

# Hall of Fame Profiles

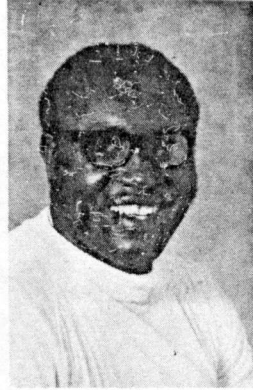
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THOMAS ELWOOD BRITT



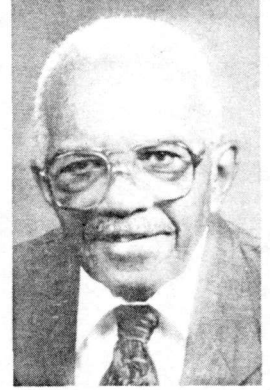
REV. EUGENE F. BROXTON



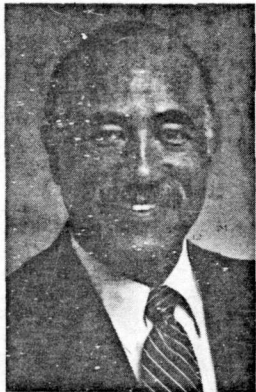
DAVID DANIELS, SR.



LILLIAN HAGINS



LEO THOMAS HARRISON, SR.



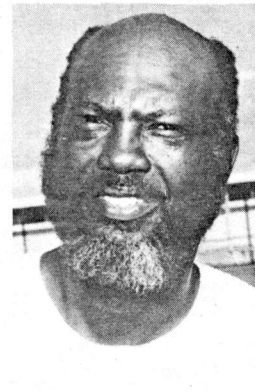
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RUSSELL (CREEP) MOORE



FRANK SCRUGGS, SR.



THEODORE R. PRIMUS



CLAUDE WOODRUFF, JR.

*Editor's Note: The following biographical sketches highlight the 10 persons being honored this year by the Florida A&M Sports Hall of Fame for their athletic exploits, or their service to the program either as coaches, administrators or support personnel.*

**THOMAS ELWOOD BRITT** (Basketball, 1939-42; 1945-47)—A native of Gary, Indiana, a hotbed of outstanding cagers through the years, Britt distinguished himself as one of the greatest basketball players in Florida A&M's storied history.

Recruited by the legendary Hall of Fame coach, A.S. "Jake" Gaither, Britt soon established himself as someone special in the hearts and minds of Rattler friends and foes, with his superb talents.

He attended Florida A&M from 1939 through 1942, answering the call to military service during World War II, serving three years. He returned to FAMU in 1945, completing his studies in 1947.

As a freshman, he shattered the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference single-season scoring record, earning the first of four all-conference awards he would be accorded during his career.

The 1942 team, which also won the Black College National Championship, did so with the help of Britt, who helped his FAMU teams to three conference titles as well, in 1941, 1942 and 1947.

He not only excelled in athletics, but on the academic side as well, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Education. Britt returned to his home state of Indiana, serving the community in education.

The Gary, Indiana native is married and is the father of four children.

**REV. EUGENE F. BROXTON** (Football, 1945-49)—A standout defensive guard and tackle for Rattler Football teams of the early years under Coach Jake Gaither, he's best known to many by the nickname "Mr. Hubba Hubba," a spirited expression coined by Broxton in 1945. It has remained a part of the Rattler cheering tradition for over 45 years.

Broxton completed his academic pursuits at Florida A&M in 1949, going on to earn a master's in administration and supervision in 1960 from New York University.

His life's work has been rich and varied. He is an ordained Baptist minister, having

pastored churches in Reddick, Ocala and Tampa. He presently serves as pastor of the Shady Grove Baptist Church in Tampa.

He has also served the various communities in which he's resided in the field of education and as an athletic coach. As a football coach, he led Central Academy (Palatka) to the 1951 North Florida regional title, then proved to be the driving force behind the 1954 North Regional title run of Ocala's Howard High School.

In 1956, Broxton was appointed principal at Collier Elementary School in Ocala, serving in that capacity through 1963, when he took on the principalship at Fessenden High School, then Ocala's largest all-Black high school.

He served during a difficult time of transition, as Fessenden was converted during the integration moves of the late 1960s and early 1970s, from an all-Black high school, to first an integrated middle school and finally an integrated elementary school.

Broxton served as principal at Fessenden from 1963 until his retirement in 1984. The Tampa native still remains active in community service today.

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**DAVID DANIELS, SR.** (Football, 1961-65)—A standout tackle during the Jake Gaither Era at Florida A&M, Daniels earned All-America honors for his efforts as a senior 1965.

A native of Palatka, Florida, the strapping 6-4 1/2, 270-pounder came to FAMU on scholarship after a standout prep school career at Central Academy High School. There, Daniels captained the football team and was co-captain of the basketball team. He also served as business manager of the Central Academy High senior class and was also president of the school's varsity lettermen's club.

After a stellar collegiate career at tackle for the Rattlers, Daniels, who was given the affectionate nickname, "Palatka Red," was drafted by two professional teams—the Chicago Bears of the National Football League and the Oakland Raiders of the old American Football League. Since this was prior to the 1969 merger of the two leagues, which resulted in among other things, the current Super Bowl, Daniels was picked by both teams in different rounds of their respective league drafts—by the Bears in 12th round and the Raiders in the sixth (6th) round.

He signed a two-year deal with the Raiders in 1966. After playing two seasons with the Raiders, he signed on Indianapolis Capitols of the Continental Football League for two seasons (1968, 1969), earning a spot on the Central Division all-star team and a spot on the all-Continental Football League team.

Daniels returned to the National Football League for three seasons, after inking a pact with the Los Angeles Rams (1970-72).

After completing his professional football playing career, Daniels returned to Florida, where he began working in education and recreation. He presently works at Amos Godby High School, as a teacher and driver's education instructor, in Tallahassee.

He is also active in the Tallahassee community and especially at FAMU, where he takes part in the operation of the annual FAMU Relays and Spring Sports Carnival and in the National Youth Sports Program, held every summer.

Daniels and his wife, Gwendolyn, are the parents of two children, David and Davelyn.

**LILLIAN HAGINS** (Supporter of Athletics, 1961-Present)—A member of the Florida A&M Athletic Department staff since 1961. Mrs. Hagins has proven to be a truly dedicated and loyal supporter of athletics.

As an Administrative Assistant to the Athletic Director, Hagins was hired by Hall of Fame coach and Athletic Director, A.S. "Jake"

Gaither, as his secretary. But here duties, then and now, range far beyond the limits of that title.

During the Gaither Era, she assisted in the scheduling of games and practices; made up class schedules and recorded grades, planned road trips for athletic teams and staff, handled correspondence and fielded phone calls for Coach Gaither, who served as head football coach, athletic director and chairman of the Health, Physical Education and Recreation department.

Although her numerous administrative duties are now strictly in the athletic arena, they are still no less vital and just as demanding of a tireless and dedicated individual.

She is charged with the planning of road trips for football and other athletic teams; assisting with the tracking of events contracts and other vital athletic correspondence and supervising the departmental payroll operations.

Mrs. Hagins also works closely with the department's Business Manager in connection with ticket operations for sporting events and with the annual National Youth Sports Program, run jointly by FAMU and the NCAA during the summer months.

She is extremely active in community and church work in Tallahassee, working tirelessly with her local church, St. James Christian Methodist Episcopal, and with her college sorority, Alpha Kappa Alpha.

Additionally, she has taught business classes in the evenings at local high school adult education centers and community colleges, as well as presently working with the Supervisor of Elections Office in Leon County.

A graduate of Bethune-Cookman College, with a Master's degree from Florida A&M, the Orlando, Florida native is mother of two grown children and grandmother to three.

**LEO THOMAS HARRISON, SR.** (Football and Boxing, 1938-1942)—A native of St. Petersburg, Fla., Harrison was a star footballer and boxer for FAMU, earning all-conference honors at fullback, while winning the conference boxing title.

An all-state fullback and all-star basketball player at West Palm Beach's Industrial High School, Harrison continued his excellence both on and off the field at Florida A&M.

In addition to earning all-star notices for his play at fullback, he won the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference boxing title. His penchant of athletic excellence, which merited his selection as a Rattler Football team captain, also earned him a professional football offer from the Detroit Lions following

his senior year. However, following his graduation, he was inducted into the United States Army.

Active in student activities as well, Harrison helped initiate the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity chapter at FAMU in 1939. He also served as President of the Student Council and as school president during Student Government Day.

Following his four-year tour of duty in the United States Army, where he served as a statistician in the reception center at Fort Benning, Ga., Harrison returned to public life in education.

He taught math and science, as well as coached various sports at South Girard High School in Phenix City, Ala., from 1946 to 1967, while also serving as an instructor in adult veteran education.

Harrison later served as a media specialist for the Manpower Institute for the Development of Staff in Hope Hull, Ala., from 1968-75 and for the Russell County Board of Education from 1975-80.

He retired in 1980, but remains active in fraternal, civic and religious organizations. Married to the former Ida Robinson of St. Augustine, Fla., they are the parents of one son, Leo Jr., and the grandparents of one.

**AL MCCOY** (Baseball, 1947-51)—One of FAMU's first all-star baseballers, McCoy played in the old Negro Leagues and also went on to star in professional softball. He later served in various civic and educational organizations, as well as in support groups for Florida A&M University.

A St. Petersburg, Fla. native, McCoy was a gifted baseball player, who earned All-Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference honors as a second baseman in 1949. However, his baseball exploits were not limited to FAMU, as he played in the National Negro League with the Indianapolis Clowns from 1945 to 1948.

A 1951 graduate of FAMU, McCoy joined the United States Air Force, where he served through 1955. During that time, he earned All-America honors in softball, playing for the Lorenzo, Texas team.

From 1955 through 1956, McCoy worked with inner-city youth organizations, then continued his youth-oriented work as a grade school teacher and sports coach in Norristown, Pa. (1956-58) and in Elizabeth, N.J. (1958-59).

His athletic exploits continued during this time in softball, as he won the American Softball Association world batting title in 1957, hitting .462 during the ASA Tournament in Clearwater, Fla. He also won the Canadian

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softball batting crown in 1961, hitting .361. In 1963, he coached a New Jersey entry in the Women's World Championship Softball Tournament, coaching the team through New Jersey and New York regional tournaments.

McCoy continued to work with various civic organizations in the state of New Jersey until 1970, when he returned to FAMU, to serve for three years as Director of Alumni Affairs. He also worked in other civic organizations in Tallahassee through 1983, and was color analyst for the Rattler Football Radio Network (1975) and host of the weekly FAMU Football Highlights Show, The Rudy Hubbard Show.

In 1983, he went to San Francisco, where he served as a member of the Board of Directors of the King/Garvey Cooperative until 1987. He then returned to coaching and education, as the head baseball coach and director of Housing at Paul Quinn College in Waco, Texas from 1987-1988.

He presently resides in Tallahassee and serves as an occupational specialist in the Leon County School System.

**RUSSELL (CREEP) MOORE** (Football, Basketball and Track, 1944-47)—The late Russell Moore was a three-sport letter-winner in football, basketball and track, starring on the Rattler Football teams that won four consecutive conference titles from 1944 through 1947.

Called "Creep," because many thought him immobile as he glided to victory in most high school track contests, Moore was a star three-sport letterman at Norristown (Pa.) High School, before coming to Florida A&M.

A Pittsburgh Courier Academic All-America in football (1946), Moore also played professional baseball in the St. Louis Cardinals' organization, before moving on to a career in education in the Pensacola school system.

In 1947, he became the head basketball, baseball and track coach at Booker T. Washington High School in Pensacola, serving in those capacities through 1955. In 1948, he became the head football coach and athletic director at Washington High, guiding the football program to 16 consecutive winning seasons.

He became a Physical Education and Health teacher in the Escambia County School system, beginning in 1967 through his retirement in 1987. He briefly returned to coaching in 1982, when he coached the boys' and girls' track teams at Pensacola High School. Moore was active in the Pensacola community as a member of the NAACP, the American Association of Retired Persons, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and the Allen Chapel A.M.E. Church, and was the recipient of

numerous civic honors for his work in the community.

Moore is survived by his wife, the former Essie Owens, five children and five grandchildren.

**THEODORE R. PRIMUS** (Football and Track, 1945-48)—An honorable mention All-America in 1948 in football, the late Theodore Primus went on to become a high school coach in the sports of football, basketball and baseball.

A native of Daytona Beach, Fla., the former prep school standout participated not only in football, but in track as well at FAMU. He left Florida A&M in 1949 with a bachelor of science degree, later obtaining a masters' from Indiana University.

Primus began his career in education and coaching on the high school level at Roshelle High School in Lakeland, where he directed the football and basketball teams. He moved on to Roosevelt High in Lake Wales, where he coached football, baseball and basketball.

He also coached at Dillard High School in Fort Lauderdale, where he was head football and basketball coach. Six of his former prepsters went on to careers in the National Football League, including former FAMU linemen Charles Goodrum (Minnesota Vikings) and John Kelly (Washington Redskins), plus former Southern University all-star James Osborne (Chicago Bears).

After 1973, Primus continued to work in the Broward County School system after leaving Dillard High School, working until 1983.

Primus is survived by his wife, Julia and two children, daughter Juliette and son Ted.

**FRANK SCRUGGS, SR.** (Football, Baseball and Track, 1944-46)—Scruggs had a multi-faceted athletic career at Florida A&M, serving as team captain of three sports teams at the school, displaying early the tremendous gift of leadership which would distinguish him throughout his career of education and athletic administration.

A prep school standout at West Palm Beach's Industrial High School, Scruggs came to Tallahassee in 1944 on scholarship, immediately getting into the swing of things in football and track. As a griddy in 1944, Scruggs played fullback, halfback and linebacker, as well handling kickoffs, placekicking and some punting.

In track, the then-freshman anchored the 440-yard relay team, which set a Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference record, while also running the 100-yard dash.

As a sophomore in 1945, he ranked third in the nation in placekicking, hitting on 38 of 41 tries. He was also named co-captain of the

team that year and in addition, played fullback, halfback and linebacker. He was also picked as a co-captain of the Rattler baseball and track teams in the 1945-46 school year.

Upon graduation, Scruggs accepted the head football coaching position at Fort Lauderdale's Dillard High School in 1947. At Dillard, he also served as director of athletics, coaching basketball, baseball track and swimming in addition to football, while also directing the school's intramural and safety programs.

He moved on to Stranahan High School in Fort Lauderdale, where he served in administration from 1968 until his retirement in 1983. Scruggs also worked as a game official on both the high school and college level, working on the high school level from 1947 to 1968 and in the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference during the 1950s and 1960s.

Recipient of numerous awards for his outstanding service as a coach and game official, Scruggs also played semi-pro baseball with the Fort Lauderdale Tigers' club and also coached semi-pro football in the 1970s, helping organize and direct the Fort Lauderdale Rattlers.

**CLAUDE WOODRUFF, JR.** (Football, 1948-51)—A graduate of Bartow's Union Academy High School, Woodruff was an outstanding defender for the Rattlers, playing linebacker for three years at FAMU.

During his playing days at FAMU, Rattler defensive units allowed just 80 points per season, while the potent offensive aggregations were scoring 262 points per season during that same span, winning one Black College National title (1950), and three SIAC championships (1948-49-50).

A 1952 graduate of Florida A&M, Woodruff working in the education field from 1952 through 1986, teaching science and physical education at several high schools in the Central Florida area, from Bartow to Orlando.

As a high school athletic coach, he had exceptional success, posting a record eight undefeated seasons in football while coaching in Orange County; winning five state championships in track and field at Union Academy, while coaching seven students who eventually reached the National Football League, including Hall of Famer and current FAMU head football coach Ken Riley.

Cited with several awards for his outstanding contributions as a coach, educator, businessman and citizen, Woodruff and his wife Minnie, reside in Orlando. They are the parents of one son, Ronald and three daughters, Galen, Edith and Conchita.