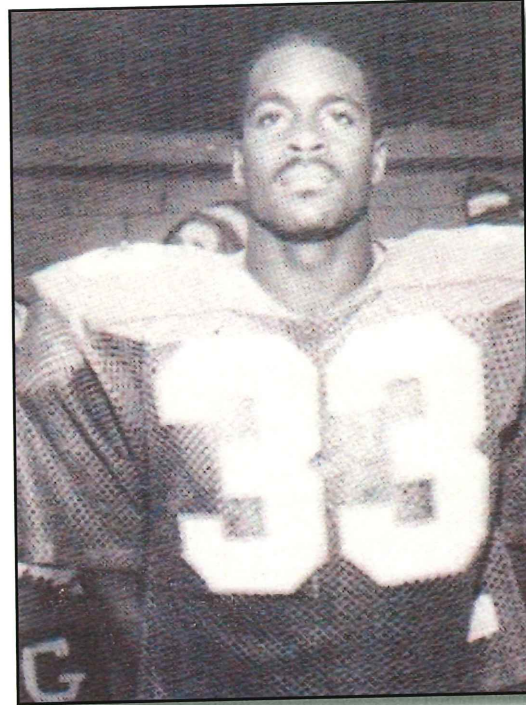


ELISHA GAINES

E LISHA "ELI" GAINES JR. BORN TO THE LATE BOBBY AND VELMA GAINES, IN JASPER, ALABAMA, MARCH 2, 1968.

Elisha was born while his dad worked for Bellsouth, requiring his family to relocate to several states throughout his younger years. Elisha is the next to youngest of 8 siblings. At the age of 7, Elisha and his family settled permanently in Dora, Alabama.

Elisha had a love for sports at an early age. He began playing little league baseball at the age of 7 with coaches Raymond Cornelious, Woody Henderson, Don Gravlee and Dan Watson. At the age of 8, Elisha began playing toy bowl football under Coaches Preston and Richard Headrick, laying the foundation for his football career. Gary and Ray Butler along with Eric East contributed to furthering his football fundamental skills. Elisha and his teammates never lost a game during his toy bowl career.



While attending Dora Junior High, Elisha continued playing football while being coached by Mickey Beaty and Sam Dansby. Elisha continued his undefeated streak started in toy bowl and never lost a game in his junior high years. Elisha also played basketball under Coach Peake throughout junior high.

Elisha remained active in sports during his 4 years at Dora High School (1984-1987). In his Freshman years, he was coached in baseball by Eddie Varnadore and his team went on to the state championship and took home 2nd place. Elisha was coached throughout his high school football days by Head coaches Don Flippo and Billy Coleman and assistant coaches Hezzie Morgan, Bill Griffin, Eddie Varnadore and Kurt Pnazek. As a freshman, Elisha played both JV and Varsity football. He was a starting player for JV and on special teams for varsity. As a sophomore, he started as a defensive back and special teams. During his junior and senior years, he was starting running back and starting free safety. Elisha's junior team made it to the State Championship game falling short to Colbert County 26-13. His senior team made it to the state playoffs as well. Elisha ended both junior and senior seasons by making the All County Team and First Team All State as well as being selected as his team's Most Valuable Running Back.

Numerous offers to play football were extended by several different schools; however, he chose to enter the working field. Elisha worked for the Alabama Department of Youth Services in the juvenile system before relocating to Summerville, GA in 1999. Since moving to Georgia, Elisha has been Maintenance Director for a large healthcare corporation, where he is also a member of the Georgia Emergency Management Association.

In 2011, Elisha met Aimee Daugherty and together they have 5 children: step daughter Abbigale, biological daughter Alannah, adopted daughter Brooklynn, adopted son Tripp and biological son Elisha III. Elisha attributes his determination, work ethic, and taking pride in everything he does to his coaches. As a father, he strives to instill the same values in his children.