



The Mudcat

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Baseball Star Dave “Boo” Ferriss

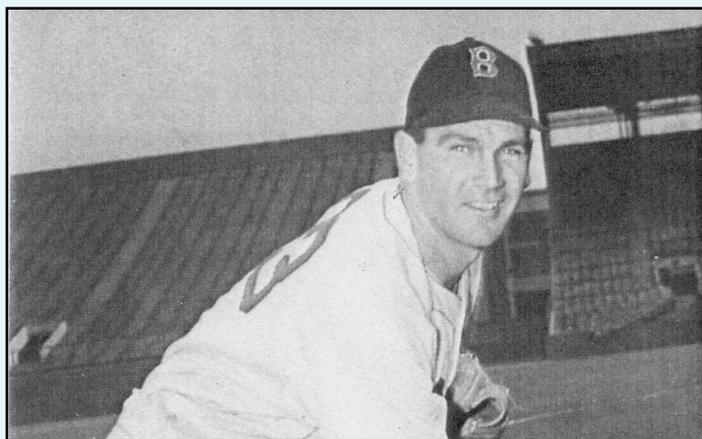
In 1921, the small Mississippi town of Shaw witnessed the birth of a future baseball star and player, Dave “Boo” Ferriss. Ferriss was the first player to receive a full baseball scholarship to Mississippi State College (now known as Mississippi State University). There, he showed off his unique skills pitching right-handed and playing first base left-handed.

In 1945 the Mississippi ballplayer moved to a larger stage when he joined the **Major League Baseball (MLB)** team the Boston Red Sox. Ferriss quickly became a star player for the Red Sox when he pitched **shutouts** in both of his first two games, only

one of seven MLB players to accomplish that feat. In his first two seasons, Ferriss won forty-six games.

In the 1946 World Series, Ferriss was the winning pitcher in the third game shutout, a 4-0 win against the St. Louis Cardinals. In 1950, a shoulder injury ended his career. Ferriss set several records while playing for the Red Sox, including most consecutive wins in his home ballpark. By the end of his career, Ferriss had sixty-five wins and thirty losses, for a .684 winning percentage.

After serving as pitching coach for the Red Sox, Ferriss went on to become



Boston Red Sox player “Boo” Ferriss. MDAH Archives and Records Services.

head coach at Delta State College (now known as Delta State University) in 1960. The team was very successful under his leadership. Delta State was the Gulf South Conference Champion four times and finished as the runner up in the Division II College

World Series in 1978 and 1982.

Ferriss is a member of the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame, the Boston Red Sox Hall of Fame, and the American Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

Mississippi-Born Boxer Henry Armstrong

Henry Armstrong
Weekend



October 10 – 13, 2008
Columbus, Mississippi

Born in 1912 in Columbus, Mississippi, Henry Armstrong (born Henry Jackson, Jr.) was the eleventh of fifteen children. After moving to St. Louis, Missouri, in 1917, Armstrong developed *Program for events surrounding Henry Armstrong Day on October 13, 2008. MDAH Archives and Records Services.*

his boxing skills. For a brief period, he held three world titles in three different weight classes at the same time: featherweight, **welterweight**, and lightweight. Armstrong once won forty-six consecutive professional fights. During his professional boxing career, he

had 151 victories and 101 **knockouts**. He defended his welterweight title a record nineteen times in two years.

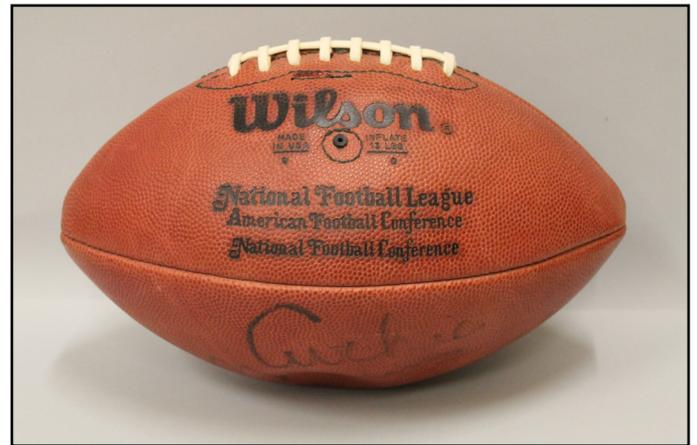
After he retired from the ring, Armstrong enjoyed a second career as a writer, poet, and Baptist minister in California. He died in 1988.

Quarterback Archie Manning

Former **National Football League (NFL)** quarterback Archie Manning was raised in Drew, Mississippi. Growing up, sports played a big part in his life. At Drew High School, he played basketball, football, and baseball. After high school, Manning attended the University of Mississippi, better known as Ole Miss, where he earned the role of quarterback for the college's football team. Manning made his mark on Ole Miss

football in 1969 during the college's first prime-time television broadcast football game. He wowed the audience by throwing for 436 yards, three touchdowns, and running for 104 yards in the 33–32 defeat of bitter rival, the University of Alabama.

After college, Manning played twelve seasons for the NFL's New Orleans Saints. He later played for the Houston Oilers and Minnesota Vikings before retiring in 1985. He was also named NFL's Most Valuable Player in 1978. Since retiring, Manning



A football signed by Archie Manning. MDAH Museum Division Collections.

has devoted his time and energy to **philanthropy** in Mississippi and New Orleans. He also serves as the president of the National Football Founda-

tion. Two of his sons, Eli and Peyton, followed in their father's footsteps by pursuing careers in the NFL and charity work.

Five-Time Olympian Willye White



Mississippi's five-time Olympian, Willye White, was born in Money, Mis-

Willye White performing her famous long jump and White today. MDAH Museum Division Education.

issippi, in 1939. Raised by her grandparents, she started running track at the age of ten and continued into high school, winning several events for her **varsity** team.

At the age of sixteen, White participated in the 1956 Olympic games in Melbourne, Australia, where she won the silver medal in the **long jump**. She was the first American to win a medal in the event. In 1964, she won the silver medal as part of the 4x100 relay team in the Tokyo Olympic games.

During her career, White competed in 150 countries and in five Olympic games: Australia (1956), Italy

(1960), Japan (1964), Mexico (1968), and Germany (1972). Because of her achievements, White was inducted into eleven halls of fame, including the Chicago Sports Hall of Fame, the National Track and Field Hall of Fame, and the International Women's Sports Hall of Fame.

White's achievements did not stop once she retired from track and field. Her second career as a nurse allowed her to help other young girls, especially those living in poverty in Chicago. In 1991, she founded the Willye White Foundation to help children.

Investigate More

You can visit sites and museums across the state to learn more about Mississippi sports and athletes!



Plan a visit to the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame and Museum in Jackson! You'll see artifacts that belonged to famous Mississippi athletes and discover the history of athletics in the state. Visit <http://msfame.com/> to plan your trip. You can also check out the Hall of Fame biographies online, where you can read about the athletes featured in this *Mudcat* issue plus others!

Read more about Boo Ferriss and hear him talk about signing with the Red Sox at <http://www.mshistorynow.mdah.ms.gov/articles/78/david-boo-ferriss-a-baseball-great>.

Visit Veteran's Memorial Stadium to see where Jackson State University alumnus,

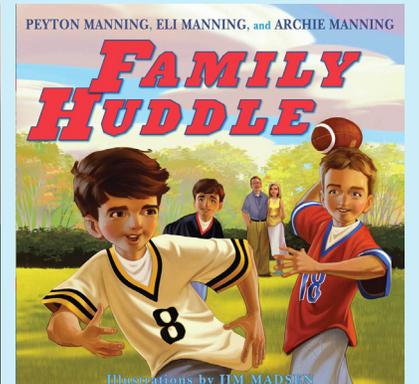
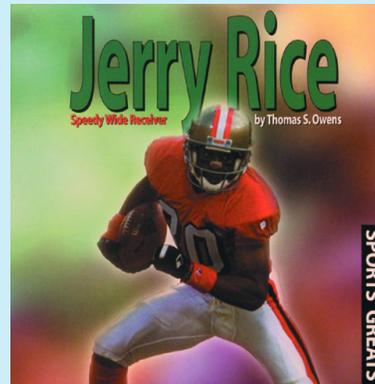
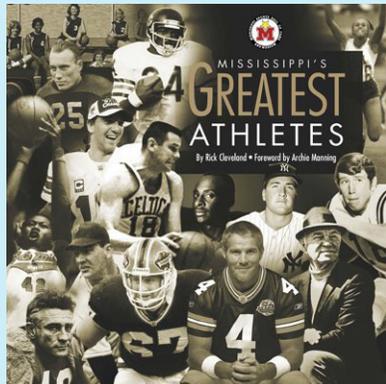


NFL player, and Columbia, Mississippi, native Walter Payton got his start.

Cheer for the Bulldogs at Mississippi State University's Davis Wade Stadium at Scott Field in Starkville.



Visit your local library and check out a book about a Mississippi athlete.



Show What You Know!

Vocabulary

Knockout: blow, punch, or hit, which makes your opponent unconscious

Long Jump: a track and field event where the athlete takes a running start to a take off point and then jumps as far as possible

MLB: the Major League Baseball Association that includes teams from the U.S. and Canada

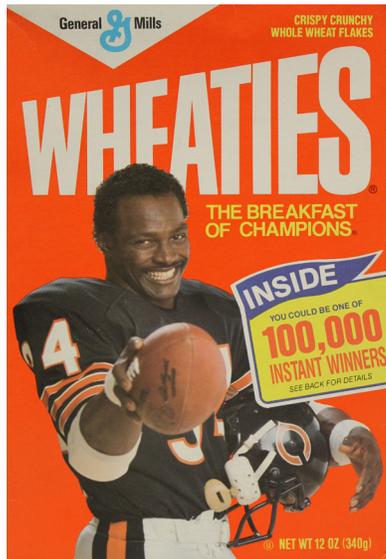
NFL: the National Football League that includes thirty-one professional football teams in the U.S.

Philanthropy: giving money and/or time to help others

Shutout: when a single pitcher pitches a complete game without allowing the opposing team to score a run

Varsity: a first-string team for a school that includes their best players or athletes

Welterweight: a weight class in combat sports between lightweight and middleweight

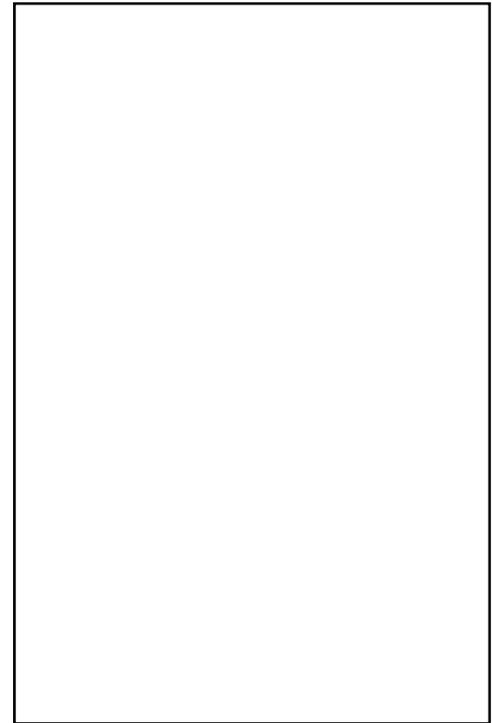


MDAH Museum Division Collections.

Developed in 1921, Wheaties entered the sports arena twelve years later when it was declared “The Breakfast of Champions.”

Athletes such as Babe Ruth, Sonja Henie, and Michael Jordan endorsed the cereal over the years, but the first football player to grace the box cover was Mississippian Walter Payton in 1987. An All-American from Jackson State University, Payton was a running back for the Chicago Bears for thirteen seasons and was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1993.

What would the cover of your Wheaties box look like?



What is the best way to learn about sports?

Find one that is right for you! Grab your football, baseball, or soccer ball and a team of friends and head to the playing field. Or, concentrate and hit the tennis court, golf course, or running track.

Create a Catfish Competition

How would you like to see a catfish of your own creation on the cover of the *Mudcat*? If you're an artist—or even if you're not—craft a cool catfish graphic, send it in to the *Mudcat*, and YOUR catfish could win a coveted spot on the cover of the next issue! Send all entries via mail or email to:

Congratulations Alex B. of Starkville for your winning *Mudcat* cover art!

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