

EARL CAMPBELL 1977 HEISMAN TROPHY WINNER

Earl Campbell, the famed “Tyler Rose”, will always have a special place in The University of Texas and state of Texas football history.

Born March 29, 1955, in Tyler, Campbell was the fifth of 11 children raised by Ann Campbell. Two of his six brothers, Tim and Steve, joined him as Longhorns.

Campbell galloped into UT football history with his Heisman Trophy-winning 1977 season. He rushed for 1,744 yards (a Southwest Conference record that stood for 16 years) and 19 touchdowns and led the nation in rushing and scoring, posting 200-yard rushing games at Texas A&M (222) and at SMU (213). Campbell set a Longhorns record for 100-yard rushing games that year (10).

On Campbell’s heels, Texas jumped out to a 6-0 mark and claimed the No. 1 spot in the nation at the season’s midway point. The Longhorns held the nation’s top spot for the remainder of the regular season and went on to finish 11-0 before falling to Notre Dame in the Cotton Bowl. Texas finished the year ranked No. 4 nationally in the final Associated Press poll.

Campbell was an instant success at Texas, starting at fullback in the Longhorns “Wishbone” attack and rushing for 928 yards and six touchdowns as a freshman in 1974. He claimed the first of his three consensus All-SWC honors that year.

As a sophomore, Campbell ran for 1,118 yards and 13 touchdowns, earning his first of two consensus All-America awards. He helped lead Texas to a 10-2 record that year and was tabbed the Offensive Player of the Game in the Longhorns’ 38-21 win against Colorado in the Bluebonnet Bowl. UT finished the year ranked sixth nationally in the final Associated Press poll.

Injuries dampened the glitter on Campbell’s career in 1976, as he missed four games with a pulled hamstring and the Longhorns struggled to a 5-5-1 mark. Campbell, playing on a strained hamstring much of the time, posted a career-low 653 rushing yards and three touchdowns. The highlight of the year was his first career 200-yard outing, a 208-yard effort against North Texas.

By his senior season, Campbell was at full strength again and turned in one of the finest rushing campaigns on school record. He finished his brilliant career with a then-Longhorns record 4,443 yards and 41 touchdowns.

After his star-studded collegiate career, Campbell took his talents to the National Football League. Selected No. 1 overall by the Houston Oilers in the 1978 NFL Draft, he quickly made a name for himself.

As a rookie, Campbell claimed virtually every award possible including Rookie of the Year, MVP and Offensive Player of the Year. Campbell, who went on to play in the Pro Bowl, first served notice on the NFL and the nation in his initial appearance on Monday Night Football (Nov. 20, 1978). That night Campbell bulled over the Miami Dolphins for 199 yards and four touchdowns in the Oilers’ 35-30 victory. Probably the most memorable of his 28 carries that evening was his last. With Houston facing a second-and-long and leading 28-23, Campbell broke off tackle and jaunted 81 yards for a touchdown. He went on to rush for 100 yards six more times that season in claiming the NFL rushing crown with 1,450 yards.

Campbell was an instant celebrity, claiming the Great American Youth award as the top professional male athlete in 1978. He was presented with the trophy by Bob Hope.

The former Longhorn led the NFL in rushing again in 1979 with 1,697 yards and garnered his second consecutive league MVP and Offensive Player of the Year award. Campbell was named to the Pro Bowl for the second time as well.

In 1980, Campbell posted his first 200-yard game as a professional, rolling up 203 yards against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. He bounced back the following week to do it again with 202 yards in a meeting with the Cincinnati Bengals. The 200-yard game became a regularity, as Campbell went on to post 206 yards against the Chicago Bears and set an NFL record with his fourth 200-yard game of the season as the Oilers clinched a playoff spot with a 20-16 win against the Minnesota Vikings. He wrapped up the year with his third NFL rushing title (1,934 yards), a third consecutive Pro Bowl appearance and the Offensive Player of the Year award.

Campbell claimed his final NFL rushing title in 1981 with 1,376 yards. The wear and tear caught up with him as he rushed for just 538 yards and two touchdowns in an injury-riddled 1982 campaign. He bounced back with 1,301 yards and 12 touchdowns in 1983.

Campbell was traded to the New Orleans Saints for a first-round pick in 1984. In 1985, he ran for 160 yards on 35 carries against the Vikings in what proved to be his top game with the Saints.

On Aug. 18, 1986, Campbell retired. He wrapped up his pro career with 9,407 rushing yards and 74 touchdowns along with 121 receptions for 806 yards in eight seasons.

UT retired Campbell’s No. 20 jersey in ceremonies at the Longhorns’ game with Baylor on Nov. 24, 1979, and the Oilers retired his No. 34 in 1987.

He was selected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame on Jan. 26, 1991. Campbell was inducted along with kicker Jan Stenerud, offensive lineman John Hannah, lineman Stan Jones and former Dallas Cowboy president Tex Schramm on July 27, 1991.

In spring 1988, Campbell was inducted into the Longhorn Hall of Honor, and in 1990, he became a member of the National Football Foundation Hall of Fame. Campbell received the Doak Walker Legends Award in 2003.

CAMPBELL’S CAREER HONOR ROLL

- Longhorns MVP (1977)
- First-team All-SWC (1974, '75, '77)
- First-team All-American (1975, '77)
- Heisman Trophy (1977)
- NCAA Rushing Champion (1977)
- NCAA Scoring Champion (1977)
- NCAA All-Purpose Yardage Champion (1977)
- NFL Rookie of the Year (1978)
- NFL Offensive Player of the Year (1980)
- NFL All-Pro (1978, '79, '80, '81, '83)
- Longhorn Hall of Honor Inductee (1988)
- NFL Rushing Champion (1978, '79, '80, '81)
- NFF Hall of Fame Inductee (1990)
- NFL Hall of Fame Inductee (1991)
- Doak Walker Legends Award (2003)

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CAMPBELL'S CAREER STATISTICS (1974-77)

1974 (freshman, played fullback)

Opponent	Att-Yds	TD	Long	Rec-Yds	TD	Long
Boston College	13-85	0	28	0-0	0	—
Wyoming	10-54	1	13	0-0	0	—
Texas Tech	16-52	0	11	0-0	0	—
Washington	16-125	1	36	0-0	0	—
Oklahoma	15-70	1	12t	0-0	0	—
Arkansas	8-109	1	68t	0-0	0	—
Rice	18-105	0	23	0-0	0	—
SMU	15-54	1	12	0-0	0	—
Baylor	14-83	1	19	0-0	0	—
TCU	9-64	0	14	0-0	0	—
Texas A&M	28-127	0	26	0-0	0	—
Totals	162-928	6	68t	0-0	0	—

Gator Bowl
Auburn _____ 23-91 _____ 0 _____ 12 _____ 0-0 _____ 0 _____ —

1975 (sophomore, played fullback)

Opponent	Att-Yds	TD	Long	Rec-Yds	TD	Long
Colorado State	13-103	1	46	0-0	0	—
Washington	27-198	3	61t	0-0	0	—
Texas Tech	18-150	2	38	0-0	0	—
Utah State	5-57	1	40t	0-0	0	—
Oklahoma	23-95	0	13	0-0	0	—
Arkansas	20-83	1	22	0-0	0	—
Rice	9-58	0	20	0-0	0	—
SMU	28-160	2	33	0-0	0	—
Baylor	31-133	2	21t	0-0	0	—
TCU	9-41	1	14	0-0	0	—
Texas A&M	15-40	0	9	0-0	0	—
Totals	198-1,118	13	61t	0-0	0	—

Bluebonnet Bowl
Colorado _____ 19-95 _____ 0 _____ 17 _____ 0-0 _____ 0 _____ —

1976 (junior, played tailback)

Opponent	Att-Yds	TD	Long	Rec-Yds	TD	Long
Boston College	5-23	0	13	0-0	0	—
North Texas	32-208	1	83	0-0	0	—
Rice	18-78	0	18	1-17	0	17
Oklahoma	27-91	0	15	0-0	0	—
SMU	17-57	0	13	0-0	0	—
Texas Tech	7-65	0	25	0-0	0	—
Houston			did not play (injured)			
TCU			did not play (injured)			
Baylor			did not play (injured)			
Texas A&M			did not play (injured)			
Arkansas	32-131	2	27	0-0	0	—
Totals	138-653	3	83	1-17	0	17

1977 (senior, played tailback)

Opponent	Att-Yds	TD	Long	Rec-Yds	TD	Long
Boston College	17-87	1	31	1-15	0	15
Virginia	19-156	2	20	0-0	0	—
Rice	13-131	4	21t	0-0	0	—
Oklahoma	23-124	1	25	1-4	0	4
Arkansas	34-188	0	30	1-28	0	28
SMU	32-213	1	58t	0-0	0	—
Texas Tech	27-116	0	20	0-0	0	—
Houston	24-173	3	43	0-0	0	—
TCU	21-153	2	28t	0-0	0	—
Baylor	30-181	1	43	1-4	0	4
Texas A&M	27-222	3	43	1-60	1	60t
Totals	267-1,744	18	58t	5-111	1	60t

Cotton Bowl
Notre Dame _____ 29-116 _____ 0 _____ 18 _____ 0-0 _____ 0 _____ —

CAREER _____ **765-4,443** _____ **40** _____ **83** _____ **6-128** _____ **1** _____ **60t**

CAMPBELL'S CAREER NFL STATISTICS

YEAR	TEAM	ATT	YARDS	TD
1978	Houston Oilers	302	1,450^	13
1979	Houston Oilers	368	1,697^	19
1980	Houston Oilers	373	1,934^	13
1981	Houston Oilers	361	1,376^	10
1982	Houston Oilers	157	538	2
1983	Houston Oilers	322	1,301	12
1984	Houston Oilers/New Orleans Saints	146	468	4
1985	New Orleans Saints	158	643	1
TOTALS	8 SEASONS	2,187	9,407	74

^ led league

