



## **Rocket Ismail**

Rocket Ismail was a crowd favorite wherever he played, whether that be college ball, the NFL or the CFL.

At Notre Dame University, Rocket was electric as a kick returner and wide receiver. He was featured on the cover of Sports Illustrated twice, was an All-American and finished second in the Heisman Trophy voting. College Football News named Rocket #75 on its All-Time Greatest College Football Players list. And Sports Illustrated named him to its 85-man roster of its All-20<sup>th</sup> Century College Football Team.

Rocket was projected to go #1 overall in the NFL draft but instead signed with the Toronto Argonauts of the Canadian Football League. In his rookie season of 1991, he won the Grey Cup championship and was named as the Grey Cup MVP, made the All-Star team and finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in Rookie of the Year voting.



After two seasons in Canada, in 1993 Ismail chose to return to the United States to play for the Oakland / Los Angeles Raiders where he spent 3 seasons. He then moved on to the Carolina Panthers for 3 seasons and had a breakout year with 1,000+ yards receiving in 1998. In 1999, The Dallas Cowboys signed him and he responded as their leading receiver, gaining 1,097 yards & 6 TD's. Unfortunately, beginning in 2000, injuries began to take their toll and Ismail retired after the end of the 2001 season.

Rocket has stayed active in the game since his retirement and is often a commentator on sports shows. He is also a keynote speaker who brings the same energy to the stage that he did to the gridiron.

**Sports Celebrity Marketing S.C.M. Inc.**  
13332 Tenth Line,  
Georgetown, ON L7G4S8 Canada  
Phone: 647-221-8405

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