

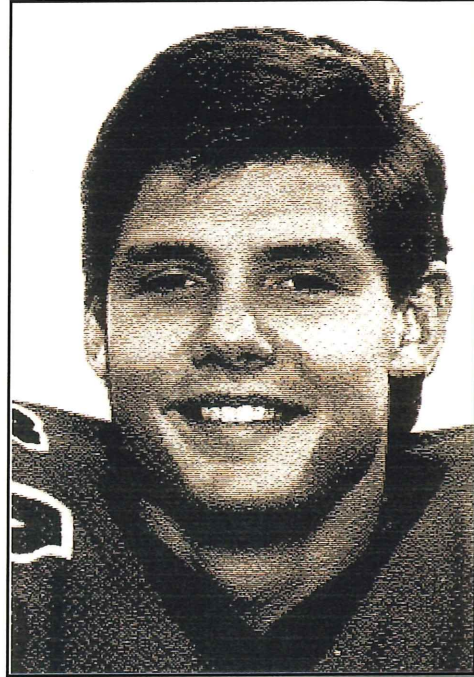
WILLIAM “BILLY” ROBISON

BILLY WAS BORN IN JASPER ON SEPTEMBER 26, 1967; TO DELTON AND JOYCE ROBISON. BILLY GREW UP IN

a challenging situation while in the Walker County Foster System which included living with several families in different cities in Walker County finishing his high school career at Dora High School.

Billy found consistency in his life through church and sports while enduring the loss of his father and grandparents, driving him to excel in achieving his academic and sports goals. Billy began at Sipsey in 7th-9th grade for Donnie Bridges. He was a three-sport athlete from the beginning, exceling in football, basketball and softball teams. He was a multiple-sport athlete as a sophomore at Walker when a foster family change led to his transfer to Dora due to being in an overlapping zone. His permanent home was with Dennis and Nancy Campbell at Dora.

Billy's role as a Defensive Back, Receiver and Punt Returner his senior year contributed to a 12-2 season including a run for the 5A State Championship; 2nd time in Dora's history. This legendary team was known as the "Cardiac Kids" for their ability to come from behind and win. Eddie Varnadore shared a few insights, "Billy was a tremendous athlete at Dora. When Dora played for the state championship in 1985....He played on both sides of the ball...Billy was close to exhaustion, but he played on," Billy helped lead the baseball team to the second round in the 5A playoffs as the starting catcher. He was named to the AHSAA 5A First Team All-State, First Team All-Metro, First Team Super 10, First Team All-County, and Daily Mountain Eagle Defensive Player of the Year. "The late Don Flippo coached Billy at Dora and thought the world of him. Coach Flippo was very proud of the athlete and the young man he became, enough that he offered Billy the opportunity to later coach with the both of us at Sylacauga. I'm sure if he could, he would say that he was "tickled to death" that Billy was being honored in this way."



As a recruit at Auburn, Alabama, Livingston, Samford and other colleges, Billy signed with Samford. He was All American under Alsop and Terry Bowden 1986-90 as the starting Free Safety. He currently holds two records in 2022; most tackles by a defensive back and most interceptions during a game. All American, player of the week and position awards were attained while being a leader in the team's transition to Division 1-AA. "A hard-hitting, aggressive defensive back, William's leadership helped the Bulldogs transition to a higher level of college competition...not only started for the Bulldog defense but his leadership showed by playing in all the special teams and making many "big hits"...Robison is one of the very best ever to have played for the Samford Bulldogs and is highly respected by his teammates and coaches as a "Bulldog Forever," Tony Lerulli, SU 1988-94. Billy graduated from Samford with a B.S. in Education, launching his career in teaching and coaching.

Billy continued his passion in athletics and developing men to serve God first, through his 30+ year career in education. "Coach Robison was one of the most fair-minded, thorough coaches I've ever seen at work. His teams not only played with great success, but respected the game and their opponents. It was a pleasure to learn a lot about the game from picking his brain and most of all, I appreciated his display of leadership with character and integrity," Mike Dubberly, WBRC-FOX 6. He has served as a coach in football, basketball, baseball and softball in Alabama (Jefferson, Shelby & Walker Counties, Sylacauga and Sumiton Christian), Tennessee (Williamson County) and 15 month stint as the AD over the YMCA in Jackson, MS, helping rebuild their programs. He has been recognized by players and their families for his dedication and ability to teach the kids first. Carl Valentine, former player, best described Billy's role in a player's life, "Coach Rob was more than a middle school baseball coach that led us to championships, he was a life coach who taught us how to be champions and win in life. Whether it was 15 minutes early is on time and on time is late, discipline of being ready for practice with correct day's uniform, importance of preparation, knowing not only your position but every player's role each play (by taking written test), Coach did so much more for us by teaching us his principles and leading by example. He made us great ball players but even better men."

Billy has successfully mentored coaches and continues to provide both encouragement and guidance as the situation presents itself. Teresa Bradford, Dora, "If there is one person who influenced and supported me in my short stint as a coach, it would be Billy Robison...Billy's ability to instill the "love of the game" in his players is unmatched. The girls at Sumiton Middle knew that even when they made a mistake, he would stay positive and use the mistake as a teachable moment" Shericka Williams, Dora, "You took a young adult that had never played the game before, and not only gave her knowledge of the game but passion for the game," Fultondale's Coach Cook, "A man well deserving of this honor. I have had the pleasure of working with Coach Robison and the value he adds to our program is not just ball but he has become a mentor to so many, being players and coaches...A man well deserving beyond sports. Forever grateful for meeting and learning from a great man and mentor."

Billy currently resides in Gardendale, Alabama, where he serves as a teacher at the JCCL, receiving the Teacher of the Year 2021-22, Mentor 2021-2022, coaches football, basketball and baseball at Fultondale and park baseball teams in Morris, AL. He lives with his wife of 31 years Julie, and they have three sons, Will, Tyler and Sam, and three grandsons, Ezra, Elijah and Tucker. Billy is honored and very humbled to be inducted into the Walker County Sports Hall of Fame, class of 2022.