

PUSHING AND SHOVING TO VICTORY

Emmitt Smith became the National Football League's all-time leading rusher during his 15 seasons in the league during the 1990s and 2000s.

Growing up in Pensacola, Florida, he was the second-leading rusher in American high-school football history while playing for Escambia High School. He set numerous school rushing records over a three-year college career with the University of Florida. He was unanimously named All-American in 1989.

With the Dallas Cowboys, he became the only running back to ever win a Super Bowl championship, the NFL Most Valuable Player award, the NFL rushing crown and the Super Bowl Most Valuable Player award all in the same season (1993). He played on three Super Bowl-winning Dallas Cowboys teams.



Over the course of his 15 years in the NFL, Smith ran the ball for an incredible 18,355 yards. That's more than 14 miles of pushing, shoving, jumping and rolling over and through countless massive defensive linemen whose sole goal it was to make him eat turf for lunch. Except for the occasional run out of bounds, they did just that, stopping him more than 4,400 times, on average every 4.16 yards.

Not only did Smith defy each assault to get up and do it again, he pressed on to victory and ran right into the pages of sports history.

In the Christian life, there will be hurdles and obstacles that seek to deter, if not utterly destroy us. Our great challenge is to keep pushing ahead – shoving past, jumping and rolling over each one until we reach the goal and hear our Coach say, “Well done, good and faithful servant.”

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin (Hebrews 12:1-4 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter