

dallas cowboys placekickers

dallas cowboys placekickers have played a crucial role in the success and identity of one of the NFL's most storied franchises. Over the years, the Cowboys have featured a variety of talented specialists responsible for securing points through field goals and extra points, shaping many memorable moments in the team's history. This article provides a comprehensive overview of the Dallas Cowboys placekickers, highlighting notable players, their achievements, and the evolution of the kicking game within the franchise. From the early days of the Cowboys to the modern era, placekickers have often been the difference-makers in close games and playoff runs. Understanding the history and impact of these players offers valuable insight into the team's overall performance and strategy. The article will also cover the technical aspects of placekicking and the role of special teams in the Cowboys' game plan.

- History of Dallas Cowboys Placekickers
- Notable Dallas Cowboys Placekickers
- Impact of Placekicking on Team Success
- Technical Aspects and Training of Placekickers
- Current Dallas Cowboys Placekicker and Future Prospects

History of Dallas Cowboys Placekickers

The history of Dallas Cowboys placekickers traces back to the franchise's inception in 1960. Since then, the team has relied on skilled kickers to convert field goals and extra points, often affecting the outcome of close contests. Early Cowboys placekickers set the foundation for the position, showcasing the importance of accuracy and consistency in the NFL. Over the decades, the role of the placekicker has evolved alongside changes in game rules, training methods, and equipment technology.

Early Years and Foundational Kickers

In the early years, the Cowboys utilized several kickers who contributed to establishing the team's special teams unit. Kickers like Sam Baker, who played in the 1960s, were instrumental in providing reliable scoring options. During this era, the kicking game was less specialized, but the Cowboys emphasized the necessity of a dependable placekicker to complement their offensive strategies.

Evolution Through the 1970s and 1980s

The 1970s and 1980s marked a period of growth and specialization for Dallas Cowboys placekickers. With the team becoming a dominant force in the NFL, placekickers were expected to perform under

increased pressure. Kickers such as Rafael Septién, who played during the late 1970s and 1980s, exemplified precision and clutch performance, contributing significantly to the team's playoff appearances and Super Bowl runs.

Notable Dallas Cowboys Placekickers

Several Dallas Cowboys placekickers have left an indelible mark on the franchise's history. Their contributions range from record-setting performances to game-winning kicks that have defined seasons. This section highlights some of the most influential and memorable placekickers in Cowboys history.

Rafael Septién

Rafael Septién was one of the most consistent and accurate placekickers in Cowboys history. Playing from 1977 to 1986, Septién was known for his reliability, which helped the Cowboys secure many close victories. He ranks among the franchise leaders in points scored and field goals made during his tenure.

Danny White

Although primarily a quarterback, Danny White also handled placekicking duties early in his career. His versatility demonstrated the multifaceted roles players sometimes held in earlier NFL eras, including handling extra points and field goals before dedicated kickers became the norm.

Chris Boniol

Chris Boniol, active in the 1990s, is remembered for his clutch kicking, including a franchise-record 53-yard field goal and key contributions during the Cowboys' Super Bowl XXX-winning season. His accuracy and leg strength made him a valuable asset during one of the franchise's most successful periods.

Dan Bailey

Dan Bailey, who played for the Cowboys from 2011 to 2017, is considered one of the franchise's best placekickers. He set several team records for field goal percentage and scoring, becoming a reliable scoring threat. Bailey's consistency earned him Pro Bowl selections and established him as a modern era Cowboys legend.

Impact of Placekicking on Team Success

Placekicking has had a profound impact on the Dallas Cowboys' success across multiple decades. Reliable kicking can determine the outcome of tight games, contribute critical points in playoff matches, and provide strategic advantages in field position. The Cowboys have often leveraged their

placekickers' skills to capitalize on scoring opportunities and maintain momentum.

Game-Changing Field Goals

Many Dallas Cowboys placekickers have delivered game-winning field goals under high-pressure situations. These moments not only boost team morale but also influence playoff standings and championship runs. The ability to convert field goals from long distances or in adverse weather conditions has been a hallmark of successful Cowboys kickers.

Special Teams Strategy

The Cowboys' coaching staff has historically prioritized special teams as a critical component of their overall game plan. Placekickers are integral to this strategy, providing scoring options during stalled offensive drives and ensuring that extra points are consistently converted. Effective placekicking contributes to the team's overall scoring efficiency and field position management.

Technical Aspects and Training of Placekickers

Placekicking requires a unique combination of skill, technique, and mental focus. Dallas Cowboys placekickers undergo rigorous training to refine their accuracy, power, and consistency. This section explores the technical elements that define elite placekicking and the training methods employed by the Cowboys' special teams coaches.

Mechanics of a Successful Kick

Successful placekicking involves precise foot placement, timing, and body alignment. Kickers focus on the approach angle, plant foot positioning, and follow-through to maximize accuracy and distance. The Dallas Cowboys emphasize biomechanical efficiency to reduce errors and improve consistency during game situations.

Mental Preparation and Pressure Handling

The mental aspect of placekicking is critical, as kickers often face high-pressure scenarios. Cowboys placekickers train to maintain focus, confidence, and composure, particularly during decisive moments in games. Visualization techniques and routine development are common tools used to enhance mental resilience.

Training Regimen and Conditioning

The Cowboys implement specialized training regimens for their placekickers, including strength and flexibility exercises tailored to kicking muscles. Regular practice sessions simulate game conditions to prepare kickers for a variety of kicking scenarios, including different weather and field conditions.

Current Dallas Cowboys Placekicker and Future Prospects

The current Dallas Cowboys placekicker continues the franchise's tradition of excellence. The player's performance is closely monitored by coaches and analysts, given the importance of the kicking game in the team's overall strategy. Additionally, the Cowboys invest in scouting and developing potential future placekickers to maintain a competitive edge.

Current Placekicker Profile

The present Cowboys placekicker combines accuracy, leg strength, and reliability, contributing significantly to the team's scoring efforts. Their statistics, including field goal percentage and longest successful attempts, reflect their role as a key component of the Cowboys' special teams unit.

Developing Future Talent

The Dallas Cowboys actively scout collegiate and professional talent to identify promising placekickers who can contribute to the team in the coming years. Development programs focus on refining kicking techniques and integrating players into the Cowboys' system to ensure a seamless transition when roster changes occur.

Challenges and Opportunities Ahead

As the game of football evolves, Dallas Cowboys placekickers face challenges such as adapting to rule changes, increased game speed, and heightened competition. However, advancements in training technology and analytics provide opportunities to enhance performance and maintain the Cowboys' legacy of strong special teams play.

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Frequently Asked Questions

Who is the current placekicker for the Dallas Cowboys?

As of 2024, the current placekicker for the Dallas Cowboys is Brett Maher.

How has Brett Maher performed as the Dallas Cowboys' placekicker?

Brett Maher has been known for his strong leg and clutch kicking ability, making several game-winning field goals for the Cowboys since joining the team.

Who was the Dallas Cowboys' placekicker before Brett Maher?

Before Brett Maher, the Dallas Cowboys' placekicker was Greg Zuerlein.

What is the longest field goal made by a Dallas Cowboys placekicker?

The longest field goal made by a Dallas Cowboys placekicker is 62 yards, kicked by Brett Maher in a 2022 game.

Have the Dallas Cowboys had any notable controversies involving their placekickers?

Yes, Brett Maher was briefly released in 2021 due to inconsistencies but was re-signed and regained his position as the Dallas Cowboys' primary placekicker.

What role do Dallas Cowboys placekickers play on kickoffs?

Dallas Cowboys placekickers, like Brett Maher, typically handle kickoffs, aiming for touchbacks to limit the opposing team's return opportunities.

Are there any rookie placekickers expected to join the Dallas Cowboys soon?

As of 2024, there are no widely reported rookie placekickers expected to join the Dallas Cowboys, with Brett Maher firmly holding the starting position.

Additional Resources

1. Kickoff Kings: The Legacy of Dallas Cowboys Placekickers

This book delves into the rich history of the Dallas Cowboys' placekickers, tracing their impact on the team's success through the decades. From clutch field goals to game-winning kicks, the narrative highlights the most memorable moments and players who have stood between the uprights. Featuring interviews and behind-the-scenes stories, it offers an insider's look at the pressures and triumphs of kicking in Dallas.

2. Frozen Footprints: The Art of Placekicking with the Dallas Cowboys

Explore the technical mastery and mental toughness required to be a successful placekicker in the high-stakes world of the Dallas Cowboys. This book breaks down the mechanics, training regimens, and psychological strategies used by Cowboys kickers to excel under pressure. It also profiles legendary kickers and how their unique styles contributed to the team's legacy.

3. Game Changers: Dallas Cowboys Placekickers Who Made History

Highlighting the most pivotal kicks in Dallas Cowboys history, this book celebrates the placekickers whose boots changed the course of games and seasons. It features detailed accounts of iconic moments, including playoff-winning field goals and record-setting performances. Readers gain appreciation for the critical role kickers play in the Cowboys' storied franchise.

4. Between the Posts: A Dallas Cowboys Placekicker's Journey

A compelling biography that follows the life and career of one of Dallas Cowboys' most celebrated placekickers. The book offers a personal perspective on the challenges, sacrifices, and achievements encountered on and off the field. It provides an intimate look at what it takes to maintain consistency and composure in the NFL spotlight.

5. Precision Under Pressure: The Dallas Cowboys' Placekicking Tradition

This volume examines how the Cowboys have cultivated a tradition of precision and reliability in their placekicking game. Through historical analysis and player profiles, it reveals the evolution of kicking techniques and technology. The book also discusses how placekickers have adapted to changing game dynamics while maintaining accuracy.

6. The Last Second Kick: Dallas Cowboys Clutch Placekicks That Won Games

Focused on moments when the Dallas Cowboys' placekickers delivered under immense pressure, this book recounts thrilling last-second field goals and extra points. It captures the drama and emotions surrounding these decisive plays, providing vivid descriptions of the stakes involved. The stories underscore the nerve and skill that define great Cowboys kickers.

7. Steel Toes: The Grit and Glory of Dallas Cowboys Placekickers

This narrative celebrates the toughness and determination of Cowboys placekickers who have faced physical and mental challenges throughout their careers. Featuring anecdotes of overcoming injuries, slumps, and high expectations, the book portrays kickers as unsung heroes. It honors their resilience and contributions to the team's victories.

8. From Practice to Perfect: Training the Dallas Cowboys' Placekickers

An in-depth look at the rigorous training routines and coaching philosophies behind the Dallas Cowboys' placekicking success. This book offers readers a glimpse into daily drills, workout plans, and mental conditioning exercises used by the team's kickers. It also includes advice and tips for aspiring kickers inspired by the Cowboys' methods.

9. Under the Lights: Dallas Cowboys Placekickers in Prime Time

This book focuses on the performances of Dallas Cowboys placekickers during nationally televised prime-time games, where pressure and visibility are at their peak. It analyzes how kickers handle the heightened expectations and scrutiny, showcasing standout kicks and critical moments. Readers get a sense of the spotlight's intensity and the kickers' poise under it.

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