



Marcus Dupree

When Marcus Dupree played football in Philadelphia, MS, his play united the racially divided city. Dupree was one the most highly recruited high school players in the history of American football, whose phenomenal athletic speed and agility were often compared to Jim Brown and Earl Campbell. He won almost every honor available in the nation. While Dupree was still in high school, a book was written about Dupree's nationally publicized college recruitment titled, *The Courting of Marcus Dupree*.



Dupree committed to the University of Oklahoma in 1982. *Sports Illustrated* featured Marcus on the cover in 1983 and his outstanding running plays were often the topic of nightly national news broadcasts. On January 1, 1983 Oklahoma played Arizona State in the Fiesta Bowl where Dupree was named the MVP. Although he only played half of the game and had four injuries, Dupree set and still holds the Fiesta Bowl rushing record of 239 yards.

In 1984 the USFL's New Orleans Breakers signed Dupree at age 19 and made him the highest paid player in football. In his first year with the Breakers, Marcus gained 684 yards on 145 carries with 9 touchdowns. Unfortunately, a severe knee injury forced Dupree to leave the game. Amazingly, after an unprecedented five and a half year hiatus from professional football Dupree's passion and determination were the catalysts for him to earn a tryout with the Los Angeles Rams. In 1990, Dupree made the team and was named, "Comeback Player of the Year." In spite of a respectable sophomore season with the Rams, Dupree was released.

ESPN filmed a highly acclaimed documentary about Dupree's football career entitled, "The Best That Never Was". It depicts the integrity and character of Marcus Dupree throughout his career and shows how his winning attitude helps him cope with life after football.

Today Mr. Dupree makes personal appearances for corporate events, gives inspirational speeches to a broad range of audiences.

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