

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with C. Lamont Smith

PERSON

Smith, C. Lamont, 1956-

Alternative Names: C. Lamont Smith;

Life Dates: June 24, 1956-

Place of Birth: Omaha, Nebraska, USA

Work: Denver, CO

Occupations: Talent Agent

Biographical Note

Talent agent C. Lamont Smith was born on June 24, 1956 in Omaha, Nebraska to Yvette Wilson and Wilbur Smith. He earned his B.A. degree in communications with an emphasis in broadcast journalism from Clark Atlanta University in Atlanta, Georgia, and his J.D. degree from Howard University Law School in 1984.

Following his graduation from Clark Atlanta University, Smith worked as a production assistant at WATL-TV and as an usher with the Atlanta Hawks basketball team, where he became acquainted with general manager Lewis Schaffel and player John Drew. While assisting Drew with his endorsement contracts, Smith became interested in a career as a sports agent. After graduating from Howard University, he joined the sports marketing department of the law firm Gorsuch, Kirgis, Campbell, Walker & Grover in Denver, Colorado. In 1987, Smith founded All Pro Sports and Entertainment, a management firm based out of Denver where Denver Broncos wide receiver Mark Jackson was his first client. Smith served as one of Detroit Lions' star Barry Sanders' agents for most of his career, negotiating the contract that made Sanders the highest-paid player in the NFL in 1997. Smith continued to represent Sanders until his retirement in 1999. Smith also represented NFL players Eddie George, Jerome Bettis and Trevor Pryce, who became the NFL's highest-paid defensive player in 2000. In 2005, Smith began representing wide receiver Braylon Edwards, who was that year's third overall NFL draft pick, chosen by the Cleveland Browns. Smith launched a sports management company named Above the Rim Management in 2012, where international basketball player Jamar Samuels became his first client. Also, in 2012, Smith became the president of Smith Global Staffing.

Smith was named one of the top fifty sports professionals in the country by Black Enterprise, and as one of the most powerful sports agents by The New York Times.

Smith also served on the advisory board of the Black Entertainment and Sports Lawyers Association. Smith was honored by the Black Sports Agents Association as Agent of the Year in July 2001.

C. Lamont Smith was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on September 23, 2016.

Related Entries

Clark Atlanta University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

B.A., degree

Howard University School of Law [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

WATL-TV [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Production Assistant

Atlanta Hawks [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Usher

Gorsuch, Kirgis, Campbell, Walker & Grover [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

All Pro Sports and Entertainment [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1987 to ?]

Founder

Black Entertainment and Sports Lawyers Association [MEMBEROF]
[from 2000 to ?]

Chairman