

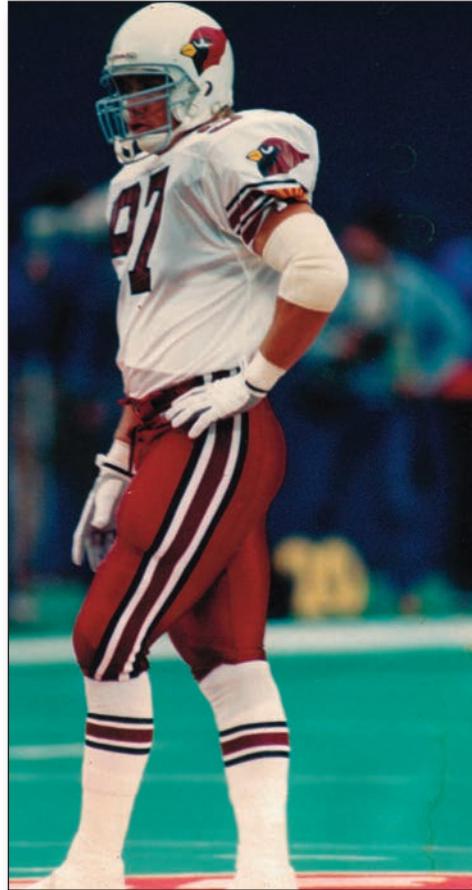
## STEVE HYCHE

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**S**TEVE WAS BORN JUNE 12, 1963 IN JASPER, ALABAMA, TO KENNETH AND JOAN BENNETT HYCHE.

Steve considers his dad as his “hero” and his mom as “God’s sister.” His parents still live near Cordova as do his brothers, Scotty and Shannon. Steve developed a love for football when he was 5 years old. He attended Cordova High School, where he played baseball and football until his senior year, in which he concentrated on football. As a high school quarterback and punter, he earned All-County and All-Wal-Win Conference honors. At Cordova, Steve developed a relationship with Coach Sam McCorkle that still flourishes today, as he considered Coach McCorkle his second father.

After graduating from Cordova, Steve worked in the logging business for three years. During these years, Steve grew from 160 pound high school football player to a 215 pound man. During that time, a friend, Neil Hyche suggested that Steve give college football a try. He visited Jacksonville State but, according to Steve, “his big break” came when his high school coach, Sam McCorkle, was chosen as Head Football Coach at Livingston University. In the spring of 1984, he walked on at Livingston and was moved to outside linebacker, a position that seemed to be a natural fit. During the next four years, Steve started at linebacker in all 44 games for Livingston. During his career, he made 321 tackles (217 solo -104 assisted), 20 tackles for a loss, caused 7 fumbles, recovered 3 fumbles, and made four interceptions and 6 sacks. Steve was All-Gulf South Conference for 3 years, All-American for 2 years, voted team captain his senior year, and received the Phil Pusion Award (given to the football player who displays the most dedication and leadership). Steve was named to the University of West Alabama and Gulf South Conference Team of the Decade for the 1980’s and was also named to the Gulf South Conference Silver Anniversary Team. In 1997, Steve was inducted into the University of West Alabama Athletic Hall of Fame.



Hyche signed a free-agent deal with the Chicago Bears, who were coached by Mike Ditka, in 1989. He played among the greats such as Mike Singleterry, Dan Hampton, and Refrigerator Perry. It was a challenge to make the roster because Chicago had drafted two linebackers along with their returning players. Because of some injuries to other players, Steve was given the opportunity to play with the starters in a preseason scrimmage. Steve made 16 tackles out of the 20 plays during the scrimmage and secured a place on the squad. Steve was recognized in 1990 by the Walker County Commission by having a “Steve Hyche Day” in Jasper.

After a couple of years with the Bears, Hyche signed with the Birmingham Fire of the newly established World Football League. During this time, Steve also took up boxing, where he was quite successful. He was then contacted by the Phoenix Cardinals to return to the NFL, where he played for Coach Buddy Ryan. While at Phoenix, one of the coaches was quoted as saying, “Steve was the most aggressive player we have.” Steve retired after four seasons with the Cardinals.

Steve attributes his successful career to the love and support of his parents, brothers, teammates, teachers and coaches, who provided him with the necessary tools and opportunities he needed. Steve is currently the Superintendent of Quality Coal Company. He says the work ethic/skills he developed and learned from his coaches and teammates are utilized in his work environment on a daily basis.

Steve had three children. His oldest son, Tyler, passed away three years ago, and he conveys that experience as being the most difficult thing he has ever faced. Steve credits his daughter, Stevi, and his son, Mason, with giving him purpose and direction. He currently resides in Cordova.