

HALL OF FAME HISTORY

ANTHONY MUNOZ

The Bengals' **Anthony Munoz**, who defined the art of playing offensive tackle in the National Football League, was inducted on Aug. 1, 1998 to the Pro Football Hall of Fame. It was the first year of Hall eligibility for Munoz, whose final NFL season was 1992 with the Bengals. There currently are 310 Hall of Famers, and Munoz is one of only 80 players selected in their first year of eligibility.

Munoz was a consensus All-American at the University of Southern California, and the Bengals claimed him with the third overall pick in the 1980 draft, despite the fact some teams considered him damaged goods due to past knee surgery. The move turned out as the best draft gamble in franchise history, as Munoz went on to play 13 Bengals seasons (1980-92), including 11 seasons ('81-91) in which he was chosen for the AFC-NFC Pro Bowl game. At the time of his retirement (1992), that was the most selections of any player in NFL history. He also earned All-Pro honors (full NFL, not just the AFC) every season from 1981 through '91.

"Anthony's induction was very gratifying to our organization and to all of our fans," said Mike Brown, Bengals president. "It was particularly so because the selectors recognized Anthony as a truly special player and person who deserved election on his first try. During his playing days, no one in the NFL was better. It's justifiable to consider him as the best offensive lineman ever, and he has conducted his personal and family life in a way that is a great credit to the Bengals and the NFL."

Munoz's off-field efforts earned him the NFL's prestigious Man of the Year Award in 1991.

Munoz played for the Bengals in both of their Super Bowl appearances, as a second-year player in Super Bowl XVI at Pontiac, Mich., and as a ninth-year vet in Super Bowl XXIII at Miami.

In 1994, he was one of three offensive tackles named to the NFL's official 75th Anniversary Team. He joined his fellow tackles from that 75th Anniversary Team — Forrest Gregg and Roosevelt Brown — in the Hall of Fame.

Munoz's exceptional agility and athleticism is reflected by his entry line in the Bengals' all-time pass receiving statistics. He caught seven passes, playing as a tackle-eligible, and four of those catches were for touchdowns.

In six of his 13 Bengals seasons, Munoz earned at least one major award as NFL Offensive Lineman of the Year. One award citation, issued by NFL Alumni, reads: "The NFL has three levels of offensive linemen. The bottom rung is for players aspiring to make the Pro Bowl. The next step is for those who have earned all-star status. Then there's Anthony Munoz. He's alone at the top, a sure Hall of Famer."

Though there are other Hall of Fame members with some Hispanic ancestry, Munoz is considered the first player of primarily Hispanic background to enter the Hall. Munoz was born in Ontario, Calif. His parents also are native Californians, and his grandparents were born in Chihuahua, Mexico.



OTHER PLAYER/COACH CONNECTIONS

Munoz is the only player who performed primarily for the Bengals to gain entry to the Hall.

Two other Hall of Fame players, wide receivers **Charlie Joiner** and **Terrell Owens**, are former Bengals, but both played the majority of their careers with other teams. Joiner, who was with the Bengals from 1972-75, played the majority of his career with San Diego. He was inducted in 1996. Owens, who was a Bengal in 2010, also was with San Francisco, Philadelphia, Dallas and Buffalo. He will be inducted as a member of the 2018 class.

Paul Brown, founder and first head coach of the Bengals and the Browns, is in the Hall, but he was inducted in 1967, before the Bengals' first season.

Three other Hall of Famers also spent time as Bengals coaches. **Bill Walsh**, inducted for his success as head coach of the San Francisco 49ers, was a Bengals assistant under Paul Brown from 1968-75. He was inducted in 1993. **Forrest Gregg**, Bengals head coach from 1980-83, was inducted in '77, based on his playing career as an offensive tackle, primarily with Green Bay. And **Dick LeBeau**, a Bengals coach for 19 seasons, was inducted in 2010 for his exploits as a cornerback for the Detroit Lions. LeBeau was Bengals head coach for the last 13 games of 2000, as well as '01-02. LeBeau was a Cincinnati assistant coach from 1980-91 and from '97 through the first three games of 2000.

More on Paul Brown: Brown was not only the founder and first coach of both the Bengals and the Browns, but he was one of the great innovators in pro football history.

"Whether they know it or not, nearly everyone in football has been affected by Paul Brown," former NFL Commissioner Pete Rozelle said in 1991. "His wealth of ideas changed the game."

Elected in 1967 to the Pro Football Hall of Fame, Brown also was founder and first coach of the Cleveland Browns, whom he guided to seven league championships in their first 12 seasons. He posted a .665 winning percentage over 25 years of pro coaching (222-112-9, including playoffs). Earlier in his career, he created an Ohio dynasty at Massillon High School and coached Ohio State University to a national championship (1942).

Brown pioneered coaching as a year-round profession, invented the draw play, introduced the use of face masks on helmets, initiated film study and classroom instruction of players, and was the first coach to call plays from the sidelines. He also broke the color barrier in modern American pro sports, as his Cleveland team featured black stars Marion Motley and Bill Willis in 1946, a year before Jackie Robinson's debut in Major League Baseball.

Born in Norwalk, Ohio, and reared in Massillon, Ohio, Brown was Bengals coach and general manager from 1968-75. He stepped down as coach following an 11-3 season in 1975, and continued in the GM's role until his death at age 82 on Aug. 5, 1991.

BENGALS ITEMS IN THE HALL

The Hall of Fame houses many pieces of Bengals history, including:

- Full uniform including jersey, pants, and helmet of OT Anthony Munoz during the last season of his Hall of Fame career.
- Coach Paul Brown's "signature" hat he wore on the sidelines.
- QB Boomer Esiason's jersey from his MVP season in 1988.
- RB Corey Dillon's jersey from Dec. 4, 1997 when he established a rookie single-game rushing record vs. Tennessee.
- Jersey, pants, and shoes worn by Dillon on Oct. 22, 2000 when he set the then-NFL record of 278 rushing yards in Bengals' 31-21 win vs. Denver Broncos.
- The football used on the opening kickoff of the Bengals' inaugural regular-season home game on Sept. 14, 1968. Cincinnati defeated Denver, 24-10.
- Jerseys worn by RB Archie Griffin and CB Ken Riley.
- Back rest of seat from Cinergy Field, formerly Riverfront Stadium.
- Autographed metal bucket from groundbreaking ceremony of Paul Brown Stadium. Signatures include those of Mike Brown, Hamilton County Commissioners Bob Bedinghaus and Tom Neyer, and Cincinnati Mayor Roxanne Qualls.
- Shovel used for the groundbreaking of Paul Brown Stadium, which took place on Cincinnati's riverfront on April 25, 1998.
- Framed water color drawing of WR Isaac Curtis.
- Draft cards. The cards were written on by a team representative and turned into NFL officials to identify each draft pick.