

MELANOMA just got PERSONAL



Troy Aikman's Melanoma Story

Pro football Hall of Famer and former Dallas Cowboys quarterback Troy Aikman was raised in Southern California spending his days outside. But until 1998, his skin was not something that he thought he needed to worry about. After noticing a suspicious spot on his back, he consulted with his sisters who are both nurses. They encouraged him to ask his doctor to check it out during his next appointment. A biopsy confirmed that the spot was malignant and Troy was diagnosed with stage II melanoma, a form of skin cancer.

The diagnosis of cancer was like being sacked on his blind side from an opponent he never saw coming. He didn't know much about the disease, but he knew it could be deadly. Fortunately, Troy's melanoma was caught early, before it spread (metastasized). His doctor was able to successfully remove the melanoma surgically. Troy says that fighting cancer was tougher than any opponent he faced on the field, but recognizes it was nothing compared to those battling advanced melanoma (ie, unresectable or metastatic melanoma).

Because he was so lucky, he feels compelled to bring attention to advanced melanoma and support those who are in a fight for their lives. That's why Troy has teamed up with Novartis Oncology and AIM at Melanoma, the Melanoma International Foundation and the Melanoma Research Foundation to launch *Melanoma Just Got Personal* to help people battling advanced melanoma learn more about their disease and prepare for their fight.

More About Troy

A three-time Super Bowl Champion and Super Bowl MVP, Troy Aikman is one of the most decorated quarterbacks in the history of the NFL. The number one overall draft pick in 1989, Troy played twelve consecutive seasons as quarterback with the Dallas Cowboys. During his playing career, he set 45 Cowboys' passing records, including the club's career record for completions (2,898), passing yards (32,942), touchdowns (165) and completion percentage (61.3). Prior to joining the Cowboys, Troy passed for 5,298 yards and 41 touchdowns in two years at UCLA. He was voted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2006 and College Football Hall of Fame in 2009.

After retiring from professional football following the 2000 season, Troy joined the NFL on FOX as a game analyst in 2001. He quickly moved up to the number one broadcast crew alongside Emmy Award-winning partner Joe Buck prior to the 2002 season. He has earned three nominations for an Emmy for his broadcasting efforts and has broadcast four Super Bowls (XXXIX, XLII, XLV, and XLVIII).

Troy resides in Dallas, Texas and has three daughters, Rachel, Jordan and Ally.