

"YOU'VE GOT
TO HAVE
RHYTHM"

RAY GUY

" 'WHEN WE FIRST DRAFTED HIM, IT WAS A HECK OF A CHOICE,' JOHN MADDEN COMMENTED. 'I THOUGHT THEN HE COULD BE THE GREATEST IN THE LEAGUE, BUT I CHANGED MY MIND. I THINK RAY PROVED HE'S THE BEST OF ALL-TIME.' "

John Madden, former Raiders' head coach
and ABC Monday Night Football commentator

Ray Guy 1973-1986 Raiders

“Before Ray Guy came along, no one paid much attention to punters. That all changed in 1973, when the Oakland Raiders made him the first punter ever chosen in Round 1 of the NFL Draft. Suddenly, fans were obsessed with things like **HANGTIME** and **NET AVERAGE**, and Guy was being hailed as a genius. His long, high kicks consistently

gave the Raiders excellent field position—an ace in the hole that accounted for a number of Oakland wins . . . He did his best work when the pressure was on, setting career records with 111 postseason punts and 33 Pro Bowl punts, and his 56 .0-yard average in the 1980 AFC Championship is the best single-game performance in playoff history. When a back injury ended Guy’s career prior to the 1987 season, he was working on a streak of 619 straight punts without a block—just four short of the NFL mark.

HOW POWERFUL WAS HIS LEG? He once booted a 61-yard field goal in college, and as a pro, he actually ricocheted a kick off of the overhanging scoreboard at the Superdome in New Orleans!”

excerpt from *Sports heroes, feats & facts*

“I was never much on hang time until we got Ray. But then we started clocking how long his punt hung up in the air. Sometimes he kept it up there as long as six seconds.” John Madden





PRIZE PUNTER
Ray Guy
Oakland Raiders

Guy punt rocks Superdome

"HE'S THE FIRST PUNTER YOU COULD LOOK AT AND SAY, 'HE WON GAMES.'"

Joe Horrigan
 Pro Football Hall of Fame historian

"THINK BACK OVER THE HISTORY OF ANY SPORT. VERY OFTEN THERE HAS BEEN ONE GUY WHO STOOD OUT ABOVE THE SUPERSTARS—JUST AS (RAY) GUY STANDS OUT IN PUNTING. IT JUST HAPPENS."

Tex Schramm
 Former Dallas Cowboys President

NEW ORLEANS — It requires a special talent to punt in the Superdome. Ray Guy, Oakland Raiders punter, orbited the stadium in a corker on Sunday, and the ball struck a giant television gondola.

The feat drew a spontaneous cheer from Guy's teammates and prompted Superdome officials to change the height of the flashy scoreboard for Sunday's Super Bowl XV showdown be-

Ray could be the Guy in Super

OAKLAND (AP) — Jim Plunkett of the Oakland Raiders and Ron Jaworski of the Philadelphia Eagles, as the starting quarterbacks in Super Bowl XV, should play major roles. The same goes for Oakland's No. 3 quarterback.

Ray Guy, the National Football League's premier punter, has been the third-string quarterback, behind starter Jim Plunkett and rookie backup Marc Wilson, since Dan Pastorini broke a leg three months ago. So far, his work is confined to throwing to receivers in practices, and Coach Tom Flores hopes that remains the case.

WHEN ASKED if Guy throws the ball well, tight end Raymond Chester responded, "Does he ever! He probably has the strongest arm on our team."

Guy could well be the best athlete on

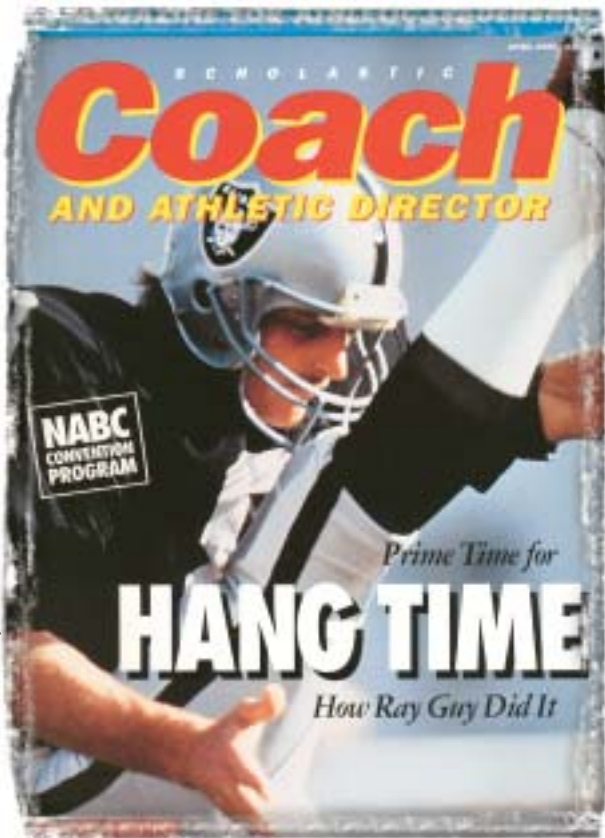
been prouder of my punting than I have. I've been able to place the ball where I wanted to, kick it right on to make it tougher to return." Guy, as pre-Super Bowl practice began last week.

In the Raiders' only playoff game at home, he averaged 51 yards on punts, rolling two out of bounds in Houston's 10-yard line, as Oakland defeated the Houston Oilers 27-7. Former teammate Ken Stabler said later, "He punts us backed up all day."

The next weekend, in freezing conditions at Cleveland, Guy again had punts, going for placement rather than distance on several kicks. He saved the best for last, averaging 60 yards in the 34-27 AFC title victory over the San Diego Chargers.

“So far there only has been one Ray Guy. When the Raiders drafted the Southern Mississippi all-around athlete in 1973, it marked the first time a pure punter was taken on the first round. To date, that hasn’t been repeated. The long, lean, right-footed kicker generated tremendous leg-whip with his **NEAR-PERFECT TECHNIQUE** . . . Not only did Guy punt high and far—“hang time” came into the NFL lexicon during his tenure—he got the ball away quickly and surely. A blocked punt was a rarity; he had no kicks blocked in his first five NFL seasons and finished his career with a streak of **619 UNBLOCKED BOOTS**. In three years—1974, 1975, and 1977—he led the AFC in punting average. But his raw yardage was secondary to his ability to kick the ball high and keep it there so long that there was little chance for a decent return. His 42.3 average yards per punt isn’t in the top 20, but it was hang time and placement that made him so dangerous. He pinned down the opposition, and, if the defense upheld its part of the bargain, the Raiders invariably won the exchange of punts and the battle for field position. From the 1973-1980 seasons, he played in seven of eight Pro Bowls.”

excerpt from Jim J. Campbell, *Total Football II*



"QUITE SIMPLY THE ONLY CHOICE AS PUNTER FOR THE NFL'S SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY TEAM"



"Guy, who played from 1973 to 1986, was the league's single choice for the seventy-fifth anniversary team. He was an expert in the arcane area of "hang time," the precious time the ball was in the air, allowing the coverage to assemble around the returner. If you accept the idea in physics that there is only so much energy to propel a kick, Guy was willing to sacrifice distance for height . . . Not coincidentally, the Raiders won three Super Bowl games during Guy's tenure."

—Greg Garber, Author of "Inside Football" and Award-Winning Investigative Sports Journalist and ESPN Football Commentator

SUPER BOWL XVIII

"The Raiders avoided a catastrophe early in the second quarter when punter Ray Guy soared to make a one-handed catch of a high snap. After he landed, the athletic Guy managed to get off a 42-yard punt." — excerpt from *The Super Bowl: Celebrating a Quarter Century of America's Greatest Game*

S T A T E

In 1985, Ray Guy's next to last season in the NFL, he punted 89 times allowing only 26 returns for a total of 159 yards—for the entire year! This same year, he placed an astonishing 32 punts (35%) inside the 20 yard line! What is even more impressive, 71% of his punts were not even returned! Compare Ray Guy's 1985 season (his next to last) with the season for both 2003 Pro Bowl Punters:

	total # punts	punts returned	120	% 120	yards returned	% not returned
2003 AFC Pro Bowl Punter	81	39	27	33%	339	52%
2003 NFC Pro Bowl Punter	104	63	31	29%	554	40%
Ray Guy / 1985 Season	89	26	32	35%	159	71%

A MODEL OF CONSISTENCY:

- Never missed a game (played in 207 consecutive games in 14 year career)
- Never had a punt returned for a touchdown in his entire 14 year NFL career!
- No blocked kicks in his first five NFL seasons, and had only three of 1049 punts blocked in his career. (Finished his career with streak of 619 unblocked boots)
- Placed an astonishing 57 punts inside 20-yard line during 1984-85 seasons.
- Averaged under 40 yards per punt in a season only once in entire career. (42.4 career average)

**PRO BOWL RECORD FOR MOST
PUNTS IN A CAREER WITH 33 PUNTS**

**FIRST PURE PUNTER NOMINATED
FOR THE PRO FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME**

**LISTED AS ONE OF 300 GREATEST
PLAYERS IN NFL HISTORY**

by the *Official Encyclopedia of the National Football League*

FIRST PUNTER TO WIN THE GOLDEN TOE AWARD

presented by Pro Football Weekly

**“HANG-TIME” CAME INTO THE NFL LEXICON DURING HIS
TENURE. ONE OF HIS PUNTS HIT THE HANGING SCOREBOARD
IN THE LOUISIANA SUPERDOME—ANOTHER WAS TESTED FOR
HELIUM!**

**DOUBLED AS TEAM’S EMERGENCY QUARTERBACK WITH
STRONG, ACCURATE PASSING ARM**



RAY GUY career highlights

NFL 75th ANNIVERSARY ALL-TIME TEAM MEMBER

chosen by a selection committee of media and league personnel in 1994

SUPERBOWL SILVER ANNIVERSARY TEAM MEMBER

chosen by the fans in 1990 prior to Super Bowl XXV

1970's ALL-DECADE TEAM MEMBER

All-Decade teams chosen by the Hall of Fame Selection Committee members

ALL-TIME NFL TEAM MEMBER

chosen by members of the Hall of Fame Selection Committee in 2000
for the book *NFL's GREATEST*

AFL-NFL 1960-1984 ALL-STAR TEAM MEMBER

chosen by the Hall of Fame Selection Committee in 1985.