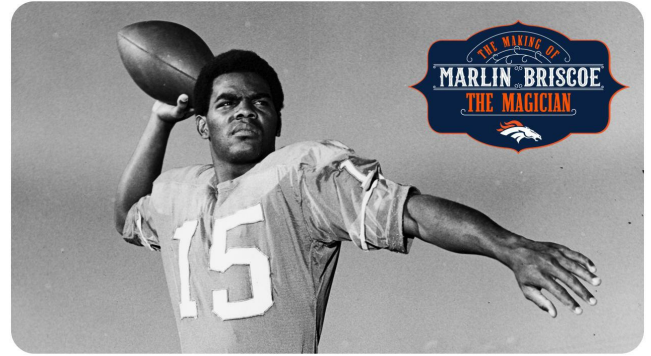


Quarterback - Why Does It Matter?

(Compiled from Multiple Sources, Wikipedia, NFL, YouTube, Ect.)



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Why are there still those who promote racial bias in sports, especially professional football and the position of quarterback? Unfortunately, there is a long history of manufactured narratives of overtures and undertones to create a superiority and inferiority based on racial bias.

Why does it matter? We can look back to Shedeur Sanders and compare his treatment to Drake Maye or any other rookie who isn't black. It was the year 2025, and almost no one had Shedeur Sanders rated no less than the first round, with most ranking him the number one or number two pick. While some had him number three or number five, and a few in the second round, but none in the fifth round. Then he was picked in the fifth round. Yet, he was not a fifth-round pick quarterback when ranking by character, Football IQ, or playing abilities. He didn't even get to play with the first team until midway in the tenth game of the season. Other quarterbacks would have played about five to seven months with the first team by then. He played seven full games and won three.

The sad thing is all of the dishonest dialogue Sanders received for his play that only focus on a negative result, even when not due to him. The same people give reasonable comments about another quarterback named Drake Maye that played 13 games in his rookie season and only won three. Maye had first team reps from his arrival and throughout the season but only won three games. In order for us to really understand the dilemma surrounding this issue, we need to look back at the history of the quarterback in the National Football League (NFL). There have been numerous comparable cases. In this article, you'll see one that stands out to reflect the history and picture of the historical situation.

Prior to the NFL draft of 1968, Dallas Cowboys chief talent scout Gil Brandt thought Marlin Briscoe had limitless potential as a pro quarterback. "Marlin has the greatest quickness of any college quarterback we've ever seen." Brandt told the World-Herald (via [DenverBroncos.com](https://www.denverbroncos.com)) in 1968. "He's as good as any big-time quarterback in college right now and just one heck of a football player." The first occurred in Denver; they didn't like it, uncomfortable; the Denver Broncos were desperate. Their season was collapsing. Their restless quarterback, a young man from Omaha, fast and fearless, his was Marlin Briscoe. He was a black man playing and throwing under pressure, displaying strategy with both his arm and his mind.

They called him "The Magician" because every Sunday he made the impossible look effortless. When he finally started winning, they took it all the way. Marlin Briscoe, a black man, wasn't in their expectations. He was confident in unnerving ways as he handled pressure at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He had thrown for over 4,935 yards and 52 touchdowns. He was fast and strategic against defenses.

(Check Sheduer Sanders finished his career 4 seasons; 2 Jackson State, 2 Colorado University; 50 games, 14,353 passing yards, 70.1% completions; 134 touchdowns; 27 interceptions. He had a passing TD pass 49 straight games the longest streak in NCAA D1 [FBS and FSC] history. The second longest in NCAA history and third longest streak in NFL history. He is one of eight in history to have over 100 more touchdowns than interceptions in his career. His Qbr 156.1 and he ranks eighth of QG's with 13,000 passing yards. He received many awards including the Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Award in 2025.)

Even his teammates called him "The Magician," because he could turn a disaster into a highlight and deliver the ball when things were falling apart. The first black man to line-up as quarterback in the modern NFL, with the crowd curious and skeptical by the end of the drive he had thrown a touchdown.

Week after week as the season went on the city was falling under the spell of the magician. Yet, behind closed doors, the executives and coaches weren't celebrating. They were uneasy with the idea of a black man leading a NFL team in 1968, giving orders to white teammates made some of them uncomfortable in ways they couldn't even articulate anymore. They also began asking questions about his attitude, and reporters shifted their tone from wonder to suspicion. When the season ended Brisco had more touchdowns than any rookie in team history. He kept proving himself but instead of building around him, the Broncos recruited two new quarterbacks in preparation for the next season. They never even gave him a chance to compete for the job or had the courtesy to offer an explanation. His position had been moved, reassigned, and his name was no longer on the quarterback list.

Unlike Broncos headlines that celebrate a rookie with a great season, his name vanished from every conversation. So unbelievable, like they were hiding the truth, in disbelief of how well he had played on the field and were pretending he never existed. They stopped mentioning his name, "The Magician" for real. They now want to erase the black quarterback and want him as a receiver. Hlm as a great player is fine as long as it doesn't involve leadership and commanding the team. They acted as if he hadn't been successful at reading defenses. They returned to how race had been used in the first place throughout the 1970s, in the NFL draft, if you are a quarterback with versatility, we don't want you. Then Doug Williams broke the wall in 1988, when he won the Super Bowl for Washington, but even he carried the shadow of Briscoe, the man who did it first, and paid for it. The legend of "the magician" came back to life, by the time Marlon Briscoe passed away in 2022, that he was the first black quarterback in football.

In 1968, there were clips, where a young man in orange and blue, who could fire a perfect strike into the end zone, the crowd exploded. The legend of the magician came back to life, by the time Marlon Briscoe passed away in 2022. Then they had to admit that he was the first modern black quarterback to start in pro football. Even more than that, he was proof that talent could threaten power, which redefined what it meant to lead, and stand in the huddle with intelligence, grace and authority. The story of Marlon Briscoe would not live for decades. His story was treated like a rumor; a footnote, whispered between barbershops and locker rooms. Never spoken aloud. By the 1990s, the game had changed, and a black quarterback had become a superstar. Doug Williams had lifted Lombardi trophies. Randall Cunningham was poetry in motion, and then each of them was another Briscoe. 1968 finally arrived, even if no one said his name. Then the documentary! Retrospective discovery as reporters began to talk about the first black quarterback in modern pro football.

In this discovery, reporters began to talk about how the first black quarterback in modern pro football could vanish from memory for so long. No matter the old coaches' excuses or the executive ignorance, everyone knew the silence had been deliberate. Writing its own history. Especially when the truth no longer fits the image you wanted to sell. Briscoe was invited to the NFL event late in life, on stage, no bitterness, no speeches of revenge. His existence is its own vindication as a pioneer. Now every time a quarterback is

called out for being too flashy or not a leader, it feels like a faint echo of that same prejudice. You could still hear the ghost of the magician in every doubtful phrase because Marlin's story wasn't about a man erased. He never saw himself as a martyr. He saw himself as a player who loved endurance under pressure, strategy in the battle of the game, and courage on the field of play.

Why does it matter? We can just look back to Shedeur Sanders and compare his treatment to Drake Maye or any other rookie that's not black. It was the year 2024, and almost no one had Shedeur Sanders rated no less than the first round with most ranking him the number one or number two pick. While some had him number three or number five and a few in the second round but none in the fifth round. Then he was picked in the fifth round. Yet, he was not a fifth-round pick quarterback; when ranking by character, Football IQ, or playing abilities. He didn't even get to play with the first team until midway in the tenth game of the season. Other quarterbacks would have played about five to seven months with the first team by then. He played seven full games and won three. There are many pro-players and media analyst who are reasonable and fair in their assessment of Shedeur's Play in the NFL. Chase Daniels, Kurt Warner, and Emmitt Smith just to name some of the most prominent ones. While Chase Daniels seemed to be a strong critic prior to the NFL draft in 2025, he has given very balanced analysis of Sanders play as quarterback after he began to play in the 10th game.

It's too bad that being racial when discussing football is a thing. Unfortunately, there is a long history of manufactured narratives of overtures and undertones to create a superiority and inferiority based on racial bias. Why are there still those that are promoting racial bias in sports, especially professional football and the position of quarterback?

They are more selective now, but whenever those that have the power of position and money want to make a statement you will see it. The sad thing is the dishonest unreasonable dialogue about the player they don't like. The same people give reasonable comments about another quarterback that they like. What does it matter? However you answer the question, what really matters is how you look at it because other people are going to do whatever they do. Never let someone decide who you are but you, be better than them, just like Shedeur Sanders did during the 2025 NFL season, and that's really all that matters.