

Rolland "Bay" Lawrence played with the Atlanta Falcons from 1973-80, signing as a free agent out of tiny Tabor College in Hillsboro, Kan.

Primarily a cornerback who also played some strong and free safety for Atlanta, he was named the Falcons' Player of the Year and made the Pro Bowl in 1977. Lawrence made All-Pro three times between 1975-79 when he led the Falcons in interceptions for five straight seasons.

Despite his size (5-10, 179) he played in 118 consecutive games and three playoff games.

Lawrence is still the Atlanta's all-time leader in interceptions with 39 and yards returned on interceptions with 658.

Ray Brown (1971-77) is No. 2 in both categories with 31 INTs for 574 yards.

Lawrence intercepted a career-high nine passes for 163 yards in 1975, including an 87-yard runback for a touchdown against Oakland. He also had three TDs nullified by penalties that season.

The nine interceptions ranks second on Atlanta's all-time list behind record-holder Scott Case who had 10 in 1988.

Lawrence intercepted two passes in a game seven times in his career.

Midway through his career, Lawrence was a primary kick returner for the Falcons. In 1976, he returned 54 of the team's 60 punts for 372 yards, a 6.9 average. He also returned 21 kickoffs for a 24.8 average in 1976, and then averaged 6.9 yards on punts returns in 1977.

For his career he returned 29 kickoffs for 685 yards, a 23.6 average, and 110 punts for 738 yards, a 6.7 average.

Lawrence is fourth on Atlanta's all-time list for punt return yardage behind Billy Johnson, Tim Dwight and Deion Sanders. Lawrence's career stats:

Year	Ints.	Yds.	KOR	Yds.	Avg.	PR	Yds.	Avg.
1973	1	81	3	71	--	--	--	--
1974	1	0	--	--	--	--	--	--
1975	9	163	4	80	20.0	--	--	--

1976	6	43	21	521	26.1	55	376	6.8
1977	7	138	1	13	13.0	51	352	6.9
1978	6	76	--	--	--	1	17	17.0
1979	6	120	--	--	--	--	--	--
1980	3	37	--	--	--	3	-7	-2.3
Total	39	658	29	685	23.6	110	738	6.7

Long interception return -- 87 yards

Long punt return -- 37 yards

Long kickoff return -- 36 yards