



Willie Roaf

The nickname “Nasty” was pinned on Willie Roaf and it stuck. His physical dominance as a 6’5”, 300 lb. offensive lineman ultimately led him to enshrinement in the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Roaf was born to successful, trail-blazing parents as his mother was the first black woman to serve on the Arkansas Supreme Court and his father was a dentist. His sister became an Episcopal priest. This is a family that was driven for success.

Willie was drafted by the New Orleans Saints 8th overall in the first round of the 1993 NFL draft. In his rookie season, he played every offensive snap for the team and earned All-Rookie honours.

Roaf played 131 regular season games for the Saints over 9 seasons in The Big Easy before he was traded to the Kansas City Chiefs in 2002 after a knee injury shortened his 2001 season. In KC his career reached even higher heights than he had achieved with the Saints, if that’s possible. As a member of a dominant offensive line, the Chiefs led the NFL in points scored in 2002 & 2003 and led the NFL in total yards gained in 2004 & 2005; Willie’s presence on the line was no doubt a major factor in this team achievement.

When Willie retired after the 2005 season, he had accumulated a huge number of honours, among them:

- 11 Pro Bowl appearances
- 6-time First-Team All Pro
- 3-time Second-Team All Pro
- Named to the NFL’s 1990’s All-Decade Team
- Named to the NFL’s 2000’s All-Decade Team
- New Orleans Saints Hall of Fame
- New Orleans Saints Ring of Honor
- Consensus All American
- College Football Hall of Fame
- Pro Football Hall of Fame

Willie will tell you, however, that his greatest honour is to be a Christian, a follower of Christ. He was raised in a God-fearing home and at a young age made a commitment to God. However, like many of us, his faith wavered in his college years and in his pro career. At the conclusion of his playing days, Willie’s relationship with his Christian friend Angela blossomed into a romance. Willie gave his life fully to God and he and Angela married. They now serve their Lord & Saviour together.

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