



**DIVISION II
FOOTBALL**

HALL OF FAME

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Jeff Hodges • Chairman

National Sponsors



FOR RELEASE -

ROD SMITH TO BE INDUCTED INTO DIVISION II FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME

FLORENCE, Ala. -- One of the all-time greats of NCAA Division II football will be honored on December 12 as the 24th inductee into the Division II Football Hall of Fame in Florence, Ala.

Rod Smith of Missouri Southern State University is the latest player to be set to be inducted on December 12 as part of a combined Harlon Hill Trophy and Division II Football Hall of Fame Banquet at 6:30 p.m. at the Florence Conference Center.

The initial class of inductees in 1999 included running back Johnny Bailey of Texas A&I (now Texas A&M-Kingsville), quarterback Jeff Bentrin of North Dakota State and the late Walter Payton of Jackson State University.

In 2000, defensive lineman Harry Carson of South Carolina State University, defensive lineman Pierce Holt of Angelo State University, and wide receiver John Stallworth of Alabama A&M were inducted.

In 2001 the third class was comprised of tight end Brent Jones of Santa Clara University, linebacker Greg Lloyd of Fort Valley State University and quarterback Ken O'Brien of the University of California-Davis.

Quarterback Scott Brunner of Delaware, receiver Andre Reed of Kutztown and linebacker Jessie Tuggle of Valdosta State comprised the 2002 class.

Former Texas A&M-Kingsville and Washington Redskins standout Darrell Green was inducted in 2003, and former North Dakota State and Buffalo Bills standout Phil Hansen was inducted in 2004.

The 2005 class included Chris Hatcher of Valdosta State, Ronald Moore of Pittsburg State and Donnie Shell of South Carolina State.

Cody Gross of North Alabama, John Randle of Texas A&M-Kingsville and Sean Landeta of Towson State were inducted in 2006.

Last season's inductees included Earl Dotson of Texas A&M-Kingsville, Ronald McKinnon of North Alabama and Mike Turk of Troy State.

The Division II Football Hall of Fame is housed at Braly Municipal Stadium, which has hosted the Division II Football Championship Game since 1986.

The 36th annual Division II Football Championship Game will be played at Braly Stadium at 11 a.m. on December 13, 2008, and the Harlon Hill Trophy presentation to the Division II Player of the Year, and the Hall of Fame inductions are part of the Shoals area's championship week activities.

The Division II Football Hall of Fame is sponsored by The City of Florence, Herff Jones, OptiNet and the Marriott Shoals Hotel and Spa.

Tickets are \$50 each or \$400 for a table of eight and are available by calling the Shoals Chamber of Commerce (256) 764-4661 or the UNA Sports Information Office at (256) 765-4595.

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Rod Smith

A native of Texarkana, Ark., Smith enjoyed a stellar career at Missouri Southern State University where he set conference records in career receiving yards (3,122) and touchdowns (35). He also still holds school records for catches in a game (13), receiving yards in a game (254), receiving yards in a season (1,439), highest average gain per reception in a season (24.0), touchdown receptions in a season (15) and longest pass reception (98 yards).

He finished his career with 158 receptions for 3,122 yards and 34 touchdowns, which is now third all-time. As a senior in 1993, he was named first-team All-American by the AP, Kodak, Football Gazette, and NCAA Division II Sports Information Directors. He finished the year as a Harlon Hill Finalist after posting 63 receptions for 986 yards and 13 touchdowns.

After graduating in 1994 with degrees in Economics and Finance, General Business, and Marketing and Management, Smith was named Missouri Southern's Outstanding Graduate.

Smith began his pro-career by signing with the Denver Broncos practice squad in 1994. He played 13 seasons and recorded 849 receptions for 11,389 yards and 68 touchdowns, all of which are franchise records. He ranks 12th on the all-time NFL career receptions list and 19th all-time in career receiving yards.

He leads all undrafted players in NFL history in every major career receiving category. He posted eight career 1,000 yard seasons, including six straight from 1997-2002. He is also one of just six players to have back-to-back seasons with 100 receptions. He was named to the Pro Bowl in 2000, 2001, and 2004. He would go on to help the Broncos win back-to-back Super Bowls in 1997 and 1998.

In 1995 he saw action in all 16 of the Broncos regular-season games as a wide receiver and special teams player. His first career catch was a 43-yard game winning touchdown pass from John Elway against the Washington Redskins. Smith out-jumped NFL Hall of Famer Darrell Green for the ball in the endzone as time expired. He also returned 4 kicks for 54 yards.

He started the 1996 season listed third on the depth chart. He recorded 16 catches for 237 yards while scoring 2 touchdowns. He also returned 23 punts for 283 yards. Smith enjoyed a break-out season in 1997, recording six 100-yard games. He started all 16 regular season games and lead the team with 1,180 yards receiving on 70 receptions. He also ranked third in the NFL with 16.9 yards per pass and caught 12 touchdowns. In Denver's 24-21 AFC Championship victory over Pittsburgh, Smith caught a career playoff-high six passes for 87 yards. He helped the Broncos win Super Bowl XXXII over the Green Bay Packers.

Smith helped the Broncos defend their Super Bowl title in 1998 by posting 86 receptions for 1,222 and 6 touchdowns. He tied for third in the NFL in receptions and finished fourth in receiving yards. In the postseason he caught 12 passes for 260 yards and two touchdowns. Smith also recorded his first career pass completion when he hit John Elway for a 14 yard gain on a wide receiver reverse pass.

In Super Bowl XXXIII against Atlanta, Smith caught 5 receptions for a career post-season high 152 yards. This included an 80-yard touchdown from John Elway in the second quarter to help Denver pull out a 34-19 victory. It tied for the second-longest play from scrimmage in Super Bowl history.

Smith once again led the Broncos in receiving yards and receptions in 1999 after catching 79 balls for 1,020 yards. He recorded four touchdowns and finished with a long reception of 71 yards. He became the first player in franchise history to post three consecutive seasons with 1,000 or more receiving yards.

In 2000, Smith was elected to his first Pro Bowl game. He was also named second-team All-NFL by the Associated Press, first-team All-Pro by USA Today, College & Pro Newsweekly and Football Digest, and All-AFC by Pro Football Weekly and Football News. He started all 16 regular-season games and set a career high with 1,602 yards on 100 receptions to go along with 8 touchdowns. His 1,602 receiving yards tied for ninth most in a season in NFL history.

Smith followed up with another Pro-Bowl season in 2001. He was selected as a starter after catching a career high 113 passes for 1,343 yards and 11 touchdowns. He became one of six players in NFL history to catch 100 or more passes in back-to-back seasons. He set a NFL record by catching 67 passes in the first eight games of the season. This was the most ever by an NFL player at that stage of a season.

Smith was voted offensive captain by his teammates in 2002 and went on to lead the Broncos in receiving yards for the sixth straight season. He caught a team high 89 passes for 1,027 yards and 5 touchdowns. He caught his 500th career pass in a game against Miami. Smith ended the year as the Broncos' all-time leader in receiving yards, receiving touchdowns, and 100-yards games and second in receptions and total touchdowns.

Smith again led the Broncos in receptions and receiving yards in 2003. He caught 74 passes for 845 yards and three touchdowns. He caught his 600th career pass against San Diego, making him the 31st player in NFL history to do so. He also finished the regular season having caught a pass in a team-record 76 straight games.

In 2004, Smith recorded his franchise-best seventh 1,000 yards season. He finished the year with 79 receptions for an AFC high 1,144 yards and 7 touchdowns. Smith passed Shannon Sharpe and became the Broncos franchise

leader in receptions and touchdown catches. He became one of 20 players in NFL history to record over 700 career receptions. He also became the only undrafted player to eclipse 9,000 career receiving yards. He recorded a career high 208 yards receiving against Arizona. He became the second Bronco in team history to top 200 receiving yards. He extended his franchise-record streak to 92 consecutive games with a catch. Smith was named to the Pro Bowl for the third time in his career after a record-breaking year in 2005. He was again led the Broncos with 85 receptions for 1,105 yards with six touchdowns.

He passed Terrell Davis to become the Broncos career leader in touchdowns scored. He also became the NFL's first undrafted player to record 10,000 career receiving yards. Smith became the Broncos all-time playoff leader in career receptions and receiving yards with 49 catches for 869 yards. Smith extended his franchise-record pass-catching streak to 124 games in 2006. He caught 52 passes for 512 yards and 3 touchdowns. He became the team's all-time leader in combined yardage with 12,488 combined yards. He also collected his 800th career pass reception against St. Louis. Smith retired just before the start of the 2008 season after injuries forced him to miss the entire 2007 season. He retired as the Broncos all-time leader in every major receiving category.



DIVISION II FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME ALL-TIME INDUCTEES

Class of 1999

Johnny Bailey	RB	Texas A&M-Kingsville	1986-89
Jeff Bentrin	QB	North Dakota State	1983-86
Walter Payton	RB	Jackson State (Miss.)	1971-74

Class of 2000

Harry Carson	LB	South Carolina State	1972-1975
Pierce Holt	DL	Angelo State (Texas)	1984-87
John Stallworth	WR	Alabama A&M	1970-73

Class of 2001

Brent Jones	TE	Santa Clara (Calif)	1982-85
Greg Lloyd	LB	Fort Valley State (Ga.)	1983-86
Ken O'Brien	QB	UC Davis	1980-82

Class of 2002

Scott Brunner	QB	Delaware	1978-79
Andre Reed	WR	Kutztown (Pa.)	1981-84
Jessie Tuggle	LB	Valdosta State (Ga.)	1983-86

Class of 2003

Darrell Green	DB	Texas A&M-Kingsville	1981-82
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Class of 2004

Phil Hansen	DL	North Dakota State	1987-90
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Class of 2005

Chris Hatcher	QB	Valdosta State	1991-94
Ronald Moore	RB	Pittsburg State	1989-92
Donnie Shell	DB	South Carolina State	1970-73

Class of 2006

Cody Gross	QB	North Alabama	1992-95
John Randle	DL	Texas A&M-Kingsville	1988-89
Sean Landeta	P	Towson	1979-82

Class of 2007

Earl Dotson	OL	Texas A&M-Kingsville	1991-92
Ronald McKinnon	LB	North Alabama	1992-95
Mike Turk	QB	Troy State	1984-87

Class of 2008

Rod Smith	WR	Missouri Southern State	1988-93
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