

= Leonard Marshall =

Leonard Allen Marshall Jr . ( born October 22 , 1961 ) is a former American football defensive lineman who played twelve seasons in the National Football League ( NFL ) . Selected 37th overall in the 1983 NFL Draft , he spent the first ten seasons of his career with the New York Giants where he accumulated 79 @. @ 5 sacks , ranking him third in team history . He was twice selected to the Pro Bowl and twice named NFL Defensive Lineman of the Year following the 1985 and 1986 seasons . He won two championships with the Giants , recording three sacks in the two Super Bowl games which he played in . Marshall is most famously known for his 1991 hit on Joe Montana that knocked him out of the NFC championship game and sidelined him for almost two years , ending his career with the 49ers . After his time with the Giants , Marshall went on to play a season each for the New York Jets and Washington Redskins , then retired from football at the age of 33 . He played college football at Louisiana State University .

Marshall has been active in several business and entrepreneurial activities since retiring . He also has spent time as a football camp instructor , a football head coach , a student , a professor , and a radio broadcaster . In 2013 , Marshall was diagnosed with Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy ( CTE ) , a degenerative brain disease detected in a growing number of retired NFL players . Marshall has been involved with efforts to spread awareness about the issue .

= = Early life and college = =

Marshall was born in Franklin , Louisiana . He was the oldest of seven children , whose father , Leonard Marshall Sr. , was a foreman at a shipyard . Initially , Marshall 's father did not like the idea of his son playing football , as he thought it was " a stupid game " that would prevent him son from doing more productive things . Later in his life however , Marshall Sr. expressed happiness over his son 's success , and even rooted against his beloved Dallas Cowboys when his son 's Giants teams played them .

Marshall played college football at Louisiana State University from 1979 to 1982 , accumulating 180 tackles and 5 sacks during his four year career . During his senior year he recorded 53 tackles and 4 sacks and was named the team 's defensive Most Valuable Player . Marshall also played a crucial role in LSU 's 1982 victory over the University of Alabama , making several key tackles and prompting Hall of Fame coach Bear Bryant to state his regret after the game for not being able to successfully recruit Marshall . The team finished 8 ? 3 ? 1 that year and narrowly lost , 21 ? 20 , to the University of Nebraska in the Orange Bowl .

Marshall graduated from Louisiana State University with a degree in Business Administration . He was later inducted into the LSU Hall of Fame in 2008 .

= = Professional career = =

Marshall was selected 37th overall by the New York Giants in the 1983 NFL Draft . He was the fourth defensive lineman taken that year . At the time , Los Angeles Raiders managing general partner Al Davis described him as the steal of the draft .

During his rookie season with the Giants , Marshall struggled initially with weight problems , drawing the ire of the coaching staff . After trimming down , Marshall made an impact and played strongly against the run but was unable to mount much of a pass rush and finished with only 0 @. @ 5 sacks on the season . He improved significantly in 1984 however , recording 6 @. @ 5 sacks . He also made several key tackles to help the Giants preserve a 16 @- @ 13 win over the Los Angeles Rams during the wild @- @ card round of the playoffs .

Marshall 's emergence as a pass rusher continued in 1985 as he racked up 15 @. @ 5 sacks , earning him a trip to the Pro Bowl and recognition as NFL defensive lineman of the year . Marshall repeated both honors in 1986 , teaming up with Hall of Fame linebacker Lawrence Taylor to form a potent pass rush on the right side of the Giants defense . He finished the year with 12 sacks , helping the Giants to a 14 @- @ 2 record and an appearance in Super Bowl XXI to face off against

the Denver Broncos . Marshall recorded two sacks in the Giants 39 @-@ 20 victory , earning him his first Super Bowl ring .

Marshall recorded 8 sacks in 10 games played during a strike @-@ shortened 1987 season in which the Giants finished 6 @-@ 9 @-@ 1 . He compiled another 8 sacks the following year as he split time with fellow defensive end John Washington . During the 1989 season Marshall collected 9 @.@ 5 sacks , with the Giants losing in the first round of the playoffs that year to the Los Angeles Rams . Marshall later described the season as a lost opportunity as he felt the Giants had the best team in the league .

Marshall engaged in a prolonged contract holdout leading up to the 1990 season . He reported late , and after struggling initially to regain his starting job he recovered to finish the year with 4 @.@ 5 sacks . The Giants went 13 @-@ 3 during the regular season and advanced to the NFC Championship Game where the two @-@ time defending Super Bowl champion San Francisco 49ers awaited them . In the fourth quarter of the game , Marshall hit 49ers quarterback Joe Montana so hard that he suffered a bruised sternum , bruised stomach , cracked ribs , and a broken hand . Montana was forced to leave the game and would not play again in the NFL for another 23 months , ending his career with the 49ers . The collision was later ranked as the third most " devastating hit " in NFL history by Fox Sports Net , and the third most " devastating hit " in sports history by The Best Damn Sports Show Period . It would also turn out to be the moment of Marshall 's career that he came to be most well @-@ known for . Marshall finished the game with four tackles , two sacks , and two forced fumbles , and was named NFL defensive player of the week . The Giants won the game 15 @-@ 13 and advanced to Super Bowl XXV where they faced the Buffalo Bills . Marshall recorded the team 's only sack in helping the Giants to a 20 @-@ 19 victory , earning him his second Super Bowl ring .

Marshall continued to play at a high level in 1991 as he totalled 11 sacks for the year . In 1992 he clashed with new Giants coach Ray Handley however , and the two got into a well @-@ publicized shouting match during halftime of a September game against Dallas . He ended up with four sacks on the year and entered into free agency afterwards . Marshall finished out his career playing a season each for the New York Jets and Washington Redskins .

Marshall retired from football at the age of 33 . He later signed a ceremonial contract in 1996 that allowed him to retire as a Giant . Upon signing the contract he stated , " I wanted to retire as a Giant because it 's where my career began . They were people who believed in my talents and helped mold me into the man I am today , and I wanted to thank them for that . "

Marshall was selected to two Pro Bowls , and finished his career with 83 @.@ 5 sacks in the regular season , and 7 in the postseason . His total of 79 @.@ 5 as a Giant ranks him third in team history .

= = = Career statistics = = =

= = = Regular season = = =

GP : games played , GS : games started , Sk : sacks , Tkl : total tackles , FF : forced fumbles , FR : fumbles recovered , Int : interceptions , Sfty : safeties

= = = Postseason = = =

= = Life after football = =

= = = Teaching / mentoring = = =

Marshall hosted the Leonard Marshall Football Academy for a number of years , a football camp

teaching the game 's fundamentals to youth players between the ages 8 of 18 .

Marshall served as a professor of Sports Management at Seton Hall 's Stillman School of Business from 2004 to 2009 .

In 2010 , Marshall was named head football coach at Hudson Catholic Regional High School in Jersey City , NJ .

= = = Business activities = = =

Marshall was founder of Pro Star Athletic , one of the largest sports licensed apparel companies of the 1990 ' s . He later negotiated sale of the company to International Apparel Manufactures Group of New York in 1999 .

Marshall is a partner with the Playbook Franchise Fund , which invests in franchise businesses to provide stable income for high net worth individuals , in particular current and former professional athletes .

Marshall was named Vice President of Philanthropic Development for Seeman Holtz Financial Group in 2007 . In 2015 he was named Director of Strategic Initiatives and Brand Ambassador for the publicly traded restaurant chain The Original Soup Man .

Marshall owned and managed The Marshall and Fox Sports Asset Management Group and was CEO and owner of Capital Source Mortgage .

= = = CTE diagnosis and advocacy = = =

Marshall was diagnosed with Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy ( CTE ) in 2013 , a degenerative brain disease afflicting many retired football players that has been linked to repeated head trauma . Tests for the disease were performed at UCLA using newly developed technology that allowed detection in living patients for the first time . Marshall says he began to notice symptoms such as memory loss , severe headaches , and mood swings in 2006 , and that his erratic behavior took a major toll on the personal relationships in his life , including his marriage .

Marshall was part of a class action lawsuit against the NFL that initially resulted in a \$ 765 million settlement , but was later amended to allow for a payout expected to exceed \$ 1 billion . Marshall is involved with efforts to educate the public about concussion and head trauma issues , serving as a speaker for both the Practice Like Pros and Brain Unity Trust organizations . He was featured in the documentary United States of Football examining the subject of concussions in the NFL and youth league football . Marshall also founded the Game Plan Foundation to provide assistance for former athletes suffering from neurological disorders .

= = = Medical marijuana = = =

Marshall uses cannabidiol ( CBD ) , a chemical extract of the cannabis plant , to treat the symptoms of CTE that he suffers from . He credits CBD with significantly improving his quality of life since he first started medicating with it in February 2016 .

Marshall has spoken publicly in support of cannabis as an effective treatment option for mitigating the symptoms of head trauma @-@ related health issues . He also says it can serve as a safer alternative to the pain @-@ relieving opioid drugs that many NFL players become addicted to . Marshall has stated that the NFL should make allowances for the use of cannabis products as a medical treatment for players .

Marshall served as a keynote speaker and moderator at the Cannabis World Congress and Business Expo in New York City on June 15 ? 17 , 2016 .

= = = Other = = =

Marshall hosted a radio show on WFAN in New York . Named The Leonard Marshall Show , it was recorded in Hollywood , Florida near his former residence in Boca Raton . Marshall currently

provides pre @-@ game and post @-@ game commentary for Giants games on WFAN . During his time as a player , Marshall was a frequent presence on The Howard Stern Show and he co @-@ hosted NY Football with Dick Lynch .

Marshall is co @-@ author of When the Cheering Stops , a book about the Giants 1990 championship season that was released in 2010 .

Marshall received a master 's degree in Business Finance from Seton Hall University in 2007 .

Marshall is a noted philanthropist who has received several awards in recognition of his charitable work .