

LEROY KEYES

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HALFBACK-CORNERBACK

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AT A GLANCE

Leroy Keyes was a megastar for the Boilermakers from 1966 to 1968.

The only two-time consensus All-American in school history, Keyes finished third and second in balloting for the Heisman Trophy as a halfback his junior and senior seasons.

Keyes set school records for career touchdowns (37), points (222) and all-purpose yards (3,757). He was voted the All-Time Greatest Player as part of the 100-year anniversary of Purdue football in 1987, was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1990 and was a member of the inaugural class of Purdue Intercollegiate Athletics Hall of Famers in 1994.

As a junior, Keyes scored 19 touchdowns (13 rushing and six receiving) to set the Purdue season record, which still stands, and led the nation with 114 points en route to being honored as the Big Ten Conference Most Valuable Player. The following year, he became the first Boilermaker to rush for 1,000 yards in a season and was selected to the 1968 East-West Shrine Game.

Nicknamed "The Golden Mr. Do-Everything" and regarded as the pied piper of Purdue, Keyes' career statistics included 2,094 rushing yards, 80 receptions, eight touchdown passes (among 12 completions), four interceptions as a defensive halfback and a 25.8 kickoff return average. He also handled kickoff duties.

RECORD WATCH

Fifty years later, in addition to the season touchdown record, Keyes remains the Purdue record-holder for rushing average in a season (6.6 yards per carry in 1967) and career (5.88). He ranks third all-time in total touchdowns, fifth in rushing touchdowns (29), sixth in points, ninth in all-purpose yards, 10th in rushing yards and 18th in rushing attempts (356). His 1,870 all-purpose yards as a junior were the school standard for 40 years until Dorien Bryant topped it in 2007. Keyes still owns the longest fumble return by a Boilermaker with a 95-yarder at Notre Dame on Sept. 24, 1966.

YEAR-BY-YEAR STATISTICS

RUSHING

Year	Att.	Yards	Avg.	TD	Long
1966	14	105	7.5	2	35
1967	149	986	6.6	13	81
1968	193	1,003	5.2	14	51
Totals	356	2,094	5.9	29	81

RECEIVING

Year	No.	Yards	Avg.	TD	Long
1966	2	18	9.0	0	12
1967	45	758	16.8	6	78
1968	33	428	13.0	1	56
Totals	80	1,204	15.1	7	78

1967 ROSE BOWL

Keyes recorded three solo tackles, assisted on five others and had a pass breakup. He also returned two kickoffs for 66 yards (including a 42-yarder, which still ranks as the fourth-longest in Purdue bowl game history), and rushed for four yards on two carries. Keyes was inducted into the Rose Bowl Hall of Fame in 2010.

POST PURDUE

Keyes was selected by the Philadelphia Eagles with the third overall pick of the 1969 National Football League Draft. A running back and safety, he played for the Eagles from 1969 to 1972 and for the Kansas City Chiefs in 1973 before injuries curtailed his career. He had six interceptions and three fumble recoveries in 1971.

A desegregation specialist for the Philadelphia school district for 16 years, Keyes returned to Purdue as running backs coach under Jim Colletto in 1995 and 1996. Keyes subsequently served as an administrative assistant for the football program under Joe Tiller from 1997 to 1999 and then a member of the John Purdue Club staff until his retirement in 2011.

