

The Clerk's Black History Series



Debra DeBerry Clerk of Superior Court DeKalb County



Condredge Holloway

First African-American Quarterback in the Southeastern Conference (S.E.C.)

First African-American Quarterback to Start for University of Tennessee

First African-American Member of the University of Tennessee Baseball Team

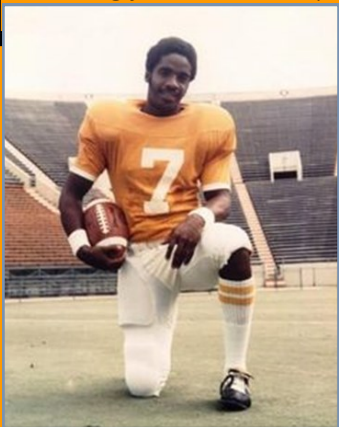
(b. January 24, 1954)



Condredge Holloway was born January 24, 1954 in Huntsville, Alabama to Condredge Holloway, Sr., and Dorothy Holloway. Holloway's paternal grandfather was born a slave, but was emancipated as a child in 1865. His mother Dorothy was the first African-American employee of NASA. Condredge's athletic career started as a successful quarterback at Lee High School in Huntsville, AL, where he was also a star baseball player and the fourth overall pick in the 1971 MLB Draft by the Montreal Expos. Since he was only 17 years old at the time of the draft, Alabama law required Condredge's mother to sign the MLB contract. His mother refused, insisting that Condredge go to college. In her refusal, she secured her son's place in history. His high school coach called him "the best school athlete I've ever seen" and created a recruiting frenzy Condredge's senior year of high school. Both Alabama and Auburn showed interest in Holloway but not as a quarterback. College Football Hall of Fame coach Paul "Bear" Bryant was brutally honest with him, saying "Alabama wasn't ready for a black quarterback." Condredge ultimately signed with the University of Tennessee where then Coach Bill Battle told him, "if you're good enough to play quarterback at Tennessee, then you're going to be our quarterback." As a sophomore, Holloway took over as the starting quarterback for a Volunteers team that finished the prior season 11-1 after defeating Air Force in the Sugar Bowl. Becoming the first African-American starting quarterback in the Southeastern Conference, he led Tennessee to a 10-2 record, capped off by a 24-17 victory in the Astro-Bluebonnet Bowl over No. 10 LSU. He finished the season with 73 completions for 807 yards and three touchdowns, ranking in the top-10 of the SEC in all categories. Earning the nickname of "The Artful Dodger," Holloway also ran for 266 yards and three touchdowns. In his three seasons (1972-74) as a starter, Holloway directed the Vols to the 1972 Astro-Bluebonnet, 1973 Gator and 1974 Liberty Bowls and an overall record of 25-9-2. He ended his career with the best interception-to-attempt ratio in Tennessee history, throwing just 12 interceptions in 407 collegiate attempts.



Condredge is in his 18th year within the Tennessee athletic department, currently serving as the assistant Athletics Director for Student-Athlete Relations/Lettermen at his alma mater.



Holloway left Knoxville and played 13 seasons in the Canadian Football League, compiling impressive numbers for the Ottawa Rough Riders (1975-80), Toronto Argonauts (1981-86) and British Columbia Lions (1987). He threw for more than 25,000 yards and rushed for another 3,167 while scoring 155 touchdowns. He was league MVP in 1982.

After his professional playing days ended, Holloway returned to UT and earned his degree.

In addition to being the first African-American quarterback in the SEC, Holloway was also the first black baseball player at Tennessee. An All-America shortstop in 1975, he finished with a .353 career batting average, and he still owns the school's longest hitting streak at 27 games. Holloway was selected to Tennessee's All-Century Baseball Team, making him the school's only student-athlete named to All-Century squads in baseball and football. In addition to his induction in Alabama Sports Hall of Fame, Holloway is a member of the Canadian Football Hall of Fame, Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame and the Tennessee Baseball Hall of Fame, among others.

