

Rick Gosselin
Dallas Morning News

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Dear Rick,

I'm writing to you today to encourage you to consider Jim Marshall for the National Football League Hall of Fame.

I'm sure you have reviewed Jim's credentials in the past, but, I'm asking that you review them one more time. Jim represents everything good about football to every fan of the Minnesota Vikings. Jim was the team leader, Jim was the spirit of those championship teams and Jim earned the right to be selected into the Hall of Fame.

- 20 seasons in the NFL.
- 282 consecutive games – most by any non-kicker to ever play the game.
- 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.
- The cornerstone to the famed Purple People Eaters.
- Played in 4 Super Bowls – IV, VII, IX and XI.
- Inducted into the Minnesota Vikings Ring of Honor.

I had the opportunity to watch the famed Dallas / Minnesota Hail Mary game again this year. It was very enlightening for me to watch this game as a smarter fan – maybe a little older too. The interesting observation I noticed this time around (other than they still lost) was – the Cowboy's game plan appeared to be away from Jim, most of their runs – away from Jim. When they passed and had to move the pocket it was away from Jim. The Dallas Cowboy's chosen method to beat the Vikings was to challenge future Hall of Fame member Carl Eller and protected themselves from Jim's side of the line. Because I understand how teams and coaches work – I believe the Cowboy's weren't the only team protecting themselves from Jim Marshall's presence and game planned in a similar manor. Once I came to this conclusion I had to write this letter. It seems to me that a great injustice has already been performed – please don't bypass Jim for this honor, his fellow opponents had plenty of respect for him when he was playing.

Thank You,

Wm. R. Martin
Lake Forest, CA