



EARNEST BYNER

RUNNING BACK HT: 5-10 WT: 215



COLLEGE: East Carolina
EXP.: 14 NFL Seasons
BORN: 9/15/62, Milledgeville, Ga.

DRAFTED: 1984, 10th Round (280th Overall) by Cleveland
GP/GS (PLAYOFFS): 211/132 (7/7)
PRO BOWLS: 2 (1990-91)

CAREER SNAPSHOT

- Earnest Byner left no doubt at the end of his career that he is one of the elite running backs in NFL history. His versatile skill as a sure-handed back who was also an outstanding blocker can be mentioned in the same breath as Thurman Thomas.
- He ended his career after the 1997 season as one of six active players with 8,000 career rushing yards (Marcus Allen, Barry Sanders, Thurman Thomas, Herschel Walker and Emmitt Smith) and was No. 16 on the NFL's all-time rushing list, just 117 yards behind Joe Perry.
- Career stats include: 8,261 rushing yards on 2,095 carries and 56 rushing TDs. Add to that 15 receiving TDs, plus one from a recovered fumble, which equals 72 total career TDs.
- He caught 512 career passes for 4,605 yards, which upon his retirement, was sixth all time among running backs in receptions.
- In his playing days, Byner ran on pace with Barry Sanders and Emmitt Smith as the fourth-leading rusher (3,845 yards) over a four-season span (1989-92).
- A 10th-round pick (280th overall) of the Browns in the 1984 Draft, he was traded to Washington in 1989, but was able to re-sign with Cleveland as an unrestricted free agent prior to the 1994 season. Byner became a Raven in 1996, when the franchise moved to Baltimore.
- Was a member of the Redskins' 1991 Super Bowl XXVI Championship team, compiling 1,356 yards from scrimmage (1,048 rushing & 308 receiving) that season.

Hall of Famer Joe Gibbs on Earnest Byner:

"His toughness carried over to the rest of a Super Bowl team. He was special, and we looked to him. I wish we had 15 Earnest Byners when he was a Redskin. We played him at running back, receiver, tight end and H-back. How many players could do that? He was smart enough and tough enough for any role we gave him. And, he did them all at the highest levels."

"ONE OF THE MOST PHYSICAL RUNNING BACKS IN THE NFL."

- HALL OF FAMER MERLIN OLSEN ON BYNER

HONORS

- Two-time Pro Bowler (1990-91)
- Super Bowl XXVI Champion (Washington)
- NFC Offensive Player of the Month (December, 1990)
- Two-time AFC Offensive Player of the Week (1987 & 1996 seasons)
- 1991 *AP* and *College & Pro Football Weekly* All-Pro
- Baltimore Ravens Ring of Honor (2000)

"EARNEST IS A HERO TO US. WHEN YOU COMBINE ALL OF HIS SKILLS, IT'S HARD TO FIND ANY OTHER BETTER BACK. HE'S A TEAM LEADER. HIS RUNNING BACK NUMBERS COMPARE WITH ANY OTHER OF THE BEST BACKS PLAYING IN THE LEAGUE. WE DON'T HAVE ANYONE WHO CATCHES THE BALL AS WELL, AND YOU WON'T FIND A BACK WHO BLOCKS BETTER THAN HE DOES, BOTH IN OUR PASS PROTECTION AND RUNNING."

- MARTY SCHOTTENHEIMER TO SPORTS ILLUSTRATED IN 1987



"THE FINEST ALL-AROUND RUNNING BACK I EVER HAD."

- HALL OF FAMER JOE GIBBS ON BYNER



EARNEST BYNER

REGULAR SEASON CAREER STATISTICS

Year	Team	GP	GS	RUSHING					RECEIVING				
				No.	Yards	Avg.	LG	TD	No.	Yards	Avg.	LG	TD
1984	Cleveland	16	3	72	426	*5.9	54	2	11	118	10.7	26	0
1985	Cleveland	16	13	*244	1,002	4.1	36	*8	45	460	10.2	31	2
1986	Cleveland	7	7	94	277	2.9	37	2	37	328	8.9	40	2
1987	Cleveland	12	12	105	432	4.1	21	*8	*52	552	10.6	37	2
1988	Cleveland	16	16	*157	*576	3.7	27t	*3	*59	576	9.8	39t	2
1989	Washington	16	13	134	580	*4.3	24	*7	54	458	8.5	27	2
1990	Washington	16	16	*297	*1,219	4.1	22	*6	31	279	9.0	19	1
1991	Washington	16	16	*274	*1,048	3.8	32	5	34	308	9.1	31	0
1992	Washington	16	16	*262	*998	*3.8	23	*6	39	338	8.7	29	1
1993	Washington	16	3	23	105	*4.6	16	1	27	194	7.2	20	0
1994	Cleveland	16	1	75	219	2.9	15	2	11	102	9.3	30	0
1995	Cleveland	16	2	115	432	3.8	23	*2	*61	494	8.1	29t	2
1996	Baltimore	16	8	159	634	4.0	42	*4	30	270	9.0	40	1
1997	Baltimore	16	6	84	313	3.7	19	0	21	128	6.1	17	0
Totals		211	132	2,095	8,261	3.9	54	56	512	4,605	9.0	40	15

*LED TEAM

Additional Stats: Completed 3 of 10 passes for 90 yards and 3 TDs...Also recorded 576 KOR yards on 33 attempts.

Postseason: Rushed for 839 yards and 5 TDs on 186 attempts (4.5 avg.), adding 39 receptions for 388 yards and 3 TDs in seven games.

October 28, 2019

Hall of Fame Selection Committee
 Pro Football Hall of Fame
 2121 George Halas Drive, N.W.
 Canton, Ohio 44708

Dear Members of the Hall of Fame Selection Committee:

I write this note to encourage the Hall of Fame Selection Committee to consider a former opponent of mine as a Hall of Fame candidate.

He is Running Back Earnest Byner.

Earnest had a skill set that he perfected and he brought it EVERY Sunday. No Weakness! He could run the ball, he was a tough Run Blocker, pick up Blitz, was good as Route runner out of the backfield or split out as a receiver, he had Great Hands and Great Endurance! He was a Problem for us twice a year.

It is my hope that he would get the full support and vote from the Hall of Fame Selection Committee to be included in the induction to the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Lawrence Taylor
Pro Football Hall of Fame 1999



EARNEST BYNER

October 25, 2019

Hall of Fame Selection Committee
Pro Football Hall of Fame
2121 George Halas Drive, N.W.
Canton, Ohio 44708

Dear Members of the Hall of Fame Selection Committee:

I am writing a letter to encourage the Hall of Fame Selection Committee to consider a former teammate of mine, Running Back Earnest Byner, as a Hall of Fame candidate.

As an offensive player with the Washington Redskins, we would always watch the defensive unit of our opponents. However, as we were preparing for one of our games, coach Joe Gibbs had the entire team watch a segment of film of a running back that grabbed his attention on how he played the game; and to suggest and encourage everyone that this was the way that everyone needed to perform. That running back was Earnest Byner. Needless to say, we were all impressed with what we saw as we watched him perform his running and blocking assignments. He was the type of player that coach Joe Gibbs knew would fit perfectly on our team, and the following off-season Joe made sure that the Redskins organization pursued and acquired Earnest from the Cleveland Browns and was added to the Washington Redskin's roster.

Having played with Earnest I can personally attest to the fact that there was something different about his approach to the game. He took practice seriously, as well as his weight training, conditioning, and film study. He was determined to show and prove to everyone that he was a force to be reckoned with; and he was. Although Earnest was not the flashy slashing type running back that excited a crowd, it was his tough hard-nosed running style that proved to be just as effective.

Earnest was a perfect fit and proved to play a major role in our offensive scheme. He was a versatile back who could effectively do whatever we needed him to do. Whether running, pass blocking, run blocking or receiving, there are very few football players who played as many positions as Earnest at the level of performance he played consistently.

It was the results of his versatility and particular running style that helped lead us back into a fourth Super Bowl in 1991.

It is my sincere hope that he would get the full support and vote from the Hall of Fame Selection Committee to be inducted for the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Art Monk
Pro Football Hall of Fame 2008

