

dallas cowboys 21 history

Dallas Cowboys 21 history is a captivating journey that reflects the evolution of one of the most storied franchises in the National Football League (NFL). Established in 1960, the Dallas Cowboys have become synonymous with American football and have cultivated a passionate fan base. This article explores the significant milestones, achievements, and challenges faced by the Cowboys over the years, particularly focusing on their history leading up to the 2021 season.

Foundation and Early Years (1960-1966)

The Dallas Cowboys were established as an expansion team in 1960. The franchise's first owner, Clint Murchison Jr., hired Tom Landry as the head coach, who would become a defining figure in the team's history.

- Initial Struggles: The Cowboys faced challenges in their inaugural seasons, finishing with a combined record of 1-11-1 in their first year. The team struggled to find its footing in a competitive league dominated by teams like the Green Bay Packers.
- Building a Competitive Team: Despite early struggles, the Cowboys began to attract talent through the draft and trades. The selection of players such as Don Meredith and Bob Lilly helped lay the foundation for future success.

The Landry Era and Rise to Prominence (1966-1985)

Tom Landry's leadership transformed the Cowboys into a formidable team. By the late 1960s, the Cowboys had become a playoff contender.

Key Achievements

1. First Playoff Appearance (1966): The Cowboys made their first playoff appearance in 1966, reaching the NFL Championship Game. Although they lost to the Green Bay Packers, it marked the beginning of a competitive era.
2. Super Bowl Appearances: The Cowboys reached their first Super Bowl in 1970 (Super Bowl V) but fell short. However, they quickly rebounded and made three more Super Bowl appearances in the 1970s, winning Super Bowl VI (1972) and Super Bowl XII (1978).
3. Dominance in the 1970s: The Cowboys became known as "America's Team" during the 1970s, thanks to their success, charismatic players, and the growing popularity of the NFL. The team consistently made the playoffs and was known for its high-powered offense and strong defense.

Challenges in the 1980s

The 1980s were a mixed bag for the Cowboys. While they maintained competitive seasons, they faced challenges in the form of injuries and a changing league landscape. The franchise started to transition away from the players who had contributed to their earlier successes.

- Coaching Changes: After a disappointing 1985 season, Landry was replaced by Jimmy Johnson, who would go on to reshape the team's roster and philosophy.

The Johnson Dynasty and Super Bowl Success (1990-1995)

Under Jimmy Johnson, the Cowboys experienced a renaissance. Johnson's approach to team building and player development led to a series of successful seasons.

Key Achievements

1. Super Bowl XXVII (1992): The Cowboys returned to prominence by winning their third Super Bowl against the Buffalo Bills, marking the beginning of a new dynasty.
2. Back-to-Back Championships: The Cowboys repeated their success in Super Bowl XXVIII (1993), becoming the first team to win back-to-back championships in the 1990s.
3. Emergence of Stars: The team featured standout players like Troy Aikman, Emmitt Smith, and Michael Irvin, who became icons of the franchise and left a lasting legacy.

Transition and Challenges

Despite their success, differences between Johnson and the front office led to his departure after the 1993 season. Barry Switzer took over as head coach, leading the team to another Super Bowl victory in Super Bowl XXX (1995).

Decline and Rebuilding (1996-2010)

Following the peak of the '90s, the Cowboys entered a period of decline.

Key Factors in Decline

- Coaching Instability: A series of coaching changes and inconsistent performances led to a lack of continuity within the organization.
- Player Departures: Many key players from the championship teams retired or left the franchise, leading to a talent gap.

Rebuilding Efforts

1. Drafting Young Talent: The Cowboys began to focus on rebuilding through the NFL Draft, aiming to develop new stars to revitalize the team.
2. Return to Playoffs: The team returned to the playoffs in 2007, showcasing the potential of their young roster. Quarterback Tony Romo emerged as a leader, leading the Cowboys to multiple playoff appearances.

The Jason Garrett Era (2010-2019)

In 2010, Jason Garrett took on the role of head coach, initially as an interim before being appointed full-time. His tenure saw a mix of ups and downs.

Key Achievements

1. Playoff Appearances: The Cowboys made several playoff appearances, including a notable run in 2014 when they won the NFC East and advanced to the Divisional Round.
2. Dak Prescott and Ezekiel Elliott: The 2016 NFL Draft brought in quarterback Dak Prescott and running back Ezekiel Elliott, revitalizing the team and reigniting hope for a championship run.

Challenges Faced

- Inconsistent Playoff Performances: Despite making the playoffs multiple times, the team struggled to advance past the Divisional Round, leading to frustration among fans and management.
- Coaching Changes: Garrett's tenure ended after the 2019 season, paving the way for a new era.

The Mike McCarthy Era (2020-Present)

In 2020, the Cowboys hired Super Bowl-winning coach Mike McCarthy, looking for a fresh perspective to lead the team.

2020 Season and Challenges

The 2020 season was marred by injuries, particularly to Dak Prescott, who suffered a significant ankle injury that sidelined him for much of the year. Despite these challenges, the Cowboys managed to finish with a 6-10 record, winning the NFC East in a weak division.

2021 Season and Hope for the Future

The Cowboys entered the 2021 season with optimism:

- **Strong Offense:** With Prescott returning, the Cowboys boasted one of the highest-scoring offenses in the league, featuring talented playmakers like Amari Cooper, CeeDee Lamb, and Elliott.
- **Defensive Resurgence:** The team's defense, led by defensive coordinator Dan Quinn, showed marked improvement, highlighted by standout performances from players like Trevon Diggs.
- **Playoff Aspirations:** The Cowboys aimed to build on their success and make a significant playoff push, rekindling the hopes of fans for another Super Bowl run.

Conclusion

The **Dallas Cowboys 21 history** is a tapestry woven with triumphs, struggles, and a deep connection to their fan base. As the franchise continues to evolve, its storied past serves as a foundation for future successes. The Cowboys' legacy remains a vital part of the NFL, and their journey will undoubtedly continue to capture the hearts of football fans for generations to come.

Frequently Asked Questions

What year was the Dallas Cowboys franchise established?

The Dallas Cowboys were established in 1960.

How many Super Bowl titles have the Dallas Cowboys won?

The Dallas Cowboys have won five Super Bowl titles.

Who is the all-time leading passer for the Dallas Cowboys?

Tony Romo is the all-time leading passer for the Dallas Cowboys.

What notable achievement did the Cowboys accomplish in the 1990s?

In the 1990s, the Cowboys won three Super Bowls in four years (Super Bowls XXVII, XXVIII, and XXX).

Who was the head coach during the Cowboys' Super Bowl victories in the 1990s?

Jimmy Johnson was the head coach during the Cowboys' Super Bowl victories in the 1990s.

What is the home stadium of the Dallas Cowboys?

The home stadium of the Dallas Cowboys is AT&T Stadium, located in Arlington, Texas.

Which player is known as the 'Doomsday Defense' for the Cowboys?

The 'Doomsday Defense' refers to the Cowboys' legendary defense during the 1970s and 1980s, with standout players like Bob Lilly and Randy White.

What is the nickname of the Dallas Cowboys' cheerleaders?

The Dallas Cowboys' cheerleaders are often referred to as 'America's Sweethearts.'

How many times have the Cowboys appeared in the playoffs?

As of 2023, the Dallas Cowboys have appeared in the playoffs over 30 times.

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