

Wayne Williams

Wayne Williams was a Roughneck standout in the mid- 1980s, leading Columbia football to the state quarterfinals in 1987. He received the loudest and longest ovation from the Griggs Field crowd Friday.

“This is just a great honor,” Wayne Williams said. “I wish all those guys I played with were out there on the field with me. It was great playing with them, and I share this with them. They did all the dirty work and I got all the glory. I’m proud to be part of that.”

He lettered in track, baseball and football from 1985-88. He was a regional track qualifier in the 100 as a senior and was an all-district pick in football as a running back and defensive back during his sophomore, junior and senior years. He was a two-time all-state pick at running back, three-time selection at defensive back and was the Class 4A player of the year in 1987.

Wayne “The Wonder” Williams went on to play football at Louisiana State University for four years. His professional career included time as a member of the New York Jets practice team and tryouts with many Canadian Football League squads before landing with the Tampa Bay Storm of the Arena Football League. He played five seasons with the Storm, winning a pair of Arena Bowl titles and ended his career after two years at the Buffalo Destroyers.

