

oakland raiders playoff history

Oakland Raiders Playoff History: A Journey Through Grit and Glory

oakland raiders playoff history is a tale woven with resilience, iconic moments, and a relentless pursuit of excellence that has captivated football fans for decades. From their early days as an AFL team to their multiple Super Bowl appearances, the Raiders have carved a unique legacy in NFL history. This article dives deep into their postseason journey, highlighting key playoff runs, unforgettable games, and the players who defined the franchise's competitive spirit.

Early Playoff Years: Establishing a Winning Tradition

When the Oakland Raiders first entered the league in 1960 as part of the American Football League (AFL), the franchise was eager to make a mark. Their initial playoff appearances in the late 1960s set the stage for what would become a storied history.

The AFL Era and First Playoff Success

The Raiders' playoff breakthrough came in 1967, when they clinched the AFL Western Division title. This period was marked by the emergence of legendary figures like coach Al Davis, whose innovative strategies and fierce leadership transformed the team's culture. The Raiders' aggressive playing style and strong defense made them playoff contenders almost every year.

Although they fell short of an AFL championship initially, their persistence paid off when they won the AFL title in 1967, earning a spot in Super Bowl II. Despite a loss to the Green Bay Packers, this playoff run signified the Raiders' arrival on the national stage.

The Golden Era: Super Bowl Triumphs and Dominance in the 1970s and 1980s

The Oakland Raiders' playoff history truly shines during the 1970s and 1980s, a period often regarded as the franchise's golden era. This era featured multiple Super Bowl appearances and victories, underlining the Raiders' status as one of the NFL's most formidable teams.

Super Bowl XI: The First Championship

In 1976, the Raiders captured their first Super Bowl title, a defining moment in their playoff history. Led by coach John Madden and a roster filled with stars like quarterback Ken Stabler and defensive stalwart Jack Tatum, the Raiders defeated the Minnesota Vikings 32-14 in Super Bowl XI.

This championship was a testament to their balanced team approach, combining a powerful offense with a tenacious defense. The Raiders' gritty style not only thrilled their fans but also set a standard for playoff toughness.

Continued Success: Super Bowl XV and XVIII

The playoff momentum continued into the 1980s. The Raiders, having moved to Los Angeles in 1982, secured Super Bowl victories in 1980 (Super Bowl XV) and 1983 (Super Bowl XVIII). These wins further cemented their playoff legacy.

Super Bowl XV showcased their resilience, as they defeated the Philadelphia Eagles 27-10, becoming the first wild card team to win a Super Bowl—a significant milestone in NFL history. Marcus Allen's incredible performance, including a memorable 74-yard touchdown run, earned him the MVP title.

In Super Bowl XVIII, the Raiders dominated the Washington Redskins 38-9, with their defense overpowering the opposition and Allen again starring. These playoff triumphs highlighted the Raiders' ability to rise to the occasion in high-pressure situations.

Challenges and Playoff Appearances in the 1990s and 2000s

The decades following their golden era presented new challenges for the Raiders, but their playoff history continued with notable appearances and moments of promise.

Struggles and Rebuilding

The 1990s were a rollercoaster for the Raiders. After moving back to Oakland in 1995, the team underwent several coaching changes and roster overhauls. Although playoff appearances were sporadic, the franchise remained competitive.

They reached the playoffs in 1990, 1991, 1993, and 2000 but often fell short of advancing deep into the postseason. These years were characterized by a search for stability and reclaiming the winning formula that once made them champions.

Return to Playoff Spotlight in the Early 2000s

The early 2000s saw the Raiders return to the playoffs with a strong defense and dynamic offense. The 2000 season was particularly memorable, as the Raiders reached Super Bowl XXXVII. Unfortunately, they were defeated by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in a game that exposed some critical weaknesses.

Despite the loss, this playoff run demonstrated the team's potential and reignited hope among fans. The Raiders continued to make playoff appearances in 2001 and 2002, though they struggled to replicate their earlier postseason success.

Recent Playoff History and Legacy

In the most recent chapters of oakland raiders playoff history, the franchise has faced both renewed hope and ongoing challenges, especially with relocation and rebuilding efforts.

Playoff Drought and Rebuilding Phase

After the early 2000s, the Raiders experienced a prolonged playoff drought. Between 2003 and 2016, the team missed the postseason entirely, leading to a period of frustration for their loyal fanbase.

During this time, the franchise focused on rebuilding through the draft and coaching changes, aiming to restore their competitive edge. The move to Las Vegas in 2020 marked a new era, but the playoff quest remains a work in progress.

What the Future Holds

While the Oakland Raiders name is now part of NFL history following the team's relocation, the legacy of their playoff battles continues to inspire. The franchise's past playoff runs offer valuable lessons in perseverance, team-building, and adapting to change.

For fans and analysts, the Raiders' playoff history is a treasure trove of memorable moments and a reminder that success in the NFL requires both talent and tenacity.

Key Takeaways from Oakland Raiders Playoff History

Exploring the oakland raiders playoff history reveals several important themes and insights:

- **Resilience:** The Raiders consistently bounced back from setbacks, demonstrating the importance of mental toughness in playoff football.
- **Innovative Coaching:** Leaders like Al Davis and John Madden shaped a winning culture that emphasized both strategy and character.
- **Star Power:** Iconic players such as Ken Stabler, Marcus Allen, and Howie Long played pivotal roles in postseason success.
- **Adaptability:** The franchise adapted through relocations and changing NFL landscapes while striving to maintain playoff competitiveness.

Understanding these elements helps to appreciate not only the Raiders' playoff history but also the broader dynamics that influence NFL postseason

success.

The Oakland Raiders playoff history is more than just a record of wins and losses—it's a story of a team that embodies the spirit of football with passion, innovation, and unyielding determination. Whether recalling their Super Bowl glory days or anticipating future triumphs, the Raiders' legacy remains a powerful chapter in the annals of NFL history.

Frequently Asked Questions

How many playoff appearances have the Oakland Raiders made?

The Oakland Raiders have made 23 playoff appearances in their franchise history.

When did the Oakland Raiders win their first Super Bowl?

The Oakland Raiders won their first Super Bowl in 1976, defeating the Minnesota Vikings in Super Bowl XI.

How many Super Bowls have the Oakland Raiders won?

The Oakland Raiders have won three Super Bowls: XI (1976), XV (1980), and XVIII (1983).

What is the Oakland Raiders' best playoff run?

The Raiders' best playoff run includes winning three Super Bowls during the 1976, 1980, and 1983 seasons.

Who was the head coach during the Oakland Raiders' Super Bowl victories?

John Madden was the head coach for the Raiders' first Super Bowl win in 1976, while Tom Flores coached the team to victories in 1980 and 1983.

When was the last time the Oakland Raiders made the playoffs?

The last time the Oakland Raiders made the playoffs was in the 2016 NFL season.

Have the Oakland Raiders ever lost a Super Bowl?

Yes, the Oakland Raiders lost Super Bowl II in 1967 and Super Bowl XXXVII in 2003.

What is the Oakland Raiders' playoff record?

The Oakland Raiders have an overall playoff record of 25 wins and 17 losses.

Did the Oakland Raiders ever make the playoffs during their relocation?

Yes, the Raiders made playoff appearances both as the Oakland Raiders and after relocating to Las Vegas, but historically their playoff history is primarily associated with Oakland.

Additional Resources

Oakland Raiders Playoff History: A Legacy of Grit and Glory

oakland raiders playoff history is a narrative steeped in resilience, iconic moments, and a fierce competitive spirit that has defined one of the NFL's most storied franchises. Since their inception in 1960 as part of the American Football League (AFL), the Raiders carved out a reputation not only as formidable contenders but also as a team synonymous with a rebellious ethos. This article delves into the Oakland Raiders' playoff journey, exploring pivotal games, key eras, and the impact of legendary figures who have left an indelible mark on the franchise's postseason legacy.

Early Years and AFL Dominance

The Raiders' playoff history began to take shape in the 1960s, a decade in which they quickly emerged as a dominant force within the AFL. Under the leadership of head coach Al Davis, who became a central figure in the organization, the Raiders adopted an aggressive style of play that often overwhelmed opponents. Their first taste of postseason action came in 1967, when they reached the AFL Championship Game, only to fall short against the AFL's powerhouse teams.

Despite early setbacks, the Raiders' persistence paid off with a breakthrough in 1967. After capturing the AFL Western Division title, Oakland advanced to the AFL Championship, a precursor to the modern AFC playoff structure. This era laid the foundation for the Raiders' reputation as perennial contenders, a status that would be further cemented in the years following the AFL-NFL merger.

Transition to the NFL and Early Playoff Success

The 1970 AFL-NFL merger marked a significant turning point, thrusting the Raiders into the newly formed American Football Conference (AFC). Oakland quickly adapted, making frequent playoff appearances throughout the 1970s. The team's playoff performances during this period were characterized by a fierce defense, innovative coaching, and clutch performances by Hall of Fame players like quarterback Ken Stabler and wide receiver Fred Biletnikoff.

The pinnacle of this era was the Raiders' victory in Super Bowl XI in 1976. Oakland's convincing 32-14 win over the Minnesota Vikings not only secured

the franchise's first Super Bowl title but also epitomized their physical and mental toughness. This triumph is often cited as a defining moment in the Raiders' playoff history, showcasing their ability to dominate on the biggest stage.

Golden Era and Consistent Postseason Appearances

Throughout the late 1970s and early 1980s, the Raiders maintained a consistent presence in the playoffs, reinforcing their status as one of the NFL's elite teams. Their playoff runs during this period were marked by strategic mastery and standout individual performances, although they often fell short of repeating the ultimate success of their Super Bowl victory.

Key Playoff Runs and Notable Games

Among the most memorable playoff moments in Oakland Raiders history were the 1980 AFC Championship Game and the 1983 playoff campaign. The 1980 team, led by coach Tom Flores, reached the AFC Championship but lost narrowly to the eventual Super Bowl champion Pittsburgh Steelers. In 1983, the Raiders advanced to the AFC Divisional Round but were upset by the Seattle Seahawks, highlighting the challenges of sustaining postseason success.

Several playoff games from this era are remembered for dramatic finishes and intense rivalries, particularly against teams like the Steelers and the Denver Broncos. These contests not only contributed to the Raiders' playoff lore but also reflected the competitive parity of the AFC West division.

The Move to Los Angeles and Its Impact on Playoff Fortunes

In 1982, the Raiders relocated to Los Angeles, a move that influenced both the team's identity and its playoff trajectory. The shift to Los Angeles introduced new dynamics, including changes in fan base and media attention, which coincided with fluctuating playoff outcomes. The Raiders captured another Super Bowl title in 1983 (Super Bowl XVIII), defeating the Washington Redskins decisively and underscoring their ability to succeed amid transition.

However, the late 1980s and early 1990s brought inconsistency, with the Raiders making sporadic playoff appearances but often exiting early. This period reflected both the challenges of maintaining a championship-caliber roster and the evolving competitiveness of the NFL.

Return to Oakland and Modern Playoff Challenges

The Raiders' return to Oakland in 1995 was met with enthusiasm from their loyal fan base, rekindling hopes for a playoff resurgence. Yet, the post-relocation years were marked by a mix of fleeting successes and prolonged

playoff droughts. The franchise struggled to replicate the dominance of earlier decades, despite efforts to rebuild through draft picks and coaching changes.

2000s Playoff Appearances and Performance

During the 2000s, the Raiders made several playoff appearances, including notable runs in 2000, 2001, and 2002. The 2000 season saw Oakland reach the AFC Championship Game, ultimately falling to the Baltimore Ravens, who went on to win the Super Bowl. These playoff appearances were characterized by strong defensive units and the leadership of players like Rich Gannon, who earned MVP honors in 2002.

Despite these flashes of success, the Raiders often found themselves on the cusp of deeper postseason runs but unable to sustain momentum. The early 2000s highlighted both the potential and fragility of the franchise's playoff aspirations.

Recent Playoff History and Future Prospects

In more recent years, the Raiders' playoff history has been complicated by organizational changes, including the franchise's move to Las Vegas in 2020. While this transition marks a new chapter, it also represents a break from the traditional Oakland-centered narrative. The Raiders' playoff appearances in the late 2010s were limited, reflecting ongoing challenges in roster development and competitive consistency.

Nevertheless, the legacy of the Oakland Raiders playoff history remains integral to understanding the team's identity. The perseverance, iconic victories, and cultural impact of those years continue to influence the franchise's direction as it seeks to build a new era of postseason success.

Analyzing the Raiders' Playoff Legacy

The Oakland Raiders' playoff history is a study in contrasts – moments of sheer dominance juxtaposed with periods of struggle. Their postseason record reflects a franchise that has consistently aimed for greatness, often achieving it through a combination of rugged defense, innovative coaching, and charismatic leadership.

- **Playoff Appearances:** The Raiders have made over 20 playoff appearances throughout their time in Oakland and Los Angeles, showcasing sustained competitive relevance.
- **Super Bowl Titles:** Three Super Bowl championships (in 1976, 1980, and 1983) highlight the franchise's ability to compete at the highest level.
- **Hall of Fame Talent:** Players like Ken Stabler, Fred Biletnikoff, Marcus Allen, and Bo Jackson have defined the Raiders' playoff successes with standout performances.
- **Coaching Impact:** Figures such as Al Davis and Tom Flores have shaped the

Raiders' playoff strategies and philosophy, emphasizing toughness and adaptability.

While the Oakland Raiders playoff history is marked by periods of dominance, it also illustrates the cyclical nature of professional football success. The team's resilience in the face of adversity and their enduring fan support have contributed to a playoff legacy that remains influential in NFL lore.

In examining the Raiders' playoff journey, one must appreciate the complexities of maintaining elite performance over decades, especially amid relocations and changing league dynamics. As the franchise continues to evolve, the Oakland chapter of their playoff history stands as a testament to the gritty spirit that defines the Raiders brand – a spirit that continues to inspire players and fans alike.

Oakland Raiders Playoff History

oakland raiders playoff 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.

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oakland raiders playoff history: The Raiders Encyclopedia Richard J. Shmelter, 2014-01-10 This is the definitive reference work on the NFL's Oakland/Los Angeles Raiders. Part I is a season-by-season review, covering each game and player from every campaign. Part II includes a complete all-time roster of players and coaches, with biographical information, along with information on all draft picks, schedules, and individual awards and honors. Part III covers the characters, from executives to cheerleaders, who made the Raiders one of the most colorful organizations in professional sports, and details the franchise's historic stadiums and uniforms.

oakland raiders playoff history: History of the NFL First 100 Year's You Sure Started Somethin' R.D. Griffith, 2021-12-16 Are you searching for a book about American Football that has it all? R. D. Griffith will take you on a comprehensive drive through the history and highlights of American Football, its salient details, from its inception at the turn of the century to its centralized embodiment now in the modern era, the NFL. He will share with you the challenges the game faced through the Great Depression and two World Wars, including the spicy anecdotes of the people comprising the great game of American Football throughout the years.

oakland raiders playoff history: Cleveland Browns History Frank M. Henkel, 2005 There was little fanfare when Art Mickey McBride flew into Chicago in 1945 to purchase a professional football team for Cleveland. But that act set in motion a tradition that has brought the city of Cleveland together on Sunday afternoons for (most of) the sixty years to follow. Cleveland Browns History is the story of championship seasons, legendary coaches, and Hall of Fame players. Coach Paul Brown led his teams to seven league title games in their first 17 seasons. Running backs Marion Motley, Jim Brown, and Leroy Kelley each rushed over opposing defenses and straight into Canton, Ohio, along with fellow Browns like Otto Graham, Ozzie Newsome, and Len Ford. The Kardiak Kids in 1980 had

too many nail-biters for some fans, but won the AFC Central in typical fashion--by three points in the final game of the season. All these stories, plus those of the many unsung heroes to don the NFL's only logo-less helmet, fill the pages of this book, sure to delight any Cleveland Browns fan.

oakland raiders playoff history: National Football League Franchises Frank P. Jozsa Jr., 2016-07-29 The National Football League (NFL) is the most influential, popular, and prosperous professional sports league in America. As such this book focuses on the development and maturity of the organization and its members, but most importantly, how each of them performed in seasons and postseasons and then to what extent they have succeeded as a business enterprise despite competition for market share from other types of entertainment. Each chapter contains two core themes as sections—Team Performances and Franchise Business. The former highlights which and how teams won division and conference titles and championships like Super Bowls while the latter lists and compares financial data including their revenue, gate receipts, and operating income. By linking and comparing the historical performances of NFL teams to financial information about them as business organizations, this book provides a unique contribution to the literature on the sports industry. This book connects franchise popularity and all-time records with recent estimated market value, net worth, and other financial data. In sum, National Football League Franchises explains why particular teams located in large, midsized, or small markets win more games and titles than others. In addition, it provides ways to individually, and by division and/or conference, to compare teams from a financial perspective.

oakland raiders playoff history: More Distant Memories Danny Jones, 2006-12-12 This book is about Pro Football's best ever players and forgotten heroes from a bygone era. They were the superstars of the NFL and the AFL during the fabulous 50's, the glorious 60's, and the fun-loving 70's. However, none of these legends are in the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio with the exception of Bob Brown- who was finally selected in 2004 and Gene Hickerson- who was selected in 2007. These exciting players revolutionized the game of Pro Football with their outstanding performances and were the NFL's and AFL's biggest gate attractions. This book is a sequel to my first book, Distant Memories: The NFL's Best Ever Players of the 60's and 70's. I have chronicled the careers of 30 great football players and have provided you a glimpse back at the best seasons, longest touchdowns, and the big plays of their illustrious careers. Most of these men should be in the Hall of Fame. J.D. Hill and Golden Richards will never be selected because they don't have the statistics, but they were 2 of the NFL's most sensational players. All of these players had Hall of Fame talent and most of them also had Hall of Fame like statistics. More Distant Memories is more than a book about great football players. It's about the men who played the game and the humanity behind the facemasks. These legendary heroes and mavericks provided excitement and happiness to millions of football fans across America. These players are lost treasures and have simply been forgotten as time goes by. They were brilliant players and dedicated professionals. Their place in Pro Football history is secure regardless of any Hall of Fame status. It was these trailblazers, legends, and other stars from the glorious past that made Pro Football our national pastime and America's game. Enjoy your trip down memory lane. <http://www.starsofthenfl.com/index.html>

oakland raiders playoff history: Blood, Sweat, and Never a Playoff: A Wild and Wacky History of the NFL's Most Frustrated Franchise Pasquale De Marco, 2025-03-22 ****Blood, Sweat, and Never a Playoff: A Wild and Wacky History of the NFL's Most Frustrated Franchise**** The New York Jets are one of the most storied franchises in the history of professional football, but they are also one of the most frustrating. Despite their rich history and passionate fan base, the Jets have never won a Super Bowl, a fact that has earned them the unfortunate distinction of being the only AFL team to never win a league championship. In this comprehensive and entertaining book, we take a deep dive into the history of the New York Jets, from their early days in the AFL to their current status as a perennial also-ran. We explore the team's many triumphs and tribulations, including their Super Bowl III victory, their heartbreaking loss in the Heidi Game, and their struggles to find sustained success in recent years. We also take a close look at some of the most iconic players and coaches in Jets history, including Joe Namath, Weeb Ewbank, Bill Parcells, and

Rex Ryan. We examine their contributions to the team and the impact they had on the franchise's fortunes. Through a combination of historical research, interviews with former players and coaches, and analysis of game footage, we paint a vivid picture of the Jets' rich history. We explore the factors that have contributed to their successes and failures, and we assess the team's prospects for future success. Whether you are a lifelong Jets fan or simply a casual observer of the NFL, this book is sure to provide you with a deeper understanding of one of the most fascinating and frustrating teams in professional football. So sit back, relax, and enjoy the ride as we journey through the history of the New York Jets. If you like this book, write a review!

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moments and stories in the history of a legendary franchise, including the players, teams, games, and coaches, presented in brilliant images and informative text.

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oakland raiders playoff history: National Football League Strategies Frank P. Jozsa Jr., 2014-06-12 This Brief identifies and contrasts the groups of expansion franchises and any teams that relocated from one metropolitan area or city to another within the National Football League (NFL) during three distinct periods from 1920 to 2013. It discusses historical differences and similarities between the teams' markets and performances before 1933 and then as members of the NFL's divisions and conferences. It measures and compares the emergence, development and success of the teams by analyzing demographic, economic and sport-specific data. It also discusses the NFL's mergers with the All American Football Conference (1950) and American Football League (1970), outlining the reasons for and consequences of these mergers as well as their significance for sports fans and markets. The book makes an important, relevant and useful contribution to the literature regarding professional sports operations and to the NFL's short and long run business strategies in

American culture. Besides numerous sports fans within metropolitan areas and extended markets of these NFL teams, the book's audiences are sports historians and researchers, college and public libraries and current and potential NFL franchise owners and team executives. The book may also be used as a reference or supplemental text for college and university students enrolled in such applied undergraduate and graduate courses and seminars as sports administration, sports business and sports management.

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oakland raiders playoff history: **ESPN: The Ultimate Pro Football Guide** Shelly Youngblut, 1998-08-12 This guide is truly the ultimate source for pro football trivia, esoterica, curiosities, stats, anecdotes, rivalries, facts, quotes, and recaps; just about what you'd expect from an ESPN publication. Arranged by team, each section lists the most notable games, players, and coaches in team history, and then asks intriguing questions such as: Is Dan Marino or Bob Griese the best Miami Dolphin quarterback of all time Marino by a hair. The Ultimate Pro Football Guide also tells you where to score the best eats and drinks in the respective teams' cities and provides such minutiae as what locals wear to game day, how many times your team has appeared on The Simpsons, and which local columnist you should read on game day. You can't ask for more from a football guide; it makes every team the home team. --Tod Nelson

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