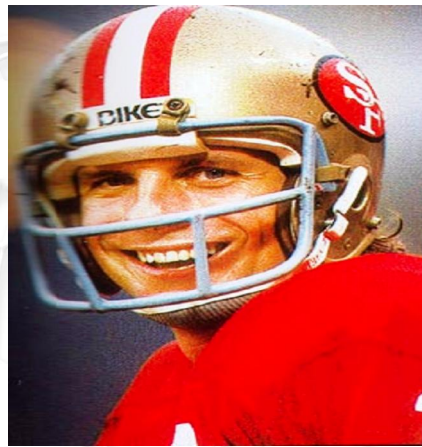


## SPORTING LEGENDS: JOE MONTANA

**SPORT: AMERICAN FOOTBALL**

**COMPETITIVE ERA: 1977 - 1994**

Joseph Clifford Montana was born on June 11, 1956 in the Pittsburgh suburb of New Eagle, Pennsylvania. He is widely considered one of the best American football quarterbacks in the history of the NFL.



He led the **San Francisco 49ers** to four Super Bowls (1982, 1985, 1989, 1990) and became the only player to win three Super Bowl MVP awards.

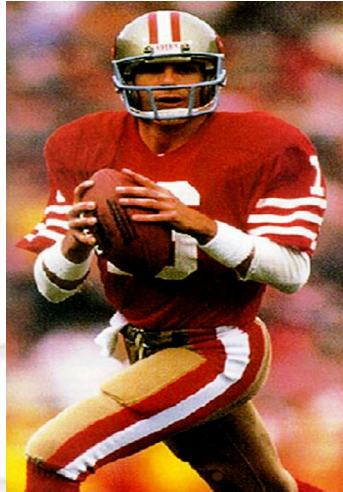
In 1990, he received *Sports Illustrated* magazine's "Sportsman of the Year" award, and he was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2000.

Drafted in the third round by the San Francisco 49ers in 1979 from Notre Dame after leading the team to victory in the 1978 Cotton Bowl to secure the 1977 national championship, Montana led the 49ers for 12 seasons.

Injured during the NFC Championship game in January of 1991, Montana missed all of the 1991 season and most of the 1992 season with an elbow injury (he did appear in a Monday Night Football game vs. Detroit Lions at the end of the '92 season and was spectacular).

Montana was traded to the Kansas City Chiefs in April, 1993, and spent his two final seasons with the Chiefs before retiring at the end of the 1994 season. As a Chief, Montana led two come-from-behind wins in the 1993 playoffs and reached the AFC Championship game where Kansas City lost to the Buffalo Bills.

## SPORTING LEGENDS: JOE MONTANA



Montana always had the ability to stay calm, while opponents around him were panicking!

Montana earned the nicknames "Joe Cool" and "Comeback Kid" due to his ability to rally his teams from late game deficits, including 31 fourth quarter comebacks.

"The Catch" (the game-winning TD pass vs. Dallas in the '82 NFC Championship game) and "The Drive" (the Super Bowl-winning 92-yd. drive vs. the Bengals in Super Bowl XXIII) are staples of NFL highlight films.

For his career with the 49ers, Montana completed 2,929 of 4,600 passes for 35,142 yards and 244 touchdowns.

He had thirty-five 300 yard passing games. His career totals: 3409 completion on 5391 attempts, 273 touchdowns, 40,551 yards. His career passer rating was 92.3, 3rd highest of all-time, behind Kurt Warner and successor Steve Young. He also rushed for 1676 yards and 20 touchdowns.

Montana holds post-season records for most career touchdown passes (44), and passing yards (5772) among others.

In his four Super Bowls, Montana completed 83 of 122 passes 1,142 yards and 11 touchdowns with an impressive zero interceptions, earning him a quarterback rating of 127.8. He played in eight Pro Bowls.

His success is a combination of Bill Walsh's highly successful West Coast Offense and Montana's uncanny ability to find the open man (often the third or fourth option).

## SPORTING LEGENDS: JOE MONTANA



Montana's vision for nailing touchdown passes helped secure his legendary NFL status.

Montana was neither exceptionally fast nor tall nor did he have a bazooka for an arm. The man whom his high school quarterbacks coach said "was born to be a quarterback" won by wits and grace, style and reaction.

It was if he saw the game in slow motion. Whether it was with Notre Dame or the 49ers, whether the game was played in an ice storm in Dallas or in the humidity of Miami, Montana was The Man in the fourth quarter.

"There have been, and will be, much better arms and legs and much better bodies on quarterbacks in the NFL," said former 49er teammate Randy Cross, "but if you have to win a game or score a touchdown or win a championship, the only guy to get is Joe Montana."

Sports Illustrated headlined a story on the fragile-looking quarterback as "The Ultimate Winner." Montana won four Super Bowls in four appearances and became the only player to earn the Roman numeral game's MVP three times (and the other contest was the game-winning drive).

In these four games, he put up Super numbers, completing 83-of-122 passes (68 percent) for 1,142 yards with 11 touchdowns and no interceptions.

## SPORTING LEGENDS: JOE MONTANA



### Scott Burton's Final Thought

Joe Montana was a truly great quarterback, there can never be any doubt about that. He was also a great leader, and always a great team player.

I don't think anyone can truly appreciate his status unless you have actually been to San Francisco in person. In April 1999 I spent my MBA work placement in the Bay Area, and managed to catch a very entertaining 49ers game whilst I was over there.

Even though Montana had left the 49ers 6 years earlier, and had been retired from the sport since 1994, people in the crowd around me were still chanting team songs from the Montana-era of success.

Very few athletes can expect to be cherished by their team's fans 6 years after their retirement, but Joe Montana holds a very special place in their heart. Sitting in the stands listening to those songs made me realise one thing. Montana was definitely FAR more than just the 49ers star quarterback - he was a symbol for the entire city itself.

His profile was so big in the late 80's that he even sang on the top-ten US hit single 'I Know What I Like' (1987), performed by fellow Bay Area pop stars Huey Lewis & The News. He would also go on to endorse his very own licensed video game for the Sega Genesis, which became a best-seller in its own right.

Joe Montana was a true sporting legend, and I only wish I could have seen him in action during his prime. For those who were there to witness his hey-day, what a treat that must've been. No wonder they're still chanting his name to this day!



Montana's success for the 49ers made him more than just being another American Football star - but also a folk hero for the entire city of San Francisco.