

= Rex Grossman =

Rex Daniel Grossman III ( born August 23 , 1980 ) is an American football quarterback who is currently a free agent . Grossman played college football for the University of Florida . He was selected by the Chicago Bears in the first round of the 2003 NFL Draft , and has also played professionally for the NFL 's Houston Texans and Washington Redskins .

As a college quarterback , Grossman led the Florida Gators to the 2000 Southeastern Conference ( SEC ) championship , the 2001 Sugar Bowl , the 2002 Orange Bowl and the 2003 Outback Bowl . He was a consensus first @-@ team All @-@ American and was the runner @-@ up for the Heisman Trophy in 2001 .

Grossman spent most of his first three NFL seasons with the Chicago Bears sidelined with injuries . He completed his first full NFL season in 2006 , leading the Bears to a National Football Conference Championship and a Super Bowl berth . He lost his starting job three weeks into the 2007 season , and primarily served as the team 's backup quarterback afterward . He spent a year as a back @-@ up quarterback for the Houston Texans in 2009 , before becoming the Washington Redskins ' starting quarterback in the final three games of 2010 ; and throughout the 2011 season .

= = Early years = =

Grossman was born in Bloomington , Indiana in 1980 , the son of Rex Daniel Grossman II and Maureen Grossman . Under the motivation and guidance of his father , he began playing football at an early age in grade school . He originally started his football career as a running back . Despite his success running the ball , his mother asked his coach to convert him to a quarterback while he was in the sixth grade .

Grossman attended Bloomington High School South , where he played high school football for the Bloomington South Panthers . In three seasons as the Panthers ' quarterback , he threw for 7518 yards and 97 touchdowns . He threw for 3 @,@ 080 yards and forty @-@ four touchdowns as a senior in 1998 , including a game where he threw six touchdowns . His senior season reached its climax when he led the Panthers to a 35 ? 14 victory over the Homestead High School Spartans in the Indiana Class 5A state championship game . Grossman completed seventeen of twenty @-@ six pass attempts for 216 yards and five touchdowns , setting an Indiana record for the most touchdowns thrown in a championship game .

Grossman was recognized as the 1998 Indiana Player of the Year by USA Today , was ranked among the top fifteen players in the nation by the National Recruiting Advisor , and Parade magazine named him to its high school All @-@ America team . He received statewide honors when he was named Indiana 's Mr. Football later that year . Bloomington High School South retired his jersey in the summer of 2007 to commemorate his success during the Chicago Bears 2006 season .

= = College career = =

Grossman accepted an athletic scholarship to attend the University of Florida in Gainesville , Florida , where he played for coach Steve Spurrier and coach Ron Zook 's Florida Gators football teams from 1999 to 2002 .

After redshirting his freshman year in 1999 , Grossman competed for playing time with returning starter Jesse Palmer and the top high school recruit in the country Brock Berlin , in 2000 . Grossman started his first game as a Florida Gator on October 7 , 2000 against LSU . Grossman had gotten the opportunity to start after completing 13 of 16 pass attempts for 232 yards and two touchdowns against Mississippi State the week before in the Gators ' only SEC conference loss of the season . Grossman solidified his position as Florida 's starting quarterback during the next two games by throwing for over 500 yards , eight touchdowns and no interceptions in lopsided wins over LSU and Auburn . He led the Gators to the SEC championship and was named Most Valuable Player of the SEC Championship Game . For the season , Grossman completed 61 @.@ 8 percent of his passes

for 1 @, @ 866 yards , 21 touchdowns , and only seven interceptions . His passer efficiency rating of 161 @. @ 8 was the third best in NCAA Division I football .

Grossman passed for over 300 yards in nine consecutive games during his sophomore season in 2001 . He led the nation in passing efficiency , passing completion percentage and yards per attempt . Grossman was recognized as a consensus first @-@ team All @-@ American , was voted the Associated Press Player of the Year , and came in second in the balloting for the 2001 Heisman Trophy in one of the closest Heisman votes in the history of the award . At the time , his 55 touchdown passes through his sophomore season were the most in NCAA history . On October 6 , 2001 Grossman passed for 464 yards and five touchdowns as No. 2 Florida defeated the No. 18 LSU Tigers 44 @-@ 15 . In a 2006 interview with the Chicago Tribune , Grossman cited the victory as his most memorable game as a Gator . He finished second to University of Nebraska quarterback Eric Crouch in one of the closest votes in Heisman Trophy history , losing by only 62 votes . He earned accolades as a consensus first @-@ team All @-@ American , the AP National Player @-@ of @-@ the @-@ Year , and finalist for other awards , including the Walter Camp National Player @-@ of @-@ the @-@ Year Award , the Maxwell College Player @-@ of @-@ the @-@ Year Award , and the Davey O 'Brien National Quarterback @-@ of @-@ the @-@ Year Award . He ended his sophomore season with a 56 ? 23 victory over the Maryland Terrapins in the 2002 Orange Bowl .

As a junior team captain in 2002 , Grossman led the Gators in the famed " Slingin ' in the Rain " game against the Tennessee Volunteers , in which he threw three touchdowns and 22 completions in 32 attempts en route to a 30 @-@ 13 victory over the Vols . Grossman led the Gators to the 2003 Outback Bowl , where they lost to the Michigan Wolverines 38 ? 30 despite his completing 21 of 41 passes for 323 yards and two touchdowns . After the season was over , Grossman decided to forgo his final year of college eligibility and declared for the NFL Draft .

In his three @-@ season college career , Grossman threw for 9 @, @ 164 yards and seventy @-@ seven touchdowns . He earned a 146 @. @ 77 passer rating , becoming the third most efficient passer in the Southeastern Conference 's history . He was twice chosen by his teammates as the Gators ' most valuable player , in 2000 and 2001 . In one of a series of articles about the top 100 Gators from the first century of Florida football , The Gainesville Sun recognized Grossman as the No. 10 all @-@ time Gator in 2006 . He was inducted into the University of Florida Athletic Hall of Fame as a " Gator Great " in 2013 .

= = Professional career = =

= = = Chicago Bears = = =

The Chicago Bears selected Grossman during the first round of the 2003 NFL Draft , and he played for the Bears from 2003 to 2008 . Under the leadership of coach Dick Jauron , Grossman was sidelined as a rookie in favor of veteran quarterbacks Chris Chandler and Kordell Stewart . Grossman only saw playing time during the later portion of the season after the Bears had been eliminated from playoff contention . His season ended when he was forced to leave the final game with a broken finger . Prior to the start of the 2004 NFL season , the Bears fired Jauron and hired Lovie Smith , who declared Grossman the team 's starting quarterback . Grossman was criticized when he threw a game @-@ ending interception against the Detroit Lions on opening day . Criticism of his durability intensified when he damaged his knee ligaments while scrambling for a touchdown against the Minnesota Vikings . The injury forced Grossman to spend the remainder of the season recuperating .

Grossman missed most of the 2005 season after breaking his ankle in a preseason game . On December 18 , 2005 , Grossman returned to the field , leading the Bears to a 16 ? 3 victory over the Atlanta Falcons . In the following game against the Green Bay Packers , he completed eleven of sixteen passes for 166 yards for a touchdown and one interception in a 24 ? 17 victory . Grossman ? s victory enabled the Bears to clinch a playoff berth and the National Football Conference 's

second playoff seed . In his first playoff game , Grossman struggled to anchor the Bears ' offense , completing 17 of 41 passes for 192 yards for one touchdown and an interception in a 29 - 21 loss against the Carolina Panthers .

During the 2006 Chicago Bears season , Grossman became the first Bears quarterback to start all sixteen games since Erik Kramer in 1995 . In a season dubbed as a " roller coaster ride " by Grossman himself , the fourth - year quarterback had several productive performances , which were seemingly diluted by a handful of turnover - ridden games , especially in Week 6 against the Arizona Cardinals , where Grossman fumbled twice and threw four interceptions . While earning a passer rating of at least 100 in seven games , he earned a sub 50 rating in five games during the latter portion of the season . Grossman , who was named as the NFC Offensive Player of the Month in September , concluded the season 's final month with a 64 .4 passer rating , including a zero rating during the season 's finale game against the Packers . Grossman 's work ethic drew criticism , when he admitted that he was not adequately prepared to play , and later claimed the game to be " meaningless . " After noticing that his words had been misinterpreted , he rationalized his statement days later . His inconsistent performance drew criticism , and calls for Smith to bench Grossman in favor of the veteran Brian Griese .

Nevertheless , Smith , who supported Grossman throughout the season , declared that Grossman would remain the Bears ' starting quarterback throughout the playoffs , causing much skepticism within the Chicago area . He temporarily silenced his critics by leading the Bears to a 27 - 24 victory over the Seattle Seahawks , completing 21 of 38 passes for 282 yards and one interception , fumble , and touchdown . The following week , he led the Bears to a 39 - 14 victory over the New Orleans Saints , which allowed the Bears to claim the NFC Championship and advance to Super Bowl XLI . In the Super Bowl , Grossman completed 20 of 28 passes , including a one - yard touchdown pass . However , in this game he threw two interceptions , including one that was returned for a touchdown , and fumbled twice due to miscues between him and center Olin Kreutz . Despite additional criticism from his detractors , Grossman received the Ed Block Courage Award after the season ended . The award is given to one player from every team who exemplifies commitments to the principles of sportsmanship and courage , and is believed to be positive role models to their community .

Before the 2007 season , Grossman vowed that he would improve his performance by simply " protecting the ball . " Smith named him as the team 's starting quarterback for the 2007 season , despite inconsistent and lackluster play throughout the preseason . Grossman struggled in his first three outings of the season , and committed ten turnovers with a 45 .2 passer rating . After week three , several news sources reported that Smith demoted him in favor of Brian Griese . The official announcement came the next day , when Smith announced that Griese would start in the team 's next game . On November 11 , 2007 , Grossman reclaimed his first - string role after a shoulder injury sidelined Griese . Though Grossman only played for roughly one half , he led the Bears to a 17 - 6 victory over the Oakland Raiders with a 59 - yard touchdown pass to Bernard Berrian . After reclaiming his starting role , Grossman threw three touchdowns and one interception over the course of three and a half games . He sustained a knee injury during his fifth consecutive start , and was replaced once again by Griese . Grossman was forced to relinquish his starting position to Kyle Orton , who had previously temporarily relieved him after his 2005 preseason injury .

Grossman became an unrestricted free agent after the 2007 season , but said he wished to return to the Bears . Bears general manager Jerry Angelo said , " We would like to have Rex back in the mix . " He added that Grossman will face additional competition if he returns , emphasizing the team 's need for a stable passing game . Smith had also voiced similar opinions . Grossman signed a new one - year contract with the Bears on February 23 , 2008 . Under terms of the deal , Grossman had a \$ 3 million base salary . The Bears also granted Orton a contract extension and planned to have the two compete for a starting position . On August 18 , 2008 , after two preseason games , Coach Smith named Orton as the team 's starting quarterback for the 2008 season .

Grossman remained the team 's backup quarterback until week nine against the winless Detroit Lions when he was called to replace Orton who left the game due an ankle injury . Grossman

completed nine of nineteen passes for 58 yards , including a touchdown and interception . He also scored the game 's winning touchdown on a quarterback sneak . During the course of the game , Grossman was repeatedly jeered by Bears fans . After the game , Brian Urlacher defended Grossman , commenting , " We 've got a quarterback who comes in off the bench and leads us to a victory , and they boo him right out of the gate . Poor guy . Lucky for him he 's resilient and he came back and led us to two scoring drives . But man , it 's tough . " Lovie Smith named Grossman the team 's starting quarterback for the Bears next contest against the Tennessee Titans . Grossman threw one touchdown and interception , and also scored a one @-@ yard rushing touchdown , en route to a 21 ? 14 loss . Grossman received his final snaps of the season in the following week , when he was called to relieve Orton in a 37 ? 3 loss to the Green Bay Packers .

= = = Houston Texans = = =

Grossman became a free agent on March 1 , 2009 . Bears Head Coach Lovie Smith said that Grossman was not in the team 's plans for the 2009 season . During the offseason , Grossman worked out with the Cincinnati Bengals in March , but was not offered a contract . UFLaccess.com reported that Grossman would be participating in drills in a United Football League " Pro Day " . However , Grossman 's agent , Drew Rosenhaus , denied these claims , stating that " Rex will be playing in the NFL this season . We have not considered any other leagues . He will be on a NFL roster by the start of training camps . "

On June 12 , Grossman came to terms with the Houston Texans and signed a one @-@ year contract , worth \$ 620 @,@ 000 . Grossman beat out Dan Orlovsky during the preseason for the backup quarterback position . Grossman only played in a single game during the 2009 season , temporarily relieving Matt Schaub in a 23 ? 18 loss to the Jacksonville Jaguars . He threw nine passes for three completions , 33 yards , and one interception .

= = = Washington Redskins = = =

Grossman signed a one @-@ year contract with the Washington Redskins for the 2010 season on March 17 , 2010 . Grossman made his first appearance for the Redskins against the Detroit Lions on October 31 , 2010 , but he was sacked and lost a fumble on his first play , which was returned by Lions defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh for a touchdown . On December 17 , Redskins coach Mike Shanahan benched Donovan McNabb in favor of Grossman , who had not been a starter since 2008 . The Redskins fell behind the Dallas Cowboys early in the game , but Grossman threw for 322 yards , four touchdowns , and two interceptions to erase a 20 @-@ point deficit . The Cowboys still managed to win the game , 33 ? 30 . Grossman won his second start with Washington in a close and important game for the Jaguars in Jacksonville .

On August 2 , 2011 , Grossman re @-@ signed with the Redskins . At the end of the 2011 pre @-@ season , after a quarterback battle with John Beck , Grossman was chosen to be the opening day starting quarterback of the Redskins . Grossman started the 2011 season with a win against the New York Giants , completing 21 of 34 attempts while throwing for 305 yards and two touchdowns . Grossman would lead the Redskins to a 3 @-@ 1 start before being benched in a four @-@ interception week 5 performance against the Eagles in favor of Beck . Grossman returned week 10 in a loss to the Dolphins . He led a last @-@ minute touchdown drive the next week to tie Dallas but lost in overtime . He helped the Redskins snap a six @-@ game skid the next week with a 23 @-@ 17 win over the Seattle Seahawks in which he threw 314 yards , two interceptions , and two touchdowns .

The Redskins re @-@ signed Grossman to another one @-@ year contract on March 17 , 2012 . The Redskins drafted Robert Griffin III ( second overall ) and Kirk Cousins ( 102nd overall ) in the 2012 NFL Draft . Grossman became the team 's third string quarterback and did not play in a single game for the team in 2012 .

On April 3 , 2013 , Grossman signed another one @-@ year contract to stay with the Redskins for 2013 . He remained the team 's third string quarterback and primarily served to advise Griffin and

Cousins .

== Cleveland Browns ==

The Cleveland Browns signed Grossman on August 12 , 2014 and cut him on August 31 . On December 22 , the Browns offered Grossman a one @-@ week \$ 53 @,@ 529 NFL veteran league minimum contract after losing Johnny Manziel and Brian Hoyer to injuries . Grossman passed on the offer in order to spend the holidays in Palm Beach with his family .

== Atlanta Falcons ==

On August 26 , 2015 , Grossman signed a one @-@ year contract with the Atlanta Falcons . The Falcons released him on September 4 .

== Playing style ==

Grossman 's gunslinger attitude is illustrated in his desire to throw long passes , similar to his youth idol , Brett Favre . During the 2006 season , Grossman had an above average completion rate when throwing passes of twenty or more yards , but struggled to complete shorter passes . According to columnist Paul Attner of Sporting News , this attitude contributed to Grossman 's inconsistent play . During Week 12 of the 2006 season , Grossman threw a game @-@ ending interception while attempting a deep pass to Rashied Davis . However , during the divisional game in the 2006 playoffs , he threw a 68 @-@ yard touchdown pass to Berrian on the opening play of the Bears ? second drive .

Additionally , Grossman 's ability to elude pursuers and scramble has significantly decreased since his season ending leg injury in 2004 . Although he only played three games in 2004 , Grossman amassed more rushing yards than he did in sixteen games in 2006 . However , he showed his potential to scramble during a game against the St. Louis Rams , after he converted a third and long with a twenty @-@ two yard run . Though the run was the longest of Grossman 's career , it only gave him five net yards for the season at that point .

Grossman has also earned several nicknames over the course of his football career . While at the University of Florida , head coach Steve Spurrier dubbed him " Sexy REXY . " The nickname earned national recognition when teammate Muhsin Muhammad used the nickname while introducing Grossman during a starting line @-@ up segment on Monday Night Football . Grossman was also infamously known as " Rex Glassman " and " Wrecks Grossman " due to his injury @-@ prone years . After the midpoint of the 2006 season , commentators and fans would refer to Grossman as either " Good Rex " or " Bad Rex " depending on how he performed in a game .

== Family and personal life ==

Grossman 's family has a long football history . His father and grandfather were football players for Indiana University . His grandfather , Rex , also played for the Baltimore Colts ( 1948 ? 1950 ) and Detroit Lions ( 1950 ) , playing in 12 games during his career . He resides in Bloomington , Indiana during the offseason with his wife Alison Miska , to whom he has been married since July 9 , 2005 . Grossman also has a sister and nephew who live in Lincolnwood , Illinois , and his parents are friends with Archie Manning .

Grossman has been a longtime admirer of former Packers , Jets , and Vikings quarterback , Brett Favre and former Bears quarterback Jim Harbaugh . Grossman was also an avid fan of the Indianapolis Colts and Indiana Pacers fan during his childhood . Outside of football , he enjoys playing basketball and watching movies . Additionally , he was a regular guest on FOX News Chicago ? s The Final Word , a Sunday night sports show that is co @-@ hosted by former Bears wide receiver Tom Waddle . He also appeared on the cover of Sports Illustrated for Kids ' February 2007 issue . The cover featured Grossman with teammates Devin Hester and Tommie Harris posing

with bears in a museum exhibit .

It was reported that Grossman absorbed a \$ 680 @, @ 000 loss on his September 2008 purchase of a 36th floor condo in the Trump International Hotel & Tower Chicago when it sold in January 2010 , losing 25 % of his initial investment .

On June 28 , 2007 , Grossman 's hometown of Bloomington , Indiana declared the day " Rex Grossman Day " for his accomplishments in football and the community . For the past four years , Grossman has held a charity golfing event for the Boys and Girls Club of America , raising over \$ 100 @, @ 000 for them .

= = NFL career statistics = =

The following is a list of Grossman 's statistics from his regular and postseason games . Grossman has occasionally recorded notable statistics ; among all quarterbacks during the 2006 season , Grossman ranked tenth in number of pass attempts , seventh in touchdowns thrown , and third in interceptions . He completed his first full season with a 73 @. @ 9 quarterback rating . This was better than quarterback ratings of Favre , Peyton Manning , and Terry Bradshaw during their first full seasons ; many other quarterbacks have performed similarly or better in their first years , including Grossman 's former backup Brian Griese . His twenty @-@ three touchdowns in one season rank Grossman among the best Bears quarterbacks in the franchise ? s history . However , his twenty interceptions in one season are among the most thrown by any Bears ? quarterback in almost two decades . The unusual combination ranked Grossman as statistically the most inconsistent quarterback in almost a decade in 2006 .

= = = Regular season = = =

Source , ' Retrieved January 6 , 2010 .

= = = Postseason = = =