

TOP 10 ALL-TIME OUTLAWS

The first 10 years of Billings indoor football will end this afternoon with the IFL championship game at Rimrock Auto Arena at MetraPark, the 156th game in franchise history. While the names have changed frequently — on and off the field — the first 10 years can't be classified as anything but a success. The franchise has an overall record of 100-55 (90-50 in the regular season), has reached the playoffs 7 of 10 years and will play in its third league championship game today. Following is a capsule look at our selections for the Top 10 players in the history of the Thunder Bolts/Mavericks/Outlaws franchise. (Note: Players must have spent more than one season with the franchise to be eligible):

1 Chris Dixon QB, 2005-present

The unquestioned most valuable player in team history, Dixon has a won-lost record of 49-20 as the Outlaws quarterback. In four seasons, he's thrown 282 touchdown passes and just 32 interceptions and has also rushed for 1,941 yards and 47 TDs.

2 Travis Salter DE/LB, 2003-04, 2006-08

"The King" is the Outlaws' all-time leader in tackles (457½) and vicious hits (too many to count). The former Rocky Mountain College star was at his best in Billings' 2006 championship season, tallying nine tackles and forcing a fumble in the title game despite playing with torn ligaments in his elbow.

3 Robert Reed WR, 2006-08

The former San Diego Charger and arena football star came to Billings at the tail end of his career, but had plenty left in the tank. He's the franchise's all-time leader in receiving yards (2,780) and touchdown catches (75), and is now the team's offensive coordinator.

4 Albert Higgs QB, 2002-04

Led Outlaws to the 2002 NIFL championship game, in which he threw 7 TD passes in a heart-breaking 55-52 loss to Ohio Valley. Set a franchise record with 84 touchdown passes in 2002 and also led the NIFL in TD passes in 2003 with 65.

5 Anthony Candler WR/KR, 2005-08

"The Candy Man" provided a lethal 1-2 punch at receiver along with Robert Reed and also returned eight kicks for touchdowns. He's the franchise's all-time leader in receptions (240) and is No. 2 in receiving yards (2,627) and TD catches (63).

Robert Reed is the franchise's all-time leader in receiving yards.

Former RMC star Travis Salter was known for his vicious hits.

6 Jacquwan Brackenridge DB/RB, 2002-04, 2005-08

Known as a hard-hitting defensive back, the versatile Brackenridge also played running back and returned kicks in his seven seasons with the Outlaws. Has 201 career tackles, 21 interceptions and scored 34 touchdowns (15 receiving, 18 rushing, 1 kick return).

7 Anthony Bonner OL/DL, 2004, 2006-09

Now in his sixth season as an Outlaw, the versatile 6-foot-1, 300-pounder has played all three positions on the offensive line and all three positions on the defensive line in his career. He's also been a key contributor on special teams.

8 Fontez Jefferson WR/DB, 2001-07

Like his longtime teammate Brackenridge, Jefferson contributed on both sides of the ball in his seven seasons. The former MSU Bobcat has 19 career TD receptions, 85½ tackles and two interceptions. He was the Outlaws' defensive backs coach in 2008.

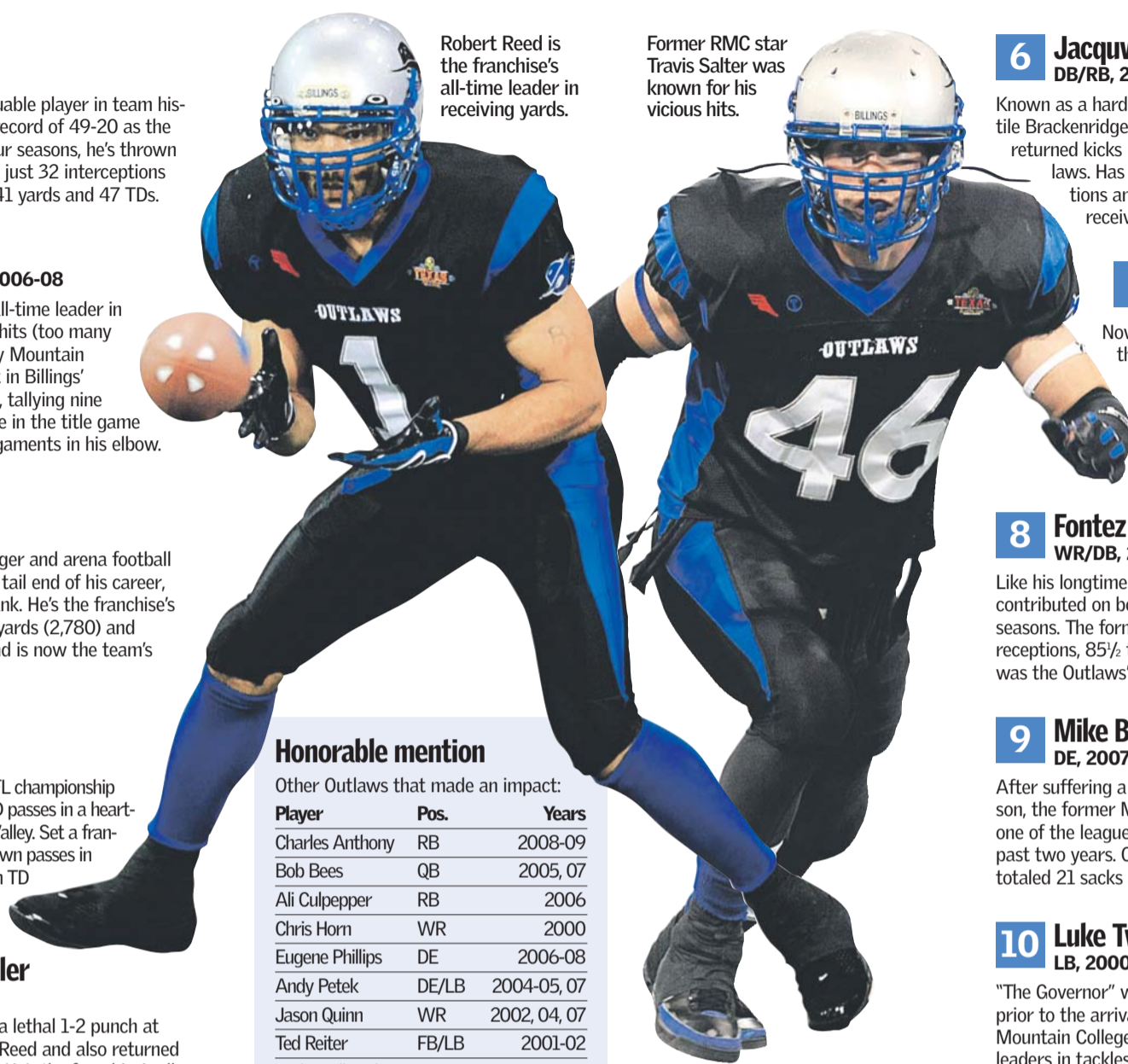
9 Mike Bazemore DE, 2007-09

After suffering a knee injury early in the 2007 season, the former Michigan State starter has been one of the league's most feared pass rushers the past two years. Over the past two seasons, he's totaled 21 sacks and 35½ tackles for loss.

10 Luke Twibell LB, 2000-04

"The Governor" was the face of the Outlaws defense prior to the arrival of Salter. The former Rocky Mountain College standout was among the league leaders in tackles in all four of his seasons and finished with 341 tackles.

— Stats compiled by Ryan Minch and Mike Zimmer



Honorable mention

Other Outlaws that made an impact:

Player	Pos.	Years
Charles Anthony	RB	2008-09
Bob Bees	QB	2005, 07
Ali Culpepper	RB	2006
Chris Horn	WR	2000
Eugene Phillips	DE	2006-08
Andy Petek	DE/LB	2004-05, 07
Jason Quinn	WR	2002, 04, 07
Ted Reiter	FB/LB	2001-02
Josh Wallwork	QB	2000
Artavious Williams	OL	2006-08

Year-by-year history of the Billings Outlaws franchise

YEAR	TEAM NAME	LEAGUE	COACH	RECORD	NOTES
2000	Thunder Bolts	IFL	Mitch Donahue	8-6	The inaugural year of indoor football in Billings. ... Wisconsin businessman Kerry Ecklund owned all 21 teams in the league. ... Billings draws a crowd of 6,076 for its first-ever home game, a 46-35 win over the Casper Cavalry. ... The Billings offense is led by quarterback Josh Wallwork, who leads the league with 70 TD passes, and former Rocky Mountain College receiver Chris Horn. Horn goes on to star in the Arena Football League and play two full seasons with the NFL's Kansas City Chiefs (2004-05).
2001	Outlaws	NIFL	Mitch Donahue	7-7	Local businessman Duane Anderson takes over ownership and changes the franchise name to Outlaws as the team joins the National Indoor Football League. ... Despite the midseason return of quarterback Josh Wallwork and the stellar play of linebacker Luke Twibell, the team falls short of the playoffs for the second straight year.
2002	Outlaws	NIFL	Joe Curtiss	12-5	The Outlaws reach the NIFL championship game, losing a 55-52 thriller to the Ohio Valley Greyhounds in Wheeling, W.Va. The title game is televised live on Billings Fox affiliate KHMT. ... Quarterback Albert Higgs leads the league with 84 touchdown passes, a mark that still stands as the Outlaws' single-season record.
2003	Outlaws	NIFL	Joe Curtiss	6-8	A year after nearly winning the league championship, the Outlaws slip to fifth place in the Pacific Northwest Division and fail to make the playoffs. ... Quarterback Albert Higgs again leads the league in touchdown passes (65), and the defense is anchored by Travis Salter and Andy Petek.
2004	Outlaws	NIFL	Dan Maciejczak	12-4	Led by quarterback Danny Ragsdale and receivers Jason Quinn and Cory Grow, Billings wins the Pacific West Division. But the season ends in a way that will become painfully familiar to Outlaws fans — a semifinal playoff loss (44-13) at Sioux Falls, S.D.
2005	Mavericks	NIFL	Joe Curtiss/ Bob Bees	5-10	The franchise nearly folds with the end of Anderson's four-year run as owner, but local businessmen Dan Austin and Craig Gould step in to keep the team alive — as the Mavericks — just two weeks before the season opener. ... Joe Curtiss ends his second stint as the team's coach early, quitting three days before Billings' first-round playoff game for a college coaching job in Georgia. ... The turbulent season is highlighted by the acquisition of quarterback Chris Dixon in a late-season trade with Rapid City.
2006	Outlaws	NIFL	Heron O'Neal	16-1	Dan Austin is joined in the ownership group by local businessman Wally Yovetich and Seattle entrepreneur Mike Parnell. The trio returns the team name to Outlaws, and their hiring of the 30-year-old Heron O'Neal as coach kicks off a new era in Billings indoor football. With an offense led by quarterback Chris Dixon, receivers Robert Reed and Anthony Candler and running back Ali Culpepper and a veteran defense spearheaded by linebacker Travis Salter and safety Jacquwan Brackenridge, Billings dominates the league from start to finish. The Outlaws cap the season with a win over the Fayetteville (N.C.) Guard in the NIFL championship game in front of a franchise-record 7934 fans at Rimrock Auto Arena at MetraPark.
2007	Outlaws	UIF	Heron O'Neal	9-7	As Dan Austin steps aside and hands the ownership reins to Wally Yovetich and Mike Parnell, the team starts 0-4 in its first season in the United Indoor Football league before finishing hot to reach the playoffs. ... The season ends in a 45-23 semifinal playoff loss at Sioux Falls, as the Storm cap their second straight undefeated season with a third straight UIF title. ... On the field, quarterback Chris Dixon throws for 2,300 yards and 61 touchdowns. ... Off the field, the season is highlighted by the completion of the \$2.5 million Outlaws SportsPlex, the team's new headquarters and practice facility, and the Outlaw Inn, a renovated motel in downtown Billings that now houses the players.
2008	Outlaws	UIF	Heron O'Neal	11-5	Another strong season ends in another semifinal playoff loss at Sioux Falls — a 46-44 heartbreaker in which Billings rallied from a 30-10 fourth-quarter deficit to take a 44-43 lead in the final minute — as Sioux Falls goes on to win its fourth straight UIF championship. ... Quarterback Chris Dixon throws 69 touchdown passes and is named the league MVP and offensive player of the year, while defensive back Travonti "Tuff" Johnson earns defensive rookie of the year honors.
2009	Outlaws	IFL	Heron O'Neal	14-2	The new Indoor Football League is formed through a merger of the UIF and the Texas-based Intense Football League. ... With an offense fueled by quarterback Chris Dixon and receiver James Walton and a punishing defense led by defensive ends Mike Bazemore, Michael Landry and linebacker Kelly Rouse, the Outlaws have been dominant all season outside of two losses at Omaha. ... Billings defeated four-time defending league champion Sioux Falls three times and handed the Storm their first home loss since 2005. ... Billings will host the River City Rage of St. Charles, Mo., in today's inaugural IFL championship game.