Mel Blount

Year Inducted: 1990  Category: Football

Born in Vidalia, Georgia...Inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame on August 5, 1989...Member of the Super Bowl champion Pittsburgh Steelers in 1975, 1976, 1979 and 1980...Chosen All-Pro in 1975, 1977 and 1981...Named the NFL's Most Valuable Defensive Player in 1975...1970 third round draft choice set club record with 57 interceptions for 736 return yards in 14 years as a Steeler...Ranks among the tops in club history playing in 200 games...Set team record by playing in 184 regular season games, starting 173...On Steeler all-time list for highest career (25.8, 1970-1978) and seasonal (29.7, 1970) kickoff average...Pittsburgh's interception leader four times (1975-11, 1976-6, 1977-6, 1981-6)...Set Steeler record by recovering 13 fumbles... (1983): Played every game for six consecutive seasons...Finished career with consecutive starting streak of 132 games... (1981): NFL All-Pro and All-AFC...Became 19th player in league history to reach 50 interceptions as he picked off six that season to tie Jack Lambert for Steelers' season-high...Returned interceptions for 106 yards (17.7 avg)... (1979): Started right corner back in Pittsburgh's 31-19 win over the L.A. Rams in Super Bowl XIV...Recovered fumble that started Steelers drive to winning TD in AFC Championship game over Houston (27-13)...2nd team All-NFL (AP) and All-AFC (UPI)... (1978): Helped Steelers defeat Dallas in Super Bowl XIII, 35-31...With score tied 14-14 in Super Bowl XIII, intercepted a Roger Staubach pass deep in Steeler territory and returned it 13 yards to begin a Pittsburgh drive that resulted in a go-ahead TD...Returned interception 13 yards in 34-5 AFC Championship game victory over the Houston Oilers... (1977): NFL All-Pro and All-AFC...Led the Steelers in interceptions (6) for the third straight year... (1976): All-AFC...Earned MVP at 1977 Pro Bowl by intercepting two passes...Started right corner back in AFC Championship game (24-7 loss to Oakland)...Six interceptions led the team for the second consecutive season... (1975): Named the NFL's...
Most Valuable Defensive Player...NFL All-Pro and All-AFC...Became the first Steeler since Bill Dudley in 1946 to lead the NFL in interceptions (11)...Intercepted a pass in six straight games which tied him for third on the NFL's all-time list for consecutive games with an interception...Started at right corner back and returned three kickoffs for 64 yards in the Steelers 21-17 victory over the Dallas Cowboys in Super Bowl X...Started right cornerback in AFC Championship game win over the Oakland Raiders (16-10)...(1974): Made key interception at the goal line in Super Bowl IX 16-6 victory over Minnesota...Scored TD on 52-yard interception return against Philadelphia...(1972): During his first season as a full-time starter, he wasn't beaten for a TD by any receiver...Returned fumble 35 yards for a TD against Dallas...(1970): Started as a rookie in 1970, missing only one regular season game...Started nine of 14 games in first two seasons as backup at cornerback...Posted a kickoff average of 29.7....Collegiate Career (Southern University): Named an All-American (defensive back) in 1969 by the Sporting News, Pro Scouts and the Pittsburgh Courier at Southern University (Baton Rouge, La.)...Captured the team's MVP award his junior and senior seasons (1968-69)...Prep Career: Grew up in Vidalia, Georgia and went to high school at Lyons Industrial High School in Toombs County...Additional Information: Founded Mel Blount Youth Homes for troubled boys from across the nation, in Vidalia and in 1989 in Pittsburgh...Named NFL Director of Player Relations in 1984..."When you create a cornerback, the mold is Mel Blount. I played in a lot of Pro Bowls. I never saw a cornerback like him. He was the most incredible athlete I have ever seen. With Mel, you could take on wide receiver and just write him off. He could handle anybody in the league." Steeler teammate Jack Lambert on Blount..."Size, speed, quickness, toughness -- that's what Mel had. If you gave Blount free reign to hit you, you were in trouble because, if he missed, he had the speed to catch up. A lot of receivers got short arms when they were in Mel's territory." Steeler teammate, quarterback Terry Hanratty, on Blount.