bill Belichick would go on to greatness. Based on years of research and hundreds of interviews, Barca chronicles the Giants' rise out of rock bottom to their status as a premiere NFL franchise. From behind-the-scenes personnel discussions of general manager George Young to the meeting rooms with Parcells and defensive coordinator Bill Belichick, Big Blue Wrecking Crew is filled with the riveting exploits of unforgettable players. It is an unfiltered look at how enormous egos came together to win a championship, playing hard and partying equally as hard along the way.

most dropped passes in nfl history: NFL 1965 David Kaiser, 2021-11-09 In the mid-1960s, when pro football eclipsed baseball as America's leading spectator sport, the NFL had the most exciting season in its history. The Eastern Conference Cleveland Browns were the champions in 1965 yet most of the action was in the Western Conference, where the reigning Baltimore Colts contended with the formidable Green Bay Packers and Chicago Bears. All three teams played two games apiece against the Detroit Lions, a power earlier in the decade, and the Minnesota Vikings and Los Angeles Rams, who were becoming dominant in the league. In those days the NFL played a wide-open game--long touchdown passes, fumbles and interceptions kept fans on the edges of their seats through seven games each weekend. The league's deep bench included such players as Jim Brown, Johnny Unitas, Tom Matte, Bart Starr, Paul Hornung and Dave Robinson, rookies Gale Sayers and Dick Butkus, and key coaches Don Shula, Vince Lombardi and George Halas. A fantastic final weekend led to a one-game playoff for the right to face the Browns for the championship. Drawing on interviews with surviving players and executives, this book recounts the thrilling drama of the '65 season and places it in the broader context of NFL history.

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most dropped passes in nfl history: *More Distant Memories* Danny Jones, 2006-12-12 This book is about Pro Football's best ever players and forgotten heroes from a bygone era. They were the superstars of the NFL and the AFL during the fabulous 50's, the glorious 60's, and the fun-loving 70's. However, none of these legends are in the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio with the exception of Bob Brown- who was finally selected in 2004 and Gene Hickerson- who was selected in 2007. These exciting players revolutionized the game of Pro Football with their outstanding

performances and were the NFL's and AFL's biggest gate attractions. This book is a sequel to my first book, Distant Memories: The NFL's Best Ever Players of the 60's and 70's. I have chronicled the careers of 30 great football players and have provided you a glimpse back at the best seasons, longest touchdowns, and the big plays of their illustrious careers. Most of these men should be in the Hall of Fame. J.D. Hill and Golden Richards will never be selected because they don't have the statistics, but they were 2 of the NFL's most sensational players. All of these players had Hall of Fame talent and most of them also had Hall of Fame like statistics. More Distant Memories is more than a book about great football players. It's about the men who played the game and the humanity behind the facemasks. These legendary heros and mavericks provided excitement and happiness to millions of football fans across America. These players are lost treasures and have simply been forgotten as time goes by. They were brilliant players and dedicated professionals. Their place in Pro Football history is secure regardless of any Hall of Fame status. It was these trailblazers, legends, and other stars from the glorious past that made Pro Football our national pastime and America's game. Enjoy your trip down memory lane. http://www.starsofthenfl.com/index.html

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most dropped passes in nfl history: Britannica World Data, 1985

most dropped passes in nfl history: History of the Chicago Bears 1920 - 2023 Brian Aldridge, 2024-02-14 Time to follow Papa Bear George Halas's club from 1920 to 2022. Check out all the scores! Find out who played QB (if known), and who led the club in rushing and receiving. When did they become the Monsters of the Midway? Who was the only one to score twice in their 73-0 win vs. the Washington Redskins? The list of Hall of Famers is long - and includes several linebackers, running backs, and two-way players. What's inside: from Grange, Nagurski, Sayers, Payton, Forte, to Justin Fields; the 1985 Super Bowl champs up to the 2022 squad. And that ain't all: Year-end Standings, Club news, and Game scores/summaries League news: rule changes, trends, trades, list of rookies and those in their last year; list of Noteworthy games Stat leaders: top Rushers, Passers, Receivers, Scorers, and individual defensive stats Year-end Awards and Championship Game/Super Bowl outcomes

most dropped passes in nfl history: *New York Jets* Mark Cannizzaro, 2011 This fully illustrated history of the New York Jets celebrates the team from its origins in 1960 through today. It highlights the great players, coaches, teams, and moments that have made the Jets one of the most successful franchises in NFL history--

most dropped passes in nfl history: Warpaths Alan Hoskins, 1999-10-01 From the team's meager beginning as the Dallas Texans in the fledgling American Football League in the sixties, through the ups and downs of the seventies and eighties, to the rebirth of their winning ways in the nineties, Warpaths: The Illustrated History of the Kansas City Chiefs follows one of the NFL's most popular teams through victories, setbacks, and struggles for respect.

most dropped passes in nfl history: Who's Better, Who's Best in Football? Steve Silverman, 2009-09 Applying the analytical methods he developed as a senior editor at Pro Football Weekly, Silverman ranks the top 75 players in NFL history, from legendary old-timers like Sammy Baugh to present-day superstars like Peyton Manning.

most dropped passes in nfl history: Pass Receiving in Early Pro Football Jerry Roberts, 2016-01-14 Big television contracts in the 1960s created the Super Bowl, as well as the 1970 merger of the National Football League with the pass-oriented American Football League. Since then, professional football has been America's most popular televised team sport, developing into a wide-open passing game by the 21st century. Handling the completion side of the aerial game, receivers are not often as celebrated as quarterbacks or coaches, even in the era of San Francisco 49er Jerry Rice's supremacy. This book provides a history of pro pass receiving and its influence on the game prior to the televised era. The author studies pro football's formative and mid-20th century years, highlighting the players who pulled pigskins from flight, like the legendary Don Hutson, Gibby Welch, Johnny Blood, Ray Flaherty, Crazy Legs Hirsch, Mac Speedie, Choo Choo Roberts and many others.

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most dropped passes in nfl history: Da Bears! Steve Delsohn, 2011-09-06 An acclaimed sports journalist and native Chicagoan tackles what many call the greatest team in NFL history. Da Bears! tells the full story of the '85 legends—with all the controversy and excitement—on the field and off. It's been 25 years since the Chicago Bears won Super Bowl XX with what Bill Parcells called "the best defensive team I've ever seen" and an offense surprisingly good for a franchise where offense was often a dirty word. Now, for the first time, an incredibly candid book takes you through all the games and behind the scenes—into the huddles, the locker rooms, the team meetings, and of course the bars—for an intimate account of that unforgettable season. Here's how a team that got booed in its regular-season opener ended up winning its first world championship in 22 years, led by the most capable, colorful, and un-PC characters ever to strap on helmets—including Jim McMahon, the hard partyer and so-called punk rocker who became a star quarterback and an antihero; William "Refrigerator" Perry, the rookie giant who turned into a full-blown national sensation; Mike Ditka, the legendarily combative head coach called "Sybil" for his mercurial moods; his nemesis, defensive coordinator, Buddy Ryan, who insulted and broke down his players, then built them back up again, military-style; Walter Payton, the hard-nosed running back and mischievous prankster; and middle linebacker Mike Singletary, known for his leadership and his jarring hits. From the inner workings of their innovative and attacking 46 defense to the inside story of their cocky "Super Bowl Shuffle" music video (shot, amazingly, right after their one loss of the season, to Miami), all the setbacks and triumphs, ferocious hits and foibles, of this once-in-a-lifetime team are recaptured brashly and boldly—the Chicago way.

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Franck and Bill Daley recall their most memorable games. The Gophers won another national title and went to two Rose Bowls in the early '60s under coach Murray Warmath and quarterback Sandy Stephens, who became the first black quarterback to earn All-America honors at a major college. Warmath remembers the second Rose Bowl as his most memorable game. Other memorable Gophers include future NFL legend Bud Grant, future NFL coaching great Tony Dungy, and current Denver Broncos player Eric Decker, all of whom are featured in Game of My Life Minnesota Gophers.

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