

= Calvin Johnson =

Calvin Johnson Jr . ( born September 29 , 1985 ) is a retired American football wide receiver who played his entire career for the Detroit Lions of the National Football League ( NFL ) . He was drafted by the Lions second overall in the 2007 NFL Draft . He played college football at Georgia Tech , where he was recognized as an All @-@ American twice .

On March 14 , 2012 , Johnson signed an eight @-@ year , US \$ 132 million contract extension with the Lions , one of the largest sports contracts ever . Johnson has a rare combination of size ( 6 ft 5 in and 239 lb ) , hands , speed ( 40 @-@ yard dash in 4 @-@ 35 seconds ) , strength , leaping ability , body control and hand @-@ eye coordination . His nickname " Megatron , " a Transformers character , was given to him by former Lions wide receiver Roy Williams , and the name caught on with fans .

On December 22 , 2012 , Johnson broke Jerry Rice 's single @-@ season record for receiving yards , which had previously been 1 @, @ 848 , and Johnson finished the 2012 season with 1 @, @ 964 yards , an average of almost 123 yards per game . In that same game versus the Atlanta Falcons , Johnson also set the NFL records for consecutive 100 @-@ yard games ( 8 ) and consecutive games with 10 or more receptions ( 4 ) . He also tied Hall of Famer Michael Irvin 's record for most 100 @-@ yard games in a season with 11 .

= = Early years = =

Johnson was born to Calvin and Arica Johnson on September 29 , 1985 in Newnan , Georgia . Johnson was 6 feet tall in middle school , and 6 feet 4 inches in 10th grade . He attended Sandy Creek High School in Tyrone , Georgia and was a student , a letterman in football , and a baseball standout . In football , he was a three @-@ year starter as a wide receiver . As a sophomore , he made 34 receptions for 646 yards and 10 touchdowns . As a junior , Johnson caught 40 passes for 736 yards and eight touchdowns . His number , 81 , was retired on October 22 , 2010 .

Johnson was rated among the nation 's top 10 wide receivers and top 100 players by virtually every recruiting analyst . He was tabbed the No. 4 wide receiver and No. 15 player in the nation by TheInsiders.com , and named to the Super Southern 100 by the Atlanta Journal @-@ Constitution , the Rivals 100 by Rivals.com , TheInsiders.com Hot 100 , the SuperPrep All @-@ America 275 and the Prep Star Top 100 Dream Team .

He was also rated the No. 1 player in Georgia , No. 12 in the Southeast and No. 37 in the nation by Rivals.com , the No. 7 wide receiver in the nation by SuperPrep , and first @-@ team all @-@ state selection ( Class AAAA ) by the Atlanta Journal @-@ Constitution . Finally , he was tabbed to the AJC 's preseason Super 11 . By the time he was a junior , he was ranked as within the top 10 wide receivers and the top 100 players in the nation by almost every writer .

= = College career = =

Johnson attended the Georgia Institute of Technology , where he played for coach Chan Gailey 's Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets football team from 2004 to 2006 . Despite Georgia Tech being interested in his playing both football and baseball , Johnson 's mother refused to allow Johnson to play both sports after determining that the year @-@ round athletic schedule would be too demanding . In his career at Georgia Tech wearing number 21 , Johnson made a case for being the greatest Georgia Tech player of all time . Johnson had 178 receptions in his career , good for 2 @, @ 927 yards and 28 touchdowns . He ranks first in school history in career receiving yards , second in receptions , first in touchdown receptions , and first in career 100 @-@ yard receiving games with 13 .

As a freshman in 2004 , Johnson was a first @-@ team All @-@ Atlantic Coast Conference ( ACC ) selection . Johnson was the Jackets ' leading receiver with 48 catches for 837 yards and seven scores , which were Georgia Tech freshman records . Johnson ended his freshman campaign against Syracuse University in the Champs Sports Bowl , where he recorded a touchdown . 2005

was Johnson 's sophomore year , when he earned first @-@ team All @-@ American honors . He also earned All @-@ ACC honors for the second straight year and was semifinalist for the Fred Biletnikoff Award . He led Tech with 54 catches for 888 yards and six scores .

Johnson entered his 2006 junior season in the running for the Biletnikoff Award and Heisman Trophy . Although Johnson finished tenth in the Heisman voting , he won the Biletnikoff as the best college wide receiver . Johnson was honored as the ACC Player of the Year , was a first @-@ team All @-@ ACC selection for the third consecutive year , and was recognized as a unanimous first @-@ team All @-@ American . Johnson tallied 1 @,@ 202 yards on 76 catches . Johnson 's 15 touchdowns in 2006 was a new Georgia Tech single @-@ season record . Against the West Virginia Mountaineers in the Toyota Gator Bowl , Johnson had nine catches for 186 yards and two touchdowns , albeit in a losing effort .

= = = College record = = =

Georgia Tech career receiving yards ? 2 @,@ 927

= = = College awards and honors = = =

First @-@ team Freshman All @-@ American 2004

All @-@ American 2005 and 2006

First @-@ Team All @-@ Atlantic Coast Conference , 2004 , 2005 and 2006

ACC Rookie of the Year , 2004

ACC Player of the Year , 2006

Four @-@ time ACC Rookie of the Week

Biletnikoff Award , 2006

Paul Warfield Trophy , 2006

10th 2006 Heisman Vote - 43 total votes ( 76 rec , 1202 yds , 15 @.@ 8 avg , 15 TD )

= = = Academic activities = = =

During the 2006 summer , Johnson , who majored in management with a background in building construction , was given the option of working on either constructing environmentally friendly luxury condos , or a project building solar latrines to improve sanitation in Bolivia . Johnson chose the latter , as he wanted to help the less fortunate . The " solar latrines " use the sun ' s rays to safely transform bacteria @-@ laden waste into fertilizer .

= = Professional career = =

= = = 2007 NFL Draft = = =

Johnson was SI.com 's Midseason NFL Draft Projection # 1 pick , though Johnson had stated that he intended to earn his degree from Georgia Tech . On January 8 , 2007 , Johnson declared himself eligible for the NFL Draft , bypassing his senior season at Georgia Tech . He was regarded as the best athlete to come out of the draft and was the # 1 player on most draft boards . Johnson was said by ESPN to be able to be productive as a rookie , much like receiver Randy Moss was as a rookie . In a mid @-@ February workout with speed and conditioning coach Mark Pearsall , Johnson clocked a 4 @.@ 33 @-@ second 40 @-@ yard dash , recorded an 11 @-@ foot standing broad jump , and had a vertical leap of 43 inches .

Johnson surprised many when he weighed in at 239 pounds at the combine , 12 pounds more than expected , although he claims that this season he played " at about 235 and I got up to 238 " and that his weight was not a problem . Johnson had told the media that he would not run the 40 @-@ yard dash at the combine but would wait until his March 15 workout at Georgia Tech . Johnson ran a

4 @. @ 35 and wowed scouts with his jump drill results , his receiving skills , and his 11 ft 7 in ( 3 @. @ 53 m ) broad jump , which is " best broad jump I can ever remember an NFL prospect having , " according to Gil Brandt . Johnson is the only player 6 @- @ foot @- @ 5 or taller , regardless of position , to run a 40 @- @ yard dash in under 4 @. @ 40 seconds at the combine since 2006 .

Johnson was selected by the Detroit Lions as the second pick overall in the 2007 NFL Draft . This is the highest a Georgia Tech Yellow Jacket has ever been drafted . The Lions were expected to trade Johnson , most likely to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers , but the team announced that they were keeping him . The next day , the Detroit Tigers invited him to throw out the first pitch .

= = = Detroit Lions = = =

= = = = 2007 season = = = =

Johnson attended Reebok 's NFL Rookie Premiere in Los Angeles . The Lions , being told by the league that Johnson would have to skip the minicamp to attend , rescheduled the camp to accommodate Johnson . On August 3 , 2007 , Johnson signed a six @- @ year deal with the Detroit Lions after holding out for eight days , and passed his physical in time to be on the field for the start of that morning 's practice . He was represented by agent James " Bus " Cook . The contract is worth up to US \$ 64 million , with \$ in guaranteed money , making Johnson the third highest @- @ paid player in Lions history ( the highest at the time , since passed by Matthew Stafford and Ndamukong Suh ) and the highest @- @ paid receiver ( in guaranteed money ) in the NFL .

Although he did not start the game , Johnson had an impressive NFL debut on Sunday , September 9 , 2007 , catching 4 passes for 70 yards and his first career touchdown in Detroit 's 36 ? 21 win over the Oakland Raiders . He sustained a lower back injury after making a catch over two Philadelphia Eagles defenders on September 23 , 2007 . He scored his first NFL rushing touchdown against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on October 21 , 2007 on a 32 @- @ yard reverse play . Fellow teammate Roy Williams nicknamed Johnson " Megatron " , due to his large hands being similar to that of the towering Decepticon . The nickname caught on well with fans . Williams later changed the nickname to " Bolt " after Jamaican sprinting phenom Usain Bolt , comparing the two athletes ' similar height and running abilities . Johnson finished the 2007 season with 756 yards and 5 total touchdowns .

In 2008 , Johnson said he could " still feel " the lower @- @ back injury that bothered him throughout his rookie season . Johnson took five weeks off after the 2007 season and was taking part in the Lions ' offseason program . " I know it 's there but it doesn 't hurt , " he said . Johnson revealed that he needed Vicodin to play through the final three months of the 2007 season . He needed the medication to help him play with a bone bruise in his back . " I was on meds the rest of the season , " he said . " I was taking Vicodin twice a game just to get through the game . I stayed hurt the whole season , probably because I was trying to come back too soon . " Johnson averaged 15 @. @ 8 yards on 48 catches in the 2007 season .

= = = = 2008 season = = = =

Johnson and the Lions faced the Atlanta Falcons on the road on September 7 , 2008 , to begin the season . As the official starting wide receiver behind Roy Williams , Johnson led the team in receptions and yards , collecting 7 catches for 107 yards , which included one 38 @- @ yard catch @- @ and @- @ run in the Lions ' 34 ? 21 loss . During week 2 versus the Green Bay Packers , he had two key touchdowns late in the game , which sparked a large comeback , though the Lions eventually lost the game , 48 ? 25 . Both touchdowns catches included a run after the catch ( the first catch going for 38 yards and the second going for 47 yards , both over the middle ) displaying Johnson 's speed and breakaway ability . He ended the game with 6 receptions for 129 yards and 2 touchdowns . In the following two games , losses to San Francisco and Chicago , Johnson failed to score a touchdown or gain over 50 yards receiving . However , against the Minnesota Vikings ,

Johnson had 4 receptions for 85 yards and his third touchdown of the season .

On October 14 before the week 6 trade deadline , Roy Williams was traded to the Dallas Cowboys for a first , a 3rd and a 7th @-@ round pick in the 2009 NFL Draft , making Johnson the Lions ' starting wide receiver and the last big threat on the offense . In his first game without Roy Williams alongside him in the week 7 game against the Houston Texans , Johnson caught only 2 passes , totaling 154 yards receiving ; the first pass didn 't come until Dan Orlovsky threw a pass up for grabs at the end of the first half which Johnson caught for 58 yards and the second pass came on a 96 @-@ yard touchdown catch @-@ and @-@ run . With Williams gone and starting quarterback Jon Kitna lost to injury for the season , the Texans defense had little to do to stop the Lions ' offense but shut down Johnson , winning the game 28 ? 21 .

Johnson set a career high for receptions in a game during the week @-@ 9 match @-@ up against their division rivals , the Chicago Bears , with 8 receptions that garnered 94 yards and one touchdown , although still losing the game 27 ? 23 . During week 10 , formerly retired All @-@ Pro quarterback Daunte Culpepper was signed to a one @-@ year contract with the Lions in hopes to spur the offense and earned the starting job for the next two games . Johnson ended his first game with Culpepper at quarterback with 2 receptions for 92 yards in a 38 ? 14 loss to the Jacksonville Jaguars . In Johnson 's 4th game with Culpepper , he had 5 catches for 66 yards . During the week 14 match @-@ up against the division rival Minnesota Vikings , Johnson passed the 1 @,@ 000 @-@ yard receiving mark for the first time in his career after collecting 3 catches for 84 yards and one touchdown , ending the week with 1 @,@ 055 yards receiving and 9 touchdowns on the season .

Johnson and the 2008 Detroit Lions finished the first ever 0 ? 16 season in NFL history after a 31 ? 21 loss to the Green Bay Packers in week 17 . Despite the Lions ' failures and the fact that five different quarterbacks played during the year , Johnson finished as one of the strongest wide receivers statistically for the season , finishing fifth in receiving yards ( 1 @,@ 331 ) and 7th in receiving yards per game ( 83 @.@ 2 ) , and leading the league in receiving touchdowns ( 12 ) , despite the fact that the entire Lions team only passed for 18 touchdowns . However , Johnson missed the Pro Bowl , with most experts attributing the snub to the Lions ' dismal winless season ( he was named an alternate instead ) .

== == 2009 season == ==

After 2008 , Detroit 's front office and coaching personnel were essentially overhauled by the team ownership . Matt Millen , the team 's incumbent general manager and CEO since 2001 , was terminated on September 28 , 2008 . His replacement , Martin Mayhew , ultimately terminated head coach Rod Marinelli in the off @-@ season . Marinelli was replaced by Jim Schwartz , then defensive coordinator of the Tennessee Titans . Schwartz ultimately revamped the entire Detroit offensive ( and defensive ) philosophies ? ? ? hiring Scott Linehan and Gunther Cunningham , respectively . Detroit held the first pick in the 2009 NFL Draft , and selected Matthew Stafford out of the University of Georgia . Stafford was named the team 's starting quarterback out of training camp , but he battled various injuries throughout the season . Much of the 2008 Detroit roster was released by the new regime , and the 2009 team was viewed as somewhat of a work @-@ in @-@ progress , but Johnson still finished the 2009 season with 67 receptions 984 yards and five TDs , while completely missing two games .

== == 2010 season == ==

In a week 1 game against the Chicago Bears , Johnson caught a pass with 31 seconds left in regulation in the end zone for what looked like a game @-@ winning touchdown . However , referee Gene Steratore ruled the catch incomplete , saying that Johnson had not maintained possession of the ball through the entire process of the catch . The Lions lost the game , 19 ? 14 .

Johnson amassed 77 receptions for 1 @,@ 120 yards and 12 TDs during 2010 . He was also selected to the first Pro Bowl of his career . Following the 2010 season , Johnson was the recipient

of the Lions / Detroit Sports Broadcasters Association / Pro Football Writers Association ( Detroit Chapter ) Media @-@ Friendly Good Guy Award .

===== 2011 season =====

In 2011 , Johnson had his second best statistical season of his NFL career , reaching a career @-@ high 1 @,@ 681 receiving yards and 16 touchdowns . In a week @-@ 4 game against the Dallas Cowboys , Johnson helped rally the Lions from a 24 @-@ point deficit to a 34 ? 30 victory by catching two touchdown passes in the fourth quarter , including a famous catch in which Johnson beat the Cowboys ' triple coverage in the end zone . This performance gave Johnson 8 touchdown receptions through the first four games of the season and tied Cris Carter for most consecutive games with multiple touchdown receptions at 4 . In a Week 17 game against the Green Bay Packers , Johnson had a career @-@ best 244 receiving yards in a 45 ? 41 loss . Johnson and the Lions clinched a playoff spot for the first time since 1999 , and the first time in Johnson 's career , after a 38 ? 10 beating of the San Diego Chargers on Christmas Eve .

However , Detroit would ultimately lose on the road against the Packers the following week ( New Year 's Day ) and would find themselves on the road again in a 2012 NFC Wild Card game against the heavily favored New Orleans Saints in the playoff bracket . Always tough to play against at the Superdome , the Saints wore down the Detroit defense and New Orleans would go on to a win 45 ? 28 . In the game , Johnson caught 12 passes for 211 receiving yards and two touchdowns ? ? ? breaking Detroit 's playoff record of 150 receiving yards in a playoff game previously held by Brett Perriman and Leonard Thompson .

===== 2012 season =====

On March 14 , 2012 , Johnson signed an 8 @-@ year extension worth US \$ 132 million with the Detroit Lions , with US \$ 60 million guaranteed , making Johnson the highest @-@ paid receiver in the league . Johnson beat out 42 other players and eliminated Cam Newton to win the Madden NFL 13 cover athlete on April 25 , 2012 , on SportsNation . From week 9 ? 16 , he recorded consecutive games with 125 receiving yards or more , which broke the NFL record previously held by Pat Studstill . On December 22 , 2012 against the Atlanta Falcons , Johnson broke Jerry Rice 's single @-@ season receiving yards record of 1 @,@ 848 yards . Johnson was also named a starter for the NFC in the Pro Bowl played in Honolulu , Hawaii . Johnson finished with 72 yards against Chicago in week 17 , missing out on 2000 by just 36 yards . Johnson finished the season leading the league in receptions ( 122 ) and receiving yards ( 1 @,@ 964 ) . Johnson is the only player in the Super Bowl era ( since 1967 ) to average 120 yards per game in a season when he averaged 122 @.@ 8 yards per game in 2012 .

===== 2013 season =====

On October 27 , 2013 , in a 31 ? 30 win over the Dallas Cowboys , Johnson caught 14 of 16 passes thrown in his direction ; he finished the game with 329 receiving yards and one touchdown . In addition to breaking the Lions ' franchise record of 302 receiving yards set by Cloyce Box on Dec. 3 , 1950 , it was the highest receiving yardage ever in a regulation @-@ length game and the second @-@ highest overall single @-@ game yardage in NFL history , behind Flipper Anderson 's 336 @-@ yard performance in a 1989 overtime win ( Anderson accumulated 40 of those yards in overtime ) . In this same game , Calvin also tied Lance Alworth for the most career games with at least 200 yards receiving ( 5 ) .

In a Week 10 game against the Chicago Bears , Johnson had two TD receptions . The second one gave him the Lions all @-@ time record for touchdown catches ( 63 ) , breaking the old mark previously held by Herman Moore . Johnson was named to the 2014 Pro Bowl , but an injury forced him to withdraw .

===== 2014 season =====

In the Thanksgiving Day game against the Chicago Bears ( November 27 ) , Johnson became the fastest player to reach 10 @, @ 000 receiving yards in NFL history , eclipsing the mark in the second quarter of his 115th game . He was named to his fifth Pro Bowl in a row , the most by any Lion since Barry Sanders was named to 10 straight pro bowls .

===== 2015 season =====

Much like Week 1 in Chicago five years back , in Week 4 at Seattle , Johnson was involved in another controversial play . This time , late in the fourth quarter , Seahawks safety Kam Chancellor punched the ball out of Johnson 's hands while he was trying to score . K.J. Wright then batted the ball out of the end zone for a touchback . The NFL later admitted the referees should have penalized Wright for illegal batting . The Seahawks won 13 ? 10 .

In Week 5 against Arizona , Johnson caught his 671st pass , breaking Herman Moore 's franchise record . However , the Lions were the victims of a 42 ? 17 loss to the Cardinals .

In Week 6 , Johnson caught 6 passes for 166 yards in an overtime victory over Chicago . This gave the Lions their first victory of the season after an 0 ? 5 start . In Week 12 , against Philadelphia , Johnson caught eight passes for 93 yards and three touchdowns to help lead the Lions to their third straight victory and lift their record to 4 ? 7 .

In Week 8 against the Kansas City Chiefs in the NFL International Series on November 1 , 2015 , Johnson became the fastest player to reach 11 @, @ 000 receiving yards in NFL history , in his 127th game .

Johnson finished the season with 88 receptions for 1 @, @ 214 yards ( 13 @. @ 8 average ) , and nine touchdowns , reaching 1 @, @ 000 @-@ yards receiving for the sixth consecutive year , and seventh time in nine @-@ years . Johnson was named to the Pro Bowl for the sixth consecutive year , however declined to attend . His 1 @, @ 214 yards in 2015 are the most ever in a player 's final season in the NFL , while his 88 receptions are the second most in a player 's final season , trailing Sterling Sharpe 's 94 in 1994 .

===== Retirement =====

On March 8 , 2016 , Johnson announced his retirement from the NFL after nine seasons . His 11 @, @ 619 receiving yards rank third in a player 's first nine seasons , trailing only Torrey Holt ( 11 @, @ 864 ) and Jerry Rice ( 11 @, @ 776 ) . Since Johnson was drafted by the Lions with the second overall pick in the 2007 NFL draft , no player has more receiving yards , receiving touchdowns or 100 @-@ yard games ( 46 ) than Johnson through the 2015 season . Among those who have played in 100 career games in NFL history , no player has averaged more receiving yards per game than Johnson . Johnson 's average of 86 @. @ 1 receiving yards per game is 8 @. @ 7 yards better than the next @-@ closest player on that list : Holt . From 2011 to 2013 , Johnson caught 302 passes for 33 touchdowns . His 5 @, @ 137 receiving yards over that time are the most by any player over a three @-@ year stretch in NFL history .

===== NFL records =====

Most receiving yards in a single season : 1 @, @ 964 yards ( 2012 )

Seasons with 1 @, @ 600 yards receiving ( 2 , tied with Marvin Harrison , Torrey Holt , and Antonio Brown )

Most consecutive games with at least 100 receiving yards ( 8 )

Most consecutive games with at least 10 receptions ( 4 )

Most 100 receiving yard games in a single season ( 11 , tied with Michael Irvin )

Most receiving yards in a five @-@ game span ( 861 yards )

Most receiving yards in a six @-@ game span ( 962 yards )

Fastest to 10 @, @ 000 NFL receiving yards ( 115 games )  
Fastest to 11 @, @ 000 NFL receiving yards ( 127 games )

= = = Lions franchise records = = =

Most receiving touchdowns in a single season : 16 ( 2011 )

Most receiving touchdowns , career : 83

Most receiving yards , career : 11 @, @ 619

Most receptions in a single game : ( 14 , 10 / 27 / 2013 vs. Dallas , tied with Herman Moore )

Most receptions , career : 731

Most seasons with 10 + receiving touchdowns : 4

Most career 70 + yard receptions : 8

Most games with multiple touchdowns in one half : 12

Most receiving yards in a single game in regulation ( 329 ) . This is the 2nd most overall in NFL history behind Flipper Anderson ( 336 ) .

= = Career statistics = =

= = = National Collegiate Athletic Association ( NCAA ) = = =

= = = National Football League ( NFL ) = = =

= = Personal life = =

Johnson is a Christian . Johnson has a tattoo of the crucifixion of Jesus on his left arm and a Christian cross on his right arm . Johnson is part of a weekly Bible study group with other Lions players .

Johnson is funding a film called Real Love . The film is " a coming @-@ of @-@ age story about a girl trying to stay true to her virginity and her religion " and " ... a message [ Johnson ] wants to get out there . "