

William Christopher

A 1988 graduate of Deshler High School, William Christopher was one of the Tigers' most versatile and accomplished three-sport athletes. He earned letters in football, basketball, and baseball, excelling as a leader and standout performer in each.

On the football field, William was a three-year letterman who helped lead the Tigers to the state playoffs every season, including a semifinal appearance his senior year. Serving as team captain in 1987, he hauled in 30 receptions for 12 touchdowns, earning Times Daily All-Area honors. His defensive impact was just as strong, with 12 interceptions, which led to his selection to the 4A All-State Team as both a wide receiver and defensive back.

In basketball, William was a three-year letterman, averaging 14.5 points and 10 rebounds per game as a senior. That season, he helped guide Deshler to the 4A state semifinals and was named to the All-State Tournament Team.

Baseball was another arena where William shined. A four-year starter for the Tigers, he posted an impressive 35-10 pitching record while batting .382 with 14 home runs. He was a two-time Times Daily All-Area selection (1987, 1988) and earned All-State Honorable Mention recognition.

After graduation, William continued his baseball career at Brewer State Community College, where he was named to the 1989 All-NAJCC Team.

Coach Wayne Bracy

A 1974 graduate of Hayes High School in Birmingham, Wayne Bracy was an outstanding basketball player under legendary coach Willie Scoggins. As a senior, he was ranked among the top 30 players in the nation, named to the All-State Team, and earned All-Tournament honors after helping lead Hayes to a decisive 78–37 victory over Anniston in the 4A state finals.

Wayne went on to play at Auburn University, where he was a four-year standout for Coach Bob Davis. Following his playing career, he turned to coaching, beginning at Huffman High School before moving to Deshler High School, where he built a legacy of excellence.

At Deshler, Wayne compiled a 334–283 record across 22 seasons, guiding the Tigers to 6 Area Championships, 5 Northwest Regional Championships, and 6 Final Four appearances. His success and leadership earned him Times Daily 4A–6A Coach of the Year honors four times, and in 2004 he was selected to coach in the North/South All-Star Game. Over his career, Wayne helped 6 players earn college scholarships, leaving a lasting impact on the athletes and the program he led.

Coach Bill Smith

Bill Smith, a 1948 graduate of Coffee High School, was a talented three-sport athlete, competing in football, basketball, and baseball. On the gridiron, he earned recognition on both the All Tri-Cities and All-TVC football teams.

After graduation, Bill accepted a football scholarship to Alabama Polytechnic Institute, now Auburn University. Following a brief stay, he returned home and enrolled at Florence State Teachers College, where he played on the school's first football teams alongside future legends Harlon Hill, Bill Doty, and George Lindsey.

Upon completing his degree, Coach Smith began his career at Deshler High School, serving as head basketball and baseball coach from 1956 to 1969. During his tenure, his basketball teams compiled a 229–126 record and developed a reputation as one of the toughest defensive squads in the state.

Scott Thompson

A 1991 graduate of Deshler High School, Scott Thompson was a standout three-sport athlete for the Tigers in football, basketball, and baseball.

On the football field, Scott was a three-year starter—beginning as a safety as a sophomore, then quarterback and safety as a junior, and finally leading the Tigers as quarterback on the 1990 undefeated 15–0 State Championship team. His senior season was exceptional, as he accounted for 20 total touchdowns, including 8 rushing, while throwing for 1,104 yards and rushing for 756 yards. His performance earned him All-Area MVP honors, selection to the All-State Team, recognition by the *Huntsville Times* as one of the top 40 players in Alabama, and a spot in the prestigious Alabama–Mississippi All-Star Game.

In basketball, Scott was a three-year starter and a dominant presence his senior year, averaging 18 points and 15 rebounds per game. He earned All-County, All-Area, and All-State honors, was named to the All-State Tournament Team, and helped lead Deshler to the Final Four.

On the baseball diamond, Scott was a four-year starter in center field from 1987 through 1990, showcasing his all-around athletic ability.

Highly recruited in both football and basketball, Scott received multiple scholarship offers before choosing to play football at the University of Louisville. He later transferred to Samford University, continuing his athletic career at the collegiate level.

Darren Green

Darren Green, a 1987 graduate of Deshler High School, was one of the Tigers' most dominant two-way players to ever play at Deshler. Excelling on both sides of the ball, he earned All-Area and All-State honors while leading Deshler to success under Coach Tandy Gerelds. In his senior season, Darren was named Times Daily 4A–6A Player of the Year as well as the A.C. Curry Lineman of the Year by the Quad Cities Quarterback Club.

On offense, Darren was the cornerstone of the Tigers' Wing-T attack, with Coach Gerelds noting that he was at the point of attack 98 percent of the time as the pulling guard. On defense, he was equally impressive, finishing his high school career with 185 tackles, including 135 solo stops, 14 sacks, and 2 fumble recoveries.

Darren went on to play at Jacksonville State University, where he helped the Gamecocks win two Gulf South Conference Championships and finish as Division II National Runner-Up twice during his career.

Today, Darren continues to serve his community as a deputy with the Colbert County Sheriff's Department.

Emanuel Young

A 1978 graduate of Deshler High School, Emanuel Young was a three-sport standout for the Tigers, excelling in football, basketball, and track. On the gridiron, he was named the team's Best Offensive Back in 1977 and its Most Valuable Player in 1978, while also earning back-to-back All-Area selections. On the hardwood, he added to his legacy as the Tigers' basketball MVP in 1978.

Emanuel went on to play football at the University of North Alabama, where he became one of the Lions' top defensive backs. He was part of UNA's 1980 Gulf South Conference Championship team, earned All-GSC honors, and was twice selected to the Small College All-American Team.

Following his collegiate career, Emanuel earned an NFL opportunity with the Denver Broncos, signing as a free agent. His athletic success at both Deshler and UNA cemented his reputation as one of the area's most talented multi-sport athletes.

Beverly Robbins

A 1980 graduate of Deshler High School, Beverly Robbins was a multi-sport standout who excelled in both basketball and tennis. As a two-year varsity starter for Coach Robert Young's Lady Tigers, she helped lead the team to a 33–15 record. The Tigers claimed back-to-back Colbert County Championships in 1979 and 1980, and in her senior year captured the Area Championship and advanced to the state semifinals. Beverly earned All-County and All-Area honors in both 1979 and 1980, and capped her career by being named to the All-State Team in 1980.

In addition to her success on the basketball court, Beverly was one of the top tennis players in Alabama. She was a three-time All-State selection (1978, 1979, 1980).

Following graduation, she received scholarships in both basketball and tennis to the University of North Alabama, where she continued her athletic career.

Doyle Lewis

A 1949 graduate of Deshler High School, Doyle Lewis was a true three-sport athlete, lettering in football, basketball, and baseball. As the starting quarterback, he helped lead the 1949 Tiger squad to an undefeated season and the Tennessee Valley Conference Championship. His talents on the gridiron also earned him a spot on the Tri-Cities All-Star Football Team in 1947.

While Doyle is remembered as one of Deshler's outstanding athletes, his greatest legacy came through his dedication to community service. In 1969, he helped organize a youth football league in Tuscumbia and went on to coach the "Green Wave" team for 24 years. His leadership and mentorship shaped countless young athletes, and his influence continues to be felt in the lives of those he coached and inspired.

Johnny McDonald

Johnny McDonald, a 1967 graduate of Deshler High School, was a standout athlete in both football and track under Coach Buddy Moore. On the gridiron, he excelled as a linebacker and guard, earning All-Tennessee Valley Conference and All-State honors in both 1965 and 1966.

Johnny was equally impressive in track and field, where he showcased remarkable versatility. He ran the 100-yard dash, competed as part of the 440 relay team, and excelled in the shot put. Most notably, he set the state record in the discus, a mark that stood for twenty years, and also placed in the top ten at the state decathlon.

Following his stellar high school career, Johnny signed a football scholarship with Auburn University, where he started at offensive guard for three years. He was named to the All-SEC Sophomore Team in 1968 before a knee injury cut short his playing career in 1969. Johnny graduated from Auburn in 1971.

Chuck Goodloe

In 1967, a knock at his door changed the course of Chuck Goodloe's life—and the lives of countless young athletes in Tuscumbia. A group of neighborhood boys asked him to start a

youth football league, and Goodloe, already a dedicated father who organized pickup games around the Willie Green Recreation Center, answered the call.

From that request, the **Willie Green Pee Wee Football League** was born. For decades, Chuck Goodloe poured himself into the program, serving as a coach, mentor, and father figure to generations of young players. He was remembered by those he coached as “hard-nosed but fair,” teaching not just football, but life lessons that built character, discipline, and pride.

The Willie Green League became more than just a football program—it was a source of community pride and ownership, producing athletes who would go on to find success at the high school level and beyond. In recognition of his enduring impact, the Trenholm High School Reunion Committee named the Willie Green field the **Chuck Goodloe Practice Field** and announced the creation of a monument in his honor.