

Name _____

Barry Sanders: The Elusive Running Back

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Barry Sanders is considered one of the greatest running backs in the history of American football due to his unmatched ability to evade defenders, his consistency in rushing for over 1,000 yards in each of his ten seasons, and his record-breaking achievements, including the Heisman Trophy and the single-season rushing record.
2. Barry Sanders' humility and sportsmanship set him apart as an athlete. Despite his immense talent and success, he remained grounded and respectful, earning the admiration of fans and fellow players. These qualities have contributed to his enduring legacy.
3. Barry Sanders' style of play differed from other running backs of his era because of his exceptional agility, quick cuts, and spins that allowed him to navigate through defenders with ease. His running style made him incredibly elusive and difficult to tackle, making him a standout player in the league.
4. Barry Sanders' retirement from professional football in 1999 was significant because he chose to leave the game on his own terms, at the peak of his career. His decision surprised many and left a void in the football world, as fans and the NFL community had grown accustomed to witnessing his extraordinary performances.

