

## LAHITIA GRANT

**L**AHITIA WAS BORN JULY 20, 1976 TO CHRISTIANA GRANT IN YERKWOOD, AL. LAHITIA'S LOVE

for football began at an early age. He credits his first football coach, Gordon May with his passion for the game. Lahitia was a Bulldog all his life. He played for the East Walker Bulldogs, Sumiton Bulldogs, Dora Bulldogs and the Mississippi State Bulldogs. Lahitia excelled at football and basketball while at Dora High School from 1990-1994. For Joey Jones' Dora Bulldogs, Lahitia played wide receiver, defensive back, and kick returner. The Bulldogs were in the playoffs his Junior season reaching the second round and Senior season reaching the quarterfinals. Lahitia was honored as an All-State 5A WR by the Alabama Sports Writers Association in 1993. He was voted to the Super-Metro All Division and 5A All-Metro Teams by the Birmingham News in 1993. Lahitia was Daily Mountain Eagle Elite All-County 1992 and 1993 as a WR. Lahitia caught 75 passes for 1,475 yards with 16 touchdowns from fellow Hall of Fame inductee Adam Russell during those two years. Lahitia accumulated 1,165 yards returning kickoffs and punts scoring four touchdowns. The #6 ranked 1992 Area 10 Champion Bulldogs team had an undefeated season. Dora's first since 1959. The 1993 Area 10 Runner-Up Bulldogs team reached a #1 ranking in the state. For Bill Griffin's basketball Bulldogs, Lahitia was a Co-Captain and Co-MVP, he averaged a double-double and he led the team in rebounds and blocks as a Senior. He was the Walker County Tournament MVP, and the teams were the Walker County Tournament Champions 1992 and 1993. Lahitia was the recipient of numerous awards including: WZPQ Athlete of the Year 1994, U.S. Army Reserve National Scholar/Athlete Award 1994, and Raymond May Award 1991.



After his career at Dora, Lahitia went on to play for Jackie Sherrill's Mississippi State Bulldogs under the tutelage of Super Bowl winning Coach Bruce Arians. At MSU, Lahitia became a 4-year Letterman, started 13 games, was an SEC Scholar Athlete, played in the 1999 Cotton Bowl, 1994 Peach Bowl and 1998 SEC Championship games. Lahitia was part of several significant events while at MSU. Lahitia started in 1996 when the Bulldogs beat Alabama for the first time since 1982. His teams would beat Bama two more times and Auburn twice. In Lahitia's first collegiate start against Kentucky as a freshman, he led the Bulldogs with four receptions for 130 yards. In 1998, the Bulldogs won the SEC Western Division and played Tennessee in the SEC Championship game. Lahitia's last game as a Bulldogs would be one of his finest. In the Cotton Bowl against the Texas Longhorns, Lahitia had four receptions for 62 yards and scored the Bulldogs lone touchdown of the game. Over the span of his career, Lahitia had 36 receptions, for 597 yards, with seven touchdowns and one rushing touchdown.

Lahitia earned a Bachelor of Science degree from MSU in Industrial Technology in 1998 and a Master of Business Administration in Finance from the University of North Florida in 2016. Currently, he is an Assistant General Manager for Walmart Supply Chain (21 years) at the Opelika, AL facility. He is married to Blaire (14 years) and has one son Gavin (9 years old). He has two sisters, two brothers and two dogs. He is an avid golfer and plays whenever possible.