

= Phil Simms =

Phillip Martin Simms (born November 3 , 1954) is a former American football quarterback who spent his entire 14 @-@ year professional career playing for the New York Giants of the National Football League (NFL) . He is currently a television sportscaster for the CBS network . After playing college football at Morehead State University , Simms was drafted in the first round by the New York Giants of the National Football League (NFL) with the number seven selection overall in the 1979 NFL Draft . Simms was named Most Valuable Player (MVP) of Super Bowl XXI , after he led the Giants to a 39 ? 20 victory over the Denver Broncos and set the record for highest completion percentage in a Super Bowl , going 22 for 25 (88 %) . He also was named to the Pro Bowl for his performances in the 1985 and 1993 seasons .

He finished his career with 33 @,@ 462 passing yards and has since gone on to be a career broadcaster of NFL games ? first as an analyst for ESPN , then as a in @-@ game color commentator with NBC , and currently with CBS . He is the father of former NFL quarterback , New England Patriots assistant coach , and current FOX Sports College Football analyst Chris Simms , as well as Atlanta Falcons quarterback Matt Simms .

= = Early life and rookie season = =

Simms was born in Springfield , Kentucky on his grandfather 's farm , a place now called Maple Hill Manor in Washington County , Kentucky where he attended St. Dominic 's Elementary . While an elementary school student his family moved and Simms grew up in Louisville , Kentucky . He went to St. Rita catholic grade school also . He attended Southern High School in Louisville and was quarterback of the Southern Trojans , graduating in 1974 . Simms chose to attend Morehead State University in nearby Morehead , Kentucky , and joined Tau Kappa Epsilon there . The team featured a ball control offense , and Simms ' numbers at Morehead State were unspectacular ? in his senior season he completed 92 of 173 passes for a 53 @.@ 2 % completion percentage and had six touchdown passes , 11 interceptions , and 1 @,@ 229 yards . The team also finished with a 2 ? 6 ? 1 record in his senior season and failed to make a bowl game during Simms ' four years . Simms finished his career at Morehead State with 409 completions in 835 attempts for a 48 @.@ 9 % completion percentage . He also totalled 32 touchdowns , 45 interceptions , and a school @-@ record 5 @,@ 545 yards .

Before the 1979 NFL Draft , Bill Walsh , who was the new coach of the San Francisco 49ers , flew to Morehead State with assistant coach Sam Wyche to work out Simms . Walsh was so impressed with Simms that he planned to draft him in the third round , preferring him over another young quarterback they scouted and ultimately drafted , Joe Montana . But the New York Giants decided to make Simms their first round pick to the surprise of many . As Simms acknowledged , " most people have never heard of me . " When Simms 's name was announced by Commissioner Pete Rozelle in front of the audience at the draft (which was held in New York) , his selection was booed loudly by the Giants fans in attendance . Simms was not happy being a Giant either , " All I was thinking was which teams I would rather play for ? the Green Bay Packers , the Kansas City Chiefs , San Diego , San Francisco ... " Nonetheless , he became popular with his teammates who jokingly dubbed him " Prince Valiant " in his rookie training camp .

Simms won his first five starts of his rookie year . He led the team to a 6 ? 4 record as a starter , throwing for 1 @,@ 743 yards and 13 touchdown passes and was named to the NFL All Rookie Team . He was runner @-@ up in 1979 for Rookie of the Year , losing out to future teammate , Otis Anderson .

= = Early career : 1980 ? 1986 = =

Simms ' next four years were marred by injuries and inconsistent play . He finished the 1980 season with 15 touchdowns and 19 interceptions , while completing a subpar 48 @.@ 0 % of his passes for 2 @,@ 321 yards . In 1981 , Simms threw for 2 @,@ 031 yards , 11 touchdowns , and 9

interceptions on 54 @. @ 4 % completion percentage before suffering a separated shoulder in a November 15 loss to the Washington Redskins . With Simms out , the Giants went on a run led by Scott Brunner and advanced to the second round of the playoffs . Simms suffered a torn knee ligament in a preseason game against the New York Jets , preventing him from playing the entire 1982 season . Following the season , Ray Perkins resigned as head coach to take over the same position at the University of Alabama , and was replaced by the team 's defensive coordinator Bill Parcells . In the coming years this change would prove crucial to the Giants and Simms .

One of Parcells first decisions as coach was to replace Simms as the starting quarterback with Brunner . Simms asked to be traded after the benching , but his request was ignored . During the sixth game of the Giants ' 1983 Season , Simms came in to replace the struggling Brunner against the Philadelphia Eagles . On his second drive , Simms suffered a season @-@ ending injury when the thumb on his throwing hand hit a player 's helmet on his follow @-@ through . The injury was reported as a dislocation , but according to the book , Simms to McConkey , written by Phil McConkey , Simms , and Dick Schaap , the injury was much more severe , with the thumb literally hanging off after impact , and the bone sticking out through the skin .

During his first few years on the team , Giants fans were merciless in their treatment of Simms , who they felt was a disappointment . He commented that his wife " had to sit up in the stands and listen to them cuss me . " However , in 1984 , after many seasons plagued by injuries and up @-@ and @-@ down play , Simms finally emerged as a team offensive leader . During his 1983 injury , offensive coordinator Ron Erhardt talked Simms into watching more game film , something he had not regularly done in college or the pros . He gained a better understanding of NFL defenses , his team 's formations , and pass protection schemes , and improved his ability to audible at the line of scrimmage . He also changed his strength training regimen in an attempt to make his body more resistant to injury . He passed for 4 @, @ 044 yards (second most in the National Football Conference (NFC)) , 22 touchdown passes , and led the Giants to a playoff berth .

He was voted to the Pro Bowl and named Pro Bowl MVP as he led the NFC to a comeback win over the American Football Conference (AFC) by throwing three touchdowns . In 1985 , he passed for 3 @, @ 829 yards , 22 touchdowns , and led the Giants to 10 victories , the most for a Giants team since 1963 . In a game against the Cincinnati Bengals during the 1985 season , Simms passed for 513 yards ? the fifth most passing yards in a single game in NFL history . In 1986 , he passed for 3 @, @ 487 yards and 21 touchdown passes during a season in which the Giants won 14 games . In week 11 , he completed a desperate fourth @-@ and @-@ 17 pass to Bobby Johnson late in the game to set up Raul Allegre 's game @-@ winning field goal , which gave the Giants a 22 ? 20 victory over the Minnesota Vikings . Simms later commented :

It 's my favorite game in my career , because it 's everything I always wanted to be as a player . I wanted to be tough , making big throws , immune to pressure , not worried about outcomes . It was truly like standing on the tee box in golf and there 's trees on each side and water and you just go ' Man , I 'm gonna rip it down the middle . ' And no other thought crosses your mind .

= = = Super Bowl XXI = = =

On January 25 , 1987 , the Giants met the Denver Broncos in Super Bowl XXI . In the biggest game of his life , Simms had one of the finest performances in Super Bowl history . He completed 22 of 25 passes (with 2 of his 3 incompletions being drops by receivers) for 268 yards , setting Super Bowl records for consecutive completions (10) , accuracy (88 %) , and passer rating (150 @. @ 9) . In addition , he threw 3 touchdown passes and his passer rating set an NFL postseason record . " This might be the best game a quarterback has ever played " , Giants coach Bill Parcells later said . Two of the most famous plays from the game were the flea flicker to McConkey , and the touchdown pass caught by McConkey off of the fingertips of Giants tight end , Mark Bavaro . The Giants defeated the Broncos 39 @-@ 20 , and Simms was named MVP of Super Bowl XXI . He is credited for being the first to use the phrase " I 'm going to Disney World ! " following a championship victory .

= = Later career : 1987 ? 1993 = =

Simms performed well in the strike @-@ shortened 1987 NFL season , finishing with the second highest quarterback rating in the NFC . He threw for 2 @,@ 230 yards , 17 touchdowns , and 9 interceptions . He passed for 3 @,@ 359 yard , 21 touchdowns , and 11 interceptions while completing 54 @.@ 9 % of his passes in the 1988 season . The Giants rebounded from a 6 ? 9 record in 1987 to finish 10 ? 6 but fell just short of the playoffs due to the NFL tie @-@ breaker system . In 1989 , the Giants started 8 ? 1 and finished 12 ? 4 , Simms passed for 3 @,@ 061 yards , 14 touchdowns , and 14 interceptions on 56 @.@ 3 % completion percentage . He performed consistently most of the season except for a two @-@ game stretch against the Eagles and 49ers where he produced seven turnovers , six of which resulted in points for the opposition . He also struggled in the Giants playoff game against the Los Angeles Rams , and the Giants lost 19 ? 13 . In 1990 , Simms was having one of his finest seasons , leading the NFC with the highest quarterback rating (92 @.@ 7) and the Giants to an 11 ? 3 record . But his season was cut short due to a broken foot suffered in the fourteenth game against the Giants ' eventual Super Bowl XXV opponent , the Buffalo Bills . The Giants went on to defeat the Bills 20 ? 19 in the Super Bowl with Jeff Hostetler filling in at quarterback .

After the Giants Super Bowl victory , Parcells resigned and was replaced by the team 's running backs coach Ray Handley . One of Handley 's first decisions was to select Jeff Hostetler as the team 's starting quarterback following his performance in Super Bowl XXV . Simms saw only spot action in two games prior to Week 13 , when Hostetler broke his back in a game against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers . Simms finished the game and reclaimed the starting job , but won only once in his remaining four starts as the Giants failed to return to the playoffs at 8 @-@ 8 . Simms was named starter for the 1992 season after beating out Hostetler , whom Handley still thought high of as a quarterback in the preseason . However , Simms suffered a severe arm injury in a Week 4 loss to the Los Angeles Raiders and missed the remainder of the season . In those two seasons Simms amassed only a combined 1 @,@ 905 yards , 13 touchdowns , and 7 interceptions while completing 59 @.@ 3 % of his passes . The Giants finished the 1992 season at 6 @-@ 10 , which led to the termination of the unpopular Handley and the hiring of former Denver Broncos coach Dan Reeves . As part of an overall house cleaning , Reeves released Hostetler and named Simms his starting quarterback . He started all 16 games in 1993 , being one of only seven quarterbacks to do so , and led the Giants to a resurgent 11 ? 5 season including a victory over the Minnesota Vikings in the playoffs . However , Simms underwent shoulder surgery after the 1993 NFL Season to repair a torn labrum . The surgery was successful , and team doctor Russell F. Warren 's prognosis for recovery was excellent , and Simms was expected to be ready in time for training camp . However , later during that offseason , Simms was released by the Giants , and subsequently decided to retire . Upon his release , co @-@ owner Wellington Mara called it " a day of overwhelming sadness . " . Phil Simms considered playing for the Browns in 1995 , but eventually decided to stay retired .

In his 14 seasons with the Giants , Simms completed 2 @,@ 576 out of 4 @,@ 647 passes for 33 @,@ 462 yards and 199 touchdowns . His career passing yardage total ranks him twenty first in NFL history . He added 349 carries for 1 @,@ 252 rushing yards and 6 touchdowns on the ground . He set team records for most passes completed and attempted in one game (40 and 62 , respectively) , season (286 , 533) and career (2 @,@ 576 , 4 @,@ 647) , most career touchdown passes (199) and most 300 @-@ yard games in a career (21) . Simms still owns some of the New York Giants passing records , although Eli Manning , who is in his tenth year with the Giants as of the 2013 season , has started to surpass some of them : season passes (359 completed , 589 attempted) , career completed passes (2 @,@ 679) , career touchdowns (216) , career 300 @-@ yard games (26) . Sports Illustrated considered Simms to be the " Most Underrated Quarterback " in NFL history in their August 27 , 2001 issue entitled , " The Most Overrated and Underrated " .

= = After retirement from the NFL = =

On September 4 , 1995 , Simms ' jersey was retired in a halftime ceremony of a game versus the Dallas Cowboys . During an emotional speech , Simms stated that he wanted to don his jersey one final time , and throw " one more pass " to teammate Lawrence Taylor . Simms later commented , " [a] ll of a sudden it kind of hit me , I 've put Lawrence in a really tough spot ; national TV , he 's got dress shoes and a sports jacket on , and he 's had a few beers and he 's going to run down the field and I 'm going to throw him a pass . " Simms then motioned for Taylor to run a longer pattern , and after 30 ? 40 yards , threw him the pass . Taylor later stated that the situation made him more nervous than any play of his career , " I 'm saying to myself (as the pass is being thrown) , ' If I drop this pass , I got to run my black ass all the way to Upper Saddle River because there ain 't no way I 'm going to be able to stay in that stadium ' . " Taylor caught the pass however , and the capacity crowd in attendance cheered in approval . Since he has been retired for more than five years , Simms is eligible for selection into the Pro Football Hall of Fame ; he has yet to be inducted , however .

After his retirement as a player in 1994 , Simms first joined ESPN then went on to join NBC 's lead broadcast crew , teaming with Dick Enberg and Paul Maguire on that network 's coverage of Super Bowl XXX and Super Bowl XXXII . Simms also announced Weightlifting at the 1996 Summer Olympics and served as a sideline reporter on the NBA on NBC for NBC Sports . In 1998 , he moved to CBS with the AFC package , teaming first with Greg Gumbel (through the end of the 2003 season) and currently with Jim Nantz on the CBS 's lead broadcast team . He also worked with Armen Keteyian , Bonnie Bernstein and Lesley Visser . He hosts Inside the NFL on Showtime (another CBS holding) with James Brown and Cris Collinsworth . He has appeared on CBS Daytime since joining CBS , with a 2007 appearance as himself on the CBS soap opera As the World Turns , and in February 2010 an appearance on The Price Is Right (with Nantz) to present a Super Bowl XLIV showcase . Simms is part of the commentary team , along with his broadcast partner Jim Nantz , in the Madden NFL 16 video game .

As of the 2014 ? 15 NFL season , Simms has been a commentator for the CBS and NFL Network broadcasts of Thursday Night Football .

On November 13 , 2014 , Simms appeared uncredited on the " Just a Regular Irregular " episode of the CBS TV series Elementary . Simms ' cameo was as a character named " Phillip " who had , like Simms himself , spent 15 years as a professional football player , but was a consultant to Sherlock Holmes in the art of knife throwing .

= = Personal life = =

Simms and his wife , Diana , live in Franklin Lakes , New Jersey . They have three children : Chris , Deirdre and Matthew (currently backup quarterback for the Atlanta Falcons) . Simms is fond of New Jersey , remarking in 1987 ; " I wasn 't overjoyed about coming to New York . When I thought of New York I thought of New York City . But out here , it 's just like anywhere else . "

Simms is a relative of former Vanderbilt quarterback Oliver " Doc " Kuhn and former Kentucky quarterback John Simms " Shipwreck " Kelly .

In 2011 , Simms was inducted into the Kentucky Pro Football Hall of Fame .

= = NFL passing statistics = =

Key to abbreviations