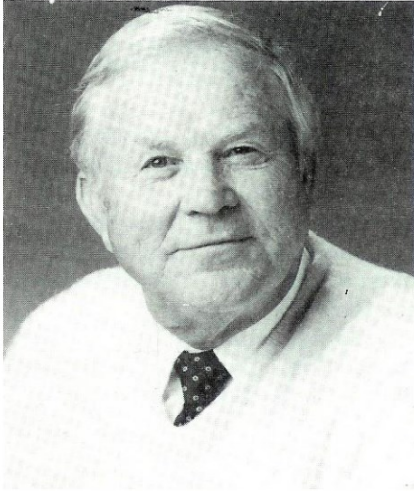


1991 INDUCTEE



JAMES "RED" SMITH

Category: Player

School(s): Children's Home

As a youngster at The Children's Home, James "Red" Smith realized the importance of hard work. He developed a valuable work ethic while working in the fields, milking cows and slopping the hogs along with the other youngsters.

Yet as hard a worker as Smith was, he, too, was prone to youthful pining. He was distracted by other activities that were going on around him. And as young tike who had not yet reached his teen years, Smith noticed that there appeared to be a pastime that required some work but also which seemed to provide a little more room for fun and athletic prowess. He also discovered that members of The Children's Home football team were not required to perform as many chores during their season. And so Smith, realizing the opportunity that awaited him on the gridiron, made what he considered the logical choice. He would become a football player and cut down on his long list of chores. After all, he would still work hard while developing his football skills.

However, one factor that his youthful eyes overlooked in his zeal to sidestep some chores was the fact that the football players seemed to be a bit larger than Smith's own 5 foot 10 inch frame. The coach, Wilburn Clary, chuckled to himself but said nothing to discourage the young, freckled-faced Smith. It was perhaps one of the wisest decisions of his coaching career. For the young Smith became the star fullback on The Children's Home football team. Later he lettered in all three sports of baseball, football, and basketball.

Duke University, Smith was coached by Bill Murray. Smith became the Blue Devil's clutch man, the stand-out player, the "go-to" man, the team's bread and butter. In three seasons, he rushed for 1,228 yards. He averaged 40.7 yards per punt which thrust him into the pages of Collier's Magazine as an All-American.

But Smith was not just a football player. He also possessed great baseball ability. As a freshman at Duke, he hit a home run that was the longest one ever hit at Jack Coombs Field. He continued to excel in baseball as a sophomore. His batting average reached .413 and he blasted six home runs. His averages led even teammates Dick Groat and Bill Werber.

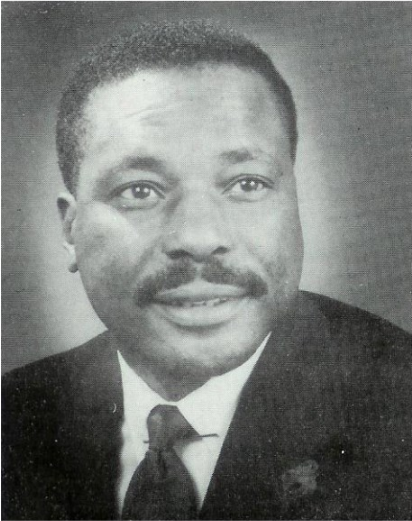
Smith missed his junior year on the baseball field and played only 22 games as a senior. Still he ranks among the top 10 in both career triples and home runs. He has a lifetime batting average of .336. Many baseball insiders and fans alike feel that had it not been for a severe ankle injury, Smith would have continued his baseball career in the major league level.

During his fine athletic career, Smith received honors as a member of the All-State, All-Conference and All-Southern football teams. He also was named as an Outstanding Athlete of the Year in State High School Circles.

Although The Children's Home no longer fields athletic teams, Smith has left them a proud legacy and testament to the values of hard work and Dedication.

James has a lovely wife named Evelyn and is currently Vice-President of Wics Corporation in Gastonia, NC.

1991 INDUCTEE



WILLIE "Super Sub" GRIFFIN

Category: Player

School(s): Atkins High School

Willie Robinson Griffin by all accounts, is acknowledged as one of the most unique and gifted athletes to don the maroon and gold of the Atkins High Camels. During Griffin's maiden season with the Camel hoopsters, he established himself as the man to watch as he patrolled the outer edges and collected many buckets from downtown.

Robert Moore, a coach with proven innovations and hidden strategies, came to Atkins during Griffin's sophomore year and changed his game, image and basketball mentality forever. Moore chose to opt for a transfer student's height and asked Griffin to become the Sixth Man - for designed purposes -and to psychologically adjust to that role. Thus, was born the player that came to be known in local and state circles as "SUPER SUB." Griffin proved his coach to be a genius as he went on to become the best fans had ever seen for coming off the bench to spark an offensive attack Griffin obviously was an excellent shooter. He was consistently deadly and could "shoot the lights out" from 20 to 30 feet. It was a given fact that with approximately 4 minutes remaining in the 1st quarter - it was "Super Sub" time!

With their new-found look and strategy, Griffin led the Camels to the NCSHSAAAA Championship in 1969. Griffin was chosen All City/County (2 years), All District, All Northwest and All State his senior year. He was selected to play in the EAST-WEST game and was voted Most Valuable Player, where he pushed out the likes of Bob McAdoo and Bobby Jones. Along the way, "Super Sub" was also voted City Player of the Year (1969), Northwest Player of the Year and N.C. State Player of the Year.

Griffin also lettered in baseball and Cross Country when he was not found tossing his "WARM-UP" around the hardwood. Earlier, a junior high school coach had predicted that Griffin's role as the Sixth Man would not hurt his chances for a college scholarship. Conversely, Griffin helped define the position as a similar prototype that had been used professionally, particularly by the Boston Celtics.

"Super Sub" was not one-dimensional throughout his high school career. In addition to being a three-letter man and being voted the school's BEST ATHLETE, he ranked 48 of 365 in his graduating class. Purdue University and Wake Forest offered Griffin an opportunity to continue his bench magic. Griffin took his guided missiles to Wake Forest and became the first black athlete from Winston-Salem to be awarded a grant -in-aid scholarship.

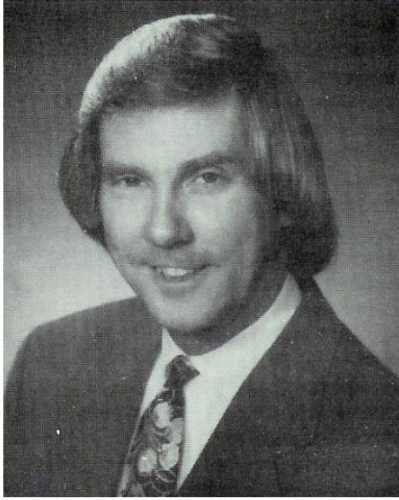
Griffin has worked as an assistant teacher and basketball coach at South Park High School and as a technician at Forsyth Memorial Hospital while finishing requirements for a B. S. degree in psychology from Winston-Salem State University.

Griffin is an active member of the Emmanuel Baptist Church; MSU member, a member of the Sunday School and Usher Board.

Presently, "Super Sub" can be spotted around Winston-Salem as he carries out his professional duties as a City of Winston-Salem fire fighter.

He is married to the loving Winfred Ernestine Carter and they have two children, twelve-year old Carmen and seven-year old Sabrina.

1991 INDUCTEE



OLAN SHULER

Category: Coach

School(s): North Forsyth High School

At the ripe young age of 45, Olan Shuler turned his back on coaching in 1990 when he retired from his coaching position at North Forsyth High School. Not a very unusual move under normal circumstances but in light of the fact that Shuler was one of the most successful basketball coaches ever to pace a sideline in Forsyth County it was a move that left his adoring public surprised and screaming. "say it ain't so, Olan."

But when one understands the love that Shuler has for the sport of basketball, then they realize he could have done little else but to announce his retirement when doing what he enjoyed most became more of a task than a pleasure. In announcing his retirement from coaching, Shuler said that he had reached a point when he simply didn't enjoy going to practice anymore. He said that coaching became "like a job" to him and that he had promised himself, in fairness to the players that looked to him for guidance, to step down if he ever reached that point.

But he left having accomplished at an early coaching age what many in his field never live to achieve. In 16 seasons, Shuler coached 28 players who went on to sign grants-in-aid and play college basketball. Included among his players were Brian Howard of N.C. State, Jeff Denny of North Carolina and David Carlyle of Wake Forest. He is proud of each of his players' accomplishments on the court but he beams when recalling the kind of individuals they were.

"As good as some of those players were, they're better people. I've enjoyed that a lot, because that's what coaching is all about." Shuler told a Winston-Salem Journal reporter shortly after announcing his retirement.

A native of Forsyth County, Shuler graduated from Gray High School where he played baseball and basketball. He received a basketball scholarship to Appalachian State University where he played varsity ball for three years and was named to the Carolinas Conference All-Tournament Team in 1966.

After teaching stints at Southwest Forsyth Junior High and at Curry Lab School at UNC-Greensboro, Shuler arrived at North Forsyth in 1969. Shuler served as assistant coach under Gray Cartwright in his first years at North and was Cartwright's successor in 1974 when the former head coach gave up coaching. Under Shuler, the North Vikings' record was 261-134, a winning percentage of .661. His team never lost more than 10 games in a season and they averaged 17.7 wins each season. He coached North squads to five conference championships, two sectional championships and a record five Frank Spencer Holiday Classic championships.

Yet even as astounding as his coaching successes have been, Shuler prefers to think of himself as a good teacher first. He said that all successful coaches are good teachers and that he considers the court his classroom. "Every Tuesday and Friday (game days) we have a test. The test just happens to be the opposition."

His team also appeared in six state playoffs but a state championship title eluded Shuler over the years. But he is a man who played basketball since he was a mere 10 years of age. He has been a player, an assistant coach and a head coach.

Shuler was named City/County Coach of the Year twice and Northwest N.C. Coach of the Year on two occasions. While a state title would certainly have been icing on the proverbial cake, Shuler is proudest of the consistency that his teams displayed over the years. He is happy to be able to say that his teams were always prepared and that they never got outworked by other teams. As he left coaching atop the heap and opted for classroom responsibilities, Olan Shuler himself was rarely outworked.

