

Rick Gosselin
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Dear Rick,

As the Hall of Fame selection process is nearing, I would like you to consider Jim Marshall to finally get his overdue induction into the prestigious hall of fame.

Not only was he one of the leagues best players... A refresher of his stats for you:

- Jim Marshall retired in 1979 after a 20 year career and never missed a game
- 282 consecutive games – a record held until recently when Jeff Feagles, a punter, finally broke it (I wonder how long it will take for a Defensive End to break that record)
- Most consecutive starts in the NFL with 270 consecutive starts.
- Ranked 2nd in Vikings history in sacks – 127. The only player to have more sacks than Jim is Hall of Fame member, Carl Eller.
- He led or tied for most sacks on the Vikings team in the first six years of franchise history.
- Holds the NFL fumble recovery record with 29 recovered fumbles.
- Ranks 2nd in Vikings franchise history for tackles for defensive linemen – 988. The only lineman to surpass him is Hall of Fame member, Alan Page.
- He was the Heart famed Purple People Eaters.
- Played in 4 Super Bowls – IV, VII, IX and XI.
- On November 28, 1999 He was inducted into the Minnesota Vikings Ring of Honor.
- He played in 2 consecutive Pro Bowl – following the '68 & '69 Seasons

...He is also making a real difference off the field as well.

- He co-founded with Oscar Reed, a non-profit organization, bringing opportunity and positive relationships to disempowered youth living in impoverished neighborhoods.
- Check out this link to his charity called "The Link" <http://www.lifesmissinglink.com/>
- He didn't stand for poor sportsmanship - he policed the team, he is a great role model for these kids

Here are a few quotes of people talking about and describing Jim Marshall:

"When God was making Defensive Ends – He made Jim Marshall"

-Joe Kapp

"Jim Marshall personified the Bud Grant Standard... He always played smart, he always played hard, but most impressively HE ALWAYS PLAYED!"

- Unknown

"A lot of people ask who was your best football player... As a coach you can't go there. So how do I describe Jim Marshall... He is a special football player. He is a special man. And if it wasn't for Jim Marshall, I wouldn't be here today. I love Jim Marshall."

-Bud Grant (speaking after he was inducted into the hall of fame in 1994)

Well Regards,

Rick Conwell
Laguna Hills, CA