

= Jackie Slater =

Jackie Ray Slater (born May 27 , 1954) is a retired National Football League offensive tackle who played his entire 20 @-@ year career with the Rams organization , playing 19 seasons for the Rams in Los Angeles (1976 ? 1994) and one season for the Rams in St. Louis in 1995 .

A graduate of Jackson State University , he was a teammate of Walter Payton . Drafted in the third round of the 1976 NFL Draft , Slater seldom played his first few years before starting in 1979 . Known as the most consistent member of one of the most potent offensive lines in NFL history , Slater was selected to seven Pro Bowls and broke a record for most seasons with one team . His jersey number was retired and he was inducted to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2001 .

Slater is currently the offensive line coach at Azusa Pacific University in Azusa , California . His son , Matthew Slater , is currently a special teams ace for the New England Patriots .

= = Biography = =

= = = College = = =

Slater was born in Jackson , Mississippi . He was the first member of his family to attend a desegregated school while growing up at Wingfield High School . He attended Jackson State University where he played alongside Walter Payton for three years , who personally recruited him to the university . Slater later credited Payton as the player who " taught him to compete in practice " , seeing how Payton often played with an injured elbow . He was a letterman in football and was selected to the Southwestern Athletic Conference All @-@ Star Game three times , and as a senior , he was a First @-@ team All ? Black America selection , and was named an All @-@ American selection by the Pittsburgh Courier . After his senior season , he was invited to participate in the College All @-@ Star Game .

= = = NFL career = = =

Although used primarily as a backup and special teams player during his first three seasons , Slater became the starting right tackle in 1979 . That year the Rams went to Super Bowl XIV , where he successfully defended L.C. Greenwood from getting a quarterback sack . In 1980 , he was a part of an offensive line that surrendered just 29 sacks and helped the Rams ? offense finish second in the NFL in total yards gained with 6 @,@ 006 . In 1983 , he and the Rams offensive line demonstrated their versatility when they allowed a league @-@ low 23 sacks while also paving the way for Eric Dickerson ? s rookie rushing record of 1 @,@ 808 yards . In 1985 , he was the key blocker for Dickerson as he ran for a playoff record 248 yards and two touchdowns against the Dallas Cowboys in a NFL divisional game . During a 1989 playoff game , Slater prevented Reggie White , who was considered the premium pass rusher in the NFL , from sacking the quarterback , a game that Slater later became best known for . Slater was considered by critics the most consistent lineman on one of the best offensive lines in the NFL , which also included Pro Bowlers Kent Hill and Dennis Harrah and was regonized for his " work ethic and leadership skills " when he was inducted to the Hall of Fame . He retired after the 1995 season when injuries reduced him to playing one game the entire year . He is the only player in league history to play for one single team / franchise in three different cities (Los Angeles 1976 @-@ 1979 , Anaheim 1980 @-@ 1994 , and St. Louis 1995)

He was voted the National Football League Players Association NFC Offensive Lineman of the year four times ? 1983 , 1986 , 1987 , and 1989 and was the Athletes in Action / Bart Starr Award winner after the 1995 season . Slater played in 259 games from 1976 to 1995 , a then @-@ record for offensive lineman (broken by Bruce Matthews in the 1999 season) . He was the first player to play 20 seasons for one team , later matched by Washington Redskins cornerback Darrell Green and Detroit Lions kicker Jason Hanson and third all @-@ time . He played for 24 quarterbacks and 37 running backs in his lengthy career , during which seven running backs reached for over 1 @,@ 000

yards in a season and played in seven Pro Bowls . Former teammate Jim Everett stated " Jackie Slater is proof they were playing football in the prehistoric days " . He was Dickerson 's Hall of Fame presenter in 1999 . In 2001 , Slater was enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame . Upon hearing his induction to the Pro Football Hall of Fame , fellow inductee and teammate Jack Youngblood said " Jackie Slater didn 't want to just beat you , he wanted to dominate you . That 's what made him the player that he was . " On being honored , Slater stated " As you walk around and shake hands with some of the greatest players in history , it finally hits you , that you belong . You 're a part of the greatest roster ever assembled . "

= = = Coaching career = = =

After his football career ended , Slater worked with an ABC affiliate in Los Angeles . He participated as a guest coach during St. Louis Rams training camps in the early 2000s . On February 16 , 2006 , Oakland Raiders head coach Art Shell hired him to become a co @-@ offensive lineman coach along with Irv Eatman . Slater was hired to mentor Robert Gallery , moving him to left tackle . Gallery struggled that season and Slater was released by the Raiders for the 2007 season and replaced by Tom Cable . He is currently the offensive line coach at Azusa Pacific University in Azusa , California .

= = Personal = =

His son Matthew , who played college football at UCLA , was drafted by the New England Patriots in the fifth round of the 2008 NFL Draft . He is currently a gunner , and special teams captain for the Patriots . The Slaters have 12 Pro Bowl nods between them , and his son 's nominations to the Pro Bowl makes the Slater family the third most nominated family in the NFL (only the Manning family (Archie , Peyton and Eli) and the Matthews family (Bruce , Clay Jr and Clay III)] have more Pro @-@ Bowl nominations as a family) . Slater is active with the NFL Play 60 program , which sends NFL players to schools to discuss spending 60 minutes a day to participate in sports activities . Another son , David is in his final year in college , and Slater and his family live in Los Angeles .