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Bleacher report browns fans

0 of 9No one loves their football team more than Browns fans. Cleveland is a sports town across the board, but first of all, it's a football town. Dawg Pounders has had countless favorite players over the years, but there are a few who have endured the ordeal of time to stand among fan favorites of all time. Everyone has their own personal favorites, but the following nine players are tops among the most loved players throughout history and among the entire fan base. One day we hope to see current favorites like Colt McCoy and Peyton Hillis join the ranks of all-time greats in the eyes of fans, but for now, current list members, except for one guy, have yet to join this precious group. There are of course countless other candidates for this list, so please share your other fans' favorites in the comments below!9. Brian Brennan1. of 9Be before we discuss the lovely Brian Brennan, let's start with a few honorable mentions who were this close to making the cut: Brian Sipe, Bob Golic, Webster Slaughter, Earnest Byner, Phil Dawson, Joe Thomas, Gary Collins, Mac Speedie, Dante Lavelle, Leroy Kelly, and Lou Groza. And finally, a shout to two of my personal favorites, Al Bubba Baker and Gerald McNeil. But on to Brian Brennan, the beloved wide recipient of the late 1980s Browns who have won over fans somehow managed to always come out as an underdog yet at the same time managed to come up with big , play big. At 5'9 and 178 pounds, Brennan wasn't exactly the NFL WR prototype. His tiny size, modest attitude, and lack of flashy play branded him an underdog. And there's nothing Cleveland loves more than an ine person. Oh, except for one thing: An underdog who comes up big when it counts. And that describes Brian Brennan perfectly. Brennan was a great possession recipient during his peak, and like modern fan favorite and his colleague Bernie Kosar, he just seemed to come up with whatever he needed in critical situations. Brennan has never been the most pure football talent, but like Kosar, he is a winner. It's something invaluable, especially for fans, that never appears on paper. 8. Otto Graham2. of 9Aside from perhaps Coach Paul Brown and legend Jim Brown, no one deserves more credit for starting Cleveland on his love affair with football than its first quarterback: Otto Graham. It was certainly not just the first time that Graham landed among all-time fan favorites though: it was both his ability to win and his willingness to get down and dirty to do so. Cleveland fans subscribe to hard-nosed, rough and hard School of Football, and they love any player who can take a good beat and come back for more. Graham fits the bill perfectly (evidently in the photo above). But of course, mostly Graham won our hearts by bringing championship glory to Cleveland. Graham was part of the inaugural Browns in 1946 and went on to lead them to three NFL championships while racking up some gaudy statistics in the process. Graham is, for many of us, one of the greatest players that we never really had the chance to watch play.7. Josh Cribbs3. of 9It remains to be seen whether PKWR Josh Cribbs can keep this place on the all-time fan favorites list in the future, but for now, he stands pretty high. He is also the only current player who has established enough fan support over a period of time long enough to make the cut of all time. Cribbs caught our attention with his impressive kick back, but he earned our love for his work ethics, humility, dedication to the team and the city, and the overall heart. Cribbs also came along at the perfect time for that opportunity. Shortly after Cribbs exploded on the scene, Cleveland sports were in a dark place. The Indians have been tanking year after year. Team Brown is a mess. And He Who Must Not Be Named betrayed Cleveland fans who were very good to him by bringing his talent to South Beach. Cleveland was in the market for a hero, and Josh Cribbs was just the man for the job. He has the skills to justify that. But more importantly, he had the heart and loyalty that proved to be the opposition of the public's No.1 enemy, LeBron James. And that's what every Cleveland fan can follow.6. Clay Matthews4. of 9Quarterbacks, collecting, and running backs received much love from fanbases. These are flashy positions that attract the attention of the majority of fans. As a linebacker, you really have to be something special to land among all-time fan favorites. And Clay Matthews Jr. is definitely something special. It wasn't just the fact that he was particularly good at his job that endeared Matthews to Browns faithful. In fact, that's not the biggest reason for it. Matthews is, first of all, a special leader on and off the field, a charming and humble player who has made a great hero and role model for the Clevelanders, and a guy who simply loves the city and the fans and is sure to let them know how grateful he has for their support. Like Brennan, Matthews is also a bit of an underdog type. He has been undersized for his position. Before he was drafted, scouts expressed concern that his size would keep him from ever producing much in the NFL. Boy, are they wrong? As it turned out, it was not the size of Dawg during the fight, it was the size of the fight in Dawg.5. Hanford Dixon and Frank Minnifield5. of 9Can not have one without the other! That's right, coming in at No.5 is a two-for-one deal: the biggest parallel CB ever to grace the field in Cleveland (and maybe anywhere), Hanford Dixon and Frank While the numbers don't really show it, anyone who sees Dixon and Minnifield playing just knows how valuable they were for this team, city, and fans. Dixon also gave the city of Cleveland one of the greatest gifts it has ever received: he named Dawg Pound, which, of course, is an exemplary group of what it means to be a die-hard football fan. Yes Yes Yes Give him and his partner in crime, Minnifield, enough street trust with fans to put them both at No.5 out of all-time fan favorites? Woof woof, you bet!4. Paul Warfield6. of 9Paul Warfield's mid-career detour to Miami was the only thing that kept big recipient Paul Warfield from perhaps ranking higher on this list, and even with that in mind, I still felt as though I was selling him a little short. I suppose as Browns fans we're lucky to have too many favorites to pick from. Warfield, the widest pick in Browns history and among the NFL's best of all time as well, never failed to impress on the field. In one of the worst trades in Browns history, we lost Warfield to Miami for underwhelming Mike Phipps. Warfield will return to the Browns for his last two seasons with a Super Bowl round from one town to another, a sad reminder of what might have been in store for the Browns they had hung onto him. Unfortunately, many of Warfield's best years are with the Dolphins, but there are plenty of good people in orange and brown as well. In addition to his skill set, Warfield is also a particular favorite among fans because he is a local guy, born in Warren, Ohio and a product of Ohio State University.3. Ozzie Newsome7. of 9Hall of Famer and talent phenomenon tight end Ozzie Newsome is one of the most popular players with fan bases the whole time. The Wizard of Oz is a real whiz, testament to the Clevelanders and to anyone who has had to play with him that the best receivers don't always wideouts. While he was playing, Newsome is the biggest tight end in history, and still today ranks among the very best ever to play in the NFL. He is the team's all-time leading man with 7,980 yards. He also had 47 career touchdowns and fumbled just three times in his entire career. By the end of the year, Newsome's reputation around Cleveland had made a bit of a beating due to his association with Art Modell and the Ravens. The feeling of betrayal is, of course, largely justifying. That's unfortunate, but it's true. But those of us who at least try to remember him as Ozzie the football player rather than ozzie the purple mouse-bird front office figure can still count him as one of the top when it comes to favorite Cleveland fans. 2. Jim Brown8. of 9Though as Ozzie Newsome, RB Jim Brown's reputation in Cleveland has made a recent beat due to a messy fall out with the Browns, his great play and what he means to the city of Cleveland as an iconic sports personality still puts him at No.2 on the all-time fan favorites list dai. Brown, who is probably the biggest running back of all time and who many argue is even the greatest player of all time, never the funniest, charming, or friendly guy. But what he did on the pitch was the kind of pure magic that can make a believer out of just about anyone. Brown one-handedly revolutionized his game and position, making him a legend for reasons beyond his impressive numbers and winning his championship Brown is actually one of the once-in-a-lifetime players to have an impact on his team, his city, and the game itself will mean he will forever withstand the test of time and be one of the first in Browns' hearts now and in 100 years.1. Bernie Kosar9. of 9San Francisco has Joe Montana. Miami has Dan Marino. Cleveland has Bernie Kosar.To anyone outside Cleveland, which might sound like the start for some awful three quarterbacks walking into a bar... joking, but to Browns fans, it makes perfect sense. Bernie has been, is, and probably will always be our favorite son. He should be, too. Is he the most talented player ever to wear orange and brown? Not even close. Has he ever won a championship? I think you all know the answer to that one. But is he, for very good reason, the most popular player in Browns history? Completely. Part of the appeal? Kosar is just like that, well, Cleveland. He didn't like much, but he had heart, he worked hard, and he always seemed to find a way to do what needed to be done, even if it looked darn ugly happening. And oh, was it ever ugly. There are countless hilarious analogies made for what Kosar looks like upsetting, my personal favorite is scrambling with the grace and speed of a giraffe on Qaaludes. (that's courtesy of Miami News columnist Jenny Kellner). But that was part of what was so cherished about Bernie. He was just as cymple and unpolished as the rest of us, but he proved over and over again that he can be a winner at the highest level of football. It is, above all, the production of a real hero. Kosar is a guy we can all relate to and look for. The video above, which plays a long-forgotten (and favorite personal childhood) song about our beloved Bernie, is a good example of who Kosar is to Cleveland. He showed that having the most talent is not always the only thing that gets the job done. Bernie's stats don't even come close to ever proving his ability to win and why he means so much to Cleveland. Bernie Kosar gave us hope, joy, and confirmation that Cleveland's attitude to hard work and dedication sometimes really paid off. Bernie is our hero, but he is also one of us. We.

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