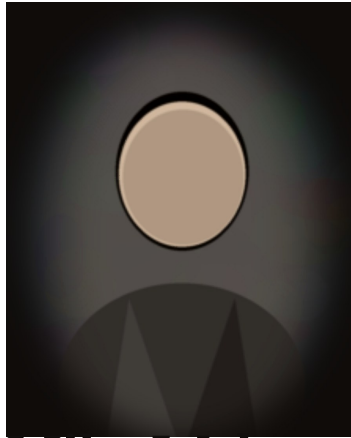




Mike Webster

March 18, 1952 - September 24, 2002

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Mike Webster - Michael Lewis Webster - Hall of Fame center for the Pittsburgh Steelers whose iron durability defined a dynasty and whose post-career decline forced football to confront brain injury, died in Pittsburgh on September 24, 2002. He was fifty. Born March 18, 1952, in Tomahawk, Wisconsin, he starred at the University of Wisconsin, joined the Steelers in 1974, and anchored the offensive line through four Super Bowl titles with a blue-collar ferocity Pittsburgh claimed as its own.

Teammates called him Iron Mike for consecutive snaps and film-room obsession. After football, memory loss, mood swings, and financial collapse shadowed the same man who had once set the snap count. Pathologists later linked his case to chronic traumatic encephalopathy, making his autopsy a turning point in how the sport discussed concussion and long-term harm.

Pittsburgh remained the city of his glory and his hardest years. He died of a heart attack, leaving a complicated legacy that includes a bronze bust in Canton and a medical file that changed locker-room honesty.

He died in Pittsburgh on September 24, 2002. Steelers histories still pause at the center who made the pocket hold.

Webster's gift was blue-collar excellence - and, unwillingly, a warning the game could no longer ignore. Notice Nearby keeps the death date so September 24 remembers the Wisconsin center whose strength built a dynasty and whose suffering opened a harder conversation.

Services

Died in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, September 24, 2002. Pro Football Hall of Fame center; Pittsburgh Steelers; four-time Super Bowl champion.

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