

# William Andrews



**Year Inducted: 1996 Category: Football**

Born in Thomasville, Georgia...One of the greatest players in Atlanta Falcons' history...The 79th overall pick in the 1979 NFL Draft...Played with the Falcons from 1979-1983, 1986...Professional Career (Atlanta Falcons): 1983 All-Pro...Named as second-team All-Pro in 1982...Played in four consecutive Pro Bowls (1980-1983)...(Career Records): His name is prominent in almost every Atlanta all-time offensive category...Rushed for 5,986 yards on 1,315 attempts...Averaged 4.55 yards per carry...Rushed for 100 or more yards 22 times...Caught 276 passes for 2,645 yards...had three 50 pass reception seasons during his career...Still holds the club record with 8,702 combined yards and four 1,000 yard seasons...The NFL's most productive running back from 1979-1983 by gaining 8,382 yards rushing and receiving...Tallied 246 points during his Falcon career...Scored 41 career TDs (30 rushing)... Accounted for three TDs in the Pro Bowl...(1986): Attempted comeback after a two-year layoff...(1984): In August, he suffered a severe knee injury that included damage to ligaments, cartilage and nerves during a practice session...The knee injury sidelined him for two years...Made 63 consecutive starts and 72 of 73 games before the injury...(1983): First-Team All-Pro pick...Played in fourth consecutive Pro Bowl...Caught two TD passes in the 1984 Pro Bowl...This placed him in a first-place tie for most career Pro Bowl game TD receptions...Set new club record with 331 rushes for 1,567 yards (4.73 per carry)...rushed for seven TDs and totaled 11...Ran for 125 yards or more seven times - New England (25 carries for 125 yards), San Francisco (28-126), Green Bay (20-129), Detroit (32-150), Philadelphia (25-150), Buffalo (28-158) and Miami (21-161)...Had three consecutive 100-yard rushing games vs. Detroit, San Francisco and Philadelphia...Set Falcon record for most combined yards in a season with 2,176...Gained 223 combined yards (161 rush, 62 receiving) at Miami and 207 (158, 49) at Buffalo...Scored 18 points against Buffalo and Green Bay...(1982): Picked by Associated Press as a Second-Team All-Pro...Plays in his third straight

Pro Bowl...For the second straight year, he led the Falcons in rushing and receiving...Andrews still runs for 573 yards on 139 carries in the strike shortened season...Averaged 4.1 yards per carry with five TDs...Grabbed 42 passes for 503 yards (12.0 per catch) and two TDs...Rushed for over 100 yards only twice - San Francisco (24-108), L.A. Rams (21-119)...Gained 48 yards on 11 carries in a 30-24 playoff loss to Minnesota...Caught 11 passes against Green Bay for 77 yards...Caught three passes for 106 yards and scored 18 points in a 34-17 victory at Denver...Gained 207 combined yards (119 rush, 68 receiving) against the L.A. Rams...(1981): Selected to his second straight Pro Bowl...Set Falcons combined yardage record with 2,037 yards...Became only the second player in NFL history to gain 2,000 yards rushing and receiving in a single season...Led the 'Birds in rushing and pass receptions...Gained 1,301 yards on 289 carries (4.50 per carry) while scoring 10 TDs...Snagged 81 passes (a Falcon record at that time) from his fullback position for 736 yards and two TDs...Passed the century mark in rushing three times - Houston (25-101), L.A. Rams (23-115 & 21-119)...15 receptions (124 yards) against Pittsburgh set a Falcon single-game record...Also hauled in 13 passes (98 yards) against Tampa Bay...(1980): Helped lead Atlanta to the 1980 NFC Western Division title...First-time Pro Bowler led the league with an average of 4.9 per carry...Ran 265 times for 1,308 yards to lead the 'Birds...Scored four rushing TDs...Cracked the 100-yards rushing barrier seven times - New England (19-124), San Francisco (21-100 & 18-105), L.A. Rams (20-111), St. Louis (20-115), Washington (24-111), Philadelphia (18-101)...Totaled 1,764 combined yards...In a heartbreaking 30-27 playoff loss to Dallas at home, Andrews gained 62 yards of total offense (43 rushing, 19 receiving) and caught a five-yard TD pass from Steve Bartkowski in the third quarter...(1979): Became the 12th rookie in NFL history to gain more than 1,000 yards rushing (1,023)...Rushed 239 times at 4.3 yards per carry and two TDs...In his professional debut, Andrews set a Falcon record rushing for 167 yards on 30 carries...Rushed for over 100 yards three times - New Orleans (30-167), San Diego (21-131), Philadelphia (24-121)...Collegiate Career (Auburn University): Known as a blocking back for the potent duo of James Brooks and Joe Cribbs while at Auburn in the late 1970s...In three years, he gained 1,347 yards (5.0 per carry) and seven TDs...Received the Shug Jordan Award in 1978 as AU's outstanding senior player...Named Auburn's 1977 Offensive Player of the Year (Pat Sullivan Award)...Prep Career: Twice led hometown Thomasville High School to the Georgia state football championship...Completed his high school career with 61 TDs and 4,339 yards rushing.