

Jerome A. Bettis

Pro Football Hall of Fame running back Jerome “The Bus” Bettis’ is one of the best running backs in NFL history. A three-year standout at University of Notre Dame, where he finished his career with 1,912 rushing yards under legendary coach Lou Holtz. He was drafted in 1993, and he was selected in the first round of the NFL draft as the 10th overall pick by the Los Angeles Rams. Bettis had a successful rookie season by winning co-rookie of the year, Rams MVP, and the Sporting News Rookie of the Year.

In 1996 in what has been called the “Trade of the Decade” Bettis’ was traded on a Draft day trade to the Pittsburgh Steelers, for two Second Round Draft picks. Throughout his 10 years he was named Steelers MVP in 1996 & 1997. He was named to the Pro Bowl in 1993, 1994, 1996, 1997, 2001, and 2005. Bettis was enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame Canton, Ohio in August 2015. Though Pittsburgh has not officially retired his No. 36 jersey, it is understood that no Steelers player will ever wear it again, joining the list of other unofficial retired numbers, including legends Terry Bradshaw, Franco Harris and Hines Ward.

In 1997, The Bus Stops Here Foundation was established, to help underprivileged children improving the overall quality of life through programs like The Cyber Bus computer engineering program, Asthma and Sports Camp, and Mentoring and tutoring for at risk kids. A non profit organization that has a partnership with Pittsburgh’s Children Hospital, the United Way, Boy’s and Girls Clubs, and The NFL Charities. In 2001 He was acknowledged by the league for his work and named “NFL Walter Payton Man of the Year”.

Since retiring Jerome has started a new career as an NFL analyst where he appears on numerous ESPN shows like *NFL Live* and *SportsCenter*, *First Take*. He also contributes to ESPN Radio. Before joining ESPN as a full-time analyst, Bettis appeared as a guest on various shows throughout the years, including the Super Bowl XLV edition of *Sunday NFL Countdown* in 2011 when the Steelers played the Packers. Bettis also previously worked as an analyst for NBC Sports and the NFL Network.

In 2005 Bettis capped his legendary career by helping the Steelers win Super Bowl XL in his hometown of Detroit. While hoisting the Lombardi Trophy on the podium after the game, he announced his retirement from professional football in February 2006. This was the Bus’s last game. When asked by Mike Tirico of ABC sports if it was over Jerome said “It’s been an incredible ride and there’s always a time when you have to call it quits,” Bettis said. “I played this game to win a championship. I’m a champion and I think the Bus...the Bus’s last stop is here in Detroit.”

“That’s the greatest feeling in the world, to actually have an opportunity to hold that Lombardi Trophy, and not hold it because somebody gave it to you. You hold that trophy because you earned it and you won it. That’s the most amazing feeling in the world. It’s a feeling I’ve been waiting for 13 years and I’m just glad I was able to come back and hoist that trophy and take it back to Pittsburgh.” -Jerome Bettis