



## **Christian Okoye**

Christian Okoye is a former All-Pro running back for the Kansas City Chiefs who was known as “The Nigerian Nightmare” for his punishing running style.

Growing up in Nigeria, Christian played soccer until he was 17 and was a sprinter and discus thrower on his high school track team. When he arrived at Azusa Pacific University in 1982, he went on to win several National Titles in shot put, discus and the hammer toss, and amassed 17 All American honors in track & field plus football.

In 1984, despite having attained marks more than sufficient to qualify, Christian was omitted from his country’s 1984 Olympic team. Frustrated, he abandoned track & field and joined his college football team. Having played football for a mere three years, Christian was drafted by the Chiefs in the second round of the 1987 draft. During his seven seasons in Kansas City, he set a number of Chiefs rushing records including total yards in a season, touchdowns in a season, attempts in a single game, 100-yard games in a season and was the first Chiefs running back to rush for 1,000 yards in more than one season. Christian’s outstanding 1989 season culminated in an array of awards including Running Back of the Year and First Team All-Pro. The NFL Players Association voted Christian the AFC MVP and he received the Mackie Award for most touchdowns in the AFC. Christian also garnered Most Valuable Player honors from the Chiefs and the Quarterback Club of Washington D.C. named him the league MVP. Christian also received the Ed Block Courage Award for being a source of inspiration and courage to his teammates.

He currently holds four Hall of Fame honors including: NAIA Track & Field Hall of Fame, KC Chiefs Hall of Fame, Missouri Sports Hall of Fame, and Senior Bowl Hall of Fame. The only one eluding him thus far is the Pro Football Hall of Fame which many say he will eventually make it into. According to Okoye, he left the game when he realized that he no longer could perform at the top of his abilities.

Christian works with organizations to motivate their members to focus on, and achieve, their goals by emphasizing drive and commitment. He is available for motivational speaking and can work with your team business or other organization to help its members achieve their goals.

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