

# RICKY WILLIAMS 1998 HEISMAN TROPHY WINNER

With his trademark dreadlocked hair, a rare combination of strength and speed and a flair for the dramatic, Ricky Williams left an indelible mark on The University of Texas, the Big 12 Conference and the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

Born May 21, 1977, in San Diego, Calif., Williams followed a dominant prep career by taking his talents to Texas, an area he believed cared more than anywhere about its football. Texas and the Southwest embraced their new star, who quickly became a hero on the field and in the community.

After vaulting onto the scene as a true freshman, claiming the starting fullback job the day he stepped on campus and drawing comparisons to the most-honored player in UT football history, Earl Campbell, Williams steadily developed into one of college football's greatest players.

His legend began as a fullback in a freshman year that saw him break Campbell's UT freshman rushing record with 990 yards and eight touchdowns on just 166 carries. In the final year of the Southwest Conference, his presence was significant as the Longhorns established themselves as one of the nation's premier offensive attacks. On the heels of four subpar seasons in a row — by Longhorns standards — UT and its new star rolled to a 10-2-1 record, climbed as high as No. 9 in the national polls and earned a spot in the Sugar Bowl. Williams saved his finest performance for the grandest of stages, a trait he would carry throughout his collegiate career, rushing for 163 yards and two TDs in UT's 16-6 win at No. 16 Texas A&M. The victory, the Longhorns' first in College Station since 1983, secured the final SWC title, earned Williams SWC Offensive Freshman of the Year honors and re-established Texas as one of the nation's top programs.

Texas entered Williams' sophomore year considered a potential national title contender. Although some early-season defeats knocked the Longhorns from that perch, the second-year fullback never disappointed. He rushed for 100 yards seven times, registered 1,272 yards and 12 TDs, earned his first of three consensus first-team All-SWC honors and was tabbed UT's Offensive MVP. Again, Williams turned in his top efforts in the season's biggest games, rushing for 533 yards and three TDs, while catching eight passes for 130 yards and two TDs in the team's regular-season closing four-game winning streak. His 145 rushing yards and score helped UT cap the year with a 51-15 victory against Texas A&M, earning the Longhorns a berth in the first-ever Big 12 title game. Although Williams' numbers didn't reflect it, his performance in the stunning 37-27 upset of defending National Champion and third-ranked Nebraska were critical in the Longhorns claiming the first-ever Big 12 Championship. Williams' effort in helping neutralize Nebraska's All-American end Grant Winstrom in that game is among the most memorable of his career. The victory gave Texas, which finished the year with a 9-5 record and ranked 21st nationally, a spot in the Fiesta Bowl — its second straight Alliance Bowl (then the Bowl Championship Series and now College Football Playoff).

With his powerful thighs and breakaway speed, Williams had captured the nation's attention in just two seasons and entered his junior year as a Heisman Trophy candidate. While UT was going through one of its most disappointing seasons in decades, the junior tailback was having a breakout year. Williams registered his first 200-yard rushing game in posting 249 yards and a then-UT record five TDs at Rice. He would gain 200 yards in six of his next eight games (including a UT-record four in a row) and led the nation with a then-UT-record 1,893 yards and 25 TDs (tied for No. 5 on NCAA chart and now tied for 26th). Williams claimed first-team All-Big 12 honors, was named Big 12 Offensive Player of the Year and was UT's MVP. He also became just the second UT junior to earn a spot among the top-five vote getters for the Heisman Trophy (he finished fifth) and claimed his first major award in winning the Doak Walker Award (nation's outstanding running back).

Williams solidified his place in college football history with a dash to the NCAA all-time rushing record and the Heisman Trophy in 1998. After announcing he was passing on a certain top-five selection in the NFL Draft and returning for his senior year on Jan. 8, 1998, Williams set his sights on leading the Longhorns back to a major bowl, breaking the NCAA rushing record and making a run for the Heisman Trophy. When the dust cleared on Nov. 27, he had reached two of those goals and on Dec. 12 at the Downtown Athletic Club in New York City, he claimed the third goal and became UT's second Heisman Trophy winner. Williams led Texas to a 9-3 record, set 21 NCAA records and received what was then the greatest percentage of first-place votes cast in Heisman history (43% of the 920 voters).

### WILLIAMS' NCAA NOTABLES

- Ranks ninth on the NCAA's all-time all-purpose yardage list (7,206 yards).
- Ranks third on the NCAA's all-time rushing list (6,279 yards)
- Ranks sixth on the NCAA's all-time scoring list (452 points)
- Ranks fourth on the NCAA's all-time rushing touchdowns list (72)
- Ranks sixth on the NCAA's all-time total touchdowns list (75)

### WILLIAMS' CAREER STATISTICS (1995-98)

#### 1995 (freshman, played fullback)

Opponent	Att-Yds	TD	Long	Rec-Yds	TD	Long
Hawai'i	10-95	2	65t	1-48	0	48
Pittsburgh	14-66	1	11	4-67	0	49
Notre Dame	14-72	0	14	0-0	0	0
SMU	9-48	0	24	0-0	0	0
Rice	10-56	2	15	1-11	0	11
Oklahoma	8-4	0	11	3-24	0	11
Virginia	14-139	1	37	2-30	0	16
Texas Tech	15-113	0	41	1-19	0	19
Houston	13-80	0	26	1-2	0	2
TCU	12-68	0	28	2-0	0	1
Baylor	23-86	0	12	0-0	0	0
Texas A&M	24-163	2	44	1-23	0	23
<b>Totals</b>	<b>166-990</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>65t</b>	<b>16-224</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>49</b>

Sugar Bowl						
Virginia Tech	12-62	0	13	1-6	0	6

#### 1996 (sophomore, played fullback)

Opponent	Att-Yds	TD	Long	Rec-Yds	TD	Long
Missouri	14-112	2	23	3-5	0	5
New Mexico State	12-132	2	32	2-10	0	9
Notre Dame	17-108	1	26	1-13	0	13
Virginia	19-44	0	12	2-25	0	20
Oklahoma State	13-156	3	56	1-12	0	12
Oklahoma	21-99	1	17	4-59	0	37
Colorado	21-81	0	18	2-16	0	16
Baylor	12-55	1	11	3-57	1	46
Texas Tech	21-143	1	75t	2-27	0	21
Kansas	25-190	0	27	2-38	1	32
Texas A&M	22-145	1	55t	1-8	0	8
Nebraska	8-7	0	6	2-21	0	17
<b>Totals</b>	<b>205-1,272</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>75t</b>	<b>25-291</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>46t</b>

Fiesta Bowl						
Penn State	11-48	1	10	9-24	0	7

#### 1997 (junior, played tailback)

Opponent	Att-Yds	TD	Long	Rec-Yds	TD	Long
Rutgers	19-155	3	74t	0-0	0	—
UCLA	13-36	0	12	3-7	0	10
Rice	28-249	5	48t	3-25	0	11
Oklahoma State	16-79	1	21t	1-5	0	—
Oklahoma	40-223	2	27	2-26	0	24
Missouri	23-235	2	80t	2-0	0	4
Colorado	29-201	4	71t	2-13	0	7
Baylor	31-241	2	87t	2-32	0	27
Texas Tech	21-80	1	21	2-31	0	24
Kansas	26-211	3	59t	3-21	0	12
Texas A&M	33-183	2	25	0-0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>279-1,893</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>87t</b>	<b>20-150</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>27</b>

#### 1998 (senior, played tailback)

Opponent	Att-Yds	TD	Long	Rec-Yds	TD	Long
New Mexico State	36-215	6*	20	0-0	0	0
UCLA	29-160	3	36	3-54	0	38
Kansas State	25-43	0	0	1-6	0	0
Rice	30-318	6*	42	4-32	0	12
Iowa State	37-350*	5	68t	2-17	0	14
Oklahoma	31-139	2	57	3-27	0	11
Baylor	39-259	2	41	2-10	0	8
Nebraska	37-150	0	38	0-0	0	0
Oklahoma State	23-90	1	24	3-74	1	48t
Texas Tech	30-141	1	21	1-6	0	6
Texas A&M	44-259	1	60t	5-36	0	9
<b>Totals</b>	<b>361*-2,124*</b>	<b>27*</b>	<b>65t</b>	<b>24-262</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>48t</b>

Cotton Bowl						
Mississippi State	30-203+	2	37t	5-45	0	20

Hula Bowl	22-114	2	18	2-11	0	6
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<b>CAREER</b>	<b>1,011*-6,279*</b>	<b>72*</b>	<b>87t</b>	<b>85-927</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>49</b>
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\* UT record // + UT bowl game record

# RICKY WILLIAMS 1998 HEISMAN TROPHY WINNER

The 6-foot, 225-pounder produced one of the finest seasons on NCAA record in 1998, rushing for 2,124 yards (No. 5 on the NCAA's all-time chart and now 14th) and 27 TDs (No. 4 on the NCAA's all-time list and now tied for 13th). He also became the first-ever two-time winner of the Doak Walker Award (nation's outstanding running back) and claimed the Maxwell Award, Walter Camp Foundation Player of the Year, The Associated Press Player of the Year, The Sporting News Player of the Year and the Football News Offensive Player of the Year. With his second consecutive unanimous first-team All-America honor in 1998, Williams became the first UT player since Jerry Gray (1983-84) to earn unanimous first-team All-America recognition in consecutive seasons.

However, it was his route to the Heisman Trophy that was most impressive. Capping his senior year with a 259-yard rushing effort in a 26-24 upset of No. 6 Texas A&M, Williams posted one of the greatest runaway victories in the award's 64-year history. He swept the voting in all six regions, scoring at least a 200-point victory in each section of the country. His 714 first-place votes were the third-most ever and 673 more than runner-up Michael Bishop (Kansas State). Williams' 2,355 points were third-most in Heisman history while his 1,563-point margin of victory over Bishop (792 points) was the fourth-largest on the trophy's record book. Only O.J. Simpson (1,750) in 1968 and Charlie Ward (1,622) in 1993 produced greater routs.

On top of it all, the four-year starter (two at fullback, two at tailback) added 46 school records, two Big 12 Offensive Player of the Year awards, three first-team All-Big 12 accolades and was just the fifth UT player ever to be twice tabbed the Longhorns' MVP.

Most importantly to Williams, he had left UT as he started it, considered among the nation's best teams. After losing two of its first three games in his senior year, he helped Texas post victories in eight of its final nine games. On the heels of Williams' Offensive MVP effort of 203 rushing yards and two TDs in a 38-11 Cotton Bowl victory against Mississippi State (UT's first New Year's Day bowl victory since 1982), the Longhorns finished Williams' senior year with a 9-3 record and No. 15 ranking.

Texas officially retired Williams' No. 34 jersey in a pregame ceremony prior to the Oklahoma State game on Sept. 30, 2000.

After a record-setting collegiate career, Williams began a new chapter of his life, again in historic fashion. On April 17, 1999, Mike Ditka and the New Orleans Saints stunned the NFL and the sports world by trading their entire draft in 1999 and first and third-round selections in 2000 (to the Washington Redskins) for the right to select Williams with the fifth pick.

In three seasons in New Orleans, Williams established himself as one of the NFL's premier running backs. He rushed for 3,129 yards and 16 TDs and caught 132 passes for 1,092 yards and a pair of TDs in 38 games (all starts). Williams became the first Saints 1,000-yard rusher in more than a decade in 2000 and followed that up with a career-best 1,245 rushing yards in 2001. He became the first New Orleans player to rush for 1,000 yards in back-to-back seasons.

On March 8, 2002, Williams was again a part of a blockbuster deal. The fourth-year NFL back was traded to the Miami Dolphins for what turned out to be a pair of first-round picks, one each in the 2002 and 2003 NFL drafts.

Williams kicked off his Dolphins career with a bang, leading the NFL in rushing (1,853 yards/Dolphins season record/eighth-best season rushing total in NFL history) and ranking second in the league in yards from scrimmage (2,216). He earned his first trip to the Pro Bowl and was named MVP at that game. The Dolphins co-MVP rushed for a team record 16 TDs and ranked second on the team with 47 catches for 363 yards. He also caught a TD pass and ranked second on the team with 102 points. During a two-game stretch, he rushed for 216 yards against the Chicago Bears and 228 in a snowstorm at Buffalo. That marked just the fourth time in NFL history that a player posted back-to-back 200-yard rushing games. He also had 10 100-yard rushing games.

In 2003, Williams posted his fourth straight 1,000-yard season, rushing for 1,372 yards (No. 2 on the Dolphins all-time season list) and nine TDs. He joined Green Bay's Ahman Green and the Jets' Curtis Martin as the NFL's only backs that rushed for 1,000 yards in each of the those seasons. Williams also ranked second on the team with 50 receptions (for 351 yards and a TD). He registered seven 100-yard rushing games, including 153 yards on a Dolphins record 42 carries against Buffalo.

Williams returned to the NFL in 2005 and rushed for 743 yards and six TDs. He spent the 2006 season in the Canadian Football League, rushing for 526 yards and two TDs. He returned to the NFL in 2007 and played in one game, rushing for 15 yards on six carries, before suffering a season-ending torn chest muscle. Williams made a splash with Dolphins in 2009 when he posted 1,121 rushing

yards setting an NFL record for longest span between 1,000-yard seasons at six years. In 2010, his last season with the Dolphins, Williams recorded 673 yards on 159 carries and two touchdowns. The Baltimore Ravens signed Williams in 2011 for his final NFL season before retiring. He played in all 16 games amassing 444 rushing yards on 108 attempts with a pair of TDs and caught 13 passes for 83 yards.

Williams is one of just 29 players in NFL history to rush for more than 10,000 yards. He totaled 10,009 career rushing yards and 66 rushing TDs over his professional career. He also had 342 receptions for 2,606 receiving yards.

His exploits on the gridiron where honored in January, 2015 when he was voted into the College Football Hall of Fame. He is also a member of the Longhorns Men's Hall of Honor, having been inducted in 2012.

## CAREER CAPSULE

1998 Heisman Trophy winner ... 1998 Maxwell Award winner ... 1998 Walter Camp Foundation Player of the Year ... 1998 Associated Press Player of the Year ... 1998 The Sporting News Player of the Year ... 1998 Football News Offensive Player of the Year ... 1998 Sullivan Award finalist ... two-time unanimous consensus first-team All-American and Big 12 Offensive Player of the Year ... three-time first-team All-Big 12 ... first-ever two-time Doak Walker Award winner ... finished fifth in the 1997 Heisman Trophy voting ... finished his career with 21 NCAA records and 46 University of Texas all-time marks ... among the marks were NCAA records for career rushing yards (6,279), all-purpose yards (7,206), rushing TDs (72), total TDs (75), scoring (452 points), games with a TD (33), games with two or more TDs (21), yards per rush (6.2/min. 781 carries) and 200-yard games (11) ... is one of two members of the NCAA all-time top 12 all-purpose yardage performers who never returned a kick ... tied an NCAA mark by posting back-to-back 2,000-yard all-purpose seasons ... broke Earl Campbell's UT all-time rushing record in 1998 ... posted UT records for 300-yard games (two), 200-yard games (11) and 100-yard games (27) ... recorded the top two and three of the top seven rushing seasons in Longhorns history ... one of three players in UT history to post three consecutive 1,000-yard rushing seasons (Chris Gilbert, 1966-68; Cedric Benson 2001-03) ... turned in 22 career plays of 40 or more yards (18 runs/four receptions) ... posted eight of the top 10 rushing games in Longhorns history, including a school-best 350 yards against Iowa State in 1998 ... 3,889 of his 6,279 (68.3%) career rushing yards came after initial contact ... won back-to-back NCAA rushing titles as a junior and senior ... finished first in the nation in scoring as a junior and second as a senior ... played in 49 (47 starts) games in a row, including three bowl games ... 1999 Cotton Bowl Offensive MVP ... 1999 Hula Bowl Offensive MVP.

## WILLIAMS' HONOR ROLL

Longhorns MVP (1997, '98)  
 First-team All-Big 12 (1996, '97, '98)  
 Big 12 Offensive Player of the Year (1997, '98)  
 Consensus First-team All-American (1997, '98)  
 Heisman Trophy (1998)  
 Maxwell Award (1998)  
 Walter Camp Football Foundation Player of the Year (1998)  
 Doak Walker Award (1997, '98)  
 Associated Press Player of the Year (1998)  
 The Sporting News Player of the Year (1998)  
 Football News Offensive Player of the Year (1998)  
 Sullivan Award Finalist (1998)  
 NCAA Rushing Champion (1997, '98)  
 NCAA Scoring Champion (1998)  
 NFL All-Pro (2002)  
 NFL Rushing Champion (2002)

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## WILLIAMS' NCAA RECORDS (15)

*(old record in parenthesis)*

Career all-purpose yards	7,206
	(7,172, Napoleon McCallum, Navy, 1981-85)
Career 200-yard games	11
	(tied record: 11, Marcus Allen, USC, 1978-81)
Career yards per carry (min. 781 attempts)	6.2
	(6.1, Archie Griffin, Ohio State, 1972-75)
Touchdowns in consecutive seasons	53
	(52, Barry Sanders, Oklahoma State, 1987-88)
Seasons with 2,000 or more all-purpose yards	2
	(tied record held by seven other players)
Seasons with 1,500 or more all-purpose yards	3
	(tied record held by four others players)
All-purpose yards in three consecutive seasons	5,992
	(5,749, Herschel Walker, Georgia, 1980-82)
Consecutive 300-yard games	2 — 318, vs. Rice/350, vs. Iowa State
	(1, held by several other players)
Yards in consecutive games	668 — 318, vs. Rice/350, vs. Iowa State
	(628, Ron Dayne, Wisconsin, 1996/289, vs. Illinois; 339, vs. Hawai'i)
Fastest to 1,000 rushing yards	5 games
	(tied record held by seven other players)
Rushing TDs in consecutive games	11 — 6, vs. Rice/5, vs. Iowa State
	(tied record set by Kelvin Bryant, North Carolina, 1981/
	6, vs. East Carolina and 5, vs. Miami, Ohio)
Points scored per game in two seasons	14.5
	(14.2, Barry Sanders, Oklahoma State, 1987-88)
Points scored in two consecutive seasons	320
	(312, Barry Sanders, Oklahoma State, 1987-88)
Points scored in three consecutive seasons	404
	(376, Marshall Faulk, San Diego State, 1991-93)
Touchdowns scored in three consecutive seasons	67
	(62, Marshall Faulk, San Diego State, 1991-93)

*Records held at the end of his career*

## WILLIAMS' CAREER NFL STATISTICS

**New Orleans Saints (1999-2001); Miami Dolphins (2002-2010)  
Baltimore Ravens (2011)**

YEAR	G/GS	ATT-YDS	TD	LONG	REC-YDS	TD	LONG
1999	12/12	253-884	2	25	28-172	0	29
2000	10/10	248-1,000	8	26t	44-409	1	24
2001	16/16	313-1,245	6	46	60-511	1	42
2002	16/16	383 <sup>^</sup> -1,853 <sup>^</sup>	16	63t	47-363	1	52
2003	16/16	392-1,372	9	45t	50-351	1	59
2005	12/3	168-743	6	35	17-93	0	19
2007	1/0	6-15	0	6	0-0	0	—
2008	16/3	160-659	4	51t	29-219	1	47
2009	16/7	241-1,121	11	68t	35-264	2	59
2010	16/0	159-673	2	45t	19-141	1	28
2011	16/0	108-444	2	28	13-83	0	18
<b>CAREER</b>	<b>147/83</b>	<b>2,431-10,009</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>68T</b>	<b>342-2,606</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>59</b>

<sup>^</sup>led league

## WILLIAMS' TEXAS RECORDS (38)

### CAREER (14)

Rushing yards	6,279
Rushing yards per game	136.5
100-yard rushing games	28
200-yard rushing games	12
300-yard rushing games	2
Rushing touchdowns	72
Rushing touchdowns per game	1.6
Games with two or more touchdowns	21
Games with three or more touchdowns	7
Total touchdowns scored	75 (72 rush, 3 rec)
Touchdowns accounted for	76 (72 rush, 3 rec, 1 pass)
Points	452
All-purpose yards	7,206
All-purpose yards per game	156.7

### SINGLE SEASON (12)

Rushing attempts	361 (1998)
Rushing yards	2,124 (1998)
Rushing yards per game	193.1 (1998)
200-yard rushing games	6 (1997)
300-yard rushing games	2 (1998)
Fastest to 1,000 rushing yards	144 attempts (1998)
Rushing touchdowns	27 (1998)
Rushing touchdowns per game	2.5 (1998)
Touchdowns accounted for	28 (27 rush, 1 rec/1998)
Points	168 (1998)
All-purpose yards	2,386 (1998)
All-purpose yards per game	216.9 (1998)

### SINGLE GAME (6)

Rushing yards at Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium	350, vs. Iowa State (1998)
Rushing yards in season opener	215, vs. New Mexico State (1998)
Rushing yards in a first half	187, vs. Rice (1998)
Rushing touchdowns	6, vs. New Mexico State, vs. Rice (1998)
Touchdowns accounted for	6, vs. New Mexico State, vs. Rice (1998)
Points	36, vs. New Mexico State, vs. Rice (1998)

### OTHER (6)

Consecutive 200-yard rushing games	4 (1997)
Consecutive 300-yard rushing games	2 (1998)
Yards in consecutive games	668 (318, vs. Rice; 350, vs. Iowa State, 1998)
Consecutive games with a rushing touchdown (tied)	11 (1997-98)
Rushing attempts in bowl game	30 (1999 Cotton)
Rushing yards in a bowl game	203 (1999 Cotton)

