GENERAL

robert griffin iii career stats

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Robert Griffin III Career Stats: A Deep Dive into the Rise, Fall, and Legacy of a Once Promising Quarterback

When the 2009 NFL Draft rolled around, the NFL landscape was buzzing with anticipation. The 22 year old quarterback from Texas A&M was poised to become a franchise cornerstone. His name—Robert Griffin III, widely known as “RG3”—was on the lips of fans, analysts, and teams alike. In the span of his professional career, Griffin posted a mix of explosive highs and devastating lows, culminating in a story that is as instructive as it is tragic. This comprehensive review examines RG3’s career statistics, the context behind those numbers, and what they reveal about the evolution of the modern NFL quarterback.

Early Life and College Foundations

Born on October 12, 1988, in San Antonio, Texas, Robert Griffin III grew up in a family that valued hard work and perseverance. He attended John H. Reagan High School, where he led the team to a 12 1 record and a berth in the Texas state championship game. Griffin’s dual position play—both as a quarterback and a defensive back—reflected his athletic versatility.

Texas A&M Years (2006 2008)

Griffin’s tenure at Texas A&M was nothing short of spectacular. He became the Aggies’ starting quarterback as a freshman, a rare feat in itself. Over three seasons, he amassed:

- 5,313 passing yards
- 48 touchdown passes
- 23 interceptions
- Leading the team to a 2008 BCS National Championship Game appearance (though they fell to the University of Florida)

His 2008 season, in particular, was a watershed moment. Grading in the top 10 of the Heisman Trophy voting, Griffin showcased an arm strength that could pound the ball into the end zone from anywhere on the field, combined with a speed that made him a dual threat. These attributes made him a prime candidate for the NFL’s evolving pass centric offense.

Draft Day and Early NFL Promise

On April 25, 2009, the Washington Redskins selected Griffin with the 22nd overall pick in the first round. The organization’s strategy was clear: pair the newly acquired quarterback with a high profile offensive line and a roster that could support a high risk, high reward passing attack.

2009 Rookie Season Highlights

In his debut season, RG3’s performance was a blend of awe and uncertainty. He posted:

- 2,653 passing yards
- 18 touchdown passes
- 12 interceptions

- Completed 63% of his passes
- Played in 12 games, starting 10

Despite a 4 12 record for the Redskins, the rookie's statistics were enough to earn him a Pro Bowl selection—a rare honor for a first year quarterback. His explosive play made him a fan favorite, and the media dubbed him the "next Tom Brady." Yet, the numbers also hinted at areas of vulnerability: a relatively high interception rate and a lack of consistency against top defenses.

Peak Performance: 2011 Season

After a slow start to his career, Griffin's 2011 season was the apex of his professional output. He finished with:

- 3,737 passing yards
- 28 touchdown passes
- 7 interceptions
- Completion percentage of 63.7%
- Led the Redskins to a 12 4 record, securing a playoff berth

His efficiency rating of 111.3 was among the league's best, and he was named the NFL Offensive Player of the Year by the Associated Press. This season solidified his status as one of the league's elite quarterbacks and earned him a second Pro Bowl appearance.

Statistical Breakdown

1. Quarterback Rating (QB Rating): 113.5 – the second highest in the league that year.
2. Yards per Attempt: 7.4 – showcasing his ability to move the ball efficiently.
3. Passer Rating: 113.5 – an indicator of his balanced play, with both high yardage and low turnover rates.
4. Completion Percentage: 63.7% – reflecting accuracy against a variety of defenses.

These numbers paint a picture of a quarterback who could command the offense, read defenses, and maintain composure under pressure. The 2011 season remains the benchmark for evaluating RG3's potential.

Injury Setbacks and Career Decline

Rob Griffin's career trajectory was dramatically altered by a series of injuries that began in the 2012 season. A broken collarbone and a torn hamstring limited his playing time, and a severe knee injury in 2014 further hampered his mobility. The cumulative impact of these injuries forced the Redskins to seek alternatives.

Statistical Decline Post-2011

Following his peak, Griffin's performance metrics plummeted:

- 2012: 1,775 passing yards, 8 TDs, 6 INTs, completion 58.3%
- 2013: 1,539 passing yards, 6 TDs, 7 INTs, completion 54.7%
- 2014: 1,144 passing yards, 6 TDs, 5 INTs, completion 53.3%
- 2015: 1,400 passing yards, 6 TDs, 2 INTs, completion 61.4% (but only 8 games played)

The numbers illustrate a quarterback struggling to maintain the arm strength and agility that defined his early years. The 2015 season, while showing a modest improvement in completion percentage, was marred by limited playing time due to persistent injuries.

Transition to the Philadelphia Eagles

In March 2016, the Philadelphia Eagles signed Griffin to a one year deal, hoping his experience could help stabilize a struggling offense. Unfortunately, the 2016 season was another low point:

- 2,170 passing yards
- 9 touchdown passes
- 5 interceptions
- Completion percentage 59.4%

Despite a respectable number of interceptions, the lack of explosive play and the team"s 3 13 record underscored that Griffin was no longer the dynamic force he once was.

Final NFL Season: 2017

Griffin's final season saw him appear in a single game, completing 2 of 7 passes for 28 yards before being released. His cumulative NFL career statistics read as follows:

- 3,933 passing yards
- 48 touchdown passes
- 37 interceptions
- Completion percentage: 60.7%
- QB Rating: 87.5
- Games played: 71 (starting 56)

While these numbers may seem modest compared to the league's elite quarterbacks, they reflect a career that began with unprecedented promise and was ultimately derailed by injury.

Analyzing the Numbers: What Do They Reveal?

1. The Impact of Mobility

RG3's early success hinged on his dual threat capability. His ability to scramble for yardage added a dimension that defenses struggled to contain. However, as his injuries took a toll, his mobility diminished, leading to a decline in rushing yards and a more predictable passing attack.

2. Turnover Management

While his interception rate was initially high, it improved dramatically during his peak season. This improvement suggests that Griffin was learning to read defenses better and make smarter decisions. Unfortunately, injuries and a lack of support from the offensive line made it harder to maintain this level of decision making later on.

3. Completion Percentage Trends

Griffin's completion percentage hovered around the 60% mark for most of his career, with a notable spike in 2011. This spike aligned with a well coordinated offensive scheme and a solid offensive line. When those elements were compromised, his completion rate dipped accordingly.

4. Efficiency Rating (QB Rating)

His highest QB rating of 113.5 in 2011 is a testament to his efficiency. Subsequent seasons saw a gradual decline, falling below the league average by 2014. This trend underscores how injuries and reduced mobility can negatively affect a quarterback's efficiency.

Legacy Beyond the Numbers

While Robert Griffin III's career statistics may not place him in the pantheon of all time greats, his impact on the NFL

transcends raw numbers. He was a pioneer in the modern pass heavy, high tempo offense. His style influenced a generation of quarterbacks who blend arm talent with athleticism, such as Patrick Mahomes and Russell Wilson.

Griffin's story also serves as a cautionary tale about the fragility of athletic careers. The NFL's physical demands can abruptly alter the trajectory of even the most promising talent. His experience has prompted teams to invest more heavily in injury prevention, player health protocols, and long term career planning.

Comparative Analysis: RG3 vs. Contemporary Quarterbacks

To better understand RG3's career, let's compare his peak season with other quarterbacks who debuted in the same era.

Quarterback	Peak Season	Passing Yards	TDs	INTs	QB Rating
Robert Griffin III	2011	3,737	28	7	113.5
Matt Ryan	2013	4,632	40	15	103.5
Matt Ryan	2015	4,531	34	12	107.3
Cam Newton	2014	3,869	31	10	105.3

While the numbers show that RG3's peak was comparable to his contemporaries, the consistency and longevity that define a Hall of Fame career were absent. This comparison further highlights the importance of durability and adaptability in sustaining a successful quarterback career.

Future Outlook: Post Career and Legacy Projects

After retiring, Robert Griffin III has pursued various endeavors:

- Coaching and mentoring young quarterbacks through the Robert Griffin III Foundation.
- Engaging in public speaking events that emphasize resilience and mental toughness.
- Working as a television analyst, providing insights into quarterback play and team strategy.

His foundation focuses on providing scholarships for underprivileged youth and promoting health and wellness education—an extension of his personal journey from a promising athlete to a role model.

Key Takeaways

- RG3's early career stats were indicative of a future NFL star, highlighted by a 2011 season that earned him a Pro Bowl and Offensive Player of the Year honors.

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