

T.O.'s The All-Time Leader

Dallas—If I were T.O., I'd be mad. When Payton beat Brown's record, they carried him on their padded shoulders. Emmitt Smith beat that record and got oh so much love. But where was the ticker tape parade when Owens set another hallowed mark a few years back? You know the one; he's had his eye on it ever since he stepped into the league. *There's a new controversy champion of all time and it's Terrell Owens!*

Joe Montana could never have approached this. Jerry Rice, the greatest receiver in the history of the game, not a chance.

The funny thing is, when he was nearing the mark as he signed with Philadelphia, he wanted it wiped away from the record books. Wanted a clean slate. And, wouldn't you know it, he got one. But it was the last one. Run your mouth again and you'll be run out, all will not be forgiven, the old stats will return. So they did.

By the way, if you didn't hear, Terrell Owens just got released by the Dallas Cowboys. I would have led with that but it's inconsequential, just another chapter in an endless book of nonsense. You'd think he'd write more children's books instead.

And how's my fair city of Dallas taking it? Actually, SUVs seem to be streaming onto 75 just fine, folks are smiling, something shocking when you consider how everyone in this town has an enlarged heart, laces through the ventricles, Roger Goodell's signature passing over the aorta.

No, we're moving on, it appears.

Maybe T.O. should do the same. Not just from Dallas but from football. He thinks it was Brian Witten's fault, or Tony Romo's. Sure, they've had their controversies, but they're at about five apiece and Owens is hovering at roughly a hundred more. There's a saying called put up or shut up, maybe Owens should try the latter. He thinks he's being treated differently, that other players get away with the same thing.

Nope. Not a one, all-time leader. The only player in sports that comes near this amount of controversy is Manny Ramirez, but I would say he's roughly Kurt Warner in comparison. Oh, and he's won championships. Yeah, win a title and at least for that year all is forgiven. It shouldn't be, but it is.

The problem is in football you can't do it alone, you have to rely on your teammates. Owens re-lies instead.

He'll go to another town and tell them he just wants to play football, just wants to win championships, but he should consider looking up the word "just." It means only. It means nothing else. Or look up the other definition of just. It means getting what you deserve. All-time leader, as you look for anyone else to blame, I see someone wide open. You know, like your mouth.

But let's say you want to keep playing football, just for argument's sake. And there's no other sake you really seem to know. How about you try answering the minimum amount of questions—like from dudes like me. Normally I hate to give this advice because you sort of make me money, but I just don't want to take from you anymore, it isn't even a challenge.

Trying to wrangle controversy from you is about as hard as attempting to get Madonna to hit the gym. But as sure as Ms. Truth or Dare can hit a double biceps shot with the best of them, you need a new nickname.

I know! How about...The Monk? Become T. Oath. Pure silence for the rest of your career, just scoring touchdowns and letting that speak for itself. Seeing as you're second all-time in that category, it's got to be way more fun than the one you lead in.

Just look at what happened to the TD leader—dude was on *Dancing with the Stars*. Emmitt, the all-time rusher, even won the thing. Now that I think about it, why don't you just ask in to the new season and forget football now. It's too hard to see your smiling face under that uncomfortable helmet, anyway.

Or what about going on *The Bachelor*? Even you couldn't be hated anymore than that Jason Mesnick. All-time leader, you wouldn't have asked a beautiful woman to marry you like he did—a Dallas girl—only to break up with her on national TV and say your feelings had changed.

Actually, it seems like Dallas did that to you. We gave you your ring back today, not a championship ring, mind you, but still. We don't want to do your dirty dishes anymore, don't want to be abused, don't want to listen to how it's not your fault, how your previous wives in Philly and SF abused you and that's why you're *this way*.

We tried to understand, tried to mend your broken heart. But yours is also enlarged, not shaped like a pigskin, but like an alarm clock.

All-time leader, I think it's going off.

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