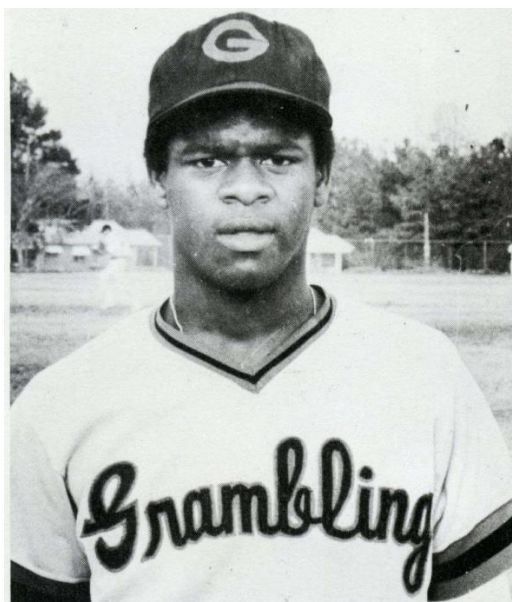




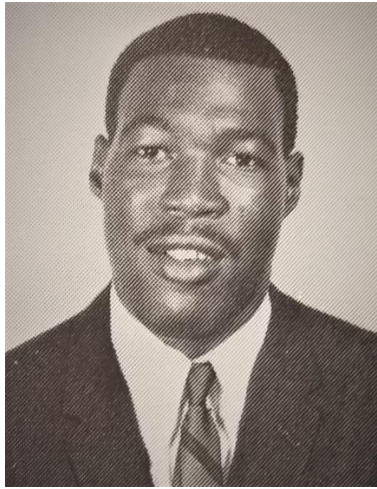
Wendell "Brick" Henderson Baseball

Wendell "Brick" Henderson, originally from Mt. Airy, attended and graduated from Leon Godchaux High School in Reserve, LA. He played four years varsity baseball as a starting catcher and centerfielder. As a high school player, Wendell earned All-District, All-Metro and All-State Honors during his sophomore and senior years of play. Having achieved a batting average of .500, Wendell was also voted MVP and selected Athlete of the Year his senior year.

Having accomplished excellence in the sport of baseball as a high school athlete, he was drafted by the Chicago Cubs out of high school; however, Wendell chose to accept a full baseball scholarship to attend Grambling State University. As a freshman, he earned the starting position as catcher for the Tigers, and he led the team in hitting with a .452 batting average. Wendell's outstanding first season earned him the team title of Freshman of the Year, as well as the Southwestern Athletic Conference Freshman of the Year. By the time he had completed his collegiate career, Henderson had established three personal career milestones, having the most hits in a career, having the most career runs batted in, and having the most total bases in a Grambling career.

Henderson was drafted in 1981 by the Chicago Cubs Major League Organization, fostered by the late-great Negro League Manager and Ambassador Buck O'Neil. As a member of the Cubs organization, Wendell won League batting titles and was awarded Bat Signing contracts. Concluding his professional playing career, Wendell was employed by Degussa Chemicals where he served until retirement 34 years later.

Currently, Wendell Henderson serves as the Head Baseball Coach at East St. John High School in Laplace, Louisiana. Additionally, he is involved in his community mentoring the area youth.



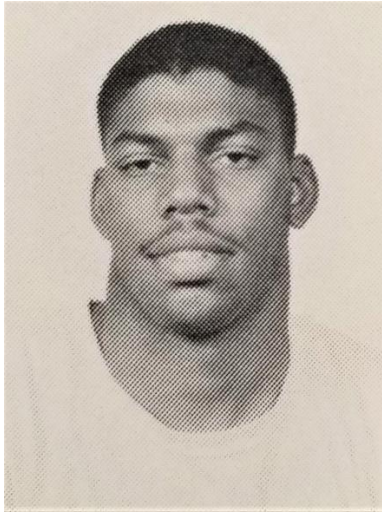
Samuel Holden. Jr. Football

Magnolia, Mississippi and Xavier Preparatory High School in New Orleans, Louisiana molded Samuel Holden into the athlete and person he became. At Xavier Prep, he was All-District and All-State in his sport. He initially went to Southern Illinois before transferring to Grambling where he continued to impact the world of sports by being named All-SWAC in 1970 and All-American in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics In 1971.

He received his degree, and like many others, made the next step to the professional ranks in football by being drafted in the second round (31st overall) behind Archie Manning, by the New Orleans Saints as an offensive tackle. "Big Chop" was the highest drafted lineman from Grambling. Holden also played professionally for the Houston Texans-Shreveport Steamers from the World Football League, and the Saskatchewan Roughriders of the Canadian Football League.

Continuing to impact the lives of young people, Holden coached football and track at Carver High School, football and track at Lawless High School, and track at McDonald #38.

He belongs to the GUNAA , and is a retired coach, teacher, father of five college graduates, 17 grandchildren, and six great grandchildren.



Elfrid Melvyn Payton Football

Gretna, Louisiana and West Jefferson High School were the locations for the dawning talent found in Elfrid Payton. As an outstanding football athlete, he earned honors as All District, Defensive MVP of the District, 1st Team All-Metro and All-State.

In 1986, Payton accepted a recommendation from his high school football coach to attend Grambling. He was confident he was good enough to make the football team as a walk-on. Arriving as a 175-pound nose guard in 1987, Payton did not appear to be a promising prospect. However, he got legendary Grambling football coach Eddie Robinson's attention with his hard hits in practice. Payton came to Grambling State University and became a household name. Known for his power plays, his determination, and his ability to seek out the quarterback or ball carrier with stealth and cunning was his trademark. Not only did Payton earn a scholarship, but he also was named the team's most outstanding player in 1988 and 1989. Despite never weighing more than 205 pounds as a defensive end, he had 117 tackles (70 solo), 28 tackles for losses and 16.5 sacks in three seasons. Payton's key to his football success was being relentless/never giving up.

Two years after starring at Grambling, Elfrid "Alley Cat" Payton attracted interest from the Canadian Football League after taking part in a tryout in New Orleans. He produced a great 40-yard sprint time that was aided by a slightly shorter route. Payton signed with the Winnipeg Blue Bombers as a free agent in 1991. That same season, he was Winnipeg's nominee for most outstanding rookie with 37 tackles and six sacks. During the 1993 season, he was the CFL's leader in quarterback sacks with 22. He was named a CFL All-star, as well as being awarded the James P. McCaffrey Trophy (most outstanding defensive player in the Eastern Division) for his efforts.

Elfrid Payton was one of the most feared pass rushers in the history of the CFL, ringing up 154 quarterback sacks in his 14 year career from 1991 to 2004. Payton started his CFL career with the Winnipeg Blue Bombers in 1991, his first of three stints with the club. Payton played three seasons for the Bombers (1991-93) with 1993 being his break-out season as he recorded 22 quarterback sacks to win the East and CFL All-Star, as well as being the Most Outstanding Defensive Player in the East.

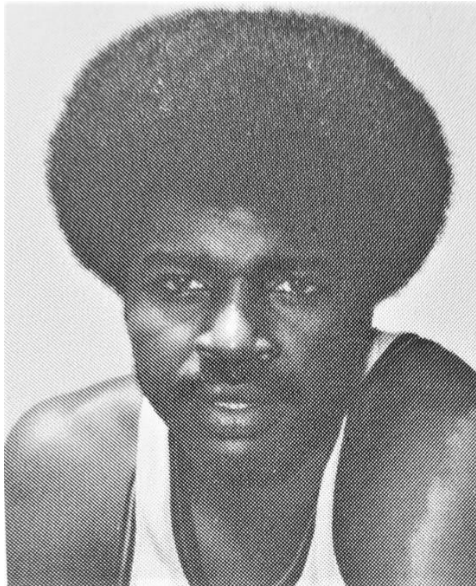
Payton became a free agent after 1993, and he signed with the expansion Shreveport Pirates for 1994. The Pirates released Payton after five games and he finished the 1994 season with Baltimore. Payton returned to usual form with Baltimore in 1995, piling up 18 sacks as Baltimore won the Grey Cup that year and Payton was named a South All-Star. With the folding of the U.S. based teams, Payton went north when Baltimore relocated to Montreal and played four seasons for the reborn Alouettes (1996-99). In those four years, Payton won three East All-Star selections (1997, 1998 and 1999), and two

CFL All-Stars (1997 and 1998). Montreal released Payton prior to the start of the 2000 season, and he signed with Winnipeg for the second time.

Toronto signed Payton for 2001, and he rebounded with 15 sacks and won his sixth division All-Star. Once again, however, Payton was released and his next stop was Edmonton in 2002. That was a 16 sack season to win Payton his seventh division All-Star, fourth CFL All-Star and the Outstanding Defensive Player award in the CFL. Payton played only two games in 2003 with Edmonton, and then played one final season with Winnipeg on his third stint with the Bombers in 2004. Payton played in 189 total regular season games, seventeen playoff games, and four Grey Cups. His 154 career sacks are the 2nd highest career total in CFL history.

In 2010, Elfrid Payton, was inducted into the Canadian Football League Hall of Fame.

Currently, Elfrid Payton, is self-employed and owns EP56 a trucking company.



Terrace Sykes

Basketball

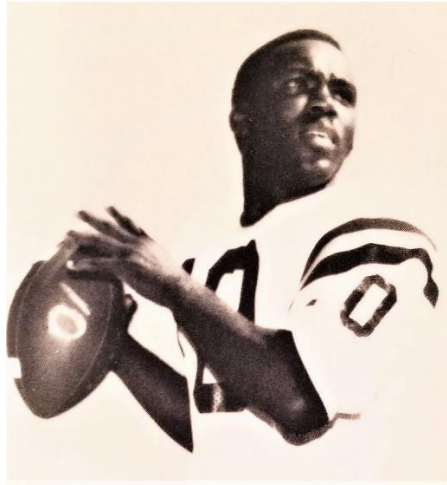
A Colfax, Louisiana native and a graduate of Dry Prong High School, Terrace “Terry” Sykes was a star when he set foot on the Grambling campus. During his high school tenure, Sykes was awarded the Louisiana Boys State MVP for the Division 2A schools in 1974. He was a member of the 2A State Basketball Champions in 1974 and was named to the All-State Team for 2A in 1974.

Sykes continued his participation in the sport that he loved after arriving at Grambling and was a prolific player. During his matriculation at the institution, he was named All-SWAC three times, was a part of the last Grambling Tiger team to win a SWAC Championship, named three times to the SWAC All-Tournament Team, and was the SWAC leading rebounder two times. Sykes ruled the SWAC with a firm grip in his senior season. As a Tiger, he averaged 23.8 points per game, 11 rebounds per game, shot a fantastic 52.6 percent from the field, and an astonishing 70.6 percent from the field.

In 1978, Terrace “Big Jam” Sykes was drafted in round 2, as the 15th pick by the Washington Bullets/Wizards. Additionally, he played “overseas” with teams from Chieti, Italy, Espoo, Finland and with Den Bosch, Holland as a center-forward/forward.

Sykes, in 2016, was among the SWAC Championship team to return to the campus to be recognized and honored for their accomplishment.

He is retired and participates in his community with youth basketball, baseball and softball teams, and leagues.



Michael J. Williams Football

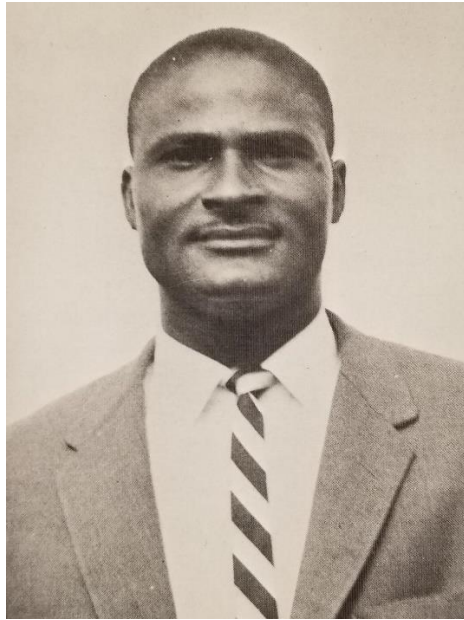
Coming from Chaneyville High School and Zachary, Louisiana, Michael may have been thought by some to have a hill to climb at Grambling. This erroneous thought surfaced because he was preceded by two brothers who had previously brought notoriety to the Williams name. Michael came with his own bag of pluses. At Chaneyville, he was both an academician and athlete- a true student scholar-athlete. He was a member of the Beta Club, had been voted as Student Body President in addition to being named MVP in basketball and football.

Michael brought skills and commitment to his role at the university and was rewarded with being selected to play on the Grambling State University Tiger Football Team under the legendary Coach, Eddie G. Robinson. He excelled in his position and became the starting quarterback.

Williams developed his football acumen and athleticism to the point that he was named the MVP twice for the Bayou Classic and was named Grambling State University MVP. He did not languish in the shadow of his siblings; he made his own path and marked it with his successes. His competence at the position provided him with the selection to participate in some of the biggest events held on the gridiron. Michael Williams threw for 131 yards and one touchdown to lead the West to a 19-10 victory over the East in the first ever Sheridan Black College All-Star Game.

Williams was selected as quarterback by four teams in the Canadian Football League. The Montreal Alouettes, Toronto Argonauts, the Edmonton Eskimos and the British Columbia Lions. He was a member of the 1982 Grey Cup Champions Edmonton Eskimos team.

After his successful stint in the football player world, Michael became a part of the Louisiana State Police, moreover, he was a State Farm Agent. Williams completed certifications in the Lincoln School of Leadership, and the John Maxwell Leadership Program. Additionally, became a certified NCAA Football Official. He retired from State Farm as an executive and is now a part of the Shelter Insurance Company as a District Manager.



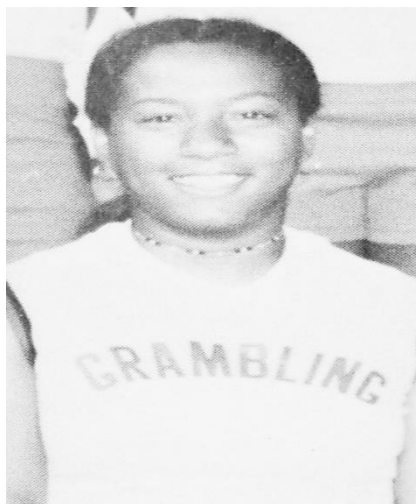
Thomas Edward Williams Coach

From Arkansas to California, Tom moved, lived and was educated. He attended elementary and high school in the Los Angeles City system. After graduating from high school, he served his country in the United States Army. He returned and completed his baccalaureate and masters degrees from Los Angeles State University. Additionally, he pursued a PH.D.

His love for sports began when he played for the one year of professional ball with the LA Rams as defensive back before moving to Prairie View A&M in 1953. At Prairie View, he held the position of professor, backfield coach, and basketball coach until 1956 when he joined the legendary Eddie Robinson at Grambling College as a defensive back coach. In 1960, he was named head track coach developing Olympic sprinters Stone Johnson and Richard Stebbins. He was also professor of education at Grambling College. Williams continued in both capacities as professor and head coach at Grambling until joining the Houston Oilers in 1966.

Owner Bud Adams named Tom Williams as assistant General Manager of the Houston Oilers. He was the first African-American to hold a top level management position with the NFL. Tom held this position until leaving the Oilers in 1977. During the next ten years, he owned and operated the Touchdown Barbeque and Kolache Shop. He kept in close contact with the sports world by training high school, college and professional athletes. He created the "Hill" where athletes were trained by running the banks of the bayou near his business. Because of the flock of athletes desirous of being trained by Tom Williams, it was a natural fit that he would later become an athletic agent and represented such outstanding athletes as Lamar Lathon.

In addition to training and representing athletes, he used his vast knowledge of the body to aid paraplegic and quadriplegic individuals. In 1987, he opened the Tom Williams Rehabilitation and Sports Center in Southwest Houston specializing in aiding wheel chair and stroke patients.



MIECHELLE O. WILLIS Track

Miechelle Willis was a graduate of Toms River High School South, in Toms River New Jersey. Willis was the 1972 New Jersey State Champion in the Shot Put event. She came to Grambling as a freshman and became a true scholar student-athlete. While at the university, she participated as a standout in the track and field program as well as other co-curricular activities. During the 1974 SWAC Championship Meet, she competed in nine events finishing 2nd in Shot Put, 3rd in the 400 m relay, 4th in the 100 m hurdles and 5th in the discus. As a part of the Track program, Michelle also placed 4th in the Pentathlon in the 1974 AIAW National Championship, and was ranked top 10 in the Shot Put in America. In 1975, Willis was the team Co-captain (given the Outstanding Performer Award), in addition to being the SWAC Champion in the Shot Put. She was a member of the 1975, 1976, and 1977 SWAC Team Champions. Willis is a 1976 Cum Laude Health and Physical Education graduate of Grambling State University after which she received her master's in Sports Administration from Grambling in 1978.

After graduating from Grambling in 1978, Willis was hired to coach track and field at Montclair State University, NJ where she coached 1978 – 1987. In addition, she served as a flight medic in the U.S. Air Force Reserves 1983 – 1989. Prior to joining the Ohio State staff, Willis spent seven years at Temple University.

Recently retired, Miechelle Willis had 30 years' experience as an intercollegiate-athletics administrator, including the last 22 1/2 years as Associate/Senior Associate/Deputy Director of Athletics as a member of the Ohio State University Dept. of Athletics.

Willis was a member of the Department of Athletics' executive leadership team, providing leadership and strategic direction for the entire athletic department, comprised of more than 320 full time employees, over 1000 student-athletes and operation of a budget of over \$150 million. As Deputy Athletic Director, Willis served as primary advisor to Vice President/Director of Athletics, providing oversight for the department's day-to-day operations and served as the primary decision maker in the Director's absence. In 2014, Willis was promoted to the first ever Deputy Director of Athletics in Ohio State University History. Day-to-day, she was responsible for the oversight of 35 Ohio State University sports programs, sport performance, athletic compliance, athletics communications, strategic communications, creative services, human resources, and served as academics liaison to the Student-Athlete Support Services office.

Tireless, efficient and focused, Willis served as the Senior Woman Administrator (SWA) to the NCAA and the Big Ten Conference and served on numerous national, conference and campus committees.

She served four years on the Division I Management Council, the NCAA Division I Recruiting and Athletics Personnel Issues Cabinet, and most recently, she has been selected to serve on the NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Competition Committee. Willis holds membership in Women Leaders in College Sports, serving on the organizations Board of Directors. She also holds membership in the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics, and had served four years on its Executive Committee.

Moreover, Willis was in 2003 inducted into the Toms River Schools Hall of Fame. In 2004, she was inducted into the inaugural class of the Toms River Regional Schools Athletic Hall of Fame. In 2007, 2008 and 2014 Willis was listed in Who's Who in Black Columbus.

Miechelle Willis was the recipient of the 2018 Eddy Award and served as the Eddie G. Robinson, Sr. Leadership Lecture Convocation Speaker at Grambling State University.