

Douglas Banks

Douglas Wayne Banks was born on October 26, 1956 in New Bern, NC. He attended White Oak High School from 1972-1975 where he played baseball, basketball, football, and participated in track and Field. He was a starting pitcher and outfielder his freshman year. He was selected MVP and All-Conference his sophomore year for baseball. He was selected MVP for varsity baseball as a pitcher and outfielder and Most Offensive Player in varsity basketball his junior year. He was the MVP his junior and senior years for football, All-Conference football as a sophomore, junior and senior, All-East and All-County as a junior and senior, and All-South and All-State his senior year.

He was selected Jacksonville Daily News Player of the Year his junior and senior season. He played in the Shrine Bowl in 1974 and the NC East/West Football All-Star Game in 1975. The White Oak football team won the Coastal 2-A Conference in 1973-74 with a record of 6-3-1. The White Oak football team won the Coastal 2-A conference championship in 1974-75 with their first ever undefeated record of 9-0-1. It was also the first time White Oak defeated Jacksonville (22-20). Banks would score three touchdowns in the first half and rush for 156 yards before leaving the game due to an injury. For his career at White Oak Banks rushed for over 3,500 yards and scored 35 touchdowns.

He was selected Most Offensive Player for varsity basketball and MVP for track (200/400 high hurdles and long jump) his senior year. He was selected Onslow County Athlete of the Year and his football jersey has been retired by White Oak High School.

After high school, Banks was contacted by over 40 Division I colleges to play football (including Alabama and Notre Dame). He was offered full scholarships to attend all the ACC schools. He accepted the offer from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Banks would attend UNC from 1976-1977 and was injured and missed the entire season. In 1977 Banks was the number two running back behind Mike Voight. In 1978 Banks transferred to East Carolina University where he received a full scholarship. He tore his left hamstring which required surgery and extensive rehabilitation. Football took a back seat while he continued on with his education graduating in December of 1979 with a B. S. degree in Business Administration. He made the Dean's List his junior and senior years.

In 1980 Banks moved to Charlotte, NC where he played football with the Carolina Chargers (a World Football League holdover). He scored eight touchdowns and rushed for over 100 yards per game. Banks received a full eight-week tryout with the San Diego Chargers of the NFL in 1981. He played in all preseason games before being cut in the last round. He tried out again in 1982 with the Chargers, but once again came up short of making the team, the last man cut. He got a call in 1983 to play one-year for the Arizona Wranglers of the United States Football League. He started four games for the Wranglers, was awarded the team ball for outstanding play in two of those games. In 1984, Banks was traded to San Antonio Gunslingers where he broke his collarbone and shoulder, thus ending his football career. Currently Doug lives in Hurdle Mills, NC.