

= Tony Boles =

Tony Boles (born December 11 , 1967) is a retired professional American football running back and kick returner who was drafted by the Dallas Cowboys of the National Football League (NFL) . After starring for the Michigan Wolverines football , where he once led the Big Ten Conference in rushing , he went on to a scandal ridden life . His college football career was ended prematurely due to a knee injury . He has been sentenced to prison multiple times and placed in homes for addicts due to cocaine abuse .

= = Youth = =

Although Boles was born in Thomasville , Georgia and his family settled in Westland , Michigan when he was ten years old . He grew up in a predominantly white neighborhood where he was one of only four African Americans in the entire student body at John Glenn High School . He had also attended Marshall Junior High School . He took a Caucasian woman to the high school prom , but was not allowed to enter her home . She had to pick him up for the prom .

= = College = =

Boles starred for coach Bo Schembechler at the University of Michigan where he was twice named All @-@ Big Ten on repeat conference champions in 1988 and 1989 and named the team most valuable player for the 1989 NCAA Division I @-@ A football season . These were Schembechler 's final two seasons at Michigan . With Boles , the team won the January 1 , 1989 Rose Bowl , but with him on the sidelines they lost the January 1 , 1990 contest . Boles shared the 1988 Big Ten rushing title with Anthony Thompson . Boles won the title for conference games only , while Thompson won the title for all games played . As a sophomore in 1988 , he rushed for 1 @,@ 408 yards (1 @,@ 287 m) , but during his junior season he suffered a season ending knee injury . Entering the final game before his injury he had accumulated 822 yards (752 m) rushing in nine games on 130 rushes , Schembechler was starting to support his Heisman Trophy candidacy :

During the 1989 season , his carries were somewhat limited due to a pinched nerve . He was seriously injured late in the 1989 season and had arthroscopic surgery on his knee , while Leroy Hoard replaced him for the final 2 @.@ 5 games . In 1990 , Boles attempted a senior season comeback as a wide receiver to no avail . Boles compiled 10 100 @-@ yard games while rushing for 2 @,@ 247 yards (2 @,@ 055 m) in two years at Michigan . In addition to playing running back , Boles excelled as a kick returner where he accumulated 639 yards (584 m) and a touchdown on 25 returns for a 25 @.@ 6 yards (23 @.@ 4 m) per return average . In 1990 , Jon Vaughn and Ricky Powers carried the load at tailback in his place . In retrospect , Boles sometimes regrets not having gone to one of the historically black colleges and universities . Before the injury he had been projected as a first round draft pick . After the injury , he dropped out of school fell onto hard times . He dropped out of classes because he says " didn 't want to be crutching around campus " and he eventually stopped rehabbing his knee and became irregular with his workouts .

= = Professional career = =

Boles , who was represented by agent Thom Darden , was drafted in the eleventh round of the 1991 NFL Draft with the 291st overall selection by the Dallas Cowboys as part of Jimmy Johnson 's rebuilding efforts . He was part of a Cowboy draft class that included three first round selections (Russell Maryland , Alvin Harper , and Kelvin Pritchett) , eleven picks in the first four rounds and eighteen overall selections . Boles was assigned rookie initiation duties of washing Emmitt Smith 's Pathfinder , but instead of washing the car disappeared with it for two days while bingeing . He eventually tested positive and was released by the Cowboys . The Cowboys placed him on the reserve non @-@ football injury list in August 1991 . He then played a season with the San Antonio Riders of the World League of American Football for most of a season until he got mixed up in

criminal activity . At first , he mysteriously disappeared from practice on a day of random drug testing . Before the disappearance , his World League performance had enabled Boles to get signed as a free agent by the Cowboys in early April 1992 , but by June the team released him .

= = Life after football = =

On November 11 , 1994 , Boles was arrested on charges of possession of drug paraphernalia and petty theft and wound up in jail in Naples , Florida .

Boles discovered at age 27 that he had not been reared by his biological father . He soon thereafter started using cocaine . After football ended , he worked various jobs such as construction and working at a grocery store . He then started selling drugs and then using his product . This led him to a series of arrests , prison stays , and homeless periods . In 2003 , two former teammates tracked him down and set him up with a job at a car wash . However , Boles fell back into his criminal ways . Boles was convicted of robbing an elderly couple and was sentenced to three to fifteen years in prison . He was released into a work program . He also found himself at the Elmhurst Home , Inc. substance abuse treatment center in 2006 . The residential treatment center has since 1972 been used to host about 100 recovering addicts at a time providing Narcotics Anonymous and Alcoholics Anonymous meeting places , military @-@ style roll calls , daily tasks , and progress logs .

Physically , in 2006 , Boles was described as starting to gray , missing two top front teeth and suffering from an arthritic knee . He stood 6 feet 2 inches (1 @. @ 88 m) and 190 pounds (86 kg ; 14 st) . He had a 21 @-@ year @-@ old daughter and kept in touch with his mother . His stepfather had died in 1994 .

Boles was arrested in Ypsilanti , Michigan on September 9 , 2007 and pleaded guilty to one count of receiving and concealing stolen property . He was sentenced to serve two to five years in prison for receiving and concealing stolen property in violation of his parole in Washtenaw County Circuit Court . He had previously served six months in prison for unarmed robbery before he was paroled in 2005 . Boles ' most recent infraction occurred when with an outstanding warrant , he provided a false name to officers investigating why he was blocking traffic with a car they would find out had been stolen from Detroit , Michigan . He had been attempting to converse with sidewalk pedestrians while purchasing drugs . Boles lost his son , Christopher , to a traffic accident at the age of 17 in February 2016 .