

ANTONIO BROWN

PITTSBURGH STEELERS
WIDE RECEIVER

Antonio Brown is one of the best receivers in the NFL. But he had to walk a long road to get there. He grew up in a rough neighborhood in Miami. Family troubles meant that he had to spend many months living with friends or neighbors. He even lived with his high school coach for a while. Brown played quarterback in high school, but not well or often enough to earn a shot in college. But he still dreamed of an NFL future. Antonio made it into Central Michigan University and walked on to the team. That means he was not recruited and had to try out. But his skills were so impressive that the coaches there gave him a scholarship soon after.

He made the squad and was named the freshman of the year in the conference. He played three years at Central Michigan. (NFL star defensive end J. J. Watt was a tight end on the freshman team with Brown!) Brown was also one of the best kick returners in the nation. But he came from a small school and is only 5' 10", not huge for a receiver. Still, the Steelers saw something in his speed and grit and chose him as the 195th pick in the sixth round of the 2010 draft.

Brown helped the Steelers reach the Super Bowl in his first season, mostly by returning punts and kickoffs. In his second year, he made the Pro Bowl as a returner. But he really blossomed in 2013, catching 110 passes and becoming "Big Ben" Roethlisberger's number-one target. This time, when Brown went to Hawaii, it was as one of the AFC's top receivers.

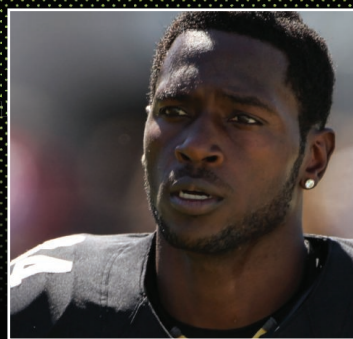
That hard road to the top, and all those sofas he slept on, finally paid off big-time in 2014. Brown led the NFL with 129 receptions and 1,698 yards, while catching a career-high 13 touchdowns. He had eight games with 100 or more yards receiving. In December, he was named one of the two receivers on the All-NFL All-Pro team.

Brown is not the biggest or the fastest receiver. But he might just be the toughest. Against every team's top defensive back, he always puts up big numbers, fighting for every yard and every catch. He fought to make it to the NFL . . . now he's fighting to stay on top. Don't bet against him . . .

Football **FACT**

Do you know your receiving letters? A wide receiver on the side that has a tight end is called the Z. A receiver on the side opposite the tight end is called the X. Another name for the X is split end.

Antonio Brown



Height: 5' 10"
Weight: 180 lbs.
College: Central Michigan
Drafted: 2010

► **STATS!**

Receptions:	390
Touchdown Catches:	28
Receiving Yards:	5,259



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