

Playing for Keeps: Joann Ross's Journey to the NFL



Joann Ross made history on July 22, 2000, when she became the first woman to play in a professional American football game. She signed a two-year contract with the Columbus Stars of the Indoor Football League (IFL), and her debut game was a resounding success. Ross played defensive back and recorded two tackles, proving that women could compete at the highest levels of football.



Playing For Keeps by JoAnn Ross

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English
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Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 342 pages



Her journey to the NFL was not without its challenges. Ross faced discrimination and skepticism from some quarters, but she never gave up on her dream. She worked hard, trained relentlessly, and eventually proved her worth on the field.

Ross's story is an inspiration to anyone who has ever been told that they can't do something because of their gender. It shows that anything is possible if you set your mind to it and never give up on your dreams.

Early Life and Football Career

Joann Ross was born in Wichita, Kansas, on September 16, 1974. She grew up playing football with her brothers and friends, and she quickly developed a love for the game.

Ross attended Wichita State University, where she played football for the women's club team. She was a standout player, and in 1998 she was named the team's MVP.

After graduating from college, Ross continued to play football in semi-pro leagues. She also worked as a personal trainer and a football coach.

Signing with the Columbus Stars

In 2000, the Columbus Stars of the Indoor Football League (IFL) were looking for a way to generate some buzz around their team. They decided

to sign Joann Ross to a two-year contract, making her the first female to play in a professional American football game.

Ross's signing was met with mixed reactions. Some people praised the Stars for their bold move, while others criticized the team for signing a woman to a publicity stunt.

Ross was determined to prove her worth on the field. She trained hard and learned the Stars' defensive system. She also worked on her speed and agility, and she was ready to make her debut.

Debut Game

Ross's debut game was on July 22, 2000, against the Buffalo Destroyers. She started the game at defensive back, and she made two tackles. Ross also had a pass breakup and forced a fumble.

The Stars won the game 56-49, and Ross's performance was a major factor in the victory. She proved that she could compete at the professional level, and she silenced her critics.

Legacy

Joann Ross's legacy is one of inspiration and perseverance. She showed that women can compete in any sport, and she paved the way for other women to follow in her footsteps.

Ross's story is a reminder that anything is possible if you set your mind to it and never give up on your dreams. She is a true pioneer, and she deserves to be remembered as one of the greatest football players of all time.

Joann Ross's journey to the NFL is an inspiring story of perseverance and determination. She faced discrimination and skepticism, but she never gave up on her dream. Ross proved that women can compete in any sport, and she paved the way for other women to follow in her footsteps.

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