

# NOMINEES FOR 2023 NATIONAL FOOTBALL FOUNDATION MOUNTAIN EMPIRE HALL OF FAME

## 1975 & PRE-1975 NOMINEES (Vote for up to 2 members from this classification)

### **Ed Cifers (Dobyns-Bennett - Kingsport, TN – 1934)**

“Gentleman, scholar, athlete” - no other phrase seems as appropriate in describing former Dobyns-Bennett High School, University of Tennessee, and NFL standout, Ed Cifers. The talented Kingsport native was the 1st player east of Knoxville to be named to the high school All-State team and was a 4-sport letterman.

Cifers played in 3 post-season bowl games (1939 Orange Bowl, 1940 Rose Bowl, and 1941 Sugar Bowl). Starting at tight end, he was a member of 3 SEC championship teams that compiled a 31-2 record. Upon graduation from UT, Cifers played 5 seasons in the NFL with the Washington Redskins and Chicago Bears. He started his pro career with the Redskins (1941 and 1942) and was a key member of Washington’s NFL Championship team. That same year he was named to the UPI All-Pro Squad. His career was interrupted before the start of the 1943 season by his call to service during World War II. Then in 1944, his career was nearly ended by a car accident in which he suffered a broken back. Despite the magnitude of his injuries, Cifers returned to pro football after the war, playing 1 year with Washington and 2 with the Chicago Bears.

Following his football career, Cifers moved to Knoxville and had a successful career in the contracting and construction business. He took particular pleasure in his membership in the Optimist Club and his service as a high school football referee.

He is the brother of National Football Foundation Mountain Empire Hall Fame inductee Bobby Cifers. He was named to the Sports Illustrated Silver Anniversary All-America Team (1965); and was inducted into the East Tennessee Chapter of the National Football Foundation Hall of Fame (1975); Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame (1983); and Knoxville Sports Hall of Fame (1985).

### **Ermal Allen (Morristown High – Morristown, TN - 1938)**

Ermal Allen was a standout high school athlete in basketball, football, golf, and track at Morristown High School, where he earned 16 letters under the legendary Coach Petie Siler.

Allen went to the University of Kentucky, earning 9 letters, a school record that stands today. In 1943 while in the Army, he was picked by General Neyland to play for the East Army All-Star Football team. After World War II, Allen played for the Cleveland Browns as defensive back, punter, and back-up quarterback. The Browns won the All-American Conference Title. In 1948 he became the Offensive Coordinator for Coach Bear Bryant at the University of Kentucky. UK made 4 bowl appearances during that time, beating TCU in the Cotton Bowl (1952) to become National Champions. In 1962 Coach Tom Landry offered Allen a job with the Dallas Cowboys as Offensive Backfield coach. He later became Director of Research and Development – the first Quality Control Coach in the NFL. He remained with the Dallas Cowboys for 22 years. Allen retired in 1983, having been to 5 Super Bowls - winning two, 5 NFC Titles, 10 NFC Championships, and 12 Division Champions. Allen coached the NFL Pro Bowl 5 times.

### **James "Buddy" Saulsbury (Greeneville – Greeneville, TN - 1951)**

Buddy Saulsbury played for Greeneville High School where he was named 2nd team All-East Tennessee and Honorable Mention All-State (1951).

Saulsbury began his college football career at Jones Junior College in Mississippi on a full scholarship. In 1952, he received a full scholarship to East Tennessee State University. Saulsbury lettered for 3 years, playing fullback and linebacker. During his senior year, he was chosen team co-captain, VSAC All-Conference MVP and NAIA All-American. Saulsbury was inducted in the inaugural class of Greeneville Sports Hall of Fame (2007). In 1968, Saulsbury became the 1st head football coach at Morristown West High School. Following 21 years teaching and coaching at West High School, Saulsbury became the Hamblen County Director of Vocational Job Placement, Adopt a School Program, and Gold Card Program Director.

**Robert C. (Bob) Laws (Elizabethton – Elizabethton, TN - 1952)**

Bob Laws was selected as team captain for Elizabethton High School and was All-Big 5 1st Team (1951-52).

Laws received a scholarship and played tight end at Vanderbilt University (1952-1955). He was chosen as team co-captain. Laws was selected All-SEC 1st Team and honorable mention All-American (1955), 4 varsity letters, Wade-Looney Memorial Award, and was awarded Most Exemplified Senior Player. He was Vanderbilt Assistant football coach (1960-1962) and graduated from Vanderbilt Law School in 1962. He practiced law in Elizabethton prior to becoming a Federal Judge for 25 years.

**Hunter Bowers (Hampton – Roan Mountain, TN - 1954)**

Hunter Bowers played for Hampton high School and was 4-time All-Watauga Conference and honorable mention as an 8th grader. He made all conference at 5 positions, offensive guard, fullback, wingback, and linebacker. Bowers had 13 touchdowns in 1954 with 7 of the scoring plays covering 50 or more yards.

**Samuel W. Bartholomew, Jr. (Dobyns-Bennett - Kingsport, TN – 1962)**

Sam Bartholomew, a Kingsport, Tennessee native, played football at Dobyns-Bennett High School on 2 State Championship teams. He was the State rushing leader and All-State his senior year.

Bartholomew was recruited played college football at the United States Military Academy. He became captain of the 1st Army team to play in Neyland Stadium (1965). At West Point, he was Cadet Captain, Battalion Commander and assistant football coach in 1966.

Bartholomew was a decorated Airborne Ranger Officer serving with the 3/4 Armored Cavalry Squadron in Vietnam (1968-1969). After graduating from Vanderbilt Law School in 1973 and starting Stokes Bartholomew Law Firm, he helped organize the Nashville Rugby Club. An active member of the Nashville community, Bartholomew was a founding member and director of the Nashville Sports Council and the Music City Bowl and has served on the boards of the Middle Tennessee Football Foundation, Tennessee Police Athletic League, YMCA, Tennessee NFL Committee, and a 12-year member of the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame board (including a term as its president). He was awarded the "Governor's Outstanding Tennessean Award" in 1984 for his service as chairman of the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program. Bartholomew was Chairman of the 1996 Tennessee U.S. Olympic Committee and was a founder of the Golf Club of Tennessee. Instrumental in bringing the Titans to Tennessee, Bartholomew chaired the "Just Build It" Committee that raised over \$100 million in suite sales, which were essential in getting the Houston Oilers to Nashville. This family man, married to former "Miss Tennessee" Vicki Lynn Hurd, was named "Father of the Year" by the National Diabetes Association in 2004.

**Leroy Gray (Greeneville – Greeneville, TN - 1962)**

Leroy Gray was a 2-year starter - his junior and senior years - at defensive lineman and fullback for Greeneville High School.

Gray played for East Tennessee State University and was a 3-time All-Ohio Valley Conference honoree and earned All-American honors following the 1966 season. Gray was a team captain and played at both nose guard and middle linebacker. After graduating in 1966, he went on to become Senior VP Consumer Credit Union in Greeneville, TN.

**Nick Showalter (Dobyns-Bennett – Kingsport, TN – 1965)**

Nick Showalter was an All-American quarterback for the 1964 Dobyns-Bennett Tennessee State Championship team.

Showalter played cornerback for University of Tennessee and played in the 1968 Orange Bowl, where he fended off Larry Csonka on the 10-yard line leading the Volunteers to victory. Dr. Showalter became a Dentist for the University of Tennessee football team.

**Kim Richardson (Unaka – Elizabethton, TN – 1974)**

Kim Richardson Career rushing total at 3,807. All-Watauga in 1972 (Elizabethton Star team) and 1973 (coaches and E-Star team). Johnson City Press-Chronicle All-Watauga as a junior and senior. Conference's third-leading scorer as a junior (75 points), then league scoring champ as a senior (70). Honorable mention all-state as senior. Rushed for over 320 yards in a single game. Went on to play at ETSU and is a former U.S. Marine.

**POST 1975 NOMINEES**  
**(Vote for up to 3 members from this classification)**

**Bryan Edward Burns (Morristown West – Morristown, TN – 1981)**

Bryan Burns, during his time at Morristown West High School, excelled as both an athlete and a scholar. His talent on the football field as a free safety earned recognition on conference, district, and State levels. In 1980, Burns earned several impressive football awards. He was Citizen Tribune's Player of the Year, Knoxville Journal's East Tennessee Player of the Week, an All-State Free Safety, an AP All-State Player, 1st team Associated Press All State team. He was inducted into the Morristown Parks and Rec Hall of Fame. Burns was named as one of Tennessee's top football prospects for 1980. He also excelled in the classroom as a student leader. He was a member of the Beta club, an FCA officer, in the top 10% of West High's Who's Who, and scored a perfect 36 on the ACT.

Bryan was heavily recruited by several colleges including: University of Tennessee, Georgia, South Carolina, Vanderbilt, Ole Miss, and Arkansas. His football talent and academic prowess combined earned him a full ride scholarship to Furman University. Just as he did in high school, Burns excelled at Furman. He played varsity football, earning the Scholar-Athlete Award for the student maintaining the highest GPA while playing varsity sports. He was 1 of the first 41 students selected for membership in Furman's chapter of Phi Eta Sigma National College Scholastic Honor Society for freshman. He was a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, a member of the Alpha Epsilon Delta Premedical Honor Society, and a Biology research assistant. Tragically, Bryan Burns life was cut short in 1984, when he passed away after a car accident.

**Randy Sanders (Morristown East – Morristown, TN – 1983)**

Randy Sanders was a Top 100 recruit as quarterback from Morristown East High School. He passed for 4225 yards and scored 35 touchdowns.

Sanders was a 4-time All SEC Academic Honor Roll while at University of Tennessee. He is the only person to coach in both the first and last BCS national championship game (UT and FSU). Sanders is currently the head football coach at East Tennessee State University.

**Billy Taylor (Morristown West – Morristown, TN – 1983)**

Billy Taylor was a 3-time letterman and starting quarterback on the Morristown West High School football team. Taylor was twice named MVP (1981 and 1982) and was a 2-time first team All Inter-Mountain Conference player. He was captain of the 1982 team and helped lead West to a 36-5 record during his career. He was voted All East Tennessee and was a Johnson City Press Elite Eleven selection in 1982.

Taylor accepted a full scholarship offer to East Tennessee State University, where he was a 4-time letter winner and 3-year starter at outside linebacker. He was named Player of the Week by ABC-TV for his play against Virginia Tech (1986) and finished that season as the team's second leading tackler. In his senior season (1987), Taylor was voted team captain and played a major role in ETSU's upset defeat on NC State. After graduating from ETSU, Taylor embarked on a coaching career that has spanned over 25 years in Division 1 NCAA football. As a defensive coordinator, Taylor led defenses to the top of their league at ETSU (2003), UT-Chattanooga (2007), and Tennessee Tech (2011.) In 2011, he was the Associative Head Coach and Defensive Coordinator on Tennessee Tech's first Ohio Valley Conference championship football team in 36 years. In 2013, he was the first assistant coach hired by ETSU and was named the Defensive Coordinator as ETSU restarted their football program after an 11-year absence. Taylor has always made it a point of pride to try to give back the same opportunity that was made available to him by recruiting East Tennessee high schools at every university that he has worked for. As of 2015 he had signed over 75 young men from our region to athletic scholarships.

**Tony Williams (Sullivan Central - Blountville, TN – 1983)**

Tony Williams was a 3-year starter and MVP for Sullivan Central High School. He earned All-Conference, All-Upper East Tennessee, All-State, & All-American honors as nose guard & offensive guard. He was the only player who was selected as 1st Team on both offense and defense. Williams was named Defensive Player of the year his senior season leading the Cougars to a 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish when they were picked last in the preseason, and led his team with 111 big plays (sacks, tackle for loss, forced fumbles, etc.).

Williams was a 4-star prospect (the highest ranking at that time) and highly sought after by many national programs. Bear Bryant paid a personal visit to the area trying to persuade Williams to come to Alabama, but in the end the top-rated lineman in the state chose the University of Tennessee. Williams played both defensive line (backing up Reggie White) and offensive line for UT. He was part of the 1985 "Sugar Vols" team that won the SEC title and defeated Miami in the Sugar Bowl.

Williams was a leader off the field as Vice-President of the pep club, Senior Class Treasurer, member of Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and member of the Octagon club. After graduation, he joined the Knoxville Police department, where he was employed as a patrolman and member of the SWAT Team before tragically being shot and killed in the line of duty in 1989.

### **Tim Andrews (Hampton – Roan Mountain, TN – 1984)**

Tim Andrews led Hampton High School to the Class AA State quarterfinals and was the Watauga Conference scoring champion (99 points). Andrews was a Mr. Football finalist and was an Honorable Mention All-State. He had 2,900 career rushing yards, setting a school single season rushing record with 1455 yards and 16 touchdowns.

Andrews served as Assistant Coach at Hampton for over a decade, and Co-Head Coach at Hampton Elementary with 3 football titles.

### **Todd Collins (Jefferson County – Dandridge, TN – 1987)**

Todd Collins was an All-State and All-American linebacker for the State champion Jefferson County football team. Collins was the Class AAA Mr. Football for Tennessee and 1987 National Defensive Player of the Year. His senior year stats: Catches (24), Yards (519), Touchdowns as tight-end (10). As linebacker: Solo Tackles (118), Assists (115), Interceptions (5), Sacks (13), and Recovered Fumbles (6).

Collins played for Georgia and Tennessee before transferring to Carson Newman where he helped lead his team to a national title. He was drafted in 3rd round by New England and later traded to the St. Louis Rams. Collins played in Super Bowls for both the Patriots and Rams. Part of the compensation the Patriots got from the Rams was the 199th draft pick in the 2000 draft - which they used to draft Tom Brady. Collins has represented the FCA at numerous churches and national conferences.

### **Chuck Proffitt (Morristown West – Morristown, TN – 1988)**

Chuck Proffitt collected numerous accolades during his athletic tenure at Morristown West High School. Proffitt was named Super 24 All East Tennessee (1988), 1st Team AP All-State Defensive Back (1988), IMAC Defensive Player of the Year (1988), IMAC 1st Team All-Conference (1987, 1988), and Sir Thomas J. Lipton Sportsmanship Award (1988). He graduated with First Honors and served as President of the Student Council.

Proffitt attended and played football at Carson Newman, where he was named SAC Freshman of the Year (1989), SAC All Conference Team (1990 - 1992), Honorable Mention All-American (1991), 1st Team All-American (1992), NAIA National Champions (1989), Semi-Final Defensive Player of the Game, selected to the Football Team of The Century, and tied for the Most Interception Record with 25 interceptions. After graduation Proffitt began his coaching career. He has been fortunate coaching at the 2006 North Carolina Shine Bowl and finishing as runner-up at the North Carolina 4A State Championship in 2011 at Garner Magnet High School. Past and current coaching duties include: Tusculum College defensive back coach; Morristown West Assistant Football defensive back coach, Freshman Head Coach, and Assistant Boy's Track Coach; Fuquay-Varina defensive back coach; and Garner Magnet defensive back coach, defensive coordinator, and Head Boy's Golf Coach.

### **James "Little Man" Stewart (Morristown West – Morristown, TN – 1990)**

James Stewart starred at Morristown West High School where he rushed for 1,590 yards as a senior. Stewart was selected All-State (1990), 3-time All-Conference, and 2-time IMAC Player of the Year.

Stewart played for the University of Tennessee, where he was named second-team All-SEC as a senior, rushing for 1,028 yards and earning Most Outstanding Player honors at the Gator Bowl. In 4 college seasons, he registered 2,890 rushing yards (setting the all-time rushing record at that time)

and 39 total touchdowns. Stewart was drafted No. 19 overall by the Jacksonville Jaguars in 1995 and spent 5 seasons recording 2,951 rushing yards and 38 total touchdowns. He moved on to the Detroit Lions, and he enjoyed his best pro season in his first year, registering 1,471 yards from scrimmage and 11 total touchdowns. He totaled 2,890 rushing yards and 19 total touchdowns in just 3 seasons with the Lions.

### **Thomas Jones (Powell Valley – Big Stone Gap, VA – 1996)**

While playing for Powell Valley High School, Thomas Jones led the team to back-to-back state championships (1994 and 1995). Jones still holds the VHSL record for the most rushing yards in a season with 3,319. He broke single-game rushing record in 1994 (462 yards against John I. Burton High School) and also tied for most career touchdowns (104). Jones was featured in the January 22, 1996 issue of Sports Illustrated “Faces in the Crowd”.

Jones played football for the University of Virginia (1996 - 1999), leaving his mark on the record books of both the team and the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). He ended his career at Virginia with 8 conference and 15 team records, including finishing as the team’s all-time rushing leader with 3,998 yards. His rushing total was the 4th highest in conference history, and he set the conference and school record for single season rushing (1,798 yards) and single season all-purpose offense (2,054 yards). While becoming the first player in ACC history to attain 200 yards rushing and 100 yards receiving in a single game, Jones set a single game school record with 331 all-purpose yards against the University at Buffalo. Setting an ACC record for 200-yard games, Jones finished with (6) 200-yard rushing performances. He finished his college career with 4,698 all-purpose yards, 4th all-time at Virginia. As a senior in 1999, Jones was voted as a consensus first-team All-American by The Associated Press, Football News, the Football Writers Association of America, Walter Camp Foundation, and The Sporting News. He finished 8th in balloting for the 1999 Heisman Trophy, he was the 1st ACC consensus All-American running back since 1978, and 3rd in league history. Jones led the conference running backs and receiving yards, amassed (4) 200-yard games, and finished 3rd in the nation in rushing (163.5 yards/game) and all-purpose yards (186.7 yards/game). While successful on the field, Jones also focused in the classroom, earning his bachelor’s degree in psychology in just 3 years. Chosen by Arizona Cardinals in NFL 1st round, he played for Cardinals (2002-02), Tampa Bay Bucs (2003), Chicago Bears (2004-06), NY Jets (2007-09), KC Chiefs (2010-11). NFL Stats: Rushing Yards (10,591); Rushing Avg (4.0); Rushing TDs (68); Receptions (308); Receiving Yds (2,023); Receiving TDs (3).

### **Julius Jones (Powell Valley – Big Stone Gap, VA – 1998)**

He attended Powell Valley High School, where he was a letterman in football, basketball, and track. In football, as a senior he registered 2,564 yards and 36 touchdowns, earning honorable-mention USA Today All-American honors. He contributed to his school winning 28 straight games and the Virginia Group A-Division II state title in 1997 and 1998 while being named the Virginia Group-A Offensive Player of the Year in both years. He finished his high school career with 614 carries for 5,803 yards and 86 touchdowns. He also played safety and had 10 career interceptions.

Jones played college football at the University of Notre Dame from 1999–2001 and 2003. In 2003, he set a single-game school record for rushing yards (262) against the University of Pittsburgh. He had (3) 200-yard rushing performances, which is another school record. Jones finished his college career as 1 of only 4 running backs in school history to rush for over 3,000 yards. He also set school records for kickoff return yards (1,678), combined kick return yards (2,104) and all-purpose yards (5,372). Jones was drafted by Dallas Cowboys in 2nd round of 2004 NFL Draft. He played for Cowboys (2004-07); Seattle Seahawks 2008-10); and New Orleans Saints (2010). NFL stats: Rushing Yds (5,058); Rushing Avg (4.0); Rushing TDs (22); Receptions (150); Receiving Yds (1,029); Receiving TDs (2).

### **Aubrayo Franklin (Science Hill – Johnson City, TN – 1999)**

Aubrayo Franklin was a Letterman in football for Science Hill High School. As a senior, he was an All-Conference and an All-State honoree and finished his senior season with 12 sacks and 180 tackles.

Franklin played at University of Tennessee where he recorded 70 tackles and 2 sacks. He was a 5th round draft pick with Baltimore Ravens in 2003. He played with San Francisco 49er’s (2007-2010), New Orleans Saints (2011), San Diego Chargers (2012), and Indianapolis Colts (2013). In NFL career, he recorded 253 tackles (195 solo tackles), 4 sacks, 3 forced fumbles, 1 fumble recovery, and 1 interception. He was an assistant coach for the 49er’s in 2015.

### **Gerald Sensabaugh (Dobyns-Bennett - Kingsport, TN – 2001)**

Gerald Sensabaugh received All-Big Nine and All-Big East Conference (2000) honors at defensive back at Dobyns-Bennett High School, and contributed to his team reaching (2) Class 5A Semifinals. As a junior, he scored 7 touchdowns, had 10 receptions for 166 yards, and 1 touchdown. As a senior, he had 42 catches for 480 yards with 7 touchdowns. Sensabaugh was the team captain in 2000. In track, he won the long jump state championship in 2000, with a leap of 7.25 meters. He was also the runner-up in the triple jump, with a leap of 14.05 meters.

Sensabaugh went to East Tennessee State University for 3 years then transferred to North Carolina after ETSU cancelled their football program. As a freshman at ETSU, he was an Impact player, starting all 11 games as a safety. Against Georgia Southern, he posted 8 solo tackles and against Charleston Southern made 11 tackles with a pair of sacks, and made 7 stops at VMI. As a Sophomore, he was a first-team All-Southern Conference selection and was 5th on the team with 56 tackles. Sensabaugh led the team and was 2nd in the conference with 4 fumble recoveries. As a junior, he finished 4th on the team with 74 tackles, had 2 tackles for losses, 2 sacks, 3 forced fumbles, 1 fumble recovery, broke up 8 passes, and had a team-high 5 blocked kicks. He tied an NCAA record with 3 blocked punts against Georgia Southern. In 2004, his senior season, Sensabaugh transferred to the University of North Carolina after ETSU eliminated their football program. At North Carolina, he started at strong safety, registering 78 tackles (led the team), 3 sacks, 6.5 tackles for loss, 1 interception, and 5 passes defended. Sensabaugh was a 2-time first-team All-Southern Conference selection and was named third-team I-AA All-America by The Sports Network in 2003.

Sensabaugh was selected by the Jacksonville Jaguars in the 5th round (157th overall) of the 2005 NFL Draft. He played for the Jacksonville Jaguars (2005-08) & Dallas Cowboys (2009-12). In his NFL career, Sensabaugh played in 112 games with (411) total tackles, (2) sacks, (4) forced fumbles, (5) forced recoveries, and (14) interceptions. Following his NFL career, Sensabaugh was the head coach for 1 season at David Crockett High School.

### **Heath Miller (Honaker – Honaker, VA – 2002)**

Heath Miller played quarterback for the Honaker High School, where he earned the Associated Press Player of the Year honor as a senior and was a 2-time AP All-State selection. Miller earned the All-Southwest Virginia first-team honors at quarterback and was a second-team All-State selection at defensive back, adding Region D Offensive Player of the Year accolades. He set several school records in passing and leading the team to its 1st State Championship game his senior year, in which they lost to King William High School, 25–15.

Miller attended the University of Virginia, where he played tight end (2001 - 2004). After being red-shirted in 2001, he started every game in 2002. In his 1st game against Colorado State, he had 4 receptions, 42 receiving yards, and 1 touchdown. He scored touchdowns in each of his first 5 games at Virginia, setting a school season record for tight ends, and took him only 7 games to set the school record for touchdowns by a tight end. Miller led the ACC tight ends in receiving all 3 seasons of his college career. In the 2002 Continental Tire Bowl win against the West Virginia, Miller had a season-high 54 receiving yards on 3 catches. He ended the 2002 season with 33 receptions, 327 receiving yards, 9 touchdown catches (an ACC record for tight ends), and 1 touchdown pass, leading all ACC tight ends in touchdowns and receptions. He was voted second-team All-ACC and first-team Freshman All-American First by The Sporting News. In 2003 Miller won the ACC Offensive Lineman of the Week Award for this performance and became the 1st University of Virginia tight end to record over 100 yards receiving in 12 years. A week later, he had a career game against in-state rivals Virginia Tech with 13 catches for 145 yards, earning a 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive ACC Offensive Lineman of the Week Award. He scored the 1<sup>st</sup> touchdown in 2003 Continental Tire Bowl against Pittsburgh. He finished the 2002 season with an ACC record of 70 receptions and 835 receiving yards. He was voted second-team All-American by College Football News and first-team All-ACC. Miller was voted team captain before his junior season in 2004. Miller caught 3 passes for 45 yards and a touchdown against Temple, extending his streak of consecutive games with at least one catch to 22. That season, Miller had season highs of 9 catches and 110 yards in a loss against Florida State. Miller played his final college game against Fresno State in the 2004 MPC Computer Bowl. He led the team with 5 catches and 66 receiving yards. Miller was named unanimous first-team All-American for the 2004 season and was voted first-team All-ACC. Miller became the 1<sup>st</sup> ACC player to win the John Mackey Award given to the top college tight end. Miller ended his college career with ACC records for most career receptions (144), yards (1,703) and touchdowns (20) by a tight end. Miller finished 2nd in receptions, 7th in yards, and 4th in touchdown receptions for all positions. He also shares the school record for most 100-yard games by a tight end (3), and he caught at least 1 pass in 32 of his final 33 games. Miller skipped his senior season to enter the 2005 NFL Draft and was drafted by

Pittsburg Steelers in 1st round, where he played from 2005-2015. His NFL Stats: Receptions (592); Receiving Yards (6,569); Receiving TDs (45); 2-time Super Bowl Champs; and 2-time Pro Bowl (2009, 2012).

### **Mark Byrd (Cloudland – Roan Mountain, TN – 2003)**

Mark Byrd was a 4-year starter at quarterback and defensive back, 3-time All-State and 2003 Mr. Football for Cloudland High School. Byrd gained more than 9000 career all-purpose yards, over 4700 rushing yards, 2700 passing yards, scored 37 touchdowns, and had 30+ interceptions. He played in the 2001 Tennessee State Championship Game. During his 4 seasons, Cloudland was 46-5.

### **Daniel Kilgore (Dobyns-Bennett - Kingsport, TN – 2007)**

Daniel Kilgore was a 3-year starter at center for Dobyns-Bennett High School. Kilgore was a 1st-team All-State honoree and helped lead his team to a 9-1 mark in 2005.

Kilgore attended Appalachian State University where he was regarded as the most physical and intense player across ASU's offensive front. In 2007, he played in 9 games and scored touchdown in national championship victory over Delaware. Kilgore was a member of ASU Athletic Honor Roll. Kilgore was drafted by the San Francisco 49ers in the 5th round, 163rd overall, in the 2011 NFL Draft. He has played in 98 games (starting 60), playing for the 49ers (2011-2017), Miami Dolphins (2018-2019), and Kansas City Chiefs (2020). He has played in 2 Super Bowls (2012 & 2021).

### **Coty Sensabaugh (Dobyns-Bennett – Kingsport, TN – 2007)**

Coty Sensabaugh started on offense and defense for Dobyns-Bennett High School and was named the team MVP. Sensabaugh was the top receiver with 48 catches for 915 yards and 14 touchdowns. He had 4 interceptions on defense. Sensabaugh helped his team to Big East Conference Championship and a 10-1 record in 2006. He had perhaps his best game of the year in a 14-0 win over Science Hill when he had 6-148 receiving and 2 touchdowns and an interception on defense. Sensabaugh was a Consensus All-State at the 5A level in Tennessee, as chosen by the Tennessee Sportswriters Association.

Sensabaugh was a defensive back for the Clemson Tigers, playing for the ACC Championship in 2011. In 2012, he was chosen as a 4th round NFL pick to the Tennessee Titans (2012-2015). Sensabaugh has 8 years playing in the NFL with stop with the Los Angeles Rams (2016), New York Giants (2016), Pittsburg Steelers (2017-2018), Denver Broncos (2017), and Washington Redskins (2019). Sensabaugh conducts an annual football camp to inspire the next generation of athletes. His NFL stats: total tackles (272), sacks (1), forced fumbles (2), fumble recoveries (3), pass deflections (32), interceptions (3), and defensive touchdowns (1).

### **Tyler Hayworth (Dobyns-Bennett – Kingsport, TN – 2012)**

Tyler Hayworth was a 3-year starter as an offensive lineman for Dobyns-Bennett. Hayworth was a 1<sup>st</sup> team All-State selection and was 3-Time All-Conference. He helped his team to back-to-back undefeated regular seasons (2010 & 2011). He was the team captain, and selected to the TACA East-West All-Star Game. Hayworth was invited to the US Army National Junior Combine (Top 500 Juniors Nationwide are invited), and was a Rivals, ESPN, and 24/7 Sports consensus 3-star recruit. He was rated in the top 50 in the State of Tennessee.

Hayworth earned a scholarship to Wake Forest University and played offensive line in 46 games and started in 33 games over 4 years. He was elected as a team captain in his senior year and represented his team at ACC media day. Hayworth was selected to the 2-Time Academic All-ACC (2015 & 2016), and was invited to a mini-camp with the Jacksonville Jaguars (2017). Hayworth joined the Dobyns-Bennett coaching staff in 2017 where he currently coaches offensive line. In 2020, he started an Offensive Line Training Program to help young football players develop skills at an early age.