



Change the Mascot!

Current and former NFL Players, Coaches and Executives Who Have Supported Changing the Washington Team Mascot

Richard Sherman, current Seattle Seahawks player

[On if the NFL would take similar action to the NBA if an owner was caught making bigoted remarks] “No I don’t. Because we have an NFL team called the Redskins. I don’t think the NFL really is as concerned as they show. The NFL is more of a bottom line league. If it doesn’t affect their bottom line, they’re not as concerned.”

Malcolm Smith, current Seattle Seahawks player, MVP of Super Bowl XLVIII

“There is no room for bigotry in American sports. It takes courage to change the culture.”
“[The tweet] was about the fact the Redskins’ name is what it is.”

DeAngelo Hall, current Washington R*dskins player

“I think eventually they will change it ... they probably should.”

Cris Collinsworth, former Cincinnati Bengals player and current sportscaster

“I have a feeling if it was the black skins, the brown skins, the name would have already been changed ... And in this day and age, Redskins just doesn’t work.”

Joey Browner, former Minnesota Vikings player

“It should be changed ... It should have been changed a long time ago. (The Redskins are) making multi billions over a word that was something they put a bounty up (historically) for hunting season for (indigenous) scalps ... Other organizations have changed their names and come back thriving.”

Jason Taylor, former Miami Dolphins, Washington R*dskins and New York Jets player

“Look, it’s offensive. If you look it up in the dictionary, it’s an offensive term. And I think if you get one segment of people that are offended by it, it warrants some looking at.”

Art Monk, former Washington R*dskins player

“If the Native Americans feel like ‘Redskins’ or the ‘Chiefs’ or [another] name is offensive to them, then who are we to say, ‘No, it’s not’?”

Darrell Green, former Washington R*dskins player

“It deserves and warrants conversation because somebody is saying, ‘Hey, this offends me,’ and then you have a conversation.”

London Fletcher, former Washington R*dskins player

“You heard more about it in the news; more things were coming out about it. So I started to really look at it, and started to kind of take hold and get a true understanding of what the word Redskin meant. Get a history lesson, in a sense. And I started feeling a little bit uneasy about it.”

**Mark Schlereth, former Washington R*dskins and Denver Broncos player,
current football analyst**

“Yes. It is time to change the name. There’s no question, if you research the history of that name, it’s a pejorative term. And it needs to change. I mean, you would never go into a conference of Native American people and walk up in front of them and refer to them as redskins. It is a derogatory term – that’s its origins and it is time to be a leader from the standpoint of the NFL.”

Jon Ritchie, former Philadelphia Eagles and Oakland Raiders player

“But the name does matter to some people in our society, because it is a nod to the decimation of a tradition and a culture that was once prevalent here in the United States. If it offends anyone, the name should be out.”

**Mark Murphy, current President & CEO of the Green Bay Packers,
former Washington R*dskins Player**

“It’s a name that’s very derogatory to a lot of people.”

Mike Holmgren, former Green Bay Packers and Seattle Seahawks Head Coach

“Because of what it signifies and what it means to so many people. I’m not talking football fans; I’m talking about Native Americans and all that. Yeah. Just change the name. Big deal. Change the name.”

Marv Levy, former Buffalo Bills Head Coach

“It’s a crude word to define a Native American, and I would think if Native Americans feel offended, it would make sense to change it.”

Amy Trask, former CEO of the Oakland Raiders

“I think the Washington Redskins should make a powerful statement and change the team name and logo. If we wish to inspire people to consider one another without regard to skin color, then it is antithetical to refer to any person or any group of people by skin color. The Washington Redskins have an opportunity to do something very meaningful.”

Other Athletes, Coaches, Executives

Billy Mills, Oglala Lakota Olympic Gold Medalist

“It’s time for those individuals and those teams who think they’re honoring us to recognize that we bring honor to ourselves and our tribal nations. In honoring our tribal nations, we bring honor to America. I think it’s time for the owner of the Washington Redskins, for example, to bring honor to himself -- by changing the name of the Washington Redskins.”

Notah Begay III, former PGA Tour professional and current sportscaster

“I don't think if a similar racially offensive word was used for the Hispanic, African American or Jewish communities that it would be tolerated. But because the American Indian people historically have not had much political leverage, or because we don't represent a great amount of buying power from a retail standpoint, we don't get the same level of treatment that everyone else in this country gets.”

Schoni Schimmel, current WNBA player

“Just because what our people went through was hundreds of years ago doesn’t mean we forgot what happened, forgot what our elders went through. Changing the name would help give us, as Native Americans, the same equality that every other race wants.”

DeMaurice Smith, executive director of the National Football League Player’s Association

“I grew up here; you come out of the womb a Redskin fan ... But I don’t think anyone should inflict pain on another person, especially since the Oneida Indian Nation has been vocal about what the term ‘Redskin’ meant. It was a slur. The beautiful thing about that team is that it will always be a part of this community, regardless what the name is.”

Phil Jackson, president of the New York Knicks, former NBA Head Coach

“The use of the name Redskins is highly offensive. It is time to find a new name.”

Ted Nolan, former NHL Head Coach

“Sure, the Redskins name has been around for generations, but when you’re a person of that race and someone calls you a redskin, they don’t know why they’re saying it, where the word comes from or what the word means. I never did like the word. And that’s where the president of the United States lives. It doesn’t compute.”

Jalen Rose, former NBA player and current sportscaster

On [ESPN’s NBA Countdown](#)