

Chapter 7

LEON HIGH SCHOOL FAMILY TRADITIONS

From the year of the establishment of the school in 1871, Leon County families have sent students to Leon High School. This chapter focuses on some of those Leon High School families who have provided more than one generation of football players to Leon and on those family members who have exhibited leadership in the football program. These are some of the people who have had a huge influence on the Leon football program.

Alford Family: **Charles** and **Julian Alford** played for Leon High School in the early thirties. Julian served as president of the Leon Touchdown Club in 1965. **Bud**, class of 1959, **Chuck**, 1962, **Marvin**, 1964, and **Jimmy Alford**, 1966, all played for Leon.

Andrews Family: **Eddie Andrews** was the first of his family to play football in 1917. **Earl Andrews** was an outstanding player in the 1920s, and his brother, **Sid Andrews** played in the 1930s. Sid was also the *Leon High Life* sports editor, and he selected the first All Time Leon Football Team. **Edwin Andrews** played quarterback in 1944, and **Andy Andrews**, who was Coach Cox's first passing quarterback, played in 1965.

Ashmore Family: **Freeman Ashmore** served as Superintendent of Schools for Leon County from 1964 through 1972. His two sons, **Bryne and Dale**, played football for Leon in the early fifties. A nephew of Freeman, **Robert Ashmore**, was an outstanding player in 1966. Robert's wife **Diane Eason**, his mother, **June Gilmore**, and his sister, **Judy Ashmore**, were Leon cheerleaders.

Ausley Family: In 1923, **Charles Ausley** played guard on the football team and served as the treasurer of the Leon Athletic Association. In 1928, Charles' brother, **John Ausley** played in the backfield. Charles' son, **Duby Ausley** played halfback for the Leon Lions in 1954. **Anne Ausley**, a cheerleader in 1952, is the mother of **Ryals Lee, Jr.**, who played on the 1974 Leon State Championship Team.

Cox Family: **Coach Gene Cox** coached at Leon for over a quarter of a century. His sons, **David and Alan** played football for Leon, graduating in 1978 and **Gary** played in 1983. Their sister, **Cynthia**, class of 1985, served as a bell ringer and was on the swim and softball teams.

Culpepper Family: **Dr. J. Broward Culpepper**, supervising principal of Leon County Schools in 1943, his two sons, **Blair** and **Bruce**, and his two grandsons, **Bruce Jr.** and **Brad** were all part of Leon's football family tradition. Blair and Bruce were both named All Southern, and Brad was a High School All American. **Cynthia Lawrence**, who became the wife of Blair Culpepper, was a Leon cheerleader when she designed the Leon Flag in 1954. **Blair Culpepper**, 1989, daughter of Bruce and Pep Culpepper, was also a cheerleader.

Deeb and Kitchen Families: The **Deeb** family has made many contributions to Leon football. For many years, Leon alumnus **Syde**, football player in the early thirties, financed an annual Gator Bowl trip for the entire football team. **Fred Deeb**, a cousin of Syde, was a 1935 football player, and **Fred Deeb, Jr.** was a member of the 1959 team. Syde's great nephews **Michael O'Connell**, 1972, and **Joseph Deeb**, 1989, and Syde's cousin, **Niam Nahoom**, 1928 were all players. Niam's son, **George Nahoom**, played in 1959, and cousin **Mike Nahoom**, played in 1984. Syde's nephew, **Jimmy Hanna**, a 1959 player, is the father of **Rocky**, class of 1981, and **Tye Hanna**, 1983. Syde's nephew, **Deeno Kitchen**, played offensive and defensive halfback for the Lions from 1957 through 1959. As an alumnus, Deeno established the Jimmy Hanna Spring Practice Award and has financially contributed to the football program for many years. Deeno's son, **Gautier** was the Leon statistician in 1993; another son, **Deeb-Paul**, was a member of the 1995 team. Deeno's daughter, **Anne Elizabeth Kitchen** participated as a 1987 cheerleader.

Ervin Family: **Richard Ervin, Sr.**, 1922, was on one of the first Leon teams. His son, **Dick Ervin**, played on the 1950 team. Richard's nephew, **Jim Ervin**, was a Leon trainer for several years in the early seventies, and nephew **Tommy Ervin** played in 1990. **Jennifer Ervin**, sister to Tommy, was a cheerleader.

Givens Family: **Billy Givens** played in 1946 and his brother **Jimmy Givens** in 1948. **Fred Givens** was on the 1951 team with his brother **Jack Givens** on the 1953 team. **Rodney Givens**, son of Billy was in the class of 1966.

Kidd Family: **Joby Kidd** was an outstanding back for the Lions; also he was an assistant Leon coach in the late fifties. His two sons, **Cotton**, 1981 and **Tony**, 1982 were outstanding players as well.

McLin Family: **W. S. McLin** was the first head football coach for Leon, serving from 1916 through 1919. His son, **Buddy McLin**, played for Leon in 1923, and the coach's grandson, **Buddy McLin, Jr.**, played in 1952.

Petrandis Family: The Petrandis family members who played football for Leon were brothers **Jimmy**, 1953, **Johnny**, 1958, **Angelo**, 1965, and a cousin, **Mike Petrandis**, 1971.

Pope Family: **Melvin Pope, Jr.**, a former Touchdown Club President, was a Leon football player in the early fifties. His three sons, **Melvin Pope, III**, class of 1975, **Bruce**, 1977 and **Bert**, 1983 were also on Leon teams.

Proctor Family: The Proctor family produced three generations of Leon football players during the twentieth century. **Ralph Proctor** played in the twenties and brothers **Earl** and **Julian** played in the thirties. Ralph Proctor, Jr. played in 1951 and his brother **Sandy** was on the 1955 team. **Theo Proctor** played in 1948. **Brian**, son of Earl, was on the 1966 team. Cheerleaders in the Proctor family include **Sara Proctor**, 1966, **Gini Harper**, 1966, and **Valerie Proctor**, 1967.

Rhodes Family: **Roy Rhodes, Sr.**, was a player in 1942. As an alumnus, he served as a Touchdown Club President and was responsible for the building of Capital Stadium. Roy's brother, **Raymond Rhodes** played in 1946. Two of Roy's sons were on Leon teams. **Roy Rhodes, Jr.** played in 1967 and **Tommy Rhodes** was a member of the 1972 class. Roy's wife, **June Moore**, was a Leon cheerleader in 1943.

Rudd Family: **John Rudd**, 1942, and his two stepsons, **Chuck Eason**, 1965, and **Lint Eason**, 1971, played outstanding football for Leon. John's brother **Hurley Rudd**, 1943, and his son, **Ley**, 1973, were also Lions. As an alumnus, Hurley served for many years as a broadcaster for Leon football games, and he was instrumental in getting Capital Stadium (now Gene Cox Stadium) built.

Sauls Family: **Ed Sauls** played football in 1925, and his brother **Carl Sauls** was on the 1932 team. Their cousin, **Jeff Sauls** was a member of the 1942 team, and Jeff's two sons, **Jimmy** and **Leonard**, played for the Lions in the sixties. Jimmy Sauls served as the head coach at Leon from 1991 through 2000. Another cousin in the Saul's family was **Paul**, who played football in 1965.

Sexton Family: **Coach Bill Sexton** held the position of Leon Football Coach from 1958 to 1962. In 1968, Bill's son, **Billy** was the first quarterback at Leon to be named as High School All American. Billy's son, **Wyatt**, also played quarterback for Leon in the years 2000 and 2001.

Strauss Family: **Buddy** and **Kent Strauss**, 1942, were the first of three generations of Strauss players to play football for Leon. Buddy's son, **Ted** played in 1969 and his grandson, **Theo** played in 1997. **Marguriete Strauss**, Buddy's sister, was a cheerleader in 1944. Buddy's daughters, **Jeannine**, 1969, **Cathy**, 1971, and **Leslie Strauss**, 1974 were all cheerleaders for the Leon Lions.

Sutton and Yancey Families: **Louie Sutton**, 1948 player and **Jane Yancey Sutton**, cheerleader in 1950, are the parents of **John L. Sutton**, 1974, and **Yancey Sutton**, 1975. Yancey was a High School All American, and both he and John L. played on the Leon 1974 State Championship Team. Uncles of John L and Yancey were **Malcolm Yancey**, 1943, and **Jim Yancey**, 1944. Jim Yancey was named All Southern.

Williams Family: **George Williams** was a member of one of the earliest Leon teams when he played in 1917. **Burton** played on the 1922 team and brother **Theodore** on the 1928 team. **Johnny Williams** was a player as was his son **John L. Williams**, captain of the 1950 team. Theodore's sons, **Ted** and **Bud Williams** played in 1951 and 1960 respectively. Bud played quarterback for Leon, as did his son, **Cy** in 1983.

Williamson Family: Brothers **Ed** and **J. D. Williamson** played on the great 1925 Leon team that holds the record for having the fewest points scored against Leon during the twentieth century. Ed's daughter, **Mary Ed**, was a cheerleader for Leon in 1951, and his son, Bud, was captain of the 1953 team. J. D.'s sons **Jerry** played in 1956 and **Paul** in 1961. **Paul Williamson, Jr.** was a member of the 1989 team.

There have been many sets of **brothers** to play football at Leon. Some have played on the same team, and others have been members of teams several years apart, but all have contributed to that wonderful Leon tradition of having family members attend and graduate from the great Leon High School.

<i>Family Name</i>	<i>Brother</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Brother</i>	<i>Year</i>
Alan	Richard	1989	Rodney	1991
Andrews	Marvin	1954	Fred	1957
Armstrong	John	1936	Charles	1937
Aubin	George	2001	Harry	2001

<i>Family Name</i>	<i>Brother</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Brother</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Brother</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Brother</i>
Barnett	Bill	1949	Bob	1949			
Bethea	Steve	1964	Neil	1967	Bobby	1971	
Blakely	Lester	1971	Everett	1982			
Bliss	Dick	1946	K.D.	1950			
Brown	Mickey	1950	Donnie	1951			
Bruce	Doug	1966	Terry	1968			
Buford	Jack	1933	Rivers	1941			
Carlson	J. D.	1986	Justin	1989			
Carrouth	Bobby	1972	Harvey	1976			
Carter	Elvy	1956	Herbert	1957			
Cash	Buddy	1955	Billy	1958			
Cawthon	Joe Stanmore	1923 1934	Rainey	1926	Victor	1932	
Charlton	Andre	1979	Clifford	1983			
Clark	Otho	1939	Joe	1943			
Clemons	Bill Jack	1932 1941	George Clifford	1938 1944	Tom	1938	
Cochran	Jeff Lewis	1943 1951	Frank	1944	Raymond	1950	
Cozart	Jeff	1988	Tim	1990			
Croy	George	1941	Jack	1942			
Davidson	Stan	1977	Dale	1978	Darryl	1978	
Davis	Clinton	1996	Victor	1996			
Davis	George	1935	Eugene	1936			
Demetree	Assod	1925	Tofeet	1928			

<i>Family Name</i>	<i>Brother</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Brother</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Brother</i>	<i>Year</i>
DeHaney	Bob	1957	Bill	1958		
Dennard	Jimmy	1933	Earl	1938	Harry	1943
Dozier	Laurie	1943	Dick	1949		
Drake	Fred	1943	Bob	1947		
Drake	Mark	1981	Mitch	1985		
Edenfield	Bob	1938	Jimmy	1941		
Fagan	Scooter	1964	Mike	1971		
Fain	Bill	1946	John	1948		
Fields	Dan	1948	Bobby	1948	Rod	1945
Folsom	Wayne	1972	Terrell	1975		
Franklin	Carlton	1980	Paul	1985		
Frederick	Mike	1979	Brad	1982		
Galloway	Bobby	1977	Ricky	1978		
Gaskins	Clyde	1949	Jack	1952	George	1959
Gilliam	Lee	1995	Ken	1999		
Green	Jack	1931	Billy	1941		
Gridley	Pat	1965	Buddy	1967		
Grigg	John	1970	Joe	1973	Meade	1966
Hampton	Royal	1985	Joey	1987		
Hanley	Will	1997	Alex	1999		
Hanway	Jackie	1961	Billy	1964		
Hart	James	1997	Charles	1999		
Hartsfield	Robby	1980	Ricky	1983		
Hartsfield	Red	1943	Beanie	1941		

<i>Family Name</i>	<i>Brother</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Brother</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Brother</i>	<i>Year</i>
Harvey	Curtis	1967	Len	1972		
Henderson	George	1965	Boyd	1967		
Herold	Haynes	1942	Walter	1951		
Higgins	Mike	1970	Pat	1971		
Hollis	Donnie	1950	James	1950		
Holloman	Tanner	1981	Darrin	1982		
Holmes	Greg	1987	Michael	1992		
Hopkins	Bill	1927	Arvah	1931		
Horne	Mallory	1941	Bill	1943		
Hosford	Bobby	1952	Laurie	1953		
Hunter	Ivory Joe	1974	Leroy	1979	James	1982
Hunter	Todd	1974	David	1976		
Jacobs	Billy Earl	1950 1965	Buddy	1951	David	1953
James	Michael	1999	Wesley	1999		
Jefferson	Omar	1999	Auren	1999		
Jett	Robert	1950	Lloyd	1953		
Joanos	Jimmy	1951	Paul	1964		
Jones	Fred	1989	Tim	1997		
Jones	Mark	1980	Matt	1982		
Kelley	Herbert	1946	Billy	1947		
Kelley	Enoch	1940	Joe	1940		
Kirby	George	1950	Jimmy	1950		
Krpata	Lance	1992	Steven	1994		

<i>Family Name</i>	<i>Brother</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Brother</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Brother</i>	<i>Year</i>
Lassiter	Larry	1966	Gary	1966		
Lastowski	Steve	1975	Stan	1980		
Lett	Roy	1937	Cecil	1937		
Lett	Smith	1940	Bob	1941		
Lewis	Bill	1959	Rodney	1959		
Lewis	Cheever	1931	Frank	1937	Jeff	1938
Link	Steve	1969	George	1973		
Lomack	Tony	1985	Michael	1991		
Long	Lucien	1931	Joe	1938		
Luther	Doug	1990	Ryal	1991		
Maddox	Billy	1942	Bobby	1942		
Malloy	Charles	1948	Bobby	1953		
Malsberger	Doug	1943	Jim	1943		
Manausa	Joe	1982	Danny	1987	Bo	1997
Mason	Lester	1957	Groover	1957		
McClenton	Tim	1984	Mike	1987		
McClure	Bob	1950	Charles	1952		
McDowell	Bill	1961	Tony	1965		
McNeill	Malcolm	1945	Dane	1949		
Melton	Ronnie	1943	Leonard	1946	Lindy	1955
Messer	Albert	1943	Howell	1943		
Montgomery	Jack	1954	Bobby	1955	Mike	1963
Morgan	Omar	2000	Elijah	2001	Micah	2001
Morris	Mike	1977	Mitch	1978		

<i>Family Name</i>	<i>Brother</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Brother</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Brother</i>	<i>Year</i>
Norman	Mike	1970	Mark	1978		
Overchuck	Johnny	1959	Donnie	1962		
Oven	Tib	1932	Rainey	1936		
Owens	Curt	1990	Matt	1992		
Page	Ben	1939	Ed	1941	Glen	1943
Paine	Fred	1972	Edgar	1976		
Pichard	Doug	1951	Brent	1958		
Pomeroy	Phil	1952	Jeff	1965		
Pope	Alexander	1984	Darryl	1985		
Pope	Larry	1962	Charley	1967	Eddie	1970
Porten	Marc	1994	Dan	1998		
Rayborn	Sid	1975	Steve	1980		
Richardson	Jack	1971	Jeff	1973		
Roberts	Tommy	1946	Andy	1958		
Robinson	Tony	1981	Broderick	1983		
Saffer	Parke	1946	Ralph	1946		
Sampey	Pat	1957	Al	1961		
Sands	Chris	2001	Pete	2001		
Schmucker	Fred	1979	Scott	1984		
Schomburger	Ronnie	1978	Jeff	1979		
Shumann	Mike	1972	Greg	1978		
Searcy	Buddy	1957	Dan	1964		
Session	Johnny	1987	Marcus	1995		
Skilling	Bennett	1999	John	2000		

<i>Family Name</i>	<i>Brother</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Brother</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Brother</i>	<i>Year</i>
Stoutamire	Paul	1939	Pete	1940		
Taff	George	1942	Charles	1947		
Thompson	Mark	1975	Mike	1975		
Tully	Jack	1943	Bobby	1946		
Tully	Paul	1926	Emerson	1929		
Turner	Ralph	1937	Hollis	1943	Odell	1944
Tuten	Billy	1959	Jimmy	1961		
Unglaub	Kurt	1975	Kyle	1982		
Vanover	Tamarick	1991	Pondexter Frank	1992		
Walker	David	1947	George	1948		
Wallace	Phil	1974	David	1976		
Wood	Tom	1970	John	1975		
Woodham	Wally	1974	Chuck	1975		
Wooten	Butch	1960	Jimmy	1961		
Zeegers	Pete	1979	Randy	1981		

