

Invited To Appear

Dwight Stephenson



Dwight Eugene Stephenson (born November 20, 1957) is an American former professional [football](#) player who was a [center](#) for the [Miami Dolphins](#) of the [National Football League](#) (NFL) from 1980 to 1987. He played [college football](#) for the [Alabama Crimson Tide](#). He was inducted into the [Pro Football Hall of Fame](#) in 1998.

Dwight was born in [Murfreesboro, North Carolina](#). He played college football at the [University of Alabama](#) under coach [Bear Bryant](#). Bryant called Stephenson the best center he ever coached, and described him as "a man among children".^[3] He was the [Crimson Tide's](#) starting center from 1977 to 1979, and was a member of Alabama's back-to-back national championship teams of 1978 and 1979.^[4] He was a two-time second-team [All-American](#); in 1978 by [United Press International](#) (UPI)^[5] and 1979 by the [Associated Press](#) (AP) and UPI.^{[6][7]} "His speed, his foot quickness, was off the chart," said Mike Brock, a former Alabama lineman. "You couldn't compare it to other people who played at that time. There was no way for defenses to deal with him.

Dwight was drafted by [Don Shula](#) and the [Miami Dolphins](#) in the second round of the [1980 NFL Draft](#). He was used on [special teams](#) only until late in the [1981 season](#), when starting center [Mark Dennard](#) was injured. A few seasons later, Stephenson was "universally recognized as the premier center in the NFL". With the exceptionally explosive Stephenson as offensive captain, the Dolphins offensive line gave up the fewest sacks in the NFL for a record six straight seasons, from 1982 to 1987,^[8] which doubled the length of the previous record. He retired from pro football in 1987, after sustaining a left knee injury in a play involving [New York Jets Marty Lyons](#) and [Joe Klecko](#).

Stephenson was voted as an All-Pro five consecutive times from 1983 to 1987. He was selected to play on five [Pro Bowl](#) squads over the same span. He was named AFC Offensive Lineman of the Year by the [NFLPA](#) five consecutive times (1983–87) and voted the [Seagram's Seven Crowns of Sports](#) Offensive Lineman of the Year three consecutive times (1983–85). He started at center in the [AFC Championship Game](#) three times, in [1982](#), [1984](#), and [1985](#). He was the starting center in the Dolphins' two most recent [Super Bowl](#) appearances: [Super Bowl XVII](#) and [Super Bowl XIX](#). In 1985, Stephenson was the recipient of the [NFL Man of the Year Award](#) for "outstanding community service and playing excellence. On December 12, 1994 Stephenson was added to the [Miami Dolphins Honor Roll](#).

Despite the brevity of his career, in [1999](#), Stephenson was ranked number 84 on [The Sporting News](#)' list of the 100 Greatest Football Players. Also in 1999, he was inducted into the [Virginia Sports Hall of Fame](#), and in 2011, Stephenson was inducted into the Hampton Roads Sports Hall of Fame, for his contributions to sports in southeastern Virginia. In 1998, Stephenson was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame. He was quoted as saying that "I know I'm not going to make every block, but I don't like to ever get beat. That's what keeps me motivated. There's always the next play to get ready for. In 2005, Stephenson was named the [Walter Camp Man of the Year](#).

He is the namesake of [Pro Football Focus](#)' annual Dwight Stephenson Award, honoring the player the website considers best in the NFL regardless of position.

Mark Duper



Mark "Super" Duper (born January 25, 1959) is an American former [football wide receiver](#) who played for the [Miami Dolphins](#) of the [National Football League](#) from 1982 to 1992. He played [collegiately](#) at [Northwestern State University](#) and was selected by the Dolphins in the 2nd round of the [1982 NFL draft](#). He is a member of the [Omega Psi Phi](#) fraternity.

Nicknamed "Super Duper", he played 11 seasons for the Dolphins where his best years came while teamed with [Pro Football Hall of Fame quarterback Dan Marino](#) and fellow wide receiver [Mark Clayton](#), the other half of the "Marks Brothers" wide receiver tandem. Duper, who wore #85, was a 3-time [Pro Bowl](#) selection in [1983](#), [1984](#) and [1986](#). His best season was [1984](#), when he had 71 catches, 1306 yards and 8 touchdowns, and in [1986](#), when he tallied 67 catches, 1313 yards and 11 touchdowns. Duper had four 1,000-yard seasons, with the final one coming in [1991](#) at age 32, when he posted 1085 yards. In 1990, Duper became only the second Dolphins player to surpass 7,000 career receiving yards. On July 17, 1993, the Dolphins released Duper, after re-hauling their receiving corps bringing in [O.J. McDuffie](#), [Irving Fryar](#), and [Mark Ingram Sr.](#), and letting go of the Marks Brothers. In his 11 NFL seasons, he caught 511 passes for 8,869 yards and 59 touchdowns. Duper was inducted (with [Mark Clayton](#)) into the [Miami Dolphins Honor Roll](#) on December 15, 2003.

Duper was also a track star, he won in the finals of the 400-meter relay at the 1981 NCAA track and field championships at Northwestern State University, and from the 1980 Olympic trials finished seventh in the 200-meter dash and reached the semifinals of the 100. he competed in the [100 meters](#) and [200 meters](#), posting personal bests of 10.21 seconds and 20.77 seconds, respectively.

O. J. McDuffie



Otis James McDuffie (born December 2, 1969) is a former American college and professional [football](#) player who was a [wide receiver](#) in the [National Football League](#) (NFL) for eight seasons. He played [college football](#) for [Penn State University](#), and earned [All-American](#) honors. A first-round pick in the [1993 NFL Draft](#), he played professionally for the NFL's [Miami Dolphins](#).

McDuffie was born in [Marion, Ohio](#). He attended [Hawken School](#) in [Gates Mills, Ohio](#), excelling in [football](#), [basketball](#), [track and field](#) and baseball. He set Hawken's record for all-purpose yards with 7,302 in his high school career. In 1986, McDuffie returned an interception 108 yards, an unofficial [Ohio](#) state record.^[1] During his senior year in 1987, he was named the A-AA [Ohio Player of the year](#). For the 1987 high school football season, he scored 136 points (21 [touchdowns](#)) ahead of future professional football players [Desmond Howard](#) and [Robert Smith](#).^[2]

His number 32 is retired at Hawken School and [The News-Herald](#) named McDuffie the number 3 player of the 20th century in [Northeast Ohio](#). [Memorabilia](#) from McDuffie's days playing Marion Midget Football are featured in an exhibit entitled "A Passion to Play" at the [Marion County Historical Society](#)

McDuffie attended Pennsylvania State University, and played for coach [Joe Paterno's Penn State Nittany Lions football](#) team. He wore the number 24 for the [Nittany Lions](#). He set several single-season and career receiving records, as well as all-purpose yards records. His performance in Penn State's [1992 Fiesta Bowl](#) victory over [Tennessee](#) on January 1, 1992 garnered him the game's offensive MVP.

McDuffie also played one season of varsity [baseball](#) in 1990 while at Penn State. He still holds the PSU record for stolen bases in a single game with 4, and is in the top 10 for stolen bases in a single season.^[4] McDuffie was drafted by the then [California Angels](#) in the 41st round of the [1991 Major League Baseball Draft](#) but did not sign.

He earned a [Bachelor of Science](#) degree in labor and industrial relations from Penn State in 1992.

The Miami Dolphins selected McDuffie in the first round (25th pick overall) of the [1993 NFL Draft](#). He [returned punts](#) and was a reserve wide receiver before earning the [starting](#) spot for the Dolphins. During his formative years with the Dolphins, McDuffie became known as [Dan Marino's](#) favorite receiver. His 415 career catches are fourth all-time in Dolphin's history. In 1998, McDuffie caught 90 passes, leading the [NFL](#) in that category. He was the first Dolphin to achieve this mark (since achieved by Jarvis Landry in 2017). That same year, McDuffie became the first player in NFL history to record at least 90 receptions and 10 punt returns in a season without a fumble. [Antonio Brown](#) of Pittsburgh in 2016 is the only player to do it since. With the exception of [Mark Clayton](#) and [Mark Duper](#), McDuffie caught more passes thrown by Marino than any other Dolphin receiver. He played his entire career in Miami, retiring in 2000.

Larry Little



Larry Chatmon Little (born November 2, 1945) is an American former professional [football](#) player who was an offensive [guard](#) in the [National Football League](#) (NFL). He played [college football](#) at [Bethune–Cookman University](#) in [Daytona Beach, Florida](#). He signed with the [San Diego Chargers](#) as an undrafted free agent in 1967. After two years in San Diego, he was then traded to the [Miami Dolphins](#) where he played for the rest of his career, establishing himself as one of the best offensive guards in the NFL.

Little was a five-time Pro Bowl selection, and a seven-time first- or second-team all-pro. He was part of a dominant Miami Dolphins offensive line which included Hall of Fame center [Jim Langer](#) and opposite offensive guard [Bob Kuechenberg](#), that was instrumental in the Miami Dolphins winning [Super Bowl VII](#) during their [perfect season](#) in 1972, and [Super Bowl VIII](#) the following year. He was elected to the [NFL 1970s All-Decade Team](#), a member of the [Miami Dolphins Honor Roll](#), and was elected to the [Pro Football Hall of Fame](#) in 1993.

Little went undrafted in 1967. After the draft, he received free agent offers from Miami, San Diego, and Baltimore. He signed as a free agent with the [American Football League's San Diego Chargers](#) because they offered him the largest signing bonus (\$750).^[2] After playing for San Diego in 1967 and 1968, he was traded to the AFL's [Miami Dolphins](#) for the 1969 season, when he was named an [AFL All-Star](#). He then played with the [National Football League Dolphins](#) from 1970 through 1980.

Little was a key contributor to the success of the Dolphins' punishing running attack of the early and mid-1970s, which featured [Larry Csonka](#), [Mercury Morris](#), and [Jim Kiick](#).

He also served as head football coach of his alma mater, from 1983 to 1991, and as head coach at [North Carolina Central University](#) from 1993 to 1998. In addition, Little served as head coach of the [Ohio Glory](#) of the [World League of American Football](#) (which eventually became the now-defunct [NFL Europe](#)).

On December 16, 1993, Larry was added to the [Miami Dolphins Honor Roll](#).

In 1999, he was ranked number 79 on [The Sporting News'](#) list of the 100 Greatest Football Players.^[4]

Nat Moore



Nathaniel Moore (born September 19, 1951) is an American former professional [football](#) player who was a [wide receiver](#) in the [National Football League](#) (NFL) for 13 seasons during the 1970s and 1980s. Moore played [college football](#) for the [Florida Gators](#), and thereafter, he played professionally for the [Miami Dolphins](#) of the NFL. He is best known as a favorite passing target of Dolphins [quarterbacks](#) [Bob Griese](#) and [Dan Marino](#). Nat Moore is also credited as football consultant in the 1977 movie [Black Sunday](#). Moore was born in [Tallahassee, Florida](#) in 1951.^[1] He grew up in [Miami, Florida](#) and attended [Miami Edison Senior High School](#) and [Miami-Dade Community College](#).^[2]

On the recommendation of his junior college football coach, Moore received an athletic scholarship to transfer from the University of Tennessee at Martin to the [University of Florida](#) in Gainesville, Florida, where he was a star [running back](#) for coach [Doug Dickey's](#) [Gators](#) teams in 1972 and 1973.^[3] As a junior in 1972, Moore led the Gators with 145 rushes for 845 yards and nine rushing touchdowns, 25 receptions for 351 receiving yards and four touchdown catches, and 230 return yards, while earning first-team All-[Southeastern Conference](#) (SEC) and honorable mention [All-American](#) accolades. Moore graduated from Florida with a bachelor's degree in exercise and sport science in 1975, and he was inducted into the [University of Florida Athletic Hall of Fame](#) as a "Gator Great" in 1978.^{[4][5]} In a 2006 article series published by *The Gainesville Sun*, the newspaper's sportswriters ranked him as No. 49 among the 100 all-time greatest Florida Gators of the team's first 100 seasons.^[6]

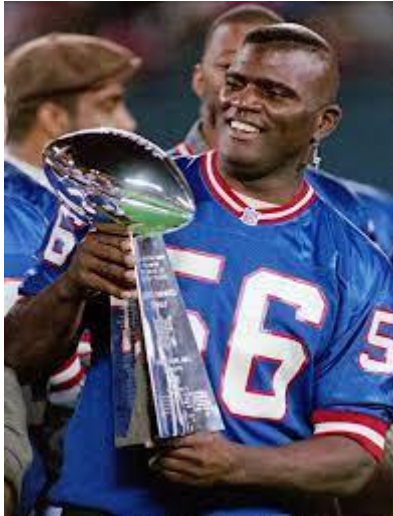
Moore was chosen by the [Miami Dolphins](#) in the third round (78th pick overall) of the [1974 NFL Draft](#),^[7] and he played for the Dolphins for 13 seasons from 1974 to 1986.^[1] He was elected to the [Pro Bowl](#) in 1977,^[8] after a season in which he made 52 [receptions](#) and led the league with 12 receiving [touchdowns](#) (he also had a rushing touchdown that year).^[2] Moore is immortalized in the famous "Helicopter Catch" video clip—while making a reception against the [New York Jets](#) at [Giants Stadium](#) in 1984, he was hit simultaneously from opposite directions by two Jets tacklers sending his body spinning into the air. The catch was a crucial third-down conversion, leading to a score and a come-from-behind win in a closely contested divisional game.

By the time Moore retired at the end of 1986, his 13th season with the Dolphins, he had broken almost every receiving record of the Dolphins; his team records, however, were subsequently broken by teammates [Mark Clayton](#) and [Duper](#). His final career receiving statistics were 510 catches for 7,547 yards and 74 touchdowns.^[1] He also rushed for 249 yards and a touchdown, returned 27 punts for 297 yards, and gained 856 yards on 33 kickoff returns.

Moore is also known for his humanitarian work and philanthropy. In 1984, the NFL voted Moore as "Man of the Year," an honor given to a player who gives outstanding service to his community. Moore also received the [Byron White](#) Humanitarian Award in 1986. He created The Nat Moore Foundation, an organization through which he continues to work with disadvantaged youths in the [Miami-Dade County](#) area, in 1998. On December 5, 1999 he was added to the [Miami Dolphins Honor Roll](#).

Moore was a football [broadcaster](#) for Florida Gators football games on [Sun Sports](#) until 2011. As an announcer, he was notorious for adding an "s" to the last names of various players (Chris Leak became "Chris Leaks," Percy Harvin became "Harvins," etc.) In addition, he teams with Bob Griese to provide television analysis of preseason Dolphins games. He also owns a sports promotions firm, Nat Moore & Associates, Inc. He is a vice president in the Miami Dolphins organization and oversees the Miami Dolphins Alumni Association, and also serves as the executive director of the NFL Super Bowl Football Clinic.

Lawrence Taylor



Lawrence Taylor was the first of three sons born to Clarence and Iris Taylor in [Williamsburg, Virginia](#). Lawrence attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where he was a team captain. He had 16 sacks in his final year there (1980),^[16] and set numerous defensive records. He was recognized as a consensus first-team [All-American](#) and the [Atlantic Coast Conference](#) Player of the Year in 1980.

In the [1981 NFL Draft](#), Lawrence was [drafted](#) by the NFL's New York Giants in the first round as the 2nd pick overall. In a poll of NFL [General Managers](#) (GMs) taken before the draft 26 of the league's 28 GMs said if they had the first selection they would select Taylor. Giants GM [George Young](#) predicted before the draft that he would be better than NFL legends such as [Dick Butkus](#). He was named 1981's [NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year](#) and Defensive Player of the Year, making him as of 2021 the only rookie to win an Offensive or Defensive Player of the Year award. Taylor's arrival helped the Giants defense reduce their points allowed from 425 points in 1980 to 257 in 1981. In 1986, Taylor had one of the most successful seasons by a defensive player in the history of the NFL. He recorded a league-leading 20.5 sacks and became one of just two defensive players to win the NFL [Most Valuable Player](#) award and the only defensive player to be the unanimous selection for MVP. He also was named Defensive Player of the Year for the third time. The [Giants finished the season 14–2](#) and outscored San Francisco and [Washington](#) by a combined score of 66–3 in the NFC playoffs. He appeared on the cover of *Sports Illustrated* alone the week leading up to Super Bowl XXI with a warning from the magazine to the [Denver Broncos](#) regarding Taylor. The Giants overcame a slow start in Super Bowl XXI to defeat Denver 39–20. Taylor made a key touchdown preventing tackle on a goal line play in the first half, stopping Broncos quarterback [John Elway](#) as he sprinted out on a rollout.

With the Super Bowl win, Taylor capped off an unprecedented start to his career. After six years, he had been named the NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year Award (1981), NFL Defensive Player of the Year a record three times (1981, 1982, 1986), First-team All-Pro six times, become the first defensive player in NFL history unanimously voted the league's MVP (1986), and led his team to a championship (1986). Taylor ended his career with 1,089 tackles, 132.5 sacks (not counting the 9.5 sacks he recorded as a rookie because sacks did not become an official statistic until 1982), nine interceptions, 134 return yards, two touchdowns, 33 forced fumbles, 11 fumble recoveries, and 34 fumble return yards. John Madden said that Lawrence Taylor, defensively, has had as big an impact as any player I've ever seen. He changed the way defense is played, the way pass-rushing is played, the way linebackers play and the way offenses block linebackers. Taylor is considered one of the best players to ever play in the NFL, and has been ranked as the top defensive player in league history by some news outlets, media members, former players and coaches. He has also been described as one of the most "feared" and "intimidating" players in NFL history. Taylor's explosive speed and power is credited with changing the position of outside linebacker from a "read and react" type of position to a more attacking, aggressive position. Washington Redskins head coach [Joe Gibbs](#) developed the two [tight end](#) offense and the position of [H-back](#) to prevent Taylor from blitzing into the backfield unhindered. In addition to the changes in offensive schemes Taylor influenced, he also introduced new defensive techniques to the game such as chopping the ball out of the quarterback's hands rather than tackling him.

Shawn Wooden



Shawn Wooden is a former [American football safety](#) who played in the [National Football League](#) for 9 seasons for the [Miami Dolphins](#) and the [Chicago Bears](#). Shawn was drafted in the 6th round in the 1996 NFL Draft by Jimmy Johnson, the then coach of the [Miami Dolphins](#). He played for the Dolphins for four seasons and then signed a free agent contract with the [Chicago Bears](#) in the 2000 football season. After one year with the [Chicago Bears](#), he returned to the [Miami Dolphins](#) for the remainder of his nine-year career. He is currently a financial advisor with Wooden Wealth Strategies.

Shawn attended [Abington Senior High School](#), where he played as [running back](#) in his senior season. He then accepted a full scholarship to the [University of Notre Dame](#), where he started as a [cornerback](#). One of the highlights of his college career came when he broke up [Charlie Ward](#)'s final pass, resulting in Notre Dame's (ranked #2 at the time) defeat of the [Florida State](#) (ranked #1 at the time) in a nationally televised game in 1993 which was coined at that time the "[Game of the Century](#)". As a student-athlete he earned a bachelor's degree in Computer Science.

Shawn is well known in the [South Florida](#) community for his volunteer work with various charities and organizations. He was forced to retire in 2004 due to a back injury.