

JOE RENFROE

Joe Renfroe was drafted in the 1ST round with the 3RD overall pick in the 1945 NFL draft by the Brooklyn Tigers. This makes him the highest drafted football player in the history of Southwest Florida football.

Joe had played three seasons for the Tulane Green Wave (1942-1944) achieving All-SEC status as a junior in 1943. He led them in rushing as a junior and in punting all three of his seasons there. After his senior season of 1944 he was named a **LOOK** magazine All- American and played in the **Blue-Gray Classic** on December 30, 1944 with the Gray winning 24-7.

Back in those days, the city of Chicago hosted the annual **Chicago Charities College All-Star Game**. This pitted the year's previous senior college All-Stars vs the defending NFL champions. Joe played vs the Green Bay Packers before 92,753 fans on August 30, 1945. Unfortunately, he hurt his shoulder in the game and sadly it would be the last game he ever played. Thus, never getting the opportunity to play in the NFL, although he did for that one night.

However, Joe was not finished with game he loved and was so good at. In 1947 he became the Head Football Coach at Hinds Community College in Raymond, Mississippi. In 1952 they went 9-1 and were the JUCO State Champions and in 1953 repeated the feat with a 9-0-1 record. In 1954 they posted an 11-0 record, winning the JUCO State Championship, the "Little Rose Bowl" in Pasadena, CA. and the JUCO National Championship! In 1957 they finished 10-0 and won another JUCO State Championship. Overall, Joe Renfroe was Hinds Head Football Coach from 1948-1969 and has the most coaching wins in school history. His record was an impressive 132-76-5. He coached 10 All-Americans and 6 pros. The field in Raymond is named **Joe Renfroe Stadium**.

- 2008 inducted into the **Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges Hall of Fame**
- 1994 inducted into the **Hinds Community College Athletic Hall of Fame**
- 1982 inducted into the **Mississippi Sport Hall of Fame**