

= Don Gault =

Donald J. Gault (born August 30 , 1946) is a former American football quarterback who played in the National Football League (NFL) with the Cleveland Browns in 1970 . Over the course of his career , he played in two games , completed 2 of 19 passes for 67 yards , threw no touchdowns and three interceptions , and finished his career with a passer rating of 2 @. @ 2 .

Gault played college football at Hofstra University where he set many school passing records . After graduating , he was signed by the Browns . The team kept him on the roster from 1968 to 1972 , though he was only an active player in 1970 . He played in two games and started one , earning a victory despite a passer rating of zero . After the Browns released him in 1972 , he had offseason stints with the San Diego Chargers , Edmonton Eskimos , New York Jets , and New York Stars before retiring .

= = College career = =

Gault played high school football for John Adams High School in Queens , then played college football for the Hofstra Pride . After sitting out his freshman year , he was awarded the starting quarterback job as a sophomore in 1965 . In his third start for Hofstra , he completed 21 of 33 passes and threw for a school record 315 yards in a 35 @-@ 13 win over Kings Point Academy . A month later , he broke his own record and threw for 345 yards after completing 17 of 25 passes in a 42 @-@ 28 win over Temple . For the season he completed 158 passes for 20 touchdowns and 2 @, @ 134 yards . Gault 's junior year was considered to have been a disappointment due to ineffectiveness and a 2 @-@ 8 overall record , but his career passing yards through two full seasons set a school record . Gault 's senior season performances included a 325 @-@ yard , four touchdown performance , after which he was named to the weekly All @-@ East All @-@ Star football team . In his last collegiate game against C. W. Post College , he completed 11 of 20 passes for 220 yards in a 19 @-@ 0 win , giving Hofstra an 8 @-@ 2 record his senior year with seven of the eight wins being shutouts .

Over the course of his career , Gault broke school records for passing yards and completions in a season and career , but also had 22 interceptions in 30 career games . After his graduation , coach Howdy Myers said of him , " he has a quick release and can throw accurately both long and short . "

= = Professional career = =

Gault went undrafted in the 1968 NFL Draft , and was signed by the Cleveland Browns as a free agent . Heading into training camp , he was one of five quarterbacks looking for a roster spot , the others being Frank Ryan , Gary Lane , Dick Shiner , and fellow undrafted rookie Jim Alcorn . By the end of the preseason , Gault was cut from the active roster , and spent the 1968 season on the practice squad , but was noted as someone who could be the Browns ' future starting quarterback . Before the 1969 season began , Gault joined the military reserves . While training at Fort Dix from June to November , he played in the Continental Football League with the Jersey Jays . After his training ended , he returned to the team 's practice squad . He was placed on the active roster as a third @-@ string emergency quarterback in case the Browns needed him during the postseason . During the offseason , Gault worked as an insurance broker while remaining on the Browns roster .

The Browns had three quarterbacks on their roster entering the 1970 Cleveland Browns season in Gault , Bill Nelsen , and Mike Phipps . As training camp began , Browns coach Blanton Collier planned to use Gault in exhibition games , as he was throwing the ball well in practice during the summer . By the end of preseason , Gault was named to the active roster as the Browns retained all three quarterbacks , an uncommon move at the time . During the Browns ' second game against the San Francisco 49ers , starting quarterback Nelsen was injured , leading Gault to enter the game in the fourth quarter . He completed a pass to Gary Collins for 23 yards , threw an incomplection , and threw an interception to Dave Wilcox , allowing the 49ers to go on a game @-@ winning drive in a 34 @-@ 31 Browns loss .

Due to Nelsen 's injury , Gault was given the start in next week 's game against the Pittsburgh Steelers , facing off against fellow rookie and first overall draft pick , Terry Bradshaw . In his only career start , he completed one pass for 44 yards in 16 attempts , threw two interceptions , and finished the game with a 0 @. @ 0 passer rating . He also led the Browns to only three first downs during the first half , and as a result Phipps took over at quarterback ; the Browns went on to win the game , 15 @- @ 7 . Nelsen recovered from the injury the following week and turn back over for the Browns at quarterback ; Gault did not play another snap that season . Entering the 1971 season , Gault modified his throwing style after discussion with new head coach Nick Skorich , and was throwing better in training camp as a result . After training camp ended , however , he was placed on the practice squad , where he remained throughout the season .

In 1972 , the Browns drafted Brian Sipe , giving Gault competition for the third quarterback spot , which was noted as a main position battle in training camp for the Browns that season . At the end of training camp , Sipe won the job , and Gault was cut . He was picked up by the San Diego Chargers in late August . He competed with Wayne Clark for the backup quarterback job for a short time , and did not see any playing time for the Chargers before his release . He also spent time with the Edmonton Eskimos of the Canadian Football League , but did not see any playing time with them . He later noted that he was unable to adjust to the game of Canadian football , as he was unable to throw a spiral due to the football being shorter and fatter .

The New York Jets signed Gault as a free agent in 1973 , and he was slated to compete with Al Woodall for the backup quarterback spot behind Joe Namath . At the end of preseason , he lost the backup spot to Woodall , and was released . The following year , Gault signed with the New York Stars of the new World Football League in April . After practicing with the team throughout the offseason , he was released in August , ending his professional career .