

RETIRED GREEN WAVE NUMBERS

There are only three Green Wave football jersey numbers that have been retired and will never be worn again. They are #9, #14, and #17.

#9

Jammi German wore #9 from 1990-1992. Quite simply, Jammi is the greatest player to ever don the Green and White. He was 6'2, 185 lbs, and ran a 4.16 40-yard dash at a local combine. He played Wide Receiver and Defensive Back and led the 1991 and 1992 teams to Region Championships and was a major reason the Greenies were ranked #6 by U.S.A. Today in 1992, after his senior season he won the following honors:

- ◆ U.S.A. Today ---Defensive Player of the Year
- ◆ U.S.A. Today ---Top 25, First Team All-American
- ◆ Parade ---First Team All-American
- ◆ Football News---Prep All-American
- ◆ Blue Chip Illustrated---Dream Team, First Team All-American
- ◆ Blue Chip Illustrated---Southeast Region Defensive Player of the Year
- ◆ Orlando Sentinel---First Team All-South
- ◆ Miami Herald---Top Recruit in Florida and #2 in the Nation (Ron Powlus, QB, PA.)
- ◆ Columbus (Ohio) Touchdown Club---National Defensive Player of the Year
- ◆ Mr. Florida Football---The inaugural winner given to the top Florida high school football player
- ◆ F.A.C.A. District 16---Player of the Year
- ◆ Fort Myers News-Press---Player of the Year for the 2nd consecutive year and 3-time First Team All-Southwest Florida

Jammi played Wide Receiver for the Miami Hurricanes from 1993-1995. In 1995 he led the team in catches and was named First Team All-Big East.

In 1998 he was drafted by the Atlanta Falcons with the 74th pick in the 3rd round. He played 3 seasons for the Falcons (1998-2000) and the 2001 season for the Cleveland Browns.

#14

Mike Murphy wore #14 in 1959 and 1960. In 1960 he led the team in receiving yards and was named First Team All-Conference End. On May 18, 1961, two weeks before graduation, Mike Murphy and a friend were driving down Nuna Avenue when a dog ran out in front of them. As they swerved to miss the dog, the car rolled over twice and came to rest on its roof. The following is News-Press Sports Editor Len Harsh' commentary on Mike's death two days afterwards:

Words Brought Home

It has been said that God moves in mysterious ways. Those words were brought home forcefully to the students and faculty of Fort Myers High School and to many football fans here Thursday night when Mike Murphy was fatally injured in a car wreck. The tragedy left the entire school in a state of shock yesterday and dampened the enthusiasm usually found in the final two weeks of graduation activities.

Big Mike was to have graduated with the class of 1961. He was an All-Western Conference end in football, a 2-year letterman for the Green Wave and a standout performer for Coach Dub Kendrick's track team. Quiet and unassuming, humble, Mike was popular with everyone-students and faculty alike.

The fact that Mike was taken from us in such a sudden and tragic manner at what is usually the most joyous moments of a young person's life is still too much to comprehend. It seems impossible and yet we must believe it. We can gain a bit of solace out of the fact that Mike had been with us for 17 years and had given much to his school and his companions.

Always a tragedy like this strikes hardest at home and our utmost sympathy goes to the torn and bleeding hearts of Mike's family. But there were a couple of others who were extra special with Big Mike, two of his buddies. Mike, Larry Lamb and Frank Green were almost inseparable, playing football, running track or on any other occasion. Frank and Mike grew up together from babyhood, even learned to walk together. Larry, Frank and Mike were as close as brothers, maybe even closer for brothers usually bicker and fight and we never heard a cross word among the three.

A truth worth saying here and now is that never in our association with Mike-or with, Larry and Frank- have we heard a word of profanity, seen a cigarette or smelled a drink. It just wasn't done as far as they were concerned and yet they were three of our best football players this year. We always got a big kick out of Frank Green, smallest of the three, riding Big Mike in football practice, telling him: "Come on you big knocker, let's do it right this time."

Coach Irv Ibach, who was as hard hit as anyone outside the family, said that Mike's football number-14-will be retired. Ibach said that as far as he knows that this is the first and only Fort Myers number to be retired. This in itself is a tribute to how much the coaching staff thought of Mike Murphy.

Yes, God moves in mysterious ways, ways that only He can understand. Mike will be sorely missed and his passing will be especially felt throughout the graduation ceremonies. However, each and every boy, teacher, coach and adult who knew Big Mike should feel grateful for the fact that knowing and associating with him was heart-warming and we all could have learned one great lesson from him, humility. He was a fine young man, one of the finest we have known. He has left an impression on many of us that will remain the rest of our lives and one that won't be erased as time goes by.

Beginning in 1961 and lasting several years the Mike Murphy Memorial Scholarship and Trophy was given each year to a senior Greenie based on scholarship, leadership, citizenship, and athletics. The winner was sponsored his first year of college by the Touchdown Club. There is a scoreboard Memorial in Edison Stadium in his honor.

#17

Eric Riley wore #17 for three seasons, from 1977-1979. He was only the 3rd QB in 60 years of play to lead the team in passing for three seasons. He set season and career marks for TD passes that would last several years. In 1977, he quarterbacked the team to their 2nd District Championship ever and finished with a 23-9 career record as the Greenies starting QB. In his senior season of 1979 he was:

- ◆ Team Captain
- ◆ Named Honorable Mention All-American
- ◆ Named All-South
- ◆ Named First Team All-State at both QB and DB
- ◆ Named First Team All-Southwest Florida by the **News-Press** at both QB and DB
- ◆ Voted Outstanding Greenie

Eric lettered for the Florida State Seminoles in 1981, 1983, and 1984.

He was drafted as a DB in 1985 by the Denver Broncos with the 222nd pick in the 8th Round.