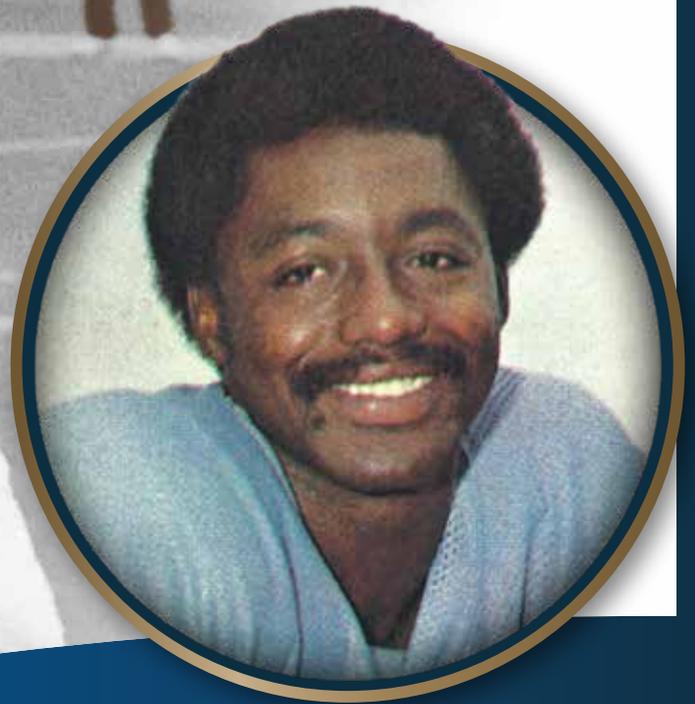
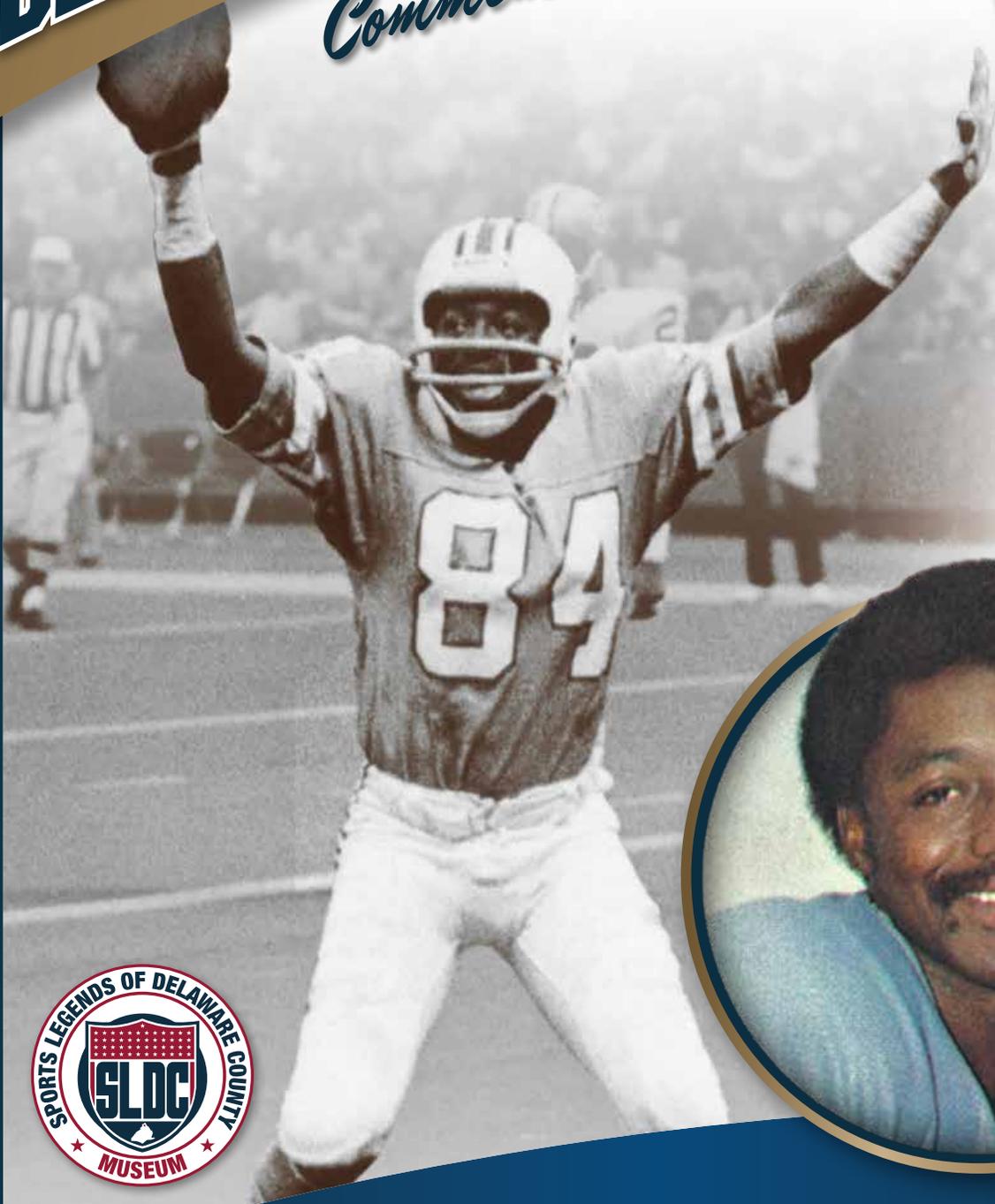
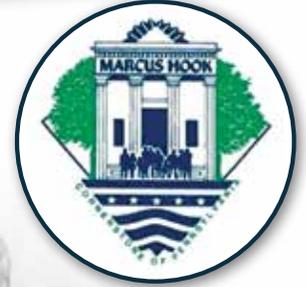


BILLY "White Shoes" JOHNSON

Commemorative Book



STATUE DEDICATION DAY

Marcus Hook, Pennsylvania
October 15, 2022

ARTIST COMMENTS FROM SCULPTOR

Jennifer Frudakis–Petry:

The Billy “White Shoes” Johnson monument was challenging to create, not just because it’s a seven-foot monument but because I had to depict the moment just right when Billy performs his end zone dance. Capturing a moment in time is critical for the success of the monument, especially with this sculpture, because I had to make Billy’s famous dance look convincing without overdoing it. I had to portray a dynamic balance between action and the excitement of the moment. My goal as an artist was to render an accurate depiction of that dance while reproducing his exact likeness. This was a challenge—and one I felt would be best shared with the honoree himself. I called Billy and wanted to get his thoughts about the subtle aspects of the composition, and he made a simple request: “Make the shoes white.”

I assured him that I would. As for everything else, I was left to my own discretion. I appreciate the confidence he showed in me. It’s my hope that I hit all the right notes to really make Billy’s monument dance. I’ll leave it up to all those who view it to decide.

This project wouldn’t have been possible without the Billy “White Shoes” Johnson Statue Fund, the Marcus Hook Borough Council, and the Sports Legends of Delaware County. Jim “Boog” Laird led the fundraising committee with plenty of help from Jim Vankoski, Phil Damiani, Rich Pagano, Brent Hagwood and Harry Chaykun. We mustn’t forget two key organizers—project engineer Charles J. Catania and Andrew Weldon, CPA—plus all the volunteers working on behalf of Billy. Thank you for making this monument a reality.



Jennifer Frudakis–Petry, Sculptor of the Billy “White Shoes” Johnson statue and sculpture instructor at the Wayne Art Center.

www.jenfrudakis.com

SERENDIPITY

Thank you to everyone who made it possible to be here today Emlen Tunnell, Fredia Gibbs and Billy Johnson linked from the beginning, connected more than we would know. Team Tunnell, Team Fredia and now Team White Shoes, efforts that required maximum teamwork to make their statues a reality. On June 2, 2018, Billy and Barbara Johnson attended Emlen Tunnell's Statue Dedication. How prophetic that four years later we stand here today for the unveiling of the Billy White Shoes Johnson Statue. How amazing is it that on September 28th, Cabrini University dedicated a larger than life bronze statue to Billy's cousin, Fredia "The Cheetah" Gibbs. These are all Delaware County athletes, representing their hometowns of Radnor, Chester and Marcus Hook, Pennsylvania.

To further connect the Delco dots, tribute must be paid to Billy's cousin Chuck Weems. The former semi-pro football player, who served in the Korean War, took responsibility and invited Billy and Barbara Johnson to the Emlen Tunnell Statue Dedication Ceremony. It was magical that the Johnsons were in attendance that special day. Chuck Weems volunteered his time and professional photography skills wherever needed.

All statues were created by the Sports Legends of Delaware County sculptor in residence, Jennifer Frudakis Petry. The pride of the Wayne Art Center, Jennifer serves as their Sculpture Instructor. With 35 years as a professional sculptor, Jennifer has established herself as one of the United States finest artists, mastering works in bronze. Her list of accomplishments continues to grow.

The driving force behind Billy Johnson's statue has been Steve Burman. It was Steve who suggested Billy was "Statue Worthy." Steve generously provided the financial support to start the project, just as he did with the Emlen Tunnell and Fredia Gibbs statues.

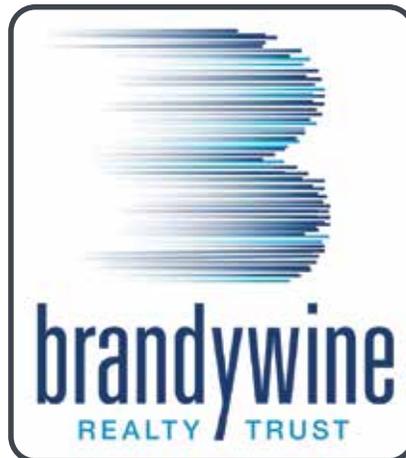
Armed with Steve Burman's blessing and support, Team White Shoes found the "Force of Nature" willing and able to team up with our own force of nature Jim Vankoski, SLDC Museum Curator, event planner and project manager extraordinaire. James "Boog" Laird, Billy's high school football teammate and champion of Billy Johnson's NFL Pro Football Hall of Fame campaign jumped in head first, connecting Billy's home town Marcus Hook and it's many resources. On page 12 you will see the many cash and in-kind contributions helping make today a reality.

All of our three statue projects strived for historical relevance and factual accuracy. Each benefitted undoubtedly from Delco's Sports Historian Rich Pagano and long-time Delaware County Daily Times Sportswriter Harry Chaykun. They are second to none for their research and writing skills.

So, to complete the loop, thank you to then Radnor Township Manager Bob Zienkowski and current Director of Recreation & Community Programming Tammy Cohen for providing a home to our then homeless Sports Legends of Delaware County Museum. We've come a long way, but as my father advised "son don't rest on your laurels". Something tells me, we won't!

-Phil Damiani, Team "White Shoes"

PRO BOWL SPONSORS



The Media Area Sports Hall of Fame salutes the Billy "White Shoes" Johnson Statue Committee on a job well done.

A lasting tribute to a great athlete and gentleman!

PHIL DAMIANI MEDIA SPORTS HALL OF FAME

TOP 100 PLAYER SPONSOR

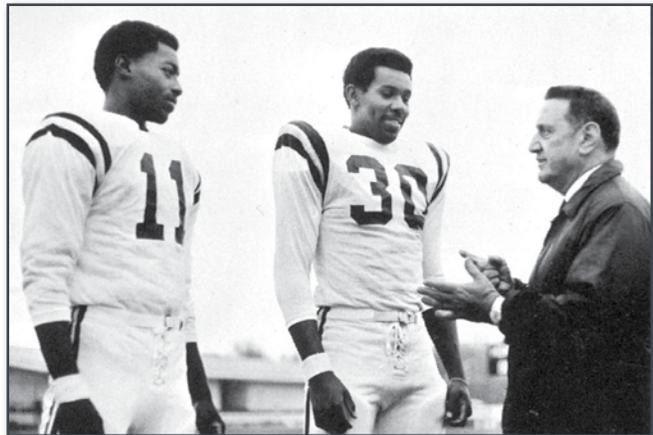
The Sports Legends of Delaware County and the Borough of Marcus Hook
Billy “White Shoes” Johnson Statue Fund Rasing Committee
Salutes **Steve and Heidi Burman** for being an **NFL Top 100 Player Sponsor**.
A Top 100 Player Sponsor is our highest sponsorship level.



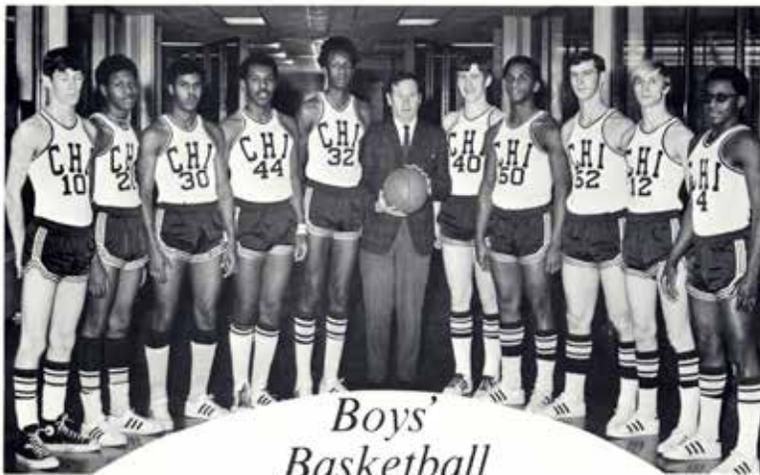
CHICHESTER HIGH SCHOOL 1970 YEARBOOK PHOTOS

William Arthur Johnson
 "Hawk" Business
 Always seen with . . . Cool More Fellow,
 Your Boy, Na; Pet peeve . . . conceited
 girls, track practice; Likes . . . Money,
 girls, sports, parties; Prized posses-
 sion . . . Track medals; Ambition . . .
 Play pro football.

Widener Coll.



Co-captains B. Johnson, A. Henry & Coach Apichella



*Boys'
Basketball*

(L to R): G. Reed, L. Choers, I. Dennis, A. Henry, H. Byrd, Mr. Nugent, Coach, T. Quano, J. Müller, B. Heffernan, M. Powers, B. Johnson.



Billy's High School Track Coach
Bob Shoudt

HIGH SCHOOL DAYS

William Arthur Johnson was a member of Chichester High's Class of 1970.

He played varsity basketball under Coach Bob Nugent and earned a gold medal in the 200-meter dash at the PIAA Track and Field Championships.

However, he was best known for his exploits on the football field. As a senior in 1969, he was one of the six players who earned Daily Times All-Delco first team honors who went on to play professional football.

As he prepared for that senior season under legendary coach Tony Apichella, the decision was made to have Billy play quarterback so that he would pose a challenge to defenses on every snap of the ball.

Billy soon came up with the idea that if he dyed his black shoes white, he would be able to run faster. It took some convincing, but when he got permission from Coach Apichella to wear the white shoes, he performed well enough that Daily Times sports editor Ed Gebhart, who had been calling him Blazin' Billy Johnson, changed his wording to Billy "White Shoes" Johnson.

Billy's senior season at Chichester produced performances that had everyone in Delaware County talking about him and eagerly awaiting the arrival of the Daily Times so they could read about his latest exploits.

In Week 2, he had 61- and 57-yard runs and a 51-yard punt return among his four TDs in a 26-6 win over Concord (Del.). He followed that with two TD passes and a scoring run in a 20-12 victory over Collingdale.

In a 36-32 loss to Lansdowne-Aldan High, Billy ran for three touchdowns and threw two TD passes.

When Chichester claimed a 33-30 decision over Interboro, Billy had two TD passes, including the game-winning 49-yarder with 2:48 to play, and also ran for a pair of touchdowns. The next week, he hit Harriton with 265 yards rushing, three TDs and a TD pass in a 38-6 romp.

One of his most memorable plays occurred in the 14-14 tie with Upper Darby in a game in which he threw a touchdown pass and ran for a TD. On the two-point conversion play that tied the score, Billy ran up and back down the field trying to elude Upper Darby defenders before he finally got to the end zone with the points that gave Chichester the tie.

Against Chester High, which had the top-ranked defense in Delaware County, Billy came up with six touchdowns, including scoring runs of 96, 4, 68, 95 and 35 yards as well as a 50-yard punt return for a TD. He also had an 86-yard kickoff return called back by a penalty. In all, he had 13 touches for 370 total yards as Chichester clobbered Chester, 48-8.

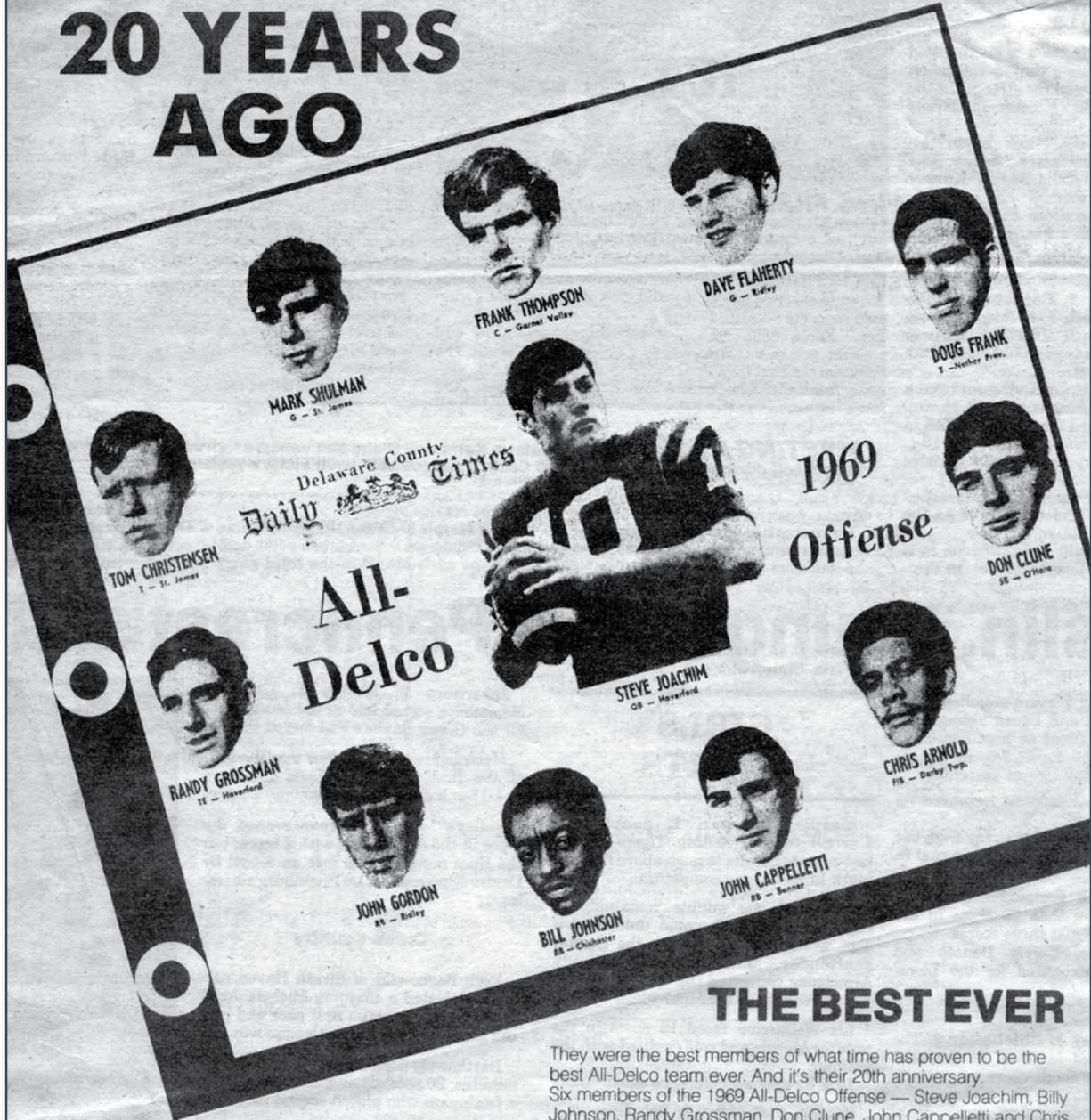
"White Shoes" high school career concluded with 170 yards rushing and three touchdowns in Chichester's 48-20 Thanksgiving Day loss to Sun Valley.

He led Delaware County in scoring in 1969, was selected to play in the MS-Hope Chest All-Star Game, and decided to continue his football career at Widener University in nearby Chester, PA.

-By Harry Chaykun

The CLASS of '69

20 YEARS AGO



THE BEST EVER

They were the best members of what time has proven to be the best All-Delco team ever. And it's their 20th anniversary. Six members of the 1969 All-Delco Offense — Steve Joachim, Billy Johnson, Randy Grossman, Don Clune, John Cappelletti and Chris Arnold — went on to have pro careers. Their credentials include four Super Bowls, one World Football League title, two Maxwell Awards, one Heisman Trophy, one all-time All-Ivy selection, one NFL Comeback of the Year Award, three Pro Bowl appearances and one Pro Bowl MVP. It's a record of achievement that is a standard for any All-Delco team to match. And individually, the six have written dramatic stories of personal success and tragedy.

SIX-PART IN-DEPTH SERIES
BEGINNING MONDAY, SEPT. 18

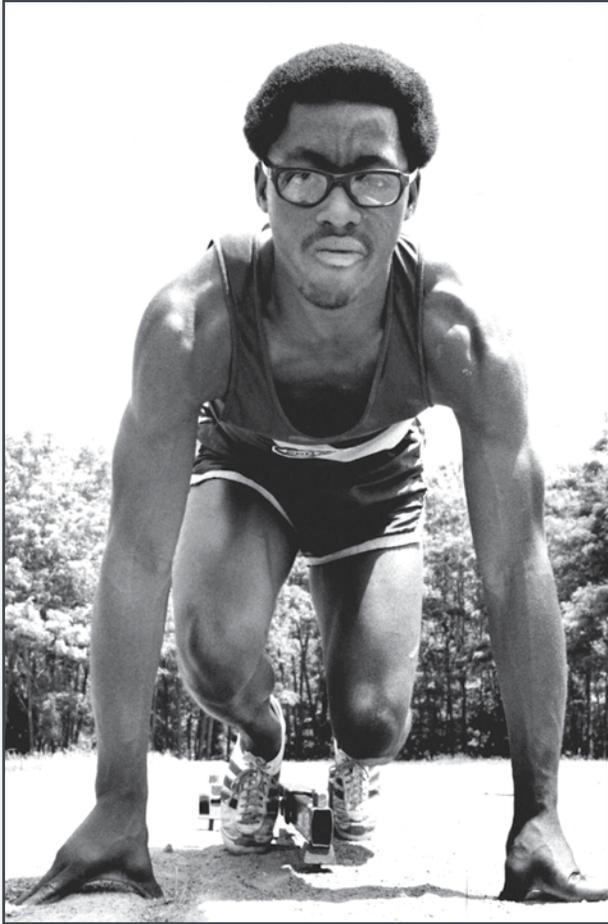
ONLY in **THE DAILY TIMES**

TOP 100 PLAYER SPONSOR



The Billy “White Shoes” Johnson Statue Committee thanks **Bo & Kelly Ryan** for being a **NFL Top 100 Player Sponsor**. The Shoes connection goes back to the time when Butch Ryan, Bo’s Father shown above with Billy, coached Shoes during his High School Summer League baseball days. “Shoes” stories regarding Butch’s coaching expertise are real Delco Classics.

WIDENER COLLEGE DAYS



Billy Johnson picked by Houston

At the 1974 Middle Atlantic Conference College Division Championship Track Meet. Billy helped Widener to the team title.



AT WIDENER COLLEGE

After being passed over by many bigger colleges and universities, who considered him to be too small to play major college football, Marcus Hook native Billy “White Shoes” Johnson, who played at Chichester High School (Class of 1970), enrolled at Widener College in Chester, PA.

Freshmen were not eligible to play varsity football in those days, so Billy began his Widener varsity career in the 1971 season.

In 1972, he earned Associated Press All–America honors for the first time after leading the NCAA in all–purpose yards gained per game (251.7, breaking a record that had stood since 1937 and had been set by Byron White of Colorado, who at the time his record was broken was a Justice on the United States Supreme Court).

In Widener’s 1973 game against St. John’s, Johnson set a school record by scoring six touchdowns – three on punt returns, which also set a school record. He also began his famous end zone dances, which at the time were known as the “White Shoes Wiggle.” He once told an official who flagged him for an end zone dance that it would not be the only flag he would be receiving for his dancing that day.

He led the NCAA in average all–purpose yards per game and was named to the Associated Press All–America Team.

As a senior, he made the All–America Team again, repeating as national leader in all–purpose yards averaged per game and also having the top yards per game rushing average.

For his career at Widener, he scored 62 touchdowns, averaging 41.7 yards per scoring play, and finished with more than 5,400 total yards gained. He scored at least one TD in 27 of the 28 games he played, had 21 games with 100 or more yards rushing, and in eight consecutive games he got more than 200 yards on the ground. He also had seven touchdowns, which averaged more than 60 yards per play, nullified because of penalties.

When he had completed his football career at Widener, Johnson had set nine NCAA records and 22 school records.

Johnson also competed with the Widener track team. In a 1974 meet, he finished first in four individual events and helped two relay teams to victory as Widener won 14 of the 17 events contested.

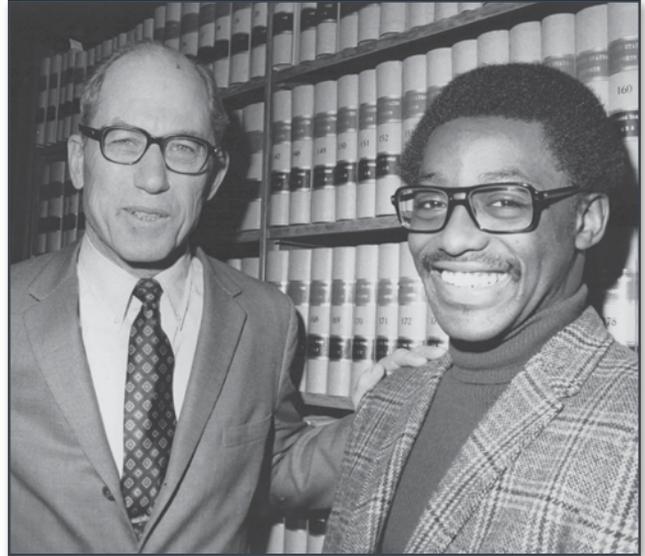
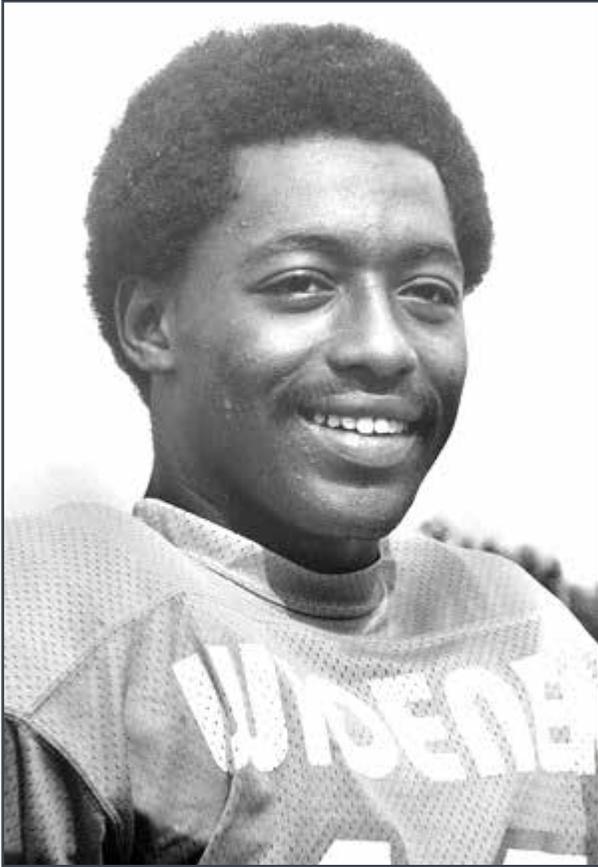
At the 1974 Middle Atlantic Conference College Division Championship track meet, he helped Widener to the team title.

Despite the fact that the Philadelphia Eagles had their training camp at Widener, he was passed over by the Eagles – and the other National Football League (NFL) teams – until being drafted in the 15th round by the Houston Oilers. During his NFL career, he earned his place as a kick returner on the league’s All–75th Anniversary and All–100th Anniversary teams. He is the only player from those teams who has not been elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

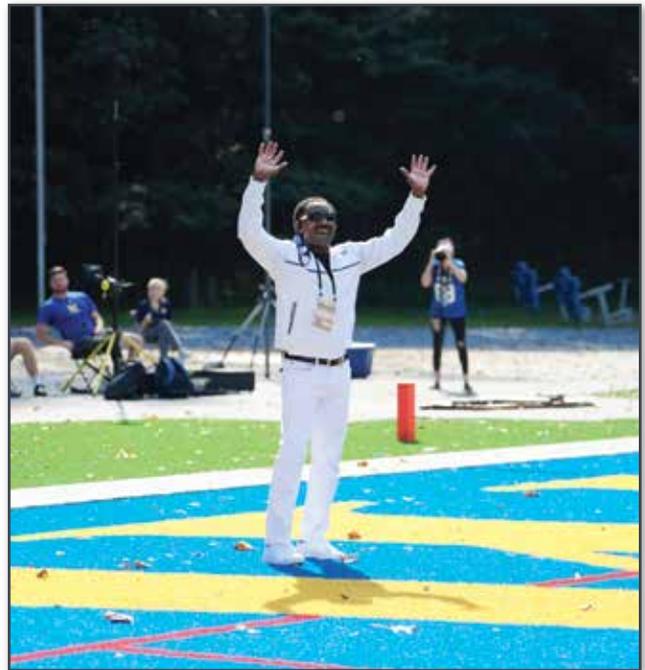
In 1996, he was named to the College Football Hall of Fame, and in 1999, the Delaware County Daily Times named him the paper’s Football Player of the Millennium.

–By Harry Chaykun

“SHOES” IN THE NEWS



In 1972, he earned Associated Press All-America honors for the first time after leading the NCAA in all-purpose yards gained per game (251.7, breaking a record that had stood since 1937 and had been set by Byron “Whizzer” White of Colorado, who at the time his record was broken was a Justice on the United States Supreme Court).

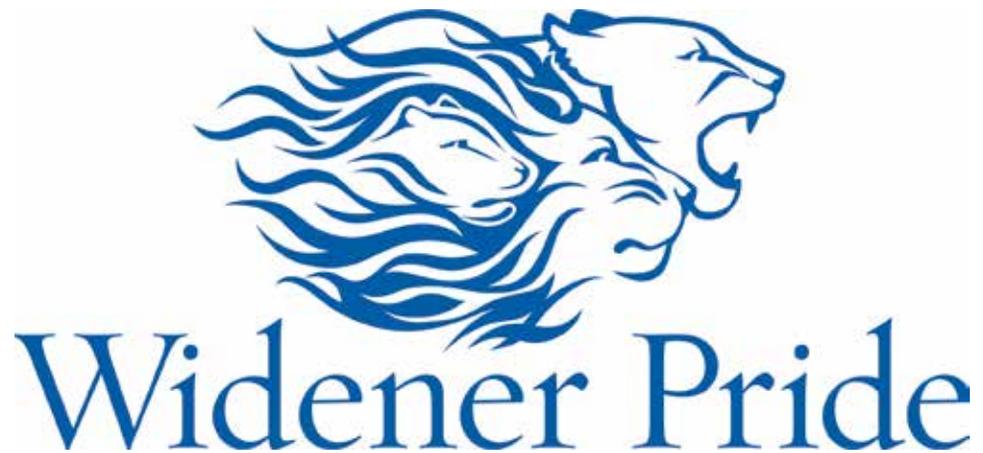


Shoes celebrating at a Widener Homecoming Game.



My college coach Bill Manlove and his wife Edna honor me, holding my daughter Jazmyn, at the 1996 College Football Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. I am fortunate to be one of only 0.02% of college football players and coaches that can claim the honor of being named into the College Football Hall of Fame.

- Billy Johnson



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FOR BILLY “WHITE SHOES” JOHNSON

Acknowledgments

Mary Kaye Anthony Esq.	Jim “Boog” and Betty Laird
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PRO CAREER

BILLY “WHITE SHOES” JOHNSON

During his 14 years in the NFL, Billy “White Shoes” Johnson was an innovator, game changer, and driving force in the league. “Billy was a hero that I grew up watching”, said Hall of Famer Deion Sanders. “He was phenomenal.”

Billy was picked in the 15th round (365th overall) of the 1974 draft by the Houston Oilers after having an incredible career at Widener University. At 5 foot 9 and 170 pounds, he was not considered as being built for the NFL. Much of his pro-football career is marked by his perseverance and overcoming insurmountable odds.

It didn’t take Billy long to prove his doubters wrong when in 1975, he was selected first team All-Pro and was chosen as the Pro Bowl MVP, a game in which he amassed 233 total combined punt and kickoff return yards and set new records for punt return yards in a game (159) and longest punt return (90 yards for a touchdown).

During this time, Billy was widely credited with having performed the first end zone touchdown dance in NFL history which became known as the “Funky Chicken.” Prior to an October 6, 1974, game against the Pittsburgh Steelers, his Houston teammates, who had heard stories of his end zone celebrations at Widener University, dared the rookie to perform his signature dance if he scored a touchdown. He received that opportunity in the second quarter of a scoreless game when he took an end around for 47 yards and a touchdown.

While controversial at the time, football historians look back and note that Johnson’s dance injected excitement and personality into the NFL at a time when it was considered stale. Billy subsequently was named the “Godfather of the TD Celebration” and served as an inspiration for future end zone dances and players such as Ickey Woods and Dion Sanders.

Billy also overcame serious injuries that sidelined him for most of the 1978 and 1979 seasons. When he returned to play in 1980, he wasn’t satisfied with his role on the team, so he headed to the Canadian Football League where he played the 1981 season with the Montreal Alouettes.

In 1982, Billy made a remarkable career comeback when he signed with the Atlanta Falcons. A year later, the Pro Football Writers Association chose him as the 1983 Comeback Player of the Year. Although considered by many as a return specialist, Billy had 337 receptions for 4,211 yards as a receiver and twice led the Falcons in receptions.

After playing a year with the Washington Redskins, Billy retired from the NFL in 1988, and at the time held several league records, including career punt return yardage (3,317), punt returns (282), and kick/punt returns for touchdowns (4). He finished his career with 10,785 all-purpose yards, a 13.5 yards per touch average, and 35 touchdowns (25 receiving, 6 punt returns, 2 kickoff returns, and 2 rushing).

After retirement as a player, Billy returned to the Falcons organization where he served as the team’s director of player development and then as a strength-and-conditioning coach.

Besides being a three-time Pro Bowler and a member of the 1970’s and 1980’s All-Decade teams, Billy was named to the NFL 75th Anniversary All-Time team and the NFL 100th Anniversary team.

In explaining Billy’s career, Terry Toohey, the Delco Daily Times assistant sports editor, said it best when he wrote, “If you’re considered one of the top 100 players of the more than 26,000 who have played the game at the highest level, then you belong in the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

– By Rich Pagano

“WHITE SHOES” IN THE NFL





Billy Johnson

William Arthur Johnson (White Shoes)

Position: WR

5-9, 170lb (175cm, 77kg)

Born: [January 27](#), 1952 in Boothwyn, [PA](#) (Age: 70-203d)

College: [Widener](#)

[Weighted Career AV \(100-95-...\)](#): 46 (1963rd overall since 1960)

SUMMARY	G	AV	Rec	Yds	Y/R	TD	FantPt
Career	143	54	337	4211	12.5	25	638.7

Receiving & Rushing

Regular Season		Playoffs		Games		Receiving						Rushing						Total Yds														
Year	Age	Tm	Pos	No.	G	GS	Rec	Yds	Y/R	TD	Lng	R/G	Y/G	Rush	Yds	TD	Lng	Y/A	Y/G	A/G	Touch	Y/Tch	YScm	RRTD	Fmb	AV	Awards					
1974	22	HOU	wr	84	14	5	29	388	13.4	2	44	2.1	27.7	5	82	1	47	16.4	5.9	0.4	34	13.8	470	3	1	6						
1975*	23	HOU	WR	84	14	14	37	393	10.6	1	30	2.6	28.1	5	17	0	19	3.4	1.2	0.4	42	9.8	410	1	5	9	PB					
1976	24	HOU	WR	84	14	13	47	495	10.5	4	40	3.4	35.4	6	6	0	10	1.0	0.4	0.4	53	9.5	501	4	3	5						
1977*+	25	HOU		84	14	0	20	412	20.6	3	71	1.4	29.4	6	102	1	61	17.0	7.3	0.4	26	19.8	514	4	2	10	AP1 , PB					
1978	26	HOU		84	5	0	1	10	10.0	0	10	0.2	2.0								1	10.0	10	0	0	0						
1979	27	HOU		84	2	2	6	108	18.0	1	29	3.0	54.0								6	18.0	108	1	0	1						
1980	28	HOU	WR	84	16	7	31	343	11.1	2	57	1.9	21.4	2	1	0	4	0.5	0.1	0.1	33	10.4	344	2	1	3						
1981					Missed season - Montreal Alouettes (Canadian Football League)																											
1982	30	ATL		81	9	0	2	11	5.5	0	6	0.2	1.2								2	5.5	11	0	1	0						
1983*	31	ATL		81	16	1	64	709	11.1	4	47	4.0	44.3	15	83	0	36	5.5	5.2	0.9	79	10.0	792	4	4	8	AP2 , PB					
1984	32	ATL		81	6	0	24	371	15.5	3	45	4.0	61.8	3	8	0	11	2.7	1.3	0.5	27	14.0	379	3	1	3						
1985	33	ATL	wr	81	16	8	62	830	13.4	5	62	3.9	51.9	8	-8	0	6	-1.0	-0.5	0.5	70	11.7	822	5	4	7						
1986	34	ATL		81	4	0	6	57	9.5	0	27	1.5	14.3	6	25	0	10	4.2	6.3	1.5	12	6.8	82	0	0	1						
1987	35	ATL		81	12	1	8	84	10.5	0	19	0.7	7.0								8	10.5	84	0	2	1						
1988	36	WAS		88	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0								0	0	0	0	0	0						
Career					143	51	337	4211	12.5	25	71	2.4	29.4	56	316	2	61	5.6	2.2	0.4	393	11.5	4527	27	24	54						
7 yrs		HOU			79	41	171	2149	12.6	13	71	2.2	27.2	24	208	2	61	8.7	2.6	0.3	195	12.1	2357	15	12	34						
6 yrs		ATL			63	10	166	2062	12.4	12	62	2.6	32.7	32	108	0	36	3.4	1.7	0.5	198	11.0	2170	12	12	20						
1 yr		WAS			1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0								0	0	0	0	0	0						

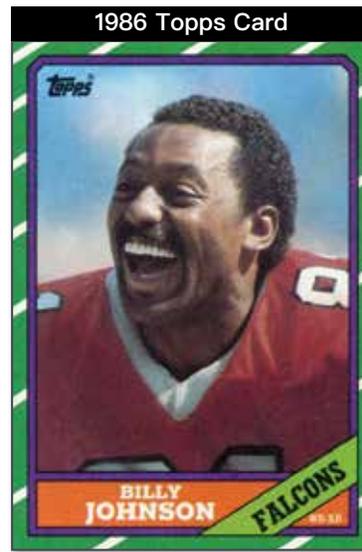
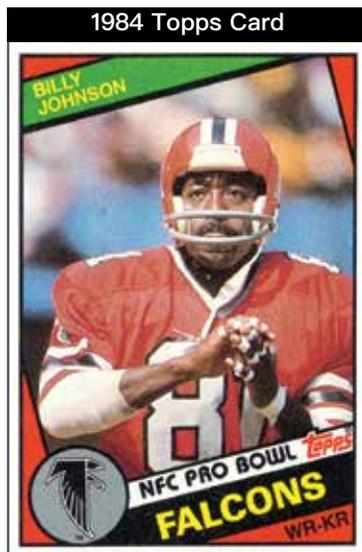
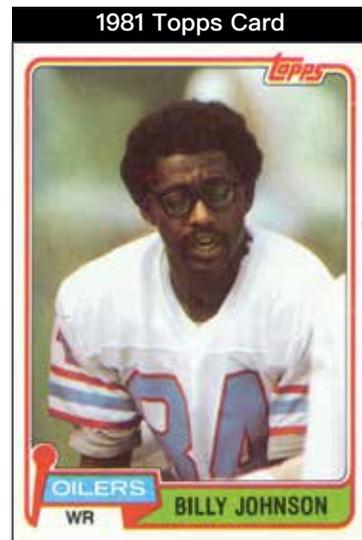
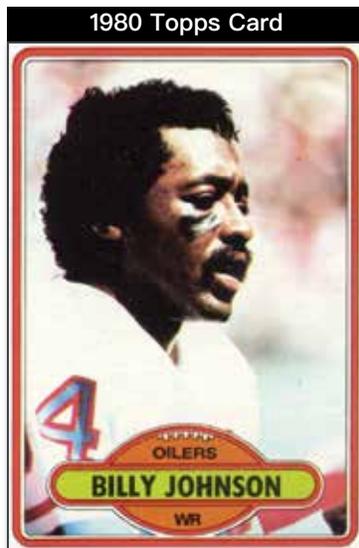
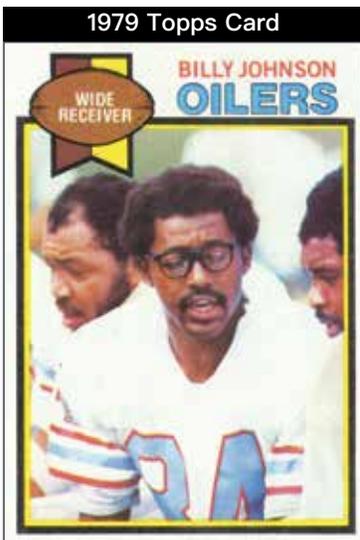
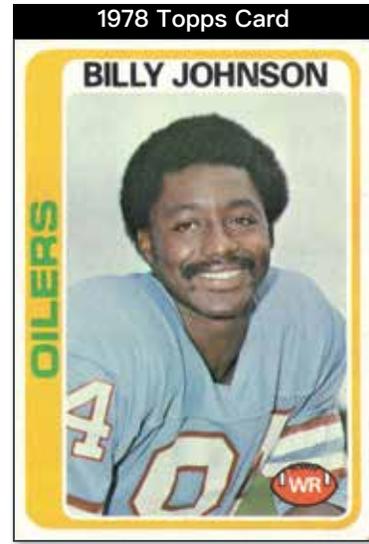
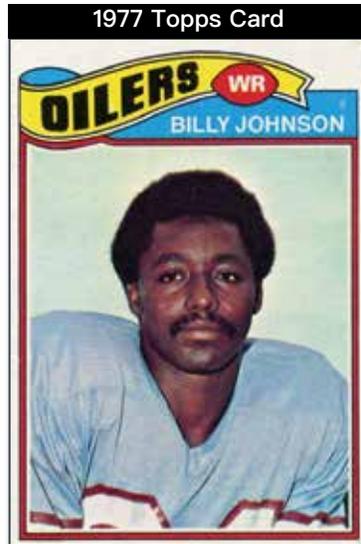
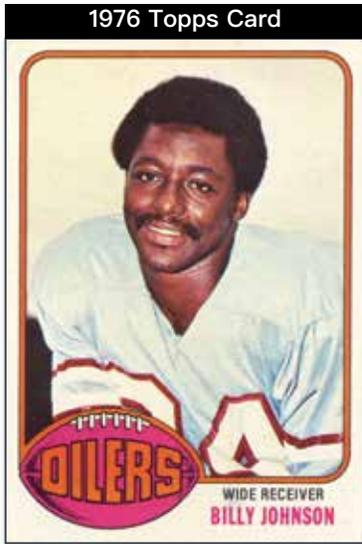
Kick & Punt Returns

				Regular Season		Playoffs										
				Games		Punt Returns				Kick Returns						
Year	Age	Tm	Pos No.	G	GS	Ret	Yds	TD	Lng	Y/R	Rt	Yds	TD	Lng	Y/Rt	APYd
1974	22	HOU	wr 84	14	5	30	409	0	49	13.6	29	785	0	67	27.1	1664
1975*	23	HOU	WR 84	14	14	40	612	3	83	15.3	33	798	1	81	24.2	1820
1976	24	HOU	WR 84	14	13	38	403	0	46	10.6	26	579	0	53	22.3	1483
1977*+	25	HOU	84	14	0	35	539	2	87	15.4	25	630	1	76	25.2	1683
1978	26	HOU	84	5	0	8	60	0	20	7.5	4	73	0	22	18.3	143
1979	27	HOU	84	2	2	4	17	0	16	4.3	4	37	0	12	9.3	162
1982	30	ATL	81	9	0	24	273	0	71	11.4						284
1983*	31	ATL	81	16	1	46	489	1	71	10.6						1281
1984	32	ATL	81	6	0	15	152	0	37	10.1	2	39	0	21	19.5	570
1985	33	ATL	wr 81	16	8	10	82	0	18	8.2						904
1986	34	ATL	81	4	0	8	87	0	30	10.9						169
1987	35	ATL	81	12	1	21	168	0	45	8.0						252
1988	36	WAS	88	1	0	3	26	0	15	8.7						26
Career				143	51	282	3317	6	87	11.8	123	2941	2	81	23.9	10785
7 yrs		HOU		79	41	155	2040	5	87	13.2	121	2902	2	81	24.0	7299
6 yrs		ATL		63	10	124	1251	1	71	10.1	2	39	0	21	19.5	3460
1 yr		WAS		1	0	3	26	0	15	8.7						26



Prior to the 2020 Super Bowl, players and coaches selected to the NFL's 100th Anniversary All-Time Team were introduced in an on-field ceremony. Billy Johnson and Rob Gronkowski, shown above, were among the living members in attendance.

"WHITE SHOES" AT THE TOPPS OF HIS GAME!



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BILLY “WHITE SHOES” FAN MAIL

“Billy “White Shoes” was an innovator and driving force that we counted on as a Houston Oiler. At that time in the NFL no one else did what Shoes did for our team. He made our special teams really special. He was a game changer. His character is still apparent in all he does for his community and reflects positively on the game. What I saw him do he is an all around Hall of Famer.”

Robert “Doom” Brazile - HoF ‘18

“There are a number of injustices in the Hall of Fame with so many deserving senior players that have been overlooked. But he (Billy White Shoes Johnson) deserves to be in the Hall of Fame. He was a great player that has been selected to many All-NFL teams. I support the effort for Shoes into the Hall of Fame”

Mel Blount - HoF ‘89

“Special teams win games. It’s one-third of the game. There are so many big plays on special teams that determine shorter field position for the offense or result in touchdowns. Wins and losses come with punt returns. Billy White Shoes was a game changer. He would definitely get my vote”

Harold Carmichael - HoF ‘20

“Shoes had a tremendous influence on me. I was in High School in Fort Myers and I did the ‘Billy White Shoes Johnson’. When I met him in Atlanta it was unbelievable. Like meeting a hero that I grew up watching. He was phenomenal.”

Deion Sanders - HoF ‘11

“Billy “White Shoes” caught my only NFL completion for a 57 yard TD against the Steelers. He was a game changer that positively impacted our field position. He was the ‘special’ of our special teams. His contributions have been recognized as a member of the 75th and 100th anniversary teams. Shoes should be a Hall of Famer”.

Earl Campbell - HoF ‘91

“It was my privilege to play with Billy in college. We were co-captains along with Joe Fields, NY Jets center. Billy was and is a caring, moral human being and an ambassador of good will for the NFL. When I was sworn in to become a member of the NJ Supreme Court, our governor, many senators as well as the members of the Supreme Court were present. All they wanted to do was talk to Billy who charmed them with his personality. Whenever one of our teammates has a problem –health or otherwise– Billy is the first to call to offer assistance. I have never seen Billy without a smile on his face or a kind word for everyone he sees. The Pro Football Hall of Fame is populated by fantastic football players. Billy is all that and also a kind, honorable person who would do the Hall of Fame proud.”

F.J. Fernandez-Vina - Justice NJ Supreme Court

“If you’re considered one of the top 100 players of the more than 26,000 who have played the game at the highest level then you belong in the Hall. He wasn’t just a return specialist. Johnson amassed 10,785 all-purpose yards and averaged 13.5 yards per touch in his 14 year career.”

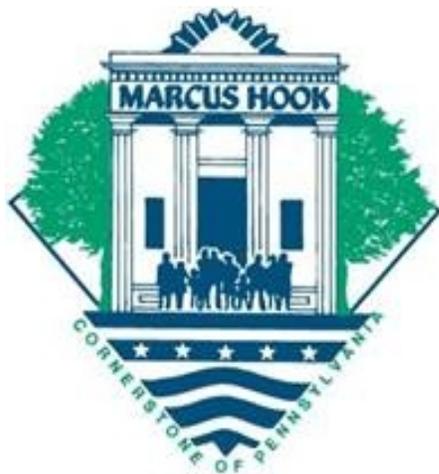
Terry Toohey, Delco Daily Times, Assistant Sports Editor

The Sports Legends of Delaware County and the Borough of Marcus Hook Billy “White Shoes” Johnson Statue Fund Rasing Committee Salutes The Ethel Sergeant Clark Smith Foundation for being an NFL Top 100 Player sponsor. A Top 100 player sponsor is our highest sponsorship level.

Ethel Sergeant Clark Smith Foundation

BOROUGH OF MARCUS HOOK

THE BOROUGH OF MARCUS HOOK WOULD LIKE TO RECOGNIZE BILLY “WHITE SHOES” JOHNSON’S STELLAR COLLEGIATE AND PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL CAREER, AND CELEBRATE THE UNVEILING OF A STATUE IN HIS HONOR LOCATED IN HIS HOMETOWN OF MARCUS HOOK.



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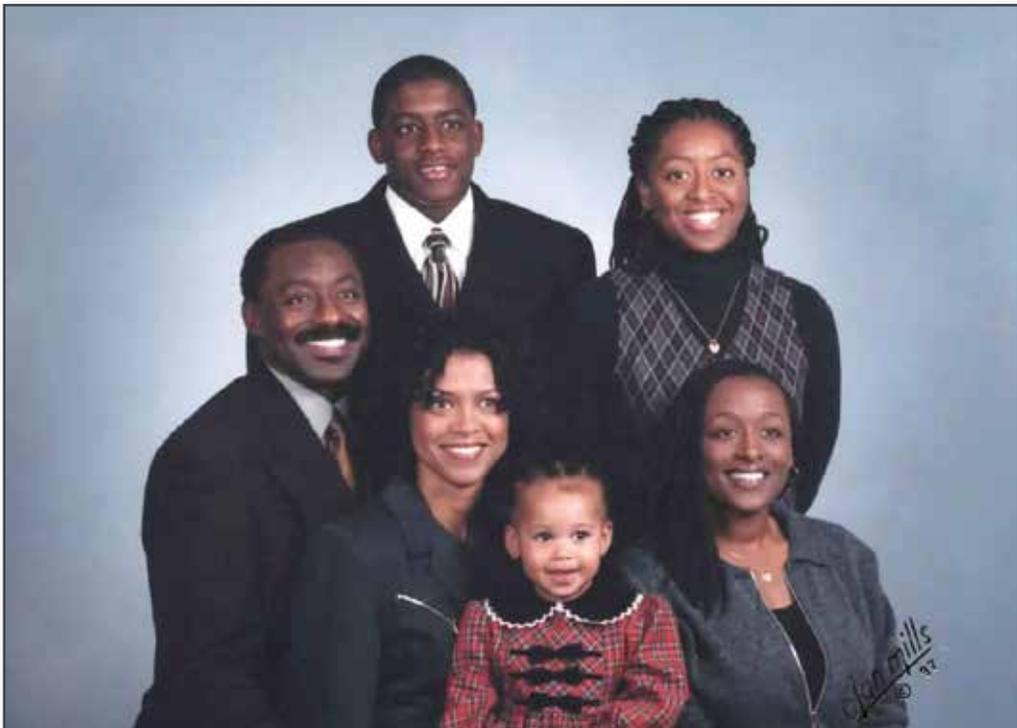


On September 8, 1985 Atlanta Falcons wide receiver/punt return specialist Billy “White Shoes” Johnson wore these shoes when he established an NFL record for career punt return yardage of 3,317.

FAMILY PHOTOS



Still smiling after all these years, Mr. William Arthur Johnson and Mrs. Barbara Johnson



Billy and Barbara, with their four children. Jared is standing. Marcy to the right of Jared. Kendra below on the right. Sitting on Barbara's lap is Jazmyn.



NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

August 15, 2022

ROGER GOODELL
Commissioner

Friends of Billy "White Shoes" Johnson
Marcus Hook, Pennsylvania

Greetings to the Friends of Billy "White Shoes" Johnson,

We are proud to be counted among your group as a friend of Billy "White Shoes" Johnson! On behalf of the National Football League, we thank you for allowing us to be a part of this wonderful celebration honoring "Shoes" and salute you for creating this memorable event.

Billy set the League on fire during his 14 NFL seasons in the League. Drafted for his speed by the Houston Oilers in the 15th round of the 1974 Draft, Billy quickly earned the respect of defenses and the attention of every special teams coach he faced. He was a kick return threat every time he touched the ball.

And when he scored, no one enjoyed it more. He may not have invented the endzone celebration, but he certainly perfected it. His version of the "Funky Chicken" became a fan favorite in Houston and Atlanta.

Billy scored enough to be selected for the NFL's 75th and 100th Anniversary All-Time Teams. He has been a tremendous ambassador for our sport, in part by serving in coaching and executive leadership roles with the Atlanta Falcons.

The dedication of this statue by the community of Marcus Hook has assured that Billy's determination and passion will be remembered for generations to come. This statue will forever stand as a tribute to one of the best game changers in NFL history. Billy's hard work and perseverance continue to inspire so many of us, especially the young adults across the country and the children here today. Billy showed us all that dreams are never out of reach and no obstacle is too great to overcome.

The National Football League is truly honored to take part in this special day for Billy, his family and friends, and his hometown of Marcus Hook, Pennsylvania. Thank you.

Sincerely,

ROGER GOODELL