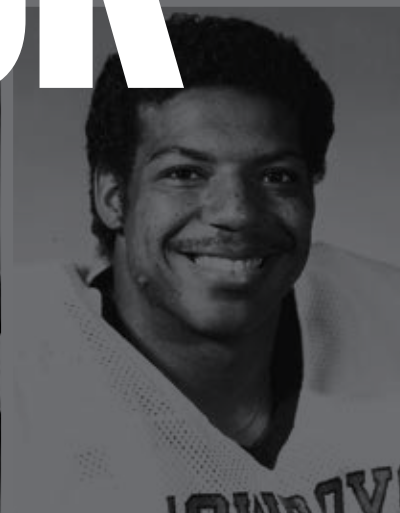
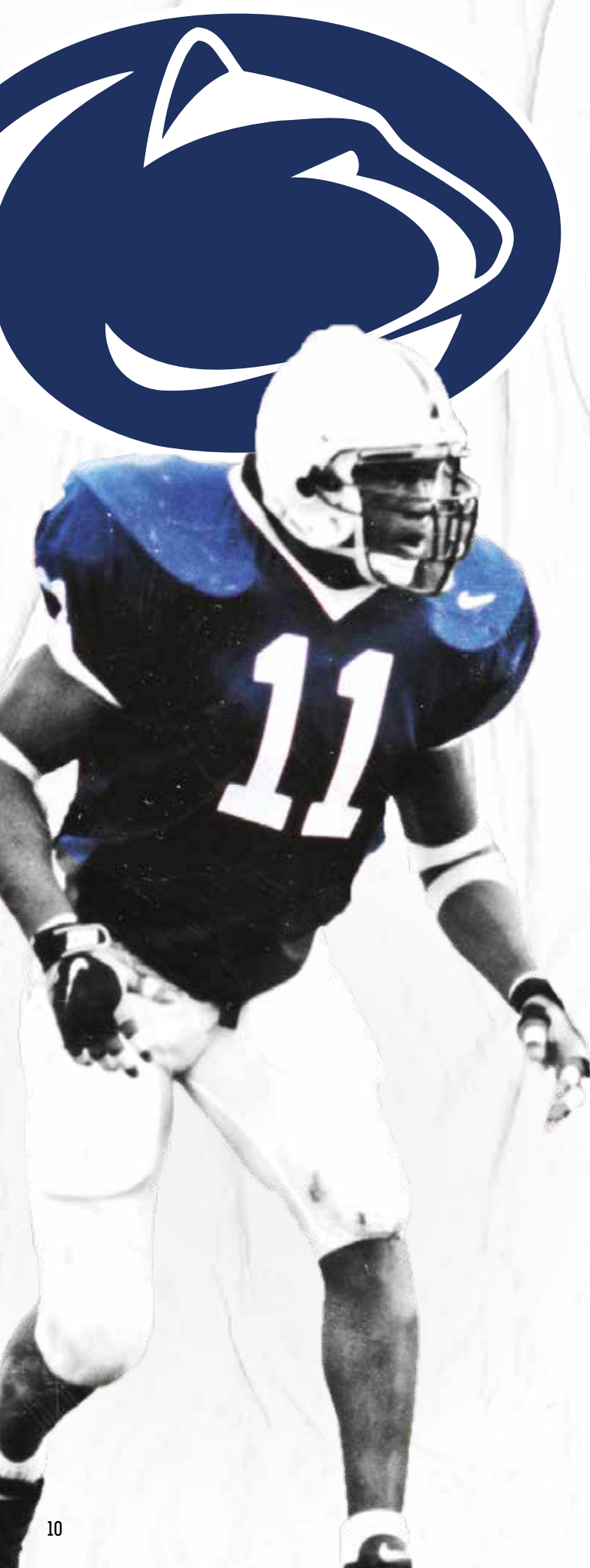


# YEARBOOK

2020 | 2021 | 2022







## LAVAR ARRINGTON

Penn State University  
Linebacker, 1997-99

LaVar Arrington, known for the “LaVar Leap” where he would jump over opposing offensive lines, was one of the most feared linebackers in the late 1990s. The Pittsburgh native becomes the 19th Penn State player to enter the College Football Hall of Fame.



The 12th Nittany Lion ever selected as a two-time First Team All-American, Arrington earned unanimous honors in 1999. In 1999, he was the recipient of the Butkus Award as the nation's top linebacker and the Bednarik Award as the country's top defensive player. A finalist for the Nagurski and Lombardi awards, Arrington finished ninth in the 1999 Heisman Trophy voting. A two-time First Team All-Big Ten honoree, Arrington became the first sophomore to ever be named the Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year when he received the honor in 1998.

The 1999 Jack Lambert Award recipient led the Nittany Lions to three bowl games, including wins in the 1999 Outback Bowl and the 1999 Alamo Bowl. Penn State finished with top 20 national rankings all three years of his career, highlighted by a No. 11 finish in 1999. Arrington racked up 173 tackles, 39 tackles for loss, 19 sacks and three interceptions while playing for College Football Hall of Fame coach Joe Paterno. He was also honored by the Big Ten Network and elected to the WPIAL Hall of Fame in 2011 for his high school play.

Picked second overall in the 2000 NFL Draft by Washington, Arrington played for the Redskins from 2000-05 and then for the New York Giants in 2006. He was a three-time Pro Bowl selection.

Following his NFL career, Arrington began a successful broadcasting career serving as a morning co-host on FOX Sports Radio, appearing on a nationally syndicated weekend program/podcast and on FOX Sports television programs.



Hall of Famers at the Bowl



Bowl teams visit the Hall

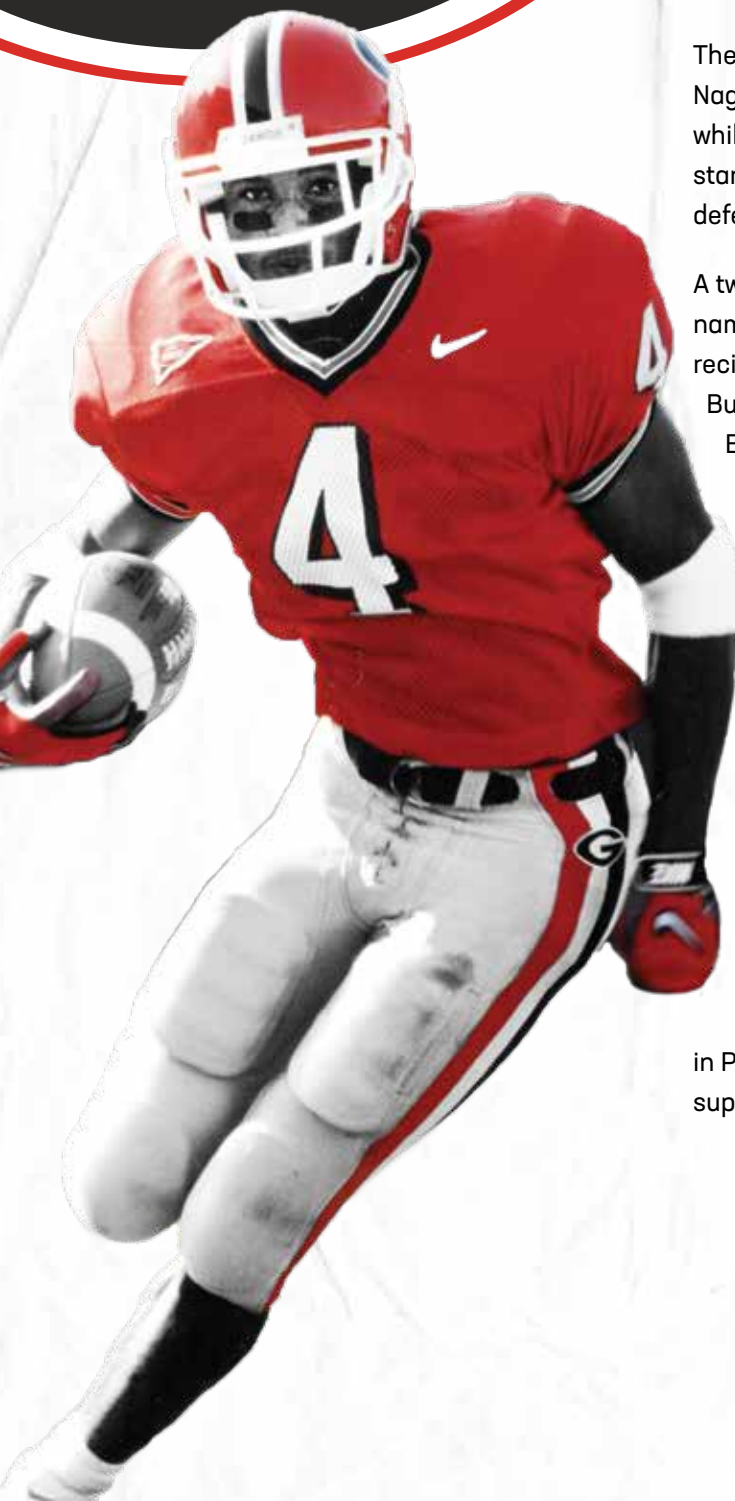


Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl SkillZone



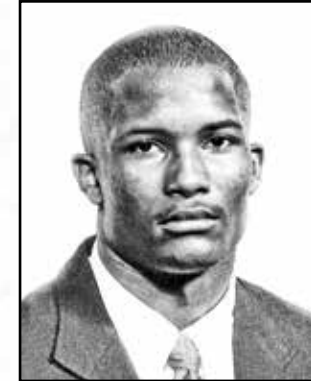
As the original recruiter and Founding Partner of the College Football Hall of Fame in Atlanta, Peach Bowl, Inc. is committed to the long-term success of our sport's national shrine. That level of support has seen the Bowl contribute \$13 million to help the College Football Hall of Fame relocate, design, build, enhance and refurbish its fan experience, including Peach Bowl Field, The Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl SkillZone and the NFF Salute for incoming Hall of Famers.





## CHAMP BAILEY

University of Georgia  
Defensive Back, 1996-1998



One of the most versatile players in Georgia history, Champ Bailey played more than 1,000 snaps on offense, defense and special teams during his remarkable 1998 season. The Folkston, Georgia, native becomes the 16th Bulldog player to join the College Football Hall of Fame.

The 1998 consensus First Team All-American took home the Nagurski Trophy as the nation's top defensive player that season while finishing seventh in the Heisman trophy voting. During that standout season, Bailey was a team captain and saw action at defensive back and wide receiver while also returning kickoffs.

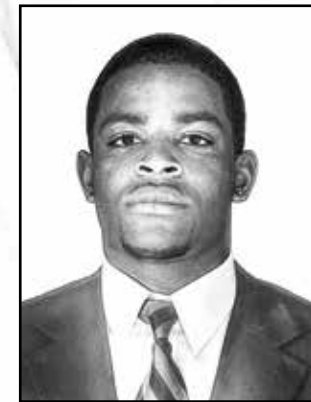
A two-time First Team All-SEC selection (1997, 1998), he was also named to the SEC All-Freshman Team in 1996. The inaugural recipient of the UGA Vince Dooley MVP Award, Bailey led the Bulldogs to consecutive postseason wins at the 1998 Outback Bowl and the 1998 Peach Bowl, where he won Defensive MVP honors. He helped UGA to national rankings in 1997 (No. 10) and 1998 (No. 14) while playing for College Football Hall of Fame Coach Jim Donnan. Bailey finished his career at Georgia with 147 tackles, eight interceptions and 27 pass breakups while racking up 978 receiving yards and five touchdowns on offense.

The seventh overall pick by Washington in the 1999 NFL Draft, Bailey played 15 seasons for Washington (1999-2003) and the Denver Broncos (2004-13). The 12-time Pro Bowl selection is a member of the NFL's 2000s All-Decade Team, and was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2019.

While with the Broncos, Bailey donated time and money to the Denver Rescue Mission, and worked with The Crossing in Park Hill, a transitional housing program in Denver. He also supports the Bailey Brothers Foundation.

## MICHAEL CRABTREE

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY  
Wide Receiver, 2007-2008



The first two-time winner of the Biletnikoff Award, Michael Crabtree was one of the most electric wide receivers in college football history. The Dallas native becomes the sixth Texas Tech player in the College Football Hall of Fame.

The only two-time unanimous First Team All-American (2007, 2008) in Texas Tech history, Crabtree finished fifth in the 2008 Heisman Trophy voting. The 2007 Freshman All-American burst onto the scene by setting still-standing freshman single-season FBS records. Crabtree still ranks in the top 15 all-time in nine FBS receiving categories, with his 1,962 receiving yards in 2007 currently third in FBS single-season history. He was also a two-time recipient of the Paul Warfield Award,

Despite playing just two seasons, he remains Texas Tech's all-time leader with 41 career receiving touchdowns and 15 career 100-yard receiving games while ranking second with 3,127 career receiving yards. His 1,962 receiving yards and 134 receptions in 2007 are both Big 12 and Red Raider records, and he owns the top two single-season receiving touchdown marks in school history (22 in 2007, 19 in 2008). In 2008, Crabtree led Texas Tech to a share of the Big 12 South Division title, an 11-2 record and the No. 12 final ranking. Crabtree led the Red Raiders to two bowl games, including a win in the 2008 Gator Bowl.

The 10th overall pick in the 2009 NFL Draft by the San Francisco 49ers, Crabtree played 11 seasons with the 49ers (2009-14), Oakland Raiders (2015-17), Baltimore Ravens (2018) and Arizona Cardinals (2019).

Off the field, he established the Crab5 Foundation, which hosts numerous events each year for underprivileged youth. Crabtree also fully endowed a scholarship at Texas Tech in 2019.





## SYLVESTER CROOM

University of Alabama  
Center, 1972-1974



Sylvester Croom was a leader at center during one of the most successful runs in Alabama history. The Tuscaloosa, Alabama, native becomes the 20th Crimson Tide player to be inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame.

A 1974 First Team All-American, Croom helped the Crimson Tide to a UPI national title in 1973. The 1974 First Team All-SEC selection and Jacobs Blocking Trophy recipient led Alabama to three consecutive conference titles. The 1974 team captain led the Tide to three bowl games and three top 10 final national rankings (No. 7 in 1972, No. 4 in 1973 and No. 5 in 1974).

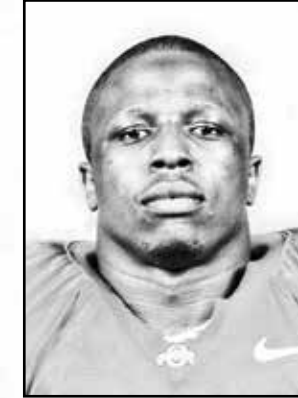
During his three seasons, Alabama posted an impressive 32-4 record, with only one loss coming during the regular season. Croom capped his collegiate career in the 1975 Senior Bowl playing for College Football Hall of Fame Coach Paul "Bear" Bryant. He was inducted into the State of Alabama Sports Hall of Fame in 2020, and the Crimson Tide's spring practice award is named the Sylvester Croom Commitment to Excellence Award in his honor.

After going undrafted in 1975, Croom played one season with the New Orleans Saints before returning to Alabama to begin his storied coaching career. After serving on the Crimson Tide staff from 1976-86 under his former coach Bryant and Ray Perkins, he then coached in the NFL from 1987-2003. In 2004, Croom made history when Mississippi State hired him as the first Black head football coach in SEC history. He was named the SEC Coach of Year in 2007. Following five seasons at Mississippi State, Croom returned to the NFL as an assistant coach before retiring following the 2017 season.

Croom is heavily involved with College View Baptist Church, which was started by his father who was an All-American at Alabama A&M.

## MIKE DOSS

Ohio State University  
Safety, 1999-2002



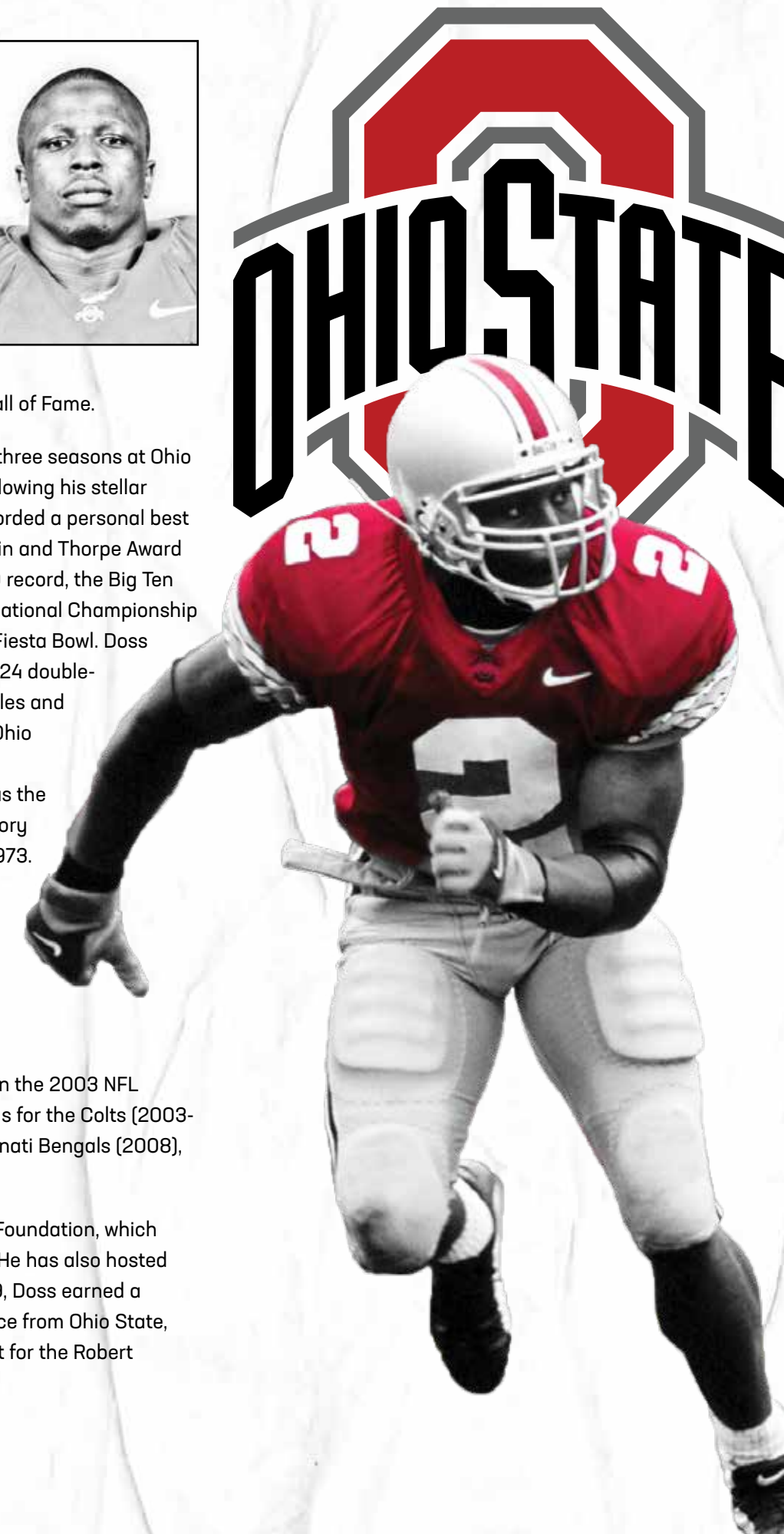
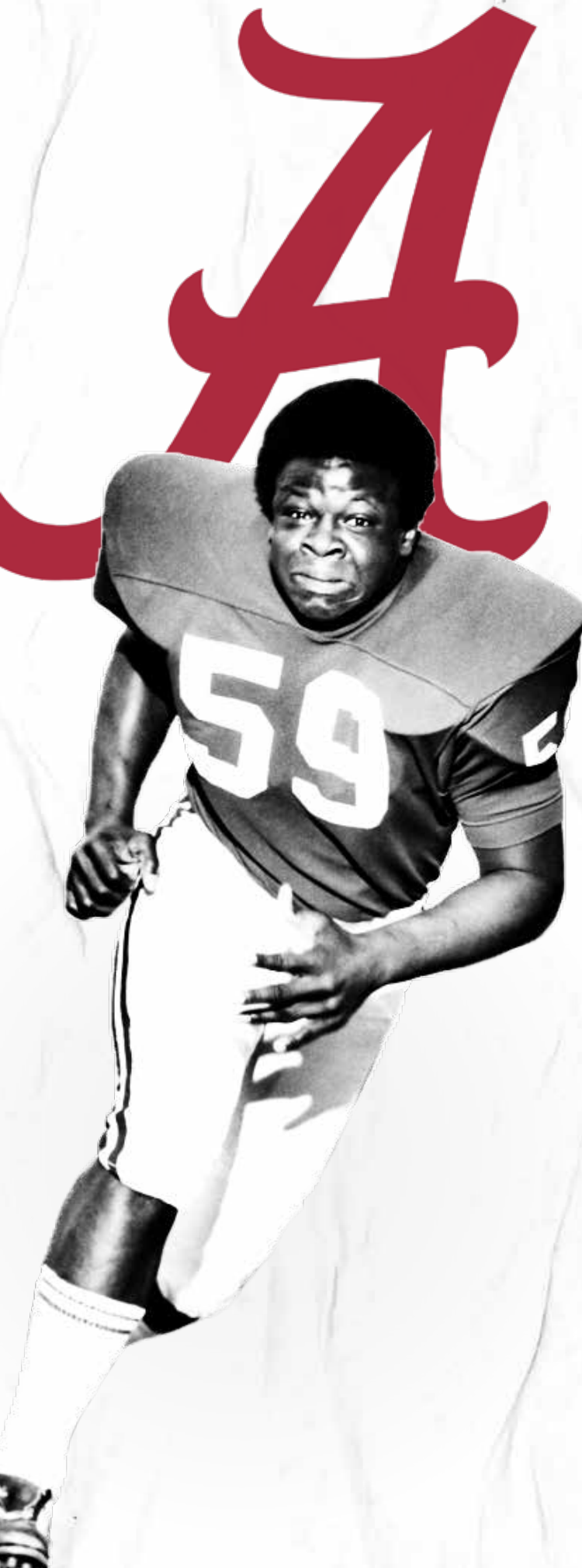
One of just eight three-time All-Americans in Ohio State history, Mike Doss capped his remarkable career by leading the Buckeyes to a national championship. The Canton, Ohio, native becomes the school's 27th player to join the College Football Hall of Fame.

A First Team All-American during his last three seasons at Ohio State, Doss earned unanimous honors following his stellar senior campaign in 2002 in which he recorded a personal best 107 tackles. That season, the team captain and Thorpe Award finalist led the Buckeyes to a perfect 14-0 record, the Big Ten title, the No. 1 final ranking and the BCS National Championship following a victory over Miami (FL) in the Fiesta Bowl. Doss was named the Defensive MVP of that 31-24 double-overtime victory after recording nine tackles and a 35-yard interception return that led to Ohio State's first touchdown of the game on its ensuing possession. The 2002 season was the Buckeyes' first 14-0 season in school history and their first undefeated season since 1973.

The 2002 Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year had the most career tackles by a defensive back in school history (331) playing for College Football Hall of Fame Coaches John Cooper and Jim Tressel.

A second-round pick by the Indianapolis in the 2003 NFL Draft, Doss played a combined six seasons for the Colts (2003-06), Minnesota Vikings (2007) and Cincinnati Bengals (2008), winning Super Bowl XLI with the Colts.

In 2005, he founded the Michael A. Doss Foundation, which focuses on education and social welfare. He has also hosted "Make a Difference" youth camps. In 2019, Doss earned a master's in business operational excellence from Ohio State, and he is now a licensed real estate agent for the Robert Weiler Company in Columbus, Ohio.







## CHUCK EALEY

University of Toledo  
Quarterback, 1969-1971



Chuck Ealey, who never lost a game in his three seasons as the Rockets' starting quarterback, becomes the second player in school history to enter the College Football Hall of Fame, as an NFF Veterans Committee selection.

Named a 1971 First Team All-American, Ealey went a remarkable 35-0 as Toledo's starting quarterback. The three-time MAC Back of the Year became the first player in conference history to receive votes for the Heisman Trophy, finishing eighth in the voting in 1971. A three-time First Team All-MAC selection, Ealey led the Rockets to three consecutive conference titles. He guided the team to three-straight Tangerine Bowl victories, earning MVP honors in all three games.

A 1971 team captain, Ealey finished his career as Toledo's all-time leader with 5,275 passing yards and 45 touchdown passes, both marks that still rank in the top 10. Ealey is one of just four players to have his number retired by the Rockets.

After going undrafted by the NFL, Ealey signed with the Canadian Football League. Taking over as the starting quarterback in 1972, he would go on to win the CFL's Most Outstanding Rookie Award and lead the Hamilton Tiger-Cats to a victory in the Grey Cup, earning MVP honors. Ealey played seven seasons in the CFL with the three teams.

The Ohio native currently serves as a consultant and motivational speaker. He founded the Chuck Ealey Foundation, which annually awards academic scholarships to college and high school recipients. The Foundation also provides opportunities to high school students to help build their mentoring skills in guiding underprivileged youth to discover and embrace their sense of self-worth and "undefeated spirit."

## KEVIN FAULK

Louisiana State University  
Running Back, 1995-1998



Kevin Faulk remains the SEC's leader in career all-purpose yards and LSU's all-time leading rusher. The Lafayette, Louisiana, native becomes the 11th Tiger player to enter the College Football Hall of Fame.

A 1996 First Team All-American as an all-purpose player, Faulk still holds the all-time SEC record with 6,833 all-purpose yards, a mark that was fourth in FBS history when he finished his career. During that 1996 season, he led the SEC in all-purpose yards and ranked second in the league in rushing. He led the SEC in rushing during both his junior and senior seasons, and he also topped the league in scoring as a senior. The three-time First Team All-SEC selection was the first player in LSU history to average more than 100 yards per game during his entire career.

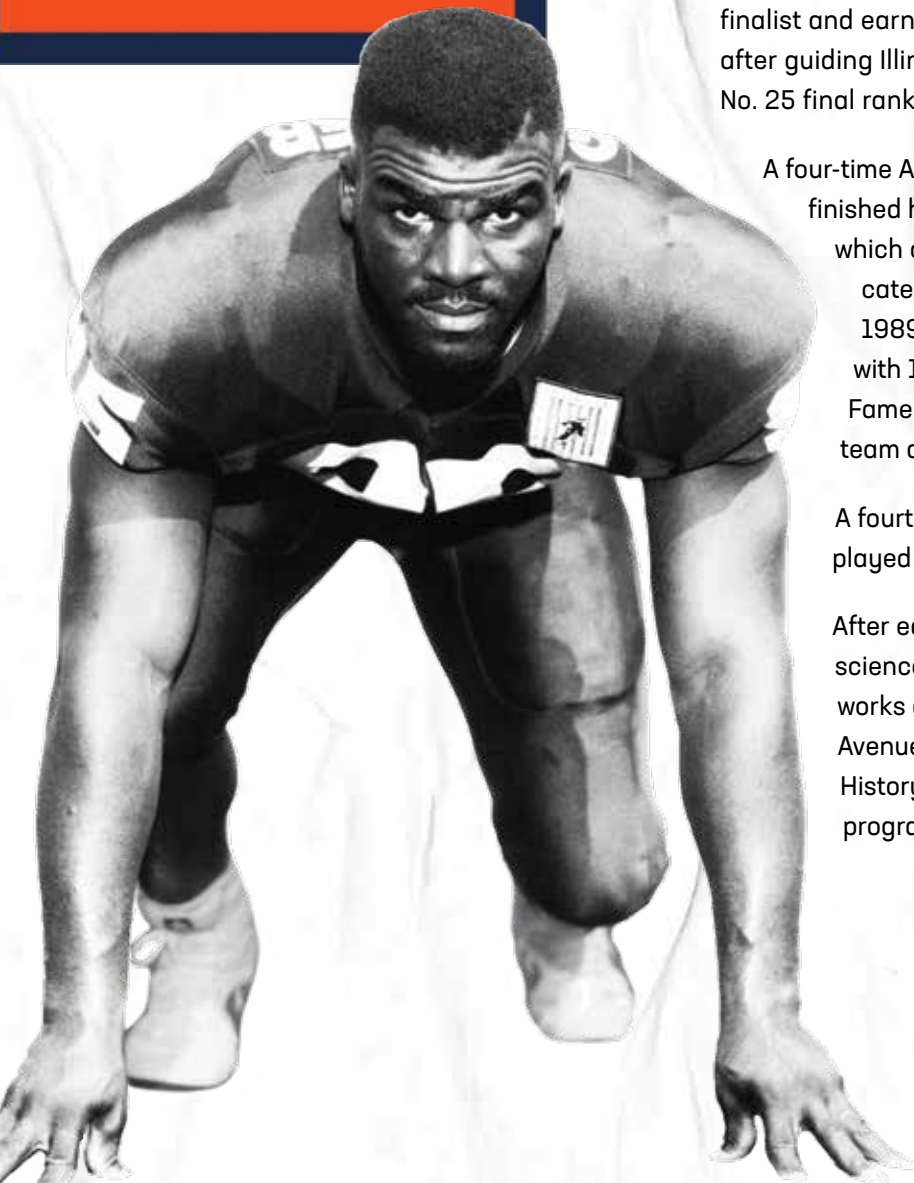
Faulk set 11 school records by career's end many of which he still holds. A two-time LSU MVP, Faulk led the Tigers to two top-15 final rankings and three bowl victories, earning offensive MVP honors at the 1995 Independence Bowl. Faulk owns LSU's single-game all-purpose yards record (376 vs. Houston, 1996), and ranks fifth in school history with 832 punt return yards.

Taken in the second round of the 1999 NFL Draft by the New England Patriots, Faulk spent his entire 13-year career with the franchise, winning three Super Bowl titles; he holds the franchise record for career all-purpose yards.

Following his pro career, Faulk served as an assistant football coach from 2013-17 at his former high school, Carencro High School in Lafayette, Louisiana. He then served on the coaching staff at his alma mater, LSU, from 2018-21. He annually hosts a free youth football camp in Louisiana, and he founded the Kevin Faulk Foundation to support youth.

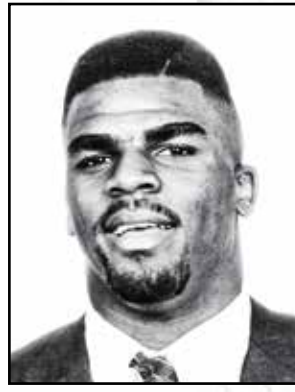






## MOE GARDNER

University of Illinois  
Defensive Tackle, 1987-1990



A two-time First Team All-American, Moe Gardner was described by Illinois head coach John Mackovic as “the best player at any position in college football” during his senior campaign in 1990. The Indianapolis, Indiana, native becomes the 13th Fighting Illini player to enter the College Football Hall of Fame.

Gardner earned unanimous First Team All-America honors in 1989 before earning consensus laurels as a senior in 1990. In 1989, he was named the Big Ten Lineman of the Year and an Outland Trophy finalist after leading the Illini to a No. 10 final ranking and a win in the 1990 Citrus Bowl – the program’s first bowl victory since 1964. The following season, Gardner was a Rotary Lombardi Award finalist and earned Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year honors after guiding Illinois to a share of the 1990 conference title and a No. 25 final ranking.

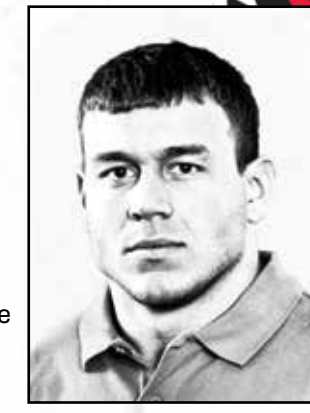
A four-time All-Big Ten selection, the two-year team captain finished his career with a school-record 57 tackles for loss, which currently rank second, and he led the Illini in the category during his final three seasons. Chosen as the 1989 team MVP, Gardner is tied for fifth all-time at Illinois with 18 career sacks. A 2020 Illinois Athletics Hall of Fame inductee, he was named to the school’s all-century team as an active player in 1990.

A fourth-round pick by in the 1991 NFL Draft, Gardner played six seasons for the Atlanta Falcons from 1991-96.

After earning a master’s degree in library information sciences from Clark Atlanta University, Gardner currently works as a public services librarian principal at the Auburn Avenue Research Library on African American Culture and History in Atlanta, serving in the reference, research and programs division.

## BOOMER GRIGSBY

Illinois State University  
Linebacker, 2001-2004



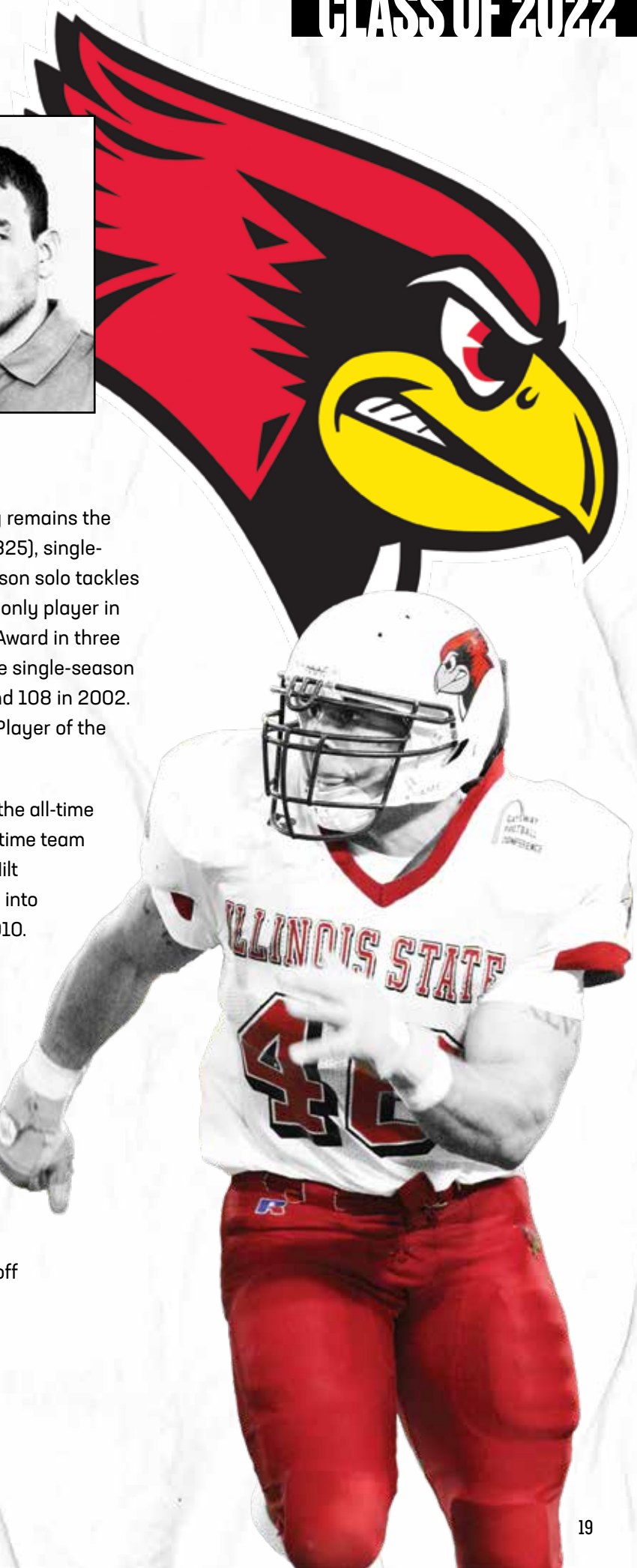
The all-time leading tackler in FCS history, Boomer Grigsby is the only three-time Gateway Football Conference Defensive Player of the Year in league history. The Canton, Illinois, native becomes the first Redbird player to enter the College Football Hall of Fame.

A three-time First Team All-American (2002-04), Grigsby remains the FCS leader in career tackles (550), career solo tackles (325), single-season tackles per game (16.27 in 2002) and single-season solo tackles per game (9.82 in 2002). The standout linebacker is the only player in history to finish in the top three for the Buck Buchanan Award in three consecutive seasons. Grigsby boasts two of the top three single-season solo tackle performances in FCS history: 109 in 2003 and 108 in 2002. He twice won the College Sporting News FCS Defensive Player of the Year award, which has since been renamed in his honor.

The three-time First Team All-Gateway selection remains the all-time leading tackler in conference and school history. A three-time team captain, Grigsby was also twice named the Illinois State Milt Weisbecker Male Athlete of the Year, and he was inducted into the Illinois State Athletics Percy Family Hall of Fame in 2010.

A fifth-round pick in the 2005 NFL Draft, Grigsby played in league for the Kansas City Chiefs (2005-07), Miami Dolphins (2008) and Houston Texans (2009).

Off the field, he established the Boomer Grigsby Foundation, and he has volunteered with Jared Allen’s Homes for Wounded Warriors and the Special Olympics. Grigsby served as the color analyst for Redbird football broadcasts on NBC Sports Chicago for three seasons, and as a television analyst for Illinois High School Association football playoff broadcasts for two years.







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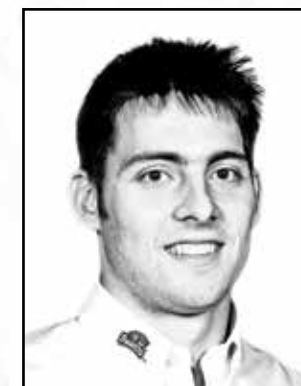
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## MIKE HASS

Oregon State University  
Wide Receiver, 2002-2005



After receiving no Division I scholarship offers and walking on at Oregon State, Mike Hass left the university as its all-time leading receiver while boasting a Biletnikoff Award. The Portland, Oregon, native becomes the third Beaver player to join the College Football Hall of Fame.

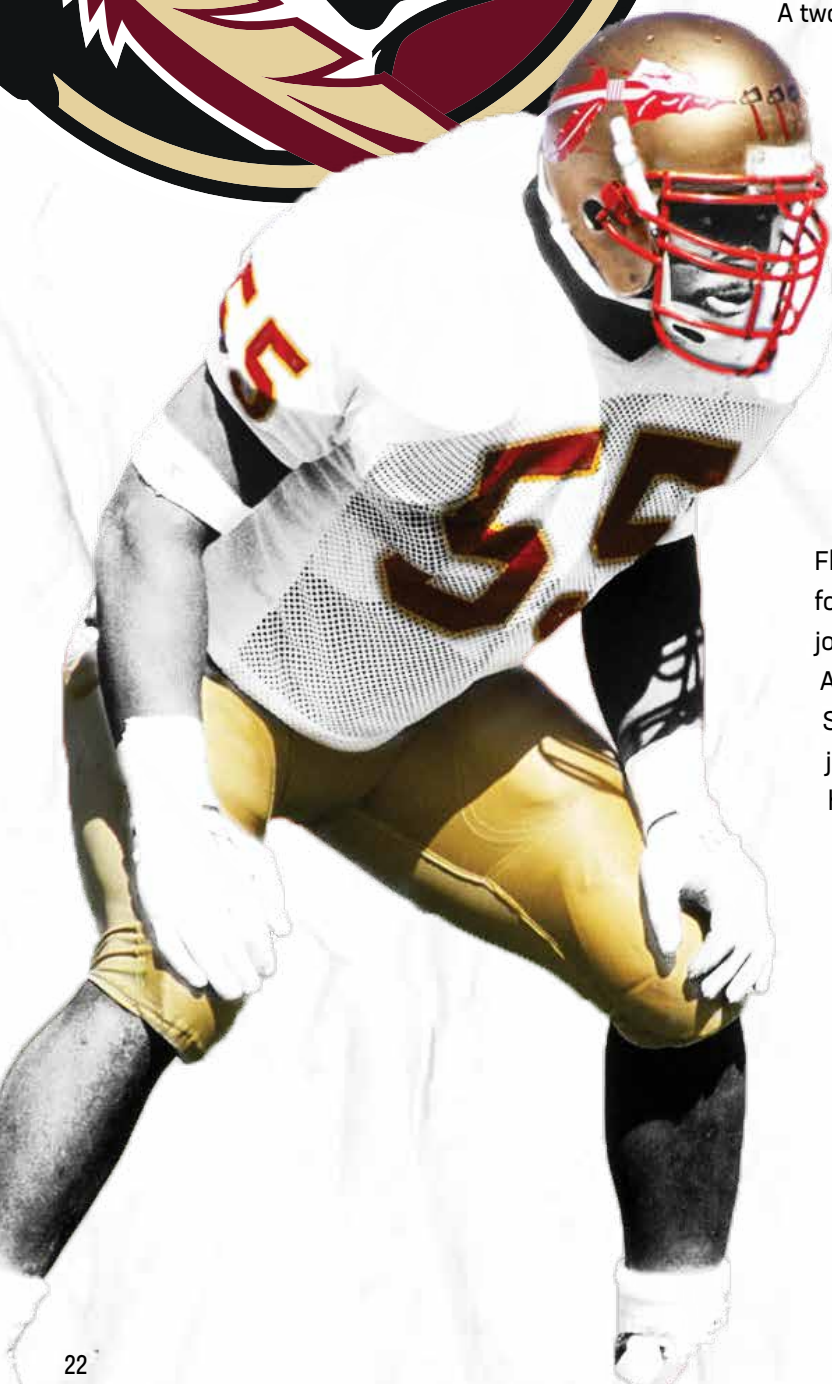
The 2005 First Team All-American and Biletnikoff Award recipient was just the 10th player in NCAA history and the only Oregon State player ever with three seasons of 1,000-plus receiving yards. During his senior season, Hass led the nation with 139.9 receiving yards per game. He set then-school records for single-season receptions (90) and receiving yards (1,532 - also a Pac-10 mark at the time). The 2005 team captain led the Beavers to three consecutive bowl berths, including wins in the 2003 Las Vegas Bowl and 2004 Insight Bowl.

A two-time First Team All-Pac-10 selection, Hass' 3,924 career receiving yards rank third all-time in conference history. In addition to being the school's all-time leading receiver, he owns Oregon State records for career 100-yard games (19), single-season 100-yard games (nine in 2005) and single-game receptions (14 vs. Arizona State in 2004).

A sixth-round pick by the New Orleans Saints in the 2006 NFL Draft, Hass played in the league for the Chicago Bears (2006-08) and the Seattle Seahawks (2009). He also played for the Omaha Nighthawks in the United Football League from 2010-11.

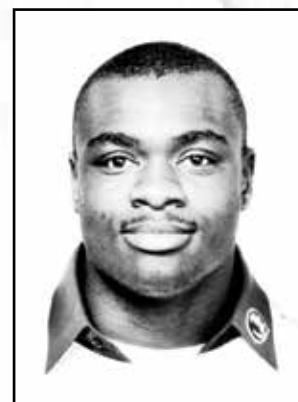
Hass earned his degree in civil engineering from Oregon State in 2007. Following his football career, he worked in the development department at Nike, helping design sporting equipment. Hass is currently a project manager at Pacific GeoSource. He has also coached youth football.





## MARVIN JONES

Florida State University  
Linebacker, 1990-1992



A dominant force on Florida State's stellar teams in the early 1990s, Marvin Jones became the first player from the university to win two national awards in the same season. The Miami, Florida, native becomes the eighth Seminole player in the College Football Hall of Fame.

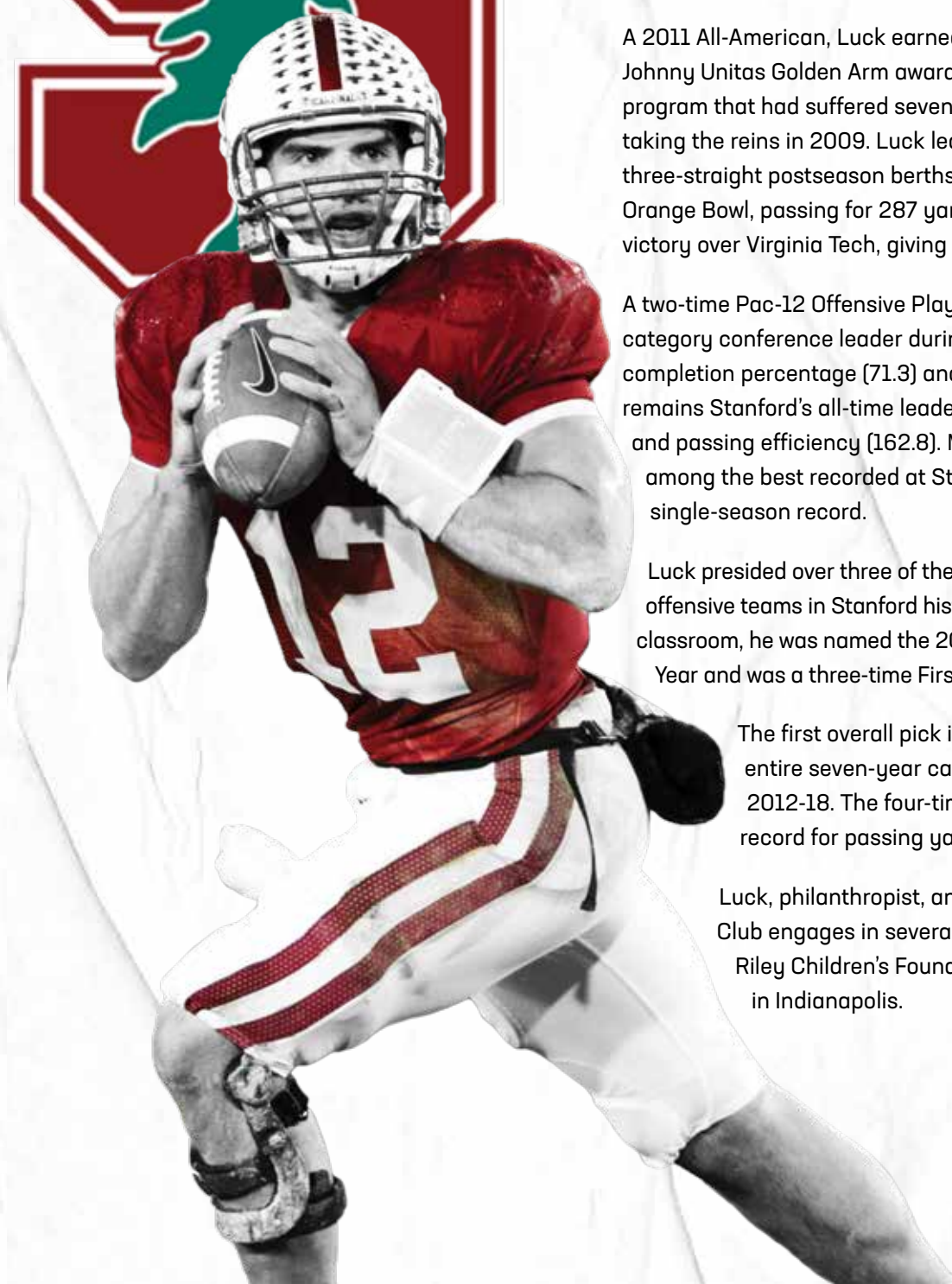
A two-time First Team All-American, Jones earned consensus honors in 1991 and unanimous honors in 1992.

Following his stellar 1992 campaign, he won the Butkus and Rotary Lombardi awards and finished fourth in the Heisman Trophy voting. Jones tallied 111 tackles that year while guiding the Seminoles to the ACC title, an 11-1 record and the No. 2 final ranking after a win over Nebraska in the Orange Bowl. The 1992 First Team All-ACC selection was also named *The Sporting News* Defensive Player of the Year and received the Jack Lambert Trophy.

Playing for College Football Hall of Famer Bobby Bowden, in 1991, Jones tallied 125 tackles while leading Florida State to an 11-2 record and a No. 4 final ranking following a win over Texas A&M in the Cotton Bowl. Prior to joining the ACC in 1992, Jones was a two-time First Team All-South Independent selection. He ranks seventh in Seminole history with 369 career tackles despite playing just three seasons. He is one of 11 players in school history to have his number retired.

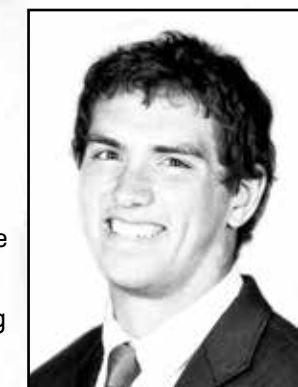
The fourth overall selection in the 1993 NFL Draft, Jones played his entire 11-year career with the New York Jets from 1993-2003.

Jones has served as a head coach in the Champions Indoor Football (CIF) league since 2019. In 2021, he led the Omaha Beef to a victory in Champions Bowl VI. Jones also serves as general manager of NFL Draft Bible's Pro Football Free Agent Database.



## ANDREW LUCK

Stanford University  
Quarterback, 2009-2011



Among the most precise passers in college football history, Andrew Luck built a record-setting career at Stanford, claiming multiple national awards. The Houston, Texas native is the 19th Cardinal player to join the College Football Hall of Fame.

A 2011 All-American, Luck earned the Maxwell, Walter Camp, and Johnny Unitas Golden Arm awards. Luck transformed a Stanford program that had suffered seven-straight losing seasons before taking the reins in 2009. Luck led the Cardinals to a 31-7 record and three-straight postseason berths. He was named MVP for the 2011 Orange Bowl, passing for 287 yards and four touchdowns in a 40-12 victory over Virginia Tech, giving Stanford a school-record 12 wins.

A two-time Pac-12 Offensive Player of the Year, Luck was a multi-category conference leader during a stellar 2011 campaign, including completion percentage (71.3) and passing efficiency (169.7). He remains Stanford's all-time leader in career passing touchdowns (82) and passing efficiency (162.8). Many of Luck's performances stand among the best recorded at Stanford, such as his 37-touchdown single-season record.

Luck presided over three of the most prolific and record-setting offensive teams in Stanford history. Equally proficient in the classroom, he was named the 2011 Academic All-American of the Year and was a three-time First Team Academic All-Pac-12 honoree.

The first overall pick in the 2012 NFL Draft, Luck spent his entire seven-year career with the Indianapolis Colts from 2012-18. The four-time Pro Bowler owns the NFL rookie record for passing yards (4,373).

Luck, philanthropist, and founder of the Andrew Luck Book Club engages in several philanthropic pursuits, including Riley Children's Foundation. Luck is now retired and living in Indianapolis.



## MARK MESSNER

University of Michigan  
Defensive Tackle, 1985-1988

One of the greatest defensive players in Michigan history, Mark Messner terrorized offenses, becoming the Wolverines' all-time leader in sacks and tackles for loss. The Hartland, Michigan, native becomes the 33rd player in school history to enter the College Football Hall of Fame.

A unanimous First Team All-American in 1988, Messner started every game of his career (49) at Michigan. The 1988 Rotary Lombardi Award finalist remains the Wolverines' all-time career leader with 70 tackles for

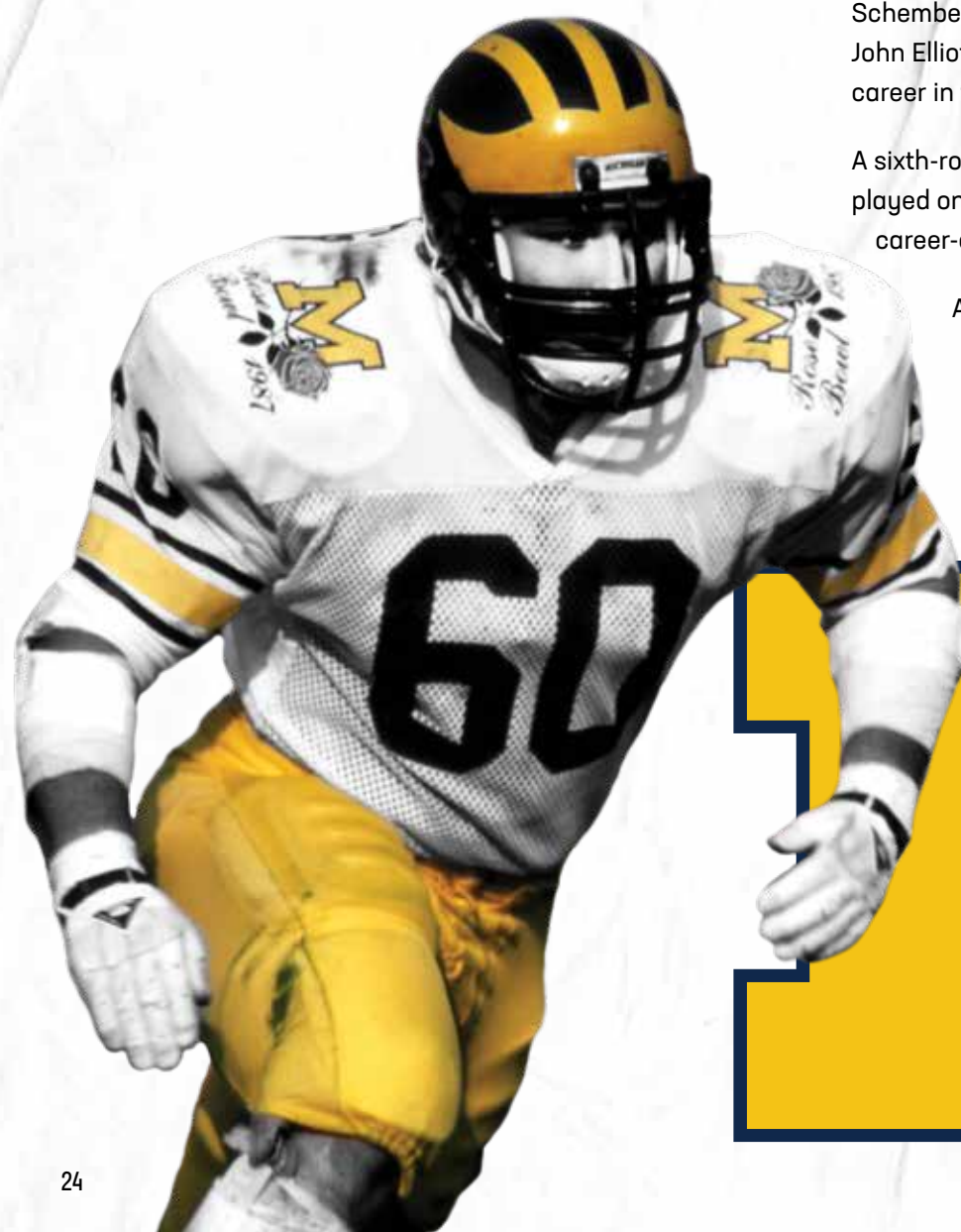


loss, 376 tackles for loss yardage, 36 sacks, and 273 sack yardage. The 1988 Big Ten Defensive Lineman of the Year, Messner bolstered conference title wins in 1986 and 1988. He was the first player in Big Ten history to be a first-team all-conference selection in four consecutive years.

The 1988 team captain led the Wolverines to three bowl victories, earning defensive MVP honors at the 1986 Fiesta Bowl. Messner guided Michigan to a 38-9-2 record, four final national rankings, and two top-five finishes in 1985 (No. 2) and 1988 (No. 4). As Michigan's sack leader all four seasons, he still holds the school's single-game record. As the Wolverines' 1987 team MVP and 1986 Defensive MVP, he earned a 3-1 record against arch rival Ohio State. Coached by College Football Hall of Famer Bo Schembechler, Messner played alongside Hall of Famer John Elliott at Ann Arbor. He capped his collegiate career in the Hula Bowl all-star game.

A sixth-round pick in the 1989 NFL Draft, Messner played one season for the Los Angeles Rams before a career-ending injury.

After retiring from football, Messner worked for Eastman Kodak, and currently serves as market vice president at Konica Minolta. He is also a board member of Meals on Wheels PLUS of Manatee in Florida.



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## TERRY MILLER

Oklahoma State University  
Running Back, 1974-1977



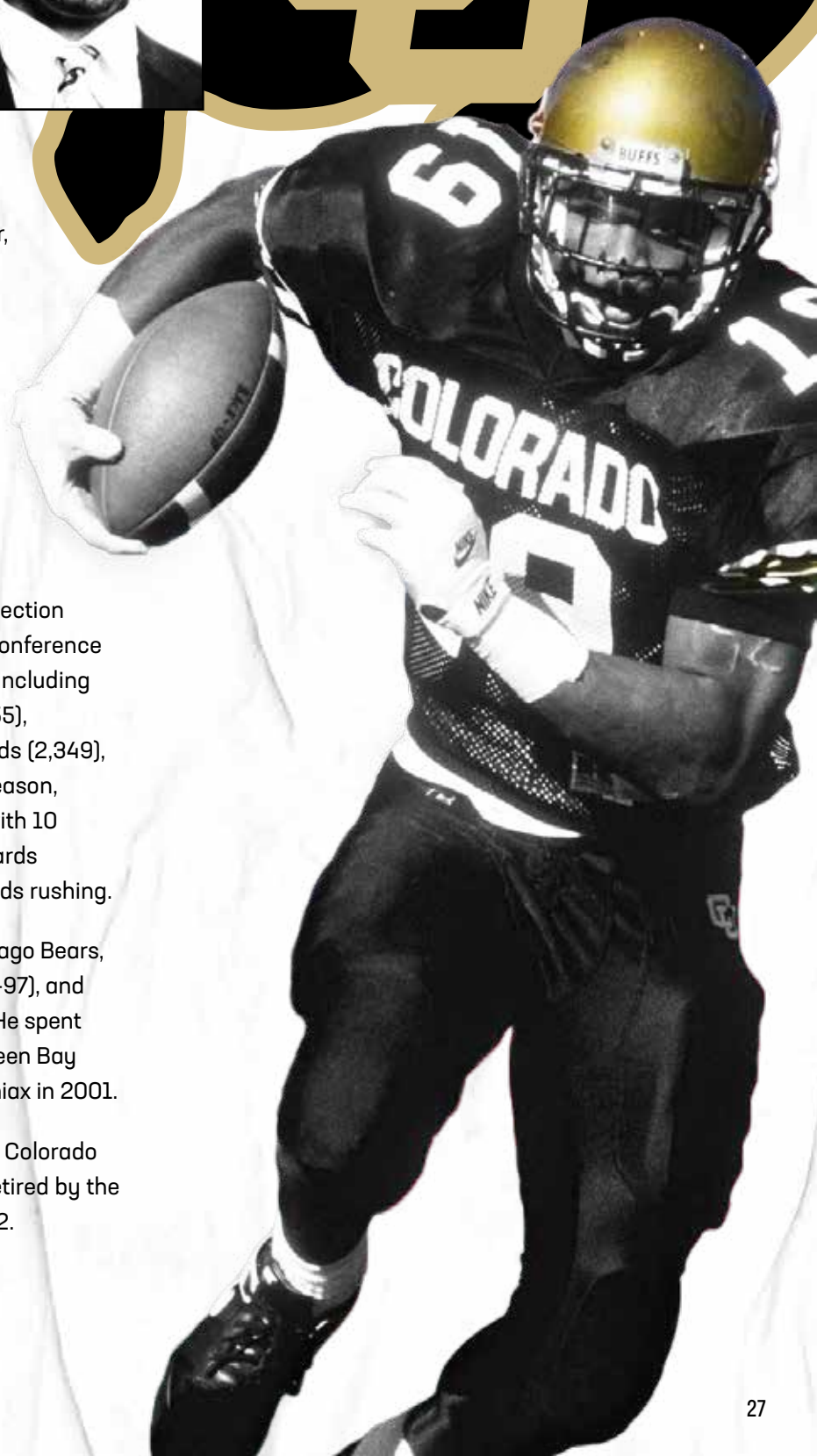
One of only three players in Big Eight history to rush for over 4,000 yards during his career, Terry Miller's 4,754 yards were fourth most in NCAA history when his career ended. The Colorado Springs, Colorado, native becomes the fifth Oklahoma State player to enter the College Football Hall of Fame.

A two-time First Team All-American, Miller earned unanimous honors in 1977 and was twice a top-five Heisman Trophy finalist (second in 1977 and fourth in 1976). The only rusher in Oklahoma State history with three 1,000-yard seasons, Miller led the nation with 23 rushing touchdowns in 1976. The two-time Big Eight Offensive Player of the Year (1976, 1977) led the Cowboys to the 1976 conference title and two postseason bowl game wins, leading to a final No. 14 ranking for the Pokes.

Miller led the Big Eight in rushing his final two seasons, boasting 1,887 yards in 1976 (note: Oklahoma State and NCAA totals differ) and 1,680 yards in 1977, ranking third and sixth all-time, respectively, at Oklahoma State. He owns the Cowboys' record with 26 career games of 100+ yards rushing. He ranks among fellow College Football Hall of Fame greats Barry Sanders and Thurman Thomas in nearly every other school career rushing category, ranking second in rushing yards (4,754), rushing touchdowns (49), and rushing yards per game (113.2), and third in career all-purpose yards (5,305).

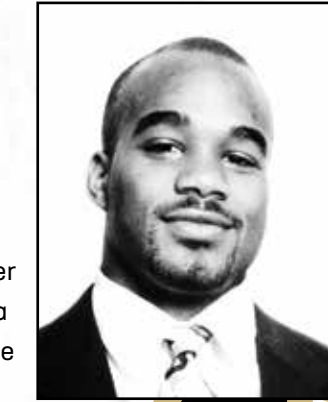
The fifth overall pick in the 1978 NFL Draft by the Buffalo Bills, Miller ran for the Bills from 1978-80 before one season with the Seattle Seahawks in 1981.

Miller has been a regular volunteer for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Payne County Youth Services, among many other organizations. He is now retired and living in Stillwater.



## RASHAAN SALAAM

University of Colorado  
Running Back, 1992-1994



The winner of the 1994 Heisman Trophy, Rashaan Salaam was just the fourth player in NCAA history to run for 2,000 yards in a season. The San Diego native becomes the ninth Buff player to be inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame.

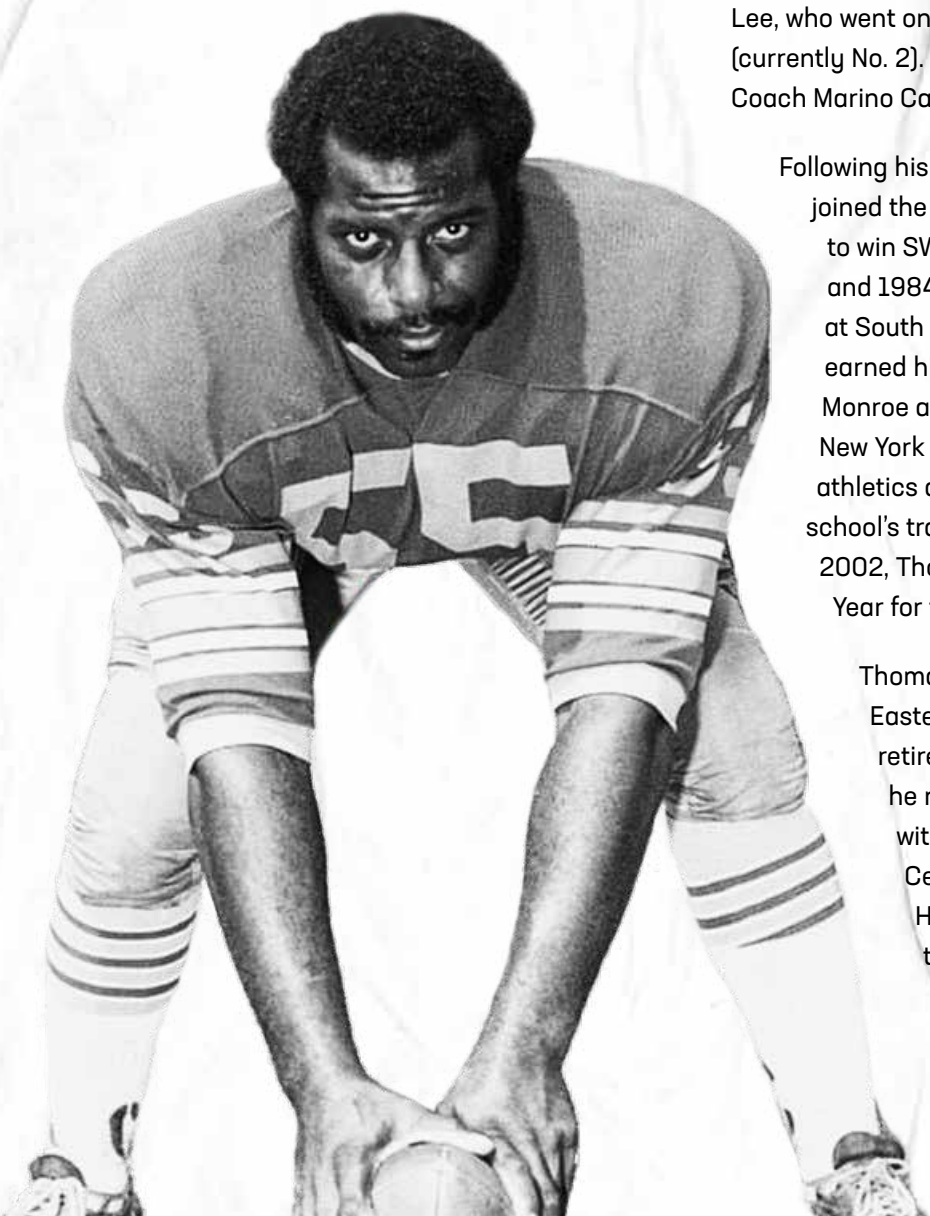
A unanimous First Team All-American in 1994, Salaam also claimed the Walter Camp, Doak Walker, and Heisman Trophy awards. The 1994 Big Eight Offensive Player of the Year led the nation in rushing yards (2,055), scoring (144), and all-purpose yards (2,349), all while not playing in the fourth quarter in five games. Salaam led the 1994 Buffs to an 11-1 record and No. 3 final ranking following a 1995 Fiesta Bowl win. He led Colorado to two other bowl berths, claiming a win and the MVP award in the 1993 Aloha Bowl.

Salaam was a two-time First Team All-Big Eight selection and led the Buffs to second-place finishes in the conference all three seasons. He still owns 18 school records, including many single-season marks for rushing yards (2,055), touchdowns (24), points (144), and all-purpose yards (2,349), all set during his 1994 Heisman campaign. That season, Salaam also set Colorado single-season records with 10 games of 100 yards rushing, four games of 200 yards rushing, and nine consecutive games with 100 yards rushing.

A first-round pick in the 1995 NFL Draft by the Chicago Bears, Salaam played three seasons with the Bears (1995-97), and he was named the NFC Rookie of the Year in 1995. He spent the 1999 season with the Cleveland Browns and Green Bay Packers before playing with the XFL's Memphis Maniax in 2001.

A member of both the CU Athletic and the State of Colorado Sports halls of fame, Salaam's No. 19 jersey was retired by the university in 2017. He died in 2016, at the age of 42.





## DENNIS THOMAS

Alcorn State University  
Center, 1971-1973

The only offensive lineman to ever be named the SWAC Offensive Player of the Year, Dennis Thomas was a looming force on Alcorn State's offensive line. The Heidelberg, Mississippi, native becomes the second Braves player to enter the College Football Hall of Fame.

A two-time First Team All-American, Thomas put together such an impressive 1973 season that he beat out College Football Hall of Fame running back Walter Payton (Jackson State) for the SWAC Offensive Player of the Year award. Thomas was a First Team All-SWAC selection, blocking for running back Augusta Lee, who went on to be the school's all-time leading rusher (currently No. 2). He started two years at center for Hall of Fame Coach Marino Casem and maintained a place on the Dean's List.

Following his collegiate career at Alcorn State, Thomas joined the Braves' coaching staff, aiding Casem's teams to win SWAC football championships in 1976, 1979, and 1984. He then served as the head football coach at South Carolina State from 1986-88. Thomas later earned his master's from the University of Louisiana at Monroe and his doctorate from the State University of New York at Buffalo. From 1990-2002, he served as the athletics director at Hampton University, overseeing the school's transition from NCAA Division II to Division I. In 2002, Thomas was the NACDA's Athletics Director of the Year for the Southeast Region.

Thomas served as the commissioner of the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference from 2002 until he retired in December 2021. As MEAC commissioner, he negotiated a multi-million dollar TV contract with ESPN and was instrumental in creating the Celebration Bowl. A 2020 Black College Football Hall of Fame inductee, Thomas also serves on the NFF Board of Directors.



## ZACH WIEGERT

University of Nebraska  
Offensive Tackle, 1991-1994

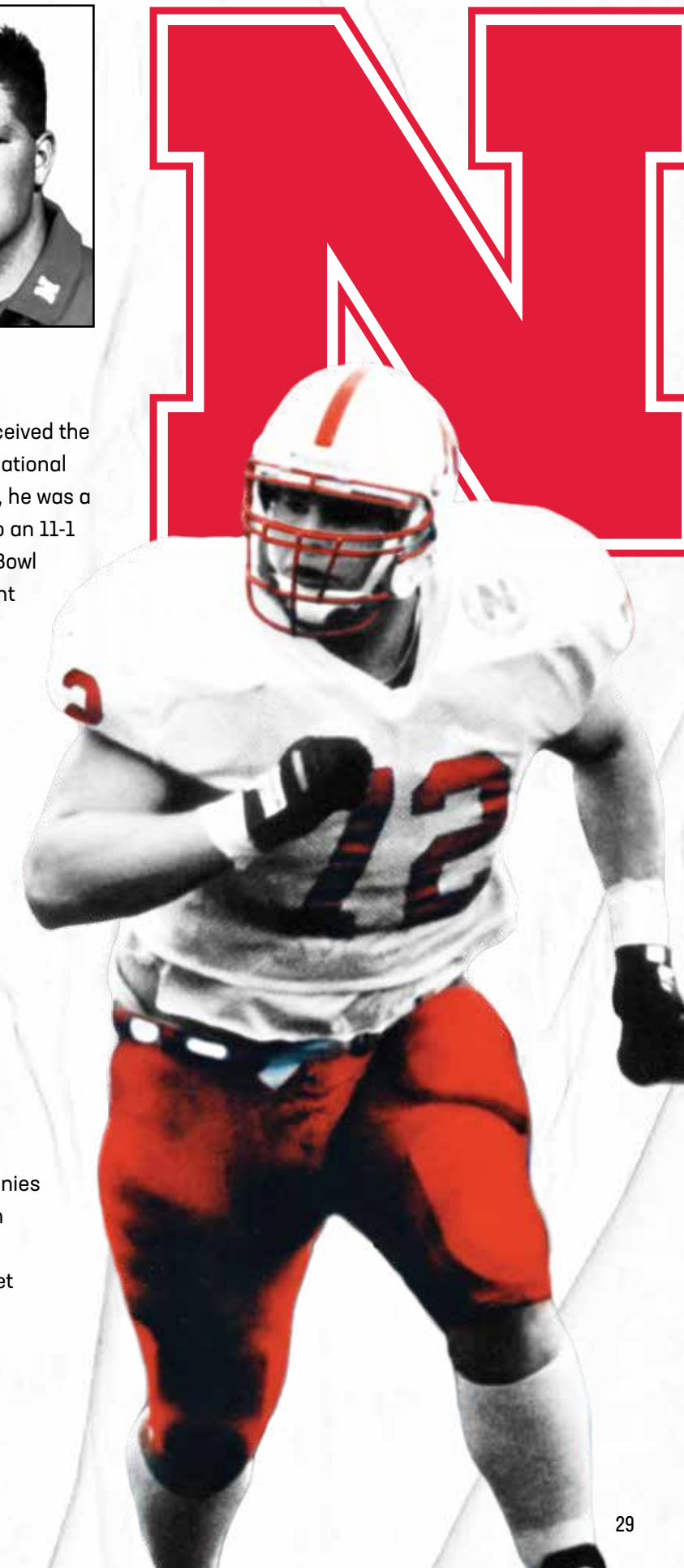
The anchor of some of Nebraska's dominant teams of the 1990s, Zach Wiegert capped his collegiate career by helping the Huskers win a national title. The Fremont, Nebraska, native becomes the 20th player in school history elected to the College Football Hall of Fame.

A unanimous First Team All-American in 1994, Wiegert received the Outland Trophy after helping Nebraska to a perfect 13-0 national championship season and the NCAA rushing title. In 1993, he was a finalist for the Outland Trophy after leading the Huskers to an 11-1 record, the No. 3 final ranking, and a berth in the Orange Bowl for the national title. The three-time First Team All-Big Eight selection earned four conference titles.

Wiegert's other accolades include the 1994 TD Club of Columbus Offensive Lineman of the Year, 1994 UPI Lineman of the Year, and 1992 First Team Sophomore All-American. He was the ABC Chevrolet Player of the Game for the Huskers' 1994 win over UCLA, helping the team rush for 340 yards. Wiegert blocked for three 1,000-yard rushers during his career, allowing only one sack in 37 starts. In 1994 alone, he recorded 113 pancake blocks.

A second-round pick by the St. Louis Rams in the 1995 NFL Draft, Wiegert played with the Rams (1995-98), Jacksonville Jaguars (1999-2002), and Houston Texans (2003-06). He started in 137 NFL games and helped the Jaguars make the playoffs in 1999.

After a decade of working in commercial real estate as an investor and developer, Wiegert formed Goldenrod Companies in October 2005. He has served, or is currently serving, on many non-profit boards, and has chaired events for The Salvation Army, The United Way, The Omaha North Magnet STEM School, The Boy Scouts of America, and The Teammates Foundation.

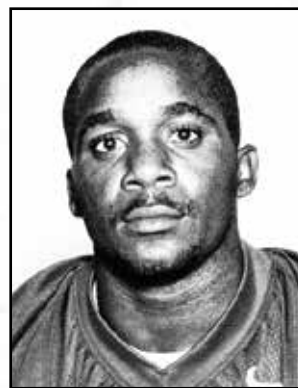






## ROY WILLIAMS

University of Oklahoma  
Defensive Back, 1999-2001



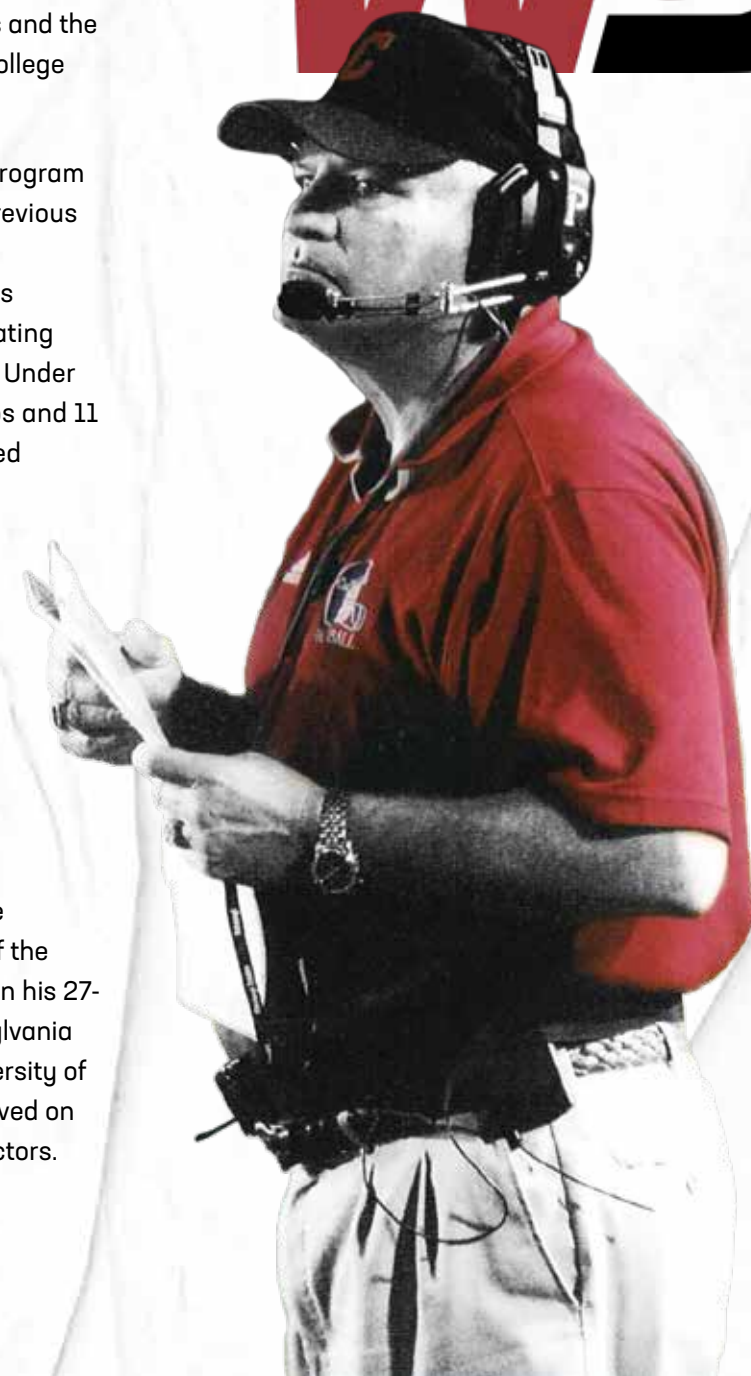
The first player in history to claim the Bronko Nagurski Trophy and the Jim Thorpe Award in the same year, Roy Williams led Oklahoma to the 2000 national title and a 31-7 record during three seasons in Norman. The Union City, California, native becomes the 23rd Sooner player to enter the College Football Hall of Fame.

A unanimous First Team All-American in 2001, Williams recorded 287 tackles, 34 tackles for loss, nine interceptions, and 44 pass deflections during his career. In 2001, he captained the Sooners to an 11-2 record and a 10-3 win in the Cotton Bowl, claiming the 2001 Big 12 Defensive Player of the Year honors while earning Nagurski and Thorpe awards. In 2000, he led the Big 12 champion Sooners to their first 13-win season, beating Florida State 13-2 in the 2001 Orange Bowl to claim the BCS National Championship.

In 1999, Williams helped OU notch a spot in the Independence Bowl. A two-time First Team All-Big 12 selection, he carved a place in Oklahoma football annals at the 2001 Red River Showdown. Leaping over defenders, Williams knocked the ball from Texas QB Chris Simms into the hands of OU's Teddy Lehman. The touchdown play sealed a 14-3 win for OU and earned Williams the "Superman" moniker as he appeared to fly through the air.

The eighth overall pick in the 2002 NFL Draft by Dallas, Williams played for the Cowboys from 2002-08 and the Cincinnati Bengals from 2009-10, earning five consecutive Pro Bowl selections while being named a First Team All-Pro in 2003.

Williams is currently the president of Global Security Corporation in Edmond, Oklahoma, which protects VIPs, and offers corporate events security. He established the Roy Williams Safety Net Foundation to support low-income single mothers.



## JOHN LUCKHARDT

Washington & Jefferson College,  
1982-1998  
California University,  
2002-2011  
Head Coach, 225-70-2 (76.1%)



A stalwart on the Western Pennsylvania football scene for nearly three decades, John Luckhardt turned two programs into perennial national contenders, with a 76.1 combined winning percentage at Washington & Jefferson and California University of Pennsylvania. He becomes the first person ever to represent the Vulcans and the fourth person with ties to Washington & Jefferson in the College Football Hall of Fame.

In 1982, Luckhardt took over a Washington & Jefferson program that had only produced four winning campaigns in the previous 17 seasons. By 1984, Luckhardt led the Presidents to the team's first Presidents' Athletic Conference (PAC) title. His program produced winning records each season, culminating in 1998 with a 137-37-2 record during his 17-year tenure. Under Luckhardt's guidance, W&J earned 13 PAC championships and 11 appearances in the NCAA Playoffs. In 1992, he was named the AFCA National Coach of the Year.

Luckhardt led the program at Cal U from 2002-11. His tenure with the Vulcans saw him become the all-time winningest coach with an 88-33 overall record. His 2008 season saw the program's first Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC) championship since 1984. He led Cal U to five consecutive seasons of double-digit victories and seven consecutive PSAC West titles.

Luckhardt's coached 11 First Team All-Americans and nine Academic All-Americans. He was named the PAC Coach of the Year 11 times and the PSAC West Coach of the Year once in his 27-year career. Luckhardt has been inducted into the Pennsylvania Sports; the W&J College Athletics; and the California University of Pennsylvania Athletic halls of fame. From 1994-98, he served on the American Football Coaches Association Board of Directors.





## BILLY JACK MURPHY

University of Memphis, 1958-1971  
Head Coach, 91-44-1 (67.3%)



The winningest coach in Memphis history, Billy Jack Murphy led the Tigers for 14 years, bringing the school into the national rankings. Murphy passed in 2008 at the age of 87. He becomes the second person with ties to Memphis to enter the College Football Hall of Fame.

In 1958, Murphy became head coach at Memphis. The program went from obscurity to national prominence before his retirement, finishing with an overall record of 91-44-1 over his tenure. As the Tigers' program grew in stature, Murphy traded small-college opposition for formidable competitors, earning wins against major programs.

In 1963, the Tigers posted the school's first undefeated season since 1938 and Murphy claimed National Coach of the Year honors. The team reached the highest ranking in school history. The lone tie that season, a 0-0 tilt, came against No. 2 Ole Miss, who had not been shutout in 47 games.

In 1971, Murphy led Memphis to its first appearance and first win in a major bowl. The game marked Murphy's final appearance as a head coach. Murphy earned Missouri Valley Conference Coach of the Year honors three times before transitioning full-time to athletics director, a role he held until 1981.

Murphy grew up in Siloam Springs, Arkansas, before enrolling at Mississippi State in 1939 and playing as an All-SEC tailback. In 1943, Murphy joined the Marine Corps Reserve. He served heroically in the Pacific earning the Bronze Star, and the Presidential and Navy Citations. He is a member of the State of Tennessee Sport and Mississippi State Halls of Fame. Each year the Billy J. Murphy Award is presented to a former Memphis athlete who has excelled in their profession after graduation.

## GARY PINKEL

University of Toledo, 1991-2000  
University of Missouri, 2001-2015  
Head Coach, 191-110-3 (63.3%)



Gary Pinkel's legacy as the winningest coach in school history at both Toledo and Missouri makes him one of only three coaches to hold the distinction at two Division I programs. He becomes the first coach from Toledo and the sixth coach from Missouri inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame.

Pinkel began his head coaching career at Toledo in 1991, amassing the most wins in school history. His nine winning seasons at Toledo include the 1995 MAC championship. Pinkel would lead Toledo to three other MAC West Division titles and be twice named the MAC Coach of the Year.

Pinkel took over at Missouri in 2001, transforming the program, earning five conference division titles, and six bowl victories. He won conference coach of the year honors in 2007 (Big 12) and 2014 (SEC). In 2007, Mizzou claimed the school's first No. 1 national ranking since 1960 after beating archrival Kansas in the season finale, a nationally televised tilt at Arrowhead Stadium. He earned the distinction of becoming the school's all-time winningest coach.

In 2013, the Tigers were picked to finish sixth in the SEC Eastern Division, but instead finished 11-1 as East Division champs, ending the season with a win in the Citrus Bowl.

After his final game in 2015, Pinkel ranked as the third-winningest active coach. Pinkel coached 10 First Team All-Americans, three Academic All-Americans, three NFF National Scholar-Athletes, and 79 first-team all-conference players.

Pinkel has been inducted into multiple halls of fame, including the State of Missouri Sports, St. Louis Sports Commission, Mid-American Conference, Toledo, and Kent State Athletics. Active in the community, he created the GP Made Foundation for youth and has raised over \$10 million for charitable causes. In 2017, Pinkel released his autobiography *"The 100-Yard Journey: A Life in Coaching and Battling for the Win."*







**HARRIS BARTON**  
University of North Carolina  
Offensive Tackle, 1983-86

Harris Barton's decorated college football career led to an NFL career with two Super Bowl wins, a successful post-NFL career and an induction into the College Football Hall of Fame.

The Georgia native started all four years at UNC, moving from center to tackle his sophomore year and never looking back. He earned First Team All-America honors and was named ACC Offensive Lineman of the Year during his senior season of 1986, when UNC posted the ACC's top offense while rushing for 252.5 yards per game (10th nationally). He went on to play in the Japan Bowl all-star game. He finished the year being named NFF National Scholar-Athlete and the ACC's Jim Tatum Award winner as the league's top scholar-athlete.

Barton was drafted in the first round by the 49ers where he made two All-Pro teams and played for back-to-back Super Bowl winners. Living in Silicon Valley as cutting-edge companies were starting up, Barton decided his future career was there. Along with 49ers teammates Joe Montana and Ronnie Lott, Barton became a managing partner of Champion Ventures. Today he operates H. Barton Asset Management, which specializes in venture capital.

Barton lives in Palo Alto with his wife, Megan, and their four children, the two oldest of whom, Anna and Paul, play lacrosse at UNC. He is heavily involved in a number of charitable organizations, including Champion Charities, which he founded with Lott.



**DAN MORGAN**  
University of Miami  
Linebacker, 1997-2000

When Dan Morgan was a child in Pennsylvania his family vacationed in Florida every winter. When he was 13 the family moved to Coral Springs, FL where he starred at J.P. Taravella High as a running back. He was recruited by the University of Miami and in 2021 he was named the eighth Miami player to enter the College Football Hall of Fame.

After switching to linebacker in college, Morgan started all four seasons, was named a captain for the last three seasons and was recognized as a First Team All-Big East honoree three times. He was the first sophomore captain in program history, and his 45 consecutive starts were a program record at the time.

Morgan went on to post a program-record 532 career tackles. He won the Bednarik, Butkus and Nagurski

Awards in 2000, becoming the first player to sweep the three major defensive awards in one season. Miami won the Big East that season, finishing 11-1 and ranked No. 2 in the final AP poll while Morgan took home unanimous First Team All-America honors. He became the first player in Hurricanes history to tally 100 or more tackles in four different seasons.

The Carolina Panthers drafted Morgan 11th overall in 2001. He played seven seasons in Charlotte, making the franchise's first Super Bowl after the 2003 season and earning All-Pro honors in 2004.

Morgan is involved with several charitable efforts, including Ben's Fund, which raises money to support families who have autistic children. He is currently back with the Panthers as their assistant general manager.



**DAVID FULCHER**  
Arizona State University  
Defensive Back, 1983-85

David Fulcher grew up in the tough area of South Central L.A. With the support of his father who worked for the L.A. Police for 25 years, he achieved his desire to make something good of himself.

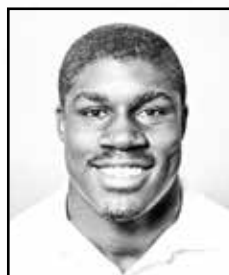
Fulcher became standout wide receiver at Fremont High School, a star safety at Arizona State and then an All-Pro defensive back in the NFL.

In 2021, Fulcher was named a College Football Hall of Famer, becoming the ninth Sun Devil player to make the Hall. He is one of three two-time consensus First Team All-Americans in program history, leading his team in interceptions and tackles in two different years. Fulcher tallied 293 tackles and 12 interceptions from 1983-85, after redshirting in 1982.

Fulcher became a three-time Pro Bowler and one-time first-team All-Pro with the Bengals, who drafted him in the third round in 1986. However, he has made an even greater impact off the field in the Cincinnati area, where he has called home ever since.

He founded the David Fulcher Foundation, to fight multiple sclerosis. He founded Mentoring Against Negative Actions (MANA), as he and his wife Judy work in prisons to help inmates learn new life skills. He has also coached and mentored at many area high schools and colleges.

His daughter Kayla went to college and his son David is in the Air Force. When Kayla graduated in 2017, she told her dad, who left ASU for the NFL before graduating, that he needed to finish school. So, he went back and in May of 2020, Fulcher graduated from Arizona State.



**CARSON PALMER**  
University of Southern California  
Quarterback, 1998-2002

Carson Palmer helped USC rise from sleeping giant to a national power, becoming the 33rd former Trojan player to make the College Football Hall of Fame, the second-most among all schools.

The 6-foot-5, 235-pound Palmer started all four years for the Trojans, setting or tying 33 Pac-10 or USC records. He became the first Trojans quarterback to win the Heisman Trophy in his senior year of 2002, when he led the program to a share of the Pac-10 title, an 11-2 record, a final No. 4 ranking and an Orange Bowl win over Iowa.

Palmer became the Pac-10's career leader in passing yards (11,818) and total offense (11,621), helping to usher in the dominant reign of Troy on the national landscape, as USC went on to make a BCS bowl game in seven

straight seasons, starting with Palmer's final campaign.

The Cincinnati Bengals drafted Palmer No. 1 overall, and he went on to have a 15-year NFL career in which he played for three different teams, made three Pro Bowls and won the 2005 AFC Player of the Year award. He established the Carson Palmer Foundation to assist abused and abandoned children.

He retired after the 2017 season and, after a year of enjoying down time, has gotten involved in real estate development. He and his wife Shaelyn, a former USC soccer player, live in Idaho with their four kids, whom Palmer enjoys coaching.







## TONY ROMO

Eastern Illinois University  
Quarterback, 1999-2002

Before he was a broadcasting sensation, and before he was leading the biggest franchise in American football, Tony Romo was a partial-scholarship student-athlete in Charleston, Illinois.

As unlikely as it may sound today, Romo struggled throwing a football early on during his time at Eastern Illinois. His coach, the late Bob Spoo, sat him down after his freshman season and suggested he move to tight end.

Romo asked for time to practice and improve and changed his career trajectory and that of Eastern Illinois. Romo is now the first player in school history to make the College Football Hall of Fame, and just the second person representing the program, joining former coach Darrell Mudra.

Romo went from unknown bench player to three-time Ohio Valley Conference Offensive Player of the Year, and winner of the 2002 Walter Payton Award. The Panthers made the FCS Playoffs three times under Romo, and they won the OVC twice. Romo went 25-10 as a starter, a mark that included a 17-2 record in league games.



Romo's 34 touchdown passes his senior year were an OVC record. So, too, were his 85 career touchdown passes. He then went on to rewrite the Dallas Cowboys' record book during a remarkable 14-year NFL career that somehow began as an undrafted free agent.

In his football "retirement," Romo enjoys all of the extra time he gets with his three young sons, each of whom has become a football fanatic. He is now among the most recognizable NFL broadcasters in the industry.



## KENNETH SIMS

University of Texas  
Defensive Tackle, 1978-81

Originally committed to Texas A&M, Sims changed his mind and went with the rival Longhorns. Sims became a standout player during his four seasons in Austin, which he has come to call "home" ever since. Now Sims can call himself a College Football Hall of Famer, becoming the 20th Texas player to be inducted.

The 6-foot-6, 265-pounder amassed 322 career tackles, 29 sacks, 50 tackles for loss, seven fumble recoveries, three blocked kicks and a school-record 15 forced fumbles during his illustrious career.

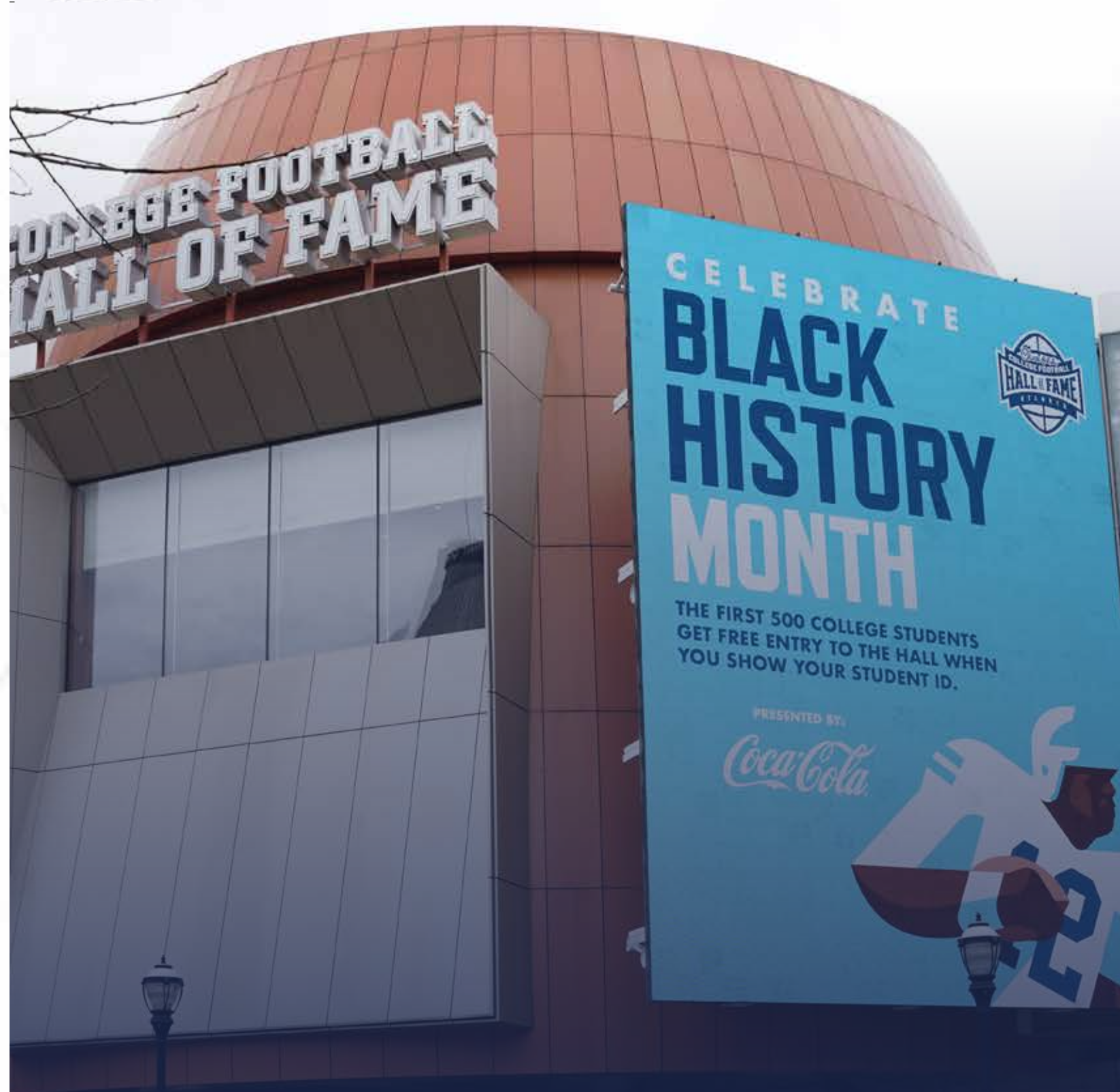
Sims became a consensus First Team All-American in 1980 and unanimous in '81. He also earned a spot as a team captain in 1981, when he won team MVP awards for the second straight season. He is one of just six players

in Texas history to win consecutive team MVP awards. Sims also won the Lombardi Award and finished eighth in the Heisman Trophy voting.



His freshman season, Texas finished 9-3 with a No. 9 ranking in the final AP Poll. His senior season, the team finished 10-1-1 (which was cut short at nine games for Sims due to injury), concluding with a Cotton Bowl victory over Alabama to finish No. 2.

In 1982, he was awarded the prestigious NCAA Today's Top V Award, now known as the NCAA Today's Top 10 Award, given to student-athletes who excel on the field, in the classroom and in the community. Sims was drafted first overall by the New England Patriots in 1982 where he played for eight NFL seasons, including an appearance in Super Bowl XX.



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**C.J. SPILLER**  
Clemson University  
Running Back, 2006-09

C.J Spiller, the man credited with kick-starting an unprecedented run of success at Clemson University, has yet another distinction to his name: College Football Hall of Famer and the fourth player inducted from Clemson.

Spiller is integral to the story of Clemson's rise from a sleepy agricultural school in South Carolina to a regular national championship contender. He was a top-20 national prospect when being recruited out of Lake Butler, Florida. Dabo Swinney, then the Tigers' receivers coach, developed a bond with Spiller that netted Clemson a prospect who was initially believed to be out of its league.

Spiller amassed 7,588 career all-purpose yards, the third-most in FBS history. In his senior year of 2009, Spiller

posted 2,680 yards, an ACC single-season record. He set 31 Clemson records by career's end.

In 2009 he was a unanimous first-team All-American, the ACC player of the year and sixth in Heisman Trophy voting. Spiller had 21 career touchdowns of 50 yards or more, including an NCAA-record tying seven kickoff return scores. He was the No. 9 pick of the Buffalo Bills in 2010, played 9 seasons in the NFL with 5 teams and was an NFL Pro Bowler.

Spiller holds a special place in Memorial Stadium, as he is one of three players to have his jersey number (No. 28) retired. He has returned to Clemson, having come full-circle to coach running backs on Swinney's staff, and to perhaps find another C.J. Spiller in the future.



**DARREN SPROLES**  
Kansas State University  
Running Back, 2001-2004

At just 5' 6" Darren Sproles was always underestimated but could outrun his competition giving him an edge that eventually led him into the College Football Hall of Fame. He became the third player from Kansas State to be inducted.

While other schools overlooked Sproles due to his size, the Olathe, Kansas, native lived his dream playing for College Football Hall of Fame coach Bill Snyder and becoming a Wildcats legend.

Sproles broke 28 school records, 21 of which still stand. Sproles was a First Team All-American in 2003, finishing fifth in Heisman Trophy voting after leading the nation with 1,986 rushing yards. His 4,979 career rushing yards are No. 3 in Big 12 history, and his 6,812 career all-purpose yards are a conference and school record.

Sproles led the Wildcats to their first Big 12 championship in 2003, upsetting then-No. 1 Oklahoma 35-7 in the league title game behind his Big 12 Championship Game-record 235 rushing yards. The 2003 Doak Walker Award finalist led the Wildcats to three postseason berths, including a win in the 2002 Holiday Bowl, and two top-15 finishes.

Sproles was drafted in the fourth round in 2005 by the San Diego Chargers, where he starred for six seasons before playing for the New Orleans Saints and Philadelphia Eagles. He retired after the 2019 season as No. 6 on the NFL's career all-purpose yardage list (19,696). He won Super Bowl LII with Philadelphia, where he currently works as a personnel consultant.



**AARON TAYLOR**  
University of Notre Dame  
Offensive Tackle, 1990-93

When Aaron Taylor learned he was being named to the College Football Hall of Fame, he wrote down the name of every person he could think of who helped him accomplish the honor – from high school teammates he carpooled with to college coaches, and he then called them all to thank them.

In 2021, the former Notre Dame offensive lineman, became the 48th former Notre Dame player to be enshrined in Atlanta, the most of all schools in the country.

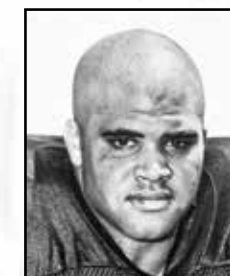
At Notre Dame, Taylor earned consensus All-America honors in 1992, was voted a unanimous All-American in 1993 and served as a team captain in '93. Behind Taylor's blocking, the Irish went 40-8-1, had four top-15

finishes and won the 1992 Sugar Bowl and 1993 and '94 Cotton Bowls.

He won the Lombardi Award during his '93 season, which featured a thrilling victory over Florida State in what was then-billed as "The Game of the Century."

"Football is a people game, so all of the moments that I remember and were meaningful involved the people," Taylor said of his favorite memories.

The Packers drafted Taylor 16th overall in 1994, and his six-year NFL career includes a Super Bowl win with Green Bay. Following his pro career, Taylor has remained heavily involved in college football as an analyst for CBS Sports. In 2015, he helped create the Joe Moore Award, which is given to the best offensive line in the country and is named after his position coach at Notre Dame.



**ANDRE TIPPETT**  
University of Iowa  
Defensive End, 1979-81

Andre Tippett grew up in New Jersey, but always dreamed of playing in the Big Ten. While attending Ellsworth Community College in Iowa Falls in 1978 Tippett wasn't so sure the Midwest was for him, but his high school coach told him to stay put. Tippett transferred to Iowa in 1979, playing for Hall of Fame head coach Hayden Fry.

He considers that one of the most influential decisions of his life as he becomes the 10th Iowa player to make the College Football Hall of Fame. Tippett was inducted in 2021 alongside Iowa teammate Bob Stoops.

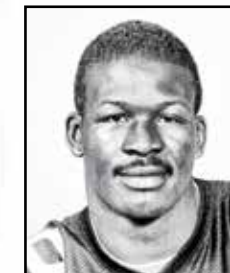
Tippett was a standout at Iowa, earning consensus First Team All-America honors during his final season. He was named team captain in 1981 and a First Team All-Big Ten selection in 1980 and '81. The 153 tackles

for loss yardage he accumulated in 1980 remains a school single-season record.

Iowa broke through during Tippett's final season, as the program finished above .500 for the first time in 20 years, earned a share of the Big Ten title and punched its ticket to the Rose Bowl.

The Patriots drafted Tippett in the second round in 1982, and he spent his entire 12-year NFL career with New England, making five Pro Bowls and earning First Team All-Pro honors twice. He won the league's Defensive Player of the Year award in 1985, helping lead the Patriots to the Super Bowl, and was enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2008.

He has worked for the Patriots ever since, currently serving as their executive director of community affairs.







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## AL WILSON University of Tennessee Linebacker, 1995-98

Al Wilson was a highly ranked recruit from Jackson, Tennessee whose heart ultimately rested with his home state. He would eventually become the 21st player in Vol history to join the College Football Hall of Fame.

Wilson is one of the best defensive players at Tennessee, leading the Vols to the first ever BCS national championship following the 1998 season.

The 6-foot, 240-pound linebacker started each game in his final three years. The Vols finished in the top 10 in all four years Wilson played for them. They won the Citrus Bowl in 1996 and '97, and they won the SEC in '97 and '98.

Wilson became a team captain and a First Team All-American in 1998, posting 77 tackles despite missing three games. Tennessee went 13-0 that season, and topped Florida State, 23-16, at the Fiesta Bowl to win the national title. Wilson finished his college career with 272 total tackles. He was drafted 31st overall by the Denver Broncos in 1999 where he was a five-time Pro Bowler, finishing with 21.5 career sacks.

Wilson now lives in Atlanta, where he invests in a number of start-up companies and restaurants. One of his biggest passion projects is Project FANchise, which helps run fan-controlled football teams. He is most proud of his son, Carrington, who was diagnosed with brain cancer as a teenager but still managed to have a successful baseball career at Division II Trevecca Nazarene University in Nashville. Carrington is now pursuing a career in the medical field.



## RUDY HUBBARD Florida A&M University Head Coach, 1974-85

Before he became the only HBCU head coach to win a Division I-AA title, Rudy Hubbard was working toward opening his own amusement park. His plans changed after getting the head coaching job at Florida A&M in 1974.

Hubbard is now the fourth coach in Florida A&M history to make the College Football Hall of Fame, punctuating a 12-year career in Tallahassee that saw him go 83-48-3, win consecutive Black National College Football championships from 1977-78 and also win the inaugural Division I-AA (now FCS) title in '78, the first year his program competed under that classification.

One of his favorite memories was beating UMass on national TV for the title. The following season Florida

A&M beat Miami, 16-13, in Hurricanes coach Howard Schnellenberger's first season, as the Rattlers proved once again that they took a backseat to no one.

A native of Hubbard, Ohio, he starred in college as a running back at Ohio State with his most memorable moment coming during his final career game, as he rushed for 103 yards and two touchdowns in a season-ending 24-14 victory at rival Michigan in 1967. When NFL dreams didn't come true, his Ohio coach and future Hall of Famer Woody Hayes offered him a job.

Hubbard became the first Black assistant coach in Buckeyes history. He stayed in Columbus until 1973, winning a pair of national championships and leading the recruitments of future Hall of Famers Archie Griffin and John Hicks. Hubbard retired from Florida A&M in 1985.







# BOB STOOPS

University of Oklahoma  
Head Coach, 1999-2016

The winningest head coach in Oklahoma history, Bob Stoops, was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility in 2021.

He won nearly 80 percent of his games (190-48) across 18 seasons, capturing 10 Big 12 titles and winning the 2000 national championship. He's the sixth former Sooners coach to make the Hall, joining 22 former Oklahoma players. He is the winningest coach in program history.

Nicknamed "Big Game Bob," Stoops won more games in his first 18 years as a head coach than anyone in college football history. He was the only coach in the BCS era to win the Rose Bowl, Sugar Bowl, Fiesta Bowl, Orange Bowl and a national championship.

With Stoops at the helm, the Sooners won 10 or more games in 14 of his 18 seasons and finished in the AP top five seven different times. He won the Big 12 Coach of the Year Award six times. He produced 38 First Team All-Americans and 83 NFL Draft picks. Two of his players won the Heisman Trophy while another claimed the NFF's Campbell Trophy®. He won the Big 12 in each of his final two seasons, 2015 and '16, before handing off the reins to hand-picked protégé Lincoln Riley, who went on to produce two more Heisman winners and win the Big 12 title four more times.

Stoops was around coaching his whole life. His father was a high school coach in Youngstown, Ohio. After playing at Iowa, he stuck with football, becoming a graduate assistant for legendary Hall of Fame head coach Hayden Fry.

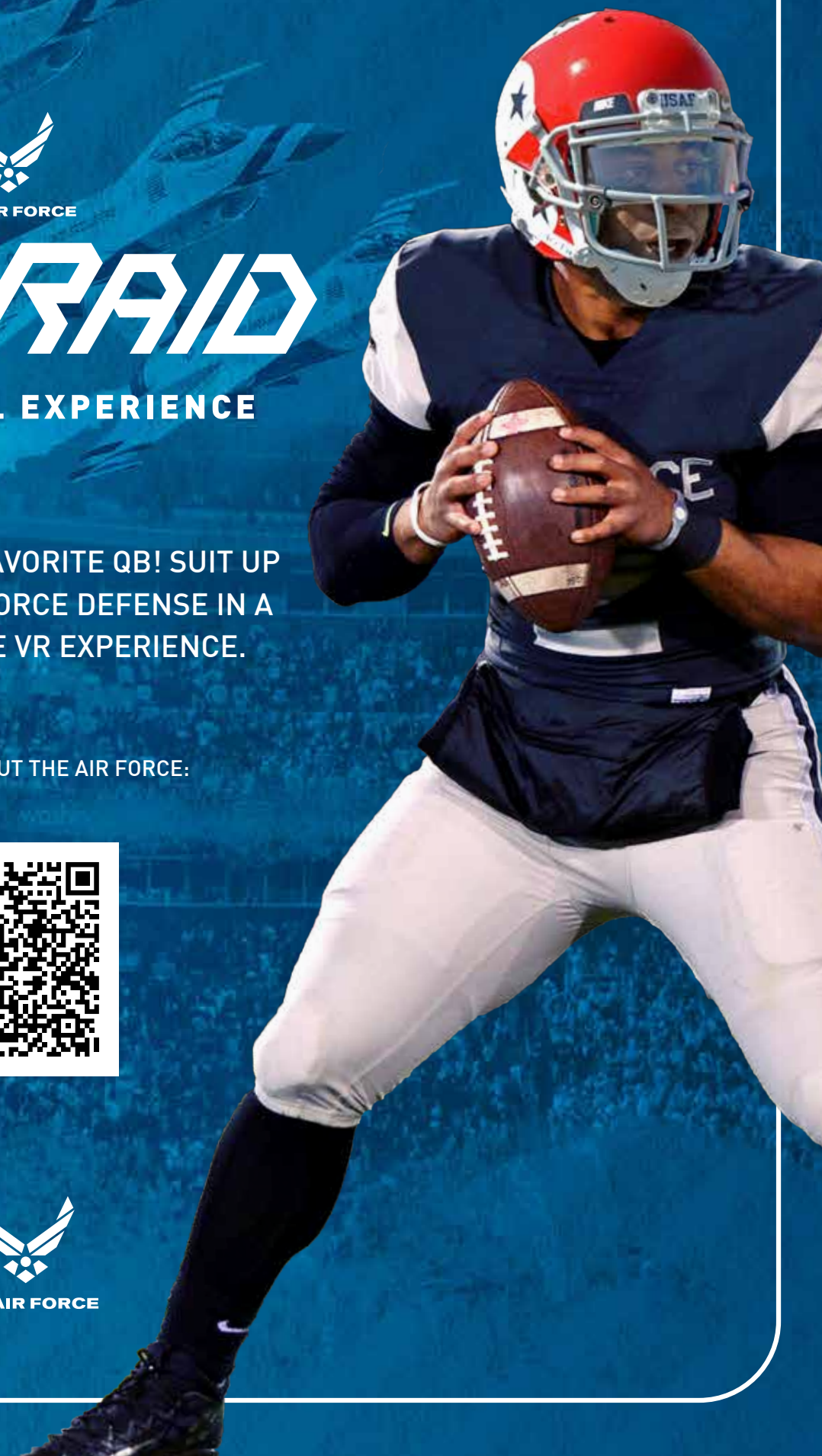



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## LOMAS BROWN

University of Florida  
Offensive Tackle, 1981-84

Lomas Brown becomes the ninth Florida player to enter the College Football Hall of Fame. Brown started 34 games in Gainesville, anchoring a line that became known as “The Great Wall of Florida” and going down as perhaps the best offensive lineman in program history.

Florida went 7-5 and 8-4 in Brown’s first two seasons before going on a tear in 1983 and ’84, finishing 18-3-2 those two seasons. Brown served as a team captain, earned consensus All-America honors and was given the Jacobs Blocking Trophy as the SEC’s top blocker.

His senior season at Florida resulted in a run that few saw coming. The Gators went 9-1-1, matching their best overall winning percentage since becoming a founding

member of the SEC in 1933. Their 5-0-1 record in conference play marked their first perfect SEC season. They beat Auburn and Georgia in the same season for the first time since 1973. Their win over the Bulldogs was their first since 1977 and one of the biggest games in school history at the time.

Florida finished the 1984 season ranked No. 3 in the AP poll. Brown was drafted sixth overall by the Detroit Lions. He spent 18 years in the NFL playing for five different teams, culminating in a Super Bowl win with Tampa Bay.

Detroit has long since been home for Brown. He has been the Lions’ radio analyst since 2018 and is active in the area, founding the Lomas Brown Jr. Foundation to help fund educational opportunities for underprivileged students.



## ERIC CROUCH

University of Nebraska  
Quarterback, 1998-2001

For an option quarterback in the 1990s, no better stage existed than the Nebraska Cornhuskers, and Eric Crouch with his speed took full advantage, ultimately being named the Heisman Trophy winner in 2001.

Crouch finished his career as only the third quarterback in NCAA history to rush for 3,000 yards and pass for 4,000 yards.

Missing his first season due to an injury, Crouch faced tough competition to land the starting job, almost leaving the team after being switched to wide receiver. As QB his sophomore season, the Cornhuskers finished 12-1, beating Texas in the Big 12 Championship, which was followed by a win against Tennessee in the Fiesta Bowl and a final No. 3 ranking.

Nebraska had a 10-2 season in 2000 with Crouch under center, capped by a 66-17 victory over Northwestern in the Alamo Bowl.

Crouch dazzled throughout his senior season, setting numerous school and NCAA records, and an appearance in the BCS National Championship Game at the Rose Bowl. The team ended the season at 11-2 and Crouch with a 35-7 record as the starting quarterback.

In 2001 he was named the Walter Camp Player of the Year, First Team All-American as both a quarterback and all-purpose player and earned the Davey O’Brien Award.

Crouch remains atop the Nebraska charts for rushing yards by a quarterback (3,434), total touchdowns (88) and career (59) and single-season (20 in 2000) rushing touchdowns by a quarterback. He becomes the 19th Husker to be inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame.



## KEITH BYARS

Ohio State University  
Running Back, 1982-85

Keith Byars, a native of Dayton, still calls his decision to go to Ohio State to play for College Football Hall of Fame Coach Earle Bruce one of the best of his life. He raced through the record books in Columbus, and he is now the 26th former Buckeyes player to make the College Football Hall of Fame.

Byars finished as the runner-up for the Heisman Trophy as a junior in 1984, as he led the nation in rushing (1,764), all-purpose yards (2,441) and scoring (144).

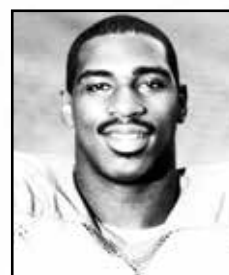
The highlight of that season came against Illinois, as Byars led the home team to victory from a 0-24 deficit by rushing for a then-single-game school record of 274

yards and five touchdowns. On his fourth touchdown of the game, he famously lost his left shoe at the Illinois 40 but never broke stride.

The Buckeyes went on to beat Michigan and win the Big Ten title. Byars became a captain his senior season in 1985, and despite his injuries throughout the year, he led his team to a victory over reigning national champion BYU in the Citrus Bowl.

To this day, Byars ranks in the top 10 all-time at OSU with 4,369 career all-purpose yards and 3,200 career rushing yards.

Byars went on to become the 10th overall pick of the Philadelphia Eagles in 1986, embarking on a 13-year career with four different teams. He currently hosts a weekly radio show in Dayton.



## ERIC DICKERSON

Southern Methodist University  
Running Back, 1979-82

Eric Dickerson, the sensation of the famed Southern Methodist University “Pony Express” duo who helped deliver two consecutive Southwest Conference (SWC) championships, now rides into the College Football Hall of Fame.

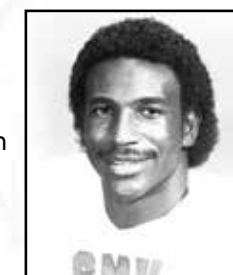
Dickerson and Craig James comprised the “Pony Express” alternating carries with option quarterback Lance McIlhenny joining the pair in the backfield, wearing down opponents.

The Sealy, Texas native had an impressive debut with 123 yards and three touchdowns against Rice, but injuries limited him during his freshman year. The following year, SMU posted an 8-4 record, including a 20-6 win in Austin against a No. 2-ranked Texas on national TV.

In 1981, Dickerson helped SMU to a No. 5 final ranking, a 10-1 record and its first SWC title since 1966. Dickerson scored 19 touchdowns and ran for 1,428 yards on the season, destroying the SMU single-season rushing record by 394 yards.

He holds 13 SMU records, including career rushing yards (4,450), single-season rushing yards (1,617), career rushing touchdowns (47) and career 100-yard rushing games (28).

A unanimous First Team All-American in 1982, Dickerson helped guide SMU to a No. 2 final ranking and an 11-0-1 record capped off by a win over Pitt in the Cotton Bowl. He finished third in the Heisman Trophy voting behind Herschel Walker and John Elway after rushing for 17 touchdowns and 1,617 yards. He becomes the seventh SMU player to enter the College Football Hall of Fame.





**LSU** **GLENN DORSEY**  
Louisiana State University  
Defensive Tackle, 2004-07

Glenn Dorsey's ascension to the College Football Hall of Fame began with him wearing orthopedic braces on his legs as a toddler. Dorsey credits his grandmother for cultivating his passion for the game early in life when he first played ball in her yard with cousins and friends. Dorsey eventually became a high school star in Gonzales, Louisiana, a short 20 miles from LSU. His high school coach Jeff Daniel credits Dorsey's humility and selflessness for his success.

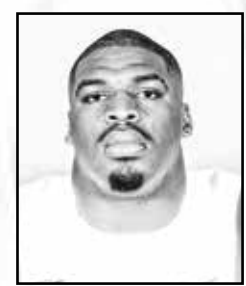
Defensive line coach Karl Dunbar first recruited Dorsey to play at Oklahoma State, but Nick Saban lured him to Death Valley. Saban left for the pros after Dorsey's freshman season, and in an interesting twist of fate, Dunbar, who Dorsey cites as one of his best coaches

ever, became his position coach at LSU for the 2005 season.

Dorsey quickly became one of LSU's team leaders, and his contributions helped produce one of the most successful four-year periods in school history with a 43-9 overall record and three top five final rankings.

He twice earned First Team All-America honors (unanimous in 2007) and won the 2007 Outland, Nagurski, Lombardi and Lott IMPACT trophies. A projected first-round NFL pick as a junior, Dorsey decided to return for his senior season, which culminated with a 38-24 win over Ohio State in the BCS National Championship Game in 2007.

Overall, Dorsey played in 52 games for LSU, including 27 straight starts and becomes the 10th Tiger player to be inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame.



**M** **JOHN ELLIOTT**  
University of Michigan  
Offensive Tackle, 1984-87

As word spread about a big kid out of Sachem High School on Long Island, schools started lining up to recruit John "Jumbo" Elliott, including Michigan head coach and future College Football Hall of Famer Bo Schembechler.

Michigan's offensive line and strength and conditioning coaches played key roles in molding Elliott into a two-time First Team All-American who finished his career with a then-school record 44 career starts by an offensive lineman.

The Wolverines went 10-1-1 in his redshirt sophomore year after beating Nebraska in the Fiesta Bowl. His senior year, the Wolverines would beat Alabama in an

emotional Hall of Fame Bowl with Schembechler recovering at home from heart surgery.

Elliott led Michigan to a share of the 1986 conference title and two top 10 finishes (No. 2 in 1985 and No. 8 in 1986). He also helped the Wolverines rush for more than 2,500 yards in each of his last three seasons. Elliott developed a special bond with running back Jamie Morris, who had three consecutive 1,000-yard rushing seasons and held the title as the Wolverines' all-time leading rusher for 14 years. The two remain close to this day.

Selected in the second round of the 1988 NFL Draft, Elliott played 14 seasons in the NFL with the Giants and the Jets, including a Super Bowl victory after the 1990 season. He currently manages a wide range of investments. Elliot becomes the 32nd Wolverine player to enter the College Football Hall of Fame.



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**JASON HANSON**  
Washington State University  
Placekicker, 1988-91

Jason Hanson becomes the fifth Cougar player inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame.

Following interest from colleges but no athletic scholarships, Hanson accepted an academic scholarship at Washington State. The walk-on quickly became a key offensive weapon for Hall of Fame Coach Dennis Erickson.

In his freshman season, the Cougars recorded their first nine-win season since 1930, beating Houston in the Aloha Bowl, the school's first postseason win in 73 years. Hanson also played a key role in the Cougars' first-ever win against a No. 1 team, a 34-30 upset over UCLA kicking field goals of 48 and 50 yards and recovered a fumbled UCLA kickoff with six minutes left.

Mike Price took over as WSU's head coach in 1989, developing a special bond and trust with Hanson who became a Four-time All-Pac-10 selection. In 1989 against BYU on national TV, Hanson kicked four field goals, including 58-, 52- and 46-yarders, to give WSU a 46-41 win.



Hanson holds several NCAA records, including career field goals of 40 yards or more (39) and 50 yards or more (20), highlighted by a still-standing school and conference record 62-yarder.

Matching his on-field success in the classroom, Hanson was an NFF National Scholar-Athlete in 1991 and a three-time First Team Academic All-American, earning unanimous honors in 1989.



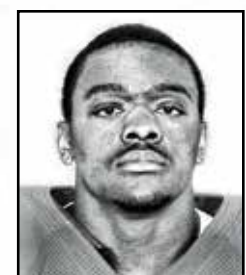
**E.J. HENDERSON**  
University of Maryland  
Linebacker, 1999-2002

E.J. Henderson remains the only two-time consensus First Team All-American in Maryland history and becomes the seventh Terrapin player to enter the College Football Hall of Fame.

After sitting out most of his first year as a redshirt freshman, Henderson finally saw game action near the end of the season and never looked back. He led Maryland in tackles his final three seasons, compiling 473 in his career, ranking second in Terrapins history. He also owns NCAA records for career solo tackles per game (8.8) and single-season solo tackles (135 in 2001).

Following back-to-back 5-6 records the school switched coaches in 2001 bringing in Ralph Friedgen and things turned around. As a junior, Henderson was named ACC

Player of the Year after leading the conference in tackles per game (13.6) and tackles for loss (28), and Maryland (10-2) claimed the 2001 ACC title, the team's first conference championship since 1985. Henderson and the Terps finished that season with a trip to the Orange Bowl and a No. 11 ranking.



A projected first-round NFL Draft pick in 2002, Henderson opted to return for his senior campaign to rehabilitate a back injury. He would lead the Terps in tackles with 175 while taking home the Bednarik and Butkus awards and earning ACC Defensive Player of the Year honors for a second consecutive time. He capped it off as the Defensive MVP in a Peach Bowl win over Tennessee, and the Terps finished 11-3.

Henderson credits his coaches and teammates for helping him to join the Hall of Fame.



**E.J. JUNIOR**  
University of Alabama  
Defensive End, 1977-80

E.J. Junior of Tennessee was a heavily recruited top high school player with a 3.98 GPA and a focus on education. Alabama wasn't originally on his list but the work ethic of College Football Hall of Fame Coach Paul "Bear" Bryant changed that.

At Alabama, Junior would help secure two national titles and three SEC titles. He was named a unanimous First Team All-American in 1980 and was a three-time First Team All-SEC selection. Junior becomes the 19th Alabama player to be inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame.

During his senior season, Junior became the leader of a vaunted defense that would only allow 67 points in 1979

and 98 points in 1980. Overall, Junior racked up 190 tackles, 21 sacks and 10 forced fumbles (tied for the school record).



The Crimson Tide went an incredible 44-4 during Junior's tenure, only losing one SEC game to Mississippi State in 1980. The other losses came against Nebraska, Southern Cal and Notre Dame. The 1979 Sugar Bowl against Penn State stands as one of the team's epic wins, ranking among the most memorable during a 28-game winning streak from 1978-80.

"I am accepting on behalf of those four classes of teammates, coaches and administrators, and the people who worked in the cafeteria and the professors because they made me who I am. I just happen to be the one who gets credit."

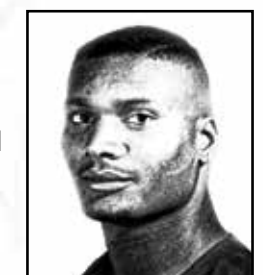


**STEVE McNAIR**  
Alcorn State University  
Quarterback, 1991-94

Steve McNair grew up playing tackle football without pads against his five brothers as a youngster in Mount Olive, Mississippi. He hoped to play quarterback like his older brother, Fred, who preceded him as the quarterback at Alcorn State. The younger McNair was recruited by numerous high-profile schools, including Florida, Florida State, Miami (FL), LSU and Mississippi State. But they wanted him as a defensive back. Alcorn gave him the opportunity at QB.

The legend began with Alcorn State trailing the Grambling Tigers in the first game of the season his freshman year. Needing a spark, Alcorn State coach Cardell Jones called up McNair off the bench and he delivered three touchdowns for the 27-22 victory. McNair

never looked back, starting every game during the next four years while rewriting the NCAA record books and bringing unprecedented media attention to Alcorn.



By the time McNair exited for the pros, he had amassed an FCS-record 16,823 career total yards and 14,496 passing yards, which stood as the national high-water mark until 2018. He claimed the Walter Payton Award in 1994 and the Eddie Robinson Trophy as the nation's best HBCU player. He was third in the Heisman Trophy voting, which ties the highest finish ever by an FCS player. It was a special college career, which included McNair forgoing the NFL Draft to return for his senior season.

McNair was drafted third overall in 1995 by the Houston Oilers/Tennessee Titans franchise, and played in the NFL for 13 seasons.



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## **Ucla** CADE McNOWN UCLA Quarterback, 1995-98

Cade McNown started playing football in fifth grade, and while he liked to run for yards, his college coaches changed that, making McNown UCLA's all-time leading passer with 10,708 yards and the school's 13th College Football Hall of Fame inductee.

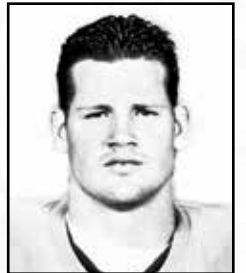
College Football Hall of Famer Terry Donahue, head coach Bob Toledo – who took over for Donahue in McNown's sophomore year – and Al Borges all played key roles in turning the four-year starter into a consensus First Team All-America quarterback.

Donahue made the true freshman the starting quarterback four games into the 1995 season. The decision would eventually allow McNown to become the

only quarterback on either side of the UCLA-USC crosstown rivalry to win all four games during his career.

McNown guided the Bruins to Pac-10 titles in 1998 and 1997 and consecutive 10-2 seasons. The 1997 season would begin with consecutive close losses and end with a No. 5 national ranking following McNown's Offensive MVP performance in a win over Texas A&M in the Cotton Bowl.

The 1998 season concluded with dramatic losses to Miami (FL) and then Wisconsin in the Rose Bowl Game. McNown notched the UCLA single-game record with 513 passing yards against the Hurricanes and a Bruins bowl record of 340 passing yards against the Badgers. The 1998 team finished with a No. 8 final ranking, and McNown finished third in the Heisman voting, having accumulated 3,470 passing yards and 3,652 total offensive yards.



## **OSU** LESLIE O'NEAL Oklahoma State University Defensive Tackle, 1982-85

Leslie O'Neal was a two-time All-American who anchored some of the best defenses in Oklahoma State history. He became the fourth Cowboys player to enter the College Football Hall of Fame, and the only pure defensive player from the program.

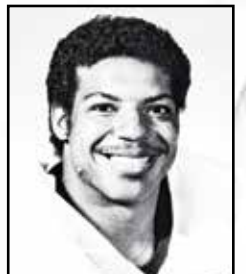
Originally recruited by Hall of Fame coach Jimmy Johnson as a tight end, he was moved to defense early in his second year under coach Pat Jones.

In 1984, Oklahoma State made it to the Gator Bowl finishing 10-2 and No. 5 in the coaches' poll. In his senior year, the Cowboys went 8-4 putting the program on the national map. The 1984 and '85 defenses allowed just 34 total touchdowns. O'Neal was named Big Eight Defensive Player of the Year in 1984 and earned First Team All-America status in each of his last two college seasons.

O'Neal's 16 sacks in 1984 remain a single-season program record, as does his career mark of 34 sacks. He amassed 393 career tackles and led the Pokes to three-straight bowl berths. He still owns the school record for career sacks with 34 and his career TFL (47) rank second.

Jones said O'Neal was as impactful in the locker room as he was on the field, well-respected by his teammates and a great leader. O'Neal's era helped pave the way for all of the success in Stillwater since.

The San Diego Chargers drafted O'Neal at No. 8 overall in 1986. O'Neal played 14 seasons for three different NFL teams. He made the Pro Bowl six times, and he is tied with Lawrence Taylor for 14th on the league's all-time sacks list with 132.5.







## ANTHONY POINDEXTER

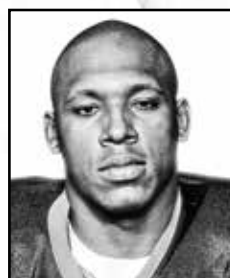
University of Virginia  
Defensive Back, 1995-98

From the moment Anthony Poindexter stepped onto the field at Virginia as a redshirt freshman, he made an impact. By the end of his college playing career, he would become just the second two-time First Team All-American in UVA history and in 2020, the school's fifth inductee into the College Football Hall of Fame.

A star football player at Jefferson Forest High School outside of Charlottesville, Poindexter chose Virginia so his parents could watch him play on Saturdays.

Playing for Hall of Fame head coach George Welsh, Poindexter established the school record of seven career fumble recoveries while his 342 career tackles are the second-most all-time among Cavalier defensive backs. He is one of only three Cavaliers to be a three-

time First Team All-ACC selection. He was a leader on and off the field, being elected captain twice by his teammates.



He opted against the NFL Draft, returning for his senior season, despite his coach's advice. The team went 9-3 his final year, but he suffered a knee injury against NC State that would shorten his pro career. The upside: it led him to coaching and his current position as co-defensive coordinator and safeties coach at Penn State.

"I don't regret going back to school. It led me into coaching, and I am the poster child for telling kids to get their degree because injuries can happen. I tell [my players] if I didn't get my degree, I would not be able to be here today coaching you."



## DAVID POLLACK

University of Georgia  
Defensive End, 2001-04

David Pollack, one of the greatest defensive ends in the history of college football, began his college career as a fullback, played three positions in his first six months on campus, ultimately switched to defense and became the 15th Bulldog player to enter the College Football Hall of Fame.

His toughness and hard style of play and leadership qualities led to him being selected as a three-time First Team All-American. He was honored as the 2002 SEC Player of the Year and 2004 SEC Defensive Player of the Year.

Pollack ended his sophomore season on defense and the Bulldogs, led by Coach Mark Richt, went 13-1, the most wins in Georgia history.

During Pollack's college career the Bulldogs posted a 34-6 record, including wins in the Sugar, Capital One and Outback Bowls and three Top Ten finishes. He received the Bednarik, Rotary Lombardi and Lott IMPACT trophies in 2004 and is the only two-time recipient of the Ted Hendricks Award. Pollack holds Georgia's record for sacks (36), tackles for loss (58.5) and tied for blocked punts (3).



Selected in the first round of the 2005 NFL Draft by the Bengals, Pollack suffered an injury in 2006, which limited his pro career to three years. He moved to broadcasting in 2008 and currently appears as an analyst on ESPN's *College GameDay*.

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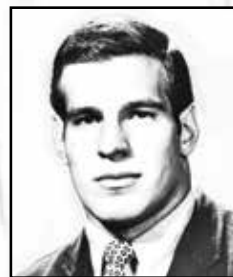


**BOB STEIN**  
University of Minnesota  
Defensive End, 1966-68

Bob Stein was a high school star on the gridiron and in the classroom in suburban Minneapolis. Recruited by Ivy League schools, he chose his home state Minnesota Golden Gophers. He became the 19th Minnesota player to enter the College Football Hall of Fame after being selected by the NFF Veterans Committee.

Playing defensive end and placekicker for the Gophers under coach Murray Warmath, he was selected as a First Team All-American and two-time All-Big Ten selection. Stein also earned Academic All-Big Ten honors three times, Academic All-America laurels twice and was recognized as an NFF National Scholar-Athlete. His combined academic and athletic accomplishments make him one of only 40 individuals in history to earn both Hall and NFF National Scholar-Athlete accolades.

He got his first start as a sophomore in a 17-0 win over Iowa with 12 tackles in three quarters before a season-ending injury. The next season Stein anchored a defense that surrendered just 10.6 points per game and Minnesota tied for the Big Ten title with an 8-2 record.



In 1968, he kicked a then school-record 40-yard field goal, the Gophers finished 6-4, and was named Walter Camp All-American. Missing out on a Rhodes Scholarship as a semifinalist, Stein was drafted by the Chiefs.

Stein played seven NFL seasons with four teams, earning a Super Bowl ring his rookie season with Kansas City. During off-seasons he earned a law degree at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Back in his hometown he became a sports attorney and spent five years as the first president and CEO of the NBA's Minnesota Timberwolves.



**MICHAEL WESTBROOK**  
University of Colorado  
Wide Receiver, 1991-94

Michael Westbrook earned legendary status at the University of Colorado and became the eighth Buffalo player to enter the College Football Hall of Fame.

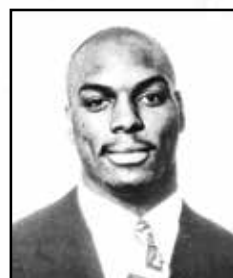
Westbrook was best known for the "Miracle at Michigan," when he caught a 64-yard Hail Mary from Kordell Stewart to upset No. 4 Michigan, 27-26 in 1994. The victory in Ann Arbor was particularly special for the childhood Wolverines fan who had been ignored by his home state school. The Buffs finished at No. 3 in the final rankings with an 11-1 record that season.

The Detroit native became Colorado's all-time leader in receptions (167), receiving yards (2,548) and receiving touchdowns (19) at the time. Westbrook ended up at

Colorado because then-Buffs coach and College Football Hall of Famer Bill McCartney was visiting his high school to see another player.

Westbrook was a Consensus First Team All-American in 1994 who led the Buffs to four bowl berths, including wins in the 1993 Aloha Bowl over Fresno State and the 1995 Fiesta Bowl over Notre Dame, and four top 20 finishes. The two-time All-Big Eight performer led CU to a share of the 1991 league title.

He was the fourth overall pick in the 1995 NFL Draft. Westbrook played eight seasons in the NFL for Washington and Cincinnati.



**ELMO WRIGHT**  
University of Houston  
Wide Receiver, 1968-70

One of the most memorable careers in Houston football happened by accident. Elmo Wright's passion through most of his teenage years was music. While playing the saxophone on his high school field in 10th grade, he caught an errant pass right in the mouth, forcing him out of the band, so he turned to football. That stroke of fate resulted in Wright becoming the third former Cougar player to make the College Football Hall of Fame.

Wright is widely credited with being the first player to dance in the end zone after touchdowns. He said dancing also served as motivation to get himself ready for game day because he knew that if he celebrated the defense was coming after him.

In Wright's first season he earned Honorable Mention All-America honors. He set an NCAA record with eight touchdown catches of 50 yards or more. His average yards per score of 56.1 yards that season is another NCAA record. (Both still stand.)



Wright became a Second Team All-American and an Academic All-American in 1969. In his senior season, Wright went on to earn consensus First Team All-America honors. He still holds program records for all-purpose career average yards per play (21.0), yards per catch in a season (27.9, 1968), yards per catch in a career (21.9) and 200-yard receiving games (four).

The Chiefs made Wright the Cougars' first-ever first-round pick in 1971, starting a five-year NFL career. Later Wright applied lessons of teamwork and preparation in his role in the Harris County government in Houston for more than 25 years.



**DICK SHERIDAN**  
Furman, 1978-85  
North Carolina State, 1986-92

He won more than 100 career games while coaching for 15 seasons at the college level, earning numerous coach of the year awards along the way. But early in his college life, Dick Sheridan did not aspire to be a coach.

The engineering major realized during an internship that engineering wasn't the career for him. However, he learned the value of practical experience, a lesson that he would always pass on to his players.

While head coach at Furman and NC State, he posted .500 or better conference records in all but one of those seasons, while positively impacting countless lives along the way.

Sheridan won six Southern Conference titles while at Furman, where he took over as head coach in 1978 after

spending five years as an assistant. While coaching in Greenville, South Carolina, he twice beat NC State, which ended up hiring him. In Raleigh, Sheridan then led the Wolfpack to six bowl games in seven years before retiring in 1992.



"Any individual honor like that, especially in the sport of football, is a group success; it's not an individual success," Sheridan said.

Sheridan now lives in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, and still helps operate a sporting goods store in Orangeburg that he helped launch more than 50 years ago when he was a high school coach in the area. One of Sheridan's sons' coaches in Sheridan's hometown of North Augusta, Georgia, and his other son works in pharmaceuticals in Greenville, where Sheridan raised his family.





## ANDY TALLEY

St. Lawrence, 1979-83  
Villanova, 1985-2016

From a very early age, Andy Talley always knew he wanted not only to play football but also to coach football. As a child, he put together neighborhood teams and as a coach, he was a skilled recruiter.

In 1981, Villanova had abruptly dropped football, so when Talley arrived on campus in 1984 after a five-year stint and a 28-18-1 record at St. Lawrence (NY), he was charged with resurrecting the program. It was a return to his roots; he had grown up in nearby Haverford, where he was first bitten by the coaching bug.

Talley coached Villanova to the 2009 FCS title after a 23-21 victory over Montana. Upon retiring following the

2016 season after 32 years, Talley had won a school-record 230 games, and his teams had appeared in the postseason 12 times. Now Talley becomes the first St. Lawrence or Wildcat player or coach to be enshrined in the College Football Hall of Fame.



“Air Talley” became known for his high-octane attack that would yield three Walter Payton Award winners: receiver Brian Finneran (1997), running back Brian Westbrook (2001) and quarterback John Robertson (2014).

Some of Talley's most significant triumphs have come off the field through his efforts to locate bone marrow donors. Since 2008, he has partnered with the Be The Match Foundation. He has engaged 150 college football teams to do bone marrow drives resulting in at least 715 transplants. He's proud to be able to use the strength of college football to save lives.



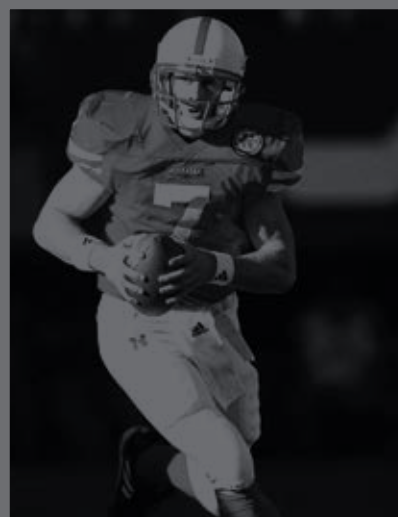
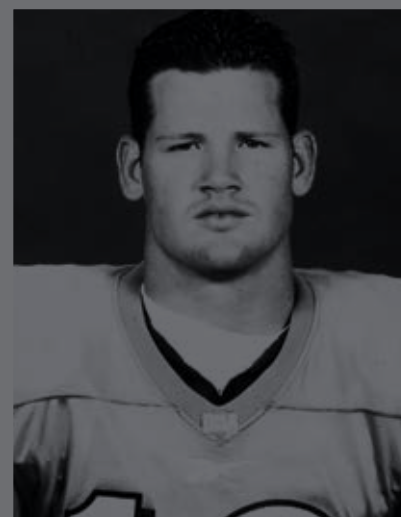
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