



Luis Sharpe

Luis was a dominant offensive tackle for the Cardinals franchise (St. Louis and Phoenix) for 13 seasons from 1982 to 1994. He was freakishly athletic for an O-Lineman going 6'5" and 275 pounds. He has unbelievable speed and quickness that allowed him to protect the blind-side of his quarterback from onrushing defensive ends and blitzing linebackers.

Born in Havana, Cuba, the Sharpe family fled the country when Luis was 6 years old and settled in Detroit, Michigan. His athleticism and sharp intellect garnered him a full scholarship to UCLA. He then was picked in the 1st round of the 1982 draft by the Cardinals and was immediately a starter in the line-up and was named the cardinal's MVP by his teammates. He was also named to the 1982 All-Rookie Team. Sharpe became known as an outstanding player on some very poor teams. In only two seasons did his team have a better than .500 record. In spite of his team's challenges, Luis was chosen for the Pro Bowl three consecutive times – 1987, 1988 and 1989.

However, all was not perfect for Sharpe. He began to abuse drugs. Following his retirement from the game, his life began to spiral out of control. He was arrested and did prison time on more than one occasion for a total of almost 10 years. Tragedy continued in his life as he was shot twice in drug deals, he was almost beaten to death in prison, his marriage crumbled and his daughter was killed in a drug-related incident. Attempts at sobriety in various rehab centers failed. Surprising at this time in his life, he was cast in the blockbuster movie, *Waiting To Exhale*, as a love interest of Angela Bassett. He was high while he filmed his role in the movie.

Following his release from prison in 2013, Luis has remained sober by leaning on his new-found Christian faith. He knows that only God could have saved him from his destructive lifestyle and he has put his faith in his personal Savior, Jesus Christ. So many hurting people in society need to hear that no matter how low they are, Jesus loves them and will forgive them. Contact us to have Luis share his story of Christ's redeeming grace and love with your community.

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