



## **Eddie Payton**

Eddie Payton was an NFL running back and kick returner who played five seasons in the NFL from 1977 to 1982. He played for the Cleveland Browns, Detroit Lions, Kansas City Chiefs and Minnesota Vikings. He also played in the CFL.

In 1980, he led the NFL with 53 kickoff returns for 1184 yards. Payton is one of three Detroit Lions to register two touchdowns off returns in a single game. His 98 yard kickoff return for a touchdown is the fifth-longest in Detroit history and his 87 yard punt return stands as the third longest in franchise history. In all, Eddie finished with 289 return yards (184 on kick offs and 105 on punts).

Eddie is the Executive Director of the Payton Foundation. He also serves on the Board of Directors for the American Cancer Society, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, member of the National Golf Coaches Association of America, the Mississippi Athletic Commission, National Minority Junior Golf Scholarship Association and is a former president of the Minority College Golf Coaches Association.

His sports accomplishments include induction into the Jackson State University Hall of Fame, National Black Golf Hall of Fame (2000), Marion County Sports Hall of Fame (2004) and the SWAC Hall of Fame.

Eddie is Walter Payton's older brother. He is also the uncle of Jarrett Payton formerly of the Montreal Alouettes of the CFL. Eddie is currently the head golf coach at Jackson State.

Eddie accepted Christ as his Saviour at a young age. As Eddie sat with Walter on October 31, 1999, they talked about their Christian faith and how God was in control, even if He wanted to take Walter. "His will be done," said Eddie. That night Walter slipped into the arms of His Lord.

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