

Arizona Cardinals All-Pro Wide Receiver Larry Fitzgerald

Since being drafted by the Cardinals with the third overall pick in the 2004 NFL Draft, Larry Fitzgerald has gone on to become one of the NFL's elite players and shatter virtually every receiving record in Cardinals history. In eight seasons with Arizona, the six-time Pro Bowler has become the franchise career leader in receptions (693), receiving yards (9,615), 1,00-yard receiving seasons (6), receiving TDs (73), total TDs (73) and 100-yard receiving games (32).

Fitzgerald's path to the NFL was paved in his teens when he spent time as a ball boy for his hometown Minnesota Vikings under then head coach Dennis Green. After learning the tools of the trade from Vikings receivers Cris Carter and Randy Moss, Fitzgerald went on to attend Valley Forge Prep Academy in Pennsylvania following his senior season in High School.

In just two seasons at the University of Pittsburgh, Fitzgerald became one of the most decorated receivers in Big East Conference history. In 26 career games with the Panthers, Fitzgerald caught 161 passes for 2,677 yards (16.6-yard avg.) and 34 TDs. A Heisman Trophy runner-up following his sophomore season, Fitzgerald earned first-team All-America honors and won the Biletnikoff Award as the nation's best wide receiver.

It didn't take Fitzgerald long to mark his mark in the NFL. During the 2005 season, Fitzgerald hauled in a franchise record 103 receptions, and at 22 years, 123 days old, became the youngest player in NFL history to post a 100-catch campaign.

Despite the record-breaking success of his first few campaigns, it was during the Cardinals run to Super Bowl XLIII following the 2008 season that Fitzgerald became a household name. In one of the best postseasons of any player in NFL history, Fitzgerald shattered the NFL single postseason record for receptions (30), receiving yards (546), and receiving TDs (7). With 100 yards receiving in each of the team's four postseason games in '08, he also set the NFL record for most consecutive playoff games with 100 yards receiving.

Fitzgerald's Career NFL Milestones

- Voted to his fifth consecutive (sixth overall) Pro Bowl in 2011. His six career Pro Bowl nods tie him with T Dan Dierdorf, G Ken Gray and HB Ollie Matson for the most selections by an offensive player in franchise history. Earned MVP honors in the 2008 Pro Bowl in the NFC's 30-21 victory over the AFC, and his seven career TDs, including three in the 2012 all-star game, represent a Pro Bowl record.
- Established a franchise record with his sixth 1,000-yard receiving season in 2011 and became the first player in franchise history with five consecutive 1,000-yard receiving seasons. Also became one of just eight players in NFL history to reach 1,000 yards receiving at least six times in their first eight NFL seasons.
- Dating back to 2005, leads the NFL in receiving yards (8,835) and receiving TDs (65), ranks second in receptions of 25+ yards (77) behind Steve Smith (84), second in 100-yard receiving games (32) behind Smith (33) and third in receptions (635) behind Wes Welker (650) and Reggie Wayne (641).
- One of just four players in NFL history to record at least 1,400 yards receiving four times in their career, joining Jerry Rice (6), Randy Moss (4) and Marvin Harrison (4).
- Became first receiver in NFL history to record 90+ receptions five times in their first seven seasons.
- At 28 years, 74 days old, he became the third-youngest player in NFL history to reach 70 receiving TDs behind only Randy Moss (26 years, 269 days) and Hall of Famer Jerry Rice (28 years, one day).
- Led the NFC in receptions in both 2007 (100) and 2008 (96).

A Winner Off the Field

In addition to his contributions on the field, Fitzgerald's impact in the community has been felt both locally and globally. A tireless supporter of breast cancer research, Fitzgerald set up the Carol Fitzgerald Memorial Fund in honor of his later mother who passed away from the devastating disease in 2003. For the past two seasons, Fitzgerald has tied his on-field success to his contributions to Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October, pledging \$1,000 for every catch and \$5,000 for every touchdown during the month in 2011. He donated \$19,000 to breast cancer awareness last year after donating \$33,000 in 2010. In 2009, Fitzgerald also served as the national spokesperson for the NFL's "Crucial Catch" screening campaign to support Breast Cancer Awareness Month. He wore pink gloves, cleats and wristbands that were auctioned off with proceeds benefitting the American Cancer Society to help draw attention to the cause.

Fitzgerald has also used his love of travel into an opportunity to continue his charity work overseas as well. This past March he joined former Cardinals receiver Anquan Boldin and partnered with Oxfam America to visit East Africa to provide aid to the drought affecting Africa. The group delivered supplies, dug wells and helped to draw attention to an important cause. That followed up his trip in 2011 when he joined other NFL players and medical professionals to travel to Africa to deliver more than 22,000 state-of-the-art hearing devices to children and adults across the continent in partnership with the Starkey Hearing Foundation.

Fitzgerald has also been a proud supporter of the Armed Forces throughout his career. Following the 2008 season, he joined a group of NFL players and coaches on a week-long USO Tour of Iraq and Afghanistan, visiting troops stationed in the Persian Gulf.