

# Junious (Buck) Buchanan

Football Player

1940-1992

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by David Conrads

Buck Buchanan was one of the greatest defensive linemen to play professional football and a mainstay during the glory years of the Kansas City Chiefs. After his playing career, Buchanan became a successful businessman and a prominent civic leader in his adopted hometown.

Buchanan, a native of Gainesville, Alabama, was a football and basketball star at Parker High School in Birmingham, Alabama. In the late 1950s, Eddie Robinson, the renowned football coach at Grambling College in Louisiana, offer him one of the few scholarships then available to black students. Buchanan played both offense and defense at Grambling. Robinson called him “the finest tackle I have ever seen.”

In 1963, Buchanan was the first player chosen in the first American Football League draft by the Dallas Texans, who later became the Kansas City Chiefs. The 6 ft. 7 in., 280-pound Buchanan was known not only for his great size, but also for his tremendous speed. He became the prototype defensive lineman in the NFL. He was also a study in durability, missing only one regular season game in his 13-year career. He was an important figure in the Chief’s two Super Bowl appearances, following the 1966 and 1969 seasons. (Buchanan has the distinction of having made the first sack in a Super Bowl.)

A dominant player in his day, Buchanan was chosen either an AFL All-Star or for the NFL Pro Bowl game for eight straight seasons (1965-72). He was named the Chief’s Most Valuable Player in 1965 and 1967 and was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1990.

Buchanan retired as an active player following the 1975 season. He spent three years as an assistant coach in the NFL—two with the New Orleans Saints and one with the Cleveland Browns—before returning to Kansas City. He started two businesses here: All-Pro Construction Co. and All-Pro Advertising. His numerous civic activities included his role as a founder of the Black Chamber of Commerce, where he served as president from 1986-1989.



Buchanan died of lung cancer in 1992.

**Sources**

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