

SUPER BOWL XIII: QB TERRY BRADSHAW, Pittsburgh Steelers – Establishing a career high with 318 passing yards, Bradshaw won the first of his two consecutive Super Bowl MVP awards based on the strength of his four touchdown passes in this 35-31 victory. Wide receiver John Stallworth hauled in scoring catches covering 28 and 75 yards in the first half. Bradshaw, who carved out his place among the NFL’s greatest with his sterling Super Bowl performances, got the best of Cowboys QB Roger Staubach, who put forth a tremendous performance in his own right with three passing scores.

SUPER BOWL XIV: QB TERRY BRADSHAW, Pittsburgh Steelers – Becoming the first back-to-back Super Bowl MVP award winner since Bart Starr, Bradshaw helped the Steelers recover from two deficits to win their fourth NFL championship in six years, 31-19 over the Rams. Long touchdown passes to Lynn Swann and John Stallworth helped Bradshaw amass 309 yards passing as he completed 14 of 21 attempts. Bradshaw owned nearly every significant Super Bowl passing record following the win, including career yardage (932), touchdowns (nine) and passer rating (112.8). Sparked by the leadership of Bradshaw and a suffocating “Steel Curtain” defense, Pittsburgh was the first team in NFL history to hoist four Vince Lombardi Trophies.

SUPER BOWL XV: QB JIM PLUNKETT, Oakland Raiders – The strong-armed Plunkett was the model of efficiency in the Raiders’ 27-10 win over the Philadelphia Eagles. Plunkett, who did not take over as a starter until Week 6 of the season for coach John Madden finished 13 for 21 passing for 261 yards, three touchdowns and no interceptions. Though his Eagles counterpart Ron Jaworski racked up more passing yards (291) in the game, he also threw for three interceptions.

SUPER BOWL XVI: QB JOE MONTANA, San Francisco 49ers – If the 1970s belonged to the Steelers, the 1980s was certainly the decade of the 49ers. This 26-21 win over the Bengals was the start of a San Francisco dynasty, with Montana (14 of 22, 142 yards) leading the way. In addition to an 11-yard scoring strike to Earl Cooper, Montana also ran for one score in the first quarter en route to a 20-0 halftime lead. Despite a serious comeback attempt by Ken Anderson and Cincinnati, Montana and the 49ers held on for the franchise’s first Super Bowl title.

SUPER BOWL XVII: RB JOHN RIGGINS, Washington Redskins – In front a 100,000-plus crowd at the Rose Bowl in the Redskins’ 27-17 win, Riggins turned in one of the most memorable rushing performances in NFL championship history. Highlighted by a bruising 43-yard touchdown run on a fourth-and-one situation, Riggins carried the ball a Super Bowl record 38 times for 166 yards, which was also a record at the time. In the process of wearing down a tough Miami defense, Riggins put an exclamation point on one of the most prolific postseason performances ever; the bruising back rushed for over 100 yards in each of Washington’s four playoff victories.

SUPER BOWL XVIII: RB MARCUS ALLEN, Oakland Raiders – Shattering John Riggins’ record for rushing yards established the previous year, Allen spun and juked his way to 191 yards rushing in Oakland’s 38-9 victory over the Redskins. The agile Allen, who averaged nearly 10.0 yards per rush in this game, scored both of his touchdowns in the third quarter, sealing the victory. He also had two receptions for 18 yards, giving him more than 200 yards from scrimmage.

SUPER BOWL XIX: QB JOE MONTANA, San Francisco 49ers – Montana became the third player to win multiple Super Bowl MVPs with his dominant 38-16 over the Dan Marino-led Dolphins. Not only did Montana pass for 331 yards and three touchdowns, but he also scrambled for 59 yards on five carries, including a six-yard score midway through the third quarter. Running back Roger Craig was Montana’s favorite target, hauling in seven receptions for 77 yards and two touchdowns. In all, Montana accounted for 390 of the 49ers’ Super Bowl-record 537 offensive yards.

SUPER BOWL XX: DE RICHARD DENT, Chicago Bears – A team as famous for its “Super Bowl Shuffle” music video as it was for its 15-1 regular-season record, the ’85 Chicago Bears rattled off 44 unanswered points in their championship win over the Patriots (46-10). Dent accounted for 1.5 of the Bears’ record-breaking 7.0 sacks and caused two fumbles on the day. With Dent leading the charge, Chicago limited New England to seven yards rushing. Playing alongside defensive greats such as linebacker Mike Singletary and defensive lineman William Perry, Dent and the Bears made the “46 Defense” famous.

SUPER BOWL XXI: QB PHIL SIMMS, New York Giants – Simms’ near-perfect 22-for-25 passing performance helped New York pull away from the Denver Broncos for a 39-20 victory. With the Giants trailing 10-9 at the half, Simms was a perfect 10-for-10 in the second half, orchestrating five scoring drives in the process. Tight end Mark Bavaro and wide receiver Phil McConkey were both on the receiving ends of textbook touchdown tosses from the accurate Simms. No other Super Bowl quarterback comes close to matching Simms’ 88.0 completion percentage, with Montana’s 75.9 percent completion rate against Denver in Super Bowl XXIV ranking second all time.

SUPER BOWL XXII: QB DOUG WILLIAMS, Washington Redskins – Throwing four touchdown passes in an electric second quarter, Williams led Washington to its second Super Bowl victory. Williams accrued 340 yards via the pass – a Super Bowl record at the time. Trailing 10-0 after one quarter of play, the Redskins’ offense erupted for 35 straight points en route to a 42-10 victory. Williams sparked the offensive onslaught with an 80-yard passing score to wideout Ricky Sanders less than a minute into the second quarter. Williams’ performance was so impressive, it surpassed the dynamic rushing effort by Washington running back Timmy Smith, who ran for 204 yards and two touchdowns.

SUPER BOWL XXIII: WR JERRY RICE, San Francisco 49ers – San Francisco became the first NFC team to win three Super Bowls in this epic come-from-behind win (20-16) over the Bengals. Rice was unstoppable, reeling in 11 catches for a Super Bowl-best 215 yards. Though Joe Montana racked up more than 300 yards passing and directed the most memorable touchdown drive in Super Bowl history (92 yards in 11 plays), Rice’s dominant performance was the difference in this game. In addition to being the owner of every significant receiving record in NFL regular season history, Rice still holds five Super Bowl records, including most career receiving yardage and touchdowns.

SUPER BOWL XXIV: QB JOE MONTANA, San Francisco 49ers – Montana augmented an already impressive Super Bowl résumé by winning his third MVP award in the game. In the most lopsided Super Bowl win ever, San Francisco beat the Broncos, 55-10. Montana’s five touchdown passes set a single-game Super Bowl standard at the time and put him ahead of Terry Bradshaw for the most career touchdown passes of any Super Bowl performer. Montana (22 of 29, 297 yards) still sits atop the Super Bowl record book in the passing categories of rating (127.8), career completions (83), career yards (1,142) and touchdowns (11).

SUPER BOWL XXV: RB OTTIS ANDERSON, New York Giants – Head coach Bill Parcells secured his second Super Bowl championship in this 20-19 victory, which will be forever remembered because of Buffalo kicker Scott Norwood’s potential game-winning field goal that sailed wide right. Just as they had done all season, the Giants employed a ball-control strategy that was spearheaded by Anderson’s gutsy performance. Running primarily between the tackles, Anderson carried the ball 21 times for 102 yards. The Giants held on to the ball for a record 40:33 of the game, keeping the potent Buffalo offense from finding its rhythm. Anderson scored his lone touchdown of the day to cap a 14-play drive that spanned nearly 10 minutes of the third quarter.