

= Billy Joe Tolliver =

Billy Joe Tolliver (born February 7 , 1966) is a former American football quarterback who played in the National Football League (NFL) and Canadian Football League (CFL) for twelve seasons . He played for the San Diego Chargers , Atlanta Falcons , Houston Oilers , Shreveport Pirates , Kansas City Chiefs , and New Orleans Saints . Over the course of his career , he played in 79 games , completed 891 of 1 @, @ 707 passes for 10 @, @ 760 yards , threw 59 touchdowns and 64 interceptions , and retired with a passer rating of 67 @. @ 7 .

A graduate of Boyd High School and Texas Tech University , Tolliver was selected 51st in the 1989 NFL Draft by the San Diego Chargers . He started 19 games in two seasons at San Diego before being traded to Atlanta , where he saw playing time as a backup for three seasons . In 1994 , he became one of three starting quarterbacks for Houston and then served as quarterback of the Shreveport Pirates in the CFL during their final season of activity in 1995 . After not competing in 1996 , Tolliver played for both Atlanta and Kansas City in 1997 . He then started 11 games for New Orleans in two seasons but did not take the field in 2000 . A stint with Green Bay in the 2001 offseason concluded his professional career .

= = High school and college = =

Descended from the Anglo @-@ Italian Taliaferro colonists in 17th @-@ century Virginia , Tolliver was born in Boyd , Texas , where he attended local schools . He played high school football at Boyd High School . During his senior season , he led the Boyd Yellow Jackets to a 15 ? 0 ? 1 record and the 2 ? A state championship . He amassed more than 1 @, @ 000 rushing and passing yards and was named Player of the Year by the Fort Worth Star @-@ Telegram . Tolliver was a three ? sport athlete in high school , averaging 15 points and 17 rebounds in basketball and throwing 14 no @-@ hitters in baseball .

After graduating from high school , Tolliver played college football at Texas Tech University and was a member of the Delta Tau Delta Fraternity . His hard throwing style led Texas Tech head coach David McWilliams to say , " He throws the ball harder , and with more velocity , than anyone I 've ever seen . " He redshirted his freshman season in 1984 and became the starting quarterback in 1985 . On November 9 , 1985 , Tolliver had his first breakout performance at Texas Tech as he threw for a record @-@ setting 422 yards and five touchdowns in a 63 ? 7 win over Texas Christian University (TCU) , a feat that helped him become a household name in Texas . As he began his sophomore season , he was considered the lone bright spot on Texas Tech 's offense . Tolliver struggled at the start of the year ; by the end of September he had only completed 54 of 123 passes . After throwing five interceptions in a game against Baylor , he shrugged off the bad game , saying , " even Betty Crocker burns a cake every now and then . " His fortunes continued to sink when in a game in late October against the Rice Owls , he was benched and backup quarterback Monte McGuire rallied the team to a victory . However , Tolliver regained his starting job and brought his team to the 1986 Independence Bowl as Texas Tech won six games for the first time since 1978 . He finished the season with 1 @, @ 802 passing yards and seven touchdowns .

Tolliver began his junior year facing Florida State , a game where he suffered a hairline fracture in his foot , leaving him doubtful for the match . He missed the first three games of the season but returned in Texas Tech 's fourth game against Baylor , completing 14 of 25 passes for 189 yards , a touchdown and an interception in a 36 ? 22 loss . Tolliver 's next big performance came against TCU , the same team he defeated 63 ? 7 as a freshman . He threw a touchdown pass to Wayne Walker in the last minute to beat TCU , 36 ? 35 . He finished the season having passed for 1 @, @ 422 yards and seven touchdowns in eight games . The next season , his senior year , Tolliver and Texas Tech sought to win the Southwest Conference . He started the season strong , throwing an 85 @-@ yard pass against Arizona ? it was the third @-@ longest pass in school history ? but the Red Raiders started with two losses . By the end of the season , Tolliver had set 16 school records and was awarded the Southwest Conference Sportsmanship Award by the league 's officials . After four seasons with the Texas Tech Red Raiders , he set the school record for career passing yards (

6 @, @ 756) , career pass attempts (1 @, @ 008) , career pass completions (493) , career touchdown passes (38) , season passing yards in 1988 (2 @, @ 869) , and single game passing yards (446) against Oklahoma State University in 1988 . Tolliver was inducted into Texas Tech 's Hall of Honor in 2002 .

= = Professional career = =

= = = San Diego Chargers = = =

Tolliver was selected by the San Diego Chargers in the second round of the 1989 NFL Draft . The Chargers traded third , fourth , and seventh @-@ round picks in exchange for the New York Giants ' second @-@ round pick in order to draft him . Tolliver was signed on July 31 , 1989 , after a short holdout . He was to compete for the starting job alongside Mark Malone and David Archer , a spot which eventually went to Jim McMahon after the Chargers traded for him . As the 1989 season began with McMahon as the helm , Tolliver was slated to play the second half of the final preseason game against the Phoenix Cardinals . After 13 completions in 23 attempts , Tolliver ran the ball late in the game and broke his collarbone , sidelining him for at least six weeks . After spending the first seven games on the injured reserve list , Tolliver was taken off the list and named the starter for the game against the Seattle Seahawks on October 29 , replacing McMahon who had disappointed at quarterback . In Tolliver 's first start , he played three quarters , throwing six completed passes in 17 attempts for 41 yards and throwing an interception in a 10 ? 7 loss . Tolliver subsequently lost the starting job back to McMahon . However , in late November , Tolliver was given the starting job back , remaining the starting quarterback the rest of the season . Tolliver finished the season having played five games with 89 completions in 185 attempts , 1097 yards , five touchdowns , eight interceptions , and a 57 @. @ 9 quarterback rating .

As the 1990 season began , McMahon was released by the team , leaving Tolliver as the starting quarterback at training camp . After training camp and a preseason in which Tolliver started and was relieved by quarterbacks Mark Vlasic and rookie John Friesz , Chargers head coach Dan Henning named Vlasic as the starting quarterback against the Dallas Cowboys in the season opener , saying that he was " steadier " than Tolliver . After a loss against Dallas , Tolliver regained his starting job during the game two against the Cincinnati Bengals . Despite some shaky performances in the following weeks , the Chargers ' coaching staff stuck by their quarterback , saying that " the last thing we need around here is more change . " Tolliver played nearly the rest of the season as the starting quarterback but was replaced by Friesz for the final game of the season against the Los Angeles Raiders . The Chargers made this move because , according to Henning , " Tolliver has to work on his shortcomings . " Tolliver finished the season having completed 216 of 410 passes , thrown for 2 @, @ 574 yards , 16 touchdowns , and 16 interceptions , and posting a QB rating of 68 @. @ 9 .

Although Tolliver had the confidence of Dan Henning , Chargers GM Bobby Beathard and owner Alex Spanos were unsatisfied with his production during the 1990 season , and they were looking towards Friesz as the future quarterback . Tolliver was the leading man for the starting quarterback position as training camp for the 1991 season began , with Friesz battling Bob Gagliano for the backup spot . However , after training camp ended , Friesz was named the starting quarterback for the 1991 season opener against the Pittsburgh Steelers .

= = = Falcons and Oilers = = =

Just a few days after losing the starting job , Tolliver was traded to the Atlanta Falcons for a fifth @-@ round draft pick . In Atlanta , Tolliver was the backup quarterback behind Chris Miller and alongside rookie Brett Favre , and played part of seven games throughout the season . Tolliver 's breakthrough as a Falcon came against the San Francisco 49ers on November 3 , 1991 . Miller was injured in the second quarter , and Tolliver was brought in for the rest of the game . With one second

left , he threw a 44 @-@ yard Hail Mary pass to Michael Haynes , which was caught for a touchdown and sealing a 17 ? 14 upset victory . Due to his performance and Miller 's injury , Tolliver was given his first start the following week against the Washington Redskins . Tolliver 's first start with the Falcons was a 56 ? 17 blowout loss . Afterwards , Tolliver got his second and last start of the season against the Green Bay Packers as a result of Miller suddenly running a fever . Tolliver finished the regular season having completing 40 of 82 passes with four touchdowns , two interceptions , and a QB rating of 75 @.@ 8 .

After the Falcons traded Favre to the Packers , Miller and Tolliver were the only quarterbacks on the roster . Before the season started , Wade Wilson signed with the team , and the two shared the role of backup to Miller . Tolliver played two of the first eight games , then was named the starting quarterback when the Falcons lost Miller for the season as a result of reconstructive surgery on his left knee . Tolliver 's first start of the season came against the 49ers . He completed 16 of 25 passes , but threw three interceptions in a 41 ? 3 loss . The next week against the Cardinals , Tolliver was benched for the final series as Wilson led the team to victory and Tolliver argued with coach Jerry Glanville . Despite the conflict and a shoulder injury , Glanville gave Tolliver the start the following week against the Buffalo Bills . He played a few more games before being replaced by Wilson for the rest of the season , partially as a result of Wilson throwing five touchdown passes in his first start en route to a 35 ? 7 Falcons victory . Tolliver finished the season with five touchdowns , five interceptions , a 55 @.@ 7 % completion percentage , and a 70 @.@ 4 QB rating .

After the 1992 season , Tolliver was a restricted free agent . Wilson signed a contract with the Saints , and to replace him the Falcons signed Bobby Hebert . Tolliver signed a one @-@ year contract in August , after holding out for a time . Tolliver started the 1993 season as the third @-@ string quarterback behind Hebert and Miller . However , Miller re @-@ injured his left knee in late September , making Tolliver the main backup to Hebert . Tolliver made his first start against the Los Angeles Rams , but was injured in his second start against the Saints ; the Falcons signed Chris Hakel as a result of the injury . Tolliver finished the season in occasional relief for Hebert , who remained bothered by injuries . Over the course of the year , Tolliver played in seven games and threw for just under 500 yards , and became a free agent after the season ended .

In early September 1994 , Tolliver was signed to a contract by the Houston Oilers . He was originally the third @-@ string quarterback , but ineffectiveness by Bucky Richardson led Tolliver to relieve him in a game against the Cleveland Browns . Tolliver played well enough to be considered for the starting job the following week due to Cody Carlson dealing with injuries . Tolliver made his first start in a game against the Raiders , but played inconsistently over seven starts and was replaced by Richardson in the season finale against the New York Jets . After finishing the season , Tolliver became a free agent and left the NFL .

Tolliver signed a three @-@ year contract worth about \$ 1 million with the Shreveport Pirates of the Canadian Football League before the 1995 season began . Early in the season , Tolliver got to compete against former teammate David Archer in the San Antonio Texans ' CFL debut . He finished the season having thrown for 3 @,@ 767 yards , 16 touchdowns , and 15 interceptions . After the team folded following a 5 ? 13 season , Tolliver was again without a team . In October 1996 , Tolliver rejoined the Falcons as the third @-@ string quarterback , this time sitting behind Bobby Hebert and Browning Nagle . He spent the 1996 season on the bench , and did not take a snap in a game . He was re @-@ signed by Atlanta in April and given a one @-@ year contract worth \$ 325 @,@ 000 .

Tolliver was slated to compete with Tommy Maddox for the backup quarterback spot at Atlanta as training camp rolled around . Halfway through August , Maddox was released , and Tolliver was made the primary backup behind Chris Chandler . Tolliver played his first NFL game since 1994 on September 7 , 1997 against the Carolina Panthers . He completed 7 of 17 passes for 79 yards . After relieving Chandler again the following week , Tolliver was slated to start the next game against the 49ers , in what became his only starting appearance of the season . He was slated to start again against the Denver Broncos , but instead came in late in the game . He was almost able to lead the Falcons to a comeback victory over the Broncos , completing six of nine passes for 85 yards and a touchdown , but he instead lost to the then @-@ undefeated Broncos as the team remained winless

. When Chandler went down with an injury in late October , coach Dan Reeves chose to start Tony Graziani . Shortly afterwards , Tolliver was released by the Falcons . In early November , Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Elvis Grbac was lost for the season due to a broken collarbone . As a result , the Chiefs signed Tolliver to a two @-@ year contract as the third @-@ string quarterback to replace him . Tolliver finished the season having completed 64 passes in 116 attempts for 677 yards , five touchdowns , and one interception . Only one of the 116 attempts came as a Kansas City quarterback . The 1998 preseason began with Tolliver competing with Pat Barnes for the third @-@ string quarterback job , but this ended when Tolliver was released by the Chiefs in August .

= = = Later career = = =

After Saints quarterback Billy Joe Hobert was lost for the season with a ruptured Achilles tendon , the Saints signed Tolliver to a two @-@ year deal . After four starts by Danny Wuerffel , Saints coach Mike Ditka gave Tolliver the start against the Atlanta Falcons . After starting for four weeks and having a few impressive performances , Tolliver was benched in favor of Kerry Collins , who finished the season as starting quarterback . Tolliver finished the year with one of his most statistically impressive seasons , completing 110 of 199 passes for 1 @,@ 427 yards , eight touchdowns , four interceptions , and finishing with a QB rating of 83 @.@ 1 .

Tolliver started the 1999 season as Hobert 's backup . Hobert started the first four games but was injured , leaving Tolliver to start against the Tennessee Titans on October 17 and the Giants the week after . Hobert started the next game , but suffered a pinched nerve in his neck , resulting in Tolliver 's third start of the season against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers . Against the 49ers , he scored the third and fourth rushing touchdowns of his career en route to a 24 ? 6 win . However , the next week against the Jacksonville Jaguars , Tolliver suffered a torn MCL , and he was considered likely to miss the rest of the season . A couple of weeks later , Tolliver had bounced back from his injury by " treating himself with some WD @-@ 40 " and was named the starter in the December 12 game against the St. Louis Rams . Tolliver was again injured the following week against the Baltimore Ravens , putting an end to his season , which he finished with a 51 @.@ 9 completion percentage , 1 @,@ 916 yards , seven touchdowns , 16 interceptions , and a QB rating of 58 @.@ 9 .

Throughout the 1999 season , Tolliver remained a vocal supporter of coach Ditka despite the Saints ' 3 ? 13 record , saying " I think he 's a heck of a football coach , a great motivator . We just got to start buying what he 's selling . " Ditka was fired by the Saints , but as training camp for the 2000 season began , Tolliver was the Saints ' backup quarterback behind Jeff Blake . On August 1 , the Saints traded for quarterback Aaron Brooks , which left Tolliver to compete for the third @-@ string spot alongside Jake Delhomme . The Saints ' roster was reduced to 53 players , and Tolliver was among those cut . When the Saints lost Jeff Blake for the season in mid @-@ November due to a dislocated foot , Tolliver was re @-@ signed by the Saints , though he did not play a game that season . In July 2001 , Tolliver was signed by the Green Bay Packers . This briefly reunited him with Brett Favre , with whom he was teammates in Atlanta . However , he was cut in the preseason when Doug Pederson won the backup job , and this stint marked the end of Tolliver 's professional career .

= = Personal life = =

Tolliver was named after his uncle Joe and aunt Billie . He and his wife , Sheila , have five children , Charles , Austin , Mackenzie , Bryce , and Brody .

Tolliver is an avid golfer and has played many celebrity tournaments . He is a four @-@ time winner of the American Century Celebrity Golf Championship and won the \$ 75 @,@ 000 Isuzu Celebrity Golf Challenge in 1996 . He is a regular competitor at the American Century Championship , the annual competition to determine the best golfers among American sports and entertainment celebrities . He won the tournament in 1996 , 2005 , 2010 (with a new point record of 84 points) , and 2013 and has a total of fourteen top ten finishes .

