

JOHN FREEMAN

J OHN WAS BORN IN OAKMAN, ALABAMA ON FEBRUARY 14, 1953, to Deloach and Tarsh Freeman.

He participated in multiple sports until the end of his junior high years. At that time, Freeman chose to devote himself to strenuous workouts in the weight room with the hope of becoming the best football player he could.

Freeman was often referred to as “Big John” by his opponents. At 6 feet, 230 pounds, John was a terror at linebacker. In 1970, he made the All-County Team and was also selected as All-State. He was also honored with playing in the Alabama High School All Star Football game in 1971 as a member of the north squad. Freeman was highly recruited as a prep athlete and eventually signed an Athletic Grant-In-Aid to the University of Notre Dame. Freeman relished the opportunity to play for the legendary Ara Parseghian at Notre Dame. *Sports Illustrated* magazine published the article: “Hold on: Ara Freshman are Coming” in which John was mentioned.



John credits his success to many of the staff at Oakman High School. His principal, Hub Dotson, is also a member of this year’s Hall of Fame class. He also credits much of his success to teacher and coach Harold Wade. He credits much of his academic success to his math teacher, Claude Kilgore. In high school, Freeman always looked forward to playing Carbon Hill; he considered them his favorite opponent.

John remained at Notre Dame until after his sophomore season. He eventually enrolled at the University of Alabama in Birmingham, where he excelled in academics and earned two degrees. In 1984, John received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology and a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science. After graduation, Freeman became an instructor in the Biomedical Science Program at UAB and did Genetic Research.

John has three children, Landon, Stacia, and Jon Scott. The oldest, Jon Scott, was an All-State player at Oakman High in 1991 and signed with the University of Pennsylvania. John Freeman currently resides in St. Louis, Missouri, where he owns his own company. He is a software engineer and works in the development of energy systems. His company, Prosyon Systems, LLC, is in St. Louis and offers the cutting edge of systems technology.