

HAROLD CARMICHAEL



182 CAREER GAMES • 590 RECEPTIONS • 8,985 RECEIVING YARDS • 79 RECEIVING TDS • 4x PRO BOWL • 2x ALL-PRO



AP

1973

AP

1979



THE HOF CASE FOR HAROLD CARMICHAEL

Harold Carmichael was a member of the NFL Team of the Decade for the 1970s. He was a four-time Pro Bowler and two-time All-Pro. In an era before wide receivers put up huge numbers, he put up huge numbers.

Read these five stats and try to make a case for Carmichael not being in Canton:

- When Carmichael retired after the 1984 season with 590 catches, only four players in NFL history had more — **Charley Taylor, Don Maynard, Raymond Berry** and **Charlie Joiner**. All are Hall of Famers!
- At that same point, Carmichael had 8,985 career yards, which was seventh most in NFL history, behind Maynard, **Harold Jackson, Lance Alworth, Joiner, Berry** and **Taylor**. All are Hall of Famers except Jackson, Carmichael's Eagles teammate.
- During the 11-year period from 1973 through 1983, Carmichael had 43 more catches, 46 more yards and 10 more touchdowns than anybody in the NFL! During an eleven-year period, he was the best receiver in the game.
- Harold was huge in the postseason, with games of 83, 84, 92 and 111 yards in the 1979 and 1980 playoffs. When he retired, he had the sixth-highest average yards per playoff game in NFL history at 67 per game (minimum of five games). He once had a receiving TD in four straight playoff games. To this day, only nine players in NFL history have had longer streaks.
- Carmichael was a seventh-round pick, and when he retired — again, before the proliferation of the high-powered passing games of today — only one player in NFL history drafted in the seventh round or later had more catches: Maynard, who is a Hall of Famer.

Also keep in mind that from 1973 through 1981, Carmichael never missed a game! He was an NFL Man of the Year. He didn't parade around the sideline, drawing attention to himself, he never undermined his team or said a bad word about any of his teammates. He was the consummate professional who stands for everything that is great and important about athletics and football in America. He is the perfect Hall of Famer.