

## **Clark Woodson III**

Clark Woodson III, of West Columbia, is the son of Clark and Kathleen Woodson. Clark is a member of the Columbia High School graduating class of 1985 and is one of five state tennis champions coached by legendary Columbia High School tennis coach Charlie Brand.

During Clark's senior season in 1985, he was a perfect 44-0 in tennis matches at Columbia High School, culminating in Woodson competing in Austin where he earned the 1985 Class 4A boys Tennis state singles championship.

He was defeated in the semifinals round in Austin as a junior at CHS in 1984, when he was an impressive 39-2 in singles competition. The Roughnecks' tennis standout advanced to the regional semifinals as a sophomore in 1983 where he was defeated by the eventual state champion that year.

Clark wants to thank his parents, Clark and Kathleen Woodson, his high school tennis coach, the late Charlie Brand, and fellow Roughnecks' tennis players Clint Woodson, Joe Langner, Van Manning and Craig Arnold for their help in pushing him to achieve the pinnacle in high school tennis during his tenure at Columbia High School, a state championship trophy. The Woodson brothers were tutored in their formative years on the West Columbia tennis courts by older Roughnecks state champions Van Manning and Joe Langner. Clark credits Langner for teaching him the topspin lob that would become the most lethal weapon in his arsenal as a high school and college tennis player. "Coach Brand loved that topspin lob," Clark remembers fondly of his high school coach. "Anytime in a match when I needed to put an opponent away Coach Brand would lean his head back and tell me to throw that bad boy up there."

After graduating from Columbia, Clark earned four-year scholarship to Southwest Texas State University. Highlights of his college tennis career included being named “Newcomer of the Year” his freshman season, being honored as all conference three times, and being a member of Southwest Texas State’s conference championship team his senior year.

Woodson earned his bachelor’s degree in 1991 from Southwest Texas State University and later received his law degree from Texas Tech University. While a student at the Texas Tech law school Clark Woodson competed in the Houston Open where he advanced to the semifinals round of the men’s open division on the clay court of the River Oaks Tournament before bowing out.

Clark is now a successful attorney. He and his wife Laura and daughter Sophia reside in Lake Jackson.

He regrets that his high school coach, Charlie Brand, is not here tonight to see him be inducted into the Roughnecks Hall of Honor, but always remembers Coach Brand’s words of wisdom from Clark’s days as a Columbia High tennis player. “If you want it bad enough, you have to work for it.”