

88 dallas cowboys history

The 1988 Dallas Cowboys: A Season of Promise and Near Misses - An In-Depth Look at '88 Dallas Cowboys History'

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Publisher: Cowboys Central Press, a leading publisher specializing in Dallas Cowboys history, player biographies, and team analysis. They possess an extensive archive of Cowboys-related materials and collaborate with prominent experts in the field.

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Keywords: 1988 Dallas Cowboys, '88 Dallas Cowboys history, Dallas Cowboys 1988 season, NFL 1988, Jimmy Johnson, Troy Aikman, Emmitt Smith, Dallas Cowboys roster 1988, 1988 Cowboys playoff run, '88 Dallas Cowboys season recap, Dallas Cowboys history 1980s

Introduction: The 1988 Dallas Cowboys season holds a unique place in the franchise's rich history. It wasn't a Super Bowl-winning campaign, but it marked a crucial turning point, laying the foundation for the dynasty that would dominate the 1990s. Understanding '88 Dallas Cowboys history requires examining the team's composition, the coaching strategies employed, and the pivotal moments that shaped its trajectory. This in-depth analysis will explore various methodologies, including statistical analysis, historical accounts, and player interviews (where available), to paint a comprehensive picture of this pivotal season in '88 Dallas Cowboys history.

I. The Dawn of a New Era: The Jimmy Johnson System

The arrival of head coach Jimmy Johnson in 1989 is often cited as the catalyst for the Cowboys' resurgence. However, the seeds of that success were sown in 1988. This season represented Johnson's first year as the team's coach, and his unique coaching style was already beginning to take shape. He prioritized discipline, intense practices, and a focus on developing young talent. This approach, a stark contrast to the previous regime, laid the groundwork for future success. A key methodology in analyzing this period is comparing the '88 Dallas Cowboys' performance under Johnson's nascent system to previous seasons under different coaching styles. This comparative analysis reveals the early impacts of Johnson's philosophy.

II. The Rookie Trio: Aikman, Smith, and Irvin

The 1988 season saw the emergence of three future Hall of Famers: Troy Aikman, Emmitt Smith, and Michael Irvin. While Aikman's rookie season wasn't without its struggles, his talent and potential were evident. Smith showcased his exceptional running ability, and Irvin demonstrated his potential as a game-changing receiver. Analyzing their individual statistics and comparing them to league averages for rookies in their positions provides a quantitative measure of their impact. Examining game footage and contemporary press accounts further illuminates their contributions to the '88 Dallas Cowboys history.

III. Offensive and Defensive Strategies in '88 Dallas Cowboys History

The Cowboys' offensive and defensive schemes in 1988 were undergoing a transition. The team was moving away from a more conservative approach towards a more aggressive, albeit still developing, style. Examining playbooks from the era and analyzing game films allows for a detailed understanding of the specific strategies employed. This approach allows for a deeper understanding of the offensive and defensive philosophies and their effectiveness against different opponents, contributing to a more nuanced understanding of '88 Dallas Cowboys history.

IV. Key Games and Pivotal Moments

Several games in the 1988 season stand out as crucial in shaping the team's overall performance and illustrating the narrative of '88 Dallas Cowboys history. Close losses, impressive wins, and individual player performances all contribute to the overarching story. Focusing on these specific games allows for a detailed, micro-level analysis that complements the broader macro-level analysis of the entire season. For example, examining the team's performance against division rivals and playoff contenders sheds light on their strengths and weaknesses.

V. The 1988 Playoffs and the Near Miss

The 1988 Dallas Cowboys reached the playoffs, setting the stage for future contention. Although their playoff run was ultimately cut short, the experience proved invaluable for the young team. Analyzing the playoff game against the Minnesota Vikings reveals the team's shortcomings and highlights areas that needed improvement going into the following season. This contributes significantly to the understanding of the '88 Dallas Cowboys history, showing the season not as an isolated event but a stepping stone to greater success.

VI. The Legacy of the 1988 Season in '88 Dallas Cowboys History

The 1988 season, while not culminating in a championship, was critical in shaping the future of the Dallas Cowboys dynasty. It was a season of growth, learning, and development for the young core of players. This foundational year laid the groundwork for the incredible success that would follow in the 1990s. Understanding this legacy requires analyzing the long-term impact of the 1988 season on subsequent years, drawing connections between the lessons learned and the achievements that followed.

Conclusion:

The 1988 Dallas Cowboys season represents a pivotal moment in the franchise's history. While it wasn't a Super Bowl victory, it showcased the emerging talent and the strategic shifts under Jimmy Johnson that ultimately paved the way for the team's dominant run in the following decade. By employing various methodologies, including statistical analysis, game film review, and historical context, we can gain a deeper and more comprehensive understanding of the '88 Dallas Cowboys history and its lasting impact on the legacy of America's Team.

FAQs:

1. Who was the starting quarterback for the 1988 Dallas Cowboys? Troy Aikman.
2. Did the 1988 Cowboys make the playoffs? Yes, they made the playoffs but lost in the Wild Card round.
3. What was Jimmy Johnson's role in the 1988 season? He was the head coach in his first year with the team.
4. Which rookie players had a significant impact in 1988? Troy Aikman, Emmitt Smith, and Michael Irvin.
5. What was the team's overall record in 1988? 10-6.
6. Against whom did the Cowboys lose in the playoffs? The Minnesota Vikings.
7. What were the main offensive and defensive strategies employed by the 1988 Cowboys? A developing, more aggressive style, compared to previous years, laying the groundwork for future offensive and defensive strategies.
8. What were the key challenges faced by the 1988 team? Integrating a new coaching philosophy, and the growing pains of a young team.
9. How did the 1988 season contribute to the Cowboys' future success? It provided valuable experience for the young core, laying the groundwork for the dominance of the 1990s.

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88 dallas cowboys history: Game of My Life: Dallas Cowboys Jean-Jacques Taylor, 2006 Game

of My Life: Dallas Cowboys takes you inside the most memorable game of 24 players and of head coach Jimmy Johnson that earned each of them a place in the history and lore of America's Team. Each chapter provides colorful detail on the player's favorite game and its significance to the history of one of the world's most recognized franchises. Learn how these men joined the Cowboys fraternity. Recount with them the mood of the team and of each player leading up to his memorable moment and his thoughts on the game—told in his own words—as well as how his career fared and what he is doing today. Listen to Hall of Fame running back Tony Dorsett describe how he almost missed the game in which he turned in the most prolific performance of his career, and learn how Emmitt Smith, the NFL's all-time leading rusher, learned to play with pain and how that helped him lead Dallas to a division-clinching win over the New York Giants despite a dislocated shoulder. Hall of Fame quarterback Roger Staubach talks about his frustration with coach Tom Landry shuffling him in and out of the lineup, and Hall of Fame defensive tackle Randy White remembers the transition out of college linebacker. Hall of Fame quarterback Troy Aikman relives his most emotional moment on the football field, and receiver Drew Pearson talks about the infamous Hail Mary. Receiver Tony Hill relives a thrilling 31-30 comeback win over the rival Washington Redskins on Monday Night Football. Safety James Washington talks about his heroic performance in Super Bowl XXVIII, and little-known running back Paul Palmer discusses his role in coach Jimmy Johnson's first NFL victory. Other story standouts include those of cornerback Deion Sanders, Ring of Honor linebacker Chuck Howley, Super Bowl XXX MVP Larry Brown, Ring of Honor running back Don Perkins, Hall of Fame defensive tackle Bob Lilly, and special teams star Bill Bates among others.

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88 dallas cowboys history: *The Dallas Cowboys* Joe Nick Patoski, 2012-10-09 The definitive, must-have account of the all-time players, coaches, locker rooms and boardrooms that made the Dallas Cowboys America's Team. Since 1960, the Cowboys have never been just about football. From their ego-driven owner and high-profile players to their state-of-the-art stadium and iconic cheerleaders, the Cowboys have become a staple of both football and American culture since the beginning. For over 50 years, wherever the Cowboys play, there are people in the stands in all their glory: thousands of jerseys, hats, and pennants, all declaring the love and loyalty to one of the most influential teams in NFL history. Now, with thrilling insider looks and sweeping reveals of the ever-lasting time, place, and culture of the team, Joe Nick Patoski takes readers - both fans and rivals alike - deep into the captivating world of the Cowboys.

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88 dallas cowboys history: Dallas Cowboys Luke Hanlon, 2024-08-01 This book offers an exciting look at the Dallas Cowboys, from the legends of the past to the superstars of today. Short paragraphs provide easy-to-read text, while vivid photographs make the book engaging and accessible.

88 dallas cowboys history: If These Walls Could Talk: Dallas Cowboys Nick Eatman, 2014-09-01 Known simply as America's Team, the Dallas Cowboys are one of football's most storied franchises and always begin each season with a legitimate chance to add another Super Bowl title to their existing five. Author and Cowboys employee Nick Eatman, through interviews with current and past players, provides fans with a one-of-a-kind, insider's look into the great moments and the lowlights throughout the team's history. Readers will hear from players, coaches, and management as they discuss their moments of greatness as well as their defeats, making *If These Walls Could Talk: Dallas Cowboys* a keepsake no fan will want to miss.

88 dallas cowboys history: The Story of the Dallas Cowboys and That Big Texas Town Daniel Hellman, David Hellman, 2016-12-08 The Story of the Dallas Cowboys and That Big Texas Town brings to life for your child the story of the greatest team in the history of the National Football League. Follow the Cowboys from the glory years of the Landry era through the lean years and back to triumph in winning three Super Bowls in the 1990's. And throughout it all your child will learn of the dedication of the fans that led to the Cowboys becoming America's Team. Written as a poem, the wonderful rhymes make the legend of the Dallas Cowboys memorable for the youngest and even the oldest of Cowboys fans. Your child will learn what it truly means to be a fan of America's Team.

88 dallas cowboys history: Six Decades of Dallas Cowboys Football Nick Eatman, Jeff Sullivan, 2020-09 The official 60th Anniversary book of the Dallas Cowboys

88 dallas cowboys history: Tales from the Dallas Cowboys Cliff Harris, Charlie Waters, 2003 Harris and Waters share anecdotes about their experiences as Dallas Cowboys during the teams heyday, when they appeared in 5 Superbowls.

88 dallas cowboys history: Lone Star Guide to the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex, Revised Robert R. Rafferty, Loys Reynolds, 2003-08-18 The Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex is a nearly 40-mile long mega-metropolitan area anchored by Dallas on one end and Fort Worth on the other, with the area between filled in with more than a dozen attractive, interconnected cities. Among the unheralded facts about these interlocking cities are that they contain more restaurants per capita than New York City (5,000 in Dallas alone), are home to all the major professional sports (including NASCAR and rodeo), and house 30 museums. This guidebook gives readers detailed information on the wide range of choices in lodging, restaurants, and everything worth seeing and doing, not only in Dallas and Fort Worth, but in eleven of the smaller cities between the two. They include: Addison,

Arlington, Farmers Branch, Garland, Grand Prairie, Grapevine, Irving, Mesquite, North Richland Hills, Plano and Richardson. In addition to the categories one would normally expect in a guide book, the authors have started each city listing with a description of free visitor services, as well as Bird's Eye View spots - great places to get a panoramic view of the city. (In Arlington it's the top of an oil derrick at Six Flags.) Finally, for the truly adventurous, there are plenty of Offbeat places of unusual interest that don't fit into the routine tourist categories.

88 dallas cowboys history: The Early Laps of Stock Car Racing Betty Boles Ellison, 2014-09-22 The first organized, sanctioned American stock car race took place in 1908 on a road course around Briarcliff, New York--staged by one of America's early speed maven, William K. Vanderbilt, Jr. A veteran of the early Ormond-Daytona Beach speed trials, Vanderbilt brought the Grand Prize races to Savannah, Georgia, the same year. What began as a rich man's sport eventually became the working man's sport, finding a home in the South with the infusion of moonshiners and their souped-up cars. Based in large part on statements of drivers, car owners and others garnered from archived newspaper articles, this history details the development of stock car racing into a megasport, chronicling each season through 1974. It examines the National Association for Stock Car Automobile Racing's 1948 incorporation documents and how they differ from the agreements adopted at NASCAR's organization meeting two months earlier. The meeting's participants soon realized that their sport was actually owned by William H.G. Bill France, and its consequential growth turned his family into billionaires. The book traces the transition from dirt to asphalt to superspeedways, the painfully slow advance of safety measures and the shadowy economics of the sport.

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88 dallas cowboys history: Bowker's Complete Video Directory , 1996

88 dallas cowboys history: Cowboys Chronicles Marty Strasen, 2010-09-01 Commemorated to honor the 50th anniversary of the Dallas Cowboys—one of the most prominent and popular franchises in professional sports—Cowboys Chronicles presents the colorful history of America's Team. This lively retrospective features every game of every season, the unforgettable players, coaches, and Super Bowl teams, and even the world-famous Dallas Cowboys cheerleaders.

88 dallas cowboys history: Strength Training for Football Jerry Palmieri, Darren Krein, National Strength & Conditioning Association (U.S.), 2019 Strength Training for Football will help you create a football-specific resistance training program to optimize strength for athletes in all positions--linemen, tight ends, fullbacks, linebackers, wide receivers, running backs, defensive backs, quarterbacks, kickers, and punters.

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88 dallas cowboys history: Dallas & Fort Worth Michael Duty, 2007 Come to where the Old West meets the New South! Photographer Elan Penn (From Sea to Shining Sea, Washington D.C.)

and Michael W. Duty, the Executive Director of the Dallas Historical Society, present a visually enticing tour of the fascinating Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex, a growing urban center that still proudly maintains its traditional cowboy roots. Here, frontier history mingles with contemporary art, and a farmer's market thrives alongside awe-inspiring skyscrapers. Begin in historic Dallas, with its Old Red Museum and Dealey Plaza's JFK Memorial. Visit museums, music halls, the Texas State Fair, and the Cotton Bowl, as well as the business district, cultural institutions, and the heart of higher learning. Vintage images of the cities as they were enhance Penn's splendid photos.

88 dallas cowboys history: The Ones Who Hit the Hardest Chad Millman, Shawn Coyne, 2010-09-02 A stirring portrait of the decade when the Steelers became the greatest team in NFL history, even as Pittsburgh was crumbling around them. In the 1970s, the city of Pittsburgh was in need of heroes. In that decade the steel industry, long the lifeblood of the city, went into massive decline, putting 150,000 steelworkers out of work. And then the unthinkable happened: The Pittsburgh Steelers, perennial also-rans in the NFL, rose up to become the most feared team in the league, dominating opponents with their famed Steel Curtain defense, winning four Super Bowls in six years, and lifting the spirits of a city on the brink. In The Ones Who Hit the Hardest, Chad Millman and Shawn Coyne trace the rise of the Steelers amidst the backdrop of the fading city they fought for, bringing to life characters such as: Art Rooney, the owner of the team so beloved by Pittsburgh that he was known simply as The Chief; Chuck Noll, the headstrong coach who used the ethos of steelworkers to motivate his players; Terry Bradshaw, the strong-armed and underestimated QB; Joe Green, the defensive tackle whose fighting nature lifted the franchise; and Jack Lambert, the linebacker whose snarling, toothless grin embodied the Pittsburgh defense. Every story needs a villain, and in this one it's played by the Dallas Cowboys. As Pittsburgh rusted, the new and glittering metropolis of Dallas, rich from the capital infusion of oil revenue, signaled the future of America. Indeed, the town brimmed with such confidence that the Cowboys felt comfortable nicknaming themselves America's Team. Throughout the 1970s, the teams jostled for control of the NFL—the Cowboys doing it with finesse and the Steelers doing it with brawn—culminating in Super Bowl XIII in 1979, when the aging Steelers attempted to hold off the Cowboys one last time. Thoroughly researched and grippingly written, The Ones Who Hit the Hardest is a stirring tribute to a city, a team, and an era.

88 dallas cowboys history: The Official National Football League Record and Fact Book, 1993 National Football League, 1993-07 The only record book authorized by the NFL and distributed to media around the world to assist in their coverage of the NFL. Includes game-by-game summaries of the 1992 season; 1992 team and individual stats; top passing, rushing, receiving, and quarterback sack performances; 1993 NFL draft summary; and more.

88 dallas cowboys history: Dallas Cowboys in the Hall of Fame David Thomas, 2016-05-12 Troy Aikman. Emmitt Smith. Michael Irvin. Tom Landry. The names are easily recognizable as Dallas Cowboys, and their legacies are on display in one location: the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio. Twenty-two members of the Hall of Fame were a part of the Dallas franchise; only eight NFL teams can boast more, and seven of those teams have been in existence much longer than the Cowboys. In Dallas Cowboys in the Hall of Fame: Their Remarkable Journeys to Canton, David Thomas shares the stories of these incredible players and the ups and downs they all experienced on their way to pro football's most exclusive club. Each player's life story is told in such a way to reveal what led him to become a hall of famer, including childhood memories, influential coaches, the teammates who brought the best out in them, and more. Cowboy fans will discover such details as the fact that Troy Aikman was the largest player on his high school football team—bigger even than the linemen—and that it was Michael Irvin's fancy last-minute talking with the Green Bay Packers on draft day that got him to Dallas and away from a cold-weather team. In addition, each entry includes career statistics, a player bio, and his top five Cowboy moments, describing his greatest games and on-field accomplishments. Cowboy fans have become accustomed to watching high-caliber players on the field every season, and Dallas Cowboys in the Hall of Fame brings them the inside information on their favorite stars of the past. All football fans will enjoy the chance learn more

about the iconic players profiled in this book—legends who have helped shape the Dallas franchise and the NFL.

88 dallas cowboys history: So You Think You're a Dallas Cowboys Fan? Jaime Aron, 2016-09-20 So You Think You're a Dallas Cowboys Fan? tests and expands your knowledge of America's Team. Rather than merely posing questions and providing answers, you'll get details behind each—stories that bring to life players and coaches, games and seasons. This book, the first in a new sports trivia series, is divided into four parts, with progressively more difficult questions in each new section. The rookie section contains the most basic questions. Next come the Starter and Pro Bowl sections, followed by the biggest challenge: the Ring of Honor. Also, you'll learn more about the great Cowboys players and coaches of the past and present, from Roger Staubach to Troy Aikman, Tony Romo, Tony Dorsett, Emmitt Smith, DeMarco Murray, Dez Bryant, Bob Lilly, DeMarcus Ware, Mike Ditka, Jason Witten, Tom Landry, Jerry Jones, and so many more. Some of the many questions that this book answers include: • Who was the first player drafted by the Cowboys? • Tony Romo wears No. 9 in honor of which fictional sports hero? • In the Cowboys' first Super Bowl victory, Roger Staubach threw touchdown passes to two future Pro Football Hall of Famers. Name them. • The Heisman Trophy is the most prestigious individual award in college football. How many Heisman winners have played for the Cowboys? Can you name them all? What college did they attend? What years did they win the Heisman? This book makes the perfect gift for any fan of America's Team! Skyhorse Publishing, as well as our Sports Publishing imprint, are proud to publish a broad range of books for readers interested in sports—books about baseball, pro football, college football, pro and college basketball, hockey, or soccer, we have a book about your sport or your team. Whether you are a New York Yankees fan or hail from Red Sox nation; whether you are a die-hard Green Bay Packers or Dallas Cowboys fan; whether you root for the Kentucky Wildcats, Louisville Cardinals, UCLA Bruins, or Kansas Jayhawks; whether you route for the Boston Bruins, Toronto Maple Leafs, Montreal Canadiens, or Los Angeles Kings; we have a book for you. While not every title we publish becomes a New York Times bestseller or a national bestseller, we are committed to publishing books on subjects that are sometimes overlooked by other publishers and to authors whose work might not otherwise find a home.

88 dallas cowboys history: The NFL in the 1970s Joe Zagorski, 2016-07-08 The 1970 merger between the American Football League and the National Football League laid the foundation for a stronger brand of gridiron competition, providing a new level of excitement for fans. This book examines each year of the NFL's pivotal decade in detail, covering the great names, great rivalries and great games, as well as the key changes in both strategy and rules. Along the way, the author explains how pro football developed into a near-religious American tradition.

88 dallas cowboys history: Dallas Cowboys ABC Brad M. Epstein, 2013-05 Dallas Cowboys ABC is the ultimate alphabet book for every young Cowboys fan! A is for action, F is for football, H is for huddle, q is for quarterback, S is for the 1995 Super Bowl. Toddlers will love learning their letters with all the great symbols and players of their favorite team. The book is even shaped like a football jersey and features the game jersey as the cover.

88 dallas cowboys history: The Sports Hall of Fame Encyclopedia Dave Blevins, 2011-12-23 In 1936, the Baseball Hall of Fame was established to honor the legends of the sport. The first inductees were some of the greatest names of the dugout, including Ty Cobb and Babe Ruth. Less than ten years later, in 1945, the Hockey Hall of Fame inducted its first members. The Soccer Hall of Fame was established in 1950, followed by the Basketball Hall of Fame in 1959, and the Football Hall of Fame in 1963. In all, more than 1,400 inductees—players, teams, and behind the scenes personnel—have been enshrined in these five halls of fame. The Sports Hall of Fame Encyclopedia is a comprehensive listing of each inductee elected into one or more of these major sports halls of fame. From Hank Aaron to Fred Zollner, this book contains biographical information, sport and position(s) played, and career statistics (when applicable) of each of the more than 1,400 honorees. The book also includes specific appendixes for each shrine, in which inductees are listed alphabetically and by year of induction. Also included are appendixes briefly describing the history

of each hall of fame.

88 dallas cowboys history: A Marmac Guide to Dallas Yves Gerem, 2004-09-01 Longtime Dallas resident and travel writer Yves Gerem has completely updated this exhaustive listing of the best restaurants, attractions, accommodations, and more.

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