

Jon Steven `` Steve " Young (born October 11 , 1961) is a former professional American football quarterback who played 15 seasons in the National Football League . Young played college football for Brigham Young University (BYU) , and played professionally for the Los Angeles Express of the United States Football League . Young was named the NFL 's Most Valuable Player in 1992 and 1994 , and was the MVP of Super Bowl XXIX .

He is a member of the College Football Hall of Fame and the Pro Football Hall of Fame .

At the time of his retirement , he had the highest passer rating among NFL quarterbacks with at least 1,500 passing attempts (96.8) .

As of October 2015 , he is ranked fourth all - time , and is ranked highest amongst retired players .

His 43 career rushing touchdowns is second among quarterbacks , while his 4,239 rushing yards ranks third all time .

Young also won a record six NFL passer rating titles .

Born in Salt Lake City , Utah , Young attended Greenwich High School in Greenwich , Connecticut .

He earned 1978 All - FCIAC West Division First Team honors in his junior year , his first year starting at quarterback for the Cardinals , under head coach Tom .

In 1979 , he once again earned All - FCIAC West Division First Team honors , along with CIAC All - State honors , rushing for 13 touchdowns .

In two seasons , he ran the ball 267 times for 1,928 yards .

In the option offense run by Greenwich , passing was always the second option ; he completed only 41 percent of his throws for 1,220 yards .

On Thanksgiving Day in November 1979 , Steve was Quarterback for Greenwich High School starting in the F

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C (Fairfield County Interscholastic Athletic Conference) Championship Game .

In that FCIAC game , Greenwich High lost to Darien High School , known for its `` Tidal Wave Defense " by the score of 17 - 0 .

During his senior year he was co-captain of the football , basketball and baseball teams .

In basketball , he averaged 15 points a game .

In baseball , he hit

384 and played center field when he was n't pitching .

He was 5 - 1 and threw a 3 - 0 no - hitter against New Canaan High School .

Because Young was such a great runner , he was heavily recruited by the University of North Carolina , who wanted him to play quarterback in the option offense .

However , Young ultimately decided to attend BYU .

Initially , he struggled at throwing the ball , and BYU 's coaching staff considered switching him to defensive back because of his athleticism .

However , he worked hard to improve his passing skills and eventually succeeded record - setting Jim McMahon as BYU 's starting QB .

Young 's senior season (1983) was spectacular .

He passed for 3,902 yards and 33 touchdowns in the regular season , and his 71

3 % completion percentage set an NCAA single - season record .

He also added 544 yards rushing .

With Young at quarterback , BYU set an NCAA record by averaging 584

2 yards of total offense per game , with 370

5 of those yards coming from Young 's passing and rushing .

The Cougars finished the year with an impressive 11 -- 1 record ; Young was named First Team All - American by several news organizations and received

He also finished second in voting for the Heisman Trophy , behind Nebraska running back Mike Rozier .

Young capped his college career by scoring the game - winning touchdown (he caught a halfback pass) in BYU 's 21 -- 17 victory over Missouri in the 1983

Young finished his college career with 592 pass completions for 7,733 yards and 56 touchdowns , along with 1,048 rushing yards and 18 touchdowns on

He was enshrined in the College Football Hall of Fame in 2001 .

In 1984 , Young signed a record 10 - year , \$ 40 million contract with the USFL 's Los Angeles Express .

He agreed to take his payment in the form of an annuity to help the fledgling team ; he would receive \$ 40 million paid out over 40 years .

It was reported that he would still be paid until 2027 because he insured the contract .

However , in a 1985 article the Los Angeles Times stated that he received a \$ 1

4 million settlement on the annuity .

At the time , it was another huge signing by the fledgling league , who had also succeeded in signing then - current Heisman Trophy winner , Mike Rozier .

Despite being surrounded with some talent , such as future NFL players Jojo Townsell , Mel Gray , and Kevin Nelson , and making the playoffs in Young

Young missed the first six games of his rookie season because he took some college classes so he could graduate on time .

However , he started the final 12 games and had a decent year .

His most notable accomplishment was becoming the first pro football player ever to pass for 300 yards and rush for another 100 in a single game .

In his second season with the Express , owner William Oldenburg went bankrupt , and was forced to turn the team over to the league after being unable

The 1985 season rapidly became a fiasco .

Before one game , the team bus driver refused to drive the Express to the Coliseum after his paycheck bounced .

Young contributed a lot of money , as did some of his teammates , and the driver got them to their game .

Young then lined up in the tailback position and took snaps from the shotgun formation because the Express were left with no healthy running backs .

The league ceased operations in 1986 after losing most of its claims in an antitrust suit against the NFL .

Young signed with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in 1985 after being the first player selected in the 1984 NFL Supplemental Draft of USFL and CFL Players .

However , the Buccaneers posted 2 -- 14 records in each of Young 's two seasons with them , and Young 's record as starter was 3 -- 16 .

In his 19 games , he threw for only 11 touchdowns with 21 interceptions while completing fewer than 55 % of his passes .

Although his time in Tampa Bay was miserable , San Francisco 49ers coach Bill Walsh was impressed by Young 's natural abilities and felt that his prob