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2024 National High School Football Hall of Fame Inductee

2025 Hall of Fame Class

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Good Evening! Welcome to the 2025 3rd annual National High School Football Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony here in the City of Canton, Ohio. I want to thank you all for coming out to this historical event to honor (40) of the world's greatest high school football players, coaches and contributors.

The National High School Football Hall of Fame will continue to support and help foster the history of the game of football and to honor players, coaches, teams and contributors as long as we have your support.

The National High School Football Hall of Fame is looking forward to also working with the City of Canton, its corporations, civic institutions and other organizations to bring more events to football fans from all over the country and to show why the City of Canton and the State of Ohio is the Football cradle of the World!!!

Thank you for supporting the inductees, please have a wonderful time this evening!

LaMont "ShowBoat" Robinson
Founder/CEO
National High School Football
Hall of Fame Foundation



The Founder LaMont Robinson with Jim Brown in McKinley High School parking lot (1995)



PRESENTED BY **HOF** NETWORK



TAVIEN ST. CLAIR QB
BELLEFONTAINE HIGH SCHOOL



Jim Tressel

A Legacy of Coaching and Community Service

Jim Tressel, born in Mentor, Ohio, is a legendary football coach and transformational leader. He led Youngstown State to four national titles and Ohio State to a 2002 BCS Championship and seven Big Ten titles. Known for discipline and academic excellence, he later served as president of Youngstown State University, focusing on student success and community engagement. A lifelong advocate for youth and education, he's supported scholarships, youth football, and leadership programs. In 2025, Tressel was appointed Ohio's lieutenant governor, where he continues advancing education and workforce development across the state. His impact spans athletics, academia, and public service.

The Paul Brown Visionary Award

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National High School Football Hall of Fame



STEVE ATWATER
Lutheran North High School
Class of 1985

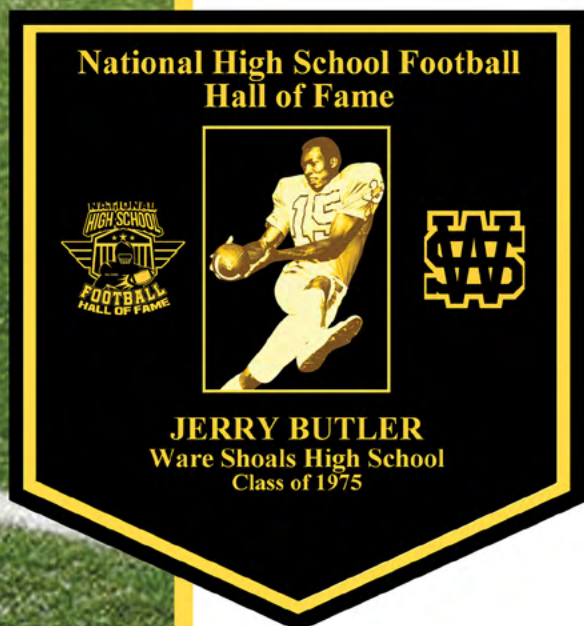
Steve Atwater's football legacy took root at Lutheran North High School in St. Louis, Missouri, where he first showcased the talent and leadership that would define his career. At Lutheran North, Atwater was a standout athlete, excelling on both sides of the ball. Playing quarterback and safety, he demonstrated a rare combination of size, speed, and intelligence. His versatility made him one of the top high school football players in Missouri. Atwater's commanding presence in the defensive backfield and his strong arm as a quarterback helped lead Lutheran North to multiple successful seasons and earned him recognition across the region. His performance at Lutheran North caught the attention of college scouts nationwide, and he accepted a scholarship to play at the University of Arkansas. There, he transitioned fully to the safety position and became a two-time All-Southwest Conference selection. His college success propelled him to the NFL, where he was drafted in the first round (20th overall) by the Denver Broncos in 1989. He emerged as one of football's fiercest safeties playing 10 seasons with the Broncos and one with the New York Jets, earning eight Pro Bowl selections and winning two Super Bowls. Known for his bone-jarring hits, Atwater built a legacy as one of the most intimidating safeties in league history. In 2020, he was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

National High School Football Hall of Fame



CHARLIE BATCH
Steel Valley High School
Class of 1993

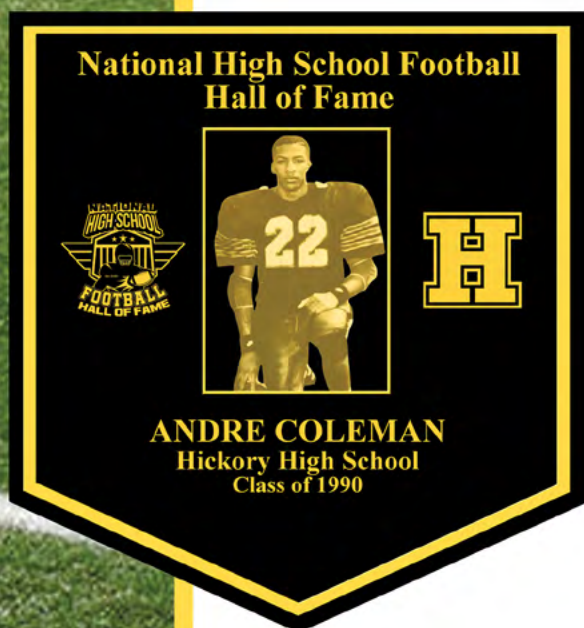
Charlie Batch, a native of Homestead, Pennsylvania, began making his mark on the football field at Steel Valley High School, where his natural leadership and athletic ability quickly earned him recognition as one of the top quarterbacks in the state. As a standout player for the Ironmen, Batch led his team with poise, accuracy, and a deep understanding of the game, setting the stage for his future success. During his time at Steel Valley, Batch was known for his strong arm, quick decision-making, and ability to rally his teammates in key moments. His high school career was highlighted by numerous accolades, including All-State honors, and he became one of the most heavily recruited quarterbacks in Western Pennsylvania, a region renowned for producing legendary football talent. His success earned him a scholarship to Eastern Michigan University, where he would go on to become one of the most productive quarterbacks in school history. From there, Charlie Batch was selected in the second round of the 1998 NFL Draft by the Detroit Lions and later played several seasons with the Pittsburgh Steelers, where he served as both a starter and a dependable backup, winning two Super Bowl rings with the team.



Jerry Butler was born in Ware Shoals, South Carolina and attended Ware Shoals High School. A 1975 graduate, Butler was a four-year, four-sport letterman, showcasing his versatility and dedication across football, basketball, track, and baseball. His outstanding performance earned him the prestigious Camak Ring, an honor bestowed upon the school's top athlete. Following his high school success, Butler attended Clemson University on a track scholarship. However, his passion for football led him to transition to the gridiron, where he became an exceptional wide receiver for the Tigers. Butler's collegiate achievements included being named a First-Team All-American in 1978 and earning All-ACC honors. His stellar performance caught the attention of the NFL, and in 1979, he was selected fifth overall by the Buffalo Bills. During his professional career, Butler was named the AFC Rookie of the Year and earned a Pro Bowl selection in 1980.



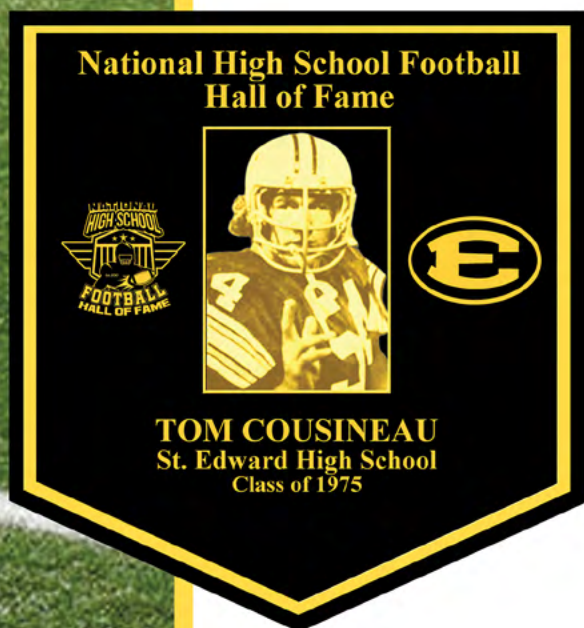
Earl Christian Campbell, affectionately known as "The Tyler Rose," began his illustrious football journey at John Tyler High School in Tyler, Texas. Initially playing as a defensive end, Campbell's exceptional athleticism and power led to his transition to the running back position—a move that would define his football legacy. In his senior year in 1973, under the guidance of head coach Corky Nelson, Campbell led the John Tyler Lions to an impeccable 15–0 season, culminating in a Class 4A Texas state championship—the highest classification in the state at the time. During that championship run, he amassed an astounding 2,893 rushing yards, showcasing a rare blend of speed, strength, and determination that overwhelmed opposing defenses. Campbell's dominance on the field earned him national recognition as he was named Mr. Football USA in 1973, an honor bestowed upon the nation's top high school football player. Following his stellar high school career, Campbell accepted a scholarship to the University of Texas, where he continued to excel, eventually winning the Heisman Trophy in 1977. He later enjoyed a Hall of Fame career in the NFL, primarily with the Houston Oilers.



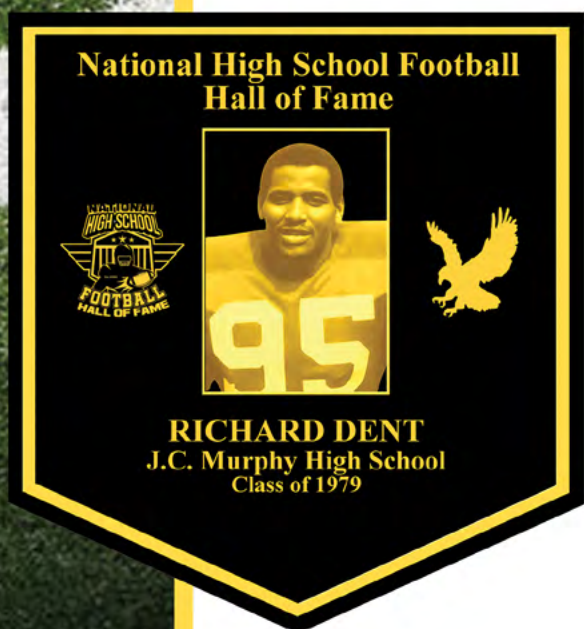
Andre Coleman hails from Hermitage, Pennsylvania and is a former professional football player and current coach. He began his football journey at Hickory High School in Hermitage, where he played as a wide receiver and return specialist. Coleman was a key contributor to Hickory's AAA state championship team and was recognized as the 1989 Pennsylvania Player of the Year by EasternPAFootball.com. Following high school, Coleman attended Kansas State University, where he continued to excel as a wide receiver and return specialist. In 1993, he earned third-team All-American and first-team All-Big Eight honors. His collegiate success led to his selection in the third round of the 1994 NFL Draft by the San Diego Chargers. Coleman's professional career spanned five seasons in the NFL, during which he played for the San Diego Chargers, Seattle Seahawks, and Pittsburgh Steelers. He is perhaps best known for his performance in Super Bowl XXIX, where he set several records, including most kickoff returns (8), most return yards (244), and most total yards (244) in a Super Bowl game. After retiring from professional football, Coleman transitioned into coaching. He has held various coaching positions, including roles at Youngstown State University, Kansas State University, and the University of Texas and as an offensive assistant for the Washington Commanders in the NFL.



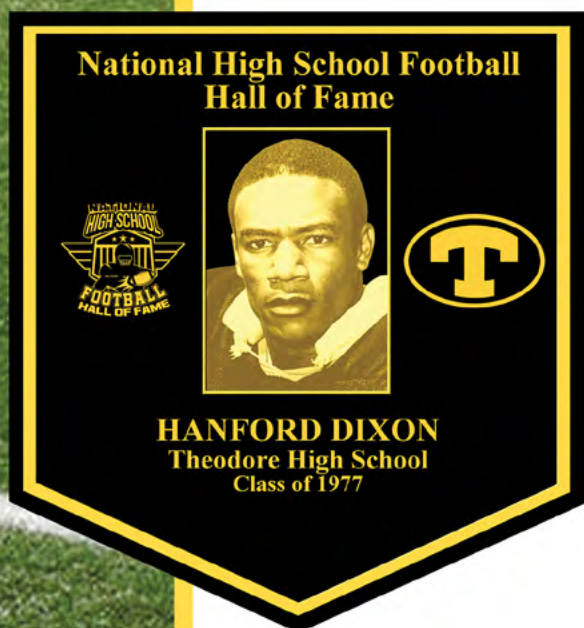
Quarterback Tim Couch began turning heads on the gridiron at a young age, especially during his time at Leslie County High School. At Leslie County, Couch quickly gained national attention for his record-breaking performances. As the centerpiece of the Eagles' offense, he shattered Kentucky state records and set national high school marks, including most passing completions in a season (400) and most passing yards in a season (4,151) at the time. His remarkable high school career saw him throw for over 12,000 yards and 132 touchdowns, making him one of the most celebrated high school quarterbacks in American football history. His success drew widespread media attention, and he was named the USA Today High School Offensive Player of the Year in 1995. Couch's high school legacy made him a prized recruit, and he committed to the University of Kentucky, where he played in a pass-heavy "Air Raid" offense. At UK, he continued his high-level play, breaking numerous Southeastern Conference records and becoming a Heisman Trophy finalist. Couch declared for the NFL Draft after his junior season and was selected as the No. 1 overall pick by the Cleveland Browns in the 1999 NFL Draft.



Tom Cousineau emerged as a standout athlete during his high school years at St. Edward High School in Lakewood, Ohio, opting for the parochial powerhouse over his local public school. Cousineau quickly made his mark as a dominant linebacker and accomplished wrestler. At St. Edward, Cousineau's athletic prowess was evident. He was not only an All-Ohio selection in football but also a state finalist in wrestling. His exceptional performance on the football field made him one of the most highly recruited high school players in the nation by the time he graduated in 1975. Following his stellar high school career, Cousineau chose to play college football at Ohio State University under the legendary coach Woody Hayes. There, he continued to excel, becoming a two-time All-American and setting multiple school records, including the single-season tackle record with 211 in 1978. His collegiate success led to his selection as the first overall pick in the 1979 NFL Draft by the Buffalo Bills. However, Cousineau opted to begin his professional career in the Canadian Football League with the Montreal Alouettes, where he was named the Grey Cup Most Valuable Player in 1979. He later returned to the NFL, playing for the Cleveland Browns and the San Francisco 49ers. Cousineau's contributions to football have been recognized through his inductions into both the St. Edward High School Athletic Hall of Fame and the College Football Hall of Fame in 2016.



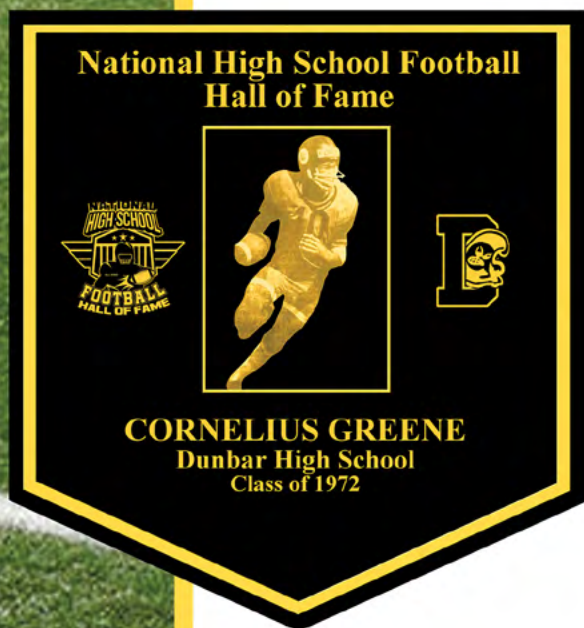
Richard Dent, a dominant force on the football field, began his journey to NFL stardom at J.C. Murphy High School in Atlanta, Georgia. It was here, on the high school gridiron, that Dent first showcased the raw talent and relentless work ethic that would later define his career. Playing defensive end, Dent quickly developed a reputation for his explosive speed off the line, sharp instincts, and powerful tackles. Despite facing opponents who often outweighed him, Dent's tenacity and athleticism set him apart. Though he entered Murphy High as a relatively unknown player, Dent's performance earned him increasing recognition during his upperclassman years. He was a standout on a team that was not always in the spotlight, yet his individual efforts left an impression on coaches and scouts alike. After graduating, Dent continued his football career at Tennessee State University, a historically Black college where he blossomed into a dominant pass rusher. He was eventually selected by the Chicago Bears in the 8th round of the 1983 NFL Draft, a pick that would become one of the greatest draft steals in league history. Dent went on to become a Super Bowl XX MVP, a four-time Pro Bowler, and was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2011.



Hanford Dixon, born in Mobile, Alabama, began his football journey at Theodore High School, where he showcased exceptional talent and versatility. During his high school years, Dixon was a three-sport athlete, lettering in football, basketball, and track. On the football field, he played multiple positions, including defensive back, split end, running back, and kick returner. His outstanding performance earned him the title of conference MVP on defense twice, highlighting his dominance on the field. He went on to play college football at the University of Southern Mississippi, where he earned All-America honors as a defensive back. In the 1981 NFL Draft, Dixon was selected in the first round by the Cleveland Browns. He enjoyed a stellar professional career, earning multiple All-Pro and Pro Bowl honors, and is credited with coining the term "Dawg Pound" for the Browns' passionate fan base.



Luke Fickell, born in Columbus, Ohio, began his football journey at St. Francis DeSales High School, where he emerged as a standout athlete in both football and wrestling. Despite starting football in his junior year, Fickell quickly made an impact, earning First-Team All-Ohio honors as a tight end. In his senior year, he transitioned to center, showcasing his versatility and team-first mentality. That season, he recorded 75 tackles and 10 sacks, earning accolades such as Division III Ohio Lineman of the Year and the Dispatch-Agonis Lineman of the Year. Fickell's wrestling career was equally impressive. He was a four-year letter winner and secured three consecutive OHSAA heavyweight state championships from 1990 to 1992. His exceptional high school performances led him to Ohio State University, where he became a four-year starter at nose guard, setting a school record with 50 consecutive starts. Fickell's dedication and leadership qualities, evident from his high school days, laid the foundation for his future roles as a coach at Ohio State, the University of Cincinnati and the University of Wisconsin.



Cornelius Greene emerged as a standout athlete at Dunbar High School in Washington D.C. during the early 1970s. Excelling in football, basketball, and baseball, he earned varsity letters in all three sports. As the quarterback for Dunbar's football team, Greene's dynamic playmaking abilities and leadership skills garnered significant attention. His performances led to his recognition as the 1971 D.C. High School Player of the Year by the D.C. Touchdown Club. Greene's athletic prowess attracted scholarship offers from approximately 80 colleges. He ultimately chose Ohio State University, valuing both its academic and athletic programs. In 1973, he made history by becoming the first African American starting quarterback at Ohio State. During his tenure, Greene led the Buckeyes to a 31-3-1 record, secured four Big Ten Conference championships, and participated in four Rose Bowls, earning MVP honors in the 1974 Rose Bowl. In 1975, he was named a first-team All-American and the Big Ten Most Valuable Player. Following his collegiate career, Greene had brief stints with the Dallas Cowboys and Seattle Seahawks, and later played in the Canadian Football League and semi-professional leagues. He returned to Washington, D.C., in 1982, dedicating himself to community work and coaching at St. Albans School. His contributions to sports were further recognized with his induction into the D.C. High School Sports Hall of Fame in 2020.



Ken Hall tallied some extraordinary numbers during his time as the Gators' running back at Sugar Land High School in Texas. From 1950 through 1953 "The Sugar Land Express" ran for 569, 3,160, 3,458 and 4,045 totaling 11,232 career yards. That all-time national record stood until Derrick Henry broke it in 2012. Hall still holds the national record for most points per game (32.9). He recorded 38 100 yard games during his career. In a 1953 game versus Houston Lutheran High School, Hall rushed for 520 yards, returned a punt 82 yards for a touchdown, returned a kickoff for 64 yards, and returned an interception for 21 yards totaling 687 yards gained. He signed with Texas A&M, but never played. Hall also had stints in the CFL and AFL helping the Houston Oilers win titles in 1960 and 1961.

National High School Football Hall of Fame



BEN HARRIS

Mattie T. Blount High School
Head Coach: 1988-1997, 2003-2008

Before Ben Harris built one of Alabama's most dominant high school football dynasties, he was already making his mark on the field as a standout quarterback at Alabama State University. Harris began his coaching journey with a head coaching position at Clayton High School in 1982, followed by an assistant coaching role at Baldwin County High School. In 1988, he accepted the head coaching position at Mattie T. Blount High School, a program that had struggled having just finished a 1-9 season and was overshadowed by rival Vigor High, which had dominated the series for over a decade. Just three players showed up to his first spring practice. Undeterred, Harris forged ahead opening the season with a win, and then capturing its first area title and playoff victory. Harris went on to lead the Leopards to five Class 5A state championships (1990, 1992, 1996, 1997). They finished as state runners-up in both 1991 and 1995. His contributions have earned him numerous accolades over the years such as the NFL High School Coach of the Year Award, the Alabama Football Coaches Association Lifetime Achievement Award and the Lefty Anderson Service Through Coaches Award. Coach Harris' legacy is lasting, defined by leadership, excellence, and a relentless drive to uplift young men and entire communities through the game of football.

National High School Football Hall of Fame



JEFF HERRON

Camden County High School
Head Coach: 2000-2012, 2021-2023

Jeff Herron is a legendary figure in Georgia high school football, celebrated for his transformative leadership and remarkable success across multiple programs. Herron began his coaching journey as an assistant at Paulding County and McEachern High Schools. He secured his first head coaching position at Walton High School in 1989, followed by tenures at Cedar Shoals (1990-1993) and Wheeler High School (1995-1996). Taking over a struggling program, Herron led Oconee County to a perfect 15-0 season and the Class 3A state championship in 1999, the school's first and only state title. Herron's most notable tenure was at Camden County High School, where he transformed the Wildcats into a dominant force. During his first stint, the team achieved a 154-18 record, won three Class 5A state championships (2003, 2008, 2009), 12 consecutive region titles, and set a state record with 58 straight regular-season victories. He returned in 2021, leading the team to a 10-4 season and a semifinal appearance in 2023. Over a 32-year head coaching career, Herron amassed an impressive 334-69 record, including 309 victories in Georgia. He is uniquely distinguished as the only coach in Georgia to secure state championships at three different schools. He was named Region or Area Coach of the Year 25 times and Georgia Coach of the Year nine times. In 2009, he was honored as the Atlanta Falcons High School Coach of the Year.

National High School Football Hall of Fame



ALLEN IVERSON
Bethel High School
Class of 1994

Allen Iverson is best known as an all-time great basketball player. His football career at Bethel High School in Hampton, Virginia was also prolific. His junior year he tallied 2,220 yards throwing 14 touchdowns and scoring 21 more times from rushing, kick returns and interceptions. He once recorded seven interceptions in one game. Iverson, known as "The Answer" was a dual-sport athlete leading the Bruins to Virginia state championships in both football and basketball. On the gridiron, he played running back, kick returner and defensive back but really excelled at quarterback. He was also a star point guard earning him the Associated Press High School Player of the Year award in football and basketball. Iverson was the top quarterback recruit in 1994 before choosing to play basketball at Georgetown University. He went on to play 14 seasons in the NBA primarily with the Philadelphia 76ers. He was elected into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2016.

National High School Football Hall of Fame

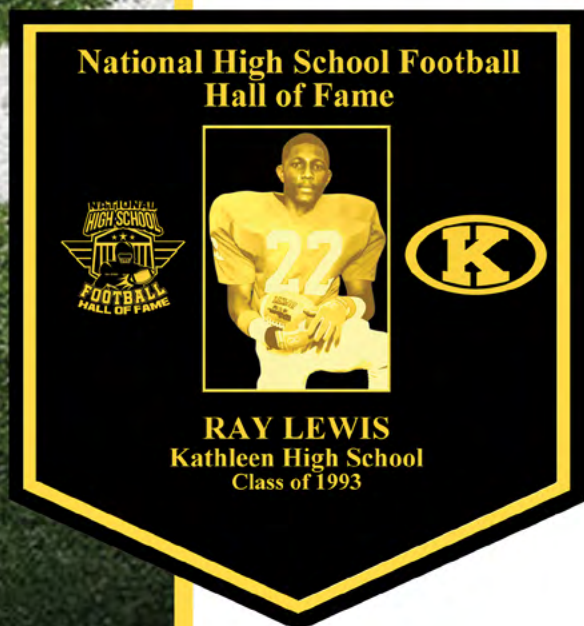


CRAIG JAMES
Stratford High School
Class of 1979

Craig James emerged as a standout athlete during his time at Stratford High School in Houston. In 1978, his senior year, James led the Stratford Spartans to a perfect 15-0 season, culminating in a Class 4A Texas state championship. Operating within a potent wishbone offense, James shattered Earl Campbell's previous Class 4A single-season rushing record by amassing 2,411 yards, despite averaging fewer than 15 carries per game. His performance was instrumental in Stratford's offense, which accumulated over 7,000 rushing yards and scored 532 points that season, ranking second-most in Class 4A history at the time. James's 275 points scored in the 1978 season remain one of the highest single-season totals in Texas high school football history. Following his high school success, James attended Southern Methodist University, where he formed the "Pony Express" backfield alongside Eric Dickerson. He later played professionally for the Washington Federals in the USFL and the New England Patriots in the NFL, earning a Pro Bowl selection in 1985 and participating in Super Bowl XX.



Leroy Kelly first demonstrated his exceptional athleticism at Simon Gratz High School in Philadelphia Pennsylvania. At Gratz, Kelly was a versatile athlete, excelling in football, basketball, and baseball. In football, he played multiple positions, including quarterback, middle linebacker, punter, kicker, and kick returner. His outstanding performance earned him three letters in both football and baseball, and he was recognized as the district's all-city quarterback and shortstop. Kelly's leadership qualities were evident as he captained the football team and was voted the most outstanding athlete in his graduating class. Despite his high school achievements, Kelly did not receive widespread college recruitment. However, his high school coach, Louis E. DeVicaris, played a pivotal role in securing him a partial scholarship to Morgan State College in Baltimore, Maryland. At Morgan State, Kelly transitioned from quarterback to running back and continued to showcase his athletic prowess. His collegiate success led to a professional career with the Cleveland Browns, where he became a six-time Pro Bowler and was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1994.



Ray Lewis, one of the most feared and respected linebackers in NFL history, began forging his legendary football path at Kathleen High School in Lakeland, Florida. At Kathleen, Lewis quickly stood out as a dominant athlete, showcasing a rare blend of speed, strength, and leadership that made him a force on both sides of the ball. He played linebacker and also contributed as a running back, earning a reputation for his hard-hitting tackles and relentless energy. Even as a teenager, Lewis approached the game with an unmatched intensity. His work ethic was evident in every practice and game, and he emerged as the heart of the Kathleen Red Devils' defense. His passion and natural instincts, traits that helped him become one of the top high school players in Florida during his senior year. Lewis's standout performances at Kathleen earned him a scholarship to the University of Miami, where he continued to dominate at linebacker. In 1996, he was drafted in the first round by the Baltimore Ravens, launching a career that would include two Super Bowl titles, 13 Pro Bowl selections, and a place in the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2018.

National High School Football Hall of Fame



FRANK MINNIFIELD
Henry Clay High School
Class of 1979

Frank Minnifield kicked off his football career at Henry Clay High School in Lexington, Kentucky. Despite standing at just 5 feet 9 inches and weighing 140 pounds, Minnifield's athleticism and versatility made him a standout player. He excelled on both sides of the ball, playing as a tailback and safety, and his performance was instrumental in leading Henry Clay to a playoff appearance during his senior year. Following high school, Minnifield walked on to the University of Louisville football team, where he earned a scholarship and became a four-year letterman. Minnifield went on to have a successful professional career, playing as a cornerback for the Cleveland Browns from 1984 to 1992. Minnifield was named to the PFWA All-Rookie Team in 1984. He was selected to four consecutive Pro Bowls (1986–1989) and was named to the NFL 1980s and was named to the All-Decade Team.

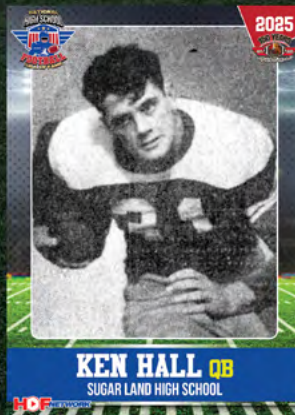
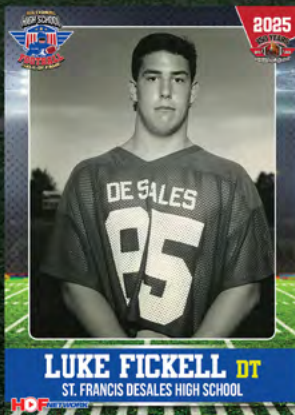
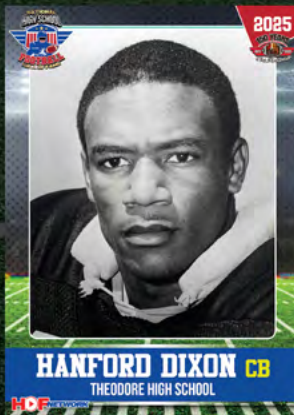
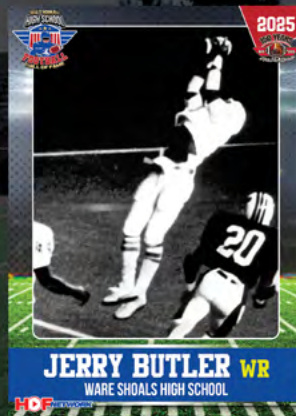
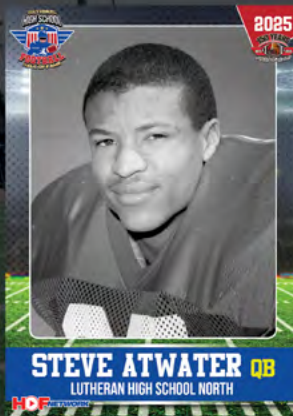
National High School Football Hall of Fame

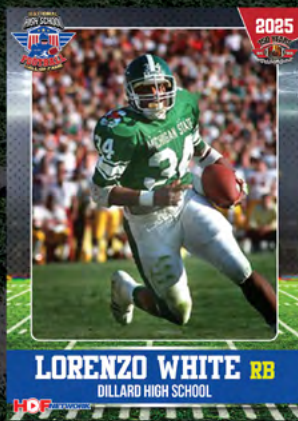
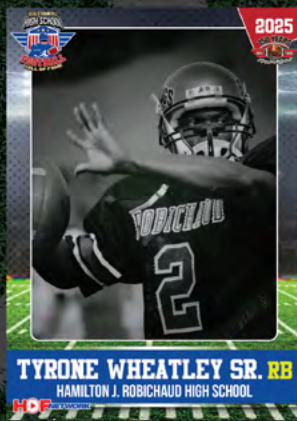
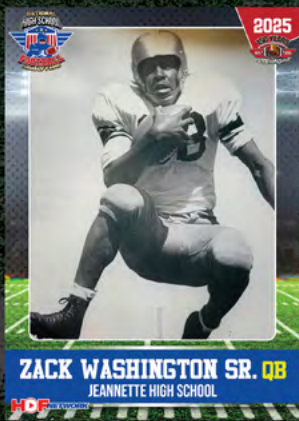
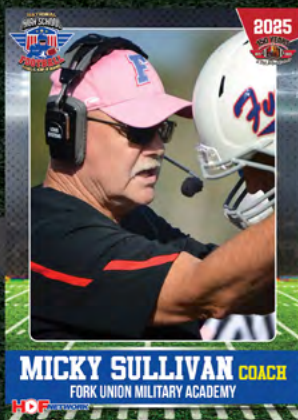
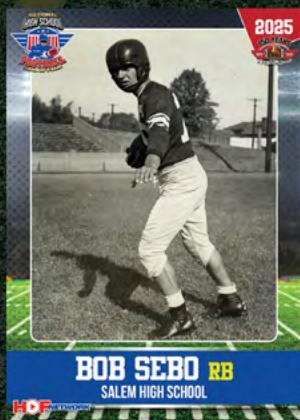
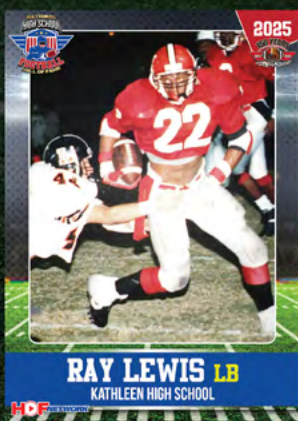
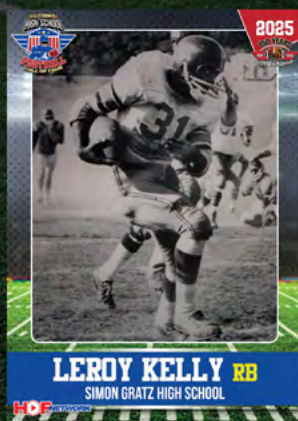
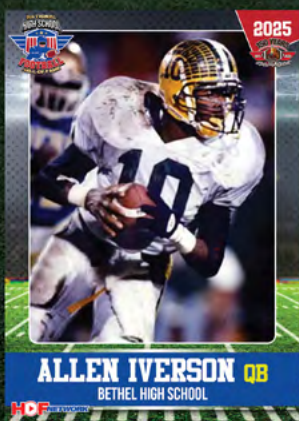
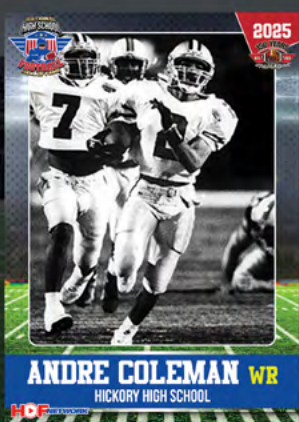
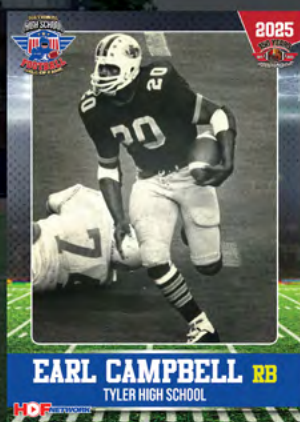


WARREN MOON
Hamilton High School
Class of 1974

Warren Moon was determined to play quarterback, a position not commonly offered to African American athletes at the time. Moon enrolled at Alexander Hamilton High School in Los Angeles, California, using the address of a family friend to attend the school known for its strong academic and athletic programs. He became the starting quarterback during his junior year and led the team to the city playoffs in his senior season. His outstanding performance earned him All-City honors, highlighting his exceptional talent and leadership on the field. Despite his high school success, Moon faced limited recruitment opportunities, as many colleges were reluctant to offer him a quarterback position due to prevailing racial biases. Unwilling to switch positions, he chose to attend West Los Angeles College, where he continued to excel as a quarterback. His performance there eventually led to a scholarship at the University of Washington, where he led the Huskies to a 1978 Rose Bowl victory and was named the game's Most Valuable Player. Moon's professional career began in the Canadian Football League (CFL) with the Edmonton Eskimos, where he won five consecutive Grey Cup championships. He later joined the NFL's Houston Oilers in 1984, becoming the first undrafted quarterback to be inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Over his 17-season NFL career, Moon amassed nearly 50,000 passing yards, earning nine Pro Bowl selections and solidifying his legacy as one of the game's greats.

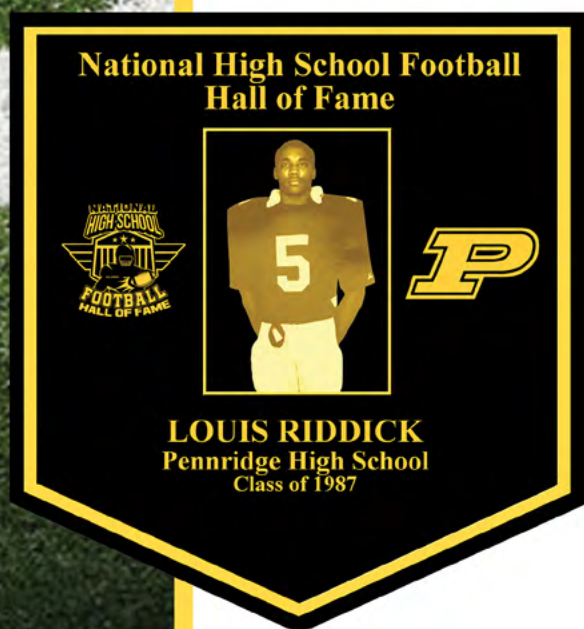
3RD ANNUAL NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL 25TH FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME INDUCTION CLASS







After spending his freshman year at a Catholic all-boys high school in Seattle, Eric Metcalf transferred to Bishop Denis J. O'Connell High School in Arlington, Virginia to pursue varsity football. Living with his father, former NFL star Terry Metcalf, who assisted in coaching the team, Eric quickly became a standout. In 1983, he led the O'Connell Knights to a state championship, rushing for over 1,000 yards and scoring 24 touchdowns across offense, defense, and special teams. His versatility was further highlighted when he stepped in as quarterback for a game, leading the team to an upset victory over powerhouse DeMatha Catholic High School. In his senior year, Metcalf continued to impress, scoring 11 touchdowns despite missing two games. Over his final two seasons at O'Connell, he amassed nearly 5,000 all-purpose yards and 38 touchdowns, including 12 kick returns for scores, solidifying his reputation as one of the area's most dynamic players. Beyond the gridiron, Metcalf excelled in track and field, setting school records in the 100-meter dash, 200 meters, 400-yard dash, long jump, and triple jump. Metcalf's high school achievements laid the foundation for a successful collegiate career at the University of Texas and a 13-year tenure in the NFL, where he became a three-time Pro Bowl selection and one of the league's most versatile players.



Louis Riddick began his football career at Pennridge High School in Perkasi, Pennsylvania. A versatile athlete, he excelled as a running back and defensive back, earning All-American honors from both Parade and USA Today during his senior year. His standout performances included scoring two touchdowns in the 1986 Pennridge-Quakertown Thanksgiving Day Football Classic, leading his team to a 21-6 victory. Beyond the gridiron, Riddick was also a letterman in track and field, showcasing his athleticism across multiple disciplines. His high school achievements paved the way for a collegiate career at the University of Pittsburgh, where he continued to shine as a four-year letterman and team captain. Riddick's early dedication and talent laid the foundation for his subsequent roles as an NFL player, front office executive, and respected ESPN analyst.



Jim Render is a legendary figure in Pennsylvania high school football, best known for his remarkable 40-year tenure as head coach at Upper St. Clair High School, where he built one of the most successful programs in Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League (WPIAL) history. Render's coaching career spanned nearly five decades, beginning with two seasons at Carrollton High School in Ohio, followed by seven years at Uniontown High School in Pennsylvania. In 1979, he took over the football program at Upper St. Clair, where he remained until his retirement in 2019. During that span, Render's teams made 38 WPIAL playoff appearances, 23 conference championships, 5 WPIAL titles and 2 PIAA state championships (1989 and 2006). Over his career, he amassed a record of 406-141-6, making him the winningest coach in WPIAL history and placing him 25th nationally in all-time high school coaching victories. Jim Render's legacy is defined not only by his impressive win-loss record but also by the enduring influence he has had on the lives of countless young men and the community of Upper St. Clair.



Bob Sebo, a 1954 graduate of Salem High School in Salem, Ohio, is a celebrated figure in both athletics and philanthropy. His high school years were marked by exceptional athleticism, earning him 11 varsity letters across football, track and field, basketball, and even the school band. As a standout running back for the Salem Quakers, Sebo started every game from his sophomore through senior years under head coach Ben Barrett. In his senior season, despite an injury that sidelined him for part of the year, he amassed 420 rushing yards and 194 receiving yards in just 14 quarters of play. Sebo's athletic prowess extended to track and field, where he excelled in the 100 and 220-yard dashes and the 180-yard low hurdles. After high school, Sebo attended Bowling Green State University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in 1958. He later received an honorary doctorate from the university in 2013. Professionally, Sebo had a successful career with General Motors and later with Paychex, where he served as Senior Vice President before retiring. Sebo's commitment to athletics and education is evident in his philanthropic efforts. He has made significant contributions to Bowling Green State University, including funding the Sebo Athletic Center and establishing scholarships. In his hometown of Salem, he has supported various community initiatives, including improvements to the local football stadium, which now bears his name.

National High School Football Hall of Fame



ANDRE SMITH
John F. Kennedy High School
Class of 1981

Andre Smith, Sr. stepped onto the football field at John F. Kennedy High School in Cleveland, Ohio and quickly began dominating opponents. He was coached and mentored by the legendary Royce Kidd. As a defensive tackle, Smith used his size, strength and quickness to wreak havoc on the offenses that the Fighting Eagles faced. His talents were on display from 1978 – 1980 and following his senior year, he was selected to play in the 1981 Cleveland East/West All Star Game. He earned a full scholarship to attend Central State University in Wilberforce, Ohio and was an integral part of the 1983 Division II National Champion runners up team.

National High School Football Hall of Fame



TROY SMITH
Glenville High School
Class of 2002

Troy Smith, began his football rise at Glenville High School in Cleveland, Ohio. Playing under legendary coach Ted Ginn Sr., Smith developed into a dynamic dual-threat quarterback with a strong arm, quick feet, and exceptional leadership traits that would define his playing career. Originally from the east side of Cleveland, Smith transferred to Glenville and quickly became a star in the Tarblooders' high-powered offense. During his senior year in 2001, Smith passed for over 1,800 yards, rushed for nearly 1,200 yards, and accounted for over 30 total touchdowns, making him one of the most electrifying high school players in Ohio. He led Glenville to the state playoffs and earned All-State honors, as well as a spot in the prestigious U.S. Army All-American Bowl. Smith's high school success attracted national attention, and although his recruitment started modestly, he eventually earned a scholarship to Ohio State University. At OSU, he steadily climbed the depth chart and by 2006, led the Buckeyes to a 12–0 regular season and a berth in the BCS National Championship Game. That same year, he won the Heisman Trophy, becoming the first Glenville graduate to claim college football's highest individual honor. Smith was drafted by the Baltimore Ravens in the 5th round of the 2007 NFL Draft, and also had stints with the San Francisco 49ers, Omaha Nighthawks, and Montreal Alouettes in the CFL.

National High School Football Hall of Fame



PERCY SNOW
Canton McKinley High School
Class of 1986

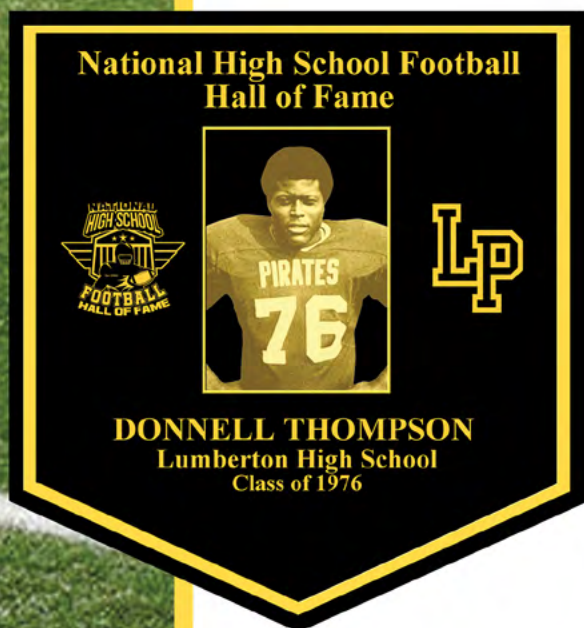
Percy Snow, a hard-hitting linebacker known for his fierce tackling and sideline-to-sideline speed, began his football journey at Canton McKinley High School in Canton, Ohio. At McKinley, Snow quickly emerged as a standout as one of the most storied high school football programs in the nation. During his time at McKinley in the early 1980s, Snow anchored the Bulldogs' defense with intensity and intelligence. As a senior in 1983, he recorded over 120 tackles, showcasing his natural instincts and leadership. His performance earned him All-Ohio honors, and he was widely recognized as one of the top defensive players in the state. Snow's impact went beyond the stat sheet—he was a tone-setter on a defense that consistently made McKinley a playoff contender in Ohio's rugged Division I ranks. Snow's high school success led him to Michigan State University, where he became one of the most decorated linebackers in college football history. He was a two-time All-American, the 1989 Butkus Award winner (nation's top linebacker), and the first player ever to win both the Butkus and Lombardi Awards in the same season. He was selected 13th overall in the first round of the 1990 NFL Draft by the Kansas City Chiefs where his professional career was cut short by injury.

National High School Football Hall of Fame



MICKY SULLIVAN
Fork Union Military Academy
Head Coach: 1983-2012

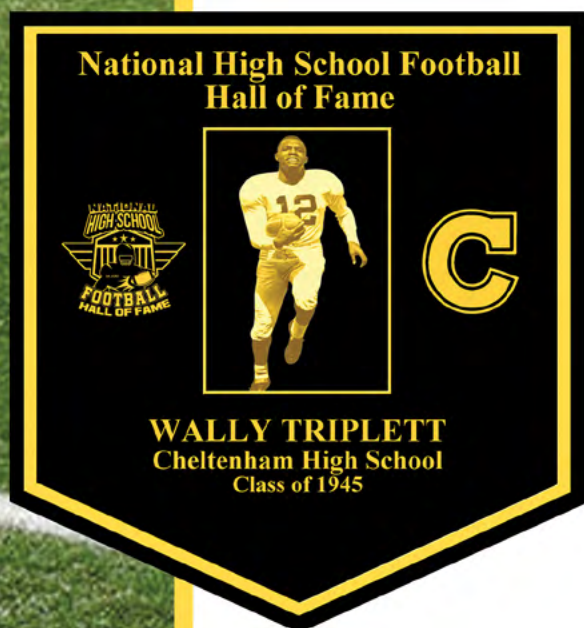
Micky Sullivan is a revered figure in Virginia high school football, best known for his transformative leadership at Fork Union Military Academy (FUMA), where he served as head prep football coach and athletic director over a distinguished four-decade career. Sullivan graduated from Fork Union Military Academy in 1967. He then attended East Tennessee State University on a football scholarship, playing under Coach John Robert Bell. Sullivan returned to FUMA in 1975, initially serving in various coaching roles, including assistant postgraduate football coach, assistant prep basketball and baseball coach, head prep wrestling coach, and head junior prep basketball coach. After a brief hiatus from 1980 to 1983, he resumed his tenure at FUMA as head prep football coach. Over his coaching career, Sullivan amassed a record of 200–118–3, secured eight Virginia Independent Schools Athletic Association (VISAA) State Championships, and was named VISFA Coach of the Year nine times. Sullivan also played a pivotal role in founding the Virginia Independent School Football Association, which later integrated into the VISAA. In honor of his enduring impact, former NFL running back and Heisman Trophy winner Eddie George, a FUMA alumnus, announced the establishment of the H. M. Sullivan Chair of Excellence for Prep Football in 2022. This endowment ensures the continued excellence of FUMA's football program and cements Sullivan's legacy within the institution.



Donnell Thompson, born on October 27, 1958, in Lumberton, North Carolina, emerged as a standout football player at Lumberton High School during the 1970s. Excelling as both a defensive end and fullback, he earned multiple honors, including All-Conference, All-State, and Adidas High School All-American recognitions. His exceptional performance culminated in a selection to the prestigious Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas in 1976, highlighting his status among the top high school players in the region. Thompson's high school success led him to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he became a key player on the Tar Heels' formidable defensive line alongside future Hall of Famer Lawrence Taylor. In 1980, he earned third-team All-American and first-team All-ACC honors, contributing to UNC's 11-1 season and ACC championship. In the 1981 NFL Draft, Thompson was selected 18th overall by the Baltimore Colts. He played his entire 11-year professional career with the Colts, transitioning with the team to Indianapolis in 1984. Thompson appeared in 147 games, starting 143, and recorded 41 sacks, 8 fumble recoveries, and 1 touchdown. After retiring from football, Thompson became a successful entrepreneur, owning and operating multiple franchise businesses, including McDonald's, Checkers, and Marriott Hotels. He remained connected to his hometown, supporting Lumberton High School's football program by providing meals for players after games.



Jim Thorpe joined the Carlisle football team in 1907 under legendary coach Glenn "Pop" Warner. Though initially underestimated, he quickly became a powerhouse. During his time at Carlisle (1907–1908, 1911–1912), Thorpe played 44 games, scored 53 touchdowns, and tallied 421 points. In 1912 alone, he scored 29 touchdowns and led the nation with 224 points. His legendary 1911 performance against Harvard, scoring all 18 points in an upset win, made him a national sensation. That year, he was named a First-Team All-American. In 1912, he led Carlisle to a 12–1–1 record, including a dominant win over Army. Thorpe later helped establish professional football, serving as the first president of the league that became the NFL in 1920. He starred with several teams, including the Canton Bulldogs, winning three unofficial "world championships." His stardom elevated early pro football. At the 1912 Stockholm Olympics, he won gold in the pentathlon and decathlon. Thorpe also played six seasons of pro baseball with teams including the New York Giants and Cincinnati Reds, and competed in basketball exhibitions. He often returned to Canton to support the McKinley Bulldogs, strengthening the region's football culture. In 1950, the Associated Press named him the greatest athlete of the first half of the 20th century. Thorpe was a charter inductee into both the Pro Football Hall of Fame (1963) and College Football Hall of Fame (1951).



Wallace "Wally" Triplett was a pioneering figure in American football history. His athletic journey began at Cheltenham High School. At Cheltenham, Triplett excelled as a multi-sport athlete, participating in football, basketball, and baseball. His exceptional performance on the football field garnered attention from college recruiters, leading to a scholarship offer from the University of Miami. However, upon learning of his African-American heritage, the university rescinded the offer, highlighting the racial barriers of the time. Undeterred, Triplett secured a Senatorial Scholarship based on his academic achievements and enrolled at Penn State University in 1945. At Penn State, he became the first African-American to earn a varsity letter in football. In 1948, Triplett made history again by becoming the first African-American to play in the Cotton Bowl, where he scored the game-tying touchdown in a 13-13 draw against Southern Methodist University. Triplett's professional career began when he was selected by the Detroit Lions in the 19th round of the 1949 NFL Draft. He became the first African-American draftee to play in a regular-season NFL game. In a 1950 game against the Los Angeles Rams, Triplett set a league record with 294 kickoff return yards, including a 97-yard touchdown, a record that stood for 44 years.



Michael Vick first hit the gridiron for Homer L. Ferguson High School in Virginia. Following the school's closure in 1996, he transferred to Warwick High School, where he became the starting quarterback for the Raiders. Under the guidance of head coach Tommy Reamon, Vick showcased his dual-threat capabilities, amassing 4,846 passing yards with 43 touchdowns and adding 1,048 rushing yards with 18 touchdowns over his high school career. His dynamic playmaking ability made him one of the most sought-after recruits in the nation. Vick's high school success led him to Virginia Tech, where he continued to excel, eventually becoming the first overall pick in the 2001 NFL Draft playing for the Falcons, Eagles, Jets and Steelers.

**National High School Football
Hall of Fame**



MIKE VRABEL
Walsh Jesuit High School
Class of 1993

Mike Vrabel attended Walsh Jesuit High School in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. During his time there, he excelled as a multi-sport athlete, participating in football, basketball, and track and field. As a tight end and linebacker, Vrabel's leadership and athleticism were instrumental in the Warriors' success on the field. His performance earned him recognition as a high school All-American, setting the stage for his future accomplishments. In recognition of his outstanding contributions, Walsh Jesuit retired Vrabel's No. 84 jersey in September 2024, making him the first football player in the school's history to receive this honor. He was also inducted into the Walsh Jesuit Athletics Hall of Fame and received the Distinguished Alumni Award, reflecting his lasting impact on the school's athletic program. Following high school, Vrabel attended Ohio State University, where he became a consensus first-team All-American and two-time Big Ten Defensive Lineman of the Year. His collegiate success led to a 14-season NFL career, including three Super Bowl victories with the New England Patriots. After retiring as a player, Vrabel transitioned into coaching, most notably serving as the head coach of the Tennessee Titans and New England Patriots.

**National High School Football
Hall of Fame**



VIRGIL WALKER
East Tech High School
Class of 1973

Virgil Walker is a distinguished alumnus of the highly acclaimed East Technical High School in Cleveland, Ohio, where he was a standout football player from 1971 to 1973. Under the leadership of Head Coach Edward Merchant—a protégé of the legendary Ara Parseghian of Notre Dame, Walker developed into a formidable force on the gridiron. Playing Offensive Tackle and Defensive Tackle, as well as Nose Tackle, Walker was known for his power, versatility, and leadership on the field. His senior year was particularly exceptional, earning him several honors that recognized his dominance on defense. He was named the team's Most Valuable Defensive Lineman and was selected to the Call and Post All-Scholastic All-Star Team. In recognition of his athletic prowess and academic promise, Walker received a scholarship to continue his education and football career at Kentucky State University, a respected Historically Black College and University (HBCU) located in Frankfort, Kentucky. Virgil Walker's high school legacy remains a proud part of East Tech's storied athletic history and his achievements continue to inspire future generations of student-athletes.

National High School Football Hall of Fame



ZACK WASHINGTON, SR.
Jeannette High School
Class of 1950

Zachary Taylor Washington Sr., affectionately known as Zack or Zeke played his High School football career at Jeannette Senior High School from 1945 to 1949. He excelled in basketball, baseball, and track, but football was his love. Zack started playing youth football in 6th grade and continued playing until his military service interrupted his college career at the University of Wichita. Zack was known to be lightning-fast, accurate, and a brilliant ball handler. While playing running back and quarterback at Jeannette, Zack received numerous football awards, including first-team WPIAL All-County Honors. In addition to being an exceptional athlete, Zack was a popular student elected class president in his Junior and Senior years. Zack's legacy and impact on Western Pennsylvania High School Football have withstood the test of time. Washington made history at Jeannette High School as the first African-American starting quarterback, breaking barriers and setting a powerful example for future generations. His leadership and determination on and off the field paved the way for standout quarterbacks who followed in his footsteps, including future Parade All-Americans Adam Bostick, Dante Wiley, and Terrelle Pryor. Washington's legacy is deeply woven into the fabric of Jeannette football, inspiring excellence and opening doors for those who came after him. When Zack's two sons, George and Zack Jr., played football at his alma mater, 35 years later, many of his football records remained intact.

National High School Football Hall of Fame



TYRONE WHEATLEY, SR.
Hamilton J. Robichaud High School
Class of 1991

Tyrone Wheatley Sr. emerged as one of the most dynamic and versatile athletes in Michigan high school sports history during his time at Dearborn Heights Robichaud High School. Excelling in football, track and field, and basketball, Wheatley's athletic prowess was evident across multiple disciplines. On the football field, Wheatley was a game-changer. Over three varsity seasons, he amassed 4,257 rushing yards and 67 touchdowns, including a standout senior year in 1990 where he rushed for 2,010 yards and 33 touchdowns on 208 carries. Demonstrating remarkable versatility, he played multiple positions, including quarterback, running back, defensive back, punter, kicker, and return specialist. In his senior year alone, he scored 252 points over 13 games, contributing in nearly every facet of the game. Wheatley's leadership propelled Robichaud to a 12-1 record and the 1990 MHSAA Class B state championship, the school's only football state title. In the championship game at the Pontiac Silverdome, he rushed for 165 yards and a touchdown, leading the Bulldogs to a 21-7 victory. Recognized as one of the greatest high school athletes in Michigan history, Wheatley was named Michigan's Football Player of the Year in 1990 and earned Parade All-America honors. His high school jersey number was retired by Robichaud High School in 2018. Wheatley's exceptional high school career laid the foundation for his success at the University of Michigan, where he continued to excel in football and track, and later in the NFL.

**National High School Football
Hall of Fame**



LORENZO WHITE
Dillard High School
Class of 1984

Early on, Lorenzo White made his name as a standout football player at Dillard High School in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Known for his explosive speed and vision on the field, White was a dominant force in the backfield. During his junior and senior seasons, he rushed for over 1,000 yards each year, with his senior year culminating in over 1,200 yards and 19 touchdowns. His performance helped lead Dillard to a district championship and earned him recognition as Broward County Offensive Player of the Year. White's high school excellence attracted attention from college programs across the country. He ultimately chose Michigan State University, where he went on to set numerous rushing records and became a two-time All-American. He went on to play seven seasons in the NFL with the Houston Oilers and one final year with the Cleveland Browns.

**National High School Football
Hall of Fame**



ANTOINE WINFIELD, SR.
Garfield High School
Class of 1995

Antoine Winfield Sr. played high school football at 5'9". Yet he is known as one of the game's fiercest tacklers and most devastating hitters. As an Akron Garfield Ram running back, he could run around or run through a defender. He could flatten them with a block, throw touchdown passes and catch touchdown passes. On special teams, he blocked punts and field goals, as well as return punts and kickoffs for touchdowns. As a defender he would demolish would-be runners and shut down would-be receivers. There could easily have been 22 Antoine Winfield's on the team and it often seemed that way. He went on to play defensive back at Ohio State winning the Jim Thorpe award as the nation's top defensive back and was elected a consensus first-team All-American. He closed out his career playing 14 seasons in the NFL with the Buffalo Bills and Minnesota Vikings.



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