

# Steve McNair

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Steve McNair

[refer to caption](#)

McNair with the Baltimore Ravens in 2006

**No. 9**

**Position:** [Quarterback](#)

## Personal information

**Born:** February 14, 1973  
[Mount Olive, Mississippi](#)

**Died:** July 4, 2009 (aged 36)  
[Nashville, Tennessee](#)

**Height:** 6 ft 2 in (1.88 m)

**Weight:** 230 lb (104 kg)

## Career information

**High school:** [Mount Olive \(MS\)](#)

**College:** [Alcorn State](#)

**NFL Draft:** [1995](#) / Round: 1 / Pick: 3

## Career history

- [Houston / Tennessee Oilers / Titans \(1995–2005\)](#)
- [Baltimore Ravens \(2006–2007\)](#)

## Career highlights and awards

- [AFC Champion](#) (1999)
- 3× [Pro Bowl](#) ([2000](#), [2003](#), [2005](#))
- Second-team [All-Pro](#) (2003)
- [NFL Most Valuable Player](#) (2003)
- [NFL passer rating leader](#) (2003)
- [Walter Payton Award](#) (1994)
- [Titans/Oilers Ring of Honor](#)
- [Tennessee Titans No. 9](#) retired<sup>[1]</sup>

## Career NFL statistics

**TD-INT:** 174-119

**Passing yards:** 31,304

**Passer rating:** 82.8

**Rushing yards:** 3,590

**Rushing touchdowns:** 37

Player stats at [NFL.com](#)

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**Steve LaTreal McNair** (February 14, 1973 – July 4, 2009, nicknamed "Air McNair") was an [American football quarterback](#) who played for the [Tennessee Titans](#) and the [Baltimore Ravens](#) of the [National Football League](#). He played [college football](#) for [Alcorn State University](#). McNair was [murdered](#) on July 4, 2009.

## Early life

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McNair was born in [Mount Olive, Mississippi, USA](#) McNair credits much of his success to his older brother, Fred, who played a very important part in raising McNair and his siblings, plus helping their mother. He and attended Mount Olive High School starting in 1987, where he played [football](#), [baseball](#), and [basketball](#), and ran track. He led his school to the State Championship as a sophomore.

## College career

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McNair was offered a full scholarship to the [University of Florida](#) to play defensive back but wanting to play [quarterback](#). McNair played [college football](#) for [Alcorn State University](#) in the [NCAA](#). In 1992, McNair threw for 3,541 yards and 29 touchdowns, and ran in for 10 more scores. The Braves went 7-4. McNair helped Alcorn State to another good year in 1993, as the Braves upped their record to 8-3 while McNair threw for more than 3,000 yards and 30 touchdowns.

As a senior in 1994, McNair had nearly 6,000 yards rushing and passing, with 53 [touchdowns](#) and was named an [All-American](#). McNair also won the [Walter Payton Award](#) as the top [I-AA](#) player and finished third in the [Heisman Trophy](#) voting behind [Rashaan Salaam](#) and [Ki-Jana Carter](#). McNair set career records for the Football Championship Series with 14,496 passing yards.

## Professional career

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## Houston/Tennessee Oilers/Titans

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McNair was selected by the [Houston Oilers](#) with new head coach [Jeff Fisher](#). McNair stayed in [Houston](#) for a few solid years, although McNair was often used as a backup. [Runningback Eddie George](#) assisted McNair with his strong running. In 1997 (McNair's first year as a starter), the Oilers moved to [Tennessee](#), and became the Titans before the 1999 season, and also began play in [LP Field](#), or as it was called then, Adelphia Collesium, in 1999.

Early in the 1999 season, McNair was diagnosed with an inflamed disk following Tennessee's 36-35 win over the [Cincinnati Bengals](#), and needed surgery. He was replaced by veteran [Neil O'Donnell](#). Over the next five games, O'Donnell led the Titans to a 4-1 record. McNair returned against the [St. Louis Rams](#), and with McNair starting, Tennessee won seven of its last nine games to finish 13-3.

Tennessee opened the at home against the [Buffalo Bills](#) in a Wild Card game, winning on the "[Music City Miracle](#)" and got to [Super Bowl XXXIV](#) in a re-match with the [St. Louis Rams](#). On the final play of the game, a McNair pass to [Kevin Dyson](#) was complete, but Dyson could not break the plane of the goal line, giving the Rams the win. McNair signed a six-year contract with the Titans after the season.

McNair led the Titans to another solid 13-3 season in 2000, but it ended in a hard-fought playoff loss to the [Baltimore Ravens](#) in the Divisional Round.

McNair played in this stadium ([LP Field](#)) with the [Tennessee Titans](#).

In 2001, McNair had passing highs in yards (3,350), completions (264), touchdowns (21) and quarterback rating (90.2). He also had five scores rushing. McNair was named to the [Pro Bowl](#) for the first time, but the game due to a shoulder injury.

After a solid 2002 season, McNair was arrested for [DUI](#) (and he also had a handgun in his possession). However, all charges were eventually dropped. McNair and [Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning](#) were named co-MVPs for the 2003 season, although McNair had to sit out two games. Injuries continued to bother McNair over the next two seasons, as he played in only eight games in 2004 and fourteen in 2005.

## Baltimore Ravens

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On June 8, 2006 McNair was traded to the [Baltimore Ravens](#). McNair was given the starting job in [Baltimore](#) over the disappointing [Kyle Boller](#). McNair started all 16 games in 2006, but often rotated in and out with Boller. McNair got the Ravens to a 13-3 record. McNair's 2006 statistics with the Ravens included 295 pass completions on 468 attempts for 3,050

passing yards, 16 [touchdowns](#), and 12 interceptions. McNair also ran for a score in a win against the [New Orleans Saints](#).

McNair (9) with some Ravens teammates at [M&T Bank Stadium](#) in 2006.

McNair and the Ravens both had a bad season in 2007. The Ravens went 5-11, and McNair was often injured. Due to bad [quarterback](#) play, McNair would always play when healthy over [Kyle Boller](#) and rookie [Troy Smith](#), but McNair still threw only two touchdowns next to four interceptions. That was his last year in the [NFL](#). McNair had his retirement press conference with the Ravens in April, 2008.

## Personal

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McNair was married to Mechelle McNair<sup>[2]</sup> from June 21, 1997 until his death. McNair had a farm in [Mississippi](#), [USA](#), where he would often go.

McNair had two sons by Mechelle: Steve LaTreal McNair, Steven O'Brian Koran McNair; and two sons - Tyler and Trenton - by two other women.

McNair earned the nickname "Air McNair" in High School. He opened his own restaurant in Nashville, which he named Gridiron9. McNair was also a mentor to [quarterback Vince Young](#).

## Death

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On July 4, 2009, McNair and 20-year old Sahel Kazemi were found dead in a [condominium](#) rented by McNair in [Nashville](#). McNair had several gunshot wounds, and Kazemi had only one to the head. Kazemi had been arrested for [DUI](#) two days earlier, and McNair left with his restaurant chef in a [taxi](#). Traces of [gunpowder](#) were found on Kazemi's hand, as well as a gun. Kazemi was having trouble financially, and apparently found out that McNair [had other relationships](#). Police ruled this a [murder-suicide](#), with Kazemi as the killer, McNair as the victim. Many people came to McNair's funeral, including some notable players, like fellow QB [Brett Favre](#) and former teammate [Ray Lewis](#). Said Titans owner [Bud Adams](#):

“ We are saddened and shocked to hear the news of Steve McNair's passing today. He was one of the finest players to play for our organization and one of the most beloved players by our fans. He played with unquestioned heart and leadership and led us to places that we had never reached, including our only Super Bowl. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family as they deal with his untimely passing. ”

To the [Associated Press](#), Ravens General Manager [Ozzie Newsome](#) added:

“ This is so, so sad. We immediately think of his family, his boys. They are all in our thoughts and prayers. What we admired most about Steve when we played against him was his competitive spirit, and we were lucky enough to have that with us for two years. He is one of the best players in the NFL over the last 20 years...” ”

McNair was buried in [Memphis](#) on July 11, 2009.

## Other websites

[[change](#) | [change source](#)]

- [Steve McNair Foundation official site Archived](#) 2012-03-15 at the [Wayback Machine](#)

## References

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